

Configuring Prinergy 1.1 for the Kodak XP4

A Guide for CreoScitex Field Application Specialists

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Comments
1.0	03/15/2000	DJ Dunkerley	Original release
1.5	05/19/2000	DJ Dunkerley	Additional information about 5.1.
1.7	07/06/2000	DJ Dunkerley	Beefed up trouble-shooting section

Configuring Prinergy 1.1 for the Kodak XP4: A Guide for CreoScitex Field Application Specialists

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to show how to properly configure both Prinergy 1.1 to work with the Kodak RIPs that drives the Kodak Approval XP2 and XP4. These settings were tested at multiple customer sites and found to work exceedingly well. The same test file was sent to the Kodak Approval XP4 in three different ways: 1) Spooling a Prinergy DCS 2.0 set to the Kodak RIP 2) Spooling a Prinergy TIFF file using AIT software (now obsolete) 3) Spooling Postscript from Quark to the Kodak RIP.

All three proofs were then laid side-by-side-by-side and checked for line screen, screen angles and shape of dot. The proofs were also checked visually with the naked eye and loupe. No differences could be found. Densities were checked with a densitometer and found to be +/- 1 percent, which is well within acceptable tolerances.

The Prinergy DCS workflow has been in successful implementation with both the Harlequin 4.5 and 5.1 version of the Kodak RIP. Since there are some differences in GUI and the issue of spot colors is handled differently in 5.1, therefore each RIP version is given a different section in this document.

2. CONFIGURING THE PROCESS PLAN OF PRINERGY 1.1

If the process plan of Prinergy is not properly configured, you will encounter RIPs error downstream at the Kodak workstation. The DCS sets must be RLE-compressed when dealing with Harlequin version 4.5. It is acceptable to use CCITT group 4 (better compression) for the 5.1 version. The DCS set must be single file, not multi-file (watch out for this, when you first create the process plan, it defaults to multi.) These two settings can be found in the "Device" sub-menu.

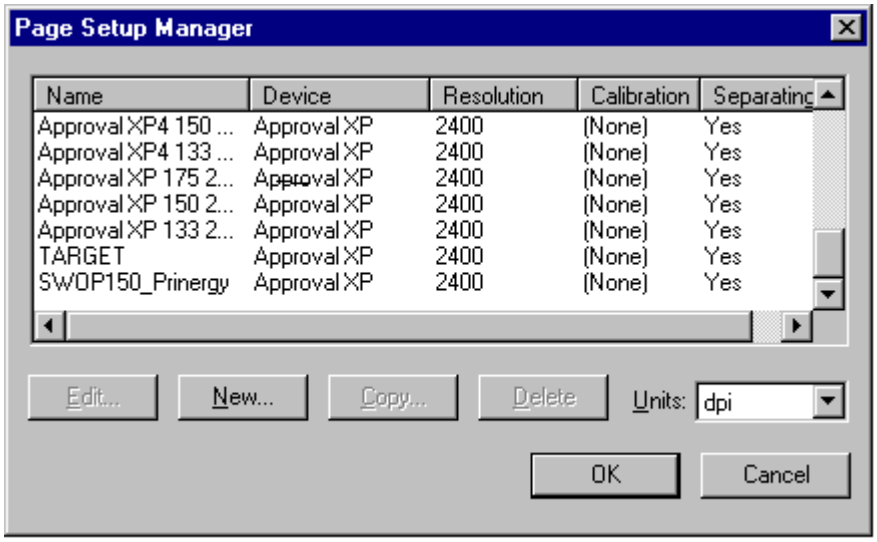
In the "Calibration and screening" sub-menu, make sure have the proper Harmony curve, line screen, and dot shape selected. Interestingly enough, Prinergy does not embed screen angle information in the DCS 2.0 sets (unlike the TIFFs), so the screen angle information will be embedded downstream by the Kodak (Harlequin) RIP.

Note that with the Harlequin 4.5 version of the Kodak RIP, you must convert all spot colors to process in the Extreme renderer of Prinergy. With the newer 5.1 version, you can pass along DCS sets that can contain spot colors, although you'll then need to make sure the "spot color recipes" are properly configured on the Kodak workstation.

