Quick Start Guide

English

Print Console

version **3.15**

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Print Console

version 3.15

Quick Start Guide

creo™

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4,500,919	5,323,248	5,526,143	5,713,287	5,986,819	6,137,580	6,299,572
4,558,302	5,325,217	5,532,728	5,742,743	5,995,475	6,147,789	6,318,266
4,743,091	5,339,176	5,561,691	5,764,374	5,996,499	6,158,345	6,340,817
4,992,864	5,343,059	5,568,595	5,764,381	5,998,067	6,159,659	6,352,816
5,049,901	5,355,446	5,576,754	5,771,794	6,003,442	6,164,637	6,353,216
5,079,721	5,359,451	5,579,115	5,785,309	6,014,471	6,180,325	6,366,339
5,081,617	5,359,458	5,592,309	5,802,034	6,016,752	6,181,362	6,371,026
5,103,407	5,367,360	5,594,556	5,813,346	6,031,932	6,181,439	6,377,739
5,111,308	5,384,648	5,600,448	5,818,498	6,043,865	6,186,068	6,387,597
5,113,249	5,384,899	5,608,822	5,854,883	6,060,208	6,189,452	6,396,422
5,122,871	5,412,491	5,615,282	5,861,904	6,063,528	6,191,882	6,396,618
5,124,547	5,412,737	5,625,766	5,861,992	6,063,546	6,204,874	6,407,849
5,132,723	5,420,702	5,636,330	5,875,288	6,072,518	6,208,369	6,414,755
5,150,225	5,420,722	5,649,220	5,894,342	6,090,529	6,214,276	6,422,801
5,153,769	5,459,505	5,650,076	5,900,981	6,096,461	6,217,965	6,435,091
5,155,782	5,473,733	5,652,804	5,934,196	6,098,544	6,252,522	
5,157,516	5,481,379	5,680,129	5,942,137	6,107,011	6,260,482	
5,208,818	5,488,906	5,691,823	5,946,426	6,112,663	6,266,080	
5,208,888	5,497,252	5,691,828	5,947,028	6,115,056	6,266,134	
5,247,174	5,508,828	5,696,393	5,958,647	6,121,996	6,267,054	
5,249,067	5,509,561	5,699,174	5,966,504	6,130,702	6,268,948	

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Welcome

This manual is intended for anyone who uses or administers Print Console software. It introduces key concepts and explains how to use the software.

Use this manual:

- To learn about the main Print Console features
- To learn how to use Print Console windows
- For an overview of the Print Console device control workflow and workflow tasks

If you've taken Print Console classroom or self-study training, you've covered all of the information in this manual. Use this manual to refresh your memory.

For information about the RIP, see your RIP documentation (for example, the Prinergy online help). For information about the Print Console workstation or the output device, see your output device operator documentation.

For More Information

This section describes additional resources for learning about Print Console. Visit Creo at www.creo.com for documentation, training courses, downloads, and service and support contacts.

Online Help

This manual provides only a basic overview of Print Console. The online help is your primary source of information.

Use the online help:

- After reading this manual
- For detailed step-by-step procedures for all Print Console tasks
- For detailed information on Print Console features and concepts
- For information about how the options in Print Console windows affect your system
- To search for information about a topic or keyword

To access the main level of Print Console online help:

- Click the help icon on the left side of the Status window. The Welcome page appears.

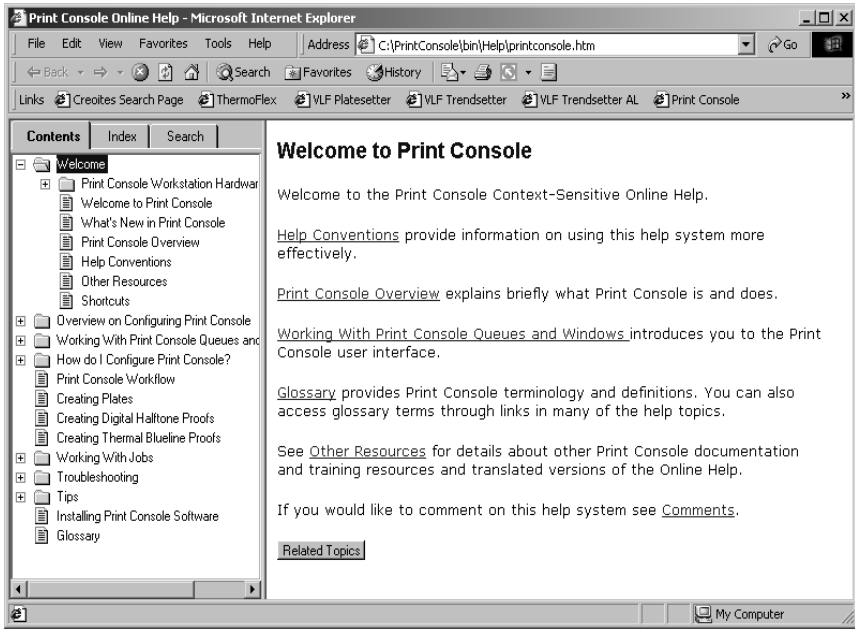


Figure 1: Using Print Console online help

Instructions for using the online help are available from the Help Conventions hyperlink on the Welcome page.

To access context-sensitive field-level help on boxes or buttons:



1. Click the **Help** button on the top-right corner of the Print Console interface.



   The pointer tool becomes a question mark.

2. Using the question mark pointer tool, click the relevant box, button, or section.

   Or:

   In the box, button, or section, press **F1**.

   Print Console displays a window containing field-specific information.



Note: You cannot access field-level help by pressing F1 in boxes or buttons that are view-only or unavailable. You must use the question mark pointer tool to access information in view-only boxes or buttons.

To print field-level help topics:

1. Using the question mark pointer tool, click the box or button that you want more information about.

   A field-level help window appears.

2. In the field-level help window, right-click, and select **Print** from the short cut menu.

   The Print dialog box appears.

3. Click **OK** to print the field-level help topic.

On-site Training

An on-site Print Console training course is available. For more information, contact your service representative.

Print Console Technical Bulletins and Release Notes

Technical bulletins are available that describe:

- How specific workflow systems connect to Print Console
- How to configure Print Console for each workflow system
- How to process files

Release Notes are available that describe:

- New features
- Known problems
- Problems fixed

Print Console in Your Workflow

Print Console is device control software that works with raster image processing (RIP) software to deliver RIPed files to an output device for imaging onto media to create digital halftone proofs, film, or plates. Print Console is not a RIP.

Print Console device control software, RIP software, GDAPI (Generic Device Application Programming Interface), and Creo TIFF Downloader software are loaded on the Print Console workstation.The Print Console workstation bridges the prepress process and the output device.

When Print Console detects that the output device is idle:

1. It looks at the next job in the Print Console pending queue.
2. It notifies the output device to load the appropriate medium configured in the job properties.
3. It notifies the appropriate RIP, which is configured with Print Console (for example, Prinergy), to process the job and send the generated raster to the device.

Print Console notifies you when the output device needs attention, such as when media need to be loaded or a device error occurs.

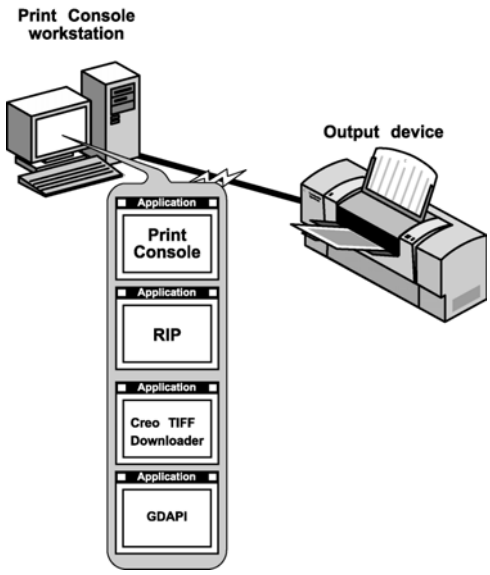


Figure 2: Relationship between the Print Console workstation and output device

Installing Print Console

Print Console can be installed by your service representative or you can install it yourself. To install Print Console, read the installation PDF on the Controlled Release CD (Print Console Directory) and follow the on-screen instructions in the Print Console installation program.

System Components

The Print Console system has five components:

- Print Console workstation running on Windows 2000
- Print Console device control software
- Creo TIFF Downloader software
- GDAPI

Print Console Workstation

The Print Console workstation runs Print Console software. It is the entry point for digital data coming into the system. The workstation is an Intel computer that's connected to a local area network (LAN) over which it receives files.

The Print Console workstation runs the Windows 2000® operating system. To operate the workstation efficiently, you must have a basic understanding of Windows 2000. For information on Windows 2000, see your Microsoft Windows 2000 documentation.



Note: For information about turning the workstation on or off, see your workstation documentation.

Print Console Device Control Software

Print Console device control software provides queue management, color separation management, connectivity to RIP software, and connectivity to an output device. It runs on the Print Console workstation with the RIP software, GDAPI, and Creo TIFF Downloader software. Print Console coordinates RIP and device operations for imaging onto media.



Important: For optimal system performance, do not use a screen saver. Set the screen saver to blank.

Creo TIFF Downloader Software

You can use Creo TIFF Downloader as a RIP diagnostic tool or a workflow tool. It operates in the background, letting you submit prescreened 1-bit TIFF files to the output device. Creo TIFF Downloader is not a traditional RIP. It only reads prescreened 1-bit TIFF files and sends the raster to the output device.

As a diagnostic tool, Creo TIFF Downloader submits prescreened 1-bit TIFF test files to Print Console for imaging on to media. The results indicate whether imaging problems are due to the RIP or the output device.

