

Print Console Hot Folders

Feature Summary

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Comments
1	June 21, 2005	Gary Wu	First Draft
2	July 27, 2005	Gary Wu	Update with information that “File Types” and “Delete Unwanted Files” features are now available in some MPE versions.

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1 INTRODUCTION TO THIS DOCUMENT

1.1 Purpose

This document describes Print Console hot folder features and indicates the version of Print Console in which they first appeared.

1.2 Scope

This document covers the hot folder features that are used by customers.

It does not provide information about the **Allow Cyclical Hot Folders** option on the **Service** panel (**Enabled Features**), which is a testing tool that allows the output of one hot folder to become the input to the next hot folder.

1.3 Intended Audience

The intended audience for this document includes the following stakeholder groups:

- Print Console developers
- System testers
- Product Support Specialists

2 OVERVIEW OF PRINT CONSOLE HOT FOLDERS

Print Console hot folders are the input queues through which TIFF workflows submit prescreened 1-bit TIFF files to the Creo TIFF Downloader, one of the components of Print Console. Print Console operators use the Creo TIFF Downloader to:

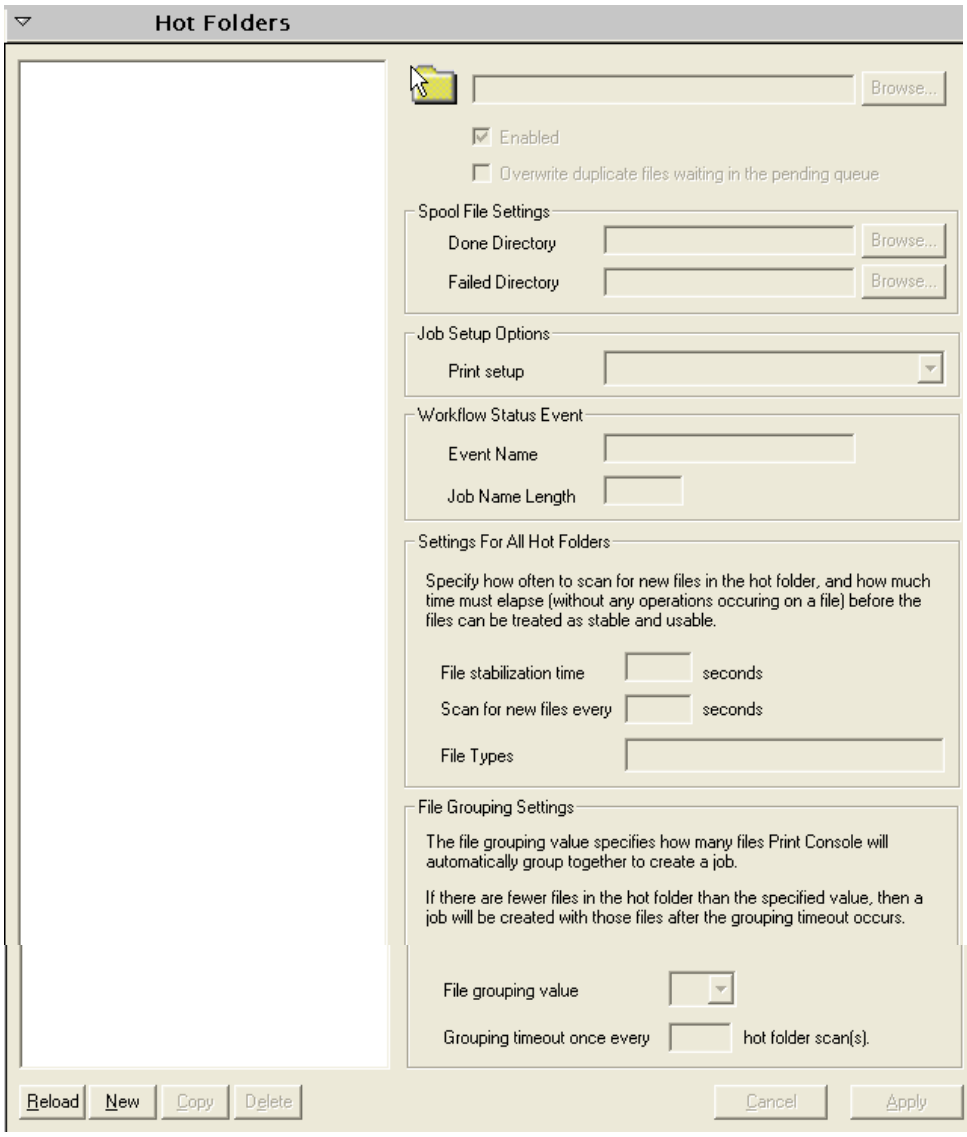
- Submit test files to see if imaging problems are caused by the RIP or the output device. Print Console images “Creo Diagnostic Tool” on the media.
- Submit TIFF files for imaging on an output device. If Creo TIFF Downloader is licensed for this purpose, Print Console does not image “Creo Diagnostic Tool” on the media.

