

a:control

Version 1.10

User Manual

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Content

<u>Welcome</u>	5
<u>Basics</u>	6
<u>Functions</u>	7
<u>Main mask (Home)</u>	7
<u>Main menu</u>	9
<u>File</u>	10
<u>Settings</u>	11
<u>Printer management</u>	12
<u>Add new printer</u>	13
<u>Edit printer</u>	15
<u>Copy printer</u>	16
<u>Delete printer</u>	17
<u>Fileparser</u>	18
<u>Printer variables</u>	19
<u>Printer groups</u>	20
<u>Program settings</u>	21
<u>Standard path</u>	22
<u>Passwords</u>	23
<u>Programs</u>	27
<u>Status log file</u>	28
<u>Configuration</u>	29
<u>View</u>	30
<u>Help</u>	31

<u>Print systems</u>	32
<u>Language</u>	34
<u>Stick drive</u>	35
<u>General</u>	36
<u>Requirements</u>	37
<u>Functions</u>	38
<u>Procedures</u>	40
<u>Procedures - NGT series</u>	41
<u>Using a USB stick drive</u>	42
<u>Creating a backup</u>	43
<u>Restoring a backup</u>	43
<u>Flashing NGT firmware</u>	44
<u>Write formats to printer by USB device</u>	45
<u>Procedures - 53LT/XL series</u>	46
<u>Flashing firmware of 53LT/XL series</u>	47
<u>Write formats to printer by USB device</u>	48
<u>Program settings Backup/Restore</u>	49
<u>Programs</u>	50
<u>Control masks</u>	51
<u>Print system</u>	53
<u>Home</u>	54
<u>Status</u>	55
<u>Format</u>	56
<u>Format - NGT series</u>	57
<u>Format - 53LT/XL series</u>	61

<u>Format - MLI series</u>	64
<u>Management</u>	66
<u>Management - NGT series</u>	67
<u>Management - 53LT/XL series</u>	69
<u>Management - MLI series</u>	71
<u>Service</u>	72
<u>Service - NGT series</u>	73
<u>Service - 53LT/XL series</u>	76
<u>Service - MLI series</u>	78
<u>Basic Setup</u>	79
<u>Basic Setup - NGT series</u>	80
<u>Basic Setup - 53LT/XL series</u>	82
<u>Basic Setup - MLI series</u>	83
<u>Extras</u>	84
<u>Extras - NGT series</u>	85
<u>Extras - 53LT/XL series</u>	86
<u>Extras - MLI series</u>	87
<u>Help</u>	88
<u>Information and contact</u>	89
<u>Licence purchase</u>	90
<u>Contact</u>	91

Welcome

Welcome

a:control help

Welcome to a:control help.

a:control contains all functions for the control, configuration and monitoring of the Allen Coding NGT, MLi, XL and 53LT series.

a:control has been optimized for touchscreen usage.

The optimum resolution for the touchscreen panel is 800x600. Accordingly, no Windows tools are required.

Within this help, you will find information and help concerning the main functions of a:control.

In contrast to the free version, the registered version of this software includes the following additional features:

- Saving and deleting print formats
- Loading print formats from print system or USB stick drive.
- Format editor
- Extended rights management.
- Backup / Restore

See also [Licence purchase](#)

Both versions can be started in a so-called Light mode, which offer limited functionality.



Basics

Basics

a:control provides a set of functions for the **control, configuration and monitoring of printing systems** of Allen Codings NGT, XL and 53LT series

a:control contains an integrated rights management, that can be deactivated within the settings. According to your settings in the rights management, you will be asked to enter your user name and password when selecting different functions.

See also [Settings - Program settings - Passwords](#)

By default, the printing systems are controlled and configured via the **user interface for print system control(control masks)**. The user interface provides functions such as loading print formats, changing the value of variables within the print format, setting printing parameters, configuring the printing system, performing service functions and executing status requests.

See [Main mask - Print systems](#) and [Control masks](#)

a:control features the control of the printing system with the help of a **fileparser**. The integrated fileparser allows users to print jobs, change contents of variable and parameter values from an external software or a program, e.g. an ERP system, to a preset printing system or printer group.

In order to use the fileparser function, a monitored/watched directory has to be created in a:control under [Settings -> Program Settings -> Standard path](#). In this directory, a:control automatically creates subdirectories with the printers and groups created in the program.

When you copy a print format into one of these subdirectories, it is automatically loaded into the corresponding printer. The print formats can be transferred as a:design2 files (.acc), as NGT text files (.txt) or XL text files (.imp) and as CODESOFT files (.lab), if CODESOFT is installed on the PC.

Alternatively, you can copy a valid a:control **XML file** into one of these subdirectories. The addressed printer or group are defined within the XML file. Using such a XML file, you can again transfer or load print formats, load values into variables and set parameter values. Database access is also possible. a:control provides the possibility to create a XML file for the connected printers and their loaded print formats via [File -> Export formats \(XML\)](#). Alternatively, you can transfer a XML file to a PC using drag&drop. Detailed information about working with the fileparser can be requested from Allen Coding.

WEB Service is available as a third option to control printing systems connected with a:control. You have to use a:control as admin to be able to use Web Service. In order to view the WSDL-file, insert the URL defined under [Settings -> Program settings -> Standard path](#) followed by ?wsdl into your browsers address bar (e.g. Internet Explorer).

Detailed information about working with WEB Service can be requested from Allen Coding.

Functions

Functions

a:control consists of two parts:

- the **main mask** (Home screen) with the main menu (including the menu items "File", "Settings" and "Help") and
- the control masks (user interface for print system control)



[Main mask \(Home\)](#)



[Settings](#)



[Control masks](#)

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Main mask (Home)

Main mask (Home)

Within a:control and within this help, the term Home screen or Main mask refers to the main screen. It contains the main menu and on various tabs:

- Overview of all installed print systems
- Quick access to additional user languages
- USB functions such as backup/restore of program settings, backup/restore of printer settings via USB stick drive, firmware flashing and writing of formats to printer via Usb stick drive
- Quick access to external applications/software, if defined



[Main menu](#)



[Print systems](#)



[Language](#)



[Stick drive](#)



[Programs](#)

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Main menu

Main menu



In the main menu of the main mask you will find, amongst others, menu items for the program registration, the program settings and the help.



[File](#)



[Settings](#)



[Help](#)

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File

File

Registration

You can register a:control here and obtain a key specific for your PC.

See [License purchase](#)

Export formats

You can create a XML file for the connected printers and their loaded print formats.

See [Basics](#)

Logoff

If the rights management is activated, you can log off here, if you have previously logged in.

See [Passwords](#)

Exit

You can exit and close the program here.

Settings

Settings



Under menu item [Settings](#), all basic settings for the programs and the managed printers can be performed.



[Printer management](#)



[Program settings](#)



[View](#)

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Printer management

Printer management

Under [Printer management](#) you can add , edit or delete printers. You get to the printer management via [Settings -> Printer management](#).

In addition, you can define global variables than can be used as templates for variables of a loaded print format.



[Add new printer](#)



[Edit printer](#)



[Delete printer](#)



[Fileparser](#)



[Variables](#)



[Groups](#)

Add new printer

Add new printer

Add a new printer by tabbing **New**. A window opens where you can set the connection data and a printer name. In order to change the suggested printer name, tab the text field that contains the printer name (tab the button right of the text field when in touch mode)

Now select a type of printer. You can choose between the **NGT series** and the **53LT/XL series**.

Choose between Serial connection, Network connection and USB (only XL series).

Attention: you need to set the desired connection type additionally on the print system in use!

For serial connection, set the following parameters:

- Interface
- Baud rate
- Parity
- Stopbits
- Databits
- Flow control

The preset values are applicable for NGT and XL print systems and do not have to be changed. Only for printers of the 53LT series has the baud rate to be changed.

For a network connection, set the IP address and the port of the print system. Standard port for printers of the NGT series is 4001, for printers of the XL series it is 30001.

The configuration of port forwarding is not imperative. If port forwarding is configured, the printer can also be addressed via the forwarded IP.

With the aid of port forwarding printing systems are still accessible externally, when connected to a:control.

You can find and select printers available in the network via the button "Search printer". You can also edit the printers network parameters within the "Search printer" screen.

In order to establish an USB connection, it is once necessary to install a driver via the button **Install**.

Afterwards, when the print system is connected to a:control for the first time, the USB connection is shown in the list of COM ports and can be selected. After that, the connection is available permanently. If a new COM port is assigned by Windows, the new connection has to be selected again.

