

MPE TRENDSETTER NEWS CONTROLLED RELEASE 1.2

Readme/Release Notes

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Comments
1.0	February 9, 2005	Gary Theobald	Initial draft

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1. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MPE Trendsetter® NEWS Controlled Release (CR) 1.2 has several new fixes that are important to Customer Services and Solutions (CS&S) and to the customer. Familiarize yourself with this information before installing this Controlled Release.

1.1 PROVIDING FEEDBACK TO PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

To ensure that these Release Notes are being read so that we can continue this trend (there are a number of people involved in producing, editing and publishing this document), please e-mail gary.theobald@creo.com upon reading this document. Feel free to suggest changes to the format and quantity/quality of material.

1.2 UPGRADING TO CR 1.2

It is recommended for this controlled release that *all components be updated* to the MPE Trendsetter NEWS CR 1.2 level. There is (as always) no guarantee that a partial install of this Controlled Release will be fully functional. A partial install of the controlled release constitutes a high-risk action and may result in future service visits.

1.3 POTENTIAL BANDING ON PRESS FIXES

There are two items in MPE Trendsetter NEWS CR 1.2 which could potentially fix banding issues on plates. The first of these is the head firmware upgrade to 1.97 which eliminates the problem of corrupted stroke tables. For more information, see New Features—Thermal Head 1.x Banding due to Corrupted Stroke Tables. The second is a Print Console fix that implements stroke shifting for GDAPI (Prinergy and Brisque) workflows—TIFF workflows are not affected. For more information, see New Features—Fix for Banding on press with GDAPI workflows.

1.4 CREO CONSUMABLES CUSTOMERS

Creo Consumables customers have several new tools available for their use.

1.4.1 INVENTORY ASSIST

For those Creo consumables customers signing up for Inventory Assist, a newer version of Print Console is necessary for the Print Console and Inventory Assist interaction. Both Print Console and Inventory Assist will be distributed on a separate CD—this can be ordered by contacting your CCA PD Product Support Specialist listed on the escalation page of Techplanet.

1.4.2 PROCESSOR MONITOR INTERFACE

A release of the Processor Monitor Interface (PMI) is available—this software tracks the usage of chemistry by Creo plate processors—unlike MCE devices, it will not connect with Print Console to allow processor flow control of plates into the processor from an automatic device. More information is available below in New Features—Processor Monitor Interface.

1.5 CONTROLLED RELEASES ON WORKSTATIONS

It is best practice when a CR is updated at a customer's site by a CSE that this new CR is copied to **[system]:\\ControlledRelease** under its controlled release version to ensure others (such as the Response Center or another CSE) have access to the latest versions of software and firmware.

It is also best practice to delete the old CR in this directory once ensuring that the device is running correctly. This ensures that versions of software that are not Feature Licensed are not available for customers/third-party service to downgrade and bypass security features implemented in newer Controlled Release packages.

1.6 SERVICE SHELL VERSION CHECKER

Although Service Shell Version Checker has been an integral part of Controlled Releases for quite some time, it has likely not received the attention that it deserves. Version Checker can be found in the **Tools** menu of the Service Shell Client. It is *mandatory* that the CSE installing the Controlled Release run Version Checker to check before and after a Controlled Release upgrade to show which software and firmware components need to be updated and/or are currently installed. Ensure that you have upgraded Service Host and Service Shell as well as upgraded the device version configuration file provided with each Controlled Release to ensure you are checking against the latest Controlled Release version information.

1.7 PRINT CONSOLE 2.1.4 NOT DOWNGRADABLE

The Microsoft critical update that protects Microsoft® Windows® 2000 computers from the Sasser worm causes installation problems for versions of Print Console installer before Print Console 2.1.4. Print Console 2.1.4 has the necessary fix to solve this issue, but if the critical update has been installed on your workstation, you will be unable to downgrade back to 2.1.1.

