TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Using Print Console 2.1 & Copydot Toolkit in Newspaper Workflows

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Introduction

This document is a reference tool for CreoScitex service representatives and customers who are configuring Print Console in a newspaper environment. The first section shows how to configure Print Console to meet the needs of a newspaper workflow. The second shows how to use the Copydot Toolkit, via Print Console, to resample or reformat files. Besides the Additional Documentation section, this document includes:

Configuring Print Console in newspaper workflows

- Configuring Print Console print setups with automatic approval
- Determining TIFF file orientation
- Determining shifting for furniture marks
- Automating broadsheet plate production
- Automating panorama plate production
- Creating hot folder automation in Print Console

Using Copydot Toolkit with Print Console to Manipulate TIFF Files

- Validating file integrity with Print Console
- Creating Copydot Toolkit hot folders
- Automating resampling with Copydot Toolkit hot folders
- Submitting Copydot Toolkit TIFFs to Print Console for automatic approval

Additional Documentation

Print Console documentation includes the Print Console online help and Print Console Quick Start Guide

The *Print Console online help* describes Print Console concepts, dialog boxes, panes, windows, menus, system and job configuration, and software procedures for managing jobs on the **Pending** pane and **Processed** pane of the Queues window, and on the Status window. The *Print Console online help* also consists of field-level help on all boxes, buttons, windows, panes, and dialog boxes.

The *Print Console Quick Start Guide* contains overview information on the Print Console system and general procedures designed to get you started processing jobs. The Print Console online help should be used as your main help resource.

Print Console documentation also includes a number of technical bulletins, such as this one, that describe issues with specific workflows.

Also see the *Copydot Toolkit User Manual* for more information on configuring and using the Copydot Toolkit software.

Configuring Print Console in a Newspaper Workflow

This section contains information on some of the unique configurations required to use Print Console in a newspaper workflow. It shows how to attach a print setup to a hot folder for automatic job submission, and how to create a print setup with the following considerations:

- TIFF file orientation
- TIFF file shifting for furniture marks
- Automation for panorama and broadsheet plate imaging

Configuring Plating Print Setups with Automatic Approval

This section describes how to configure a plating print setup with automatic approval.

1. Click the **Configuration** button.
2. Click the **Print Setups** horizontal bar.
3. In the **Use Media Size** box, select a media size for plate-making (to configure media sizes, see the *Creating Media Sizes* topic in the Print Console online help).
4. Select the **Auto approve** check box to turn automatic job approval on.

For more information on specific print setup configurations for newspaper workflows, see the following sections.

Determining TIFF File Orientation

Print Console 2.1 has four rotation options: **0**, **90**, **180** and **270**. It also has three mirroring options: **None**, **Around drum**, and **Along drum**. To edit a print setup to create the correct orientation, do the following:

1. Using an image viewer—such as Copydot Toolkit or Adobe Photoshop—and locate text within the TIFF file. Ideally, find a character that shows the orientation of the file clearly, for example an upper-case "R", "F", or "G." Characters such as "O" or "I" will not show a file's orientation well.

   Note: Depending on the plate size and resolution, you may not be able to open the file in Photoshop due to that program's pixel size limit.

2. Start Print Console and go to the **Print Setup** pane in the **Configuration** screen and select the print setup that you intend to use for files that require rotation.

3. On the **TIFF Downloader** tab, use the **Rotate** and **Mirror** options to match the orientation of the "R" graphic on the **TIFF Downloader** tab with the orientation of the text you viewed in the TIFF file viewer.

This method, which can also be done on a per job basis using the **Job Properties** dialog box, should provide the correct orientation when outputting to the Trendsetter News. If you encounter any problems, make sure the following is true:

- The lead edge of the plate (the edge that first feeds into the device) is also the intended lead edge for the TIFF file. The "R" graphic within the **Tiff Downloader** tab of the **Print Setup** pane assumes the lead edge of the plate is down.

- You are producing plates, not proofs. To change the process to work for proofing, choose the opposite mirroring options. For example, if you used either the **Around drum** or **Along drum** option to orient the "R," then select the **None** option, and vice versa.

Determining Shifting for Furniture Marks

Newspaper sites often have post-processing systems that automatically punch and bend plates. These systems usually rely on the precise placement of marks on the plate, known as furniture marks, to ensure the correct registration. You can use the image shifting functions in Print Console to negatively or positively shift the image for correct registration.

To edit a print setup to handle furniture marks, do the following:

1. Using the print setup that you intend to use for jobs with furniture marks, image a plate (make sure not to apply any image shifting).

