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The Printer Working Group (PWG)

Proposed Standard for
Internet Printing Protocol (IPP):

"-actual" attributes



Version 0.2, December 5, 2002



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Abstract: This document defines an extension to the Internet Printing Protocol/1.0 (IPP/1.0) [RFC2566, RFC2565] & IPP/1.1 [RFC2910] for the OPTIONAL "-actual" set of Job Description attributes that correspond to Job Template attributes defined in IPP. These "-actual" attributes allow the client to determine the true results of a print job regardless of what was specified in the Create-Job or Print-Job operation.

This version of the PWG Proposed Standard is available electronically at:

ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/ipp/new_ACT/pwg-ipp-actual-attrs-v02-021205.pdf, .doc

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Proposed Standard Page 4 of 16

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84

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Implementers of this specification are encouraged to join the IPP Mailing List in order to participate in any discussions of clarifications or review of registration proposals for additional names. Requests for additional media names, for inclusion in this specification, should be sent to the IPP Mailing list for consideration.

Contents

117

118 119 120 121 122	1	Introduction	
123 124 125	2	·	8 8
126 127 128 129 130 131	3	"-actual" attributes 3.1 Overall philosophy	11 11 11 12
132	4	New attribute group values	12
133	5	Conformance Requirements	13
134	6	Security Considerations	13
135 136 137	7	References	13
138 139 140	8	IANA Considerations	14
141	9	Author's Address	15
142			
143	T	ables	
144	Ta	able 1 – "-actual" Job Description attributes	10

1 Introduction

- This document specifies an extension to the Internet Printing Protocol/1.0 (IPP) [RFC2565, RFC2566] and IPP/1.1
- 147 [RFC2910, RFC2911]. This extension consists of a set of OPTIONAL Job Description attributes that correspond to
- the set of Job Template attributes defined in IPP. Specifically, for each Job Template attribute, there is a
- 149 corresponding "-actual" attribute that reports the value that was actually used, or will be used, in the processing of the
- 150 job. As an example, along with the "copies" Job Template attribute would be the new "copies-actual" Job Description
- attribute, which would have a value corresponding to the actual number of copies of the job that were printed (or are
- 152 going to print).

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- 153 These attributes permit an IPP Printer to report much more accurate status to an IPP client. There are two aspects
- to this. First, the client can determine the true results of a print job regardless of what was specified in the Create-
- Job or Print-Job operation. But second, a client can often find out *in advance* what the true results are expected to
- be; for example, it can tell a user "Copy 3 of 7" rather than simply "Copy 3".
- 157 Similarly, the "-actual" concept extends to Document Template attributes as well; that is, for each Document
- 158 Template attribute, there is a corresponding "-actual" Document Description attribute. Document Template and
- Document Description attributes are part of the Document Object extension to IPP that is specified in [docobj].
- These new attributes are OPTIONAL for a Printer to support, and are OPTIONAL for a client to use.

1.1 Problem

- In IPP/1.0 and IPP/1.1, it is possible for a client to request specific job processing behavior, through the use of the
- 163 Job Template attributes. Some examples of Job Template attributes are "copies", "sides", and "media". The client
- specifies these attributes in the Job Creation operation—for example, the Print-Job operation. It is also possible to
- query the values of those Job Template attributes, using, for example, the Get-Job-Attributes operation. Note that
- the value returned in a query is always the same as the value that was specified on the Job Creation operation.
- 167 Using the 'pdl-override-supported' Printer Description attribute, it is possible for a Printer to indicate that it will
- 168 attempt to override instructions in the PDL with values given by the Job Template attributes. Imagine a job that was
- submitted with Job Template attribute "copies" set to 5, but the PDL contained in the job specified 3 copies. A Printer
- that supports PDL override (that is, returns a value of 'attempted' for the 'pdl-override-supported" attribute) promises
- to attempt to print that job with 5 copies rather than 3.
- 172 Thus, while IPP defines and facilitates a case where the client can request a number of copies through the "copies"
- attribute and be confident that the request will be honored, in practice, this is not necessarily the most prevalent
- 174 case
- 175 First, many clients either do not or cannot specify the Job Template attributes themselves. As an example, a client
- integrated into the Windows print subsystem must be either, in Windows terms, a print provider or a print monitor.
- 177 Neither of these components in the print subsystem have GUIs set up for the user to provide processing behavior
- 178 requests. Instead, in Windows, these requests are typically made through the print driver and therefore embedded in
- the PDL of the job.
- 180 Similarly, many Printers do not support PDL override, possibly due to architecture constraints or limits based on the
- capabilities or cost of the Printer. For such Printers, a Job Template attribute value specified by the client does not
- 182 necessarily have any correlation with the actual value used; for example, specifying a "copies" value of 3 has
- absolutely no effect on the number of copies produced.
- Also note that even when the Printer supports PDL override, this is only an indication that the Printer will attempt to
- override. There is no guarantee that the requested value will end up being the "actual" value.

