

ENCAD File Print Utility

for Windows 95

User's Guide

P/N 211172 Rev. B

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Version Conformance

This document describes software version 2.0.

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| ENCAD File Print Utility for Windows 95 | 4 |
| System Requirements | 4 |
| Supported Printers | 5 |
| Installing the File Print Utility | 5 |
| Using the File Print Utility | 5 |
| Deleting a Folder | 8 |
| Working With File Lists | 9 |
| Add Files To A File Folder List | 9 |
| Removing a Print File From a File Folder List | 11 |
| Removing All Print Files From a File Folder List | 12 |
| Printing | 12 |
| Selecting a Port | 12 |
| Printing a Single File From a File Folder | 13 |
| Printing All Files in a File Folder | 14 |
| Printing the Entire Folder List Multiple Times | 14 |
| Printing Each File in a List Multiple Times | 15 |
| File Print Utility Options | 15 |
| File Folders | 15 |
| Create a New File Folder | 15 |
| Delete Selected Folder | 16 |
| Selected Folder's Files | 16 |
| Add File(s) to Folder | 16 |
| Remove Selected Files | 16 |
| Remove All Files | 16 |
| Port Select | 16 |
| Print Order | 17 |
| Print Controls | 17 |
| Copies | 17 |
| Status Messages | 18 |
| System Menu | 18 |
| Setup | 19 |
| File Output Options | 19 |
| Disable Controls | 19 |
| Alphabetical List Sort | 19 |

ENCAD File Print Utility

for Windows 95

The ENCAD File Print Utility (EFPU) is a software program that lets you send rasterized image files (*.rtl) to an ENCAD printer. With the EFPU, you can print a single file or a group of files one or more times.

This guide tells you how to:

- ◆ Install the print utility
- ◆ Use the print controls and print files.

System Requirements

Before installing the file print utility, be sure you have all of the following:

- ◆ Microsoft Windows 95 or higher.
- ◆ Intel Pentium compatible computer or better
- ◆ 16 MB RAM or better
- ◆ ECP printer port with DMA (Direct Memory Access) configured (recommended for PRO 600e) and IEEE 1284 parallel printer cable. The DMA is key, because without it, the data cannot be transmitted as fast as the printer can print it. Without DMA, the printer may stall. Refer to your PC owners manual for information on how to set up your computer's BIOS to use ECP with DMA or, if you are using an ECP add-on card, refer to the installation instructions.

Supported Printers

This utility supports ENCAD NovaJet and Cromax24 series printers.

For best performance, be sure your printer is running the latest firmware version. You can check the current version numbers and download it, if necessary, from ENCAD's BBS or from the Internet.

ENCAD BBS 619-452-2653 and 619-452-3768

Internet WEB Page <http://www.encad.com>

Installing the File Print Utility

To install the file print utility:

1. Copy the utility to your hard drive.
2. Double-click the self-extracting executable install icon. Follow the directions presented by the installer program. The EFPU executable is copied into the location you specify.

ATTENTION: If you encounter an error the first time you try to run the EFPU, it may be because the file OLEAUT32.DLL in the Windows/System directory is too old. An updated version of the file is included as part of the EFPU installation. However, some installers will not replace the file. If you get this error, rename OLEAUT32.DLL to OLEAUT32.BAK and run the installation again. This should copy the updated file to your system.

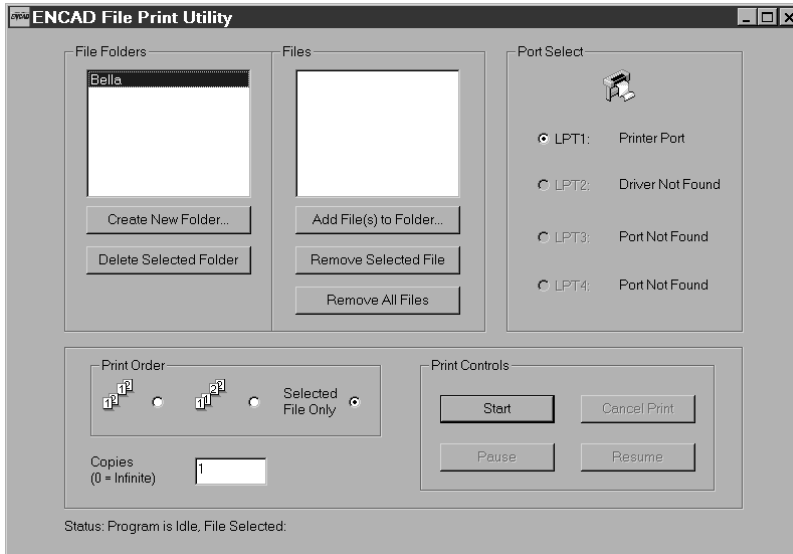
Using the File Print Utility

The EFPU prints a file or list of files one or more times. Files are arranged in folders. Whether you need to print a single file or multiple files, the file names must be first placed in a folder before they can be printed. To add files to a list to be printed, a folder must either already exist or must be created. Once the folder is created/selected, files may be added or removed at any time.

