

Trendsetter VLF

Controlled Release 4.1 Release Notes

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Comments
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A	01 Dec 2005	A.Blignaut	Put into new Kodak template and formatted. Edited by D.Neal.
B	07 Mar 2006	Al Edge / A.Blignaut	Changes made for release 4.1.

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CONTENTS

Revision History i

1 Important Information 1
- 1.1 Providing Feedback to Product Development 1
- 1.2 Upgrading to CR 4.1 1
- 1.3 Kodak Consumables Customers 1
- 1.4 Firmware Upgrades 1
  - 1.4.1 Autoloader commands 1
  - 1.4.2 Firmware NVS adjustments for Trendsetter VLF AL 1
- 1.5 Reliability 2

2 Controlled Release Package Information 2
- 2.1 Component Information 2
- 2.2 Qualified Platesetters, Thermal Imaging Heads, and Configurations 2
- 2.3 Limitations 3
- 2.4 Dependencies 3
- 2.5 Workflow Software Compatibility 3
- 2.6 Feature Licensing 3

3 Installing or Upgrading 4
- 3.1 Upgradeability 4
- 3.2 Installation or Upgrade Procedure 4

4 Features and Fixes 5
- 4.1 Cross-Component Functionality 5
  - 4.1.1 Media Inventory Assist beta discontinued 5
  - 4.1.2 Support added: Feature License software 5
  - 4.1.3 Support added: Variable Mainscan Resolution for lenticular printing 5
- 4.2 Print Console Functionality 6
  - 4.2.1 Support added: optional overwrite of files with identical file names 6
  - 4.2.2 Support added: Unicode TIFF file names 6
  - 4.2.3 Problem fixed: MPE VLF AL bay load to adjust plates in the cassette 6
  - 4.2.4 Problem fixed: MPE Trendsetter VLF AL failed when there were two bay load requests 7
  - 4.2.5 Problem fixed: TIFF Downloader license for Dell PowerEdge 2800 workstations 7
  - 4.2.6 Support added: auto-media selection for automatic platesetters 7

4.2.7 Problem fixed: Canceled GDAPI jobs failed to send a message to the client computer....7
4.2.8 Problem fixed: SCSI access restricted with some Windows service packs7
4.2.9 Problem fixed: banding on-press....7
4.2.10 Problem fixed: job canceled while picking a plate....7
4.2.11 Problem fixed: red cross in jobs when files are in the working folder....8
4.2.12 Problem fixed: job remakes with multiple copies and file grouping....8
4.2.13 Problem fixed: bay interface flashes for a manual bypass....8
4.2.14 Problem fixed: two-separation job to an empty bay....8
4.3 Firmware Functionality....8
4.3.1 Trendsetter VLF AL 2.02 NVS tuning....8
4.3.2 Reliability improvements....10
4.3.3 Support added: multiple plate detection....10
4.3.4 Support added: intermittent cassette plate separation....10
4.4 Thermal Imaging Head Firmware....11
4.4.1 Problem fixed: thermal imaging head 1.x banding due to corrupted stroke tables 11

5 Minor Features and Fixes....11

1 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MPE *Trendsetter* VLF and MPE *Trendsetter* VLF AL Controlled Release (CR) 4.1 includes several new fixes that are important to both Customer Services and Solutions (CS&S) and customers. Familiarize yourself with this information before installing this controlled release.

1.1 Providing Feedback to Product Development

Please continue to e-mail suggested changes about the format, quantity, or quality of documentation to al.edge@creo.com.

1.2 Upgrading to CR 4.1

For this controlled release, we recommend that you update all components to the MPE *Trendsetter* VLF and MPE *Trendsetter* VLF AL CR 4.1 level. A partial install of this controlled release may not be fully functional and may result in future service visits.

1.3 Kodak Consumables Customers

We have discontinued the beta program for Inventory Assist. You must uninstall Inventory Assist and clear the option in the Print Console service menu. Some documentation about Inventory Assist has not been updated; disregard any information that does not recognize the discontinuation of this program.

Processor Monitor Interface is still available for installation for associated processors.

