

## **OnTag for Scala.**

In Scala, each module has its own label templates. These template makes it's possible to design specific layout for printing labels. For example the design of where article numbers etc should be placed, adding static text etc. However the design possibilities are a little bit old fashioned. Pictures and multiple fonts are not possible. Only ASCII standard is supported within Scala.

When the design of a template is finished it's time to print the labels. Here is another problem. All printings are handled the DOS-way, which means the only possibility is to print directly to a LPT-port or TCP-port. Posts cript and windows driver capabilities are limited. However this technique is fast and reliable and is the industry standard on most systems. But nowadays the customer demands increased functionality. For example : sharing printer without conflicts, better monitoring of printouts, dynamic layouts, better fonts, pictures, logotypes, faster and better printouts and support for cost-effective printers such as thermo label printers instead of matrix printers.

The solution is OnTag.

OnTag consists of a printer server which handles all printouts, queuing jobs, dynamic template switching and so on. The printers and templates are installed here. OnTag is not using windows drivers at all due to lack of monitoring capabilities and slow printing within the windows printing system. Instead OnTag are communicating directly with the printer which means that we can take the most out of each printer. For example take advantage of all possible option facilities on each printer such as use of heavy duty cutters, peel off mechanism, label take sensor etc. Another thing is the extremely fast printouts through OnTag. For example when using windows printer drives the print job is first converted to an image and then transferred to the printer. This makes printouts slow because everything must be download to the printer each printout. OnTag is instead working with templates which means that only changed information since last time are sent to the printer. OnTag automatically keeps track of loaded templates, switching templates etc.

To communicate and sending print jobs to the printer server, OnTag also includes an ActiveX COM Server client. This client is an easy to use API which makes its easy to implement OnTag support in any application. The client is label and printer independent which means that when integration of OnTag is made within your application you will have all possibilities in the future to change templates and printers without modifying your application in any way. The client is using the TCP/IP protocol to communicate with the printer server. If the printer also is installed on the network you get a fully mobile network printing solution. Note! The OnTag ActiveX COM Server is not included in the OnTag Scala software package. It's sold separately.

How is the OnTag Scala gateway working? The Scala gateway is not using the OnTag client. Instead a certain OnTag header string is placed within the Scala template along with the variables in Scala (e.g. article codes). The header string tells e.g. which template and printer that should be used in the printer server. The printing within Scala is then made directly to a TCP port connected to the OnTag printer server. As told before the printer server then queuing all incoming printer jobs and print them in chronological order when printer is ready. The OnTag Scala gateway solution is also template and printer independent. Label templates are stored in the printer server and can easily be changed, added, removed and designed to fulfil the customer needs. With each printer delivered a label design program is included and is free to use. If you need assistance making templates SYSteam Epani will be glad to help.

So with OnTag you get fast print outs, dynamic templates, monitoring functions, sharing of printer (all users can easily share one printer without conflicts) and a total mobile printing solution.

Today the OnTag printer server has support for the Compact and Nova range of Imaje thermo - and thermo - transfer label printers. These printers are widely used by the biggest industries. For example : SAAB, Volvo, Ericsson etc. The printers supports a wide range of BAR-codes, built-in Ethernet port for use on WAN/LAN/Internet, logos and picture handling. The printers have extremely high quality, are easy to use and last for a long time. See [www.imaje.com](http://www.imaje.com) for more information.

OnTag is today in use on many golf clubs in the Nordic countries, where a fast and cost-effective printing solution was needed to print scorecards and greenfee-tags.