

NAME

mcprint - ship binary data to printer

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <curses.h>
```

```
int mcprint(char *data, int len);
```

DESCRIPTION

This function uses the **mc5p** or **mc4** and **mc5** capabilities, if they are present, to ship given data to a printer attached to the terminal.

Note that the **mcprint** code has no way to do flow control with the printer or to know how much buffering it has. Your application is responsible for keeping the rate of writes to the printer below its continuous throughput rate (typically about half of its nominal cps rating). Dot-matrix printers and 6-page-per-minute lasers can typically handle 80cps, so a good conservative rule of thumb is to sleep for a second after shipping each 80-character line.

RETURN VALUE

The **mcprint** function returns **ERR** if the write operation aborted for some reason. In this case, **errno** will contain either an error associated with **write(2)** or one of the following:

ENODEV

Capabilities for printer redirection do not exist.

ENOMEM

Couldn't allocate sufficient memory to buffer the printer write.

When **mcprint** succeeds, it returns the number of characters actually sent to the printer.

PORTABILITY

The **mcprint** call was designed for **ncurses(3X)**, and is not found in SVr4 curses, 4.4BSD curses, or any other previous version of curses.

BUGS

Padding in the **mc5p**, **mc4** and **mc5** capabilities will not be interpreted.

SEE ALSO

curses(3X)