Folders and File Lists are maintained in an .ini file. This file is not deleted during an install or uninstall of the EFPU, so you don't lose your folders when updating to a newer EFPU version.

Note: for the EFPU, folders are simply named lists of files, they are not actually file folders in your system.

Run the EFPU by double clicking on the EFPU icon or accessing Programs, selecting the ENCAD File Print Utility program group and selecting File Print Utility. Once the utility is running, the following screen will appear.



The steps which follow summarize the procedure for printing a file. File Print Utility options are described in detail in the sections which follow.

To print a file:

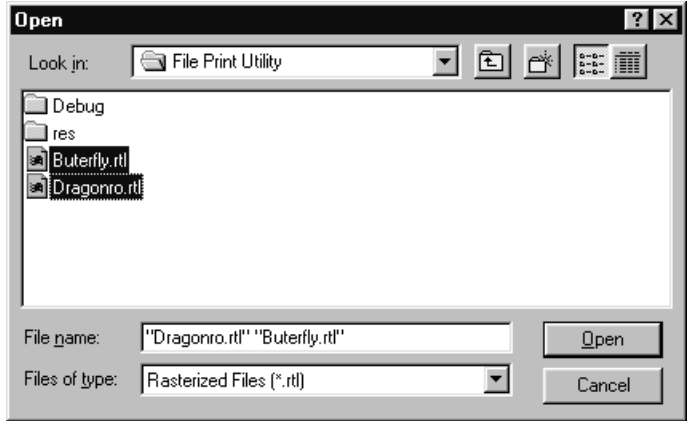
1. Be sure your printer is on and that you have set print parameters such as ink and media on the printer's control panel.

Click the Create a New Folder button.

2. Enter a name for the folder and click OK. The new folder name appears in the File Folders box. If the folder name already exists, an error message displays.



3. Click the Add File(s) to Folder button.



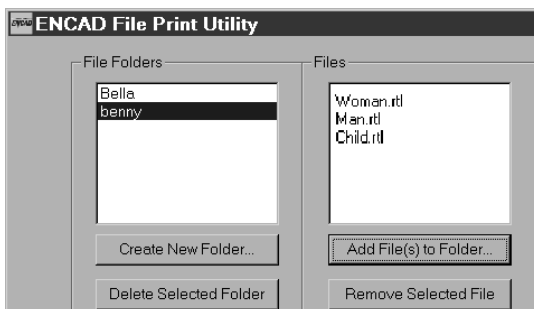
In the Open dialog, choose the file(s) to print and click Open. This places the selected file in the Selected Folder's Files window.

4. Click the port to which your printer is connected.
5. Click the button for the desired print order.
6. Enter the number of copies to print.
7. Click the Start button.

Deleting a Folder

To delete a folder:

1. Click the folder's name in the File Folders box, so that the name is highlighted.



2. Click the Delete Selected Folder button.
You will be warned that all of the files within the group will be lost. This action does not delete the original files in their directories. It just deletes the folder name and its associated file list from the .ini file.
3. Click Yes to delete the folder or click No to cancel the deletion.
If you choose Yes, the folder's name will be removed from the File Folders box.

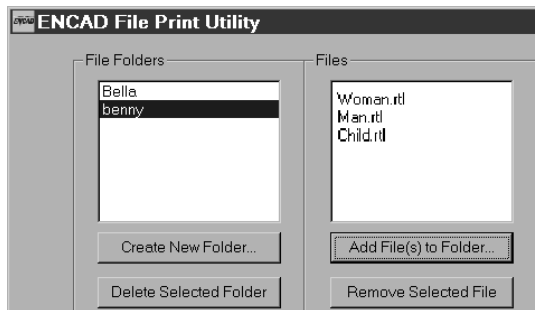
Working With File Lists

The Files area of the EFPU window enables you to: add files to a folder's print list; remove individual files from a folder's print list or remove all of the files from a folder's print list.