2. CONTROLLED RELEASE PACKAGE INFORMATION

2.1 COMPONENT INFORMATION

Component	Version
Print Console	2.1.4.30
Service Shell	2.6.0.1098
Processor Monitor Interface **NOTE**: Creo Consumables Customers Only, No PC interface	2.05
MPE main firmware	1.17
Thermal head 1.x firmware	1.97
Thermal head 2.x firmware	1.04d
Brisque® Agent	1.00.057
Version config file	TS NEWS MPE.INI

CR SW Kit: 20-0201A

CR CD Only: 651-00298A

2.2 DEVICE QUALIFICATION

The following device has been qualified with this Controlled Release:

- Trendsetter NEWS

The following head has been qualified with this Controlled Release:

- Thermal head 1.x

2.3 LIMITATIONS

- DEC® Alpha not supported for Print Console
- DEC Alpha not supported for Service Shell

2.4 DEPENDENCIES

- Windows 2000 SP2 or above operating systems on Print Console workstations
- Windows NT® SP4 or above operating systems on Allegro™ workstations
- HVD SCSI card or suitable converter on workstation
- Internet Explorer 6 or greater (necessary for Service Shell 2.6)

2.5 WORKFLOW COMPATIBILITY

Workflow items are not part of the release, but have been tested for compatibility. The controlled release has been tested with the latest released version of workflow and it is recommended that customers are brought to this level.

- Brisque Direct 4.1
  NOTE: If using Brisque 4.1, it is mandatory to upgrade to 4.1.76 Output Update 5
- Prinergy® 2.3
- TIFF Connectivity via Print Console 3.17 (Tiff Downloader)
- TIFF Connectivity via Allegro Console 2.1
- Postscript Connectivity via Allegro 1.2/1.7
- CRI Workflows: not available—CRI no longer supported with Print Console 2.1 and later

3. INSTALLATION / UPGRADING

3.1 UPGRADEABILITY

This Controlled Release has only been tested with upgrades from MCE Trendsetter NEWS Controlled Release 3.x. It is likely that upgrades from previous versions are possible, but they have some risk level.

3.2 INSTALL / UPGRADE PROCEDURE

Total time—3 hours (minimum).

Task	Time
Dependencies Review the Dependencies before beginning.	
Patches Check the patches folder and apply any patches as documented in the readme files.	
Service Shell Install/upgrade Service Shell—needed for checking head/mce firmware versions and for downloading the new firmware. Ensure that the COM ports are configured correctly.	0.5 hour
Configure Host Device Run host configuration from Service Host and configure to correct device model.	0.10 hour
Version Check After installing the SS client, start Version Checker. Click **Config**. A dialog box prompts you for the controlled release config file. Browse to the **VersionConfig** folder on the controlled release CD, select the version config file, and click **Evaluate > Yes**. If a dialog box indicates that the device is not yet configured with controlled release version information, select **Configure System > Next**. Locate the **VersionConfig** folder on the controlled release CD, select the version config file, and click **Finish**. For more info on Service Shell, see the Service Shell support site on TechPlanet.	0.25 hour
Firmware Use the Firmware Upgrade script in Service Shell to backup parameters and download new MPE firmware.	0.5 hour
Print Console Install/Upgrade Print Console.	0.5 hour
Consumables (Creo Consumables customers only) Install/Upgrade Processor Monitor Interface (for Creo Plate Processor customers) if necessary. **Note:** Inventory Assist customers will need a special CD with Inventory Assist and Print Console 2.4—this can be ordered via a CCA Product Support Specialist.	0.5 hour
Workflow Brisque: No update necessary Prinergy: No update necessary	
Version Check After all firmware and software have been upgraded, use Version Checker in Service Shell to evaluate all system versions. Ensure that there are no errors reported by the version checker.	0.25 hour
Functionality Check Check that device and all applications are functional including load/unload of small/medium/large size media.	1.5 hours

4. NEW FEATURES

4.1 CONSUMABLE TOOLS FUNCTIONALITY

4.1.1 PROCESSOR MONITOR INTERFACE

Processor Monitor Interface (PMI) is now included as part of the Controlled Release package. Processor Monitor Interface 2.05 is a software package to allow monitoring of Creo Plate Processors. It is a software application that has both a server and client. The server must be located on the device control workstation, and the processor will be connected to this workstation by a communications cable (the option of connecting non-Creo processors to the device via a communications cable is still available).

Note: For MPE devices with PMI, there is no automatic flow control of plates into the processor via Print Console.

4.1.2 PROCESSOR MONITOR INTERFACE REMOTE CLIENT MONITORING

Processor Monitor Interface 2.05 now allows a distributed PMI install: the server side installation, as usual, will be installed on the workstation connected to the processor; but now the user interface can be installed on a different workstation for easier monitoring. Multiple user interfaces can be installed on multiple workstations.

