



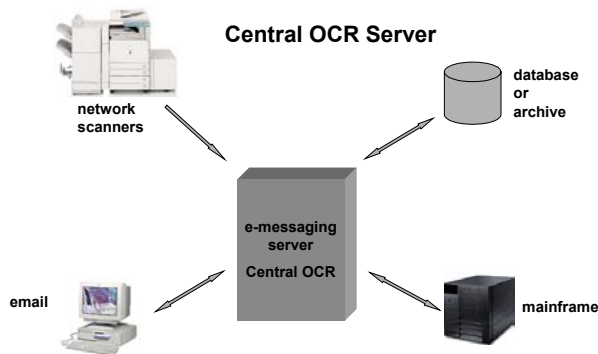
An e-Messaging Server can be configured as a central OCR server for a network of scanners, e-mail clients and business applications. The e-Messaging Server carries out all OCR processing. No OCR software is installed or run, other than within the e-Messaging Server, and no other computers or applications in the network need be aware of the OCR process.

The e-Messaging Server is a central server which will take messages with attached document files (tiff or pdf) and will process the documents through OCR, ICR (hand writing), or Barcode recognition, converting the documents to editable or searchable format, before returning the document to the originator, or passing it on to another location, a database or an archive application. Output formats include Word, Excel, searchable pdf, etc

The e-Messaging Server has a rules engine that will process documents differently according to a variety of criteria: for example, the sender location, the route by which the message arrives, the content of the e-mail message, the content of metadata (or 'drop') files, etc.

The e-Messaging Server can be a cluster, with different servers handling different processes (e.g. server A handles small, fast response documents, server B handles large, non-urgent documents). In the event of a server failure, the surviving server(s) takes over all processing automatically. One console controls all servers in the cluster.

The central OCR server can be used by any number of network scanners, e-mail clients, business applications or browser users, over both local and wide area networks.



Network scanners

Network scanners normally provide the user with the ability to select menus on a display, or enter data via a local keyboard. This results in a metadata file (and the image file) being 'dropped' into a directory on a server. Network scanners can normally also send the scanned document as e-mail. The e-Messaging Server can pick up documents for OCR processing using any of these methods.

A typical example would be a menu item on the scanner display for OCR, with a selectable sub menu for choosing Word, Excel or Searchable PDF format. A final menu could allow selection of whether the document should be returned to the user, filed away in an archive, or moved to a business application. The network scanner will put these instructions in a metadata file 'dropped' to a file server with the image, or will embed them in the body or subject of the e-mail to which the image is attached. Because all network scanners use a network ID or e-mail address for the user login, the identity of the originator of the document is always known to the e-Messaging Server. Additional metadata to go with the document can be entered via the scanner keyboard, and will be kept with the document by the e-Messaging Server.

Using this method, any person in an organisation (even in a remote location) can scan a document of any size, and have it returned to their desktop in editable or searchable form. Alternatively, they can file it away, or pass it to a business application.

E-mail clients

A user may have files that need to be converted through an OCR process. These may be tiff or non-searchable pdf files that have been sent by e-mail, or image files produced by a locally attached scanner, or taken from a file server. To convert the files to editable or searchable format, the user simply sends the files to an in-house e-mail domain (e.g. ocr.com) that is monitored by the e-Messaging Server, with instructions on the processing required in the subject or body of the message, or implied by the e-mail address (e.g. word@ocr.com).

The resultant converted files are returned immediately, either to the originator, or to a database or archive (dependant on the e-Messaging Server rules engine), or passed to a business application.

This process works whether the user is on a local e-mail network, or operating via the internet.

Business applications or browser users

Any business application, either in house or web oriented, can drop images and OCR conversion instructions into a folder monitored by the e-Messaging Server, or can generate e-mails. These will then be processed by the rules engine, converted and returned to the application or archived. They can also be returned to any chosen user by e-mail, or made available via a web browser.

Summary

The e-Messaging Server can provide an easily managed and controlled central facility for OCR, ICR and Barcode processing, without the need for any client PC software. The central OCR software licence is charged by document volume, keeping costs under control. Central logs and statistics provide an audit trail, and allow service charging of users or departments.

e-Messaging Solutions Ltd., Tring House,
77 - 81 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire
HP23 4AB T 01442 825159 F 01442 828550
www.e-messaging.co.uk
sales@e-messaging.co.uk

The e-Messaging Server uses the power of
the ABBYY FineReader OCR engine

