Creo Recorder Interface

Release 1.0

Release Notes

06-3180B-A

Requires Platesetter Workstation Software Release 1.7

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CONTENTS

Introduction

What Is in These Release Notes 1

Your Comments 2

About Creo Recorder Interface 3

Using the Diagnostic Tool

Toggling Between Your RIP and the Diagnostic Tool 4

- Toggling From Your RIP to the Diagnostic Tool 4
- Toggling From the Diagnostic Tool to Your RIP 5

Submitting Diagnostic Tool Files 7

- Manually Submitting Diagnostic Tool Files 7
- Using a Spool Folder to Submit Diagnostic Tool Files 8

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to send you Creo Recorder Interface for Platesetter Workstation software release 1.7. These release notes highlight how to use Creo Recorder Interface with your Creo-developed output device system. Where appropriate, they refer you to the output device operator manual and the *Platesetter Workstation Software User Guide* for more information.

What Is in These Release Notes

The release notes include the following section:

Using the Diagnostic Tool—explains how to use the Diagnostic Tool to determine whether imaging problems are due to the RIP you are using or to an output device component. This section also explains how to submit bilevel TIFF files to a Creo-developed output device for testing.

Your Comments

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your comments and feedback on your Creo-developed output device system. We are pleased to send you Creo Recorder Interface, which was developed as a result of your input.

In every design we try to anticipate the needs of our customers, but this is never enough. Your feedback and suggestions are invaluable to us and enable us to improve our products and make them more useful for you, our customer.

These release notes highlight how to use Creo Recorder Interface with your Creo-developed output device system. Where appropriate, they refer you to the output device operator manual and the *Platesetter Workstation Software User Guide*.

If you have any questions or comments regarding your Creo-developed output device system, Creo Recorder Interface, or these release notes, please feel free to contact us at:

Creo Products Inc.
3700 Gilmore Way
Burnaby, British Columbia
Canada V5G 4M1

Tel: (604) 451-2700
Fax: (604) 437-9891

Service and Support:

Tel: 604-451-2727
Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-472-2727
Fax: 604-451-2713
Toll-Free Fax: 1-888-767-2736
Email: callcentre@creo.com

Creo Products N.V.

Excelsiorlaan 21
1930 Zaventem
Belgium
Tel: +32-2-7111400
Fax: +32-2-7209671
Support Tel Line: +32-2-7111413

Consumable Ordering (for registered customers):

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About Creo Recorder Interface

Creo Recorder Interface (CRI) is an open interface through which you can use one of several supported RIPs with your Creo-developed output device. It also includes a Diagnostic Tool that you can use for testing purposes, to determine whether imaging problems are due to the RIP you are using or to the output device. For details on using your RIP or RIP error messages, see your RIP user guide.

CRI is installed by authorized Creo personnel; you don't need to modify its preconfigured settings.

Note: You should use the Windows NT Backup program to back up your workstation on a regular basis. For basic instructions, see *Backing Up the Platesetter Workstation* in the *Platesetter Workstation Software User Guide*. For more detailed information, refer to the *Microsoft Windows NT Workstation System Guide.*

USING THE DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

The Diagnostic Tool lets you determine whether imaging problems are due to the RIP you are using or to a component of the output device system. The Diagnostic Tool includes a set of bilevel TIFF files, already RIPed and screened, that you image using only Platesetter Workstation software and the output device.

For testing purposes, you output the Diagnostic Tool files on a CRI-enabled platform instead of with your RIP. The Diagnostic Tool lets you plot plates using only Creo components, read the TIFF files, and output the raster to the output device.

Diagnostic Tool files that do not image properly in the output device indicate a problem with your Creo equipment. In this case, you should contact an authorized Creo representative for assistance. If the files image properly, the problem you are experiencing is due to your RIP. You should contact your RIP vendor for help with RIP-related problems.

Note: CRI uses an executable file called **tiffrip.exe** and registers itself with Platesetter Workstation software as **Creo TIFF Downloader**. The same program is used for the Diagnostic Tool as for Creo TIFF Downloader. For details on Creo TIFF Downloader, see the *Creo TIFF Downloader Release Notes* or contact an authorized Creo representative.

Toggling Between Your RIP and the Diagnostic Tool

You must toggle from your RIP to the Diagnostic Tool before you can submit Diagnostic Tool files to the output device for testing. You toggle between your RIP and the Diagnostic Tool from the Creo Platesetter Workstation window in Platesetter Workstation software.

