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**Altman Technologies**  
Intelligent Software Solutions  
[www.altman.co.uk](http://www.altman.co.uk)

# Pcounter Station

## Quick Start Guide

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## Pcounter Station: Overview

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Pcounter Station is printer accounting release station software that runs on a dedicated Windows PC, to be used in controlled or pay-to-print environments. After users send print jobs from other workstations, they can approach the station, select the jobs they wish to send to the printer and authenticate themselves for secure release.

Pcounter Station can also be used to submit some form of payment through devices such as card readers or cash machines. Pcounter Station locks down the PC so that users cannot exit, and the Pcounter Station software is the only application that is shown on the computer's display.

Pcounter for NT or Pcounter for NetWare should be running on the print server, in order to automatically pause/hold jobs and to calculate the page counts and cost of print jobs.

Pcounter Station works with Pcounter by having Pcounter hold jobs to prevent them going to the printer when a user prints from a workstation. Then, when a user selects a job or jobs from the Pcounter Station, Pcounter Station hands the request back to Pcounter to remove the pause & the jobs are released for printing.

**PSConfig.exe** is used to configure Pcounter Station.

### Accounting DLL

Custom accounting DLLs can be developed which interface to devices such as card readers or external databases that can be used to accept payment for printing. If no accounting DLL is configured, then paused/held jobs are released without question. Only jobs that are paused or held will be passed to the DLL for accounting.

A small example is available, with C-code, showing the type of information that can be obtained & how the .DLL entry points are named. Please contact **Altman Technologies** for information on developing accounting DLLs for the Pcounter Station.

### Station security

When Pcounter Station is running, nothing else on the desktop is accessible. It enlarges to the full screen size and prevents the taskbar and other programs from being seen. All Windows hotkeys are disabled. However, if Pcounter Station is running on Windows NT or Windows 2000 make sure that the software component is installed which disables Ctrl-Alt-Del so that malicious users cannot shutdown the system or logoff. (Ctrl-Alt-Del is automatically disabled when running Windows 9x without any additional software.)

### SUPPORTED FEATURES

- Works with print queues hosted on Windows NT, Windows 2000, and NetWare. NetWare support includes NDS queues, Bindery queues, and NDPS printers.
- Provides a secure, locked-down, release of print jobs at the printer.
- Works with Pcounter & optionally card-readers to enable combinations of central database or distributed balances on cards.
- Can be used in combination with Pcounter's PPopup to provide a secure, password-protected release station for anonymous users.
- Includes **Remote to local printing**; built-in secure LPD server and NetWare queue server for transfer of print jobs from remote print servers to local printers (such as parallel and USB) on the Pcounter Station machine.

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## 1. Getting started

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For further information - or if you encounter any problems installing - see the file:

PStation.PDF (Adobe Acrobat) in the “C:\Program Files\PStation” folder.

For additional information, please try our Web support page ([www.altman.co.uk/support](http://www.altman.co.uk/support)), which has a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section; if this does not help, contact **Altman Technologies** (see front-sheet for contact details).

The software is available as a download from the web or can be supplied on CD. The zip file you are provided with specifies the version number as a date in its name & needs to be unzipped.

Please read this entire document before starting the installation. The installer must be logged into the workstation as the ADMINISTRATOR or equivalent in order for the required files to be properly installed.

**Note:** If a previous *Beta* version of Pcounter Station is already installed, then uninstall it via *its* **PSConfig** or **Uninstall** *before* installing this version.

### System Requirements:

#### Server requirements

Pcounter for NetWare (min. vn.5.12) or

Pcounter for NT (min. vn.2.07)

#### Workstation requirements (for release station)

Windows 9x, NT4, 2000 or XP with Internet Explorer 4 or later

A network-class machine, with CPU fast enough and sufficient RAM, to run the OS efficiently.

If **Remote to local printing** is being used, enough disk space to store 2 jobs for each local printer.

NetWare support requires Novell Client 32.

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## 2. Installation

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### Server

1. Ensure that Pcounter is running on the server(s) where print jobs are to be released via the Pcounter Station.
2. Using Pcounter's PControl set these Printers to **Operator/User hold** (Pcounter NetWare) or **Super Pause** (Pcounter NT). Also set Pcounter to “Count jobs in advance for display” the queues, so all page counts & costs can be displayed.

### Workstation

1. Run **Setup.exe** on the Windows Workstation/Server where you want to install Pcounter Station.
2. Read the Welcome screen, click the **Next** button.
3. Read the Information screen, click the **Next** button.
4. Confirm default directory, click the **Next** button.
5. Confirm default program folder, click the **Next** button.
6. Await completion of install, click the **Finish** button to end Setup.