You can start the client by adding an IP address as a command line parameter for PMI user interface. Example:

```
PMIUI2.exe server=10.1.38.212
```

When PMI is started with such a parameter, the user interface will connect to the PrAPI (Processor API) server indicated in the command line, instead of the local PrAPI server.

4.2 PRINT CONSOLE FUNCTIONALITY

4.2.1 CHANGES TO BAY SUPPORT FOR AUTOMATIC DEVICES

We have made a number of changes to the bay configuration functions, including:

- For multi-bay devices, you no longer need to choose the options at the top of the Configure Bay dialog box to enable the buttons at the bottom of the screen (**Load/Unload**, **Enable/Disable**, **Open**). All of these buttons, when applicable to the output device that you are driving, are now located at the bottom of the Configure Bay dialog box.
- The area of the dialog box that previously contained the radio buttons now contains a Bay Status area that displays the date and time the bay was last loaded and the current state of the bay.
- For the VLF Platesetter, the options that were contained on the VLF Bay Configuration dialog box (**Config Picker** and **Bay Enabled**) are now contained on the bottom of the Configure Bay dialog box.
- For multi-bay or cassette devices, you now configure the pick order from the Pick Order option menu bar. This option is only available when more than one bay is configured with the same media.

4.2.2 CONFIGURATION WINDOW CAN BE HIDDEN FROM VIEW

You can now configure Print Console to hide the Configuration window.

4.2.3 AUTOMATIC SELECTION OF THE SMALLEST PROOF FORMAT THAT FITS THE RASTER

If you decide to configure your print setups or job properties to use the configured device media (**Auto Media Selection** box)—instead of a fixed media size or variable sized media—Print Console looks for the existing media size, configured with the device media, that best fits the raster image.

4.2.4 AUTOMATIC DELETION OF PROCESSED JOBS OVER A PRESET LIMIT

You can now configure the Processed queue to delete old TIFF jobs from the Processed queue when a preset number of processed jobs has been reached. Print Console deletes older jobs one at a time as newer jobs move from the active queue to the processed queue. Print Console only deletes jobs if their job properties indicate they can be deleted.

4.2.5 ROUNDING FACTOR FOR VARIABLE SIZED MEDIA JOBS

You can now apply a rounding factor to variable sized media jobs so that when the job is imaged, a margin is added to the job's raster size. If you select a device media and thickness, the RIP software RIPs the job, Print Console takes the raster size and rounds up to the nearest 0.5" or 10 mm, and then applies the value defined in the **Add around image** box to the four sides of the raster image. Print Console then prompts you to load media that is the size of the raster image plus two times the rounding factor.

4.2.6 MORE DESCRIPTIVE OPERATOR PROMPT MESSAGES

Operator prompt messages can now display the prompt message, as well as instructions on what to do to continue imaging the job.

4.2.7 ENABLE OR DISABLE MOUSE-OVER HIGHLIGHTS

You can now enable or disable mouse-over highlights on the buttons that run down the left side of Print Console screen.

4.2.8 NON-CREO DIRECT CONNECTIONS VIA GDAPI REQUIRE LICENSE KEY

Much like CRI connections in earlier versions of Print Console, you now have to enter a license key on the Preferences pane for non-privileged RIPs and digital front ends, which are usually non-Creo products, to connect to Print Console and the output device.

Note: CRI direct connections are not supported in this version of Print Console.

4.2.9 IMAGING MULTIPLE COPIES OF A SINGLE FILE

You can now image up to 16 copies of a 1-bit, pre-screened TIFF file using the **Number of Copies** box on the **General** tab of the Print Setups pane. You cannot remake copied files.

4.2.10 USER INTERFACE CHANGES

We have made a number of changes to the user interface:

