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An LDPA URL Format

Status of this Memo

This document is a working version of a protocol specification. It will eventually become an Internet-Draft by following well defined IETF procedures. At that time, the following paragraphs must be included:

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Abstract

LDPA is the Lightweight Distributed Printing Application protocol defined in [1] and [2]. This document describes a format for an LDPA Uniform Resource Locator which will allow Internet clients to have direct access to LDPA printers.

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1. Introduction

LDPA is the Lightweight Distributed Printing Application protocol defined in [1]. This document describes a format for an LDPA Uniform Resource Locator which will allow Internet clients to have direct access to LDPA printers.

2. URL Format

An LDPA URL begins with the protocol prefix "print" and is defined by the following grammar.

```
<ldpaurl> ::= "print://" [ <hostport> ] "/" <printer-name>

<hostport> ::= <hostname> [ ":" <portnumber> ]

<printer-name> ::= "Printer1" | "Joe's_Printer" | ...
```

The print prefix indicates a printer running the LDPA protocol at the given <hostname> at the given <portnumber>. The default port is TCP port ???. The <printer-name> is an LDPA printer at that <hostport> network address, with any URL-illegal characters (e.g., spaces) escaped using the % method described in RFC 1738.

3. Example URLs

The following are some example LDPA URLs using the format defined above.

An LDPA URL referring to the Novell Corporate printer:

print://www.novell.com/IncomingPrinter

An LDPA URL referring to Nina's Print Shop color laser printer:

print://printer.nina.com/ColorLaser

An LDPA URL referring to Nina's Print Shop typsetting quality printer that accepts PDF files:

print://www.nina.com/color-slides-printer

An LDPA URL referring to the HR Department's printer:

print://1.2.3.4:80/HRPrinter

4. Browser Functionality

If an LDPA URL is encountered in some HTML page (say a page showing a list of all Printers in a certain context), the browser could provide a menu choice to the user to do one or more of several things:

1. Install the URL as a printer on the local desktop (an Internet printing redirector).

2. Go to the management page URL associated with the Printer (if there is one).

3. Browse for a URL (including a file:///... URL) which could then be submitted to the printer using the LDPA protocol.

5. Security Considerations

The LDPA URL format does not provide a way to specify credentials to use when resolving the URL. Therefore, it is expected that such requests will be unauthenticated.

6. References

[1] LDPA Internet-Draft, November 1996.

[2] Berners-Lee, T., Masinter, L., and M. McCahill, "Uniform Resource Locators (URL)", RFC 1738, December 1994.

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8. Appendix A

There is no appendix information at this time.