- 186 Therefore, there is a need for a method to allow clients to find out what actually happened with a job: Did it actually
- 187 print 5 copies?

188 **1.2 Solution**

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- 189 The solution to this problem is to add a set of Job Description attributes to report these "what actually happened"
- 190 values. There will be one such Job Description attribute for each Job Template attribute. This extends the pre-
- 191 existing concept that each Job Template attribute has a corresponding "-supported" and "-default" attribute; now
- there will also be a corresponding "-actual" attribute. These new attributes can be queried using existing operations
- to retrieve information on what actually happened, or what will actually happen, for a job.

1.3 Alternative solutions

- 195 There are a number of possible solutions to this problem. The solution discussed in this document is considered to
- be the one with the least impact on the overall architecture of IPP, creating the least churn on the model while
- 197 providing full support to clients to discover the "actual" processing behavior.
- 198 Many have remarked that what is being described here is essentially what is currently in the industry being termed a
- 199 "Job Ticket". Adding full job ticket support to IPP would be beneficial and would solve this problem. However, this
- effort is expected to be complicated and result in a possibly significant update to the IPP architecture. Also, adding
- full job ticket support might be too costly for smaller IPP implementations. The solution described here can be
- thought of as an inexpensive alternative to a full job ticket solution.

203 **1.4 Scope**

- While implementers of this specification may use the "-actual" attributes to perform accounting functions, this
- specification is intended to address information that is displayed to a human user.

2 Terminology

This section defines terminology used throughout this document.

2.1 Conformance Terminology

- 209 Capitalized terms, such as MUST, MUST NOT, REQUIRED, SHOULD, SHOULD NOT, MAY, NEED NOT, and
- 210 **OPTIONAL**, have special meaning relating to conformance as defined in RFC 2119 [RFC2119] and [RFC2911]
- section 12.1. If an implementation supports the extension defined in this document, then these terms apply;
- otherwise, they do not. These terms define conformance to this document (and [RFC2911]) only, they do not affect
- 213 conformance to other documents, unless explicitly stated otherwise. To be more specific:
- 214 **REQUIRED** an adjective used to indicate that a conforming IPP Printer implementation MUST support the indicated
- 215 operation, object, attribute, attribute value, status code, or out-of-band value in requests and responses. See
- 216 [RFC2911] "Appendix A Terminology for a definition of "support". Since support of this entire specification is
- 217 OPTIONAL for conformance to IPP/1.1, the use of the term REQUIRED in this document means "REQUIRED if this
- 218 OPTIONAL Document Object specification is implemented".
- 219 **RECOMMENDED** an adjective used to indicate that a conforming IPP Printer implementation is recommended to
- support the indicated operation, object, attribute, attribute value, status code, or out-of-band value in requests and

- 221 responses. Since support of this entire specification is OPTIONAL for conformance to IPP/1.1, the use of the term
- 222 RECOMMENDED in this document means "RECOMMENDED if this OPTIONAL Document Object specification is
- implemented".
- 224 **OPTIONAL** an adjective used to indicate that a conforming IPP Printer implementation MAY, but is NOT
- 225 REQUIRED to, support the indicated operation, object, attribute, attribute value, status code, or out-of-band value in
- requests and responses.

227 **2.2 Other Terminology**

- 228 This document uses the same terminology as [RFC2911], such as "client", "Printer", "attribute", "attribute value",
- 229 "keyword", "Job Template attribute", "Operation attribute", "operation", "request", and "support" with the same
- 230 meaning. In addition, terms such as "Document Object", "Document Template attribute", "Job Creation
- operation", and "Document Creation operation" are used with the same meaning as they have in [docobj].