1.4 Firmware Upgrades

1.4.1 Autoloader commands

Use the autoloader command to upgrade the nonvolatile storage (NVS) parameters when the NVS upgrade <previous version> command does not fit. Use the autoloader command when installing *Trendsetter* VLF AL firmware on an autoloader-ready *Trendsetter* VLF *Platesetter* that was previously running a version of base *Trendsetter* VLF firmware code. When upgrading from base *Trendsetter* VLF firmware, use the autoloader startup command. This command makes room for the new bay state parameters and sets up the new autoloader-specific parameters.

Note: You can no longer use the autoloader command to upgrade from a beta version of the *Trendsetter* VLF AL firmware, because beta upgrading has been removed from the firmware.

1.4.2 Firmware NVS adjustments for Trendsetter VLF AL

You must make several NVS adjustments when upgrading to the CR 4.1 firmware. For more information, see *Trendsetter* VLF AL 2.02 NVS tuning.

1.5 Reliability

The goal of CR 4.1 is to increase firmware and system reliability. We made many fixes and changes, especially in firmware picking and fetching sequences. For information on the changes, see Firmware Functionality and Print Console Functionality in this document and see the firmware release notes.

2 CONTROLLED RELEASE PACKAGE INFORMATION

2.1 Component Information

Component	Version
Print Console	2.5.1.13
Service Shell	2.6 SP2
Processor Monitor Interface **Note**: This applies only to Kodak consumables customers, not to PC interface customers.	2.05
MPE main firmware	2.02.50
Thermal imaging head 1.x firmware	1.97
Brisque agent	1.00.064
Version configuration file	TS VLF.INI VLF AL.INI

CR software kit: 20-0195D

CR CD: 651-00297C

2.2 Qualified Platesetters, Thermal Imaging Heads, and Configurations

The following platesetters are qualified with CR 4.1:

Trendsetter VLF

Trendsetter VLF AL

The following thermal imaging heads are qualified with CR 4.1:

Thermal imaging head 1.x

The following configurations are qualified with CR 4.1:

Cassette units: Single, Multi

Slip sheet removal: GT SSR (solid, independent rollers), Beta/EP SSR

Pickers: Standard, Delicate Media

Conveyors: S, L, Rotating

Drums: small, large

2.3 Limitations

The DEC *Alpha* microprocessor is not supported by Print Console or Service Shell.

2.4 Dependencies

Microsoft Windows 2000 SP2 or earlier operating system on Print Console workstations

Windows NT SP4 or earlier operating system on *Allegro* workstations

HVD SCSI card or suitable converter on workstations

Internet Explorer 6 or later (required for Service Shell 2.6)

2.5 Workflow Software Compatibility

Workflow software is not part of CR 4.1. However, we tested this controlled release with the following workflow software versions:

Brisque Direct 4.1

Note: If using *Brisque* 4.1, there is a mandatory upgrade to *Brisque* version 4.1.76 Output Update 5.

Prinergy 2.3

TIFF connectivity via Print Console 2.5 (Tiff Downloader)

TIFF connectivity via *Allegro* Console 2.1

PostScript connectivity via *Allegro* 1.2 or 1.7

We recommend that you upgrade customers to these tested software versions.

Note: CRI workflows are not available, because Print Console 2.1 and later does not support CRI.

2.6 Feature Licensing

Service Shell 2.6.x will require a service dongle starting on April 15, 2006. To support feature licensing, Microsoft dotNet Framework, Creo Feature License (CFL) server 2.1.5, and Licensed Definition Files (LDF) are required.

3 INSTALLING OR UPGRADING

3.1 Upgradeability

We tested CR 4.1 with upgrades from MPE *Trendsetter* VLF CR 1.1 and MPE *Trendsetter* VLF AL CR 3.0. Upgrades from previous CR versions are possible, but additional risks are associated with those upgrades.

3.2 Installation or Upgrade Procedure

The following procedure takes approximately three hours, minimum.

Task	Time
Dependencies Review the Dependencies before beginning.	
Patches Check the **patches** folder and apply any patches that are documented in the readme files.	
Creo Feature Licensing 1. Install Microsoft dotNet. 2. Install the CFL server 2.1.5. 3. Install the LDFs.	
Service Shell 1. Install or upgrade Service Shell. This will check the thermal imaging head and MCE firmware versions and download the new firmware. 2. Ensure that the COM ports are configured correctly.	0.5 hour
Configure host device Run the host configuration from Service Host and configure to the correct device model.	0.10 hour
Version check 1. After installing the Service Shell Client, start the version checker applet. 2. Click **Config**. A dialog box appears, prompting you to load the controlled release configuration file. 3. Locate the **VersionConfig** folder on the controlled release CD, select the version configuration file, and click **Evaluate > Yes**. 4. If a dialog box appears, indicating that the platesetter is not configured with controlled release version information: a. Select **Configure System > Next**. b. Locate the **VersionConfig** folder on the controlled release CD, select the version configuration file, and click **Finish**. For more information on Service Shell, see the Service Shell support site on TechPlanet.	0.25 hour