2. On the plate, measure the placement of the furniture marks and determine what offsets to apply in the along and around drum directions. Remember that the lead edge of the plate lies along the drum.

3. In the print setup, enter these measurements into the **Shift around drum** and **Shift along drum** boxes on the **TIFF Downloader** tab. Remember to click the **Apply** button to save changes.

   If you need to change the unit of measurement between inches and millimeters, do so on the **Preferences** pane.

   Note: The **Image Placement** in the **TIFF Downloader** tab contains other positioning options. If you select the **Along Leading Edge** option, Print Console stops you from shifting the image in the around drum direction. Alternatively, if you select the **Center of Media** option, no image shifting is permitted since the files are automatically shifted to the center of the plate.

4. As a test, output a second plate using the print setup that you just edited. Measure the results to ensure accuracy.

Automating Broadsheet Plate Production

Automating broadsheet plate production is as easy as setting a switch within the print setup for the plate size you are using.

1. In the **General** tab of the print setup that you use for broadsheet plate sizes, choose the following settings:

   - Select the **Auto approve** check box
   - Depending on your preferences for plate usage, select either **Economy** or **Express** mode

     Note: **Economy** mode means that Print Console images both plates on the drum before unloading the plates. **Express** mode means that Print Console unloads both plates even if the second plate has not been imaged (as long as there are no approved jobs in the queue).

   - Choose a **Priority** setting
   - Depending on the size of the TIFF files you are imaging (relative to the size of the plates you are using), you may need to select the **Allow oversized images** box. This allows TIFF files larger than their intended plates to be auto-approved

2. Create a hot folder and associate this print setup to it. Print Console automatically processes TIFF files dropped into this hot folder. For more information on creating hot folders, see the Creating Hot Folder Automation in Print Console section.

   When submitting jobs for broadsheet plates, always submit files to this hot folder, which then applies the print setup you just created.

Automating Panorama Plate Production

Newspaper sites often switch between broadsheet and panorama plates. Rather than unloading broadsheet plates from the bay and loading panorama plates each time, you can configure Print Console to trigger a manual bypass when panorama plate jobs are submitted to a certain hot folder.

1. Create a print setup using the panorama plate size.
2. In the **General** tab of the print setup, select the following:
    - **Auto approve**
    - **Manual Bypass**
    - Choose a **Priority** setting
3. Create a hot folder and associate this print setup to it. Print Console automatically processes TIFF files dropped into this hot folder. For more information on creating hot folders, see the Creating Hot Folder Automation in Print Console section.

Whenever a TIFF file enters the Pending queue via this hot folder, Print Console will prompt the operator to load a plate manually. This works well for sites that image numerous broadsheet plates, but only a few panorama plates.

If the site images large numbers of panorama plates, you may want to create two hot folders, each with different priority settings. For example, if you always submit panorama plate files to the hot folder that is connected to the higher priority print setup, Print Console images these files first. This allows a site to load the bay of the Trendsetter News with one plate size and perform a steady stream of imaging before having to switch over to the next plate size.

Creating Hot Folder Automation in Print Console

Create a hot folder input queue to automatically submit TIFF files through the hot folder to Print Console. **Note:** You must attach **Done** and **Failed** folders to Hot Folder input queues if you want to remake processed TIFF jobs, otherwise, completed or failed job records are automatically deleted.

To create a Print Console hot folder input queue:

1. Click the **Configuration** button.
2. Click the **Hot Folders** horizontal bar.
3. Click **New**.

    Print Console activates the hot folder boxes in the **Hot Folders** pane.

4. In the **Spool** directory, type a directory for the hot folder input queue or click the **Browse...** button and search for the directory. For example, you might want to type in the name and path of the resampling Copydot Toolkit output hot folder, to increase throughput.