### 3. Configuring & Loading Pcounter Station

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Pcounter release Station is configured from PSConfig.

Pcounter Station would normally be set to run automatically on boot-up but can also be run manually.

1. Run **PSConfig.exe**, go to **Global Settings** tab (**Globe** icon or Menu **Station, Global Settings**). Set all required parameters as required. We recommend “Program functionality” of **Operator console** for testing but **Release station (Locked down)** for live use, “Numerical format” should match that of Pcounter, “User identification” should be **Job user list with password** for a secure release station or **None show all print jobs** if used as a general display of all print jobs for a print department to use, “Display print job page counts and cost “ should be set, click **Exit password** button to set a password – type the password twice, then click **OK** - to enable an administrator to exit the Pcounter Station if necessary.
2. Click **Automatic logon** tab, set “Enable automatic logon”, enter the “Local username” that the Pcounter Station should logon as when starting automatically, enter the “Local password”. If NetWare, similarly set the Netware username, password, tree, context & server. This user requires the following network permissions:
  - Windows NT/2000 - Manage Documents** permission to printers.
  - NetWare queues - Queue operator** of each queue.
  - NDPS printers - Printer operator** of each printer.
3. Click **OK** to save the configuration. Go to **Add Print Queues (Printer** icon or Menu **Queue, Add print queue to monitor)** & browse the Network to choose the queue/printer this release station is to control. We would recommend only specifying 1 or 2 printers per Pcounter Station. Click **OK** to save this list.
4. For the initial testing you may want to leave this step but for live, we recommend going to **Setup System (Folder & box** icon or Menu **Station, Setup system)** & then click **Configure Station to run at start-up (Remove** is also supported from here if a previously set start-up is detected). If this is WinNT/2000/XP, click **Install software to disable Ctrl-Alt-Del (requires a reboot)**. Click **OK** to exit this screen.
5. Pcounter Station needs a registration key to function. To activate the trial period, complete the form at Menu **Register, Request Trial Period or Registration**. You need an Internet connection from the workstation to accomplish this; an SSL connection is used to ensure security. Enter your “User name”, “Company name”, “Email address” for the key to be sent to & specify the **60 day trial key**. Confirm the message “The message was successfully transmitted.” is displayed, click **OK**.
6. By return, you should receive an email, Subject: Pcounter Station trial key: COMPUTERTNAME. Still in PSConfig, Menu **Register, Enter registration number**, enter the Registration number from that email into the box & click **OK**. Confirm the message “Thank you for registering.” is displayed, click **OK**. You can view the trial period status in PSConfig by choosing **Register, Enter Registration Number**. Please save this email for use in future for full registration.
7. Click the **Exit** button to exit PSConfig having completed the set-up; the 60-day evaluation starts now.
8. Pcounter Station is ready to run!

To start Pcounter Station, restart the workstation if all the automatic logon & lock-downs have been set. If testing, simply run PStation.exe.

### Uninstalling

Uninstall the software from your workstation by using the Control Panel, Add/Remove Programs.

Ensure that if you want to return to direct printing, you use Pcounter's PControl, set these Printers to not have **Operator/User hold** (Pcounter NetWare) or **Super Pause** (Pcounter NT).

### Registering

Once the 60-day evaluation for Pcounter Station is over, its functions will cease to work. Before this time, if you wish to buy the software, see the file "HOW2BUY.htm" in the installed directory for instructions; there is also an order form called PstationOrderForm.pdf that is included in the download zip file that can be used to document the details required. After your order for Pcounter Station has been received, a registration code will be sent to you. For each PC running Pcounter Station you can register as follows:

In PSConfig, Menu **Register**, **Enter registration number**, enter the full Registration number from our email into the box & click **OK**. Confirm the message "Thank you for registering." is displayed, click **OK**. You can view the registration status in PSConfig by choosing **Register**, **Enter Registration Number**.

The Pcounter Station registration key is based on the MAC address & Computer name; should you change your network card, you will need to obtain a new registration key.

### Updating versions

There is no need to un-install first. New versions can safely be installed over previous so long as you are within your maintenance licence period; otherwise the update will change Pcounter Station to be an expired evaluation!

(To check this, use the Register menu from the PSConfig, Enter registration number. Check-

**Status:                      Registered maintenance valid through m/yyyy**

such that the date m/yyyy is Greater than the date specified in the version warning.)