Under the tab Configuration, you can adjust the following printer specific settings:

- Connect automatically when the program starts
- Show print counter
- Show ribbon length (only NGT series!)
- pause printer group at fault (only XL series - stops print mode at all assigned printers of the group, if this printer shows an error)

Edit printer

Edit printer

Tab the button **Edit** in order to edit a print system that has already be added and selected. Active connection cannot be changed while the printer is active. Changes in connection data are accepted after the connection has been reestablished.

See [Add new printer](#)

Copy printer

Copy printer

Select the button **Copy** in order to copy an already added and selected print system. With the help of this copy, you assign the printer to an additional group.

See [Groups](#)

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Delete printer

Delete printer



Select a print system and tab **Delete** to delete it from the list.

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Fileparser

Fileparser

A monitored directory has to be created in a:controls settings in order to use the fileparser function. a:control automatically creates subdirectories with the printers and groups created in the program into this directory. You can open the directory for a selected printer by tabbing on [Parser](#) in the printer management.

See [Basics](#)

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Printer variables

Printer variables

Printer variables can be used to assign printer specific values to variables within a print format. Thereby it is possible to print e.g. line markings or path markings.

Add a printer variable for a selected printer by tabbing **Variables** in the printer management. A window will open in which you can create, edit and delete printer variables and their contents and can assign them to defined print format variables.

Confirm your entries by tabbing **OK**.

Printer groups

Printer groups

You can group printers into a printer group that acts similar to an single printer.
By tabbing **Groups**, you can add and configure new printer groups or edit existing ones.

Printer groups

In this tab you can add new groups, copy or delete groups and change group names.

Printer assignment

In this tab you can assign the individual printers to a created printer group. For this purpose tab on a already created printer group and then on the printers you want to assign. Please note that each printer can only be assigned to one printer group. The assignment of one printer to several different groups is possible via copies of this printer. See [Copy printer](#).

Functions






You can selected the functions available for the respective printer group. For full functionality of a group, select the group and all functions.

Confirm your entries by tabbing **OK**.

Program settings

Program settings

In the menu item [Program settings](#) you can adjust all basic settings of a:control and configure the integrated rights management. You get to the Program settings via [Settings -> Program Settings](#).

-  [Standard path](#)
-  [Passwords](#)
-  [Programs](#)
-  [Status log file](#)
-  [Configuration](#)

Standard path

Standard path

In a:control you can set standard paths. These paths are used for print formats, backups, fileparser and WEB service.

You can change these paths in the tab Standard path within the [Program Settings](#). Tab on the button with the inscription ... in order to change the path. The selected new directory is accepted immediately.

After a normal installation on a Windows7 system, the standard paths refer to the following directories:

Format path

C:\Users\<Username>\AppData\Local\Allen Coding\AControl\Formats\

Backup path

C:\Users\<Username>\AppData\Local\Allen Coding\AControl\Backups\

Fileparser path

C:\Users\<Username>\AppData\Local\Allen Coding\AControl\Fileparser\

Webservice-URL

http://localhost:8087/acontrol

Passwords

Passwords

a:control contains an integrated rights management that can be deactivated in [Settings -> Program Settings -> Configuration](#). The configuration can be done in the tab Passwords.

If a **domain controller** is available in the network, a:control can control the authentication via the groups of the domain.

For this, the domain groups need to be assigned to the user groups in the password settings. By default, the a:control group "Autologin" is assigned to each domain group.

If no **domain controller** is available, the standard user management can be activated:

In the rights management Users and Groups (user groups) can be created and managed. Users, once created, can be assigned to groups via User permissions. Group permissions for program functions and printers can be assigned to groups.

In general the login is performed via the predefined user **Auto** with only low access permission level. He is member of the group **autologin**. This user and group cannot be deleted, but they can be edited.

You get to the rights management via [Settings -> Program Settings -> Passwords](#).

By default, the following users/user groups are installed:

user **admin**

User group: **admingroup**

Preset password: **admin**

user **setter**

User group: **settergroup**

Preset password: Password: **setter**

user **service**

User group: **servicegroup**

Preset password: **service**

user **user**

User group: **usergroup**

Preset password Passwort: **user**

The predefined group rights are defined as follows:

Name in "Group permissions"	Call in Program	Administrator	AutoLogin	ServiceGroup	SetterGroup	UserGroup
Application Exit	Application - Exit	X	-	X	X	-
Extras Backup	Extras - Backup	X	-	X	X	X
Extras Firmware	Extras - Firmware	X	-	X	-	-
Extras Font Manager	Extras - Font Manager	X	-	X	X	-
Extras Restore	Extras - Restore	X	-	X	X	-
Extras Support	Extras - Support	X	-	X	X	X
Extras Terminal	Extras - Terminal	X	-	X	-	-
Formats Counter	Format - Counter	X	-	X	X	X
Formats Delete	Format - Delete format	X	-	X	X	-
Formats Download	Format - Copy format	X	-	X	X	X
Formats Editor	Format - Format Editor	X	-	X	X	-
Formats FormatLanguage	Format - Format language	X	-	X	X	-
Formats FormatLength	Format - Format length	X	-	X	X	-
Formats GlobalVariables	Format - Global variables	X	-	X	X	-
Formats Mark	Format - X/Y-Mark	X	-	X	X	-
Formats Memory Mode	Format - Memory mode	X	-	X	X	-
Formats Number of partial advances	Format - Number of advances	X	-	X	X	-
Formats Offset	Format - Move	X	-	X	X	X
Formats Postview	Format - Postview	X	X	X	X	X
Formats Print Count Reset	Format - Print count reset	X	-	X	X	X
Formats PrintQueue	Format - Queue	X	-	X	X	X
Formats Quantity	Format - Quantity	X	-	X	X	X
Formats RibbonAdvance	Format - Ribbon Advance	X	-	X	X	X
Formats RibbonRewind	Format - Ribbon Rewind	X	-	X	X	X
Formats RSFields	Format - RS-Field	X	-	X	X	X
Formats Select	Format - Load format	X	-	X	X	X
Formats Test	Format - Test formats	X	-	X	X	X
Formats Variables	Format - Variables	X	-	X	X	X
HWSetup Comm Interface	Basic Setup - Communication interface	X	-	X	X	-
HWSetup Encoder use	Basic Setup - Encoder use	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup History	Basic Setup - Basic setup history	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Hysteresis	Basic Setup - Hysteresis	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup IM/CM	Basic Setup - IM / CM Mode	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Inhibit Level	Basic Setup - Inhibit Level	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup IP Configuration	Basic Setup - IP configuration	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Lateral Advance	Management - Lateral Advance	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Max Machine Speed	Basic Setup - Max. web speed	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Max. Length	Basic Setup - Maximum format length	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup MinSpeed	Basic Setup - Minimum Speed	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Motor advance	Management - Motor Advance	X	-	-	X	-

HWSetup Number of advances	Management - Number of advances	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Print Interrupt	Basic Setup - Print Interrupt	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Print Level	Basic Setup - Print level	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Print signal buffer	Basic Setup - Print signal buffer	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Prints per cycle	Basic Setup - Prints per cycle	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Relay Level	Basic Setup - Relay level	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Reset Mainantance	Basic Setup - Print performance	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Resistance	Basic Setup - Resistance	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Ribbon Length	Basic Setup - Ribbon length	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Ribbon Warning	Basic Setup - Ribbon Status	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup RS232 Configuration	Basic Setup - RS232 configuration	X	-	X	X	-
HWSetup Send Error	Basic Setup - Send error	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Separation steps	Basic Setup - Separation steps	X	-	-	X	-
HWSetup Warning Length	Basic Setup - Warning length	X	-	-	X	-
Info SystemInfo	Info - System information	X	X	X	X	X
LoadFormat Harddisk	Format - Format laden - PC harddisk	X	-	X	X	X
LoadFormat Printer	Format - Format laden - Print system	X	-	X	X	X
LoadFormat USB	Format - Format laden - Stick drive	X	-	X	X	X
Management 7 Day Batch	Management - Seven Day Batch	X	-	X	X	-
Management Audit Code	Management - Audit Code	X	-	X	X	-
Management Carriage Position	Basic Setup - Carriage position	X	-	X	X	-
Management Date tables	Management - Date tables	X	-	X	X	-
Management Date Time	Management - Date / Time	X	-	X	X	-
Management Density	Management - Density	X	-	X	X	X
Management Orientation	Management - Orientation	X	-	X	X	-
Management Print End Delay	Management - End cycle delay	X	-	X	X	-
Management Print Speed	Management - Print Speed	X	-	X	X	X
Management Print Speed Backwards	Management - Backward Speed	X	-	X	X	-
Management Print Start Delay	Management - Print delay	X	-	X	X	-
Management Ribbon Delay	Management - Ribbon delay	X	-	X	X	-
Management Ribbon Type	Management - Ribbon type	X	-	X	X	-
Management Thermal Bar Delay	Management - Thermal Bar Delay	X	-	X	X	-
Management Thermal Bar Delay CycleEnd	Management - Backward delay	X	-	X	X	-
Management Time Offset	Management - Time offset	X	-	X	X	-
Overview Extras	Overview - Extras	X	X	X	X	X
Overview Formats	Overview - Format	X	X	X	X	X
Overview Help	Overview - Help	X	X	X	X	X
Overview Home	Overview - Home	X	X	X	X	X
Overview HWSetup	Overview - Basic Setup	X	X	X	X	X
Overview Management	Overview - Management	X	X	X	X	X
Overview Service	Overview - Service	X	X	X	X	X
Overview Status	Overview - Status	X	X	X	X	X
Service Autoprint	Service - Auto Print	X	-	X	-	-
Service Diagnostics	Service - Diagnostics	X	-	X	-	-
Service Directory	Service - Directory	X	-	X	-	-
Service Error Messages	Service - Error messages	X	-	X	-	-