3 "-actual" attributes

- For each Job Template attribute defined in the IPP Model [RFC2566, RFC2911], or defined in any IPP extension
- document, a new Job Description attribute is defined. This new attribute will be referred to as an "-actual" attribute,
- since the name of such attributes is found by taking the name of the Job Template attribute and appending "-actual".
- The "-actual" attribute is multi-valued, where each value has the same syntax as the corresponding Job Template
- 237 attribute. For example, the "copies" (integer(1:MAX)) Job Template attribute has a new corresponding "copies-
- 238 actual" (1setOf integer(1:MAX)) Job Description attribute. Another example is the "media-col" (collection) Job
- Template attribute, which now has a new corresponding "media-col-actual" (1setOf collection) Job Description
- 240 attribute, where each value in the 1setOf has the same collection syntax, with the same member attributes, as the
- 241 "media-col" attribute.
- The only exception to the rule that each value of the "-actual" attribute has the same syntax as the corresponding Job
- Template attribute is for Job Template attributes that are themselves multi-valued. For example, the "finishings"
- 244 (1setOf (type2 enum)) attribute has a corresponding "finishings-actual" (1setOf (type2 enum)) attribute that has the
- same syntax; that is, the syntax is (1setOf (type2 enum)) instead of (1setOf (type2 enum))).
- As with Job Template attributes, for each Document Template attribute defined in Idocobil, a new Document
- 247 Description attribute is defined, whose name is found by appending "-actual" to the Document Template attribute
- 248 name.

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- These new attributes are OPTIONAL for a Printer to support, and are OPTIONAL for a client to use.
- 250 Table 1 lists the "-actual" Job Description attributes for all Job Template attributes in existence in approved IPP
- standard documents as of the date of this document.
- 252 Many of the Job Template attributes shown in Table 1 are also Document Template attributes—for such attributes.
- 253 the second column of Table 1 shows the name and type of the corresponding "-actual" Document Description
- attribute. To know which attributes these are, see [docobj].