5. Select the **Enabled** check box to enable the hot folder input queue.

6. In the **Done Directory** box, specify a done folder, where all successfully completed jobs are automatically stored.

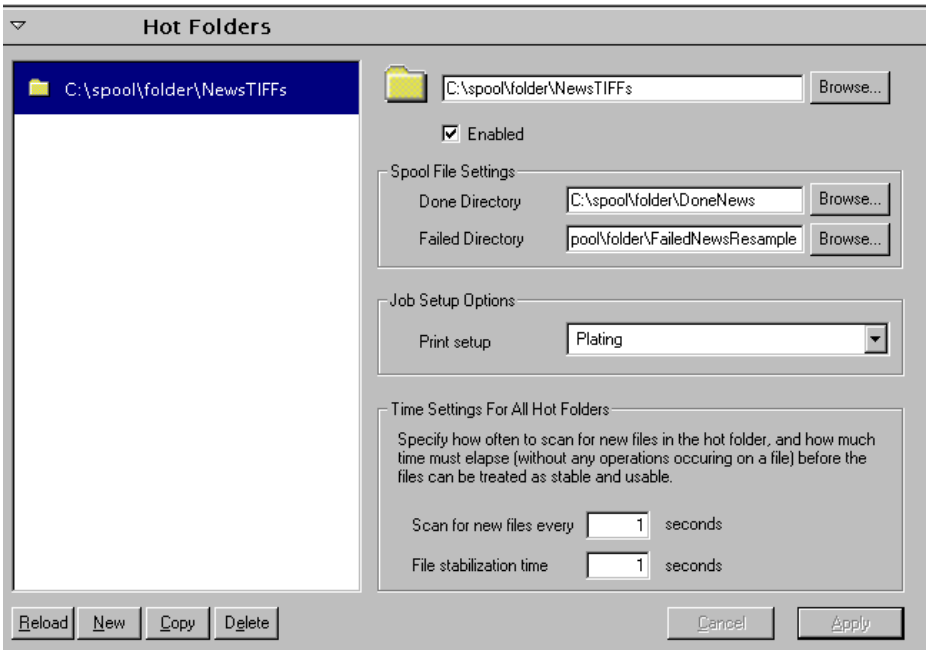
7. In the **Failed Directory** box, specify a failed folder, where all failed jobs are automatically stored.

8. In the **print setup** box, select the appropriate print setup (with **Auto Approve** turned on) to attach to the hot folder.

9. Set the **Scan for new files every** and **File Stabilization time** options.

10. Click **Apply**.

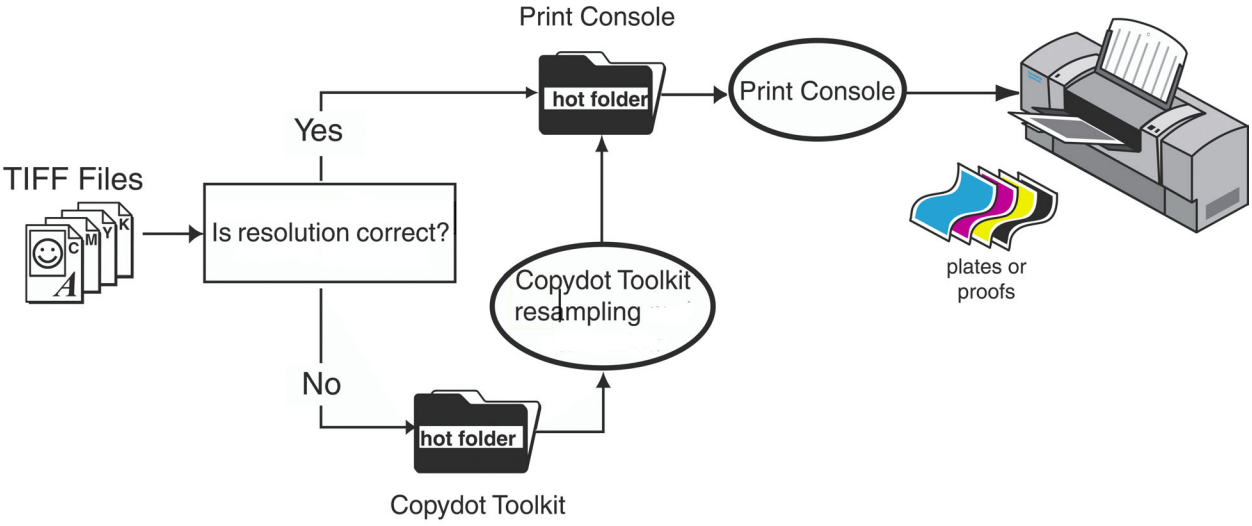
    Print Console creates the hot folder input queue and adds it to the **List of input queue directories** box on the left side of the pane.



Hot Folders pane

Using Copydot Toolkit with Print Console to Manipulate TIFF Files

You may need to resample your TIFF files so that they output correctly. To do this efficiently, you need to determine whether the resolution of the TIFF files is correct for the output device when you receive the files. If so, then submit the files to Print Console through a Print Console input hot folder for output to the device. If not, then submit the TIFF files to a Copydot Toolkit hot folder so that you can resample in Copydot Toolkit. Once corrected, you then submit the TIFF files to a Print Console input hot folder and Print Console for output on the device.



