

Pressemitteilung / Press Release



Label Printing from the Cloud

Software tool eXtra4<dropIT> manages data transfer

For a jeweller with several shops, eXtra4 Software + Service GmbH has developed a label printing solution without direct access to the central database on the web. The software subsidiary of the label specialist Ferdinand Eisele GmbH from Birkenfeld near Pforzheim has added for this application the printing tool eXtra4<dropIT> to its trusted software eXtra4<winIII>.

eXtra4 already in use on site

The jewellery and watch specialist based in Lower Saxony has been

relying on the eXtra4 Labelling Systems brand for labels and hardware for around 10 years. From eXtra4 Software+Service comes the suitable software for label printing, eXtra4<winIII>. It controls the printing of three different label shapes on three thermal transfer printers for the jeweller, using four different label layouts for the design of the data.

Cloud data as a challenge for label printing

The jeweller maintains his article master in Excel. The table is placed in the cloud so that he can conveniently access the current data stock from anywhere. However, that way label printing is not very convenient: In order to get to the label, the data must be entered again by hand into the entry mask of the respective layout in eXtra4<winIII>. In the long run, this is unsatisfactory, too error-prone and time-consuming. The request for a better solution was born:

The jeweller would like to actively control label printing with the usual precision via eXtra4<winIII>, but without the double entry of data.

The software must have access to the contents of the Excel spreadsheet in the cloud without direct access to the data in the cloud and without a separate data export, in order to then output the data in the proven manner to the printers equipped with three different label shapes.

eXtra4<dropIT> instead of manual data entry

For data transfer between cloud and label printer, eXtra4 Software+Service extends its range of printing tools with eXtra4<dropIT>. The additional software enables eXtra4<winIII> to print labels from third-party systems without direct access to the data there. It is controlled by the user and acts in the frontend.

eXtra4<dropIT> uses scripting technology to convert data from the clipboard into label marking and control commands. The data itself is transferred manually by the user via Copy&Paste.

For the solution in Lower Saxony, eXtra4 Software+Service extended the rows of the Excel spreadsheet in the cloud with two fields, one for the label layout and one for the print run.

If the jeweller needs a label, he selects the entire table row of the item concerned and transfers the data to the clipboard of his computer using the Copy command (Ctrl+C or Ctrl+C). Then it actively switches to eXtra4<dropIT> (e.g. with Alt+Tab), which is currently running in manual mode: Via Paste command (Ctrl+V or Ctrl+V) it transfers the data from the clipboard and eXtra4<dropIT> displays it as a label for preview in the application window. Now the jeweller can check the label inscription and, if necessary, change text and print run before triggering the printing process himself. The connected thermal transfer printers have already been configured in advance via eXtra4<winII> and output the incoming data correctly as labels in the selected form and print run.

Once the jeweller has gained sufficient experience with the use of eXtra4<dropIT>, he plans to switch from manual to automatic mode. This will shorten the process by further clicks and thus speed it up. As a user, he can make this change himself in the software and also revise it again if necessary.

Support package included in the price

The jeweller in northern Germany bases its configuration on the already existing label printing software eXtra4<winIII>. In addition, he receives eXtra4<dropIT> with a script for printing the four different label layouts. The installation was done remotely by eXtra4 Software+Service.

Other users can resort to Edition Lite, the free version of eXtra4<winIII>. In any case, however, eXtra4<dropIT> must be tailored to their needs. Therefore, the purchase of a site licence includes a support package (25 x 6 min = 2.5 hrs worth approx. € 175) for scripting and installation. Licensees can install eXtra4<dropIT> on any number of computers in a business location and use it permanently. Detailed information on the new eXtra4 print tool can be found at www.eXtra4.com.