Print Console

Release 1.0

Release Notes

06-3287A-B

Software version 1.0.1.1

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INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to send you release 1.0.1.1 of Print Console. These release notes define Print Console, highlight the features of the software, and describe any known problems you may encounter. Where appropriate, these release notes refer you to the *Print Console Reference Guide* and the *Print Console User Guide* for more information.

What Is in These Release Notes

The release notes include the following sections:

What Is Print Console?—defines Print Console and outlines the Print Console documentation structure.

Print Console Software Features—lists and describes the features of Print Console.

Problems Fixed—lists problems that existed in previous workstation software and Print Console releases that have now been solved.

Known Problems—lists issues and problems that have not yet been resolved.

Conventions Used

This section describes how we use fonts in these release notes. We use five different fonts:

Helvetica Bold is used to refer to buttons and other items in a dialog box. It is also used for file names, folders, menu names, and menu commands.

Times Italic is used to refer to other sections in these release notes. It is also used for book titles and titles of manuals.

Helvetica is used for figure and table captions.

`Courier` is used for messages on your computer screen and for information you must type.

SMALL CAPS is used for a key or key combination on your keyboard.

Your Comments

We are pleased to send you release 1.0.1.1 of Print Console. 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.

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WHAT IS PRINT CONSOLE?

Print Console is software that controls output devices. It works with raster image processing (RIP) software to deliver RIPed files to an output device for imaging onto media to create digital halftone proofs, film, or plates.

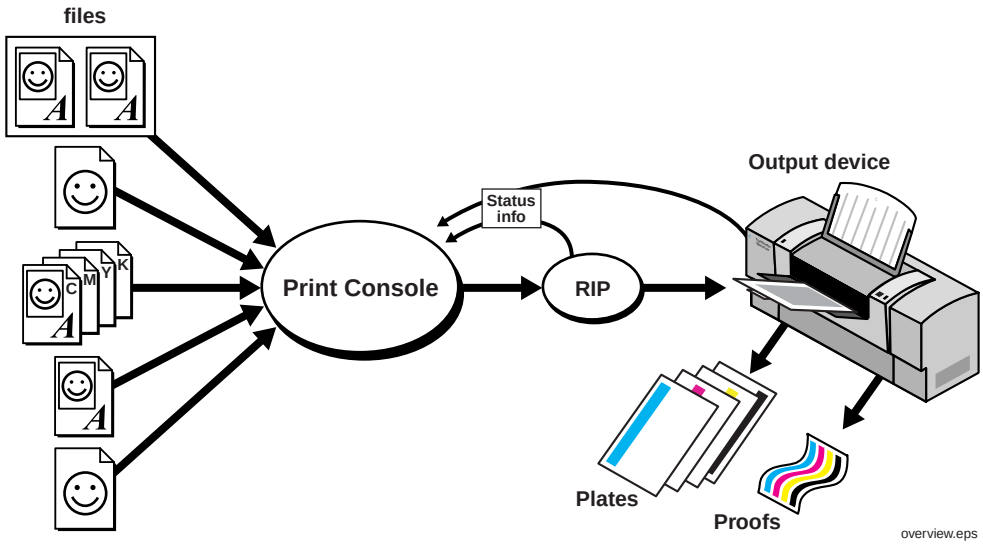


Figure 1: Print Console concept

Product Position

The intent of Print Console is to:

- replace Creo's existing output device software: Allegro Workstation software (also known as Trendsetter Console) and Platesetter Workstation software (also known as Platesetter Console).
- provide Creo Recorder Interface (CRI) for third-party workflow system access

Print Console Documentation

Print Console documentation includes two manuals: *Print Console Reference Guide* and *Print Console User Guide*. It also includes technical bulletins for specific systems, for example, Prinergy and PCC.

The *Print Console Reference Guide* describes Print Console concepts, dialog boxes, windows, menus, system and job configuration.

The *Print Console User Guide* contains software procedures for managing jobs on the **Pending** tab of the Queues window, on the Status window, and on the **Processed** tab of the Queues window.

The technical bulletins describe how a specific system connects to Print Console, how to configure Print Console for the system, and how to process files.

Table 1: Print Console documentation

Title	Part number	Status
Print Console Reference Guide	03-4119A-B	Complete
Print Console User Guide	03-4127A-B	Complete
Print Console Release Notes	06-3287A-B	Complete
Prinergy and Print Console Technical Bulletin	78-0039A-A	Complete
PCC and Print Console Technical Bulletin	78-0038A-A	Complete
Rampage and Print Console Technical Bulletin	TBA	Draft available

PRINT CONSOLE SOFTWARE FEATURES

This section describes three categories of Print Console software features:

- system—explained below
- user interface—see page 6
- job processing—see page 8

Print Console System Features

Platforms Supported

Print Console runs on Intel and DEC Alpha platforms.