Table 1 – "-actual" Job Description attributes

Job Template Attribute	"-actual" Job Description attribute	Reference
copies (integer(1:MAX))	copies-actual (1setOf integer(1:MAX))	[RFC2911] §4.2.5
cover-back (collection)	cover-back-actual (1setOf (collection))	[PWG5100.3] §3.1
cover-front (collection)	cover-front-actual (1setOf (collection))	[PWG5100.3] §3.1
document-overrides (1setOf collection)	document-overrides-actual (1setOf collection)	[PWG5100.4] §5.1
finishings (1setOf (type2 enum))	finishings-actual (1setOf (type2 enum))	[RFC2911] §4.2.6 and
		[PWG5100.1] §2
finishings-col (collection)	finishings-col-actual (1setOf (collection))	[PWG5100.3] §3.2
force-front-side (1setOf integer(1:MAX))	force-front-side-actual (1setOf (1setOf integer(1:MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.3
imposition-template (type3 keyword name(MAX))	imposition-template-actual (1setOf (type3 keyword name(MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.4
insert-sheet (collection)	insert-sheet-actual (1setOf (collection))	[PWG5100.3] §3.5
job-account-id (name(MAX))	job-account-id-actual (1setOf (name(MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.6
job-accounting-sheets (collection)	job-accounting-sheets-actual (1setOf (collection))	[PWG5100.3] §3.8
job-accounting-user-id (name(MAX))	job-accounting-user-id-actual (1setOf (name(MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.7
job-error-sheet (collection)	job-error-sheet-actual (1setOf (collection))	[PWG5100.3] §3.9
job-hold-until (type3 keyword name)	job-hold-until-actual (1setOf (type3 keyword name))	[RFC2911] §4.2.2
job-message-to-operator (text(MAX))	job-message-to-operator-actual (1setOf (text(MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.10
job-priority (integer(1:100))	job-priority-actual (1setOf integer(1:100))	[RFC2911] §4.2.1
job-sheets (type3 keyword name)	job-sheets-actual (1setOf (type3 keyword name))	[RFC2911] §4.2.3
job-sheets- col (collection)	job-sheets-col-actual (1setOf (collection))	[PWG5100.3] §3.11
job-sheet-message (text(MAX))	job-sheet-message-actual (1setOf (text(MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.12
media (type3 keyword name(MAX))	media-actual (1setOf (type3 keyword name(MAX)))	[RFC2911] §4.2.11
media-col (collection)	media-col-actual (1setOf (collection))	[PWG5100.3] §3.13
media-input-tray-check (type3 keyword name(MAX))	media-input-tray-check-actual (1setOf(type3 keyword name(MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.14
multiple-document-handling (type2 keyword)	multiple-document-handling-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))	[RFC2911] §4.2.4
number-up (integer(1:MAX))	number-up-actual (1setOf integer(1:MAX))	[RFC2911] §4.2.9
orientation-requested (type2 enum)	orientation-requested-actual (1setOf (type2 enum))	[RFC2911] §4.2.10
output-bin (type2 keyword name(MAX))	output-bin-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword name(MAX)))	[PWG5100.2] §2.1
page-delivery (type2 keyword)	page-delivery-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))	[PWG5100.3] §3.15
page-order-received (type2 keyword)	page-order-received-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))	[PWG5100.3] §3.16
page-overrides (1setOf collection)	page-overrides-actual (1setOf collection)	[PWG5100.4] §5.2
page-ranges (1setOf rangeOfInteger(1:MAX))	page-ranges-actual (1setOf rangeOfInteger(1:MAX))	[RFC2911] §4.2.7
pages-per-subset (1setOf integer)	pages-per-subset-actual (1setOf integer)	[PWG5100.4] §5.3
presentation-direction-number-up (type2 keyword)	Presentation-direction-number-up-actual (1setOf(type2 keyword))	[PWG5100.3] §3.17
print-quality (type2 enum)	print-quality-actual (1setOf (type2 enum))	[RFC2911] §4.2.13
printer-resolution (resolution)	printer-resolution-actual (1setOf resolution)	[RFC2911] §4.2.12
separator-sheets (collection)	separator-sheets-actual (1setOf (collection))	[PWG5100.3] §3.18
sheet-collate (type2 keyword)	sheet-collate-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))	[RFC3381] §3.1
sides (type2 keyword)	sides-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))	[RFC2911] §4.2.8

Job Template Attribute	"-actual" Job Description attribute	Reference
x-image-position (type2 keyword)	x-image-position-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))	[PWG5100.3] §3.19.2
x-image-shift (integer (MIN:MAX))	x-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.19.3
x-side1-image-shift (integer (MIN:MAX))	x-side1-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.19.4
x-side2-image-shift (integer (MIN:MAX))	x-side2-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.19.5
y-image-position (type2 keyword)	y-image-position-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))	[PWG5100.3] §3.19.6
y-image-shift (integer (MIN:MAX))	y-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.19.7
y-side1-image-shift (integer (MIN:MAX))	y-side1-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.19.8
y-side2-image-shift (integer (MIN:MAX))	y-side2-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))	[PWG5100.3] §3.19.9

Note that Table 1 is not meant to be an exhaustive list of the "-actual" attributes a Printer might implement, as it lists only those attributes in existence in approved IPP standard documents as of the date of this document. For any Job Template or Document Template attributes created by past, present, or future IPP standard documents, this specification states that a corresponding "-actual" Job Description or Document Description exists and can be implemented by a Printer or queried by a client.

3.1 Overall philosophy

These attributes are to be set on a "best effort" basis by the Printer. It cannot be expected that a Printer that can return a known value for some "-actual" attribute will never return the 'unknown' value for that attribute. Also, a Printer does not guarantee the accuracy of the value until the job/document has moved to a completion state (job-state/document-state is 'completed', 'canceled', or 'aborted').

In the same vein, a client SHOULD be robust in its use of these attributes, being able to handle both when the attribute is unknown and when the attribute changes value, including changing to a value different than that specified by the client. For example, the client might query for job attributes and present the status string "Printed page 2 of 4, Copy 3" since the "copies-actual" attribute was returned as 'unknown'. Then, the very next query it makes might have an updated "copies-actual" value, since the Printer had just determined the value, so the next status string presented might be "Printed page 3 of 4, Copy 3 of 6".

