

# **Ricoh and Open Source Printing**

**George Liu**

**10/23/2006**

## What do we need to do

- Develop open sourced printer driver
- Deliver printer driver to end user
- Delivery printer features to end user
- Provide technical support to end user
- LSB compliant printer driver

## Develop Open-Sourced Printer Driver

- Ricoh provides printer drivers in term of PPD files. Ricoh has released more than 700 PPD files to Linuxprinting.org (Thanks for Till's excellent support)
- Most Ricoh devices support “standard” PDLs (Postscript and PCL-XL)
- Ricoh uses foomatic-rip (3.43 or higher) to support user code and secure print features for Postscript drivers.
- Ricoh uses Ghostscript/pxlmono rendering engine and foomatic-rip to support PCL-XL models.

## Deliver printer driver

- Ricoh provides drivers to foomatic-db.
- Most Linux distributions build their printer driver packages based on foomatic-db, but some of them were not aware of the latest development in foomatic-db. In some cases, causes duplicated PPD entries.
- Some user has difficulty in installing PPD driver. A how to document that covers all Linux distributions?
- Many users have no idea of protocols and printing ports. CUPS 1.2 has done a wonderful job to initiate protocol auto-detection. In case of firewall enabled, maybe we should design a PPD extension that lists supported protocols?

## Deliver printer features

- Printer features are presented by PPD files (secure print features use foomatic-PPD / CUPS 1.2 custom-input-type extension).
- Some applications use their own printer dialog and not presenting all features in the PPD file to end user; In office printing environment, duplex, staple, collate are important features, and we want all printer feature to appear in printer dialog. (Maybe in advanced tab)
- Some applications uses their own PPD interpreter and do not recognize PPD extension. Can CUPS web interface support custom-input-type?

# Technical Support

- Support end user through FAQ page and more importantly, printer forum.
- Thanks FSG for the plan of upgrading to a new and more user friendly forum.

## LSB Compliant Printer Driver

- If a printer driver is said to be “LSB 3.2 compliant”, user should just be able to install the driver without the need to download and install any extra components.
- Most printer drivers in foomatic-db just involve PPD installation, and are bundled with distributions already. According to [Linuxprinting.org](https://linuxprinting.org/), 2024 of 2270 printers work reasonably well. Those drivers should be considered “LSB compliant”. APIs/Components needed should be part of LSB.
- Postscript drivers should be considered LSB compliant automatically.

*Thank You*