

**Document Scanning, Storing and Printing Co-ordination Among Multi-vendor Office
Equipment**

- Release of Common Software for Scan/Storage Service

The BMLinkS Project Committee (consisting of 16 participating member companies) set up by Japan Business Machine and Information System Industries Association (Address: NP Onarimon Building, 3-25-33 Nishi-shinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo. Chairman: Masamitsu Sakurai) announced release of completed Common Software for Scan Service and Storage Service based on JBMIA's standard BMLinkS specifications.

With the release of the software, office users can operate, in the same way, different office equipment from any vendor with the BMLinkS functions. This makes it possible to build document distribution infrastructure where documents can be scanned, stored, and printed, overcoming the barrier between electronic medium and paper. The Project Committee believes BMLinkS will continue to be widely adopted to help to drastically improve the document-handling productivity in the office.

[History]

In support of the "Connect, Find, Get" slogan, the Project Committee has tackled the JBMIA standardization efforts of BMLinkS over the years to try to drastically improve the connectivity and data exchange capability between office equipment. It has created and published the basic specifications, released the Integrated Printer Driver, and established a system to certify equipment offering Print Service. In May, 2004, it published the Scan Service and Storage Service specifications. In November, 2005, it developed and released the Integrated Printer Driver V2.0 featuring a confidential printing function and a new user interface. These efforts provide continued improvement in an environment where users can easily scan, store, and print documents. With the completion and subsequent release of the Common Software for Scan Service and Storage Service, the scope of BMLinkS application has been broadened further.

[Release of Common Software for Scan Service and Storage Service]

Based on the Scan Service and Storage Service specifications published in May, 2004, the Project Committee has been developing common software that will make it even easier to use the network scanning function. The software can be used together with BMLinkS compliant equipment from any participating member company. The following two new common software are to be released.

- BMLinkS Storage Service

Scan data of the equipment supporting the BMLinkS Scan Service can be stored as a BMLinkS

document in the folder of a user's PC (Network Storage function). By using the BMLinkS discovery function, the user can specify a folder as destination for storage by using a simple operation.

Also, from the equipment supporting the BMLinkS Storage Service, the user can discover the PC where BMLinkS documents desired for printing are stored, retrieve BMLinkS documents stored in the destination folder, and then print them (Network Print function).

In either case, with the use of SSL communication protocol as well as authentication with user name and password, the user can safely use the functions on an ad-hoc basis even when the user is away from the office.

- **BMLinkS Document Viewer**

This enables users to easily view BMLinkS Documents using a simple operation. This software supports both black/white and color BMLinkS Documents. With Windows copy and paste function, users can paste information into general office documents.

With the two common software planned to be released this summer combined with the already released BMLinkS Integrated Printer Driver V2.0 and BMLinkS compliant equipment from the participating member companies, it will become possible to build BMLinkS-based document distribution infrastructure. The infrastructure will allow users to easily use network printing, network scanning, and network storage functions thus eliminating the barrier between vendors.

[BMLinkS Equipment for Widespread Adoption]

In May, 2003, eight models of office equipment supporting the Print Service were certified and launched. Since then, there has been continued launch of BMLinkS-certified equipment from the participating member companies. Currently a total of 170 compliant equipment have been launched successfully into the market. Also, the Project Committee is continuing policies to improve user convenience, such as by encouraging use of BMLinkS logo on compliant equipment to enable users to easily identify BMLinkS equipment.

[Future Development]

The Project Committee will continue to actively promote widespread use of BMLinkS, and extend the specifications as JBMIA standard. Specifically, such activities include extending the search area of BMLinkS services and functions of equipment, expanding the Scan Service, Storage Service, and Print Service to enhance the common operation, and starting to work on a new field, such as security. The Project Committee believes the increase in added value will contribute to

user convenience in the multi-vendor environment.

[Participating Member Companies] (alphabetical order)

Big Valley Co.,Ltd.

Brother Industries Ltd.

Canon Inc.

Casio Computer CO., LTD.

Duplo Corporation

Fujitsu Corporation

Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.

Grape Systems Inc.

Konica Minolta Business Technologies, INC.

KYOCERA MITA CORPORATION

Panasonic Communications Co., Ltd.

Ricoh Co., Ltd.

Riso Kagaku Corporation

Seiko Epson Corporation

Sharp Corporation

Toshiba Tec Corporation

(Total: 16 as of May, 2006)

[Enquiry]

Hiroshi Mano

Technology Director

Japan Business Machine and Information System Industries Association (JBMIA)

Tel +81-3-5472-1101, Fax +81-3-5472-2511, E-mail mano@jbmia.or.jp

[BMLinkS Web Site] <http://www.jbmia.or.jp/bmlinks/eng/index.htm>

END