Add Files To A File Folder List

1. Click the File Folder's name (in the File Folders box) where you add the files to be printed.

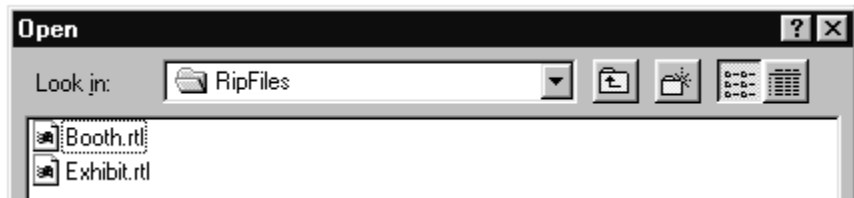
The File Folder's name will be highlighted.



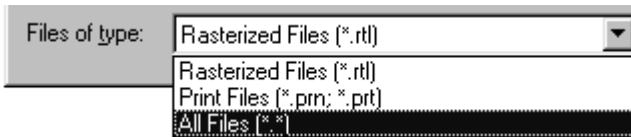
2. Click the Add File(s) to Folder button.

The Open window will appear.

3. Navigate to the directory that contains the file(s) that you want to add to the folder's list. Use the Look in: box to navigate to different directories.



4. Click the Files of type: box and choose the All Files (*.*) option to display all file types within the current directory.

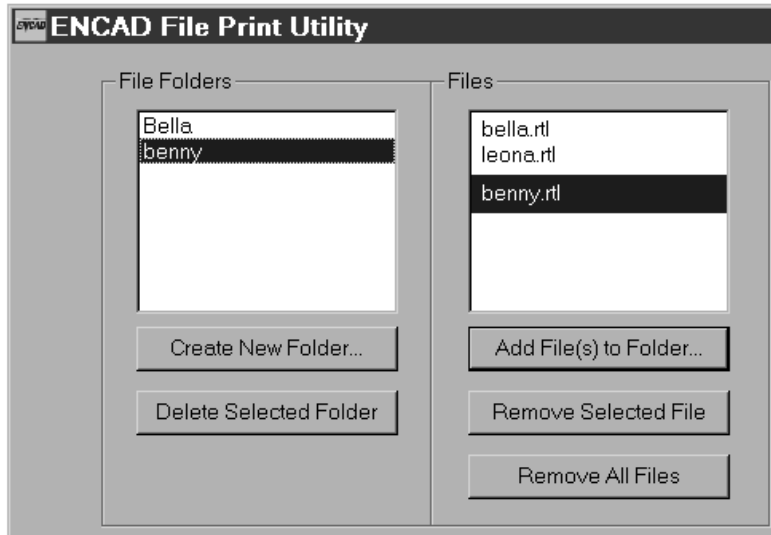


5. To add a single file from the current directory to the folder list, click on the file name and it will become highlighted. To add multiple files to the folder list, hold down the Ctrl key and click on each file name that you want to add. The file names will be highlighted. Each file name will appear in the File name: box.



6. When you finish selecting all of the files that you want to add to the folder list, click the Open button.

The file list will display in the Selected Folder's Files box on the right side of the window.

**!WARNING!**

When you add a file name to a File Folder list, the EFPU keeps track of the location of the files in the list. If you move that file to another directory, rename or delete that file and then try to print that file, the EFPU will display an error message.

Removing a Print File From a File Folder List

1. Click the File Folder name (in the File Folder box) that contains the file that you want to remove from the list.
2. Click the file name from the list (in the Selected Folder's File box) that you want to remove.
3. Click the Remove Selected File button.

The selected file will be removed from the group list.

Removing All Print Files From a File Folder List

1. Click the File Folder (in the File Folders box) that contains the files that you want to remove from the list.
2. Click on the Remove All Files button.

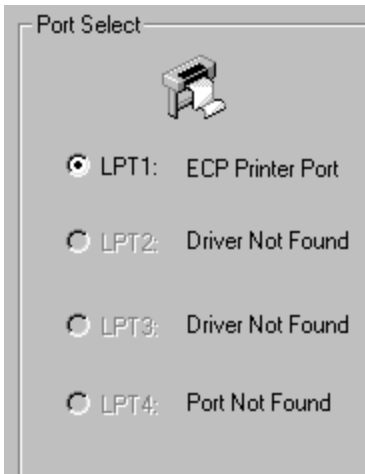
All of the print files will be removed from the File Folder list. The File Folder name will not be deleted, but the file list will be empty.