Service Motors	Service - Motors	X	-	X	-	-
Service Restart	Service - Restart printer	X	-	X	-	-
Service Set Weekday	Basic Setup - First day of week	X	-	X	-	-
Service SRAM	Service - SRAM	X	-	X	-	-
Service Timing Reset	Service - Default settings	X	-	X	X	-
Status	Status - Status	X	X	X	X	X
Status Error List	Status - Error list	X	X	X	X	X
Status Logfiles	Status - Log file	X	-	X	X	-
Tab Language	Tab - Language	X	X	X	X	X
Tab Print systems	Tab - Print systems	X	X	X	X	X
Tab Programs	Tab - Programs	X	-	X	X	X
Tab Stick drive	Tab - Stick drive	X	-	X	X	-

Programs

Programs

In a:control you have the possibility to embed external programs into the user interface. These external programs are shown in the home screen after configuration. In order to open the management of the external programs, change to [Settings -> Program Settings](#) and select the tab Programs.

Tab on the button **Add**. A file selection dialog open. Select the program you want to add. Confirm you selection by tabbing "OK". The selected program is now listed under external programs.

Select the program to be deleted in the list. Tab the button **Delete** and select **Yes** from the confirmation prompt. The program is now deleted from the list of external programs.

Status log file

Status log file

The status log function serves the purpose of logging the printer status and the user input. A subdirectory named Log is created within the applications directory. Within this subdirectory are the log files saved.

Under the tab Status log file within the program settings you can set the maximum size of the log file in MB. The value can set between 1 and 100.

Configuration

Configuration

The tab Configuration contains settings for connection mode, display, service, password prompt (rights management) and print parameters as well as the tabs System and Ethernet settings (only available in touch mode).

You can get to the configuration via [Settings -> Program settings -> Configuration](#).

Tab Modus:

Conne ction mode	Normal: Normal function of program. Demo: a:control uses virtual printers, that are not existing physically, in order to demonstrate a:control's functionality.
Display	Touch: The display of a:control is optimized for touchscreen (resolution 800 x 600). Windows: The display of a:control complies to normal Windows standard and can be used with any resolution.
Service	Active / Inactive The start screen logo is provided with special quick launch functions. Confirmation messages in the control masks do not have to be confirmed.
Passw ord promp t	Active / Inactive The password and rights management as an administrator function can be activated / deactivated by the user.
Print param eters	Use: After a print format has been loaded, it's parameters for speed and intensity are applied. Ignore: After a print format has been loaded, it's parameters for speed and intensity are not applied. The parameters set previously in the print are used.

The tab System provides settings for:

- Timeout for automatic logoff for logged in user.
- Automatic disconnect of printer connection when leaving the control masks (Home / Logoff)

Tab Ethernet

You can set the configuration of the ethernet card on startup. These settings are only available in touch mode.

View

View

Under the menu item [View](#) you can define, if the printer symbols in "Print systems" are displayed horizontally or vertically and whether a compact view should be used to display (many) printers. Additionally you can set, if for installed printer groups only printer groups are displayed or if the individual print systems are displayed too.

Help

Help

[About a:control](#)

Here you find information about your version of a:control as well as contact information.

[Help](#)

Opens the help file you are currently viewing.

[Online Support](#)

If an internet connection is available, this function can be used to establish remote support. Please contact support if necessary.

Print systems

Print systems

Install a print system under [Settings -> Printer management](#) in order to enter and display a print system or a printer group in the tab [Print systems](#) and in order to be able to establish a connection with this print system.

See [Add new printer](#)

The displayed symbol for each printer provides a large button, with image and name of the printer, for direct "Connection and Display". Tabbing the button displays after short moment the user interface for the control (management) of the selected print system. If the connection could not be established, please check the connection data.

The line "Interface" displays the set parameters of the selected connection type.

The line "Status" shows either the text "Not connected" or a green status bar with the name of the print format, if the print system is connected.

If the print system is connected but an error occurred, a red status bar with an error message is displayed and the large button with the printer name indicates red. A button indicating green means that no print format is loaded.

The overview of the print systems always displays the current status and the loaded print formats for the connected print systems.

Additionally, a button for **Connection Options** provides the following option:

- Connect and Display: Establishes a connection to the print system and switches to user interface (control / management) of the print system.
- Connect: Establishes a connection to the print system and displays the main mask.
- Close Connection: Closes connection and enables port / interface.
- Close: Closes the dialog "Connection Options"
- Standby (only for 53LT/XL series)

Tabbing the round button triggers a print (if the status bar is green and displays the name of the print format) or an error reset (if the status bar is red and the printer displays an [unreceipted](#) error).

For the NGT series, right-clicking the button resp. long pressing of the button in touch mode resets the ribbon length counter / the foil end warning. For a XL printer group, this sets all printers of the group into edit mode or print mode.

This screen can be adjusted via [Settings -> Printer management -> Edit -> Configuration](#) to display the ribbon length or a print counter.

Language

Language



Select the tab Language and tab on the respective flag to select a user language.
The selected language is applied immediately.

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Stick drive

Stick drive

In this tab in the main mask you find a:control's USB functions.



[General](#)



[Requirements](#)



[Functions](#)



[Procedures](#)

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General

General

a:control provides functions for the management and configuration of USB stick drives. You can create backups of the print system on your USB stick drive and save them to your PC's hard drive. You can restore backups on your print system, load several print formats simultaneously and update the print system's firmware.

Additionally you can create a backup of the software and restore it.

Before you can use your USB stick drive with the print system, it has to be made bootable using HP USB Tools on your PC and has to be configured using a:control.

Requirements

Requirements

Requirements:

In order to use a USB stick drive with a NGT print system, a bootable USB stick drive is required. The file system has to be FAT.

Usb functionality is not available for printers of the XL series.

Creating a bootable USB stick drive:

We recommend using HP USB Tools version 2.2.3. The software is available online or from Allen Coding directly. Free DOS is also required in order to create a bootable USB stick drive. Free DOS is also available online or via Allen Coding. Start HPUSBFW_v2.2.3.exe on your PC and select "Create a DOS startup disk". Under "using system files located at" refer to the directory Free DOS is located in. Then click "Start".

Functions

Functions

The USB stick drive menu offers the following possible actions:

Under **NGT series**:

Save NGT-Backup to HDD
If there is already an existing NGT-backup on your USB stick drive, you can copy it from the USB stick to your hard disk. You can set the path for your backups on the hard drive under program settings.
Prepare USB device for NGT-Backup
Select this option if you want to prepare the USB stick drive for a backup of the print system. After configuring the USB stick drive, insert it in the print system and restart the print system in order to save any print formats and settings from the print system to the Usb stick drive.
Prepare USB device for NGT-Restore
Select this option to prepare the USB stick drive for restore. That means that you transfer a backup of the print system that has previously been saved to the hard drive back onto the print system using a USB stick drive.
Touch panel Backup/Restore
Select this option to prepare the USB stick drive for a backup/restore, that can be selected on the optional touch panel of a NGT printer control. That means you create a backup on the USB stick drive according to the selection on the touch panel and/or transfer a saved backup of the print system from the USB stick drive back.
Write formats to printer by USB device
Select this option to transfer one or several print formats to the NGT print system using a USB stick drive.
Flash firmware by USB device
Select this option to flash the printer's firmware using a USB device. To perform this action you will need an up-to-date version of ttng.exe from Allen Coding GmbH.

Under **53LT/XL series**:

Write formats to printer by USB device

Select this option to transfer one or more print formats to the 53LT/XL print system using a USB device and input device.