As a workflow tool, Creo TIFF Downloader submits prescreened 1-bit TIFF files to Print Console. You generate the TIFF files using a RIP of your choice, and then submit the TIFF files to Print Console for imaging on to media.

Note: To use Creo TIFF Downloader as a workflow tool, you must obtain a Creo TIFF Downloader license key from your service representative. Without a license key, Creo TIFF Downloader images the words `Creo Diagnostic Tool` on the media.

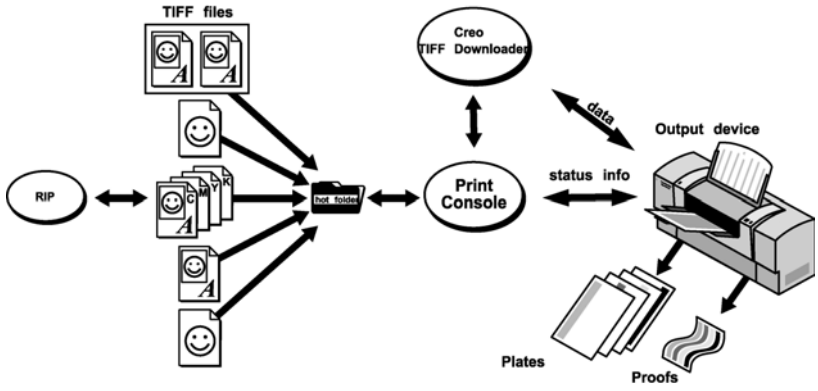


Figure 3: Creo TIFF Downloader and Print Console

Online help

- TIFF Downloader
- TIFF Jobs

GDAPI Support

Print Console includes a Generic Device Application Programming Interface (GDAPI). GDAPI connects RIP software to Print Console. You do not interact directly with GDAPI. It operates in the background, allowing you to submit raster images, with job properties defined in the RIP software workflow, directly to Print Console.

The purpose of GDAPI is to give the RIP more control over jobs and job properties. All job properties must be applied or edited in the RIP. You cannot edit job properties in Print Console, but you can view the properties in the Job Properties dialog box. If a job is queued and its job properties were not set correctly by the RIP, you must cancel the job and resubmit it in order to correct the job properties.

When the RIP queues a job containing one or more raster images, the job is held in the pending queue as **unapproved** until all job properties are specified by the RIP, at which point the job is **approved** by the RIP and sent to the active queue for processing. The amount of time that a job remains **unapproved** depends on how quickly the RIP can supply all of the job properties that are required to approve the job.



Note: You cannot approve GDAPI jobs in Print Console. GDAPI jobs are approved by the RIP.

If you submit jobs to Print Console through GDAPI, you do not need to:

- Create hot folder input queues, because the files are sent directly to Print Console from the RIP workflow
- Configure Print Console with print setups for initializing job properties, because job properties are defined in the RIP workflow



Note: If you configure Print Console with print setups, Print Console does not apply those print setups to GDAPI jobs. The job properties defined in the RIP workflow override the print setups configured in Print Console.

- Configure proof color mappings in the **Proof Color Table** pane. Color mappings for GDAPI proofmaking jobs are created in the RIP, based on the output device default media color order and the color separations in the job raster.

With GDAPI you cannot:

- Edit job properties from the pending queue. You must define and approve all job properties in the RIP workflow. Print Console displays job properties in the Job Properties dialog box as view-only when you submit a job through GDAPI.
- Group, ungroup, or unapprove jobs submitted to Print Console through GDAPI

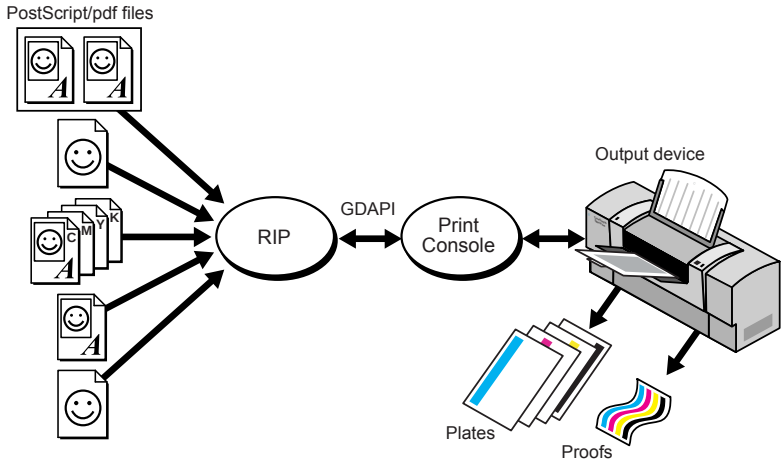


Figure 4: Print Console GDAPI concept

Note: Creo TIFF Downloader and GDAPI coexist on the Print Console workstation. If your system is not GDAPI compliant, you can use hot folders and Creo TIFF Downloader with Print Console to process pre screened 1-bit TIFF files.

Front-End Workflow Systems Supported

Print Console can connect to front-end workflow systems, such as Prinergy or Brisque.

Print Console supports front-end workflow systems that are capable of interfacing directly through GDAPI or supplying prescreened 1-bit TIFF files through hot folders and Creo TIFF Downloader.

Note: Workflow systems must meet specific requirements before they can interface with Print Console through GDAPI.

Print Console connects to TIFF workflow front-end systems using hot folder input queues.

Job Processing

Job Submission

When you submit a file to Print Console, it appears as a job in the **Pending Queue**. You must approve pending jobs before Print Console can process them.



Tip: You can group two or more jobs together to create one large job that contains many files.

GDAPI jobs appear in the Pending, Active, and Processed queues in the same way as other jobs. Most aspects of these jobs are controlled by the RIP including:

- Setting job properties
- Approving jobs

GDAPI jobs are read only in Print Console. If you use GDAPI to submit jobs, you can only do the following in Print Console:

- Cancel jobs
- Drag jobs to different locations in the pending queue



Online help

- How to Submit Files to Print Console
- How to Group Pending Jobs
- How to Approve Pending Jobs

Queue Control

Print Console uses the following queues to process and review jobs:

- Pending queue
- Processed queue
- Active queue

See *Status Window* on page 18 and *Queues Window* on page 22.

Tip: You can right-click jobs in the Status and Queues windows to access Print Console shortcut menus.

Job Property Configuration

Each job in Print Console has a Job Properties dialog box, which contains processing instructions for the job. The information in the Job Properties dialog box is only used for the job that it is attached to. You can view and edit job properties in the Job Properties dialog box. See also *Print Setups and Job Initialization* on page 11.



Note: Job properties for raster images that are defined in the RIP and submitted to Print Console through GDAPI can only be viewed in the Job Properties dialog box. You must edit the job properties in your RIP, for example Prinergy or Brisque.



Online help

- How to Configure Job Properties

Job Approval

Print Console holds jobs in the Pending queue until you manually approve them for processing. This feature gives you time to prepare the job for processing and to edit the job properties. Print Console does not process unapproved jobs.

You can choose whether to use the job approval feature. You can configure Print Console to automatically approve jobs when they enter the system or to hold jobs in the Pending queue until you manually approve them. This configuration is set in the **Print Setups** pane.



Online help

- Configuring Print Setups
- Approving Pending Jobs

Print Setups and Job Initialization

In Print Console, a print setup is a template for assigning job properties. Print setups can be associated with input queues, which you use to submit files to Print Console. When you submit a file to Print Console through a hot folder input queue that has a print setup associated with it, Print Console applies the configurations in the print setup to the incoming files. You can view the configurations for each job in the Job Properties dialog box, and you can change the job properties as desired.

Note: Print Console does not apply print setups to GDAPI jobs. See also *GDAPI Support* on page 8.



Online help

- Configuring Print Setups
- Configuring Hot Folders
- How to Attach Print Setups to Hot Folders
- How to Submit Files

Color Mapping for Digital Halftone Proofing

Print Console provides a proof color table for creating digital halftone proofs. This lets you map the names of colors in the files you're processing to the names of the colored digital halftone proofing media you want to use. The result is a color mapping, which is stored in the proof color table.

The purpose of the proof color table is to map color names from the large selection of special colors available for printing inks, such as the PANTONE® library of colors, to the smaller selection of colored media available for digital halftone proofmaking.

Color mappings are only used during digital halftone proofmaking. They are not used for platemaking, film-making, or any other process.



Online help

- Managing Color Mappings

Animated Job Process in the Status Window

Print Console includes animation that shows you a job's progress during imaging. When the output device images a job, animation in the Status window displays the imaging progress of the job on the output device.

Note: You can optionally disable the animation feature or limit it to displaying the first frame of an animation sequence.



Online help

- Configuring Status Window Animation

Keyboard Shortcuts

This section describes Print Console keyboard shortcuts.

Table 1: Keyboard shortcuts

Key combination	Result
CTRL+A	Selects all jobs on the **Pending** or **Processed** panes in the Queues window
+	Expands all selected jobs
-	Contracts all selected jobs
DELETE	Deletes the selected job(s) from the **Pending** or **Processed** panes in the Queues window
UP ARROW	Moves the selection line up
LEFT ARROW	Moves the selection line up
DOWN ARROW	Moves the selection line down
RIGHT ARROW	Moves the selection line down
HOME	Selects the first job
END	Selects the last job
CTRL+ALT+C	Shows/hides the **Configuration** button
CTRL+G	Groups selected jobs together on the **Pending** tab
ALT+*COMMAND LETTER*	Expands the menu. For example, ALT+J expands the **Job** menu. Once the menu is expanded, press the underlined letter in the menu option name to activate the option (for example, in the **Job** menu, press S to submit the file).
ALT+F4	Closes Print Console.