Output Devices Supported

This release of Print Console supports three output devices:

- Trendsetter Spectrum
- Proofsetter Spectrum
- ThermoFlex

Future releases of Print Console will support additional output devices.

Front-End Workflow Systems Supported

Print Console can connect to a variety of front-end workflow systems, such as Prinergy. Creo supports any front-end workflow system capable of supplying 1-bit TIFF files or interfacing through CRI (Creo Recorder Interface). See also *CRI and RIP Software Support* on page 6.

Note: Workflow systems must meet specific requirements before they can interface with Print Console via CRI.

Print Console connects to front-end systems using input queues. Print Console 1.0.1.1 supports hot folder input queues. Future releases of the software will support other kinds of input queues, such as AppleTalk, line printer daemons (LPDs), sockets, and pipes.

CRI and RIP Software Support

Print Console contains CRI, which is an application programming interface (API), that connects RIP software applications to Print Console. You do not interact with CRI; it operates in the background, connecting the RIP software to Print Console.

Print Console supports all the RIP software applications supported by CRI. For a complete list of the RIP software supported by CRI, contact a Creo representative.

Note: Workflow systems must meet specific requirements before they can interface with Print Console via CRI.

CRI also includes Creo TIFF Downloader. See also *Creo TIFF Downloader Support*.

Creo TIFF Downloader Support

Creo TIFF Downloader can be used as a diagnostic tool or as a workflow tool.

As a diagnostic tool, Creo TIFF Downloader lets you submit test files to Print Console for imaging on an output device. The results indicate whether imaging problems are due to the RIP you are using or to the output device.

As a workflow tool, Creo TIFF Downloader lets you submit 1-bit TIFF files to Print Console. You generate the TIFF files using a RIP of your choice, and then submit the TIFF files to Print Console for imaging on an output device.

When Creo TIFF Downloader is registered with Print Console, it is available as a RIP option for your jobs. You do not interact with the software after you've selected it as a RIP for your job; it operates in the background, letting you submit 1-bit TIFF files to the output device.

Note: You must obtain a license key for Creo TIFF Downloader to use it as a workflow tool. Without a license key, Creo TIFF Downloader images the words **Creo Diagnostic Tool** on your media.

Print Console User Interface Features

Four Windows Let You Easily Manage Job Files

Print Console contains four main windows that you use to manage job files and view job status:

- Status
- Queues
- Attention
- History

The Status window displays information about the job that Print Console is currently imaging on the output device. It includes animation of the imaging process.

The Queues window contains two tabs: **Pending** and **Processed**. The **Pending** tab lists all the jobs queued for processing, and the **Processed** tab lists all the jobs Print Console has processed.

The Attention window is available only when Print Console presents a problem you need to address; otherwise, this window is unavailable. (The selection button is grayed out.)

The History window constantly displays messages about Print Console processing. You can view these messages to find information about the system.

Note: You cannot use the History window to manage job files.

Job Properties Dialog Box

Each job in Print Console has a Job Properties dialog box. The Job Properties dialog box contains processing instructions for the job. You can edit the options in the Job Properties dialog box as desired. The information in the Job Properties dialog box is only used for the job to which it is attached. This feature lets you customize job processing instructions. See also *Print Setups and Job Initialization* on page 8.

Shortcut Menus

Print Console lets you access shortcut menus by right-clicking jobs in the Status window and in the Queues window.

Animation in the Status Window

Print Console software includes animation. When the output device is imaging a job, animation in the Status window displays the imaging progress of the job on the output device. The animation feature lets you easily see at what stage your job is in the imaging process.

Note: You can choose to disable the animation feature entirely or limit it to displaying the first frame of an animation sequence. See the information on the Preferences dialog box in the *Print Console Reference Guide*.

Graphics

Print Console uses graphics for elements of the user interface and elements of your job, making it easier to navigate through the user interface and your job.

For example, jobs are listed on the **Pending** tab of the Queues window, and you can tell the job type by the graphic displayed beside the job name. Jobs queued for output on aluminum plates have a green plate icon beside the job name; jobs queued for output on digital halftone proofing media have a four-color proof icon beside the job name.

Print Console Job Processing Features

What Is a Job in Print Console?

When you submit a file to Print Console, it is displayed on the **Pending** tab of the Queues window as a job. The jobs listed on the **Pending** tab are the jobs in Print Console's Pending queue.

