DEFINE PRINTER

```
DEFINE PRINTER ([logical-printer-name=]n)

 [OUTPUT operand1]

 [PROFILE operand2]

 [DISP operand2]

 [COPIES operand3]
```

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Function

- Syntax Description

- Examples

For an explanation of the symbols used in the syntax diagram, see *Syntax Symbols*.

Related Statements: AT END OF PAGE | AT TOP OF PAGE | CLOSE PRINTER | DISPLAY | EJECT | FORMAT | NEWPAGE | PRINT | SKIP | SUSPEND IDENTICAL SUPPRESS | WRITE | WRITE TITLE | WRITE TRAILER

Belongs to Function Group: *Creation of Output Reports*

Function

The DEFINE PRINTER statement is used to assign a symbolic name to a report number and to control the allocation of a report to a logical destination. This provides you with additional flexibility when creating output for various logical print queues.

When this statement is executed and the specified printer is already open, the statement will implicitly cause that printer to be closed. To explicitly close a printer, however, you should use the CLOSE PRINTER statement.

Syntax Description

Operand Definition Table:

Operand	Possible Structure			Possible Formats										Referencing Permitted	Dynamic Definition
operand1	C	S		A										yes	no
operand2	C	S		A										yes	no

Syntax Element Description:

Syntax Element	Description
`(n)`	**Printer Number (Report Number):** The report number `n` may be a value in the range of 0 - 31. This is the number also to be used in a `DISPLAY` / `WRITE` or `CLOSE PRINTER` statement. Report number 0 indicates the output channel of the main report. Only output statements such as `PRINT`, `WRITE` or `DISPLAY` are affected. The `INPUT` statement is not affected.
`logical-printer-name`	**Logical Printer Name:** Optionally you can assign a logical name `logical-printer-name` to printer `n`. This name can be used for the `rep` notation in a `DISPLAY` / `WRITE` statement. Naming conventions for `logical-printer-name` are the same as for user-defined variables. Multiple logical names may be assigned to the same printer number. Unlike the value of the `OUTPUT` operand (see below), `logical-printer-name` is evaluated at compilation time and therefore independent of the program control flow.
`OUTPUT operand1`	**Printer Name:** If `operand1` is a variable, its format/length must be A8 or one of the following. The name must be specified as `LPTnn`, where `nn` may be a number in the range of `1 - 31`. See also Example 1. **Note:** If the output data written to a report is to be sent to an Entire Connection terminal and then be written to an NCD file on a PC, one of the printer names `LPTnn` (where `nn` is a number in the range of `1 - 31`) must be specified as `operand1`. The device asignments of logical printer `LPTnn` must be set in the Configuration Utility; see *Device/Report Assignments*. As **Device Destination** of the **Physical Output Device**, the value `E` (send data to an Entire Connection terminal) must be specified. Additional reports can be assigned with the following names: <table><tr><td>**Report**</td><td>**Function**</td></tr><tr><td>DUMMY</td><td>Output to be deleted.</td></tr><tr><td>INFOLINE</td><td>Output to the Natural infoline. For details on the infoline, see the Natural terminal command %X in the *Terminal Commands* documentation. See also Example 2.</td></tr><tr><td>SOURCE</td><td>Output to the Natural source area.</td></tr></table>

Syntax Element	Description	
PROFILE *operand2*	**Name of Printer Control Characters Table:** With the PROFILE clause, you specify as *operand2* the name of a printer control characters table. The maximum length allowed for *operand2* is 8. Such a table is defined in the global configuration file. See *Printer Profiles* in the *Configuration Utility* documentation for details on how to set printer profiles.	
DISP *operand2*	**Disposition:** Maximum length of operand: 4 bytes. Possible values for *operand2*:	
	DEL	The temporary spool file is deleted after its content has been printed. This is the default value.
	KEEP	The temporary spool file is *not* deleted after its content has been printed.
	HOLD	The temporary spool file is neither deleted nor printed.
COPIES *operand3*	**Number of Copies:** *operand3* must be an integer value.	

Examples

- Example 1 - Printer Name Definition

- Example 2 - Print Output to Infoline

Example 1 - Printer Name Definition

```
/* PRINTER NAME DEFINED FOR WINDOWS
*
DEFINE PRINTER (REPORT1 = 1) OUTPUT 'LPT1'
WRITE (REPORT1) 'REPORT 1 PRINTED ON PRINTER LPT1'
END
```

Example 2 - Print Output to Infoline

```
** Example 'DPIEX1': DEFINE PRINTER
************************************************************************
*
SET CONTROL 'XI+'        /* SWITCH INFOLINE MODE ON
SET CONTROL 'XT'         /* INFOLINE TOP
*
DEFINE PRINTER (1) OUTPUT 'INFOLINE'
WRITE (1) 'EXECUTING' *PROGRAM 'BY' *INIT-USER
WRITE 'TEST OUTPUT'
```

```
EJECT                     /* FORCE PHYSICAL I/O
*
SET CONTROL 'X'           /* SWITCH BACK TO NORMAL
*
END
```

Output of Program DPIEX1:

```
EXECUTING DPIEX1   BY HTR
Page      1                                          05-01-13  14:54:33

TEST OUTPUT
```