Key combination	Result
CTRL+ALT+P	Hides the **Generate PPD** pane in the Configuration window. Press CTRL+ALT+P again to display the pane. You can only hide the **Generate PPD** pane when Print Console is configured with a Delta Technology Application/Workflow.
CTRL+N	Ungroups a selected job on the **Pending** pane

Icons

Print Console uses graphic icons to illustrate elements of your job.

Jobs are listed on the **Pending** pane in the Queues window. You can tell which media are associated with a job by looking at the icon beside the job name.

Table 2: Job queue icons

Icon	What it indicates
	A four-color proof icon represents digital halftone proofing media.
	A green plate icon represents aluminum plating media.
	A gray plate icon represents flexographic media.
	A file icon represents a file in the job.
	A cyan, magenta, yellow, or black icon indicates the color separation in the file and/or job.
	Dual Head Device specific - a cyan, magenta, yellow, or black icon indicates the head that will image the color separation.
	A spot icon represents a spot color separation in the file and/or job.
	Dual Head Device specific - indicates that a spot color separation will be imaged on the left head.
	A blue icon represents thermal blueline proofing media.
	A question mark icon indicates an unknown color or media in the file and/or job. This icon also appears when the device media or fixed media size is not defined in the job properties.
	Dual Head Device specific - indicates an unknown separation that will be imaged on the right head.
	Thermoflex specific - indicates that sheet media is selected for Thermoflex imaging.

Composite and Separated Files

There are two types of job files that you can submit to Print Console: composite and separated.

You can submit composite jobs to Print Console using a GDAPI connection after the files have been processed by the RIP.

Color data for a separated job is separated into different files, for example, 1-bit TIFF files. Each color separation is a separate job. Within Print Console, you can group these separate job files into one job.

2

Navigating Through Print Console

Job Management Windows 18
Configuration Window 27
Job Specific Configuration 48

This chapter describes the main configuration and job management windows in Print Console, how to customize the windows, and how to move around in Print Console.

Print Console uses three job management windows and one configuration window to manage pending jobs and to submit jobs to the output device.

Job Management Windows

Use the Status, Queues, and Messages windows to manage jobs.

- The Status window has two views:
  - **Device status**
  - **Active job status**
- The Queues window has two panes:
  - **Pending**
  - **Processed**
- The Messages window has two panes:
  - **Messages**
  - **History**



Online help

- Working With Print Console Queues and Windows

Status Window

The Status window **Active** queue displays information about the device and the job that Print Console is currently processing.

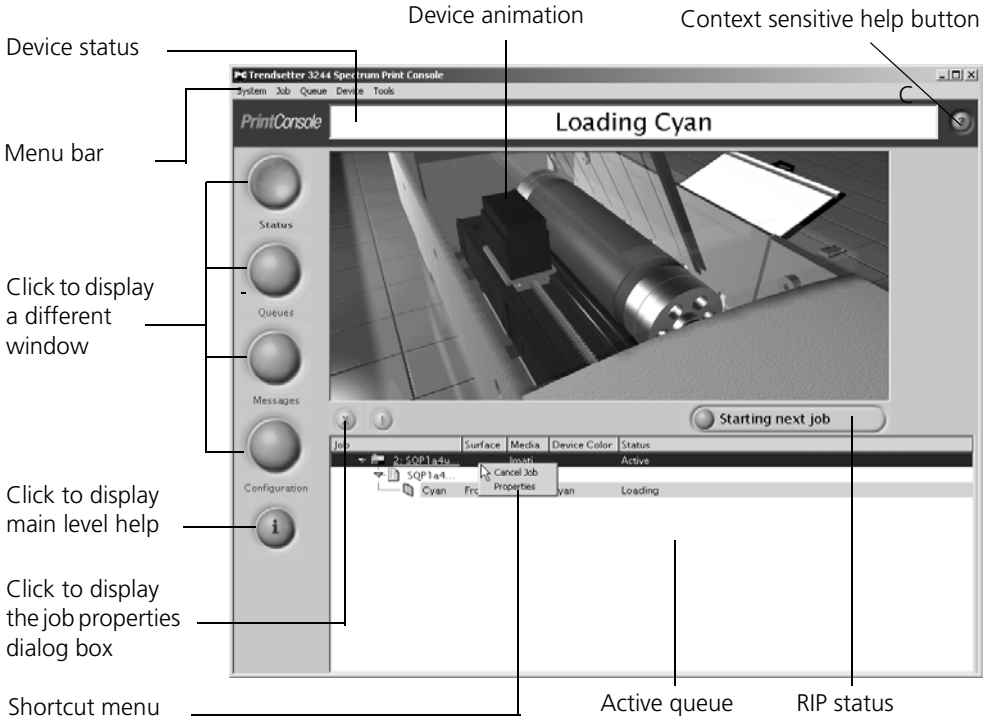


Figure 5: Status window

Use the Status window to:

- Configure an autoloader bay or cassette
- View the bay status and bay quantity
- View the animation of the imaging process
- View the status of the device
- View the status of the RIP
- View the status of active jobs
- View the job properties of active jobs
- Cancel active jobs

Online help

- Managing Active Jobs
- Status Window

Configure Bay

Use the Configure Bay dialog box to load plates into an autoloader device. See *Loading Media into an Autoloader Bay or Cassette* on page 52.

Access the Configure Bay dialog box from the Status window.

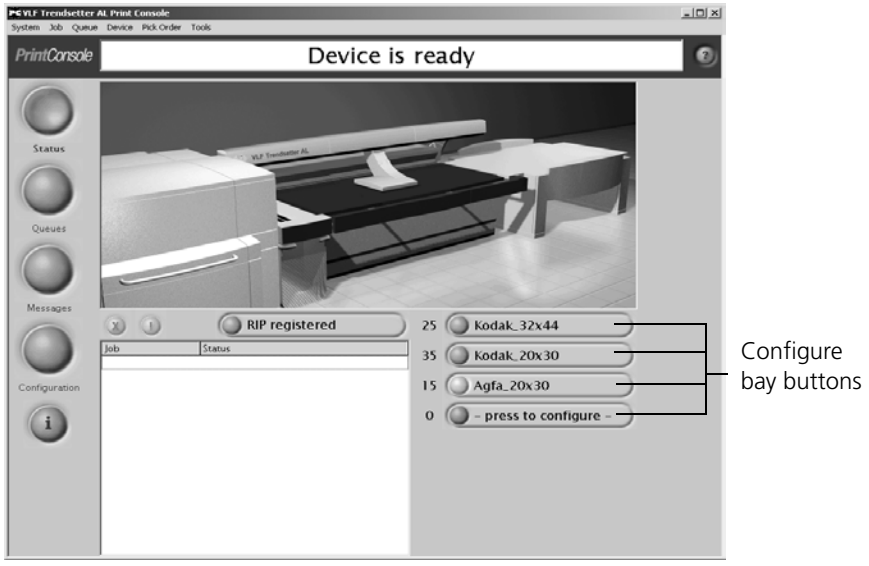


Figure 6: Configure Bay buttons on Status window

Print Console displays the bay configuration buttons for devices that have automatically loading media. Check with your service representative for the correct configuration for your system.

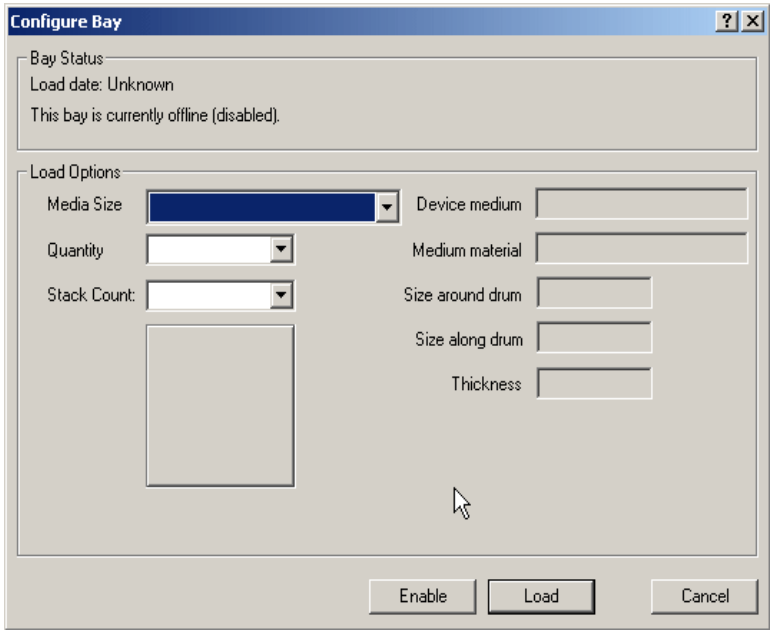


Figure 7: Configure Bay dialog box

Use the Configure Bay dialog box to:

- Load an empty bay or cassette
- Reload a bay or cassette with the same plate
- Load a bay or cassette with a different plate type or size
- Unlock a bay or take it offline

At startup, Print Console displays the last known bay configuration in the Configure Bay dialog box.

Note: If the button displays as a blue circle, the bay or cassette is empty.

If the button is white, the bay or cassette has between one and 19 plates loaded.

If the button is green, the bay or cassette has 20 or more plates loaded.

If the button is gray, the bay is either disabled or offline.

Online help

- How to Load Media Into Autoloader Bays or Cassettes
- How to Unlock an Autoloader Cassette or Bay
- How to Take an Autoloader Bay or Cassette Offline

Queues Window

The Queues window contains two panes: **Pending** and **Processed**. You can search both the **Pending** and **Processed** panes (including collapsed items) by entering a search string and clicking the **Search Down** or **Search Up** buttons. You can also do an advanced search, selecting **Match whole word only** or **Case sensitive**.

The **Pending** pane contains the pending queue, which lists all jobs waiting to be processed. In this pane you can group job files together for proofmaking, rearrange the job processing priority, or edit job properties before Print Console processes a job.