Firmware Use the firmware upgrade script in Service Shell to back up parameters and download new MPE firmware.	0.5 hour
Print Console Install or upgrade Print Console software.	0.5 hour
Consumables (consumables customers only) Install or upgrade Processor Monitor Interface (for Kodak plate processor customers) if necessary.	0.5 hour
Workflow *Brisque*: update to version 4.1.76 Output Update 5 *Prinergy*: no update is necessary	
Version check 1. After all firmware and software are upgraded, use the Version Checker applet in Service Shell to evaluate the system versions. 2. Ensure that no errors are reported by the Version Checker.	0.25 hour
Functionality check Ensure that the platesetter and all software are functional, including loading and unloading small-, medium-, and large-sized media.	1.5 hours

4 FEATURES AND FIXES

4.1 Cross-Component Functionality

4.1.1 Media Inventory Assist beta discontinued

We have discontinued the beta program for Inventory Assist. You must uninstall Inventory Assist and clear the option in the Print Console service menu. Some documentation about Inventory Assist has not been updated; disregard any information that does not recognize the discontinuation of this program.

Processor Monitor Interface is still available for installation for associated processors.

4.1.2 Support added: Feature License software

Feature License software is included on the Service Shell Client in MPE *Trendsetter* VLF CR 4.1 so that you can use licenses and dongles.

4.1.2.1 Service Usage Licenses

The service dongle or a service license is required to run Service Shell Client without password protection. The passwords will expire on April 15, 2006.

4.1.3 Support added: Variable Mainscan Resolution for lenticular printing

Variable Mainscan Resolution (VMR) allows operators to make a mainscan scaling adjustment to stretch or shrink an image for lenticular imaging. It adds the following functionality to the *Trendsetter* VLF AL platesetter:

- Ability to change the pixel resolution of the platesetter in the around-the-cylinder (mainscan) direction
- Ability to make fine adjustments (± 3 percent) by stretching or shrinking the pixel count to fit minor variations to the resolution of the image
- Resolutions of 1200–4800 dpi

4.1.3.1 Print Console and VMR Licensing

The GDAPI provides support for VMR for direct connections from *Brisque* or *Prinergy*. VMR must be licensed in Print Console before a workflow can submit VMR jobs. Contact a Kodak representative to determine the availability of VMR support in *Brisque* or *Prinergy* and to obtain a VMR license for Print Console.

4.1.3.2 Scaling Larger Than Plate Error

When using VMR for lenticular printing, the platesetter stretches an image if the target resolution is less than the file's mainscan resolution. Previously, no warning was issued when a scaled image became larger than the plate size. Now, a warning appears in the Pending queue if a scaled image exceeds the plate size. Jobs are not auto-approved when the platesetter detects this error, unless oversized images are allowed in the print setup.

4.2 Print Console Functionality

4.2.1 Support added: optional overwrite of files with identical file names

In Print Console, users can now specify, on a per-hot-folder basis, whether to overwrite files in the **working** folder when files with identical names are submitted to the **spool** folder. To configure a hot folder to overwrite existing jobs when new jobs with identical file names are submitted, select **Configuration > Hot Folders** and then select the **Overwrite duplicate files waiting in the pending queue** check box.

4.2.2 Support added: Unicode TIFF file names

Print Console now supports file names in any language (*Unicode* characters). TIFF tags must be expressed in "narrow characters" for each locale.

4.2.3 Problem fixed: MPE VLF AL bay load to adjust plates in the cassette

In previous versions of the MPE *Trendsetter* VLF AL platesetter, for the following errors, the user had to perform a bay load operation to adjust the plates in the cassette before pressing **Resume** on the operator prompt. If the user pressed **Resume** before performing a bay load operation, the platesetter got stuck and required a reset.

```
22273 Autoloader2: Pcups failed to lift plate

22205 Autoloader2: Plate not detected on picker plate-vacuum cups

22407 Autoloader2: No slipsheet detected between plates (delicate
media) (check Next plate for scratches)
```

Print Console now makes the **Resume** button unavailable until the user has completed a bay load operation.