Flash firmware by USB device

Select this option to flash the printer's firmware using a USB device and input device. This action requires an up-to-date version of *.bin from Allen Coding GmbH.

USB stick drive main menu:

Backup Program Settings

Select this option to save your a:control settings. This includes all program settings and connection settings to the printers.

Restore Program Settings

Select this option to restore your a:control settings. The program settings and connection settings are restored from the program settings backup after a restart.

Procedures

Procedures

This describes the following procedures: Creation of backups (print systems and program), restore of backups, writing of print formats to printer and flashing of firmware.



[NGT series](#)







[Program settings Backup/Restore](#)

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NGT series

Procedures - NGT series

The following describes the procedures of creating and restoring backups, transferring print formats and the flashing of firmware for the NGT series.

-  [Using a USB stick drive](#)
-  [Creating a backup](#)
-  [Restoring a backup](#)
-  [Flashing NGT firmware](#)
-  [Write formats to printer by USB device](#)
-  [Touchpanel Backup/Restore](#)

Using a USB stick drive

Using a USB stick drive

Insert the USB stick drive into the USB slot of your PC before starting the program or selecting a menu item. The USB stick drive has to be made bootable before using the program (see "Requirements").

Select one of the options. If no bootable USB stick drive is connected with the PC, you will be requested to insert one. If more than one bootable USB stick drives are connected to the PC, select the USB device you want to use and click "Continue".

Before the procedure you have selected is performed, the program will check if there is already a backup saved to the USB device. In case of a second backup or a restore, the backup on the USB device would be written over. The program therefore offers you to save the backup to your PC's hard drive before continuing. The path for this backup can be changed in program settings.

Creating a backup

Creating a backup

Select this menu item if you want to save a backup of the print system to the USB stick drive. After selecting the USB stick drive (in some cases automatically), the required data is transferred to the USB device. After a message displays the end of the process, you can unplug the USB device and plug it into the printer, that has to be turned off before. Turn on the printer now. While the backup is being transferred, the green LED on the front flashes. As soon as the LED stops flashing, the backup procedure is completed and the USB stick drive can be unplugged.

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Restoring a backup

Restoring a backup

With this procedure the USB device is prepared for a so called restore. That means you restore a backup of the print system that has previously been saved to your harddrive with the help of a USB device. After selecting this option, a list of backups that are saved on the harddrive is displayed. Select a display and click "Continue". The files are now being copied to your USB device. After completion of the process you can unplug the USB stick drive and plug it into the printer that is turned off. Turn on the printer now. The green front LED is flashing while the backup is being transferred. As soon as the green LED stops flashing, the restore procedure is completed and you can unplug the USB device.

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Flashing NGT firmware

Flashing NGT firmware

With this option you can install the latest version of the NGT firmware. After selecting this option an "Open file" dialogue asks you to select the ttng.exe, that you want to install on the print system. Select the file and press "Open". After that the USB device is prepared for the transfer of the firmware. After completion of the procedure unplug the USB stick drive and plug it into a NGT print system that is turned off. On turning the printer on, the firmware is installed.

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Write formats to printer by USB device

Write formats to printer by USB device

Under this menu item you can copy print formats to the printer using a USB device. After selecting this option you are asked to add print formats as text files (.txt) to a list. Press "Add" to select one or more files. These text files are the actual print formats. You create a print format text file by selecting the option "Print to file" in your label design program.

After selecting the print formats you have three options available for how the print formats are supposed to be written to your USB stick drive:

- Writing over existing files
Lists the print formats beginning with memory location number 0. Print formats are sorted by name. Print formats on the USB device are written over.
- Trying to fill empty memory location numbers
The print formats are assigned to free memory locations. If e.g. memory locations 000 and 002 should be occupied, your print format will be saved to memory location 001. Already existing print formats will be kept. The print formats are sorted by name.
- Assign memory locations to print formats
Select this option if you want to assign the memory locations to the print formats yourself. The print formats are sorted automatically and a memory location is recommended for each print format. Already existing print formats are kept, but can be written over.

In the following dialogue you will again have the possibility to check the memory allocation or, if you have chosen option 3, you can assign memory location numbers via the button **Edit**. You cannot assign new memory location number to already existing print formats but you can write them over. Press continue to complete the procedure. Unplug the USB device and plug it into a NGT print system that is turned off. After startup, the formats are transferred automatically.

53LT/XL series

Procedures - 53LT/XL series

The following describes the procedure of writing print formats to the printer using a USB device and the flashing of the firmware of printers of the 53LT/XL series:



[Flashing firmware of 53LT/XL series](#)



[Write formats to printer by USB device](#)

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Flashing firmware of 53LT/XL series

Flashing firmware of 53LT/XL series

With this option you can install an up-to-date version of the 53LT/XL firmware.

After selecting this option, the "Open file" dialogue will ask you to select the *.bin file you want to install on the print system. Select the file and click "Open". After selecting the firmware file, it is saved to the USB stick drive into the directory FWPRX. If this directory doesn't exist, it will be created.

Unplug the USB stick drive after completion of the process and plug it into an input device (PR5 or iView) of a 53LT/XL print system that is turned off. After startup using an input device (PR5 or iView), the firmware can be installed. When using a PR5, the button "." has to be pressed and held.

Write formats to printer by USB device

Write formats to printer by USB device

With this option you can copy print formats to the printer using a USB stick drive. After selecting this option you are asked to add print formats as text files (.imp) to a list. Select "Add" in order to select a single or several print formats. These text files are the actual print formats. You create a print format text file by saving the print format or selecting the option "Print to file" in your label design program. .

After selecting the print formats they are saved onto the USB device into the folder IMPPRX. If this folder doesn't exist yet it will be created automatically.

After completion of the process, unplug the USB device and plug it into an input device (PR5 or iView) of a 53LT/XL print system. The print formats can now be transferred from the USB device to the print system.

Program settings Backup/Restore

Program settings Backup/Restore

This option lets you backup and restore your a:control program settings.

<i>Backup program settings</i>
Select this option to save a:control's settings. This includes all program settings and settings for the connection to the printers.
<i>Restore program settings</i>
Select this option to restore the settings of a:control. The program settings and settings for the connection to the printers are restored from the saved data after restart.

Programs

Programs



In this tab you can run the programs that have been defined within the program settings. The tab is displayed only, if at least one program has been embedded.

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Control masks

Control masks

After selecting "Connect and Display" by tabbing on a print system under Print systems in the main mask, the user interface to control the selected print system will be displayed.






Print systems of the 53LT and XL series change into Edit mode as soon as "Connect and Display" is selected. If a print format was loaded, a:control will remember this print format and load it again when the user leaves the control mask unless a new print format was selected. On pressing the **Home/Logoff** or the **Back** button, the print system changes into print mode automatically. Print systems of the NGT series do not have edit and print mode. Print systems of the NGT series are still ready for printing when the user is in the user interface of the selected print system.

On the right side of the print systems user interface, you will find the following information: printer name, type of printer, some print parameters, version of firmware and information regarding date and time of the selected print system.

On the left side you will find the main navigation menu. After selecting an item from the main navigation menu, a navigation submenu will open on the right side. By selecting an item from the navigation submenu you get to program masks that provide functions to control the print system. You can leave every mask and return to the previous mask by tabbing **Back** or jump to any navigation submenu by selecting an item from the main navigation menu.

A bar is located in the top of the screen that always displays your current location in the menus.

Overview of the main navigation menu:

-  [Print system](#)
-  [Home](#)
-  [Status](#)
-  [Format](#)
-  [Management](#)
-  [Service](#)
-  [Basic Setup](#)
-  [Extras](#)



[Help](#)

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Print system

Print system

In the upper corner of the main navigation you will find a smaller button with the name of the selected print system.

Selecting the button will show information such as printer name, printer type, several printer parameters, firmware version and information concerning date and time of the selected print system on the right side of the screen.

The button indicates red if any error is occurring in the print system. If any error exists, the right side of the screen will show a list of errors for the current print system, that is divided into the tabs Pending Errors and Error log.

The tab Pending Errors shows the current pending errors as specific buttons. Selecting a button will show additional information concerning the selected error. Selecting the button **Help** will show information about the cause of the error and about how to troubleshoot it. Selecting **Error Reset** acknowledges the error on the print system if the cause of the error is eliminated.

In the tab Error log you will find a log of all occurred errors with information about date, time and error number.

Home

Home

Selecting the button **Home** respectively **Log off** will bring you back to the Home screen (main mask) of a:control. If the rights management (user management) is deactivated, the button is labeled **Home**. If the rights management is activated, the button is labeled **Log off** and brings you back to the Home screen and logs the current user off.