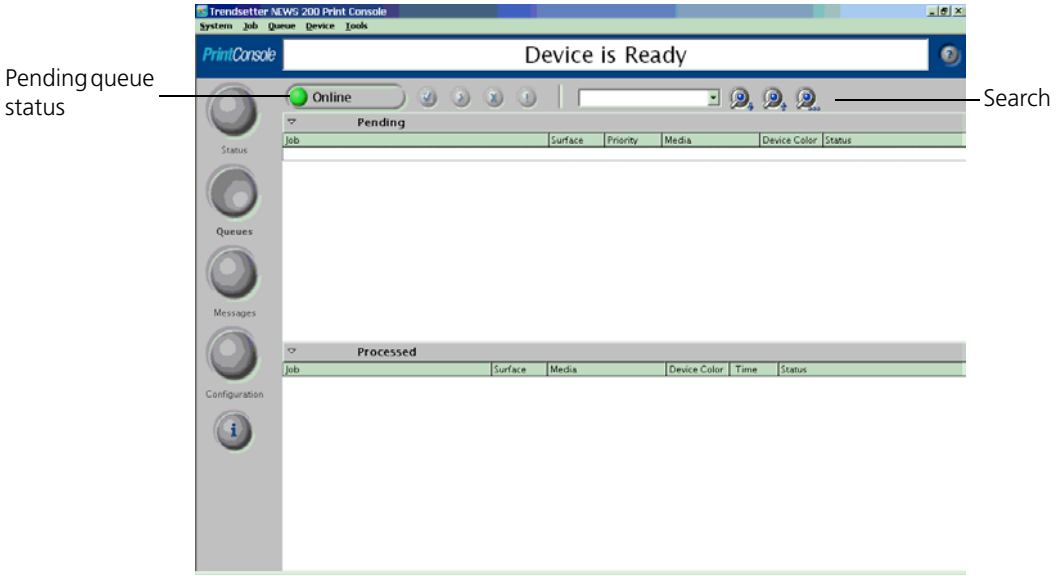


Figure 8: Pending pane

The Pending Queue Status button toggles between:

- Offline - no jobs are sent to the active queue
- Online - jobs are processed

Use the **Pending** pane to:

- View submitted jobs
- Group or break up pending jobs
- Edit job properties
- Delete color separations
- Prioritize job processing
- Approve pending jobs
- Unapprove pending jobs
- Cancel pending jobs
- Delete pending jobs
- Send pending TIFF files to Copydot Toolkit for viewing purposes



Online help

- Managing Pending Jobs
- Pending Queue

The **Processed** pane contains the processed queue, which lists all of the processed, failed, and canceled jobs. To reprocess individual separation tasks or TIFF jobs, drag them from the processed queue to the pending queue.



Note: To reprocess GDAPI jobs, you must resubmit them from the originating RIP. To remake a job with multiple copies, you must also resubmit it from the originating RIP.

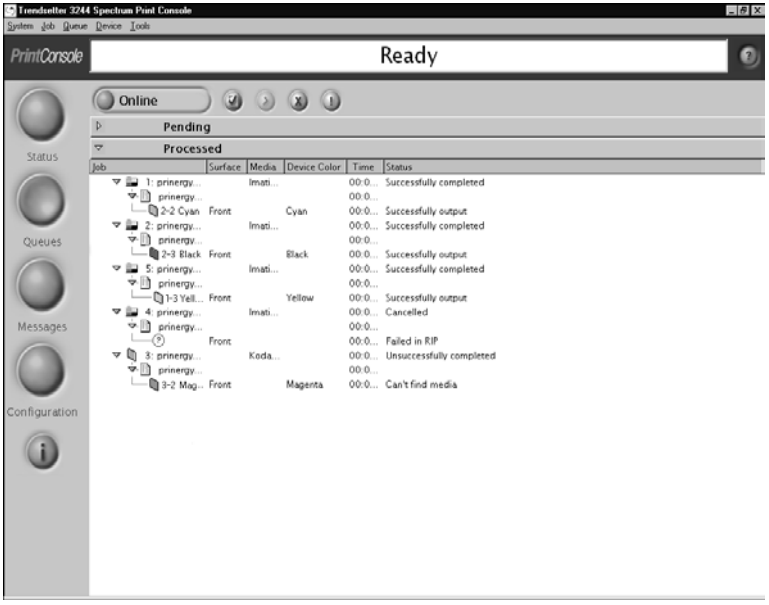


Figure 9: Processed pane

Use the **Processed** pane to:

- Remake processed TIFF jobs
- View job properties for processed jobs
- View job messages for processed jobs
- View the status of a processed job
- Delete processed jobs



Online help

- Managing Processed Jobs
- Processed Queue
- Remaking Processed TIFF Jobs

Messages Window

The Messages window contains two panes: **Messages** and **History**.

The **Messages** pane displays a message prompt when there is a problem to address, a suspend occurs, or the job has been configured with dynamically-sized media. The messages button changes color to indicate that a message prompt is displayed.

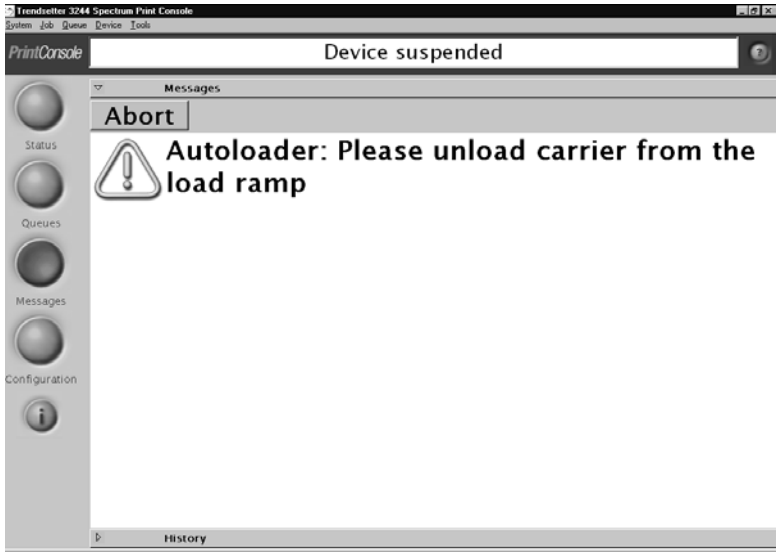


Figure 10: Messages pane

Use the **Messages** pane to:

- View message prompts
- View why a suspend has occurred and how to fix the problem
- Select a device medium and medium thickness, or a fixed medium size for the current job



Online help

- Messages Window
- Viewing the Messages pane
- Processing Jobs With Dynamically Sized Media

The **History** pane displays a scrolling list of messages about the job processing history.



Figure 11: History pane

Use the **History** pane to:

- View information about the normal operation of the Print Console system
- View warning messages about conditions that could cause problems later during processing
- View error messages that explain why a suspend occurred
- View recovery messages inform you that the system has recovered from an error or suspend and you can continue processing
- Copy history messages to a text or word editor



Online help

- Viewing Job History
- History Messages

Configuration Window

Use the Configuration window to configure Print Console.

Depending on your output device, you may see as many as eight views:

- Device Media
- Media Sizes
- Generate PPD
- Proof Color Table (if connected to a digital halftone proofing device)
- Preferences
- Service
- Print Setups
- Hot Folders

Print Console configuration can be divided into two categories:

- System configuration
- Job-specific configuration

Note: If the existing configurations are not going to change, the Configuration window can be hidden.



Online help

- System Configuration Panes and Dialog Boxes
- Job Specific Configuration Panes and Dialog Boxes
- Hiding and Displaying the Configuration Window

System Configuration

The Configuration window contains six panes to configure the Print Console system:

- **Device Media**
- **Media Sizes**
- **Generate PPD**
- **Proof Color Table**
- **Preferences**
- **Service**

Device Media

The **Device Media** pane lists the available media configured in the output device. If proofing digital halftone media is configured, it lists the available device colors. If the output device supports media processors, the Eject Side dialog box appears, indicating which conveyor media will be directed to for processing. Print Console determines the unload characteristic according to the media type and size being imaged. The user has the option for manual or automatic loading. Print Console must be configured with device media before you can define media sizes, color mappings, or print setups.

Note: When Print Console first connects, the **Device Media** pane is populated automatically with the configured media in the output device.

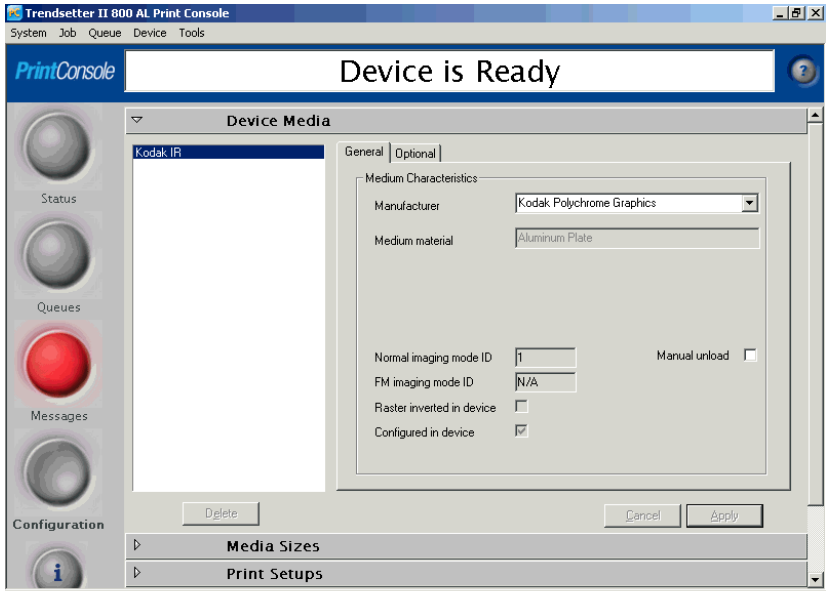


Figure 12: Device Media pane

Use the **Device Media** pane to:

- Add media thickness values to a device medium
- Specify the manufacturer of the device medium
- Specify the medium material
- View all available colors that have ever been configured in the output device for the selected digital halftone proofing device medium
- View information about the FM imaging mode ID
- Change the default color processing order to match the order of the colors in the cassette (digital halftone proofing devices only)
- Delete device media from the Device Media pane if Print Console is connected to different output devices



Note: In order to permanently delete device media from Print Console, the device media must first be deleted from the output device.