Print Console hot folders receive TIFF files from:

- Prinergy proofing jobs
- Screen2Go, software that converts Brisque files to 1-bit TIFF files
- Third-party workflows and RIPs

Each hot folder is associated with a Print Console print setup, which is a set of properties for a certain type of job. When workflow operators send files to Print Console hot folders, Print Console automatically applies the job properties from the print setup to the file and moves the file to the **Pending** queue to await imaging.

Hot folders settings are configured in the Print Console **Hot Folders** pane (shown) or in the registry.



3 FEATURE SUMMARY: PRINT CONSOLE HOT FOLDERS

The following table summarizes all Print Console hot folder features. The following definitions apply:

Local	The setting applies to one hot folder only. The user can specify a different value for each hot folder.
Global	The setting applies to all hot folders.
Version	The Print Console version in which the feature first appeared
Registry Setting	This feature is enabled and/or configured via a registry key.

Name	Version	Local or Global	Description
Spool directory	Original version	Local	This is the folder where Print Console looks for incoming files.
Enabled	Original version	Local	Select this check box to enable the hot folder. Clear it to disable the hot folder.
Overwrite duplicate files waiting in the pending queue	2.5.0.1 for MPE devices 3.4.0.12 for MCE devices	Local	If this option is enabled, Print Console overwrites existing files in the **Pending** queue if new files with the same names are submitted to the same hot folder.
Done Directory	Original version	Local	Specify a path to the **Done** folder. Print Console automatically moves successfully imaged files to the **Done** folder. If the **Done** folder is not specified, Print Console deletes the files once they have been successfully imaged.
Failed Directory	Original version	Local	Specify a path to the **Failed** folder. For failed or cancelled jobs, Print Console automatically moves the files to the **Failed** folder. If the **Failed** folder is not specified, Print Console deletes the files after the associated jobs have been moved to the **Processed** queue.
Print Setup	Original version	Local	Select a print setup to attach to the hot folder. Print Console uses the selected print setup to initialize the job properties when files are submitted to the hot folder. Print setups are configured in the **Print Setups** panel.
Event Name	3.10.0.14	Local	Enter an event name. Print Console logs the event name in workflow status log files.
Job Name Length	3.10.1.3	Local	The workflow status event feature uses TIFF file names as the job names. If the file names are too long, use **Job Name Length** to abbreviate the job names for workflow status reports. Specify the number of characters to include in the job names.

Name	Version	Local or Global	Description
File Stabilization Time			Specify how much time must elapse without any operation on the files before they can be treated as stable and ready for processing. See the section on processing order (FIFO order and alphabetical order).
	Original version	Global	When a new file enters the hot folder, Print Console waits for the file stabilization period to elapse. If it cannot open the file after that time, it fails the file.
	2.2	Global	If Print Console cannot open the file after the file stabilization period has elapsed, it waits for the stabilization period again and tries again to open the file. It repeats this step up to 100 times before sending the file to the **Failed** folder or, if a **Failed** folder is not configured, deleting the file.
	3.17.1	Global	If Print Console cannot open the file after the file stabilization period has elapsed, it waits for the stabilization period again and tries again to open the file. Print Console repeats this step up to the number of times specified in the File Timeout value in the registry. The default is 30, but you can change it at: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Creo\ PrintConsole\V2.0\Spoolers\HotFolder\FileTimeout** If Print Console fails to open the file after looping the number of times configured in the File Timeout registry entry, it will try again in the next hot folder scan.
Scan for new files every X seconds	Original version	Global	Specify the number of seconds Print Console should wait between hot folder scans.
File grouping value	3.0	Local	Specify how many files Print Console will group together to create a single job. This feature is useful for devices that support dual-plate loading and will be available only when the dual-plate option is enabled in the firmware.
Grouping timeout once every X hot folder scan(s)	3.0	Local	Specify the number of hot folder scans that must happen before a grouping timeout is triggered. If the File grouping value is greater than one, a grouping timeout will eventually occur if the number of files in the hot folder is less than the specified File grouping value. For example, if the File grouping value is two and there are three files in the hot folder, Print Console will create a job with two files grouped together. The third file will wait in the hot folder for other incoming files. If a new file does not arrive before a grouping timeout occurs, Print Console will create a single-file job with the third file. This field is available only when the dual-plate option is enabled in the firmware.