3.2 Relationship between "-actual" attributes and Job Template attributes

A very important point about the new "-actual" attributes is that support for them is not in any way tied to the support for the corresponding Job/Document Template attributes. For example, a Printer that does not support the "copies" Job/Document Template attribute SHOULD support the "copies-actual" Job/Document Description attribute if the Printer knows how many copies printed for a job/document.

Similarly, whether or not a value for a Job/Document Template attribute was included in the Job/Document Creation operation, the Printer SHOULD return the corresponding "-actual" attribute if the value is known.

3.3 Timeline of values

As with all Job/Document Description attributes, if the value of a supported "-actual" attribute is not yet known for a job, it MUST be returned with the out-of-band 'unknown' value in any query.

The value of an "-actual" attribute can change during the processing of a Job/Document. The most obvious possible change is from 'unknown' to an actual value, but other possibilities exist as well. For example, a Printer might be planning on printing 5 copies of a job, but due to some error or to the job being canceled, the job might only print 3 copies. In this case, the "copies-actual" value would start at 5, then change to 3 at the point the Printer determines the final copy count will be 3.

- A printer that supports a Job/Document Template attribute in such a way that the value of the attribute overrides any
- instructions in the PDL SHOULD populate the corresponding "-actual" attribute at the time at which it reads the
- 290 Job/Document Template attribute. On the other hand, for an attribute where the PDL might override the value
- 291 provided for the Job/Document Template attribute, the Printer SHOULD wait until the PDL has been sufficiently
- 292 processed to determine the true value of the "-actual" attribute before populating it. In any case, a Printer MUST NOT
- return a value that it does not believe is the correct value; that is, even though the Printer can change the value later,
- it should never "guess" at the value.

3.4 Multi-valued

- All "-actual" attributes are multi-valued. If a certain attribute has more than one value for a Job/Document, such as a job that prints partly simplex and partly duplex, the Printer SHOULD include all values, in the order they were used.
- 298 To obtain more fine-grained information, the "page-overrides-actual" and "document-overrides-actual" attributes can
- be used. For example, the "page-overrides-actual" attribute could be used to report that a job printed page 1 in
- simplex and the rest of the job in duplex. For more information on the format of these two attributes, see
- 301 [PWG5100.4].

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3.5 Existing attributes that are similar to "-actual" attributes

- There are three existing attributes in IPP that function in a similar way to the new "-actual" attributes: the "job-k-
- octets", "job-impressions", and "job-media-sheets" attributes. These attributes can be specified as operation
- attributes of a Job Creation operation, and are also available as Job Description attributes. When queried, the
- 306 Printer can return the value that was specified in the creation operation, or can return a different value that it has
- determined to be more accurate. For more information on these attributes, see [RFC2911], §4.3.17 and §3.2.1.1.

4 New attribute group values

- To accommodate the ability of a client to query the "-actual" attributes, a new attribute group value is defined for use
- 310 with the Get-Job-Attributes and Get-Jobs operations. In addition to the existing attribute groups defined in
- 311 [RFC2911] §3.3.4, the following attribute group value is now defined:
- 'job-actual': the subset of the "-actual" Job Description attributes specified in this document that the implementation supports for Job objects.
- A Printer MUST support the 'job-actual' keyword.
- 315 Similarly, a new attribute group value is defined for use with the Get-Document-Attributes and Get-Documents
- operations. In addition to the existing attribute groups defined in [docobj] §3.6, the following attribute group value is
- 317 now defined:
- 'document-actual': the subset of the "-actual" Document Description attributes specified in this document that the implementation supports for Document objects.
- 320 A Printer that supports the Document Object MUST support the 'document-actual' keyword.

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5 Conformance Requirements

- A printer SHOULD support an "-actual" attribute if it knows the value through any means, such as through the value
- of the corresponding Job/Document Template attribute, through the value specified on an IPP "Set" operation
- 324 [RFC3380], through the PDL, or through some means external to IPP or the PDL.
- To conform to this specification, a Printer or client MUST comply with the descriptions in sections 3 and 4 above.
- 326 Although a number of optional extensions to IPP are referred to in this document, support for those extensions is not
- required in order to support the "-actual" attributes extension defined in this specification. For example, although this
- 328 specification defines new Document Description attributes to go along with the Document Template attributes defined
- in the Document Object optional extension to IPP, a Printer or client could implement or use "-actual" attributes
- without implementing the Document object.

