NAME

mcprint - write binary data to printer using *terminfo* capabilities

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.

EXTENSIONS

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

PORTABILITY

Applications employing this *ncurses* extension should condition its use on the visibility of the **NCURSES_VERSION** preprocessor macro.

BUGS

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

SEE ALSO

curses(3X)