



PDF Security in Your Hands

B BASIS customers asked and BASIS delivered – the ability for Sysprint devices to create PDFs.

The next natural progression was to add security options. BASIS customers asked and BASIS once again delivered – password and security options for sysprint-created PDFs. This article covers the whole gamut, from hyper-security to default security to custom passwords and finally, to no security at all.

While the default security level meets most general business needs, users may require more control over documents. Sysprint provides new options that allow developers to deliver the precise control that security-minded users demand.

Red Security Alert

A new OPENPDFPASS mode, which is available in the forthcoming release of BBJ 12.0, provides the highest level of

security. The document will not even be viewable without the password specified in OPENPDFPASS. Further modes can be invoked with PDFPASS as described below.

Orange Security Alert

PDFs in BBJ® are secure by default; the document is locked and cannot be edited with standard tools, making sysprint documents safe from accidental modification. The functionality is available in Print Preview without having to change code in any way. Users can now choose PDF format in the preview's [Save as] menu option. Alternatively, adjusting the mode line to indicate that you want to create a PDF and a specific file name creates a locked PDF for your users. These new options create PDFs that cannot be edited with common office tools, eliminating the risk of accidental modification.

Yellow Security Alert

Some users need to review documents created in BBJ and make modifications. The PDFPASS mode line option makes this possible. By setting PDFPASS equal to a password of your choice, you can selectively control who can edit documents. While anyone could view the document, editing it requires the

password. Since there are many cases when documents might need modification by select users, PDFPASS easily provides that control.

Green Security Alert

Finally, some PDFs require no security at all. BBJ uses the PDFPASS option with no argument, or a blank password such as `PDFPASS=""`, to create documents that anyone can freely edit. While not appropriate for invoices, this is a great option for providing information to your users. Eliminating the security clearly avoids the overhead of the security mechanisms. Sophisticated users like to edit PDFs directly because it simplifies creation of brochures, or annual reports, or any other media where BBJ-created PDFs might be modified for inclusion in a different environment.

Summary

BBJ provides a range options for securing your PDFs. By default, no one can modify SYSPRINT documents. Providing a password to users gives more control over who can edit documents. By eliminating security completely, anyone is free to modify their PDFs as they see fit. BASIS' delivery of password control to your application-generated PDFs meets the requirements of today's security conscious world while providing the practical flexibility demanded by our users. ■



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