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RESTRICTED PRINTABLE CONTENT

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Restricted printable content

Describes a method that allows publication of printable files that can only be printed, and with restricted access. The content also can be previewed and can be printed by the operational system as if it was a common file, hence without the need for user login.

The method assumes the existence of a system that publishes printables contents that can contain public and restricted files. In the case of restricted printables, the creation of a pre-print file will be used to allow printers to print the original content. The steps involved during the creation of this file that can be downloaded by authorized users are the following:

1. **A content file will be uploaded into the system** and configured on who can have access to it. In one example a content manager can upload a pdf file and set it as restricted for printing by premium users (paid customers).
In a different case the content manager might not configure a specific group of users to have printing access beforehand, but the owner can set himself and other users the permission to perform printing requests for that content in the future, where printing permissions will be given by an on-demand request. For example, a printing request can be a promotion to selected users where they will receive the content to their email and can only print it once.
2. **Submit a Pre-printing request** by the user or the owner of the file, which will prepare a file that can be used to perform the print action (The “pre-print” file). The file is basically an authorization to print the original content linked to a pre-printing request in the server, which can contain restrictions. For the case of the owner, he can create a pre-printing request that sends pre-print generated files to other users, for example, by email. It can also set the number of times this file can be printed.
3. **Generate a print preview of the original content** in a low resolution that will be used as the content for the pre-print file. Along with it a message that this is only a preview of a restricted file can be written in the document to make sure the user understands the pre-print file only represents but doesn't directly contain the original content and can only be printed.
4. **Create the pre-print file** with an embedded authorization key and the preview. The key will be used to have access to the original content by a printer and can have limits imposed on it, like the maximum number of printing jobs for the key.

Once a user has access to the pre-print file, it can submit a request to a printer as if it were printing a common file. The steps involved on how the original content is printed using this file are described below:

1. **User submits a print request** sending the pre-print file to a target printer. This can be done, for example, using common print actions to local printers.
2. **Printer requests the original content** by checking if this is a pre-print file, and if it is it will communicate with the content system sending the authorization key and its own authentication. The system validates it is a valid printer calling it and that the key is linked to a valid content and can be used to retrieve it at this time.

3. Original content is downloaded to the printer and printed

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