Facilitating PRS and UTS Ticketing from a Single Window using a Printer Switch

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A Solution for connecting a RS232 Ticketing Terminal to separate PRS and UTS Ticketing Printers for Single Window PRS and UTS operation
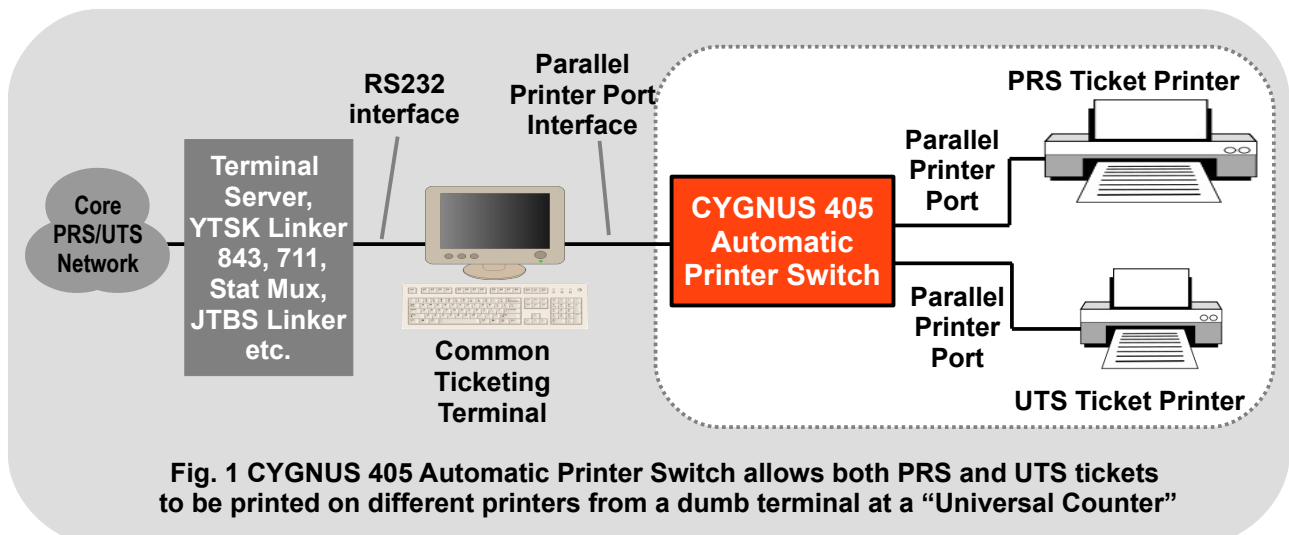
Traditionally PRS and UTS tickets have been issued using separate RS232 Terminals extended from different ports of a Terminal Server. At small locations however, the number of transactions may not be sufficient to justify separate counters, staff, etc., for PRS and UTS. It may therefore be preferable at such locations to issue both PRS and UTS tickets from a single "universal counter".

CYGNUS Terminal Servers, YTSK Linker, JTBS Linker, Bridging Terminal Servers, Networking Terminal Servers – all allow the operator to establish multiple simultaneous sessions and switch between them. Therefore an operator can easily open sessions with PRS and UTS Servers from a single terminal, and switch between them as required.

However as far as ticket printing is concerned, there is a problem. PRS and UTS tickets are printed and accounted for by different servers, and are also printed on different types of ticket rolls. So the respective ticket rolls need to be mounted on two separate printers. Since a dumb terminal has only one parallel printer port, a solution is required to automatically switch between two printers (one with PRS ticket roll and the other with UTS ticket roll), both accessible via the same printer port of the terminal.

CYGNUS 405 Automatic Printer Switch (APS) is the solution. As shown in Fig. 1 it allows two separate printers to be connected to a terminal, so that UTS and PRS tickets can be printed separately. It monitors print data coming from the servers (and delivered through the terminal), to decide whether it needs to transfer the data to the UTS printer or the PRS printer.

A simple, elegant and fool-proof solution, the CYGNUS 405 is fully compatible with Railways' PRS and UTS application software.

Fig. 1 CYGNUS 405 Automatic Printer Switch allows both PRS and UTS tickets to be printed on different printers from a dumb terminal at a "Universal Counter"

Contact Cygnus today for further information

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