Status

Status

This screen shows global information about the printer status, the pending and occurred errors, as well as a log file.

Printer status

The current printer status (information about the firmware version, interface, print format and printer parameters) is read out and displayed.

Error list

Selecting this button will display the error list of the currently selected print system, that is divided into the tabs Pending errors and Error log.

The tab Pending Errors shows the current pending errors as specific buttons. Selecting a button will show additional information concerning the selected error. Selecting the button **Help** will show information about the cause of the error and about how to troubleshoot it. Selecting **ErrorReset** acknowledges the error on the print system if the cause of the error is eliminated.

In the tab Error log you will find a log of all occurred errors with information about date, time and error number.

Log file

This file logs the user input and the printer activities. If the rights management is activated, the user names for the corresponding user inputs are logged as well.

The contents of the current log file can be viewed here. The log file can be validated and moved to a USB device.

The log file is saved as one file and is displayed with two tabs (Status log file / Printer).

Format

Format



This screen shows functions for the handling of print formats. The functionality differs between different printer series and is therefore described separately.



[NGT series](#)



[53LT/XL series](#)



[MLi series](#)

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NGT series

Format - NGT series

Load format

Formats can be loaded from a hard disk (see [Settings - Program settings - Standard path](#)), from an USB stick drive or from the printer memory. Select the desired button from ***Print system***, ***PC harddisk*** or ***USB stick drive*** (if available), select the desired format from the list and press ***Load format***.

Formats from hard disk or Usb stick drive are loadable as .txt or as .acc (a.design2) files. Subdirectories are displayed with the name of the directory between the symbols < and >. Formats are loadable from the print system only, if the ***Memory mode*** is set to PC mode or Standard (see menu item ***Memory mode***)

In order to keep formats in the printer memory permanently, it is necessary to set the memory mode to Standard and select the directory to be saved in.

If the format contains variable fields (input variables or counter), these are prompted for input automatically after the format has been loaded.

Copy format

Formats can be copied between PC hard disk / USB stick drive / printer. In order to copy more than one format at a time, select the formats by clicking or select all formats by clicking ***Select all***. After selecting the formats, press ***Copy***. At last, choose if existing formats are to be overwritten or added to.

Delete format

Select formats to be deleted. Formats can be deleted from PC hard disk and from the print system. You can either delete one format, several or all.

Postview

You can view the current format as postview, that is the current format is loaded from the printer memory and displayed. Depending on the format size this process can take up to several minutes. Above the selected format, the orientation of the format is displayed, since the displayed postview is never rotated or mirrored.

Variables

If the format contains variable fields (input variables), their values (content) can be changed here without reloading the complete format itself.

Counter

If the format contains a counter, its values can be set here.

The following values can be set:

Start: Value from which the counter starts.

Stop: Value at which the counter stops or at which the counter is reset.

Step: Value that determines the size of the individual steps in the actual counting process.

Duration: Value that determines how often the value of the current step is to be printed before the counter is incremented or decremented.

Reset value: Value from which the counter starts after reaching the stop value or after reset.

Format Editor

Format Editor is only available for printer of the NGT series. It serves the purpose of designing basic formats. Within the main mask, a format name can be assigned and fields (text fields or barcodes) can be added to the format.

The creation of barcodes is limited to the types EAN 8, EAN 13, UPC A, UPC E and Code 128. A maximum of 10 elements per format can be created of which not more than 3 must be from the type Barcode.

Pressing **Add** adds a new field (element) to the format. The elements screen is displayed in which various parameters of the format element can be set.

Element type

Defines if the element is a Barcode or a text field.

Content

Defines the content / value of the field. The content can be fixed or variable (with a prompt).

X Position

The elements position starting from point zero (upper left corner of the label). The position can be centered or take a value between 0 and the maximum width of the format.

Vertical distance to previous element

The distance to the previous element in mm. For the first element this value is always zero.

Font ID

Only for text fields. The ID of the fonts. The ID defines the font to be used.

Font size

Only for text fields. Size of the font in pt.

Barcode ID

Only for Barcodes. ID of the Barcode. The ID defines the Barcode to be used. Not all printer internal Barcodes can be used.

Line width

Only for Barcodes. Defines the width of the thinnest line in the Barcode in 1/12 mm.

Barcode height

Defines the height of the Barcode in mm.

The format is created and transferred to the print system by pressing **Create format**. By pressing the button **Postview** the format can be viewed again. If necessary the format can be reedited by selecting a field and pressing **Edit**.

A created field can be removed by pressing **Remove**.

Move

Lets you move the position of the loaded format horizontally and when in IM mode also vertically within the limits of the print area. Allows you to process a test print. This function is not available for printers with older firmware versions.

Memory mode

If **Standard** is selected, the format is saved to the current memory location and the existing format is written over. 200 memory locations are available.

If **PC mode** is selected and a format is transferred from PC to the printer, it is always saved to memory location 1. All other memory cells are secured from unwanted loading and overwriting of formats. This mode is normally selected when transferring formats from external source (e.g. from label design software, a ERP system, a track and trace software or from a SPS).

If **PC volatile** is selected, the print system will behave similar to **PC mode**. But the loaded print file is only available as long as the printer is powered. If the printer is turned off the format is deleted. After turning on, the print system is in a defined status without format.

Test formats

The test format are used in order to adjust and check the print system. The test formats are displayed in a preview frame. You can scroll the saved test formats using the key arrows. The selected test format can be loaded to an active printer using the button **Load test format**.

Quantity

The input range spans from 0 to 99999. 0 means endless continuous mode. If you want to enter a "real" 0, select **No print!** The box will display "-0".

Print count reset

Lets you reset the print count to zero.

Format language

Select the language for the abbreviated names of the month when printing dates.

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53LT/XL series

Format - 53LT/XL series

Note: Some format functions are only available, after a format has been loaded, since the functions are format specific.

Load format

Formats can be loaded from a hard disk (see [Settings - Program settings - Standard path](#)), from an USB stick drive or from the printer memory. Select the desired button from **Print system**, **PC hard disk** or **USB stick drive** (if available), select the desired format from the list and press **Load format**.

Formats can be loaded from hard disk or USB stick drive as .imp files (JDS) or .acc files (a:design2). Subdirectories are displayed with the name of the directory between the symbols < and >.

If the format contains variable fields (input variables or counter), these are prompted for input automatically after the format has been loaded.

If **queue** is selected, all formats that are loaded are put into queue for printing according to the sequence of their loading. See **Queue** further down.

Copy format

Formats can be copied between PC hard disk / USB stick drive / printer. In order to copy more than one format at a time, select the formats by clicking or select all formats by clicking **Select all**. After selecting the formats, press **Copy**.

At last, choose if existing formats are to be overwritten or added to.

Delete format

Select formats to be deleted. Formats can be deleted from PC hard disk and from the print system. You can either delete one format, several or all.

Preview

Using printer of the XL series you can display a preview of the current format. For printers of the 53LT series a preview is possible if the preview has been saved within the format (in a:design2). If this has not been done, a:control is trying to generate a preview as exactly as possible.

Above the selected format, the orientation of the format is displayed, since the displayed preview is never rotated or mirrored.

Variables

If the format contains variable fields (input variables), their values (content) can be changed here. The complete format is reloaded automatically afterwards.

Counter

If the format contains a counter, it's values can be set here.

The following values can be set:

Start: Value from which the counter starts.

Stop: Value at which the counter stops or at which the counter is reset.

Step: Value that determines the size of the individual steps in the actual counting process.

Duration: Value that determines how often the value of the current step is to be printed before the counter is incremented or decremented.

Reset value: Value from which the counter starts after reaching the stop value or after reset.

Global variables

Global variables are printer specific variables whose values can be changed here. A maximum of 5 global variables is available.

RS field

If you are using a format with integrated RS fields, you can enter a single string here as a test and send it to the printer by clicking ***Continue***. Alternatively you can use a text file with several strings (lines separated) by clicking ***Open file***, selecting the desired file from the displayed list and clicking ***Continue***.

Move

Lets you move the position of the loaded format horizontally and when in IM mode also vertically within the limits of the print area. Allows you to process a test print.

Format length

Lets you edit the format length which is by default sent with the format.

Memory mode

When selecting ***Save*** under *Memory mode - Variables*, the values of the formats variables are saved in the print system. When selecting ***Disabled*** the values are not saved in the print system.

Test formats

The test format are used in order to adjust and check the print system. The selected test format can be printed on the active printer by pressing the button ***Print test image***.

Quantity

The input range spans from 0 to 99999. 0 means endless continuous mode.