Note: You can group two or more jobs together to create one large job that contains many files.

Print Setups and Job Initialization

In Print Console, print setups are named collections of job-specific configurations. Print setups can be associated with input queues, the mechanisms you use to submit files to Print Console. When you submit a file to Print Console via an input queue that has a print setup associated with it, Print Console applies the configurations in the print setup to the incoming files. You can view the configurations for each job in the Job Properties dialog box, and you can change the job properties as desired. See also *Job Properties Dialog Box* on page 7.

Job Approval

Print Console offers a job approval feature that holds jobs in the Pending queue until you manually approve them for processing. This feature gives you time to prepare the job for processing, that is, edit the job properties. Print Console does not process unapproved jobs; Print Console only processes jobs with a status of approved.

You can choose whether or not to use the job approval feature. You can configure Print Console to automatically approve jobs when they enter the system, or you can configure Print Console to hold jobs in the Pending queue until you manually approve them. This configuration is set in the Configure Print Setups dialog box. See the *Print Console Reference Guide* for more information.

Queue Control

Print Console contains three queues:

- Pending
- Active
- Processed

The Pending queue contains all the jobs waiting to be processed. The jobs in the Pending queue are displayed on the **Pending** tab of the Queues window. The **Pending** tab also contains filters that you can use to hide or display jobs. For example, when you have only the **Halftone proof** filter selected, Print Console displays all the jobs on the **Pending** tab that are queued for digital halftone proofing and hides the rest of the jobs. You can select any combination of filters. If a job that you submitted doesn't appear in the queue, ensure the filter for that

job type is selected. The purpose of the **Pending** tab is to let you see the jobs queued for processing, so you can rearrange job processing priority or edit job properties before Print Console processes them.

The Active queue contains the job Print Console is currently imaging on the output device. The active job is displayed on the bottom half of the Status window.

The Processed queue contains all the processed, failed, and cancelled jobs. The jobs in the Processed queue are displayed on the **Processed** tab of the Queues window. The **Processed** tab also contains filters—such as **Successful**, **Unsuccessful**, and **Cancelled**—that you can use to hide or display processed jobs. The purpose of the **Processed** tab is to list jobs Print Console has processed.

Color Mapping for Digital Halftone Proofing

Print Console provides a proof color table for creating digital halftone proofs. This feature lets you map the names of the colors in the files you're processing to the names of the colored digital halftone proofing media you want to use. The result is a color mapping, which is stored in the proof color table.

The purpose of the proof color table is to convert color names from the large selection of special colors available for printing inks, such as the PANTONE library of colors, to the smaller selection of colored media available from a given media vendor for digital halftone proofmaking.

Color mappings are only used during digital halftone proofmaking; they are not used for platemaking, film-making, or any other process. For more information, see the *Print Console Reference Guide*.

PROBLEMS FIXED

This section lists the problems that were fixed in Allegro Workstation software 1.2, Platesetter Workstation software release 1.7, and Print Console.

Conversion Value for Inches to Millimeters

Allegro and Platesetter Workstation software used 25.402 to convert inches to millimeters. The correct value is 25.4. Print Console uses 25.4 for the conversion. Due to rounding effects, Print Console PPD files may reflect a 1 point difference in media sizes. If you use Print Console's equivalent of the plate matching feature in Allegro Workstation software 1.2, the matching tolerance should be adjusted to take this difference into account.

PPX File Doesn't Contain All Valid Print Setups

Problem 501

The PPX file now contains all plate and proof information and all print setup information for which output media is defined. Previous to this release, the PPX file contained print setup information for only one proof and one plate, but not for all proofs and plates that have output media defined.

TIFF Files Fail

Problem 502

TIFF files no longer fail when the TIFF files lack a K, C, Y, etc. in the separation file name and the **Ignore RIP color names when matching** check box is selected in the Configure Print Setups dialog box.

Edited Job Properties Only Applied to First TIFF File in Job

Problem 517

When you edit job properties for jobs consisting of grouped TIFF files, the changes are now applied to all TIFF files in the grouped job. Previous to this release, the editing change was only applied to the first TIFF file in the job.

Image Shifted on Plates

Problem 536

The image shift problem is fixed. Images are no longer shifted on the plate 300 mils or 5/16 inches.

KNOWN PROBLEMS

This section lists the known problems that have not been fixed in Print Console release 1.0.1.1. Workarounds are provided where possible.

Configure Output Media Dialog Box Doesn't Accept Commas

Problem 289

You may consider using commas to indicate measurement values in the Configure Output Media dialog box for two reasons:

1. Some countries use a comma instead of a decimal point.
2. To enter the value for one thousand, you may be accustomed to typing `1,000`.