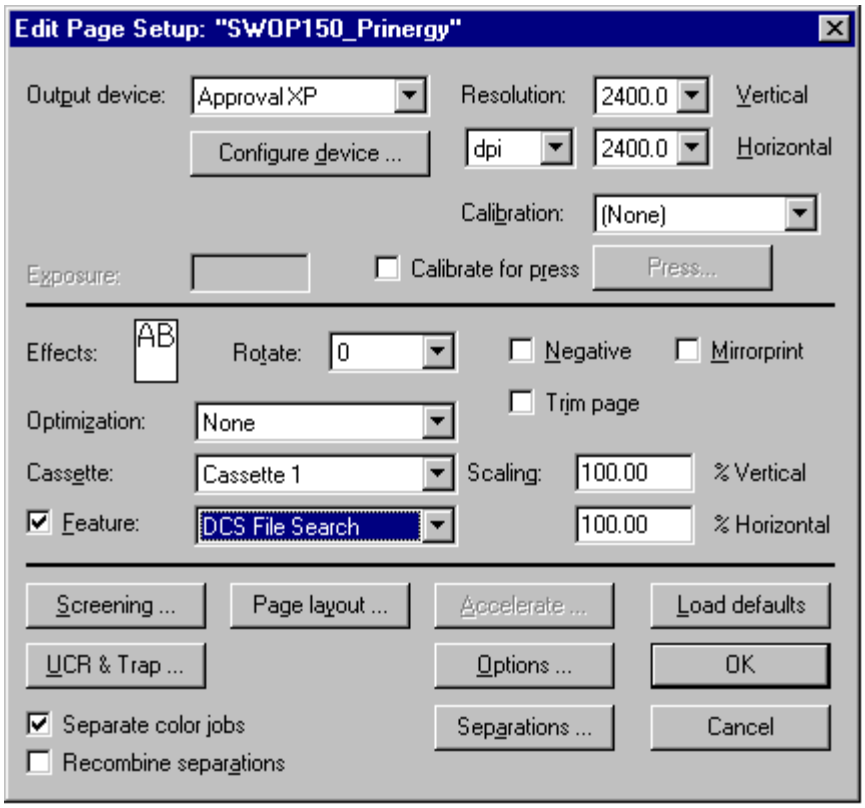
In the "Layout" sub-menu, you should have "cut sheet" selected with a width of 20.853 inches and a height of 26.617 inches. The "Placement style" should be "Auto-fit." A page mark showing color bars must be added as downstream we replaced the Kodak color bars with a page feature of our own.

3. CONFIGURING THE HARLEQUIN 4.5 RIP TO ACCEPT DCS 2.0 FILES

I have provided screen snap-shots to help configure the Kodak (Harlequin) RIP.

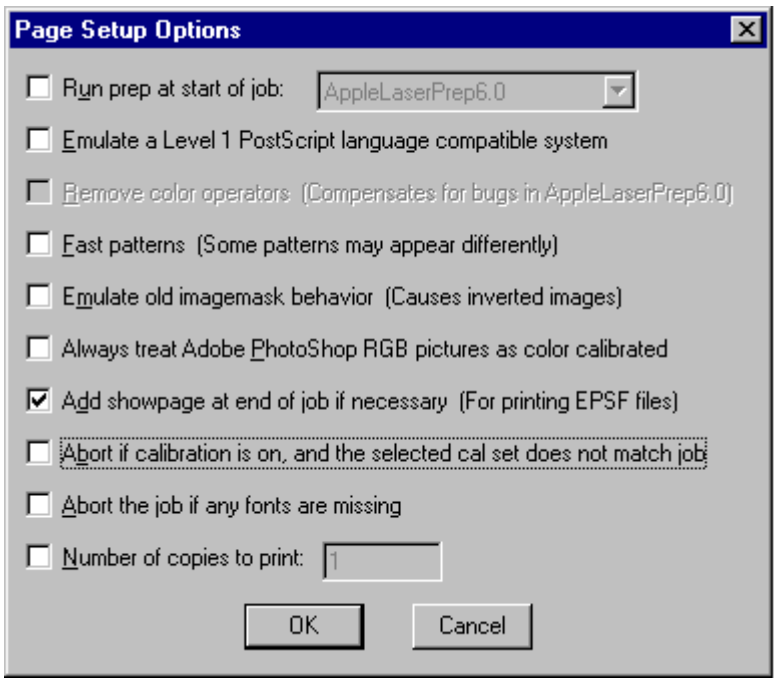


You should click on a page setup and select "copy," which should take you into the next screen:

