

## REFERENCE

**About Datev**

DATEV eG in Nuremberg is the software house and IT service provider for tax accountants, auditors, and attorneys as well as their clients. The service spectrum primarily encompasses the areas of accounting, business consulting, taxes, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), as well as organization and planning. With currently around 39,000 members, around 5,400 employees, and a sales volume of 585 million euros for 2006, DATEV, founded in 1966, is among the largest information service providers and software houses in Germany and abroad.

**Contact:**

DATEV eG

Peter Busch

Group Leader Software Development

Printout Assessment

Virnsberger Str. 63, 90329 Nuremberg

Tel. 0911 / 276-2293

E-mail: [peter.busch@datev.de](mailto:peter.busch@datev.de)**ThinPrint Supports Exceptional Print Service at DATEV eG**

ThinPrint has developed a printer driver for DATEV eG that can run under Windows Vista as well as under previous versions of the operating system.

“Never change a running system” is a common saying in IT affairs. But now the day is approaching in the foreseeable future when German tax offices – indeed, all companies that use Microsoft products – will stop using the familiar XP operating system and install the new Windows Vista. To enable ten thousand German offices to continue using DATEV applications to easily print out their documents in the DATEV data processing center (DPC), the Nuremberg company provided them with a new DPC printer driver in January 2007. The special tool was developed by the driver experts at ThinPrint GmbH, the leading provider of print management solutions in distributed environments.

**The background:** The DATEV applications demand special technical requirements of the DATEV DPC printer driver that concern the color options, “gray-on-gray” printing, specific raster and font positions. Technical requirements also exist on the DPC print process side to guarantee integration in the print process. The existing driver can still be installed under Windows XP, Professional & Co, so that all document types can be printed out in high quality on the Xerox printers used in the data processing center.

**Adequate preparation of print jobs independent of the operating system**

The deck has been reshuffled with Vista, however, because the driver software used

up until now was originally developed for Windows 98 and can no longer deliver adequate preparation of print jobs under the new operating system. Though tax accountants have the additional option of printing out their reports in-house, a large number use the convenient print services of the DATEV data processing center and send their print data streams to Nuremberg where they are printed out on state-of-the-art devices and assembled.

In order to continue offering the desired print service in the future too, a new driver was needed. DATEV began searching for a provider with the necessary know-how to develop the appropriate software. After looking at several other manufacturers, they first met with the experts from ThinPrint at the CeBIT 2005. Their professionalism was persuasive, since the Berliners are at home in the driver world as few others due to their years of work in the area of DRIVER FREE PRINTING. The price/performance ratio was also right and so the choice was an easy one.

**ThinPrint’s driver eases the transition to Windows Vista**

“We wanted to provide an appropriate tool early on,” explains Peter Busch, Group Leader of Software Development for Printout Assessment at DATEV eG, “and provide our customers with a driver that would function as smoothly under Vista as under older versions of Windows. No appointed date for





Peter Busch, Group Leader of Software Development for Printouts Assessment at DATEV eG

### About ThinPrint

ThinPrint specializes in mobile enterprise solutions and printing in distributed networks. The solutions of the software manufacturer, based in Germany and with offices in USA and Australia, are successfully deployed by businesses of all sizes and in all sectors around the globe. More than 500 renowned distributors and resellers in more than 80 countries market the products of ThinPrint GmbH. Thanks to strategic partnerships, the client components of the patent pending .print technology are integrated in a multitude of terminals, print boxes, PDAs, and mobile telephones from leading hardware manufacturers. Significant value is enjoyed by strategic partnerships with BlackBerry (RIM), Bluetooth SIG, Citrix Systems, Inc., Fujitsu Siemens Computers, Lexmark International, Inc., Microsoft, Nokia, Orange, Palm, Inc., Sun Microsystems Inc., Symbian Ltd., VM Ware, and XPS Software GmbH

the change as such, but rather early preparation for the transition. Then, starting in Fall 2007, when members invest in new PCs with Vista pre-installed, they are already prepared in terms of print capability under Vista and can continue communicating with the data processing center printers without interruption.”

Charlotte Künzell, General Manager at ThinPrint: “We developed a user-mode driver based on PCL5 with very specific requirements for this purpose because ten thousand DATEV users send up to 14 million pages annually over the printer channels.” The driver not only makes sure that the print jobs from the DATEV applications – the majority of which are from the tax application – are sent to the service provider as before and can be smoothly processed there. It also transmits MS Office documents, tax papers, client letters, financial statements, etc., as correct print data streams.

### Delivered 42,000 times

In January 2007, DATEV sent their customers around 42,000 CDs and DVDs with the new driver. An update followed at the beginning of February and the tool is to be available

as a download in the future. The number of users is estimated as still higher, as the driver can be installed on multiple workstations in the offices.

As a precaution, a support team was put on alert status at ThinPrint to immediately eliminate any difficulties with the driver operation – so far the colleagues in Berlin-Moabit have had little to do though. Startup difficulties like the positioning of fonts and the use of tabulators were able to be resolved promptly thanks to quick and competent reaction from the support team. „We are more than satisfied with the support from ThinPrint, we had a competent contact partner on the phone every time.“

Quote from Peter Busch:

“The new driver software from ThinPrint supports us in our efforts to consistently maintain the print services of DATEV for our customers even during difficult release transitions of business critical applications like Windows. The service and support from the ThinPrint Team was exemplary.”



Facts	
Customer	DATEV eG
Sector	Software house and IT service provider
Project leader	Peter Busch
Project	PCL driver development for print data streams from customers to the DATEV data processing center under Windows Vista.
Number of users	Potentially around 42,000