- If using film on a ThermoFlex™ output device that has been configured for tinting, select a tinting scheme.
- Configure manual or automatic unloading for supported devices
- View which conveyor media will be sent to if the output device supports media processors



Online help

- Configure Device Media

Media Sizes

Use **Media Sizes** pane to configure Print Console with media size names. When applied to a pending job, Print Console uses this to tell the output device which media to load.

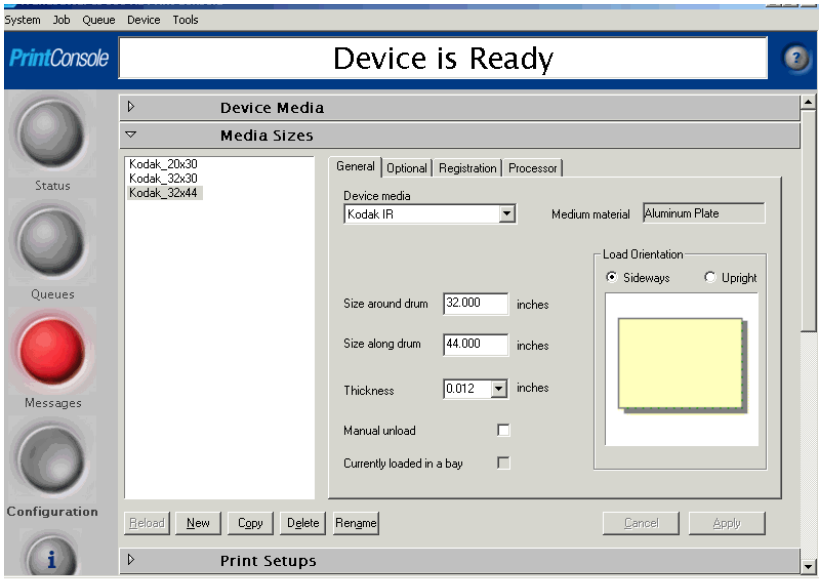


Figure 13: Media Sizes pane

Use the **Media Sizes** pane to:

- Create a new medium size
- Assign a device medium to a medium size
- Specify the size along and around the drum for a medium
- Specify the plate thickness for a medium
- Specify the virtual punch location for a medium
- If connected to an autoloader device, specify manual unloading for a small plate size
- If connected to an autoloader device with a physical punch device, specify where the attached punch device should physically punch a medium
- If connected to an autoloader device capable of rotating media, specify whether the processed plates are to be rotated 90 degrees
- If connected to an autoloader device that supports media processors, specify the processor code
- Delete media sizes
- Overwrite medium indices

Online help

- Configure Media Sizes

Generate PPD

Use the Generate PPD pane to configure Print Console to generate PPD and PPX files. PPD and PPX files are required for use with your imposition software.

Important: To generate PPD and PPX files, the RIP orientation must match the RIP software orientation. To determine whether the RIP requires a portrait or landscape orientation, see the RIP documentation.

Print Console automatically generates PPD and PPX files when:

- Print Console is started
- Configuring of device media, fixed media sizes, print setups, and proof color mappings is finished



Figure 14: Generate PPD pane

Use the **Generate PPD** pane to:

- Generate PPD files
- Select default PPD file settings
- Specify the location where you want PPD and PPX files written to

Online help

- Configure PPD Files

Proof Color Table

Use the **Proof Color Table** pane when creating digital halftone proofs to create color mappings for device media.

Note: For raster proofing images submitted to Print Console through GDAPI, the color mappings for the GDAPI proofmaking jobs are created in the RIP. This is based on the device media default color order and the color separations in the job raster. Creating color mappings in the **Proof Color Table pane** is not necessary. Color mappings can be viewed in the Job Properties dialog box on the **Separations** tab, but changes to the color mappings for GDAPI proofing jobs can only be done in the RIP.

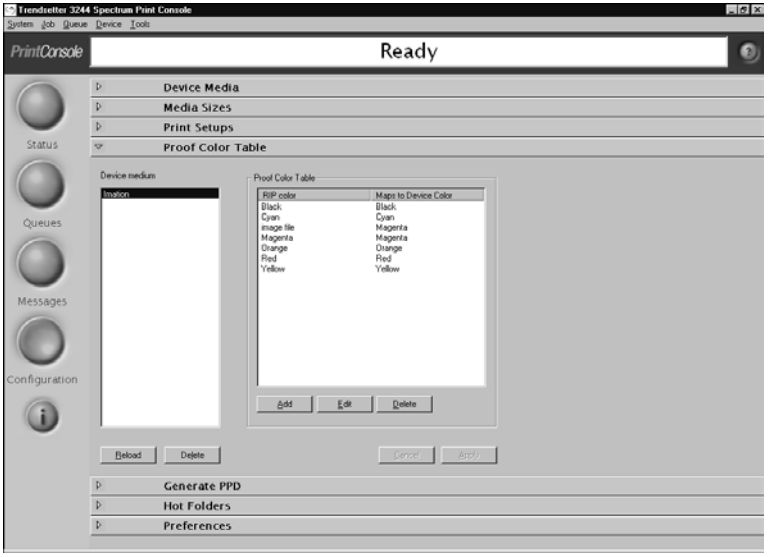


Figure 15: Proof Color Table pane

Use the **Proof Color Table** pane to:

- Map color names in the RIP to the device color names
- Edit color mappings

Online help

- Configure Proof Color Table
- Managing Color Mappings

Preferences

Use the **Preferences** pane to configure workstation defaults and preferences.

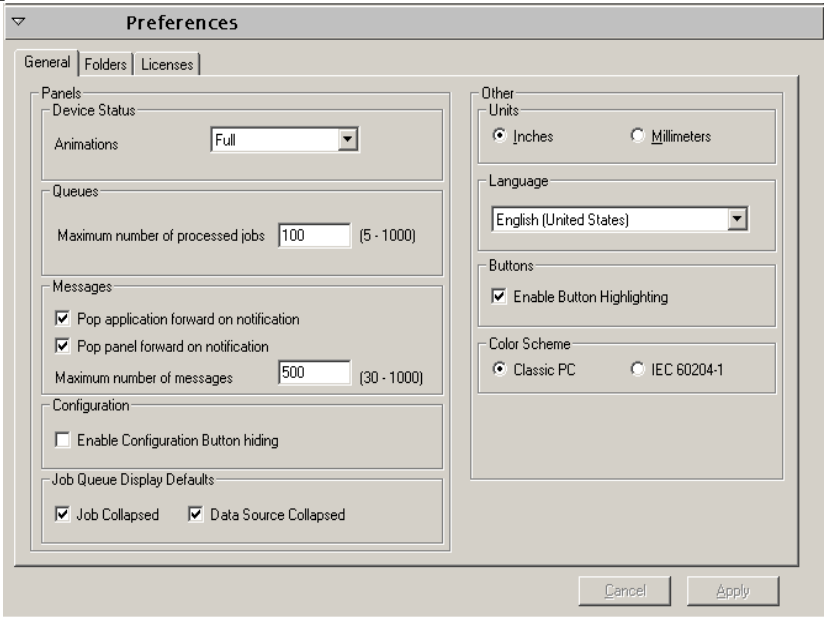


Figure 16: Preferences pane

Use the **Preferences** pane to:

- License Direct Connection (GDAPI), the Creo TIFF Downloader, and Variable Mainscan Resolution
- Set the unit of measurement default
- Set the number of history messages and processed jobs to be displayed
- Set the language default (for example, English)
- Set the animations display (for example, single frame)
- Enable mouse-over highlighting
- Show or hide the Configuration window
- Determine how much job information displays when new jobs enter the Pending and Processed queues
- Show or hide the Message screen when Print Console sends or receives a suspend prompt or notification
- Select the color scheme



Online help

- How to Configure Preferences
- GDAPI
- Creo TIFF Downloader
- Using Creo TIFF Downloader As a Diagnostic Tool

Service

The **Service** pane is a password-protected pane for authorized service personnel and is not meant for general use.



Online help

- What Is the Service Pane?

Job-Specific Configuration

The Configuration window contains two panes used for TIFF job-specific configurations:

- **Print Setups**
- **Hot Folder**

Print Setups

Use the **Print Setups** pane to configure print setups. These act as templates that Print Console uses to initialize job properties. The configurations are then applied to the jobs submitted in the pending queue and become the file's job properties.

Note: Jobs submitted with job properties defined in the RIP to Print Console through GDAPI, contain all print setup information from the RIP. The job properties are displayed as view-only in the Job Properties dialog box. Job properties must be edited in the RIP workflow.