- Divided the Device Media pane into two tabs: **General**, which displays the medium characteristics configured in the device, and **Optional**, which provides a section to enter media thickness values and a section to view medium index values.
- Re-worked the **TIFF Downloader** tab in both the Print Setups pane and Job Properties dialog box to contain image positioning, shifting (moved from the Additional tab), rotation and mirroring options.
- Added two new, separately priced, TIFF Downloader tabs (**Plate ganging** and **Web growth**) in both the Print Setups pane and the Job Properties dialog box. These tabs display only if your system is enabled for these features, and are mutually exclusive (if you choose one option, you cannot choose the other in the same print setup).
- Changed the name of the **Additional** tab to the **Imaging Mode** tab since the imaging mode options are the only options on that tab now that we have moved the image shifting options to the **TIFF Downloader** tab.
- Divided the Preferences pane into three tabs: **General**, **Serial I/O**, and **Licenses**. It no longer has a **Preferences** tab or **Matching** tab. All information that was previously in those two tabs is now in the **General** tab.
- Changed the **Use Device Media** option, found on the **General** tab of the Print Setups pane or Job Properties dialog box, to **Auto Media Selection**.
- Changed the **Choose media just before imaging** option, found on the **General** tab of the Print Setups pane or Job Properties dialog box, to **Choose media just before imaging (for variable sized media)**.
- Added signature and sheet identification numbers to the color section of the job column in all Print Console queues (for GDAPI connections)

4.2.11 CHANGES TO TIFF DOWNLOADER

TIFF Downloader has a number of new features and enhancements in addition to those already described:

TIFF DOWNLOADER NO LONGER RUNS FROM A COMMAND WINDOW

TIFF Downloader no longer runs from a command window. The RIP status button on the Device Status pane indicates TIFF Downloader status.

CENTERING OPTIONS

You can now configure TIFF Downloader to center TIFF jobs either in the center of the media or along the leading edge of the plate. If the image is larger than the imageable area on the media, TIFF Downloader crops it to fit. If smaller, TIFF Downloader centers it and pads the unused space. This option is in the Image Placement section of TIFF Downloader tab in the Print Setups pane and the Job Properties dialog box.

IMAGE SHIFTING IN THE RIP

Previously, you configured media sizes (in the Media Sizes pane) with image shifts because the output device applied the shift to the image. The RIP, which in this case is TIFF Downloader, is now responsible for the image shift. With TIFF Downloader applying image shifts, images that require raster removal (negative shifts) can be imaged successfully, and the entire imageable area of the plate is exposed, which is useful when imaging positive plates. You can only apply image shift parameters in Print Console on

those jobs that use TIFF Downloader as the RIP. All images RIPed by other RIPs must have any image shift values applied in the RIP software.

This option is now located in the Image Placement section of the TIFF Downloader tab in both the Print Setups pane and the Job Properties dialog box.

CROPPING TIFF FILES

You can now configure TIFF Downloader to crop TIFF files so that only the required portion of the TIFF file is imaged. You might want to use this feature if, for example, you are in a newspaper setting and the image files are consistently larger than the plate.

IMPROVED MIRRORING AND ROTATION

You can now configure TIFF Downloader to rotate an image 0, 90, 180, or 270° and to either mirror print along the drum or around the drum or not at all. The most efficient rotation and mirror print settings are 90° rotation and mirror print around the drum or 270° rotation and mirror print along the drum. The following table describes the how the settings in Print Console 2.0 map to the settings in Print Console 2.1:

Rotation and Mirroring Settings in Print Console 2.0	Rotation and Mirroring Settings in Print Console 2.1.4
None	90° and mirror print around the drum
Transform	180° rotation and no mirror Print
Mirror print only	90° rotation and no mirror Print

PLATE GANGING

TIFF Downloader now supports ganging of images onto a single plate. This separately priced and licensed option allows you to gang a maximum of four images onto a plate. You gang images to speed up processing time and to save media. Image ganging is usually done on either a VLF Trendsetter device or a Trendsetter NEWS device.

WEB GROWTH COMPENSATION

TIFF Downloader now supports the application of web growth or raster distortion profiles to TIFF jobs. This separately priced and licensed option allows you to compensate for web growth problems that occur when running two or more color separation jobs for web presses. Properly applied web growth profiles help make sure color separations register at the end of the press run.

REMAKING TIFF JOBS FROM THE PROCESSED QUEUE

You can now drag and drop processed TIFF files from the Processed pane to the Pending pane to remake a TIFF job. This feature is not available on files that have been imaged using the Multiple Copies option.

VIEWING TIFF TAG INFORMATION

In the TIFF Downloader tab of the Job Properties dialog box, Print Console now displays the information contained in the ImageDescription tag of the pending queue. Specifically, it displays information about the TIFF job's image width and length, resolution (pixels/cm), dimensions (cm), bits/sample, compression scheme, photometric interpretation, date and time of submission, type of software used, document name, image description, make, samples/pixel, rows/strip, and planar configuration. This information only displays if there are color separations in the TIFF job.