Print count reset

Lets you reset the print count to zero.

Ribbon advance (only IM)

Lets you increase or decrease the value of the ribbon advance that is by default sent with the format.

Ribbon rewind (only CM)

Lets you adjust the value for the ribbon rewind in order to save ribbon.

Queue

If a print queue has been loaded via ***Load format***, you can define the print quantity for each format of the queue here.

Format language

Select the language for the abbreviated names of the month when printing dates.

MLi series

Format - MLi series

Load format

Formats can be loaded from a hard disk (see [Settings - Program settings - Standard path](#)), from an USB stick drive or from the printer memory. Select the desired button from ***Print system***, ***PC harddisk*** or ***USB stick drive*** (if available), select the desired format from the list and press ***Load format***.

Formats from hard disk or Usb stick drive are loadable as .txt or as .acc (a.design2) files. Subdirectories are displayed with the name of the directory between the symbols < and >. Formats are loadable from the print system only, if the ***Memory mode*** is set to PC mode or Standard (see menu item ***Memory mode***)

In order to keep formats in the printer memory permanently, it is necessary to set the memory mode to Standard and select the directory to be saved in.

If the format contains variable fields (input variables or counter), these are prompted for input automatically after the format has been loaded.

Copy format

Formats can be copied between PC hard disk / USB stick drive / printer. In order to copy more than one format at a time, select the formats by clicking or select all formats by clicking ***Select all***. After selecting the formats, press ***Copy***. At last, choose if existing formats are to be overwritten or added to.

Delete format

Select formats to be deleted. Formats can be deleted from PC hard disk and from the print system. You can either delete one format, several or all.

Postview

You can view the current format as postview, that is the current format is loaded from the printer memory and displayed. Depending on the format size this process can take up to several minutes. Here, the post-view of individual printheads can be queried. By default, the post-view appears for the first printhead.

Above the selected format, the orientation of the format is displayed, since the displayed postview is never rotated or mirrored.

Variables

If the format contains variable fields (input variables), their values (content) can be changed here without reloading the complete format itself.

Counter

If the format contains a counter, it's values can be set here.

The following values can be set:

Start: Value from which the counter starts.

Stop: Value at which the counter stops or at which the counter is reset.

Step: Value that determines the size of the individual steps in the actual counting process.

Duration: Value that determines how often the value of the current step is to be printed before the counter is incremented or decremented.

Reset value: Value from which the counter starts after reaching the stop value or after reset.

Ribbon Advance

Here you can change the values for the number of partial rewind advances, Total and partial spool length.

Move

Lets you move the position of the loaded format horizontally and when in IM mode also vertically within the limits of the print area. Allows you to process a test print. This function is not available for printers with older firmware versions.

Printheads

Here you can enable and disable the installed printheads.

Management

Management

This screen shows functions for the setting of standard parameters of the print systems. The functionality differs between different printer series and is therefore described separately.



[NGT series](#)



[53LT/XL series](#)



[MLi series](#)

NGT series

Management - NGT series

Print Speed

You can set the desired print speed in mm/s for IM mode here. Minimal and maximal values can vary between different print systems.

This option is not available in CM mode, since the system detects the current print speed via the connected motion sensor.

Density

You can enter the desired density in percent (0-100%).

Note: When using **ribbon type** "wax/resin", 100% leads to lower energy as when using ribbon type "resin". The actual density depends on the resistance of the thermal print head.

Orientation

Four different format orientations are available:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1= Normal | readable print, not turned |
| 2= Mirrored | mirrored print, not turned |
| 3= Normal+180° | readable print, turned 180° |
| 4= Mirrored+180° | Mirrored print, turned 180° |

Date / Time

Lets you adjust the printer internal date and the printer internal time and synchronize the time with the PC clock.

Ribbon type

Lets you define the used ribbon type, to secure optimal density settings and the save the system from potential overdrive.

Print delay

In IM mode, a delay between the release of the print signal and the start of the print cycle can be set here in a range between 0-5000 ms. In CM mode a range of 0-250 mm can bet set when using newer firmware versions For older firmware version the range for the delay is set in ms (as in IM mode).

Thermal bar delay

Here you can set a delay between the release of the electrovalve and the start of the print. You can set a delay in a range between 0-999 ms (IM mode) and 0-21 mm (CM mode).

Ribbon delay (IM only)

You can define a delay between the end of the print and the beginning of the ribbon transport in a range of 0-99 ms.

Sidesteps (only IM)

In order to save ribbon, you set the function to ***Active*** or ***Inactive***.

If the function is active, a format that has been created with the function "Format region" (in a:design2) will be printed with lateral offset without ribbon advance. The ribbon advance will not be processed until all regions are printed on.

53LT/XL series

Management - 53LT/XL series

Print speed

You can set the desired print speed in mm/s for IM mode here. Minimal and maximal values can vary between different print systems.

In CM mode this option is only available if the rotary encoder is set to be **Inactive** in the **Basic setup**. If not, the system will detect the current speed with the help of the connected rotary encoder.

Backward speed (only IM)

Here you can set the desired backward speed of the thermal print head in mm/s in IM mode.

Density

You can enter the desired density in percent (0-100%).

Note: The actual density depends on the resistance of the thermal print head.

Orientation

Four different format orientations are available:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1= Normal | readable print, not turned |
| 2= Mirrored | mirrored print, not turned |
| 3= Normal+180° | readable print, turned 180° |
| 4= Mirrored+180° | Mirrored print, turned 180° |

Date / Time

Lets you adjust the printer internal date and the printer internal time and synchronize the time with the PC clock.

Print delay

In IM mode, a delay between the release of the print signal and the start of the print cycle can be set here in a range between 0-9999 ms. In CM mode a range of 0-9999 mm can be set.

Thermal bar delay

Here you can set a delay between the release of the electrovalve and the start of the print. You can set a delay in a range between 0-9999 ms (IM mode) and 0-9999 mm (CM mode).

Backward delay (IM only)

You can set a delay between the end of the print and the beginning of the ribbon transport in a range between 0-9999 ms.

End cycle delay

You can set a delay between the end of the print cycle and the release for a new print signal in a range between 0-9999 ms.

Seven day batch

Lets you set the weekday and the time at which a date field with weekly change changes.

Time offset

Set the exact time in hours and minutes at which the date changes each day.

Audit Code

Enter line number, customer ID and manufacturer ID for a specific audit code field.

Sidesteps (only IM)

You can set the sidestep function to ***Active*** or ***Inactive*** in order to save ribbon.

If the function is active, a format that has been created with the function "Format region" (in a:design2) will be printed with lateral offset without ribbon advance. The ribbon advance will not be processed until all regions are printed on.

MLi series

Management - MLi series

Print speed

You can set the desired print speed in mm/s for IM mode here. Minimal and maximal values can vary between different print systems.

Density

You can enter the desired density in percent (0-100%).

Note: The actual density depends on the resistance of the thermal print head.

Date / Time

Lets you adjust the printer internal date and the printer internal time and synchronize the time with the PC clock.

Print delay

In IM mode, a delay between the release of the print signal and the start of the print cycle can be set here in a range between 0-5000 ms.

Thermal bar delay

Here you can set a delay between the release of the electrovalve and the start of the print. You can set a delay in a range between 0-5000 .

Service

Service

Service functions and diagnostic functions for the print systems. The functionality differs between different printer series and is therefore described separately.



[NGT series](#)



[53LT/XL series](#)

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NGT series

Service - NGT series

Diagnostics

You can check standard basic functions of the print system. After selecting ***Diagnostics*** the printer will change into diagnostics mode. After leaving the diagnostics screen the printer will leave diagnostics mode and the thermal bar will switch to home position.

The functions in detail are:

Inhibit

Activates the inhibit output for one second.

Error

Activates the error output for one second.

Head voltage

Activates the voltage of the thermal bar for one second.

LED error

The error LED flashes for 5 seconds (only for systems with external control).

Green LEDs

The two green LEDs flash for 5 seconds (only for systems with external control).

Head up

The thermal bar moves out.

Head forward

The thermal bar moves forward 2 cm (carriage motor is tested)

Head revers

The thermal bar moves backwards 2 cm (carriage motor is tested)

Head down

The thermal bar moves in.

Foil

The foil is carried 2 cm (foil motor is tested).

Homes sensor

The thermal bar is moved into start position (carriage motor + home sensor are tested).

SRAM

You can perform memory tests and various system tests here as well as display information about memory contents. You can delete and reorganize memory contents. It is absolutely necessary that you pay attention to the information at the end of the screen output.

The functions are in detail:

SRAM Log

Output of the SRAM logs.