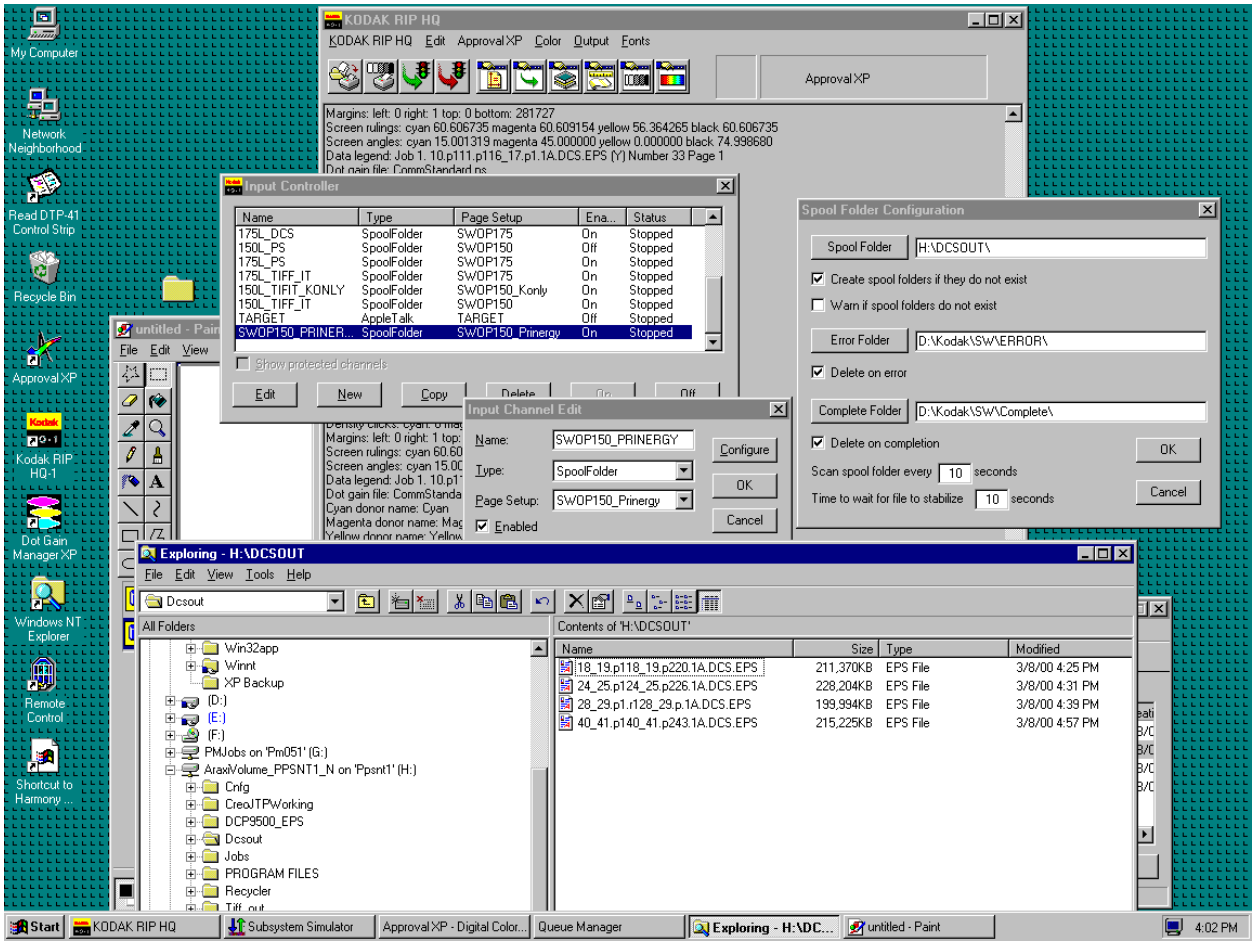


Note that "DCS File Search" has been selected, replacing the old feature that was simply a small PS file that drew color bars on the proof. You can use a Prinergy page mark in place of this.

Lastly you should click on the Options button to get to the screen below and make sure the "Add showpage at end of job" is clicked ON.



The next step is to properly configure the hot folder. The screen snapshot below offers a lot of information that I will try to explain.



- The explorer window shows that the spool folder of the Prinergy DCS 2.0 sets is a network drive belonging to the Prinergy server. That is to say, the Kodak RIP input folder should be pulling DCS set data from the network.
- The "Input Channel Edit" menu shows where you tie the page setup to the input folder.
- The "Spool Folder Configuration" menu shows the proper settings: Make sure the "Delete on error" and "Delete on completion" are checked on. For more "stable" hot folders, bump up the scanning and time-wait-to-stabilize to 10 seconds from 5.