4.2.4 Problem fixed: MPE Trendsetter VLF AL failed when there were two bay load requests

MPE *Trendsetter* VLF AL platesetters can process only one bay load at a time. If a user requests a bay load from Print Console while the platesetter is processing another bay load, the platesetter may reject the bay load request or it may stop responding and require a reset to recover.

Print Console now prevents a user from loading a bay while the platesetter is loading plates from a different bay. When the bay load is completed, or when the platesetter is reset, Print Console will allow another bay load.

4.2.5 Problem fixed: TIFF Downloader license for Dell PowerEdge 2800 workstations

TIFF Downloader failed while validating the *Dell PowerEdge* 2800 workstation license during startup. This has been fixed.

4.2.6 Support added: auto-media selection for automatic platesetters

Print Console now provides support for automatic platesetters, such as *Trendsetter* VLF AL. With auto-media selection, Print Console compensates for rounding errors by adding a "tolerance" value. If an image is larger than the plate size by less than The tolerance value, Print Console considers it a match. The default tolerance value is 3.35 cm (1.32 in.). It is stored in the registry in microns, and you can change it to a smaller value if necessary.

4.2.7 Problem fixed: Canceled GDAPI jobs failed to send a message to the client computer

GDAPI jobs that were canceled in the Active queue did not send a cancel message to the client computer (*Brisque* or *Prinergy*), so the workflow could not move to the next job. This problem has been fixed.

4.2.8 Problem fixed: SCSI access restricted with some Windows service packs

Windows 2003 and some *Windows* 2000 service packs include security features that restrict access to the SCSI device.

A new Print Console utility changes access to the SCSI port so that power users can use the platesetter. A new prompt alerts users if they don't have access to the SCSI port. The operator prompt cannot be dismissed; it tells users to run the Set SCSI Access utility.

4.2.9 Problem fixed: banding on-press

PR 8137

A possible cause for banding on-press was that the stroke shift wasn't being set when a color wasn't defined in a TIFF tag. We fixed the problem by enhancing file pattern-matching to improve stroke shift.

4.2.10 Problem fixed: job canceled while picking a plate

Fixed in firmware version 1.54.11

If a job was canceled while a plate was being picked on an automatic platesetter, the platesetter loaded the plate and then suspended. The job, however, moved to the Processed queue, because no suspend occurred in Print Console. The operator had no feedback from Print Console about what to do next. This problem has been fixed.

4.2.11 Problem fixed: red cross in jobs when files are in the working folder

If a user sent files to a hot folder and then exited Print Console while the files were still in the **working** folder, the next time that the user started Print Console, the jobs appeared in the Pending queue with a red cross. This indicated that the media was not configured.

Print Console now blocks job submission until platesetter initialization is complete and Print Console has obtained information about configured media.

4.2.12 Problem fixed: job remakes with multiple copies and file grouping

Job remakes were not supported for MPE platesetters if multiple copies and file grouping were used.

Job remakes with multiple copies are now supported.

Note: Grouped job remakes are still not supported.

4.2.13 Problem fixed: bay interface flashes for a manual bypass

If an operator remakes a job but decides to perform a manual bypass and use a plate type that is not loaded in a bay, the bay interface flashes when the load prompt appears. This has been fixed .

4.2.14 Problem fixed: two-separation job to an empty bay

Operator is prompted to load bay after submitting a two-separation job on two bays loaded with a sample plate, where the first bay is empty.

If an operator submits a two-separation job to an empty bay, the firmware sends the bay to the next available cassette. The firmware then picks a plate and starts to image the first separation. The second separation suspends with a `Bay empty. Please load cassette` message. The operator must load the cassette twice so that the firmware will load a plate from the cassette.

This was fixed. The second separation is automatically picked from the bay without sending a load bay prompt.

4.3 Firmware Functionality

4.3.1 Trendsetter VLF AL 2.02 NVS tuning

If *Trendsetter* VLF AL firmware version 2.00 build 0 or later is installed on all VAL autoloader machines, tune the following NVS parameters after downloading *Trendsetter* VLF AL firmware 2.02.