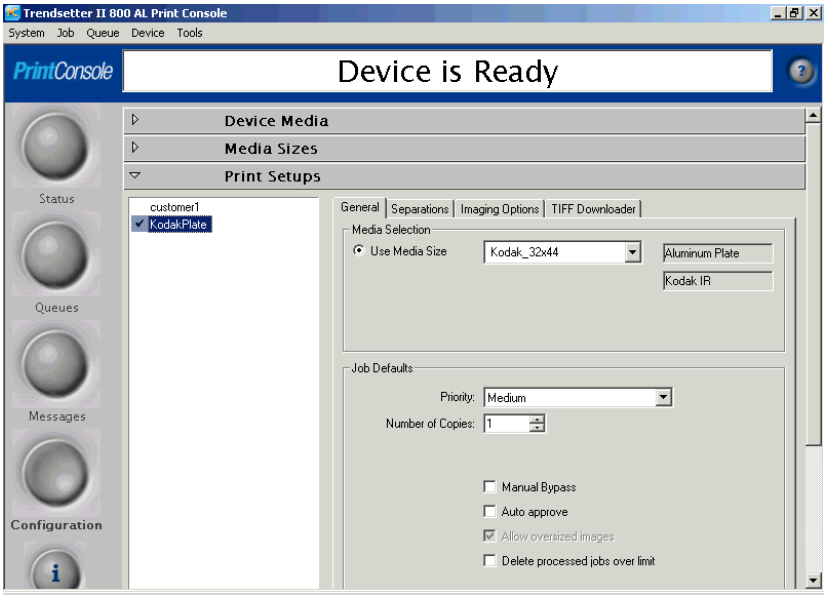


Figure 17: Print Setup pane

Use the **Print Setup** pane to:

- Create a new print setup
- Apply a medium size or device medium name to a print setup
- Create a print setup with dynamically-sized media
- Create a print setup that automatically approves jobs
- Create a print setup that allows oversized images
- Create a print setup that outputs more than one copy of the file
- Apply the manual bypass option to a job when connected to an automatic device
- Apply a queue priority to a print setup
- Limit the number of jobs to retain in the processed queue
- Apply color mappings and color order to a print setup
- Control narrow-mode thermal head exposure for high line-frequency printing (for example, Staccato screening)
- Apply Creo TIFF Downloader functions like mirroring, rotating, image placement, and TIFF cropping to a print setup
- Delete a print setup



Note: You can view and edit the properties for a job in the Job Properties dialog box.



Online help

- Configure Print Setups
- Editing Job Properties

Hot Folder

The **Hot Folder** pane is used for configuring hot folders. Hot folders are used to submit files for imaging.



Note: Raster image jobs submitted with job properties defined in the RIP, to Print Console through GDAPI, do not need hot folder input queues created.

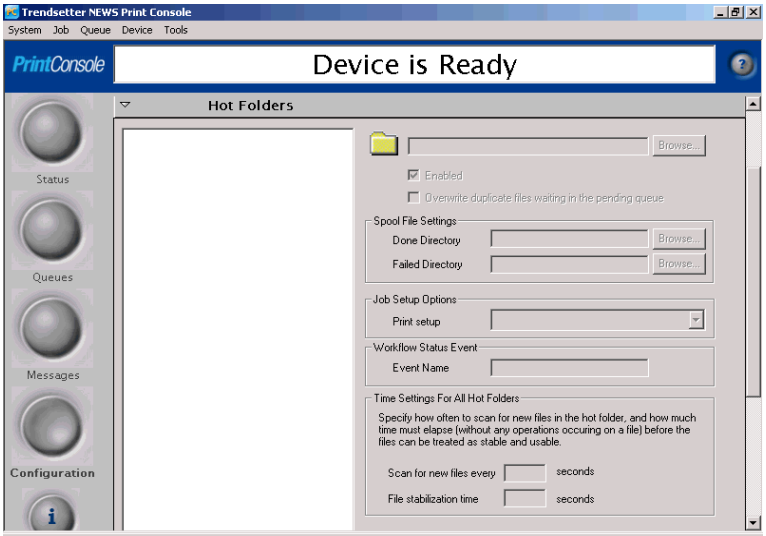


Figure 18: Hot Folder pane

Use the **Hot Folder** pane to:

- Connect the front-end system to Print Console and submit 1-bit TIFF files to Print Console using Creo TIFF Downloader as the RIP.
- Manage failed and done job files.
- Attach a print setup to a hot folder input queue. Print Console uses the print setup to initialize job properties for the files that you submit through the hot folder input queue.
- Assign an event ID that will appear in every workflow status log file.
- Change hot folder time settings (file stabilization time and folder monitoring intervals).
- Change the File Grouping timeout settings (hot folder scans).
- Select the number of Hot Folder scans before a grouping timeout occurs.
- Display the File Grouping value.

Note: The File Grouping section will only be visible on Dual Head devices.



Online help

- Hot Folders
- Hot Folder Behavior

3

Using Print Console

Configuring Print Console 40
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Handling Device or Workstation Error Messages 54

Configuring Print Console

Print Console configuration is done using the Configuration window and can be divided into two categories:

- System configuration
- Job-specific configuration

Print Console uses system configurations for all jobs. Device media, media sizes, and color mappings in the proof color table are all system configurations.



Note: System configurations are set up in the Configuration window, which are accessed by clicking the **Configuration** button. If the button is not visible (below the **Messages** button), press CTRL+ALT+C.

Job-specific configurations are used for particular TIFF job types and require a:

- Print setup configured for the job type
- Hot folder input queue

Note: Raster images are submitted with job properties defined in the RIP to Print Console through GDAPI. Print Console obtains all job property information from the RIP (for example, Prinergy). The job properties are displayed as view-only in the Job Properties dialog box. The job properties must be edited in the RIP workflow.

Print setups are attached to hot folders, and then submitted as files to Print Console. The print setups are then used to initialize the job properties for incoming files.

Print Console assigns the job properties in the print setup to each file submitted through the hot folder.

Creating Digital Halftone Proofs and/or Plates

Once Print Console is configured correctly, using the software is simple. How the software is used depends on:

- The type of output device that you have connected to Print Console
- The type of media files are imaged onto
- Whether the files are submitted using GDAPI, or hot folders using Creo TIFF Downloader

This section explains how to use Print Console with a:

- Proofmaking output devices to create digital halftone proofs using a non-GDAPI connection
- Platemaking or film-making output devices to create plates using a non-GDAPI connection

Making Digital Halftone Proofs

There are two ways to submit jobs to make digital halftone proofs:

- Via a hot folder (non-GDAPI connection)
- Through GDAPI

If files are submitted using a non-GDAPI connection you must:

- Create a print setup for digital halftone proofmaking
- Turn automatic job approval off; clear the **Auto approve** check box in the print setup
- Create a hot folder and attached it to the print setup



Note: If raster images are submitted with job properties defined in the RIP directly to Print Console through GDAPI, it is not necessary to configure Print Console with print setups, hot folder input queues, or proof color mappings. Print Console will read the incoming job properties and automatically display the information in the Job Properties dialog box as view-only.



Online help

- How to Create New Print Setups
- How to Create a Hot Folder Input Queue
- How to Attach a Print Setup to a Hot Folder Input Queue
- How to Put the Pending Queue Online or Offline

Submitting Files Using a Hot Folder

To use a hot folder to submit files:

1. Submit job files to Print Console through the hot folder input queue.

   The hot folder input queue has a print setup associated with it, which Print Console uses to initialize the job properties. Each incoming file displays as a job in the **Pending** pane in the Queues window. The job has a status of **unapproved**.

2. Group jobs together if you are processing separated files. Each job contains one color separation.

3. On the **Separations** tab in the Job Properties dialog box, ensure that the job properties contain the correct color mappings.

4. In the Job Properties dialog box, ensure that the order of the color mappings on the **Separations** tab matches the color order of the digital halftone proofing media in the cassette inserted into the output device.

5. Approve the job for processing.

   When the job reaches the top of the **Pending** pane in the Queues window, Print Console moves it to the Status window and processes it. When Print Console finishes processing the job, it moves the job to the **Processed** pane in the Queues window.

Submitting Files Through GDAPI

To use GDAPI to submit files:

1. In the **Pending** pane, ensure that the pending queue is online.

2. Submit the raster image from your RIP workflow.

   The job displays in the pending queue as **unapproved**. When the RIP queues a job containing one or more raster images, the job is held in the pending queue as **unapproved**. The job is **approved** and sent to the active queue for processing once all the required job properties are present. The amount of time that a job remains **unapproved** depends on how quickly the RIP can supply all of the job properties.



Note: GDAPI job approval in Print Console depends on the workflow software and RIP.



Online help

- How to Submit Files to Print Console
- How to Edit Job Properties
- How to Group Pending Jobs
- How to Manage Color Mappings
- How to Approve Pending Jobs

Making Plates

There are two ways to submit jobs to make plates:

- Via a hot folder (non-GDAPI connection)
- Through GDAPI

If a non-GDAPI connection is used you must:

- Create a print setup for platemaking
- Turn automatic job approval on—that is, select the **Auto approve** check box in the print setup
- Create a hot folder and attached it to the print setup



Note: If raster images are submitted with job properties defined in the RIP directly to Print Console through GDAPI, it is not necessary to configure Print Console with print setups, hot folder input queues, or proof color mappings. Print Console will read the incoming job properties and automatically display the information in the Job Properties dialog box as view-only.



Online help

- How to Create New Print Setups
- How to Create a Hot Folder Input Queue
- How to Attach a Print Setup to a Hot Folder Input Queue
- How to Put the Pending Queue Online or Offline

Starting Print Console

Print Console installs with **Auto Logon** configured in the installation and will start automatically when you log on to the Print Console workstation. Print Console can also be started by selecting **Print Console** from the **Start** menu.

To manually start Print Console:

1. From the **Start** menu, point to **Programs** and then select **Print Console.**
2. Select **Print Console.**

   Print Console starts, and the Status window appears.