SRAM Info

Displays all parameters of the SRAM and their values (hexadecimal and decimal). This function is not available for printers with older firmware versions.

SRAM Test 1

Performs a SRAM test in order to find defective memory cells and buses.

Tile system Test

Performs a file system test for the embedded SRAM file system. Detects defects in the file system. This function is not available for printers with older firmware versions.

Databus Test

Performs a Databus test. Attention! This destroys the SRAM with certainty! This function is not available for printers with older firmware versions.

Address bus Test

Performs an Addressbus test. Attention! This destroys the SRAM with certainty! This function is not available for printers with older firmware versions.

Reset SRAM

Resets the SRAM and deletes all formats. Afterwards the system needs to be rebooted! This function is not available for printers with older firmware versions.

Delete SRAM

Writes binary zeros over the content of the SRAM und displays the first 128 bytes of the SRAM.

This function is not available for printers with older firmware versions.

Motors

You can test print systems motors and the motor control here. This function is not available for printers with older firmware versions.

Foil motor backward

Moves the foil motor in backward direction. Do not perform this process with installed magazin!
Performing this process with installed magazine may lead to damage to the system!

Foil motor forward

Moves the foil motor in forward direction.

Carriage motor backward

Moves the carriage motor in backward direction. Do not perform this process with mechanically connected carriages! This may lead to damage to the system!

Carriage motor forward

Moves the carriage motor in forward direction. Do not perform this process with mechanically connected carriages! This may lead to damage to the system!

List of files on C:

Lists all files on drive C: of the current print system. Press button ***Directory!***

Restart printer

Restart the print system via software command. This function is not available for printers with older firmware versions.

Attention: only for service! Before begin of production please turn the system off and on again once!

Autoprint

Activate or deactivate the printer's autoprint function.

53LT/XL series

Service - 53LT/XL series

Diagnostics

You can check standard basic functions of the print system and receive information about the print systems sensors and the temperature as well as the voltage of the thermal bar.

The functions in detail are:

Cylinder (print)

Turns the print cylinder on/off.

Cylinder (approx)

Turns the prestroke cylinder on/off.

Ribbon motor

Activates the ribbon motor for a short moment.

Memory

You can display information about the memory, delete memory and perform a factory reset here.

The functions in detail are:

Delete memory

Deletes the memory.

Free space

Displays the free memory for formats and the usable memory for additional fonts.

Factory reset

Resets the settings to factory defaults (value of the constants).

Restart printer

You can restart the print system via software command here.

Error messages

Activate or deactivate error messages for service purpose her.

Default settings

You can reset the print systems parameters to default here.

The functions in detail are:

Special parameters

Sets the "Adjust Constants" to default.

General parameters

Sets the "General Constants" to default.

Setup parameters

Sets the "Setup Constants" to default.

Timing parameters

Sets the "Timing Constants" to default.

MLi series

Service - MLi series

Restart printer

You can restart the print system via software command here.

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Basic Setup

Basic Setup

You will find functions for the basic setup of the print system here. The functionality differs between different printer series and is therefore described separately.



[NGT series](#)



[53LT/XL series](#)



[MLi series](#)

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NGT series

Basic Setup - NGT series

Print pulse

You can define if the printer reacts to the rising or to the falling edge of the print signal.

Inhibit Level

You can define if the print system's inhibit output (switches on printing) functions as an N/O or N/C.

Relay Level

You can define if the print system's error output (switches on printing) functions as an N/O or N/C.

Print signal puffer

You can activate or deactivate the print signal puffer here. When the puffer is activated, the print system will remember a print signal, that is triggered before the actual end of the print cycle. Else it will be discarded..

Maximum format length

You can decrease the maximum format length for the current print system.

IM / CM Mode

You can switch the print system between IM mode (for intermittent use) and CM mode (for continuous use). A restart is needed.

Ribbon status

You can activate or deactivate foil error messages and low foil warning here (for operation without foil).
You can deactivate the low foil warning individually.

Ribbon length

You can define the length of the ribbon you are using. This value is needed to for correct low foil warning.

Warning length

You can define at how many meters ribbon left a warning is issued.

Resistance

After changing the thermal transfer bar, you define the resistance of the new thermal transfer bar here.
Note: You will find the exact resistance on the label of the thermal transfer bar (R=)!

Minimum speed (IM only)

You can decrease the print systems minimum speed.

Carriage position (CM only)

You can define the position of the thermal bar here so that it is positioned on the apex of the counterpressure roller.

Maximum Product speed (CM only)

You can enter the maximum product speed of the current packing machine here. This value is needed for the speed-dependent compensation of the format position. If "0" is entered the automatic compensation is deactivated.

Print performance

You can display and reset the print performance of the thermal bar (in km).

Send error

Define if the print system sends an error message to a superordinate system if an error occurs .

Print interrupt error (CM only)

You can define if, in case of a print interrupt error (print interrupted because of too high or too low print speed), the print system switches the error output to error or continues with the next print.

First day of week

For the purpose weekday calculation, you can define either Sunday or Monday as the first day of the week.

Communication interface

You can define if the print system communicated via Ethernet or via RS232 serial. After changing these settings the print system has to be reconnected via the corresponding interface.

Hysteresis

You can enter the hysteresis scaling factor here. This value defines the decrease of the density. Default is 51. 0 defines no decrease. A value of 102 doubles the decrease.

Basic setup history

You can restore value from a previous configuration here in case you changed certain parameters.

53LT/XL series

Basic Setup - 53LT/XL series

Print pulse

You can define if the printer reacts to the rising or to the falling edge of the print signal.

Using ribbon

You can define whether the print system operates with or without ribbon.

Resistance

After changing the thermal transfer bar, you define the resistance of the new thermal transfer bar here.
Note: You will find the exact resistance on the label of the thermal transfer bar (R=)!

Print performance

You can display the print performance of the thermal bar and the overall print performance and reset the print performance of the thermal bar (in km).

Communication interface

You can define if the print system communicates via Ethernet or via RS232 serial. After changing these settings the print system has to be reconnected via the corresponding interface.

IP Configuration

You can define the print system's IP address, subnet mask and gateway address here. After changing these settings the print system has to be reconnected via the corresponding interface.

RS232 Configuration

You can define the baud rate of the serial interface (RS232). After changing these settings the print system has to be reconnected via the corresponding interface.

Encoder (CM only)

You can select whether a rotary encoder is used for speed detection for continuously operating printing systems or the printing speed should be set permanently.

MLi series

Basic Setup - MLi series

Ribbon warning

You can activate or deactivate foil error messages and low foil warning here (for operation without foil).
You can deactivate the low foil warning individually.

Ribbon length

You can define the length of the ribbon you are using. This value is needed to for correct low foil warning.

Warning length

You can define at how many meters ribbon left a warning is issued.

Reset ribbon length

You have to reset the ribbon counter after applying a new ribbon tot he printer.

Resistance

After changing the thermal transfer bar, you define the resistance of the new thermal transfer bar here.
Note: You will find the exact resistance on the label of the thermal transfer bar (R=)!

IP Configuration

You can define the print systems IP address, subnet mask and gateway address here. After changing these settings the print system has to be reconnected via the corresponding interface.

Configuration

You can define special settings here. This parameters should not be changed.

Extras

Extras

Additional functions of the print system. The functionality differs between different printer series and is therefore described separately.



[NGT series](#)



[53LT/XL series](#)



[MLi series](#)

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NGT series

Extras - NGT series

Font Manager

You can view, load and **Delete** printer internal fonts here. Pressing **Send** opens a dialogue where you can select the font (True Type Font) you want to send to the printer. The standard fonts of the print system are displayed here. Additional fonts are installed (to the selected position) and displayed beginning from number 8 onwards. Pressing **Restore standard fonts** deletes additionally installed fonts and writes the standard fonts to their default position.

Note: Fonts cannot be installed from the folder Windows/Fonts directly. Fonts need to be copied to another folder first.

Terminal

A terminal application for sending texts (commands/control code) to the print system. The sent control code and the corresponding answer from the printer are always displayed in the central text field. Commands are sent to the print system via the button **Send**. Pressing **Send file** sends complete files (.imp and .txt). **Save** saves the current screen and **Clear** clears the central text field. When *Receipt wanted* is marked each sequence is confirmed with [ESC]ZOK from the print system.

You can use the button **Error reset** for a direct reset of errors.

Firmware

You can install the main firmware of your NGT print system here. Select the desired ttng.exe after pressing ... and transfer it by pressing **Send**.

Attention: Do not interrupt the file transfer and do not turn off the print system while file transfer is active. Restart the print system after the file transfer is complete.