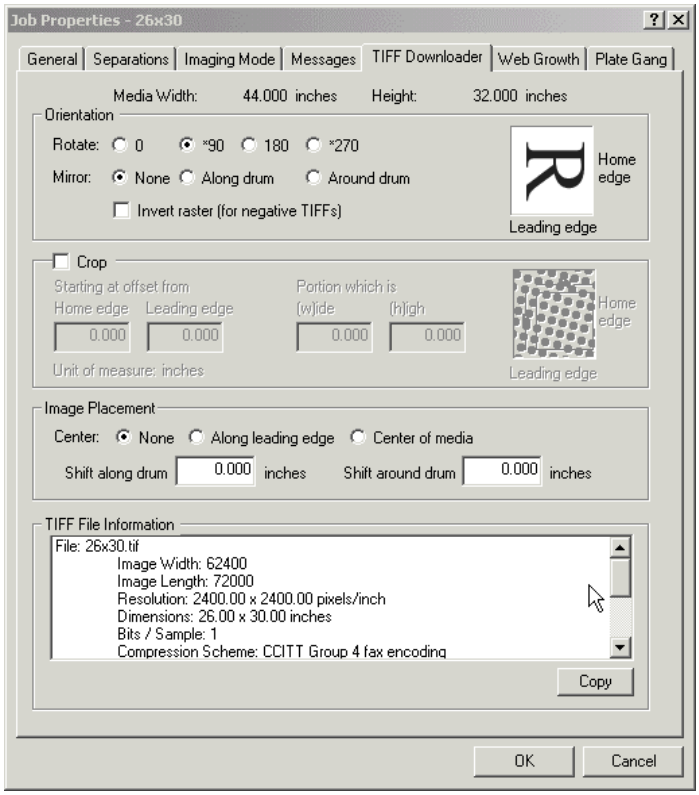
This section describes how to check and resample files automatically submitted to Print Console.

Validating File Integrity with Print Console

Before processing a file or set of files, you may want to ensure the file data is correct by viewing the job's properties in Print Console. To do so…

1. Submit the TIFF file to Print Console.
2. In the Pending queue, right-click the file and select **Properties** from the shortcut menu.
3. From the Job Properties dialog box, select the **TIFF Downloader** tab.

Print Console reads the TIFF file and displays the file specifications in the TIFF File Information section:



Job Properties Dialog Box

- If the file data appears correct, close the Job Properties dialog box and approve the job from the Pending queue.

- If the file data appears incorrect, close the Job Properties dialog box and delete the job from the Pending queue. You can either fix the TIFF job in your prepress software and resubmit it to Print Console, or fix it (resample) in Copydot Toolkit and resubmit it to Print Console. For more information on resampling files with Copydot Toolkit, see the following sections.

Creating Copydot Toolkit Hot Folders

Copydot Toolkit hot folders continually monitor an input folder that you specify—anywhere on the network—for incoming job files. When new job files arrive in the input folder, Copydot Toolkit immediately performs a predetermined action—for example, resampling—and moves the completed files into an output folder. This eliminates the step of opening, configuring, and processing each new job file individually.

1. Click the **Hot Folders** button on the toolbar in the main window.

2. Click the **New** button, or select a folder to clone in the hot folder queue, and then click the **Clone** button.

3. In the **Enter Hot Folder Name** box, type a hot folder name.



Create New Hot Folder dialog box

4. Click **OK**.

   The hot folder displays in the hot folder queue with a `Stopped` status.

Automating Resampling with Copydot Toolkit Hot Folders

If you need to reformat or resample files using Copydot Toolkit, you can automate the process with hot folders. Typically, you would need to resample a file to make its resolution match the resolution of your output device.

To automate resampling with Copydot Toolkit hot folders:

1. Select an existing hot folders name or create a new one (see above).

2. In the Input section, define the location of the hot folder—this is the directory that the hot folder is monitoring for incoming files.