Toggling From Your RIP to the Diagnostic Tool

To toggle from your RIP to the Diagnostic Tool:

1. In the Creo Platesetter Workstation window, click the **Take Offline** button.

   The text on this button changes to **Put Online**, and the following message is displayed in the message log in the Creo Platesetter Workstation window:

   ```
   Workstation is offline
   ```

2. From the **Configuration** menu, select **Workstation**.

   The Configure Workstation dialog box is displayed.

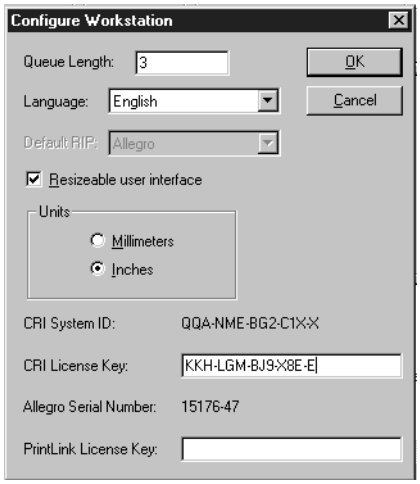


Figure 1: Configure Workstation Dialog Box

3. From the **Default RIP** box, select **Creo TIFF Downloader**.

   You do not need to modify the other options in this dialog box.

4. Click **OK**.

   The Configure Workstation dialog box is closed.

5. Click the **Put Online** button.

   The text on this button changes to **Take Offline**, and the following message is displayed in the message log in the Creo Platesetter Workstation window:

   `The recorder is ready`

   You are ready to submit the Diagnostic Tool files to the output device for testing. See *Submitting Diagnostic Tool Files* on page 7 for instructions.

Toggling From the Diagnostic Tool to Your RIP

To toggle from the Diagnostic Tool to your RIP:

1. In the Creo Platesetter Workstation window, click the **Take Offline** button.

   The text on this button changes to **Put Online**, and the following message is displayed in the message log in the Creo Platesetter Workstation window:

   `Workstation is offline`

2. From the **Configuration** menu, select **Workstation**.

   The Configure Workstation dialog box is displayed—see Figure 1.

3. From the **Default RIP** box, select the RIP you are using.

   You do not need to modify the other options in this dialog box.

4. Click **OK**.

   The Configure Workstation dialog box is closed.

5. Click the **Put Online** button.

   The text on this button changes to **Take Offline**, and the following message is displayed in the message log in the Creo Platesetter Workstation window:

   ```
   The recorder is ready
   ```

   The RIP you selected is the active RIP.

Submitting Diagnostic Tool Files

Once you have selected the Diagnostic Tool, you can submit the test files to the output device. You can submit these files manually, or you can use a spool folder.

You submit Diagnostic Tool files in Platesetter Workstation software.

For additional information about file submission, see the *Platesetter Workstation Software User Guide*.

Manually Submitting Diagnostic Tool Files

To manually submit a Diagnostic Tool file:

1. From the **Queue** menu in the Creo Platesetter Workstation window, select **Submit File**.

   The Submit File dialog box is displayed.

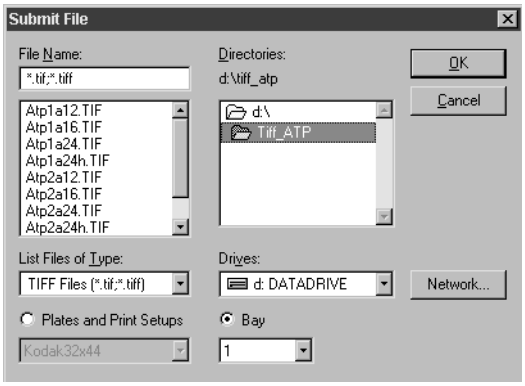


Figure 2: Submit File Dialog Box

2. In the **File Name** box, select the bilevel TIFF file you want to submit.
3. Select the **Bay** option.
4. From the **Bay** box, select **1**.
5. Click **OK**.

   The Submit File dialog box is closed.

   The file is submitted for imaging and is added to the end of the queue.

Using a Spool Folder to Submit Diagnostic Tool Files

To submit a Diagnostic Tool file via a spool folder:

1. From the **Configuration** menu in the Creo Platesetter Workstation window, select **Spool Folders**.

   The Configure Spool Folders dialog box is displayed.