Backup

Make a backup of the formats and the current settings of the print system. If you select *Write to printer*, the backup file is saved onto the print system.

Restore

You can restore a backup of the formats and the settings of an identical print system. **Info** displays details about the currently selected backup.

Support

If the print system is connected to the internet, you can use this function to establish remote support. If necessary contact Allen Coding support.

53LT/XL series

Extras - 53LT/XL series

Font Manager

You can view, load and **Delete** printer internal fonts here. Pressing **Send** opens a dialogue where you can select the font (True Type Font) you want to send to the printer. The standard fonts of the print system are not displayed here. Additional fonts are installed (to the selected position) and displayed beginning from number 8 onwards.

Note: Fonts cannot be installed from the folder Windows/Fonts directly. Fonts need to be copied to another folder first.

Terminal

A terminal application for sending texts (commands/control code) to the print system. The sent control code and the corresponding answer from the printer are always displayed in the central text field. Commands are sent to the print system via the button **Send**. Pressing **Send file** sends complete files (.imp and .txt). **Save** saves the current screen and **Clear** clears the central text field. Selecting the option **Polling** displays the polling sequences from the next sending on. You can use the button **Error reset** for a direct reset of errors.

Firmware (only possible via RS232 or USB!)

You can install the main firmware of your 53LT/XL print system here. Select the desired ttng.exe after pressing ... and transfer it by pressing **Send**.

Attention: Do not interrupt the file transfer and do not turn off the print system while file transfer is active. Restart the print system after the file transfer is complete.

Backup

Make a backup of the formats and the current settings of the print system. If you select *Write to printer*, the backup file is saved onto the print system.

Restore

You can restore a backup of the formats and the settings of an identical print system. **Info** displays details about the currently selected backup.

Support

If the print system is connected to the internet, you can use this function to establish remote support. If necessary contact Allen Coding support.

MLi series

Extras - MLi series

Font Manager

You can view, load and **Delete** printer internal fonts here. Pressing **Send** opens a dialogue where you can select the font (True Type Font) you want to send to the printer.

Note: Fonts cannot be installed from the folder Windows/Fonts directly. Fonts need to be copied to another folder first. You can activate a Standard font here.

Terminal

A terminal application for sending texts (commands/control code) to the print system. The sent control code and the corresponding answer from the printer are always displayed in the central text field. Commands are sent to the print system via the button **Send**. Pressing **Send file** sends complete files (.imp and .txt). **Save** saves the current screen and **Clear** clears the central text field. Selecting the option **Polling** displays the polling sequences from the next sending on. You can use the button **Error reset** for a direct reset of errors.

Firmware (only possible via RS232 or USB!)

You can install the main firmware of your 53LT/XL print system here. Select the desired ttng.exe after pressing ... and transfer it by pressing **Send**.

Attention: Do not interrupt the file transfer and do not turn off the print system while file transfer is active. Restart the print system after the file transfer is complete.

Backup

Make a backup of the formats and the current settings of the print system. If you select *Write to printer*, the backup file is saved onto the print system.

Restore

You can restore a backup of the formats and the settings of an identical print system. **Info** displays details about the currently selected backup.

Support

If the print system is connected to the internet, you can use this function to establish remote support. If necessary contact Allen Coding support.

Help

Help

Help

Opens this help document. Pressing F1 also opens help.

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Information and contact

Information and contact



[Licence purchase](#)



[Contact](#)

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Licence purchase

Licence purchase

Registered version - licence purchase

a:control is offered in two versions. As free version (unregistered) and as registered version (purchased licence). See [Welcome](#).

You can purchase a licence for a:control via email, telephone or fax. The purchased licence is a single user licence and is restricted to the registered PC.

The so called hardware key is required for the purchase of a licence. This key identifies your PC uniquely and is the counterpart to the activation / unlock key that you receive from Allen Coding.

In order to register a:control or retrieve the unique key for your PC, click [File -> Registration](#). The registration form will be displayed. The first text field shows the hardware key that is required for unlocking. You can send this hardware key to Allen Coding via the buttons of the form in the following way:

Licence purchase via **E-Mail**

Clicking this button will open your default e-mail software. The receiver and the required information for the registration are filled in automatically. If you want to, you can enter additional information. Shortly after sending the e-mail, you will receive an answer from Allen Coding GmbH.

Licence purchase via **Phone**

Dial the phone number that is displayed in the dialogue box to purchase a licence via telephone. Please have your hardware key ready since it is required for purchasing an activation key.

Licence purchase via **Fax**

Click this button to purchase a licence via fax. A text file is generated automatically, that you can print out and send to the provided fax number.

You will receive an unlock key after successful registration. Please enter this unlock key into the empty text field in the registration form in a:control.

Click **Register** to complete the registration process. You receive a confirmation message and the registration process is completed. If the key is not correct - check for eventual typing errors and try again.

Contact

Contact

For further information, questions and support, please contact:

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Index

5

53LT/XL

A

a:control

About a:control

Active / Inactive

Add new printer

Address bus Test

admin

admingroup

Administrators

Allen Coding

Audit Code

autologin

Autoprint

B

Backup

Backup path

Backup Program Settings

Backward delay

Backward speed

Basic Setup - 53LT/XL series

Basic Setup - NGT series

Basic setup history

Basics

bootable

C

Carriage motor backward

Carriage motor forward

Carriage position

Close

Close Connection

Communication interface

Configuration

Connect

Connect and Display

Connection mode

Connection Options

Contact

control masks

Copy

Copy format

Copy printer

Counter
Create format
Creating a backup
Creating a bootable USB stick drive
Cylinder

D

Databus Test
Date / Time
Default settings
Delete
Delete format
Delete memory
Delete printer
Delete SRAM
Demo
Density
Diagnostics
Display
domain controller

E

Edit
Edit printer
Encoder
End cycle delay
Error list
Error log
Error messages
Error Reset
Ethernet
Exit
Export formats
Extras
Extras - 53LT/XL series
Extras - NGT series

F

Factory reset
File
fileparser
Fileparser path
firmware
First day of week
Flash firmware by USB device
Flashing NGT firmware
Foil motor backward
Foil motor forward
Font Manager

- Format
- Format - 53LT/XL series
- Format - NGT series
- Format Editor
- Format language
- Format length
- Format path
- formats
- Free DOS
- Free space
- free version
- Functions

G

- General parameters
- Global variables
- Group permissions
- Groups

H

- harddisk
- Help
- Home
- HP USB Tools
- Hysteresis

I

- Ignore
- IM / CM Mode
- Information and contact
- Inhibit Level
- Install
- Interface
- IP address
- IP Configuration

L

- Language
- Licence purchase
- List of files on C:
- Load format
- Log file
- Log off
- Logoff

M

- main mask
- Main mask (Home)
- Main menu
- main navigation

Management
Management - 53LT/XL series
Management - NGT series
Maximum format length
Maximum Product speed

Memory
Memory mode
Minimum speed

Motors

Move

N

navigation submenu
network connection

New

NGT series

Normal

O

Online Support

Orientation

P

Parser

Password prompt

Passwords

Pending Errors

Postview

predefined group rights

Prepare USB device for NGT-Backup

Prepare USB device for NGT-Restore

Preview

Print count reset

print counter

Print delay

print formats

Print interrupt error

Print parameters

Print performance

Print pulse

Print signal puffer

Print Speed

Print system

Print systems

Print test image

Printer assignment

Printer groups

Printer management

Printer status

Printer variables
Procedures
Procedures - 53LT/XL series
Procedures - NGT series
program settings
Program settings Backup/Restore
Programs

Q

Quantity
Queue

R

Register
registered version
Registration
Relay Level
Requirements
Reset SRAM
Resistance
Restart printer
Restore
Restore Program Settings
Restoring a backup
Ribbon advance
Ribbon delay
ribbon length
Ribbon rewind
Ribbon status
Ribbon type
RS field
RS232

S

Save NGT-Backup to HDD
Send error
serial connection
service
servicegroup
setter
settergroup
Settings
Setup parameters
Seven day batch
Sidesteps
Special parameters
SRAM
SRAM Info
SRAM Log

SRAM Test 1

Standard path

Standby

Status

Status log file

Stick drive

Support

System

T

Terminal

Test formats

Thermal bar delay

Tile system Test

Time offset

Timing parameters

Touch

Touch panel Backup/Restore

U

unregistered

USB

USB connection

USB stick drive

USB stick drives

Use

user

User permissions

usergroup

Users

Using a USB stick drive

Using ribbon

V

Variables

View

W

Warning length

WEB Service

Webservice-URL

Welcome

Windows

Write formats to printer by USB device

X

XML file