

**BOF Minutes**  
**Printer MIB Implementer's Guide**  
**April 5, 2006**

**Ron Bergman - Chairman Printer MIBs Working Group**

**Attendees:**

Charles Baxter (via phone)	Xerox
Ron Bergman	Ricoh Printing Systems, America
Nancy Chin	OkiData
Lee Farrell	Canon
Rich Gray (via phone)	Plus Technologies
Brian Holden	PMC Sierra
Hiroataka Kubota	Sharp Labs
Harry Lewis	IBM
Ira McDonald (via phone)	High North
Gill Porter (via phone)	Xerox
Stuart Rowley (via phone)	Kyocera
Kumaran Siva	PMC Sierra
Ole Skov	MPI Tech
Jerry Thrasher	Lexmark
Paul Tykodi	Tykodi Consulting
Bill Wagner (via phone)	TIC
Craig Whittle	Sharp Labs
Pete Zehler (via phone)	Xerox

**Agenda:**

- 1. Presentation by Paul Tykodi. See:**
- 2. Discussion.**
- 3. Next steps.**

## **Background:**

This is a proposal for a new project to help implementers of Management Applications and MIB Agents avoid some of the problems that have been encountered by developers using current MIBs and applications. The proposed scope of the project can be summarized as follows:

- Provide a guide for both Agent and Management applications.
- Enumerate known problems with current Agent and Management implementations.
- Promote the use of other standard printing MIBS (Job Monitoring, Finishing, Port Monitor, Counter, etc.) instead of private MIBs.
- Need for the expansion of MIBs for new functionality

## **Discussion:**

The justification for this project is based upon the following encountered problems.

### **1. Software Developers Lack Understanding of MIBs**

Application developers do not always understand what information is available from the MIBs implemented in the printer. In many cases applications will attempt to obtain the desired information by reading parameters that do not return the correct information or accurate information.

### **2. Need for Better MIB Implementations**

Printer MIB implementations are not consistent such that it is difficult for applications to function with printers from different manufacturers.

### **3. Dependency on Private MIBs**

Public domain MIBs allow the development of applications by independent developers that can manage many vendor's printer devices.

### **4. Partially Implemented MIBs**

Many Printer MIB implementations are not complete.

### **5. No Standard Method for Trap Registration**

Most Printer implementations provide registration for traps within a private MIB.

### **6. Use of Other MIBs instead of the Job MIB**

Due to the lack of many vendors in implementing the Job Monitoring MIB, many applications use the Printer MIB to obtain information that would be easier to obtain from the Job MIB.

## **Next Steps**

First agreed step is to create a strawman outline of the proposed contents of the guide. Paul Tykodi has volunteered to create a first pass.

Also, it was suggested that the PWG should compile a list of the printers (by vendor) that have implemented any of the PWG MIBs. The list should provide details, such as which objects in each MIB are implemented in addition to what SNMP versions are supported (V1, V2c, V2u, V3, etc). Ron volunteered to solicit the information to create this list.

There was some concern expressed that the creation of this document would not result in any (or many) vendors redesigning their MIB implementations. It is believed that unless there was a market push or any other financial incentive, printer manufacturers would not have any desire to update MIBs that they currently consider more than acceptable. This suggests that this effort, in spite of its good intentions, would not provide any real improvements. More discussion on this topic is suggested.