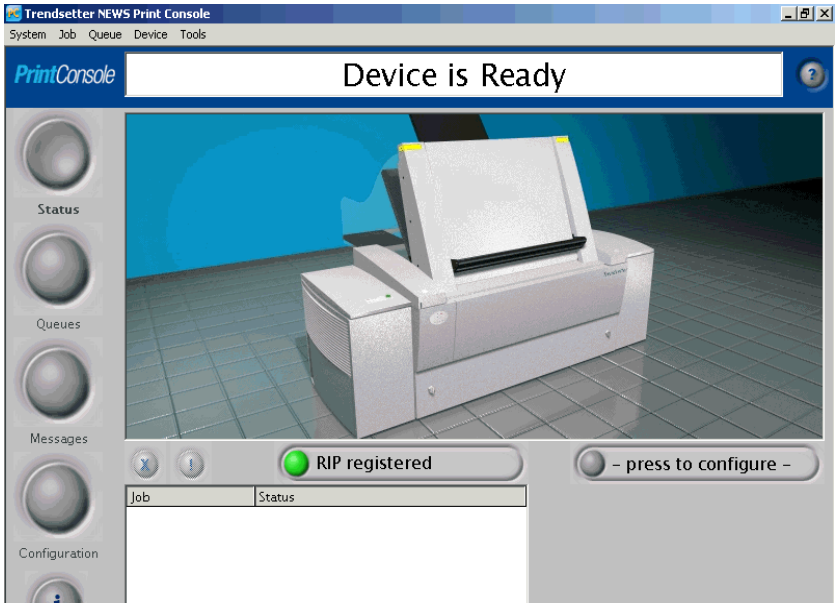


Figure 19: Status window

Exiting Print Console

To exit or shut down Print Console:

To exit Print Console:

- Click the **System** menu, select **Exit**.

  Or:

- Click the **X** on the top-right corner of the Print Console title bar.

Submitting Files

When a file is submitted to Print Console, it creates a job in the pending queue. Files can be submitted or sent to Print Console in four ways:

- Using hot folder input queues
- Using the **Submit File** command from the **Job** menu
- Dragging files from Windows Explorer to the **Pending** pane
- Directly through GDAPI — for more information see *GDAPI Support* on page 8

When a file is submitted to Print Console, the software applies job properties to the file. The job properties are determined by:

- Print Console default settings
- Whether a specific custom Print Setup is selected
- Whether raster images with job properties defined in the RIP are submitted directly to Print Console from the RIP workflow through GDAPI
- Whether the file contains a fixed medium size or print setup name and whether the file scan feature is enabled in the applied print setup. If not, the default print setup is applied to the job.
- Whether the applied print setup has a device medium or fixed medium size enabled in it



Online help

- How to Create a Hot Folder Input Queue
- How to Attach a Print Setup to an Input Queue
- How to Create Dynamically-Sized Media in Print Setups
- How to Create a New Print Setup
- How to Process Jobs With Dynamically-Sized Media
- Managing Active Jobs

Manually Submitting Files

To manually submit files:

1. From the **Job** menu, select **Submit File**.

   The Submit File dialog box appears.

2. Browse to find the file that you want to submit and then select the file.
3. Click **Open** to submit the file to Print Console.



Note: Files can also be submitted through hot folders or directly through GDAPI depending on how the RIP workflow system is configured with Print Console.



Online help

- How to Submit Files to Print Console
- Configure Print Setups

Submitting files for the Image Splitting Feature

The image splitting feature (TIFF splitting) only applies to Dual Head Output Devices. The purpose of this feature is to take a panorama sized TIFF file that contains two pages and image the individual pages simultaneously using the two heads in the device. To enable this feature, go to the Print Setups TIFF Downloader tab and enable the Panorama Image Splitting checkbox.

Before submitting TIFF files for use with the image splitting feature, ensure that the files are:

- Pre-rotated
- Pre-mirrored
- Pre-positioned
- Pre-cropped

These TIFF Downloader functions will be unavailable when the Panorama Image Splitting feature is enabled. Ideally, the files size should match the size of the plate that you are imaging on. If it is too large it will be clipped. If it is smaller than half of the subscan width of the plate, an error will occur when Print Console tries to split and crop the images.



Note: Do not use the Panorama Image Splitting feature when imaging to two stacks of plates.

Editing Job Properties

Job properties contain configuration information derived from print setups that Print Console uses to process a job. When you submit a file to Print Console, it applies a print setup to the incoming file, which is used to initialize the job properties for the incoming file.

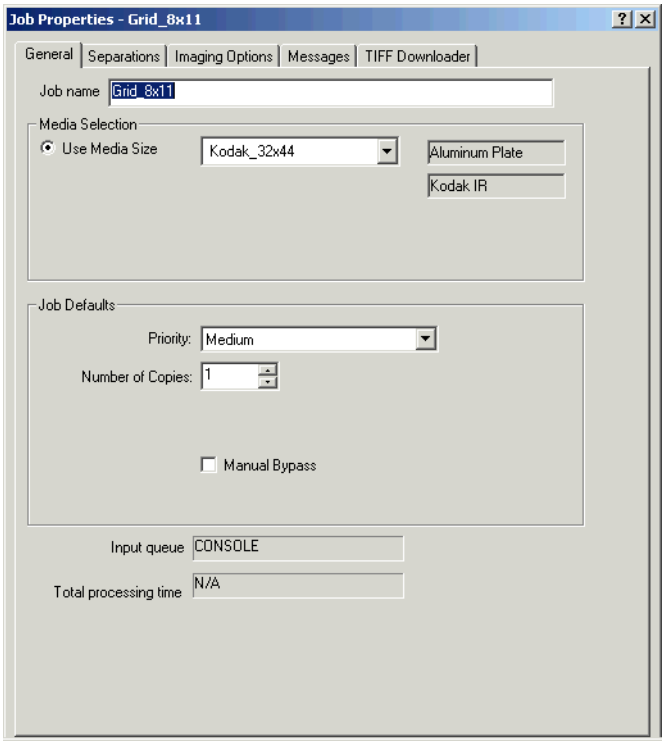


Figure 20: Job Properties dialog box

Job properties for any non-GDAPI connection job can be edited in the **Pending** pane in the Queues window. However, you cannot edit job properties for raster images submitted through GDAPI or for jobs on the **Processed** pane in the Queues window. You can display the Job Properties dialog box for these jobs, but the information in the dialog box is view-only.

Job properties of a job submitted to Print Console through GDAPI are already initialized and cannot be edited in Print Console. Job properties must be edited in the RIP software.

Proper job property initialization includes:

- Creating an appropriate print setup for each job type
- Creating a hot folder input queue for each job type
- Attaching a print setup to each hot folder
- Creating an appropriate default print setup for jobs that are submitted using the **Submit File** menu command or by dragging and dropping the file(s)

When jobs are submitted to Print Console through the correct hot folder, the job property initialization is correct. To make last minute changes, editing of job properties is possible for jobs in the **Pending** pane.



Online help

- How to Create New Print Setups
- How to Specify the Default Print Setup
- How to Attach a Print Setup to an Input Queue
- How to Create a Hot Folder Input Queue

To edit job properties:

1. Click the **Queues** button.

   The Queues window appears.
2. Select the pending job whose job properties you want to edit.
3. Click the job properties button at the top of the Queues window.

   Or:

   Right-click, and then select **Properties** from the shortcut menu.

   The Job Properties dialog box appears.
4. Edit the job properties as desired.
5. Click **OK** to save the changes and close the dialog box.



Online help

- Configuring Job Properties
- Editing Job Properties
- How to Submit Files to Print Console

Managing Color Mappings

When a digital halftone proofing device medium or fixed medium size name is selected in the Job Properties dialog box, the **Separations** tab displays two columns: **Rip Color** and **Device Color.** Use these columns to create color mappings.



Note: If raster proofing images are submitted to Print Console through GDAPI, color mappings for the jobs are created in the RIP software, based on the device media default color order and the color separations found in the job raster. Proof Color Table color mappings are not needed. The color mappings can be viewed in the Job Properties dialog box on the **Separations** tab. Color mappings for GDAPI proofing jobs can only be changed in the RIP workflow.

Print Console requires a list of color mappings for each digital halftone proofing job. These color mappings tell the output device which imaging setup to use for each device color. The order of the color mappings on the **Separations** tab must match the color order of the media in the proofing cassette.



Note: Color mappings are used only for digital halftone proofing. They tell the output device which imaging setup to use for each device color. Plate and Film do not need to use color mappings.



Online help

- Managing Color Mappings
- How to Create New Proof Color Mappings
- How to Add Color Mappings to Print Setups
- Color Mapping Rules

Monitoring Jobs

Job progress is monitored in the Status, Queues, and Messages windows and in the pending, active, and processed job queues.

Checking Pending Job Status

The status of pending jobs in the **Pending** pane is checked in the Queues window, in the **Status** column. See *Queues Window* on page 22 for more information.

You can change the status of a pending job from **unapproved** to **approved** or to **deleted**.



Online help

- Managing Pending Jobs

Checking Active Job Progress

The status of active jobs is checked in the active queue in the Status window. See *Status Window* on page 18 for more information.

The Status window displays the imaging progress of the active job, the status of the RIP, and the amount of time Print Console is taking to process each file within the job.



Processing messages display in the active queue and provide information about the progress of jobs.

To monitor a job's progress:

1. From the Status window, in the active queue, select the job that you want to check on.



2. Click the job properties icon.

   The Job Properties dialog box appears.

3. Click the **Messages** tab to display processing information about the selected job.

The status of files within a job are viewed in the **Status** column in the active queue.



Online help

- Managing Active Jobs

Checking Processed Job Status

A successfully processed, canceled, or failed job is monitored in the processed queue.

Once Print Console finishes imaging an active job, it moves the job record to the processed queue and displays the job status as **processed**.