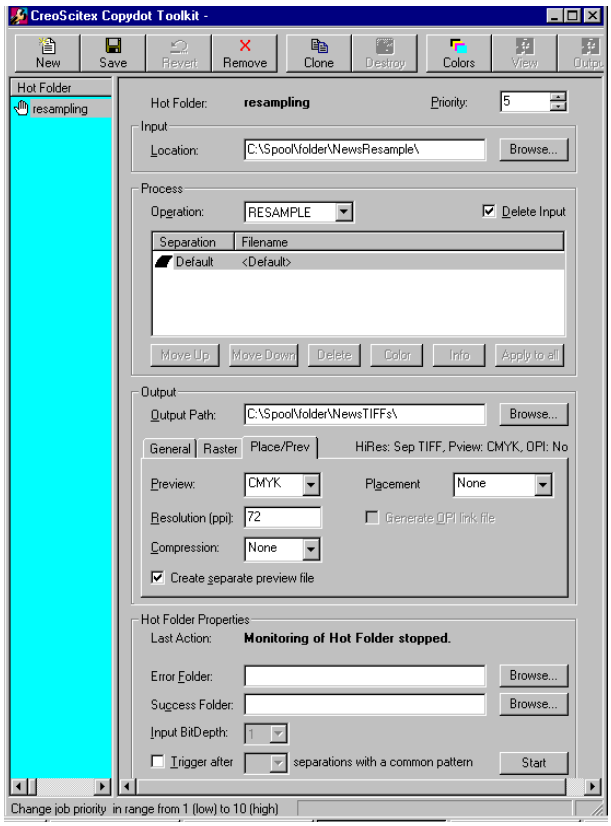
3. In the Output section, in the hot folder viewer, select the output path for the hot folder (where the successfully processed job files are to be sent). For example, select the Print Console TIFF input hot folder so that resampled TIFF jobs are automatically resubmitted to Print Console for imaging.

4. On the **General** tab, in the **Resolution** box, type the resolution to be applied to your output files (usually 1200 DPI for Trendsetter News devices).

   Or:

   Select the **Same** option if you want the output file resolution to remain the same as the input file resolution.

5. In the Hot Folders Properties section, define the error and success folders, the bit depth of input files, and the number of separated input files in the file set required to launch hot folder processing.



Copydot Toolkit Hot Folders

To view TIFF files quickly, refer to the Copydot Toolkit settings in

6. Click **Start** for Copydot Toolkit to begin monitoring the hot folder.

Submitting Copydot Toolkit TIFFs to Print Console for Automatic Approval

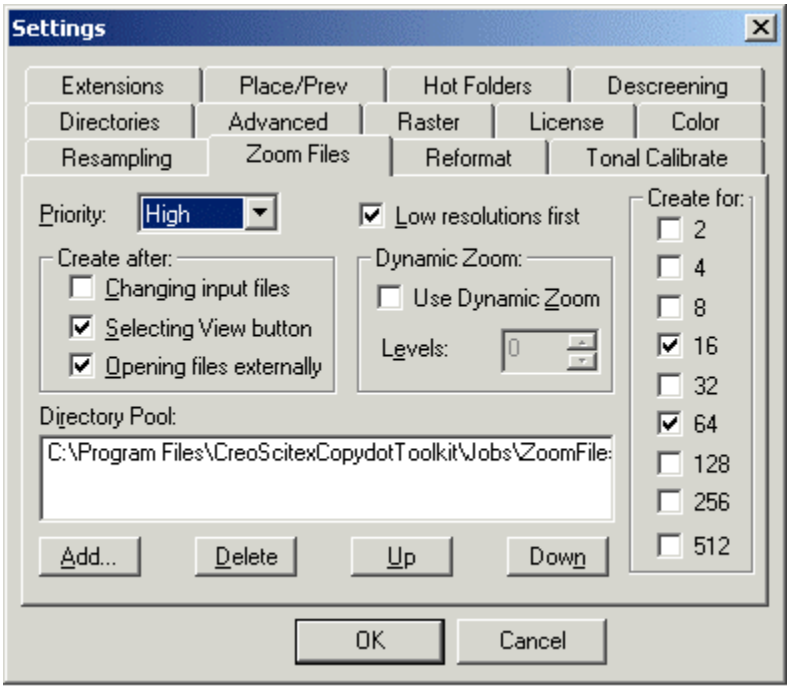
If you have set up the Copydot Toolkit hot folder's output folder to be the same as the Print Console input hot folder (with an automatic approval print setup attached), when you start Print Console, all successfully resampled TIFF files from Copydot Toolkit, outputted to the Print Console input hot folder, are automatically submitted to Print Console and the device.

For information on configuring hot folders and print setups in Print Console, see the first section of this document, Configuring Print Console in a Newspaper Workflow.

Appendix 1: Optimal Copydot Toolkit Settings for TIFF File Viewing

To view files quickly with Copydot Toolkit, make sure the Copydot Toolkit is configured for fast viewing. To do so,

1. From the Copydot Toolkit taskbar, select **Settings**.
2. From the **Zoom Files** tab on the Settings dialog box, select the following:
    - In the Priority box, select **High**.
    - In the Create after section, select **Selecting View button**, and **Opening files externally**.
    - In the Create for section, select **16** and **64**.
    - Enable the **Low resolutions first** option.
    - Do *not* select the **Dynamic Zoom** options.



Copydot Toolkit Settings tab