4. PERFORMANCE AND CALIBRATION

4.1 The Importance of Having Enough RAM Installed

The customer **MUST** upgrade their Kodak workstations to 512 Megs of RAM or else they will encounter bottlenecks in RIPing.

For example, here are the performance times on 3 different files RIPed by Kodak Workstation with only 256 Megs of RAM.

1. Standard Creotivity ITP files, 4-up, 157 Megs, time to RIP = 12 minutes.
2. Standard Kodak Approval test file, 1-up, 301 Megs, time to RIP = 25 minutes!
3. Random customer file, 4-up, 242 Megs, time to RIP = 24 minutes!

So it can be concluded that on a Kodak Workstation with only 256 Megs of RAM, a RAM "bottleneck" will occur on file sizes that exceed 200 Megs (approximately).

Virtually all of the Kodak Workstations that have been shipped with the XP4 are Windows NT Intel boxes manufactured by Intergraph. Note that even though 256 Megs of RAM come standard with the Intergraph box, it is quite possible that the customer will have to purchase 4 x 128 Megs of RAM. That is to say, the customer may have to purchase 512 Megs of RAM and throw away the RAM inside!

The Intergraph server is model TDZ 2000 GX1 with motherboard MS 440GX that has only 4 slots for RAM. Note that 64 Megs modules & 128 Megs modules CANNOT peacefully co-exist with the 256 Meg and 512 Meg modules. Since most workstations come with 4x64 Megs plugged into all 4 slots, the customer will have to buy either 4x128 Megs or 2x256 Megs to get the box upgraded to 512 Megs of RAM.

Finally, CreoScitex field apps are not responsible for RAM upgrade to Kodak workstations in the field. The customers must do it themselves or place a call with Kodak. The memory chip manufacturer "Simple Technology" sells both the 128 Meg (SDRAM DIMM 100MHz ECC IMI 931 523) or the 256 Meg (SDRAM DIMM 100MHz ECC IMI 931 534) modules.

4.2 Calibrating the Kodak Approval with Prinergy

Anne Henry, CreoScitex field apps, has had extensive experience with Prinergy & Kodak Approvals installations. So I quote extensively from one of her e-mails (thanks, Anne).

> "You use the numbers from the Kodak Dot Gain Manager to input the numbers into Harmony....that way they're the same and you're not starting from scratch. Then when you create your DCS from Prinergy you select that Harmony calibration in the PPED (just like you would for a plate) and the calibration is applied to the DCS. Send the file to the Kodak spool folder that you set up and forget applying any calibration there. Although, you should know just as an FYI, the density is still controlled by the Kodak HQ RIP settings; we do not have, nor want, any need to adjust these.
> Here's what you do. I'm sure the Kodak operator can help you out if my instructions are unclear:

1) Have someone who runs the Kodak print out the numbers they use in the dot gain manager. There will be 2:

*.bdg (this is what they call benchmark and what we call current)

*.tdg (this is target)

These printouts will basically be a spreadsheet of numbers for CMYK. Make sure they print out the current calibration they are using and not one from a few months ago.

2) Take these numbers over to Harmony and enter them.

3) Select the calibration in the PPED for Prinergy and print out the DCS to the Kodak spool folder that you set up."