Printing

Selecting a Port

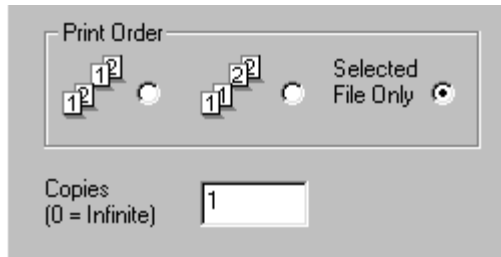
The EFPU can recognize up to four different printer ports. The program automatically queries the PC for available parallel ports and enables the radio buttons for only those ports that can be used. Only one port may be used at a time. If an ECP port is available, it is selected as the default.

If the ENCAD printer is connected via a network, contact your Network Administrator to find out how access that port.



Printing a Single File From a File Folder

1. Click on the File Folder name (in the File Folders box) that contains the file you want to print.
2. Click on the file name from the list (in the Selected Folder's File box) that you want to print.



3. Click on the Selected File Only radio button.
4. If you want more than one copy of the file, change the number of copies in the Copies box.

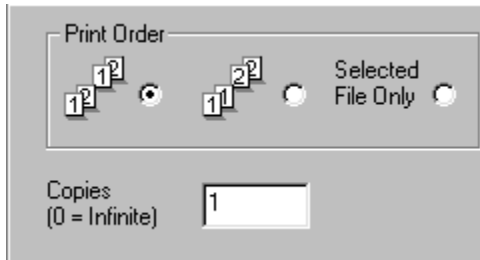
!WARNING!

If you change the number to "0" then the file will be printed continuously and you will have to use the Cancel Print button to stop printing the file.

5. Click on the Start button in the Print Controls area of the window.
The selected file will be printed.

Printing All Files in a File Folder

1. Click the File Folder (in the File Folders box) that you want to print.
2. Click the first radio button in the Print Order area.
3. Make sure that the number of copies is set to “1”.
4. Click the Start button in the Print Controls area of the window.



One copy of each file in the list will be printed, in the order shown in the list.

Printing the Entire Folder List Multiple Times

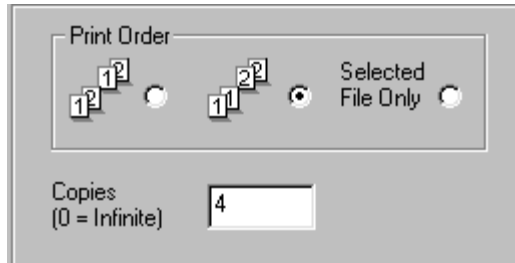
1. Click the File Folder (in the File Folders box) you want to print.
2. Click on the first radio button in the Print Order area.
3. Change the value in the Copies box to number of copies that you want of the entire file list.
4. Click the Start button in the Print Controls area of the window.



In the illustration above, the entire list would be printed one time, the entire list would then be printed a second time and then finally a third time.

Printing Each File in a List Multiple Times

1. Click on the File Folder (in the File Folders box) that you want to print.
2. Click on the second radio button in the Print Order area.



3. Change the value in the Copies box to number of copies that you want to print of each file.
4. Click on the Start button in the Print Controls area of the window.

For the example in the illustration above, the first file in the list would be printed four times. The EFPU would print each file four times before proceeding to print the next file in the list.

For this Print Order option, if there is more than one file in the list, using “0” for an infinite number of copies is not valid. The system will default to 1.

File Print Utility Options

File Folders

A file folder must exist before a file can be printed. The file to be printed must have been added to the file folder. You can have any number of file folders.

Create a New File Folder

Click the Create a New File Folder Button to create a new file folder. You will be prompted to name the folder.

Delete Selected Folder

Click the Delete Selected Folder button to delete a group which you have highlighted in the Folder List box. This action removes the group and all files in the group from the .ini file. Note: the individual files are not deleted from your computer, they are only removed from the group.

Selected Folder's Files

The Selected Folder's Files region lets you add files to a group's print list, remove individual files from a group's print list and remove all of the files from a group's print list. All actions are performed on the currently highlighted group in the File Folders List Box.

Add File(s) to Folder

Clicking the Add Files to Folder button opens a dialog in which you can select the file names to add to the currently selected group. If no group exists, or if you haven't selected a group, the program will prompt you.

Although you can add any file to any group, only file formats supported by ENCAD printers will print on an ENCAD printer. These files typically carry an extension of .rtl, .prt or .prn.

To select more than one file to be opened for print, hold the Ctrl key while clicking the left mouse button over the file to be selected. This adds the file to the "File name" list. When finished selecting files, click Open. The Selected Folder's Files box is updated to include the file(s) you selected.