Name	Version	Local or Global	Description
file filters			This setting specifies the file extensions for TIFF files that Print Console should image. It applies only to files submitted via hot folders. In Print Console 3.17.0.128, it is a registry setting. In Print Console 3.17.1 and later and in some MPE versions, it is configured in the **Hot Folders** panel. For example, if you want Print Console to image only TIFF files with tif or tiff as the file name extension and ignore temporary files with tif1 as the file name extension, specify the following file filters: ***.tif:*.tiff **Note:** The file filters must be separated by a colon.
(Registry setting)	3.17.0.128	Global	(Trendsetter NEWS CR 4.0 and 400/800 CR 4.0) The registry key for this feature is: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Creo\PrintConsole\V2.0\Spoolers\HotFolder\SpoolerFilters** Set the type to **REG_SZ**. The default value is blank, which means that Print Console will pick up all file types.
File Types	3.17.1 2.1.4.33 2.2.4.15 2.4.0.6 2.5.1.7 2.7.0.6	Global	In **Hot Folders > File Types**, enter the file patterns for the types of files that will be allowed into the hot folder. If there is more than one file type, separate the file patterns with a colon. **Note:** *.tif and *.tiff are configured by default.
Deleting unwanted files, for example, Macintosh resource files (Registry Setting)	3.17.1 2.1.4.33 2.2.4.15 2.4.0.6 2.5.1.7 2.7.0.6	Global	Mac OS X generates resource files whose file names begin with the following characters: . or _ (period or underscore) If the file extension of unwanted files matches one of the file name filters (for example, *.tif), then Print Console will submit them to the **Pending** queue. Print Console can be configured to automatically delete unwanted files from the hot folders. The registry key for this feature is: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Creo\PrintConsole\V2.0\Spoolers\HotFolder\IgnoreAndDelete** Set the type to **REG_SZ**. The default value is blank, which means that no files will be deleted. To configure Print Console to delete file names beginning with either **.** or _, set the value of the registry key to: .:_ (period, colon, underscore) **Note:** Each **Ignore and Delete** filter must be separated by a colon.

Name	Version	Local or Global	Description
Processing Order (Registry Setting) a) **Alphabetical Order**	3.17.1	Global	**Note:** Starting with version 3.17.1, the default processing order is First-In-First-Out (FIFO). To configure Print Console to process files in alphabetical order, set the value of the following registry key to **0**: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Creo\ PrintConsole\V2.0\Spoolers\HotFolder\ FIFOSpooling** Set the type to **DWORD**. To reenable FIFO, set the value to **1**. When alphabetical processing order is enabled, Print Console will process files in alphabetical order within each hot folder. If the file that Print Console is processing has not stabilized within two stabilization time periods (2 x **File Stabilization Time),** Print Console will time out, abandon the file, and move on to the next one. Print Console will attempt to process the abandoned file in the next hot folder scan.
Processing Order (Registry Setting) b) **FIFO (First-In-First-Out) Order**	3.17.1	Global	**FIFO** is the default behavior. With this feature, Print Console will process files in FIFO order within each hot folder. Print Console will still wait for the file to stabilize before moving on to the next one in order to ensure that files are processed in absolute FIFO order. It will time out after 30 attempts (the number of attempts can be configured in the registry—see the section on File Stabilization Time). If it fails to open the file after looping the number of times configured in the registry, it will try again in the next hot folder scan. **Note:** Because Print Console will wait for a file to stabilize before moving on to the next one, for efficient operation it is important to specify the right **file filters** and **Ignore and Delete filters**. **Note:** Print Console versions that do not support FIFO will always process files in alphabetical order.

4 TROUBLESHOOTING HOT FOLDERS

4.1 File Sent From Workflow Does Not Arrive in Hot Folder

Check the file name extension. If it does not match one of the file patterns in **Hot Folders > File Types**, it is being filtered out of the hot folder.