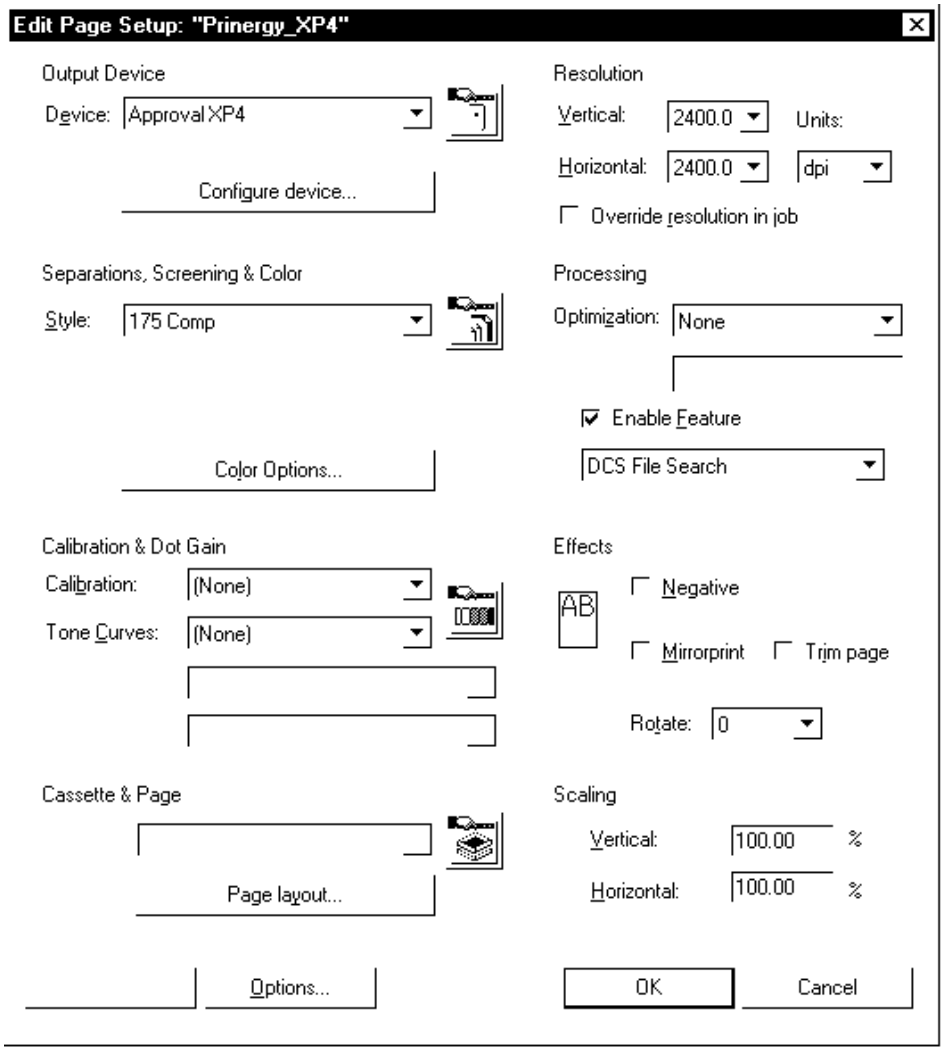
5. CONFIGURING THE HARLEQUIN 5.1 RIP TO ACCEPT DCS 2.0 FILES

5.1 Basic Configuration

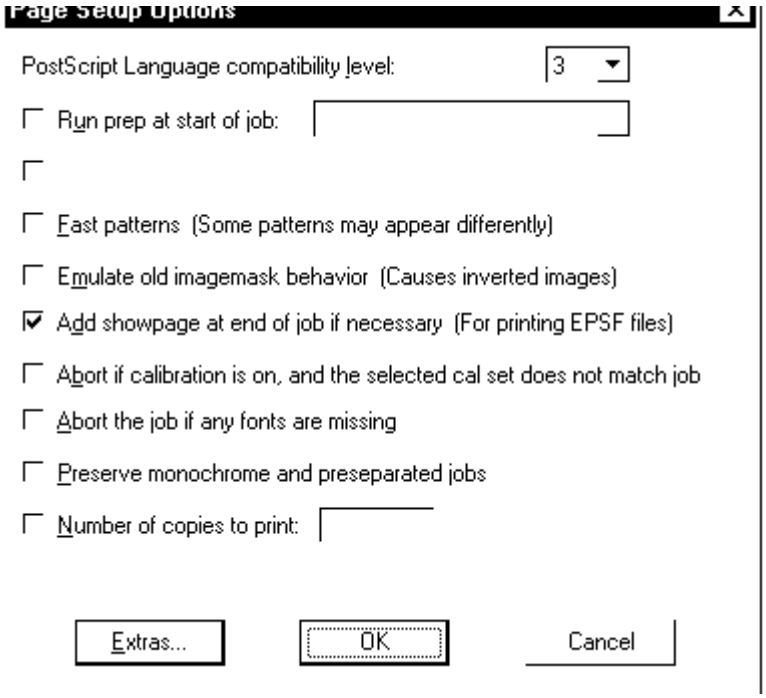
The best information that CreoScitex has to date about the imminent release of 5.1 is that it will happen in summer of 2000. It is known that multiple Prinergy sites are spooling DCS files to beta version of the Harlequin software and are reporting no problems.

This new RIP version also includes a feature known as "spot color recipes." This enhanced functionality allows the Approval XP4 or XP2 to output extra "hits" of process inks or special inks to enhance the color quality of the proof. This enhanced functionality is not available via the AIT software (and it one of the major reasons why the AIT software is now obsolete).

