



TEC-IT

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TBarCode/SAPwin

2D Barcode Data Splitting

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Addendum

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1 Content

1	Content	2
2	Disclaimer	3
3	Haftungsausschluss	4
4	Overcoming the 2D Barcode Character Limit	5
4.1	Problem	5
4.2	Font Size	5
4.3	Data splitting	5
5	Contact and Support Information	7



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4 Overcoming the 2D Barcode Character Limit

4.1 Problem

The problem is that the SAP-spool-system truncates lines, which are longer than a specific number of characters (depending on page format and font size).

Another problem is that bar code character formats in SMARTFORMS are limited to 255 characters.

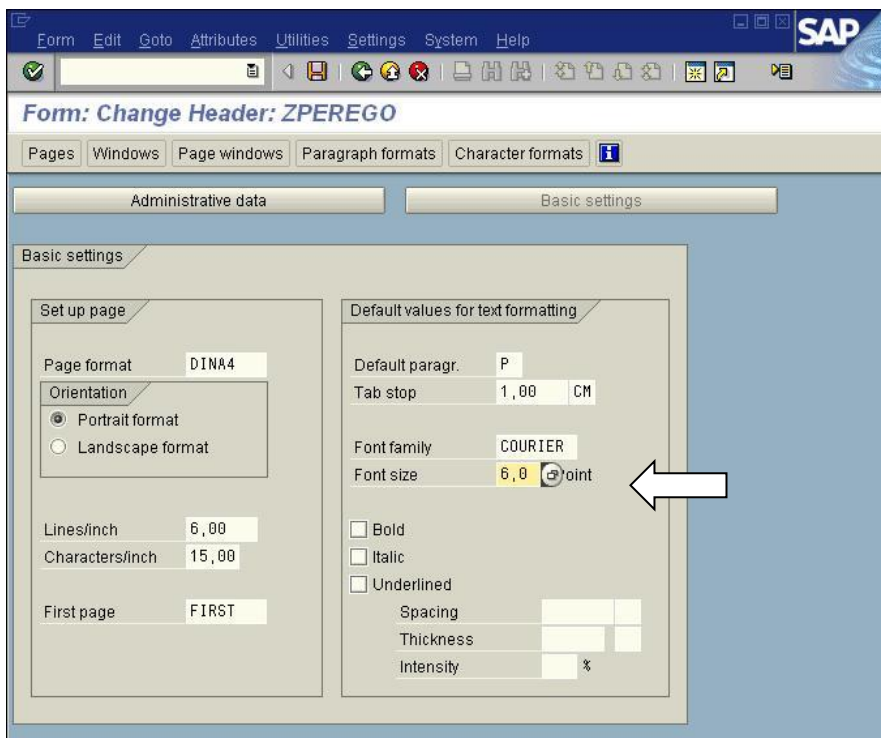
SAP offers several attempts to cope with this problem – see our FAQ:

<http://www.tec-it.com/support/faq/sap/barcode-dll.aspx>

► Here in this document we show you an alternative way without using the Print Control command.

4.2 Font Size

The first trick, which may help is that you increase the line-width and switch to a very small font before you print the data of the bar code.



If this does not help TBarCode/SAPwin offers you a special feature: You can send data for bar-codes in multiple parts (chunks). This gives you the possibility for printing bar codes with a very large amount of data (e.g. > 255 bytes).

4.3 Data Splitting

The basic idea is to split up large data-strings into multiple pieces (=“chunks”). TBarCode collects the single data chunks internally and generates the bar code after it has received all chunks.

In order to be able to collect bar code values TBarcode needs additional information in the print-control:

1. TBarcode needs the name of a "variable" in which the barcode data is collected internally. 26 such variables are available (A to Z).
2. Each variable can be built up by 10 data chunks (1...0, where 0 equals 10). The user must specify the number of data chunks expected in the print control.
3. Finally TBarcode needs to know the index of the received data chunk. This index starts with 0.

For better understanding - here a small sample:

Assume you want to print a QR-Code (or Data Matrix) with 600 bytes. Furthermore - assume we are able to print reports with at least 250 characters line-length. So it is possible to send 3 chunks for the complete bar code (each one with 200 bytes of data).

We choose variable "A" in our sample:

```
1st chunk  bC=QR2 ,M=508 ,VA30=data with 200 bytes
2nd chunk  bC=QR2 ,M=508 ,VA31=data with 200 bytes
3rd chunk  bC=QR2 ,M=508 ,VA32=data with 200 bytes
```

The important thing is that no D= appears in the print-control prefix. Instead we use VA. In the above sample D= was replaced by VA30=, VA31=, VA32=

- **V** stands for "collect barcode data in variable"
- **A** is the name of the variable (you can choose each uppercase letter)
- **3** is the expected number of data chunks for the barcode
- **0, 1, 2** is the index of the actual chunk
- **=** marks the beginning of the bar code data

As soon as TBarcode has received all chunks for the given variable (in this case 3 chunks for A) the barcode is printed. The barcode parameters (bC=QR2,M=508...) must be identical for all 3 chunks. The order in which TBarcode receives the chunks is not relevant (this is handled internally). The position of the printed barcode depends on the position of the last print-control (last bar code) received.

In order to try this out:

Change your print control prefix (SE73 – printer bar codes) control character sequence:

```
bC=QR2 ,M=508 ,VA
```

In your SAPscript or SmartForms code, add the bar code three times, each time with a different prefix:

```
/ <barcode_format>30=data part1</>
/ <barcode_format>31=data part2</>
/ <barcode_format>32=data part3</>
```

Or

```
/ <barcode_format>30=&MyField1&</>
/ <barcode_format>31=&MyField2&</>
/ <barcode_format>32=&MyField3&</>
```

Each bar code (data chunk) has maximum 200 characters!

5 Contact and Support Information

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