

AN EXAMPLE OF CAPTURING PRINT DATA USING MODEL CS-ZN

Display plain Generic Print Data on PC as well as continuous save to file.

Tera Term™ Example



This example describes a system with the following features:

- ▶ Parallel print cable data is captured on a PC
- ▶ The printer is displaced.
- ▶ No special cables or wiring is required. Just plug in Photologic Model CS-ZN .
- ▶ The capture software "Tera Term" on the PC is open-source, free, popular terminal emulator for Microsoft Windows.
- ▶ The capture is mainly for print data that is plain "Generic Text".
- ▶ The capture not only displays the print data, but also continuously saves the data to a file.
- ▶ The capture displays plain "Generic Text" data. If the print data is not generic, then the display will not be suitable, however the capture to file should still be supported.



As there will be no printer involved, the print job will transfer fast to the PC display, as no mechanical printer delays exist.

Tera Term software is just one choice of many terminal emulators available. Other terminal emulators may be more robust and provide special features that you require. Internet search "terminal emulators".

Using A USB Com Port Adapter: The COM Port number of the USB Adapter should be between 1 and 4 unless newer versions of Tera Term exist (greater than ver. 1.4). Some USB adapters have a fixed Com Port number such as COM5, which would be unsuitable as Tera Term supports ports 1 to 4. In that case, choose a version of Tera Term or other terminal emulator software that has a choice of higher COM Port numbers.

Serial Extension Cable: You may install a serial extension cable with approximately 100 foot length, using the default 9600 Baud rate of Model CS-ZN. Higher baud rates reduce the maximum cable length.

About Multiprinter Capturing: You should be able to capture multiple printer output using additional COM ports with extra connections of the terminal emulator program open. Eg. COM1, COM4, COM5 to capture from three printers. Use additional USB COM Port Adapters, or perhaps a multiple COM Port I/O card installed in the PC.

Continuing To Use The Printer: If you wish to capture print data for record keeping mandates, and still require to use the printer, then you may use Photologic Ltd. Model PT-7 hardware. Model PT-7 passes parallel data to the printer while also outputting a live serial stream to a capture PC.

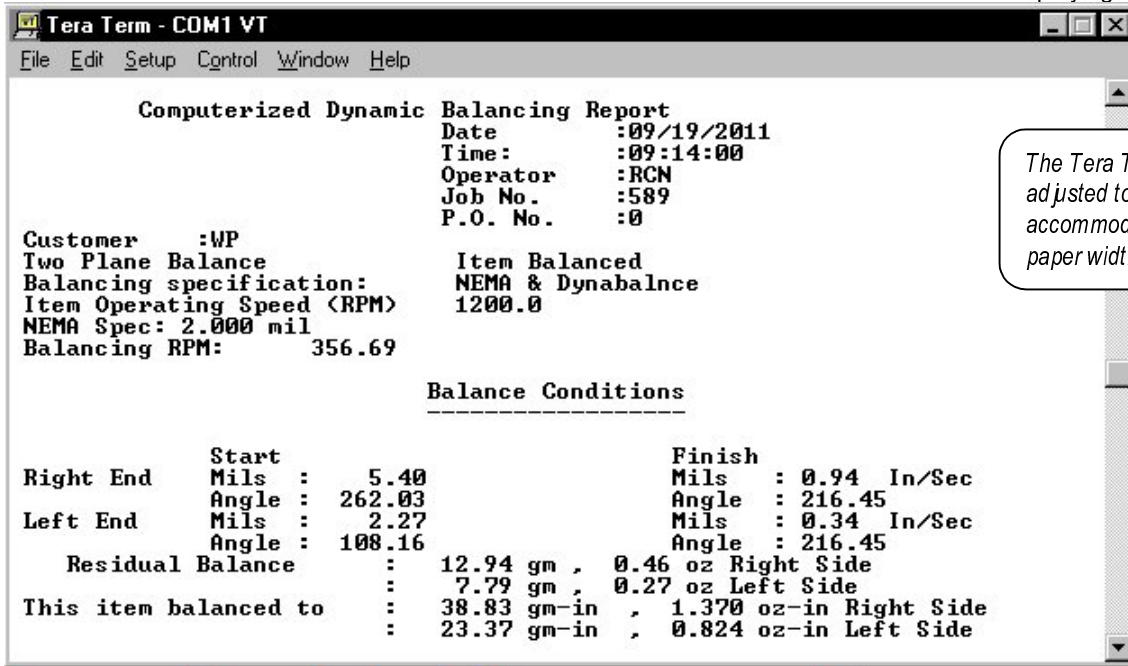
About Non-Generic Text Print Data: If control codes are present in the data, then they will not be interpreted. They may display as garbage characters on the screen, and the printout may not be readable on the screen. However, the capture to file should be accurate, and could be used to either printout to a similar printer or be screen displayed using an emulation converter, eg. PCL emulation to .pdf. Some users develop software to parse the important data out of the log file. To convert PCL to a .pdf from a parallel print cable use Photologic Ltd. hardware device: **PDFAUTOMATOR**

If you wish to capture to an SD Memory Card, without using a PC, then consider **Model PDX-R**: <http://www.photologic.ca/pdxr.pdf>

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Tera Term Display:

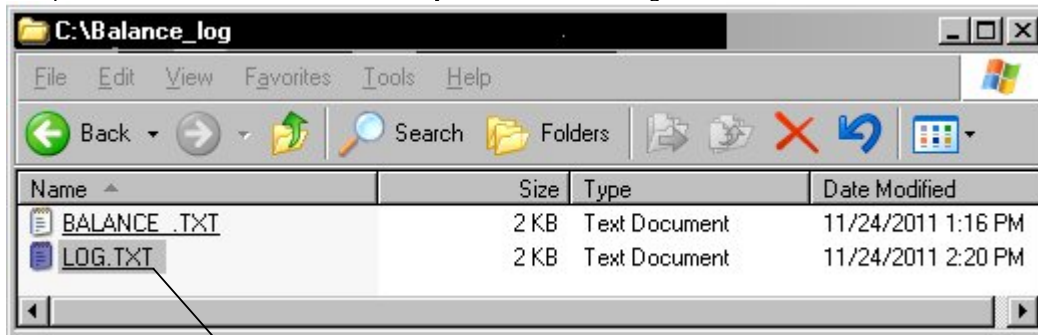
Print data is written to the Tera Term screen in real time. The data is saved to a file while it is displaying.



The Tera Term screen can be adjusted to different widths to accommodate various print paper widths. (Use Setup).

Scroll back several hundred lines

The print data is auto saved continuously as the data is being received:



Can be opened in Notepad, Word

In Notepad, Linefeeds that are not paired with Carriage Returns may deform the display slightly by substituting rectangular block characters.