CHANGING RASTER POLARITY

You can now configure TIFF Downloader, in both print setups and job properties, to instruct the device to change the polarity of the raster image.

4.2.12 CHANGES TO THE SERVICE PANE

- Service representatives can now configure Print Console to filter job, device status, and system configuration messages so that only warning, error, or information type messages display in the History pane.
- Service representatives can now configure Print Console to query for a set number of media, resolutions, bays, and proof formats when the device is initializing.
- The installation of Print Console now depends on the installation of the Service Shell Host, a diagnostic tool, since these two applications share a file.

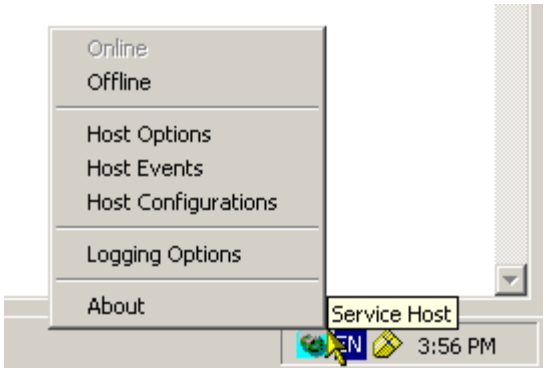
4.2.13 FIX FOR BANDING ON PRESS WITH GDAPI WORKFLOWS

GDAPI jobs sent to Print Console did not trigger a stroke shift, which shifts the laser's stroke between separations to eliminate banding on press. (This is not a problem for TIFF jobs, which do trigger a shift stroke.) This problem was fixed in Print Console build 2.1.4.25.

4.3 SERVICE TOOLS FUNCTIONALITY

4.3.1 HOST CONFIGURATION WIZARD

The Service Shell 2.6 Host Configuration Wizard allows you to automatically configure the device communication ports for your MPE/MCE device as well as the TCP/IP configuration for an MCE device. You can access Host Configuration Wizard by right-clicking on the Service Host icon in the system tray of the workstation.



Host Configuration Wizard auto-detects the device COM port. The wizard notifies you of the result—if it detects the COM port, you receive confirmation; if it doesn't detect the COM port, an error message appears listing which ports are available and which are not.

Host Configuration Wizard also verifies and runs diagnostics for the COM port you select. If problems are detected, an error message appears providing you the option to resume configuration or cancel and select different port.

4.3.2 LOG SERVER OPTIONS

Service Shell 2.6: if you are connecting to Service Host 2.6 from a remote location, you can now modify the log server settings.

4.3.3 SPLOT 4.01

Service Shell 2.6: a new version of SPlot (4.01) is included with this release of Service Shell.

4.3.4 LOOP TEST

Service Shell 2.6: Loop Test no longer provides grouping. The tool interface has been upgraded for better user experience. Test options now include device locking. You can lock the device while the test is running and unlock it when it completes. Device locking also prevents Versioner from interfering with your tests. In addition, you can instantly stop a test that has paused due to a long command response from the device.

4.3.5 VERSIONER

Versioner is an automatically scheduled application that collects and stores system configuration information that you can use to quickly troubleshoot a system problem. This includes information about the device, firmware, hardware components, and software.

Versioner checks versions against the version checker configuration—it is important to use the Version Checker Applet to check the Controlled Release versions after install/upgrade has finished. For more information on Version Checker, see Important Information—Service Shell Version Checker.

4.4 THERMAL HEAD FIRMWARE

4.4.1 THERMAL HEAD 1.X BANDING DUE TO CORRUPTED STROKE TABLES

Thermal 1.x heads with head firmware version 1.93, 1.95, or 1.96 *and* LVD hardware version 4 or later may see stroke corruption when switching media. In these cases the stroke table on one or more media is set to all 33s. This can cause image artifacts or banding.

Thermal 1.x head firmware version 1.97 has been released to fix this problem. All heads running firmware versions 1.93, 1.95, or 1.96 must be upgraded to firmware 1.97 as soon as possible.

Following the firmware upgrade, reset the device. The 33s in the stroke tables are active and have not been saved, so resetting the device will clear them. After resetting the device the head will perform a stroke cal automatically on the first plot as each media is selected.

5. FIXES AND SMALL FEATURES

Fixes and smaller features are documented in component release notes, which are both available in the **Release Notes** folder and on the component install folder on the Controlled Release CD.