Label Templates for LabelTrace

LabelTrace operates using templates which are simple text files of formatting instructions with "variables" for patient and other data which will be incorporated at print time. Template files are specific to the printer language of label printer used. The example given below is designed for Zebra branded printers running EPL firmware. The EPL manual is available for download from the Zebra web site www.zebra.com Note that more than one label format may be included (concatenated) within a single template file. The "P1" at the end of each format specifies that one copy should be printed. "P2" would generate two identical copies and so on.

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N
q456
D%PRINT_DENSITY%
B120,0,0,1,2,4,55,N,"%CHI%"
A90,70,0,2,2,2,N,"%CHI%"
A0,112,0,2,2,2,N,"%Surname%"
A0,158,0,2,2,2,N,"%Forename%"
A0,200,0,2,2,2,N,"%SEX%"
A120,200,0,2,2,2,N,"%Postcode%"
P1


N
q456
D%PRINT_DENSITY%
A0,10,0,4,1,1,N,"%DOCTOR%"
A210,50,0,3,1,1,N,"%LLADDRESS1%"
A210,70,0,3,1,1,N,"%LLADDRESS2%"
A210,140,0,3,1,1,N,"%LLADDRESS3%"
A210,160,0,3,1,1,N,"%LLADDRESS4%"
B12,50,0,1,2,4,55,N,"%LLCODE%"
A55,110,0,3,1,1,N,"%LLCODE%"
B12,140,0,1,2,4,55,N,"%DOCTOR_CODE%"
A55,200,0,3,1,1,N,"%DOCTOR_CODE%"
A210,210,0,3,1,1,N,"%LLTEL%"
P1
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==

When printing, the data for the current patient replaces the variables such as %Surname%, in this case causing the patient's surname to be printed in the form defined by the formatting string. Note that these variables are not case-sensitive and are surrounded by the % character when referenced in the template.

The easiest way to produce new templates is to design labels with dummy data in the Create-a-Label 3 demo system. This was originally provided free of charge with each printer. It can be downloaded from the "Downloads" section of www.quicktrace.co.uk and guidance for using this package to create templates is in document QT0052.doc (Designing Templates for LabelTrace using Create-a-Label 3), available on the Support page of the web site.

Variables

The variables which may be utilised include patient data from the clinical system and data from LabelTrace's own database. The variables which are supported depend on the facilities provided in the clinical system. To see a list of all relevant demographic variables for each clinical system view

http://www.quicktrace.co.uk/support/ltvariables.xls

Variables relating to the patient which are currently allowed for on the lab label are principally:-

Title
Surname
Forename
Address1
Address2
Address3
Address4
Address5
Postcode
DOB
Sex   [Male/Female]
Sex_short   [M/F]
CHI
NHSNumber
HCNumber [Health & Care Number in N.I.]
Phone
RegisteredClinician
SeenByClinician

These will be shown as, for example, %Surname% in the template.
[Note that for compatibility with earlier GPASS specific templates, GPASS specific variable names may be used interchangeably. Hence %Surname% and %GPASS_patient_surname% produce identical output irrespective of the GP system in use. The equivalent variable names are self-evident except that %Sex_short% is equivalent to %GPASS_patient_sex%]

From LabelTrace's own tables (the data is set up via LabelTrace Management Utility) the following variables may be included:-

Doctor
        DOCTOR (Clinician Name used, if selected from GPASS Clinicians)
        DOCTOR_CODE (Clinician code used, if selected from GPASS Clinicians)

Premises
        PREMISES – "header" entry for premises
        LLADDRESS1 - Practice address line 1 etc
        LLADDRESS2
        LLADDRESS3
        LLADDRESS4
        LLPOSTCODE
        LLCODE - practice code
        LLTEL - practice telephone number
These will be shown as, for example, %LLADDRESS1% in the template.

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User Fields – these are user definable multichoice dropdown fields for selection at print time, for example a list of clinics or diseases. The "Label" parameter for the field is used as the variable name in templates. If we name a user field "Clinic" then the template will contain %Clinic% as the variable name.

Fields in the "User Defined Fields" Section of the demographic input file can also be used. When launched, LabelTrace is passed a set of demographic data as shown previously. In addition to the standard fields, any other information concerning the patient may be included in a "User Defined Fields" section at the end of the input file. This is visible from the "File/View Raw Data"menu option. Any parameter in the "User Defined Fields" section of the input file may be used as a template variable. For example one entry in the input file when LabelTrace is launched from SCI Store is "CRN=123456", for Case Record Number. This then allows %CRN% to be used as a template variable.

System Variables and Data Modifiers

LabelTrace uses a number of system parameters and data modifiers to format the label at print time. Those which modify the data do so on an individual instance of a field. This permits the same data to be presented in a different form in separate parts of a single label. Note that data may be modified globally using an "onprint" script. This allows for example all instances of "Rd." to be changed to "Road".

%PRINT_DENSITY% is replaced by the numeric value of Print Density currently selected in Preferences.

%UPPERCASE% when placed immediately prior to a variable causes the data to be printed in upper case.

%LOWERCASE% when placed immediately prior to a variable causes the data to be printed in lower case.

%INITCAPS% when placed immediately prior to a variable causes the data to be printed in lower case, apart from the first character which is printed in upper case (normal capitalisation).

%ANONLY% when placed immediately prior to a variable causes the data to be printed omitting any characters which are not simple alphanumerics.

%FIRSTCHAR% when placed immediately prior to a variable causes the first character only of the data to be printed.

%FIRSTNCHAR% when placed immediately prior to a variable causes the first N (up to max of 30) characters only of the data to be printed.

%DATE% is replaced by the current date in format DD/MM/YYYY

%TIME% is replaced by the current time in format HH:MM

%SAMPLEDATE% is replaced by the entered date in format DD/MM/YYYY

%SAMPLETIME% is replaced by the entered time in format HH:MM

Organisation of Templates

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LabelTrace allows multiple sets of up to six lab label templates to be presented on tabs with user defined names. On each tab, a meaningful name for the template is displayed to the user and radio buttons are used to quickly select the required one.

These label templates are located either in a shared folder, normally LTDATA on the server, or in sub folders of this shared folder. If templates are stored only in this "main" folder, no tabs are shown. If templates are stored in sub folders of the "main" folder, in addition to those stored in the "main" folder, a tab corresponding to the folder name is shown (with "Main" designating the main folder). This requires that the sub folder contain valid templates (see below) and also that its name begin with eg "1_" or "2_". Hence a folder called "2_Administration" will cause a tab with the name "Administration" to appear. The numeric prefix also determines the order of presentation of tabs. If templates are only stored in sub folders of the "main" folder the "Main tab is hidden.

Within these folders, each valid template has a name eg "3_RIE Haematology.txt" which causes the name "RIE Haematology" to be displayed against the third radio button. "Unused" radio buttons are hidden. LabelTrace on opening preselects the first template of the tab currently set by the user as default tab (on a per workstation basis).