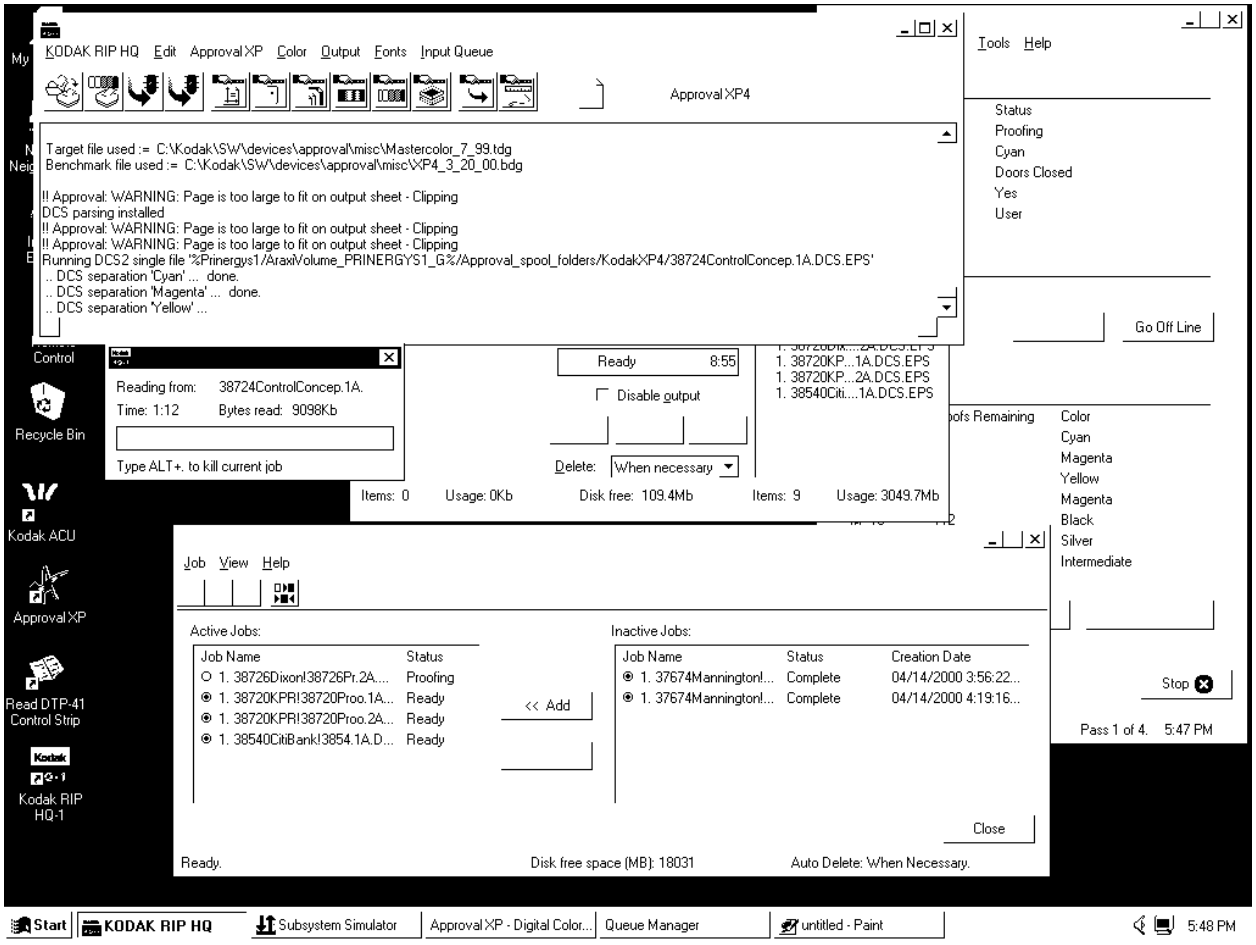
Snap-shots of the new Harlequin 5.1 GUI are provided below. The GUI is somewhat similar to the 4.5 RIP, shown in section 3.



Note that the "DCS File Search" must still be enabled as a page feature in this version as well.



