SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PREVENTING USERS FROM LEAVING BEHIND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS IN A PRINTER/COPIER BY MEANS BY RESTRICTING ACCESS TO JOB OUTPUT

HP INC
System and Method for Preventing Users from Leaving Behind Original Documents in a Printer/Copier by Means by Restricting Access to Job Output

This disclosure relates to the field of end-user printing, scanning, and copying.

A system is disclosed that provides a solution for end-users in the event that they would accidentally leave an important, personal or confidential document behind during the process of scanning or copying that document. The solution involves a workflow that would check to make sure an original document is removed prior to releasing the output. The produced document would be physically restrained by the device in various ways depending on the type of document being scanned or copied.

Conventionally, a printer may notify users that an original document is still loaded, however users can choose to ignore the passive message or fail to detect the notification resulting in their original document being left behind.

The new approach alters the workflow of a printer/copier for jobs that involve an original document. All document collection is grouped at the end of the workflow. The user removes the original document from the printer/copier device prior to retrieving the copy/scan/printed document. The printer/copier contains logic and an apparatus to lock out the user from retrieving the copy/scan/print until the original is removed. Once the original document is removed, the job output is unlocked, and the user is able to retrieve it with their original(s) in hand.

Figure.

No Document Left Behind Flow Diagram

In the event that the original document is being scanned to be sent out as an email, the UI would pause the job until the original document was removed from the printer thus requiring the end-user to retrieve the original media, whether it be a USB storage device, or a physical document.

In the case that the original document is being copied by the printer, the copied page will be retained by the printer’s output system until the original document was removed from the scanner glass or output tray.

In the case that the original document is being scanned onto a USB mass storage device, the printer would physically restrain the device until the original document was removed from the printer.
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