# PrinterSplitter.exe – Walkthrough and Troubleshooting

Rev. 11/18/2024

**Creating Printer Installers**

This walkthrough assumes the script is executed from a removable USB drive, but it can be launched from any location.

1. We created a folder named **PrinterExport** on the root of the USB drive, which contains the PrinterSplitter.exe file.
2. After inserting the USB drive into a workstation or server, launching the .exe for the first time will display a screen like this:

A screenshot of a computer program

Description automatically generated

**Backup Instructions**

* If connected directly to the server, pressing **Enter** will create a backup using the PrintBrm.exe tool supplied by Windows.
* If connected to a workstation, type the **HOSTNAME** or **IP address** of the server where the printers are installed to back up that print server.

If creating a local backup, press **Enter**.

A screen shot of a computer

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* Depending on the number of printers, available resources, and network connection, the backup process may take a while. Please allow it to complete.
* Once finished, the number of printers to process will be displayed, and the script will begin creating individual installers.
  + Excluded printers (e.g., OneNote and CutePDF) will be automatically skipped.
  + All other printers will be parsed and isolated into individual installers.

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Once the process is complete, a message will indicate that the script has finished and specify where the new printer installers are located:

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* Checking the PrinterExport directory, you will now see:
  + A **\_BUILD** folder containing the individual printer installers.
  + A **PrinterSplitter.log** file.
  + A master print server export file, named after the machine itself or the **HOSTNAME/IP address** entered when prompted.

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**\_BUILD Directory**

* The **\_BUILD** directory contains the individual printer installers. Each installer replicates the exact printer name, settings, properties, and preferences on the target machine.

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**Installing the .PrinterExport Files on a Workstation**

To install the printer exactly as it was configured on the server, use the PrintBrmUI.exe tool, located in the **tools** directory alongside **PrinterSplitter.exe.**

1. Right-click **PrintBrmUI.exe** and select **Run as Administrator** to ensure profiles and preferences are installed correctly.
2. Select **Import printer queues and printer drivers from a file** and click **Next**.
3. Click **Browse** on the following screen.

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1. Go to the \_BUILD folder created by PrinterSplitter.exe, select the desired printer, and click **Open**.A screenshot of a computer

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2. Review the list of items to be imported and click **Next**.

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1. When prompted to select the print server, ensure the workstation is selected, and click **Next**.

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1. On the **Select Import Options** screen:
   * Check **Overwrite existing printers**.
   * Check **Convert LPR Ports to Standard Port Monitors**.
   * Click **Next**.

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1. Once the process is finished, you will see a confirmation message indicating whether any errors occurred.

*Repeat these steps for each printer to be installed*

A screenshot of a computer error

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**Notes**

* When **PrinterSplitter.exe** runs, any existing \_BUILD directory will be deleted and recreated. To avoid overwriting, rename the \_BUILD folder after creating the printer installers.
* Once a **.PrinterExport** file is created, the program will prompt you to use the existing file on subsequent runs. This saves time by skipping the creation of a new file.
* The program will process any existing files in the directory before prompting to create a new file.

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**Troubleshooting**

* If the script exits with an error stating that PrintBrm.exe is missing, or if there are version-related issues:
  + Run **PrinterSplitter.exe** from a command prompt using the argument:  
    **PrinterSplitter.exe -TOOLS**
  + This will create a local folder with PrintBrm.exe (v10.0.22621.1) and the necessary tools.
* Use **PrinterSplitter.exe -HELP** to view all available command-line arguments.
* Use **PrinterSplitter.exe -NOCLEAN** to keep all temporary files for review.

**Suggestions**

* Consider renaming the \_BUILD directory to reflect the file name, so each run generates its own uniquely named folder.