Remove Selected Files

To remove a file from the Selected Folder's Files box, click on the file name, then click the Remove Selected File. This removes the file from the group list, but does not delete the file from your hard drive.

Remove All Files

To remove all files from the Selected Folder's Files box, click the Remove All Files button. This removes all files from the group list, but does not delete them from your hard drive.

Port Select

You can choose from up to four ports. However, the program automatically queries the PC for the parallel ports available and enables only the radio buttons for available ports. Only one port may be selected at a time. If an ECP port is available, it is selected as the default.

Print Order

Selecting the left-most radio button sets the print order to sequential; each file is printed once in the order listed in the File Select box and then the entire list is repeated if Copies is set to a value other than 1. When the middle radio button is selected, each file is printed the number of times indicated in the Copies box before the next file is printed. Choose “Selected File Only” to print only the file selected in the “Selected Folder’s Files” box.

Print Controls

Start Button

Click the Start button to start printing. Files are spooled to the print spooler. While spooling, all dialog controls except the Pause, Resume, and Cancel buttons are disabled to ensure that an operator action does not cause program anomalies.

Cancel Button

The Cancel button only has an effect during printing. The printer itself will not stop until it has printed all of the information that was in its buffer before it received the Cancel. In this release of the EFPU, when you click the Cancel button, all print jobs are cancelled.

Pause and Resume Buttons

These buttons will send a pause command to the printer and then send a resume command to continue a paused print job.

Copies

The Copies box must contain a number greater than or equal to 0. If 0 is entered, the file(s) are printed continuously. If the middle radio button of the Print Order section is selected and there is more than one file in the Files Select box, 0 is not a valid entry and the value is automatically set to 1.

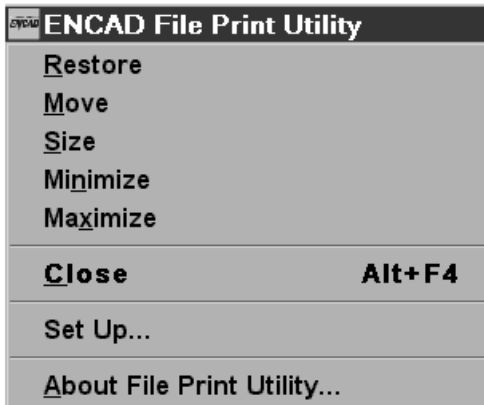
Status Messages

Utility status is reported at the bottom left corner of the window. Three different statuses can be reported.

- When the program is idle and awaiting operator action, the status is “Program is Idle”.
- When a file is printing, the status is “File is Printing”. When the printer is paused, the status is “Printer is Paused”.
- The “Printer is Paused” status appears as soon as the Pause button is clicked. The printer may actually not pause until it finishes printing the information in its buffer that was received before the pause.

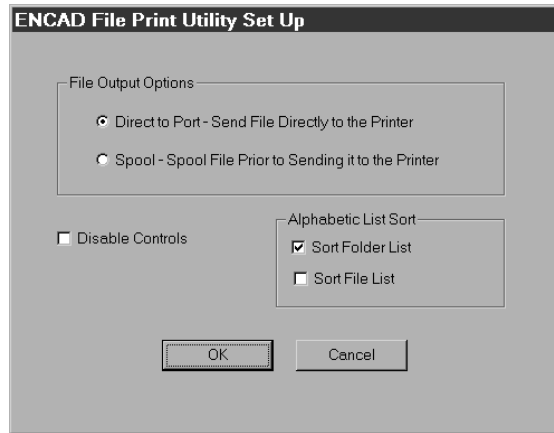
System Menu

Position the cursor on the EFPU window header and hold down the right mouse button to display the System Menu, or double click on the ENCAD icon in the upper left corner of the window.



The System Menu contains all of the usual window management options as well as setup options. The About File Print Utility option shows the version number of the EFPU.

Setup



File Output Options

The file output options let you choose to send files directly to the printer or spool the file before sending it to the printer.

Disable Controls

The system menu has an additional feature called Disable/Enable Controls. (The system menu is accessed by clicking on the ENCAD icon in the upper left corner of the dialog box.) Choosing this disables or enables all of the EFPU controls except the “Print Controls”. This is useful in situations where a particular file group is set up to be executed repeatedly by an individual who has little knowledge of computers in general and this program in particular. An example is on a production floor where the same printer test is performed repeatedly for each printer produced.

Alphabetical List Sort

Options in this section of the setup dialog let you sort the file and folder lists alphabetically.

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