

### Flexisign Spooler Printing via Ethernet

Description: This technical procedure provides instructions on how to use DirectCut Spooler to send files from Flexisign to cutter via ethernet – sending files from Flexisign Production Manager to multiple cutters connected to the network from any computer on the same network.

Affected Product: DirectCut Spooler and any networked Cutter.

#### Assign an IP Address

It is recommended to select a unique IP address that is not assigned by DHCP server and setup the cutters on the network. Each cutter and computer IP address must be unique.

See **Graphici-TECH User's Manual** page 16 (PDF pg20) to access Advanced Settings and page 19 (PDF pg23) for DHCP/Manual settings; set DHCP/manual to IP and enter a static IP address and mask.

-OR-

See **<u>i-TECH User's Manual</u>** page 32 (PDF pg36) for instructions on setting static/DHCP IP address.

Start Flexisign

Create/draw a small square for testing purposes.

1. Click on the Cut/Plot icon:



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 Click on the Production Manger icon on the Taskbar; then click on Setup > Add Setup:

	Production Manager			
ł	File Edit	Setup View Help		
	R.	Add Setup	Ctrl+N	
		Setup Properties	Ctrl+K	

The Add Setup dialog window appears:

3. Choose a device type: Cutters

Add Setup	X
Choose a device type	
Printers	Outters
O Hybrid Devices	
Choose a device	
What is the brand name of you	ur vinyl cutter?
Allen Datagraph	
What is the model name of you	ur Allen Datagraph?
536	▼
	Back Next Cancel

4. Select Allen Datagraph and the appropriate model number; click Next.



- 5. Modify the name of the setup, recommendation shown below:
  - Select FILE: from the dropdown menu for the connection type.
  - Select the "Prompt for file path for each file" as shown.
  - Set the Default location to the following location: *C*:\*Program Files* (*x86*)\*Allen Datagraph*\*Cutter Driver*\*queue*
- 6. Click Finish to complete the setup.

Add Setup	×
What do you want to call your new setup?	
536 on lan	
How is your 536 connected to your computer?	
FILE: ▼ Bro <u>w</u> se	
✓ Prompt for file path for each file	
Use custom extension:	
Default location	
gram Files (x86)\Allen Datagraph\Cutter Driver\queue	
Browse	
Back Finish Can	cel

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### Host Names and Editing the PC Host File

Decide on hostnames for each networked cutter, shorter names are recommended. (for example: a and b)

Edit the PC hosts file to define the new hostnames to an IP address. The PC hosts file is found in the following location: *C*:\*Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts* 

→ * ↑ C:\Windows\System3	em32\drivers\etc ~		₽ Search etc	
0.item	Name	Date modified	Туре	Size
QUICK access	hosts	12/7/2019 4:12 AM	File	1 KB
Creative Cloud Files	Imhosts.sam	12/7/2019 4:12 AM	SAM File	4 KB
OpeDrive	networks	12/7/2019 4:12 AM	File	1 KB
Uncome .	🗋 protocol	12/7/2019 4:12 AM	File	2 KB
This PC	services	12/7/2019 4:12 AM	File	18 KB
Network				

1. Add two lines to the end of the hosts file that look like the following:

192.168.2.xxx a

192.168.2.xxx b

2. Ensure that the IP addresses defined in the hosts file matches the previously assigned IP addresses for the networked cutters.

**Note:** It may be necessary to save the edited hosts file to the PC Desktop and then rename it from hosts.txt to hosts without an extension file type; the use File Explorer to copy the renamed hosts file to the C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc directory.

Setup is now complete, test the setup!

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#### Testing:

Navigate to the Flexisign icon in the Taskbar that should still have a small square.

- 1. Choose the 536 on LAN output device, click Send.
- 2. Select the Production Manager icon on the Taskbar; the following prompt should appear:

Save As						×
Cutter Driver 🕨 queue		•	<b>4</b> 7	Search queue		م
Organize 🔻 New folder					== •	(?)
🌗 Forms	*	Name		<u>^</u>		Date
🐌 Manuals						
Product Photos			No i	tems match your	search.	
Public files						
🐌 RMA Customer Forms						
TechSupportPics	-					
퉬 Trade Dress & In House Labels	=					
퉬 Training docs						
le OneDrive						
🎉 DTalmage						
FINAL TEST						
🎉 Tech Support Files						
🎉 Repair Department						
	Ψ.	•	III			۰.
File <u>n</u> ame: f lana x						-
Save as type: Native format (*.plt)						•
cove as type: Indire to mar ( ipit)						
Hide Folders				Save	Cance	

Continued on next page.



3. Enter the File name: f lana x -or- f lanb x; click Save.

The spooler will now send the file to the networked cutter.

If queuing up more than one job, change the x in the File name above to some other letter.

**Note:** If a and b were not used for the hostnames change the filename to f <space> lan <hostname> <space> <unique letter>. i.e.; if **c145** is chosen for the host name then the file name would be **f lanc145 x**.

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