6 Security Considerations

This specification will have no impact on the security burden of or potential threats to the importing system.

333 7 References

7.1 Normative References

335 [PWG5100.1]

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7.2 Informative references

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367

372

376

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8 IANA Considerations

- 373 This section contains the registration information for IANA to add to the various IPP Registries according to the
- procedures defined in [RFC2911] section 6 to cover the definitions in this document. The resulting registrations will
- be published in the http://www.iana.org/assignments/ipp-registrations registry.

8.1 Attribute Registrations

The following table lists all the attributes defined in this document. These are to be registered according to the procedures in [RFC2911] section 6.2.

```
379
     Job Description attributes:
380
     copies-actual (1setOf integer(1:MAX))
     cover-back-actual (1setOf (collection))
381
382
     cover-front-actual (1setOf (collection))
383
     document-overrides-actual (1setOf collection)
384
     finishings-actual (1setOf (type2 enum))
385
     finishings-col-actual (1setOf (collection))
386
     force-front-side-actual (1setOf (1setOf integer(1:MAX)))
387
     imposition-template-actual (1setOf (type3 keyword | name(MAX)))
388
     insert-sheet-actual (1setOf (collection))
389
     job-account-id-actual (1setOf (name(MAX)))
```

```
390
     job-accounting-sheets-actual (1setOf (collection))
391
     job-accounting-user-id-actual (1setOf (name(MAX)))
392
     job-error-sheet-actual (1setOf (collection))
393
     job-hold-until-actual (1setOf (type3 keyword | name))
394
     job-message-to-operator-actual (1setOf (text(MAX)))
395
     job-priority-actual (1setOf integer(1:100))
396
     job-sheets-actual (1setOf (type3 keyword | name))
397
     job-sheets-col-actual (1setOf (collection))
398
     job-sheet-message-actual (1setOf (text(MAX)))
399
     media-actual (1setOf (type3 keyword | name(MAX)))
400
     media-col-actual (1setOf (collection))
401
     media-input-tray-check-actual (1setOf (type3 keyword | name(MAX)))
402
     multiple-document-handling-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))
403
     number-up-actual (1setOf integer(1:MAX))
404
     orientation-requested-actual (1setOf (type2 enum))
405
     output-bin-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword | name(MAX)))
406
     page-delivery-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))
407
     page-order-received-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))
408
     page-overrides-actual (1setOf collection)
409
     page-ranges-actual (1setOf rangeOfInteger(1:MAX))
410
     pages-per-subset-actual (1setOf integer)
411
     presentation-direction-number-up-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))
412
     print-quality-actual (1setOf (type2 enum))
413
     printer-resolution-actual (1setOf resolution)
414
     separator-sheets-actual (1setOf (collection))
415
     sheet-collate-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))
416
     sides-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))
     x-image-position-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))
417
418
     x-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))
419
     x-sidel-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))
420
     x-side2-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))
421
     y-image-position-actual (1setOf (type2 keyword))
422
     y-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))
423
     y-sidel-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))
424
     y-side2-image-shift-actual (1setOf (integer (MIN:MAX)))
```

8.2 Attribute Group tag Registrations

The following table lists all the attribute group tags defined in this document. These are to be registered according to the procedures in [RFC2911] section 6.5.

```
428 Attribute Group tags:
429 job-actual
430 document-actual
```

425

431

9 Author's Address

432 Dennis Carney
 433 IBM Printing Systems
 434 6300 Diagonal Highway
 435 Boulder, CO 80301
 436 Phone: 303 924 0565
 437 Fax: 303 924 7434
 438 e-mail: dcarney@us.ibm.com
 439

Proposed Standard Page 16 of 16

440	Harry Lewis
441	IBM Printing Systems
442	6300 Diagonal Highway
443	Boulder, CO 80301
444	Phone: 303 924 5337
445	Fax: 303 924 7434
446	e-mail: harryl@us.ibm.com
447	
448	Additional contributors:
449	Tom Hastings, Xerox
450	Ira McDonald, High North
451	Gail Songer, Peerless
452	Peter Zehler, Xerox