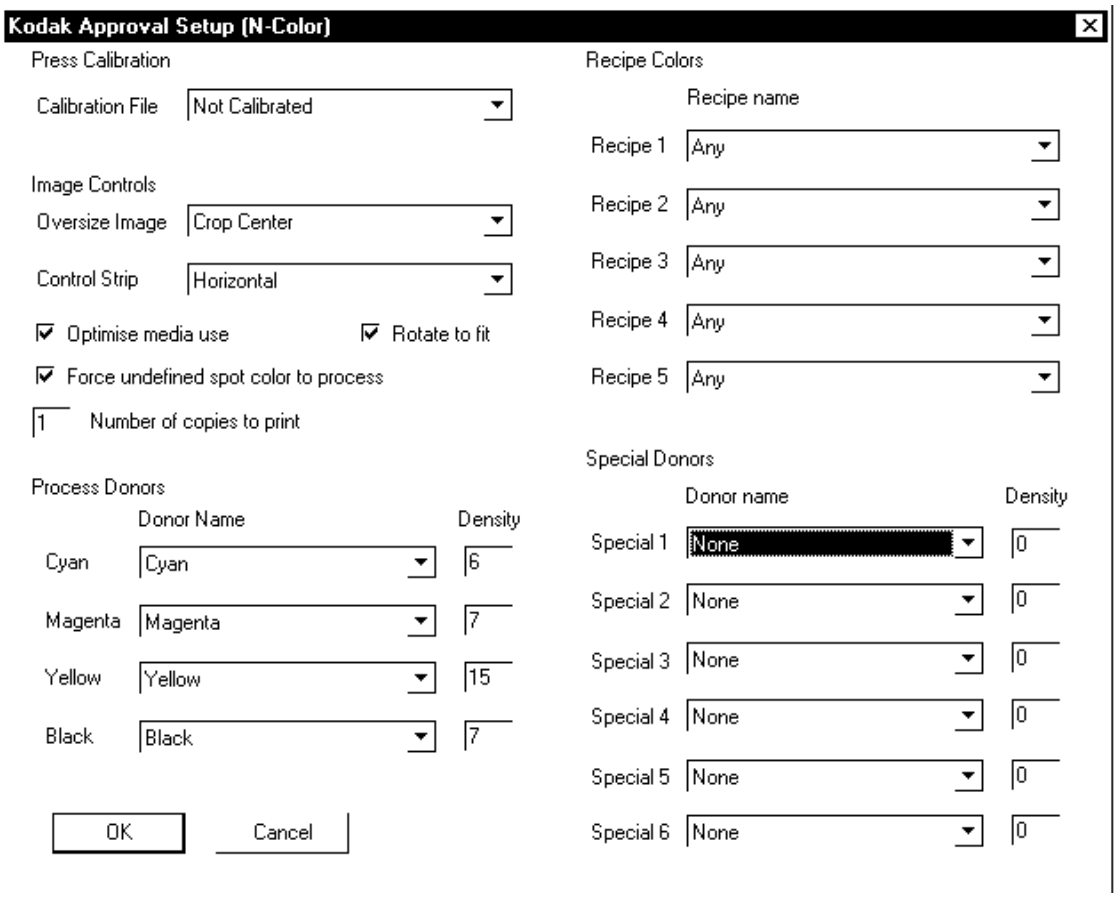
This screen is virtually the same as the 4.5 version. Note that the "addshow" setting must always be checked on.

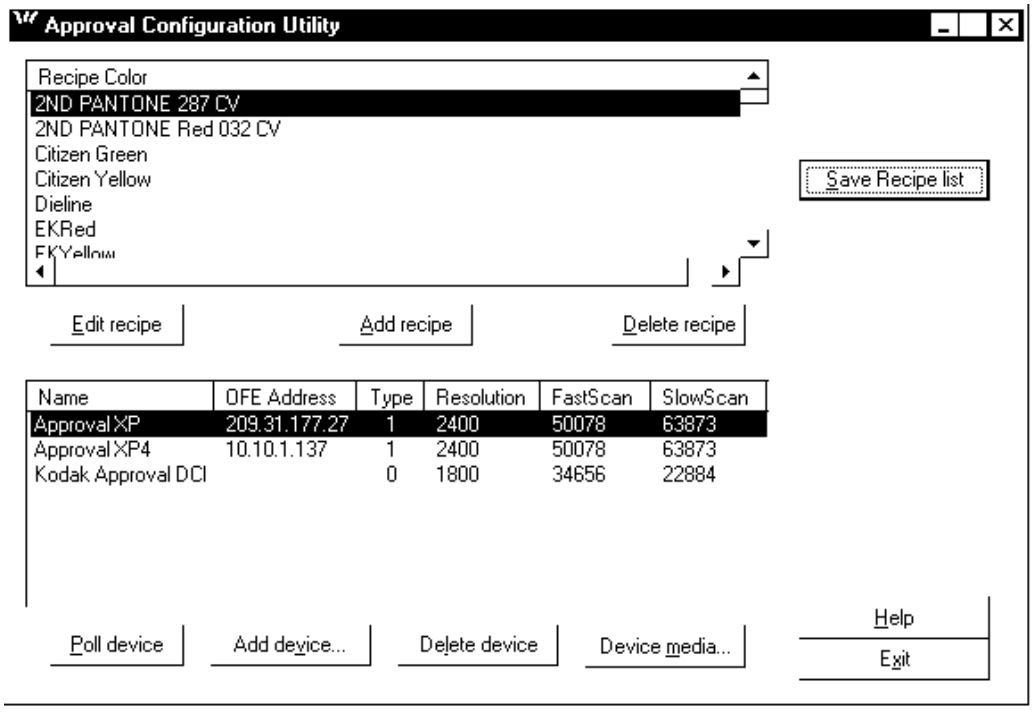


Proof that the workflow really works!

