Adding A Printer for All Users (Windows)

The task at hand seems simple enough...install a printer for a Windows user for a printer on a Print Server. In our example, I'll use a print share called BigDill on a print server named Arkone.

Easy, right? A quick web search for "powershell add printer" takes me to the add-printer cmdlet, and it is pretty easy to use for a print server. The command looks like this (don't use this example!):

```
import-module printmanagement
add-printer -ConnectionName \\arkone\BigDill
```

I tested it locally outside of FileWave in the PowerShell ISE and it worked fine. I ran the command, and it added the printer for me. So, I created a fileset for the exact same thing and tried it out. The result: nothing whatsoever. The script seemed to run fine, but the user logged in didn't see a new printer!

So, why did this happen? For two important reasons:

1. The Add-Printer cmdlet is great, but it ONLY adds a printer for the current user
2. When FileWave runs a script, it is always run under the context of the System account

When I investigated further by opening a command prompt as system, I found that in fact my fileset had run fine, and added the printer, but only for the system account.

> **Testing Scripts for Use in FileWave**
> ℹ️ Review our KB <u>Script Best Practices</u> which demonstrates the use of psexec to run scripts on Windows as if they were run through FileWave (as System User and 32bit).

So, a little more research was required, and PowerShell in this instance is not the answer. Instead, we are going to use a command-line utility in a batch file called printui.exe. PrintUI can be used in many ways: <u>Microsoft PrintUI Documentation</u>

We won't get into all of the options of this command here, but printui can add a printer globally for all users using the /ga command line option (/gd is a global delete if you happen to want to add a removal script as well). So our new batch file (Activation Script) code looks like this:

```
@echo off
printui /ga /n\\arkone\BigDill
exit 0
```

And our results, in this case, were excellent...the printer is added for every user at their next login. (Given this, you may want to make this a reboot fileset)

And, for completeness' sake, if we wanted to add a post-uninstallation script to "clean-up" if this fileset were removed, we could do:

```
@echo off
printui /gd /n\\arkone\BigDill
exit 0
```

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