In this release of Print Console, you may not use commas when typing measurements in the Configure Output Media dialog box. When specifying a measurement, use a period (.) instead of a comma (,).

Status Column Disappears in the Queues Window

Problem 410

When you adjust the **Status** column width on the **Pending** or **Processed** tab of the Queues window so that the column is wider than the window, the **Status** column disappears from view. You cannot see the **Status** column, even if you use the scroll bar.

To avoid this problem:

- Do not adjust the **Status** column width on the **Pending** and **Processed** tabs on the Queues window so that it is wider than the window.

Different Media Sizes in PPD Files

Because previous versions of the workstation software used 25.402 to convert inches to millimeters, your Print Console PPD files may reflect a 1 point difference in media sizes. See *Conversion Value for Inches to Millimeters* on page 10 for details.

To work around this problem:

- Use Print Console's equivalent of the plate matching feature in Allegro Workstation software 1.2 to adjust the matching tolerance to take the different conversion value into account.

Application Error Displayed When Exiting Print Console

Problem 500

Occasionally when exiting Print Console, an application error displays, indicating that the software has crashed.

To work around this problem:

- Restart Print Console.

Note: We recommend that you do not exit Print Console (leave the software running at all times).

Online Help Items Inaccessible When Acrobat Reader Is Deleted

Problem 505

When you install Print Console software, Acrobat Reader is automatically installed, so you can view the PDF files from the **Help** menu in Print Console. When Acrobat Reader is not installed on the Print Console workstation, you cannot view the PDF files from the **Help** menu in Print Console software.

To work around this problem:

- Do not delete Acrobat Reader from the Print Console workstation.

TIFF Downloader Transform Option Sometimes Fails

Problem 537

When you select the **Transform** option on the **TIFF Downloader** tab in the Configure Print Setups dialog box, Print Console (via Creo TIFF Downloader) fails all TIFF files to which the print setup is applied. Creo TIFF Downloader is unable to transform the TIFF files.

To work around this problem:

- Ensure the **Transform** option is cleared (turned off) on the **TIFF Downloader** tab in the Configure Print Setups dialog box for all print setups.

  Or:

- Select the **Transform** option (turn it on) on the **TIFF Downloader** tab in the Configure Print Setups dialog box, but only submit TIFF files that can be transformed.

  To transform TIFF files using Creo TIFF Downloader, you must submit TIFF files that meet the following standards. The TIFF files must be monochrome, 1-bit files. They can contain stripes and tiles, and they can utilize any compression type, except LZW.

  Note: Transforming TIFF files results in degraded performance speed.

File Limit for the Submit File Command

Problem 378

The **Submit File** command on the **Job** menu in Print Console displays a Submit File dialog box that lets you select files for submission to Print Console. When you select a large number of files in the Submit File dialog box, and then press **Open**, Print Console closes the Submit File dialog but sometimes does not add the selected files to the **Pending** tab in the Queues window.

Failure of the **Submit File** command is related to the total length of the file names you select for submission. For example, you may successfully submit 30 or more files with very short names using the **Submit File** command, but you may only successfully submit 10 or fewer files with long file names using the **Submit File** command.

To work around this problem:

- Submit only a small number of files with long file names when using the **Submit File** command.

  Or:

- Use a hot folder to submit files to Print Console.

Intel Workstations and Adaptec Drivers

Problem 571

If you have a Data General Intel workstation with an Adaptec SCSI Adapter and driver, and Print Console is NOT attached to an output device or the output device is shut down, the SCSI driver continually searches for an output device, and eventually the Print Console workstation hangs.

To work around this problem when no output device is connected:

1. Log off the Print Console workstation.

2. Log on as an operator other than **PCOperator**—for example, log on as **administrator**.

   You are logged onto the Print Console workstation, but Print Console software is not launched.

To work around this problem when an output device is connected:

1. Turn on the output device.
2. Restart the Print Console workstation.

Attention Window Buttons Display Incorrectly

Problem 572

Sometimes the buttons in the Attention window display incorrectly. That is, they display in the wrong place in the Attention window, or they are not displayed at all.

To work around this problem:

1. Display another window, for example, the Status window.
2. Re-display the Attention window.

   The buttons in the Attention window are correctly displayed.

Print Console Software Window Spontaneously Resizes

Problem 573

Sometimes the Print Console software window spontaneously resizes after a job is finished processing. The window resizing may be triggered by the appearance of the Attention window.

To work around this problem:

- Restart Print Console after the appearance of an Attention window.

  The Print Console software window returns to its original size.


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