To find out why a job was unsuccessfully processed:

1. Click the **Queues** button.

   The Queues window appears.

2. Click the **Processed** pane.

   The processed queue drops down.

3. Select the job that you want to find out more about.



4. Click the job properties icon.

   The Job Properties dialog box appears.

5. Click the **Messages** tab, which displays processing information about the selected job.



Online help

- Managing Processed Jobs

Loading Media into an Autoloader Bay or Cassette

Use the Configure Bay dialog box to load plates into autoloader bays or cassettes.



Note: Depending on the device configuration, some devices will lock their cassettes or bays. This dialog box lets you unlock so that you can load the cassette or bay.

To load plates into an autoloader output device:

For autoloaders with one bay, the bay or cassette is locked when the device is in use, which means plates cannot be loaded until the device is finished imaging. For autoloaders with multiple bays, the bays that are not currently being picked from can be loaded.

1. In the Status window, click the **Bay** button.

   The Configure Bay dialog box appears.

2. Select the **Load Bay** option to activate the bay configuration options.

3. If Print Console is connected to a multiple bay or cassette device the autoloader should be configured for a default bay or cassette. To do this, select the **Pick from this bay first** check box.

4. In the **Media Size** box, select a medium size.

5. In the **Quantity** box, select the number of plates to be loaded into the bay or cassette.

   If two stacks of plates are being loaded into a Dual Head device, type the number of plates in a stack, not the total number of plates loaded. For example, if there are two stacks of plates and each stack consists of 10 plates, type `10` in this box.

6. Click the **Load Bay** button.



Note: If Print Console is connected to a multiple bay or cassette device clicking the **Load Bay** button unlocks the autoloader cassette or bay, which lets you open it to load plates.



Online help

- How to Configure Autoloader Bays

Handling Device or Workstation Error Messages

If there is a processing or device error, Print Console will display a message prompt and require the operator to resolve the problem before processing can continue. Print Console immediately switches the Print Console view to display the **Messages** pane, which contains the error message prompt. See *Messages Window* on page 24 for more information on the **Messages** pane.



Online help

- Troubleshooting
- Operator Prompt Messages
- Configuring How Print Console Displays Operator Prompts

Glossary

active queue	Contains the job that Print Console is currently processing. You can view the status of the job in the Status window.
Allegro RIP	A software program that creates a rasterized image of a PostScript® file. It is a PostScript Level 2 software RIP.
CMYK	Cyan, magenta, yellow, and black. Printing colors for process color production.
color mapping	Contains a RIP color name and a device color name. Print Console only uses color mapping during digital halftone proofing. See also *spot color table*.
color separation	Refers to a color or layer in a file. A color separation can be compared to film; there is one film for each color. For example, a basic CMYK job will require four films—that is, four color separations. Each spot color has its own film (its own separation). If multiple black films exist for a job, then multiple black color separations are created for the job. All color separations for a job must be registered with each other. See also *separation list*.
composite file	Colors are not separated and all color information is contained in one file—for example, composite PostScript files or portable document files (PDF).
Creo Recorder Interface	An application programming interface that lets you connect third party RIP software to Print Console. This is not supported from Print Console release 2.1 to the present.
Creo TIFF Downloader	Software that lets you submit bilevel TIFF files to Print Console for imaging on an output device.
device media	Refers to the media vendor's product. Device media are configured by a service representative during installation of your Print Console system.
digital halftone proof	Halftone proof created using a Trendsetter Spectrum or Proofsetter Spectrum output device.

drag-and-drop	Method of submitting a file to Print Console you drag a file from one location and drop it into the Print Console.
drum	On a Creo-developed output device, this is the component on which a medium is mounted for imaging by the laser.
file	Electronic text description of data.
GDAPI	Generic Device Application Programming Interface. Provides a connection between any workflow software and any device control software.
Harmony	Creo software that calibrates dot size for Creo Platesetter, Trendsetter, Trendsetter AL, and Trendsetter Spectrum products to compensate for press dot gain.
History pane	Contains messages about the Print Console system and job processing.
hot folder	One of five Print Console input queue types. Input queues connect front-end systems to Print Console, and you use them to submit files to Print Console.
image	Electronic bitmap that an output device exposes onto media.
imposition	Means of arranging pages into a printer's spread for the front and back of a press sheet, which ensures pages are in reader order, after the printed sheet is folded and trimmed.
Impostrip	Imposition software.
input queue	Mechanism connecting Print Console to front-end workflow systems. You submit files to Print Console via input queues, such as hot folders.
job	When you submit a file to Print Console, it displays on the **Pending** pane in the Queues window as a job. You can group two or more jobs together to create one large job that contains many files.
job properties	Information Print Console uses to process a job. Job properties are initialized from print setups.

line frequency	Density of dots on a halftone screen, commonly measured in lines per inch (lpi). Also called *screen frequency*, *screen ruling*, or *ruling*.
Messages pane	Contains information about Print Console problems that you need to resolve. The **Messages** pane only displays when there is a problem that you need to address.
mirrorprint	In Allegro RIP, an option in the Page Setup dialog box that lets you produce a mirror-image copy of a job.
output	Data that is transferred to another device, such as a laser printer, a video display, or a platesetter.
output device	Device that plots data onto media, such as a Trendsetter Spectrum or Proofsetter Spectrum.
output media	Particular size of a device medium. See also *device media*.
page buffer	In Allegro RIP, a file on disk that is used to store a page of interpreted output, before it is printed or previewed. Depending on the page buffer mode you run Allegro RIP in, page buffers can be retained on disk to allow reprinting or deleted after printing to save space on your hard disk. Also called an *interpreted raster image of a PostScript flat*.
page setup	In Allegro RIP, a collection of specifications for a page, including resolution and orientation.
PDF	Adobe's Portable Document Format.
PDF	Printer Description File in QuarkXPress™ version 3.32 or earlier. Like a PPD file, a QuarkXPress PDF file contains information about the parameters and options associated with a specific output device. See also PPD file.
pending queue	Contains all of the jobs waiting to be processed. You can view the jobs in this queue on the **Pending** pane in the Queues window.
plate	Physical medium an output device exposes an image onto. A Trendsetter Spectrum output device produces one exposed plate for every image it receives.

PostScript	Page description language developed by Adobe Systems that is used to describe type and visual elements so that they can be output on devices with PostScript interpreters.
PostScript file	File written in a page description language created from a native application file.
PostScript Level 2	Redefinition of the PostScript language that unifies the previous extensions to the original language (Level 1) and introduces new language features, providing new functionality and better performance. Allegro RIP is a PostScript Level 2 RIP.
PPD file	PostScript Printer Description file. A computer file containing information on the parameters and options associated with a specific output device, such as a Trendsetter Spectrum or Proofsetter Spectrum.
PPX file	PostScript Printer Extension file. A computer file containing additional options for a PostScript output device that supplement the information in the PPD file. The PPX file is used only by Preps imposition software. In the Creo workflow, this file contains the virtual punch coordinates used during imposition.
pre-separated file	Colors are separated, but all color separation information is coded in a single file. An example of a pre-separated file is the separated PostScript generated by QuarkXPress. See also *separated file* and *composite file*.
Preps	Imposition software.
PressWise	Imposition software.
Print Console workstation	High-speed computer running the Windows 2000 or Windows NT operating system and Print Console. It provides the operator's console, queueing management, and system control. The Print Console workstation is connected to a local area network (LAN) over which it receives files.
print setup	Used to initialize job properties. A print setup is a group of Print Console configurations, such as device medium name, output medium name, and RIP software name.

process colors	Used in printing. The subtractive primary colors: cyan, magenta, and yellow. Black is also used in four-color process printing.
processed queue	Contains the jobs that Print Console has processed. You can view the jobs in this queue on the **Processed** pane in the Queues window.
Queue window	Contains two panes: **Pending** and **Processed**. The **Pending** pane lists all of the jobs waiting to be processed, and the **Processed** pane lists all of the jobs that Print Console has processed.
raster	Digitized (bitmapped) images defined pixel by pixel in rows and columns. See also *RIP*.
recorder	See *output device*.
resolution	Degree of detail with which an image is reproduced, usually measured in dots per inch (dpi) or lines per inch (lpi). The higher the resolution, the greater the detail in which the image will be reproduced.
RIP	Raster Image Processor. Software that creates bitmap images from files. Output devices image bitmap images, also called RIPed files.
ruling	See *line frequency*.
screen angle	Angle at which a halftone screen is set when making screened images for printing halftones. Proper screen angles are critical to minimizing moiré patterns.
screen frequency	See *line frequency*.
screen ruling	See *line frequency*.
separated file	Colors are separated, and each file contains information for one color separation—that is, one file each for cyan, magenta, yellow, and black, plus any spot colors. An example of a separated file is the separated PostScript generated by Preps. See also *composite file* and *pre-separated file*.
separation list	Contains color separations for a job. In the case of digital halftone proofing jobs, the color separations contain color mappings. See also *spot color table*.

spool folder	See *hot folder*.
spot color	Color that requires a special ink. It cannot be created using process colors.
spot color table	Part of the Configure Spot Color Mappings dialog box. It lists RIP colors and corresponding device colors to be used for digital halftone proofing.
Status window	Main Print Console window. It shows the status of the output device, the RIPing progress, and the imaging progress of the current job.
Submit File menu command	Lets you submit a file to Print Console for processing.
submitting	Process of sending a file to Print Console for imaging onto media.
suspend condition	Condition preventing the output device from continuing its current operation—for example, an empty plate cassette. Suspend conditions also occur when there are problems with the system.
thermal imaging head	Creo imaging device that uses an infrared laser diode to image IR-sensitive plates and film at high resolutions.
throughput	Efficiency with which images are interpreted and produced.
workstation	See *Print Console workstation*.

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