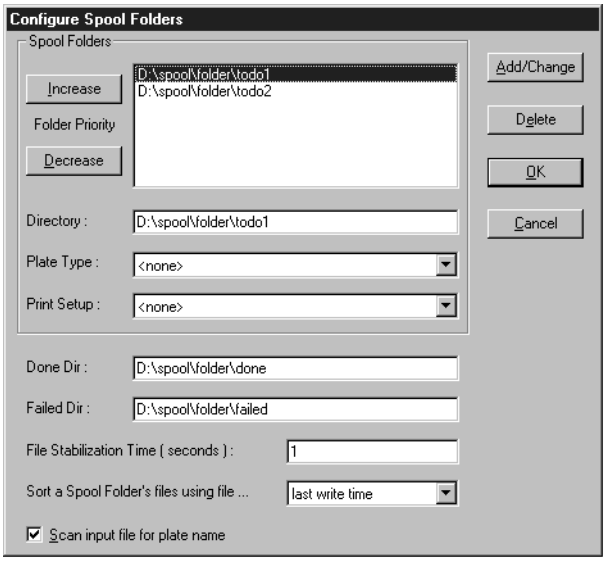


Figure 3: Configure Spool Folders Dialog Box

2. In the **Directory** box, type a location and name for the new spool folder.

   Use a name that is related to the plate type and size you want to image.

3. From the **Plate Type** box or **Print Setup** box, select a plate type or print setup, if required.

   You can select a plate type or print setup, but not both. The default for both boxes is **<none>**.

4. In the **Done Dir** box, specify a folder where files will be stored after they are imaged.

   Once a file has been processed, it is deleted from the spool folder. If you don't specify a **done** folder, no copy of the imaged file will be saved on the workstation.

   Creo strongly recommends that you configure the **done** folder to be on the same hard drive as the spool folder. If this folder is on a different drive, imaged files must be copied first, then moved to the new drive, and the process takes longer. This can slow down the system, especially if the files have to be copied over a network.

   Note: Platesetter Workstation software allows for one **done** folder. If you have spool folders on two drives, for example, the **done** folder will be available to the spool folders on only one of the drives.

5. In the **Failed Dir** box, specify a folder where files will be stored if they fail to RIP or image properly.

   Once a file has been processed, it is deleted from the spool folder. If you don't specify a **failed** error folder, no copy of the failed file will be saved on the workstation.

   Creo strongly recommends that you configure the **failed** folder to be on the same hard drive as the spool folder. If this folder is on a different drive, failed files must be copied first, then moved to the new drive, so the process takes longer. This can slow down the system, especially if the files have to be copied over a network.

   Note: Platesetter Workstation software allows for one **failed** folder. If you have spool folders on two drives, for example, the **failed** folder will be available to the spool folders on only one of the drives.

6. If you will be using files from a UNIX system, specify a longer time in the **File Stabilization Time (seconds)** box. Otherwise, leave this box set to **1**.

   The system checks this time when a file is being copied to a spool folder. If it is a UNIX file, the system waits the specified amount of time for the file to stabilize. Thirty seconds is the recommended wait period.

   Note: If the stabilization period is too short, you will encounter problems such as files that fail to RIP or files that don't get queued, or you might get messages telling you that no plate type was specified. If these problems occur, increase the stabilization period.

7. In the **Sort a Spool Folder's files using file** box, select the time to allow for sorting which file in a spool folder will be imaged first.

   The default is **last write time**. The system uses this information when multiple files exist in a spool folder. The file with the oldest time is processed first.

8. Select the **Scan input file for plate name** check box if you want to check the PostScript file for which plate type to use.

   If this check box is selected, the plate type in the PostScript file will be used IF the **Plate Type** box and the **Print Setup** box are set to **<none>** (see step 3).

   Clear this check box if you don't want to use the plate type from the PostScript file. When this check box is cleared, the plate type from the **Plate Type** box or **Print Setup** box is used. Either the **Plate Type** box or **Print Setup** box must be set to a particular plate type (see step 3).



Creo Products Inc.

3700 Gilmore Way
Burnaby, British Columbia
Canada V5G 4M1
Tel: 604-451-2700
Fax: 604-437-9891

Service and Support

Tel: 604-451-2727
Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-472-2727
Fax: 604-451-2713
Toll-Free Fax: 1-888-767-2736
Email: callcentre@creo.com

Creo Products N.V.

Excelsiorlaan 21
1930 Zaventem
Belgium
Tel: +32-2-7111400
Fax: +32-2-7209671
Support Tel Line: +32-2-7111413