1. Tune the `compactor_ext_timeout` NVS parameter. A typical value is 3 seconds. Set it with the following diagnostic command:

```
set val cet 3
```

2. Set the `intermittent plate separation air` NVS parameters. For more information, see Cassette plate separation.

   Set a typical intermittent separation air with following commands:

   ```
   set val sai 10
   set val sadc 5
   ```

   Set solid separation air with following commands:

   ```
   set val sai 10
   set val sadc 10
   ```

3. Set the `pick_slipsheet_first` NVS parameter to 2 to enable the option or to 0 to disable it. Use the following command, where x is 2 or 0:

   ```
   set val psf x
   ```

   Note: You must issue the `set val psf` command when the image job list is empty. Otherwise, image tasks with different `val psf` options may interfere with each other.

4. Set the array of `bay_adaptive_thresh` in the `altim` NVS section to 0 if the adaptive slip sheet sensor is not used. Use the following command, where n = 0–3 and 0–3 corresponds with cassettes 1–4:

   ```
   set altim bat n 0
   ```

5. If the adaptive slip sheet sensor will be used, set the corresponding `bay_adaptive_thresh` in the `altim` NVS section to a non-zero number. Use the following command, where n = 0–3 and 0–3 corresponds with cassettes 1–4, and where 200 is an arbitrary number:

   ```
   set altim bat n 200
   ```

   The adaptive slip sheet sensor threshold adopts the threshold value of its media type each time a cassette is loaded. It is updated each time a plated is picked.

   Note: In order for the adaptive slip sheet sensor threshold to be calculated correctly, operators must always load the cassette full.

   Besides the `bay_adaptive_thresh`, you must set three other NVS parameters in order for the adaptive slip sheet sensor algorithm to work. Use the following commands:

   ```
   set media n SS_Sensor_Offset value
   ```

   where n is the media type of a bay, and the value is 30

   ```
   set media n SS_Sensor_K1 value
   ```

   where n is the media type of a bay, and the value is 75 for 75% of the previous threshold

   ```
   set media n SS_Sensor_K2 value
   ```

   where n is the media type of a bay, and the value is 25 for 25% of the current slip sheet sensor reading

6. The slip sheet drop pause is configurable in the range of 5–255 seconds. Use the following command, where n is the slip sheet drop pause in seconds:

   `set al sdp n`

7. The slip sheet sensor reading is configurable in the range 1–3 times. Use the following command, where n is the times that the slip sheet sensor is read for slip sheet detection:

   `set val ssrt n`

4.3.2 Reliability improvements

We have made significant improvements in platesetter reliability in the following areas: picking, loading, slip sheet removal, cassette loading, and conveyor ejects. Fixes include better slip sheet detection and handling for both delicate media and wedgemaster pickers.

We have implemented several fixes for multiple plate detection, image ID mismatch errors, and edge detection.

For more information, see the firmware release notes.

4.3.3 Support added: multiple plate detection

CR 4.1 includes detection of whether multiple plates are loaded onto the drum. The following NVS were added to allow configuration of this feature:

`mult_plate_detect` enables multiple plate detection for each media

`head_compensation` is machine-specific and is for TH compensation during multiple plate detection

4.3.4 Support added: intermittent cassette plate separation

CR 4.1 includes intermittent plate separation to overcome the plate-drop problem that was caused by air bursts on some customer sites. Two NVS parameters were added for tuning the intermittent plate separation air. The `separation_air_interval` NVS parameter defines the period when the plate separation air is controlled. The `separation_air_duty_cycle` NVS parameter defines how long plate separation is turned on. The plate separation air becomes intermittent if the two NVS parameters are different; it is solid if the two NVS parameters are same. Both NVS parameters are defined in units of 100 milliseconds. Use the following commands:

Separation air interval: `set val sai nn`

Separation air duty cycle: `set val sadc nn`

4.4 Thermal Imaging Head Firmware

4.4.1 Problem fixed: thermal imaging 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 imaging head 1.x firmware version 1.97 fixes this problem.

Upgrade all thermal imaging heads running firmware versions 1.93, 1.95, or 1.96 to firmware 1.97 as soon as possible. After the firmware upgrade, reset the platesetter. The 33s in the stroke tables are active and not saved, so resetting the platesetter clears them. After resetting the platesetter, the thermal imaging head will perform a stroke cal automatically on the first plot as each media is selected.

5 MINOR FEATURES AND FIXES

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