5.2 Spot Color Recipes

In the old Harlequin 4.5 workflow, you must convert all spot colors to process before creating the DCS set, i.e. all spot is thrown to process in Prinergy. With Harlequin 5.1, the DCS set can contain spots. The color information for these spot colors can be defined in the Kodak RIP. Please note that the following screen-captures are FYI only. CreoScitex field engineers should NOT be attempting to determine the proper settings for spot colors!


Kodak Approval Setup (N-Color)
Press Calibration
Calibration File
Not Calibrated
Image Controls
Oversize Image
Crop Center
Control Strip
Horizontal
Optimise media use
Rotate to fit
Force undefined spot color to process
1
Number of copies to print
Process Donors
Donor Name
Density
Cyan
Cyan
6
Magenta
Magenta
7
Yellow
Yellow
15
Black
Black
7
OK
Cancel
Recipe Colors
Recipe name
Recipe 1
Any
Recipe 2
Any
Recipe 3
Any
Recipe 4
Any
Recipe 5
Any
Special Donors
Donor name
Density
Special 1
None
0
Special 2
None
0
Special 3
None
0
Special 4
None
0
Special 5
None
0
Special 6
None
0


Approval Configuration Utility
Recipe Color
2ND PANTONE 287 CV
2ND PANTONE Red 032 CV
Citizen Green
Citizen Yellow
Dieline
EKRed
EKYellow
Save Recipe list
Edit recipe
Add recipe
Delete recipe
Name
OFE Address
Type
Resolution
FastScan
SlowScan
Approval XP
209.31.177.27
1
2400
50078
63873
Approval XP4
10.10.1.137
1
2400
50078
63873
Kodak Approval DCI
0
1800
34656
22884
Poll device
Add device...
Delete device
Device media...
Help
Exit

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

6.1 Remote Troubleshooting

Virtually all problems associated with printing to the XP4 from Prinergy have been traced back to mis-configuration of the page set-ups of the Harlequin RIP. A very common error is to not enable the "DCS file search" page feature, which leads to the Kodak imaging CYMK colors on K donor sheets only. Another common mistake is to not enable the "addshowpage" setting, which leads the file being ripped but not imaging at all, it literally disappears from the RIP monitor without a trace!

If you are dealing remotely with a user who is having problems properly configuring the Kodak RIP, then acquiring the RIP log of the Harlequin for diagnostic study is extremely helpful. It is actually crucial to acquire this log before escalating the problem to product development.

Steps to acquire the logfile:

1. In explorer, click to the ….\sw folder of the Kodak RIP. A method is to search for a file called "logfile" (no file extension).
2. Oftentimes the logfile has a size of many megabytes, thus making it too big for e-mail transmission.
3. Ask the customer to shut down the RIP. Then rename the file to "oldlogfile" or something similar.
4. Ask the customer to start up the RIP and run a file through again. A new logfile will be created. Ask the customer to e-mail this file to you.

6.2 Configuration of Prinergy 1.1 with Patch #69 and Patch #88

With the installation of patch #69, Prinergy has the ability to generate a FPO TIFF preview at the top of each single page DCS file. However, the TIFF preview cannot be read properly by the Harlequin RIP, which will report RIP errors.

It was not until the release of patch #88, which removes this TIFF preview completely, that Prinergy customers with XP4 were able to move past patch #68.

VERY IMPORTANT: Just installing patch #88 is NOT enough to remove the binary data from the DCS file .You must edit the **\AdobeExtreme\bin\PFWK_Dcs.ini file. Under section [TiffPreview], set Create=0**. This must be done on all Prinergy servers and Prinergy MUST be restarted for the changes to take effect.

To ensure that Prinergy no longer generates any binary data at the top of the single page DCS file, it strongly recommended to output a very small test file and open it up in WordPad or Bbedit to and visually confirm the first line of text in the DCS file starts with % PS Adobe…