

## CreateDC

The **CreateDC** function creates a [device context](#) (DC) for a device by using the specified name.

### HDC CreateDC(

```
LPCTSTR lpszDriver,           // address of string specifying driver name
LPCTSTR lpszDevice,          // address of string specifying device name
LPCTSTR lpszOutput,          // do not use; set to NULL
CONST DEVMODE *lpInitData    // address of optional printer data
);
```

### Parameters

#### *lpszDriver*

Applications written for earlier versions of Windows used this parameter to specify the filename (without extension) of the device driver.

**Windows NT:** Points to a null-terminated character string that specifies either "DISPLAY" for a display driver, or the name of a printer driver, which is usually "WINSPOOL".

#### *lpszDevice*

Points to a null-terminated character string that specifies the name of the specific output device being used, as shown by the Print Manager (for example, "Epson FX-80"). It is not the printer model name. The *lpszDevice* parameter must be used.

#### *lpszOutput*

This parameter is ignored. Do not use it in a Win32 application. Win32-based applications should set this parameter to NULL. It exists to provide compatibility for applications written for earlier versions of Windows. For more information, see the following Remarks section.

#### *lpInitData*

Points to a [DEVMODE](#) structure containing device-specific initialization data for the device driver. The [DocumentProperties](#) function retrieves this structure filled in for a given device. The *lpInitData* parameter must be NULL if the device driver is to use the default initialization (if any) specified by the user.

### Return Value

If the function succeeds, the return value is the handle of a device context for the specified device.

If the function fails, the return value is NULL.

### Remarks

Applications written for earlier versions of Windows used the *lpszOutput* parameter to specify a port name or to print to a file. Win32-based applications do not need to specify a port name. Win32-based applications can print to a file by calling the **StartDoc** function with a **DOCINFO** structure whose **lpszOutput** member specifies the path of the output filename.

When you no longer need the device context, call the **DeleteDC** function to delete it.