SEE MORE. DO MORE.

Zebra® GC420™ Desktop Printers
Migration notes for 4-inch 28-series users

To facilitate easy migration from your current 4-inch 28-series desktop to the new GC420 printers, then this document outlines the key operational differences and considerations:

- Firmware
- Communication
- Power
- Media & Ribbon Handling
- Features Comparison

Firmware

1. One of the features of the new GC420d and GC420t printers is their dual residency of command languages; the coexistence of both EPL™ and ZPL command sets and its ability to process them, which is very different to the individual command specific 28-series printers. Whilst the printers will seamlessly handle different language formats or scripts sent in succession, individual constructs must be maintained. EPL and ZPL scripts cannot be merged together.

2. In addition to coexistent EPL and ZPL, the GC420d also supports EPL Line Mode.

3. The feed button modes of GC420 printers follow that of the other G-series models; the GK and GX. With its various flash sequences it provides more control over the printer's set-up and continued use. This is a feature previously unavailable to EPL-based 2844 printers and will avoid any unwanted entries into a diagnostic mode or Line Mode of operation. Full details of the printer's feed button modes can be found in its associated user manual.

4. The default configuration report that can be output via a 1-flash sequence is that of a ZPL-based printer. Should a user be more familiar with the configuration report of an EPL-based LP/TLP 2844 and require this format, then it can be output via the appropriate EPL U-command.

5. The 2-flash sequence on the GC420 printers will only perform a manual calibration routine, which a slightly different operation to that of the ZPL-based LP/TLP 2844-Z. Should you require the media histogram output, then this is available following a new 7-flash sequence.

6. The command set has been expanded and part of this feature increase is that of the Set, Get, Do (SGD) constructs. This control includes media handling and odometer functionality, and provides a common method of control outside that of any similar EPL or ZPL features handling. Full details of the Set, Get, Do (SGD) commands can be found in the printers associated programming manual.

7. The GC420 printers now support Unicode. The printers are pre-loaded with the Swiss 721 font and this can be accessed under ZPL to provide a multi-character, global printing solution.

Communication

1. The GC420 printer's serial port configuration follows that of the 2844 to support existing straight through cable installations.

2. The GC420 printer's parallel port maintains a Centronics configuration as per the older 4-inch 28-series and this will accommodate the external print server devices.

Power

1. The GC420 printer's power supply is common to that of the LP/TLP 2844 and LP/TLP 2844-Z printers.

Media & Ribbon Handling

1. The media and ribbon handling has been maintained from the LP/TLP 2844 and LP/TLP 2844-Z through to the GC420 printers. Any current media or ribbon stock can be accommodated in the new GC420 printers, including such accessory items as the Media Adapter Kit for narrow media and wristbands.

2. The default media action of the GC420 printers resembles that of an EPL-based 2844 printer. The printer will not feed automatically at power-on, only following a lid closure. If exchanging between two different styles of media then it is recommended that a manual calibration is performed. This can be achieved via the printer's 2-flash feed button sequence. The printer can be changed to feed at both power-on or lid closure using the appropriate ZPL ^MF command.

3. Providing the relevant option is installed, common media handling can be controlled via the SGD constructs. The "media.printmode" command can be used to manage GC420 printers in tear and peel modes of operation.

ZEBRA TECHNOLOGIES

SEE MORE. DO MORE.

Features Comparison

	LP/TLP2844	LP/TLP2844-Z	GC420d/t
Print Speed			
4 ips (102mm)	•	•	•
Resolution			
203 dpi (8 dots/mm)	•	•	•
Programming Language			
EPL (Eltron Programming Language)	•		
ZPL (Zebra Programming Language)		•	
EPL & ZPL co-existence			•
Processor			
Single 16-bit processor	•		
32-bit RISC processor		•	•
Connectivity			
Serial, USB & Parallel	•	•	•
10Base-T Ethernet, internal (*optional*)	•	•	
10/100 Ethernet, external (*optional*)			•
Memory			
512 KB Flash, 256 KB SRAM (*standard*)	•	•	
1 MB Flash, 512 KB SRAM with RTC (*optional*)	•	•	
8 MB Flash, 8MB SDRAM (*standard*)			•
Media Handling			
Print Length	279mm (11")	991mm (39")	991mm (39")
Media Thickness	0.18mm (0.0071")	0.18mm (0.0071")	0.18mm (0.0071")
Dispenser	•	•	•
Reflective/Transmissive Sensing (*fixed*)	•	•	•
Other			
Odometer			•
Unicode			•
ZBI 2.0 (*optional*)			•