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Technical bulletin

Creo Flattener Version 2.0

Overview

Files created Creo® Flattener version 2.0 are supported by Brisque® 5.x and PS/M 8.0.
Creo Flattener version 2.0 enables you to convert PDF® files (including PDF files with embedded CID fonts) into PostScript® 3™ files.

The most significant feature of Creo Flattener is the handling of PDF 1.4 and PDF 1.5 files, including files with transparencies (PDF Transparency Flattener to PS3 file).

The main features of version 2.0 include the following:

- Enable PDF preview
- Define a hot folder whereby all PDFs in this folder are automatically converted
- A file information section that provides information about the PDF file. For example, if the PDF includes a transparency or JBIG compression, and the PDF version (version 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 or 1.5).

Important Note: This document refers to the Brisque and PS/M workflows. Brisque customers can obtain this application free of charge from the *Brisque 5.0 Accessories CD*. PS/M customers can obtain this application free of charge from the *PS/M 8.1 CD*.
The Creo Flattener application can also be downloaded from TechPlanet, or from the PS/M 8.0 Downloads section in eCentral.

Requirements and Prerequisites

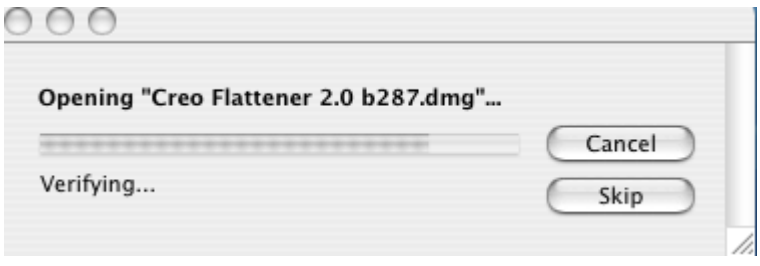
- Mac OS® 10.3 or higher
- In order to start Creo Flattener and enable the conversion of PDF files into PS files, the Brisque client must be connected and started on the same Macintosh workstation, or the PS/M 8.0 dongle must be connected to the same Macintosh workstation.

Installing Creo Flattener Application

To install the Creo Flattener application:

1. Copy **CreoFlattener2.0.dmg** to your desktop. You can download from the *Brisque 5.0 Accessories CD* or from the *PS/M 8.1 CD*, or from the ftp path provided in TechPlanet, or from the PS/M 8.0 Downloads section in eCentral.

2. Double-click **Creo Flattener2.0.b.x** to begin the mount process.



3. When the mount is completed, copy the folder containing the Creo Flattener application to your hard disk. The application is now installed and can be used.

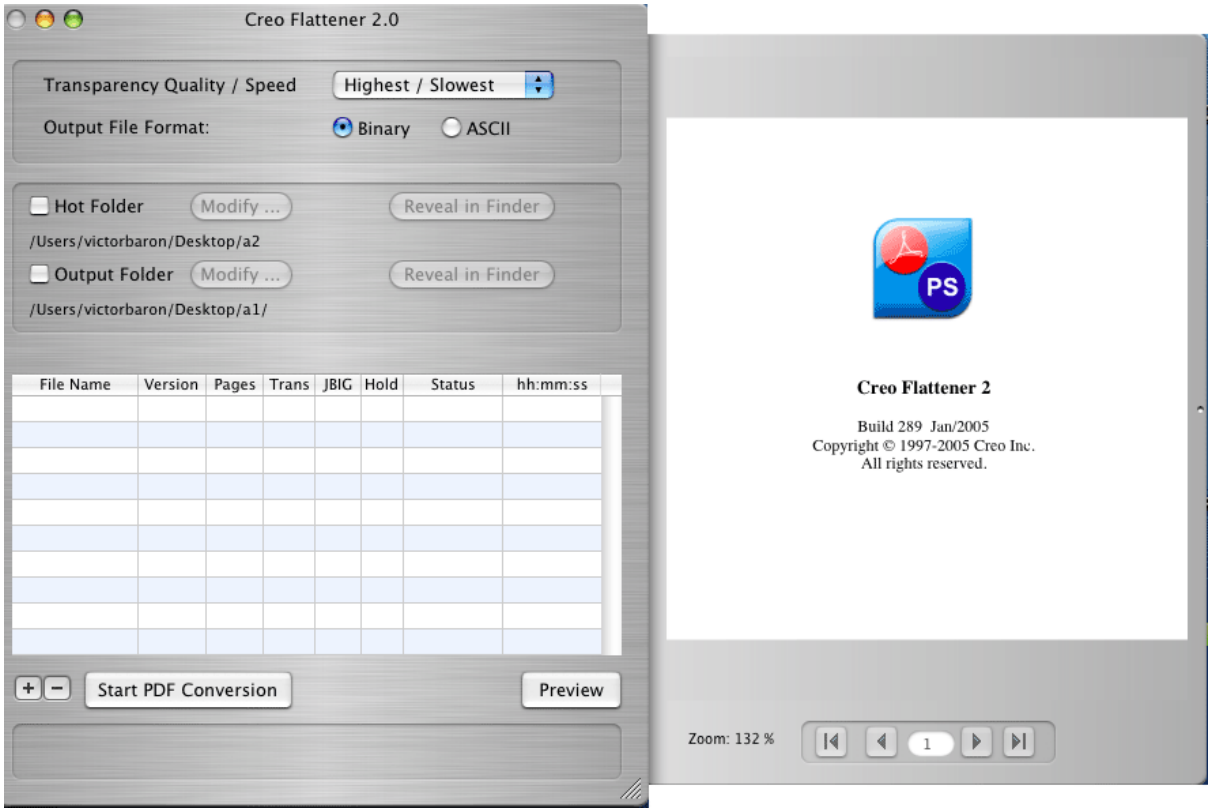


Using Creo Flattener to Convert PDF Files into PS Files

Note: Make sure that the Brisque client is connected and started on the same Macintosh workstation, or that the PS/M 8.0 dongle is connected to the same Macintosh workstation before you use the Creo Flattener application.

After starting Creo Flattener, you can input the PDF file application into the application and the conversion will occur automatically. Alternatively, you can predefine a hot folder that will automatically convert a PDF file that is entered into the hot folder. The various application options are described on the following pages.

1. To start the Creo Flattener application, double-click the **Creo Flattener** icon. The Creo Flattener 2.0 main window appears.



Notes regarding the above window:

- The window settings are the settings that were active when the application was last used (that is, before exiting from the application).
- When the file information section is empty, then the preview section (right side of the window), shows the **Creo Flattener About** info.

2. Define the various options that are required for converting a PDF into a PS file. See *Creo Flattener 2.0 main window options* below.

Creo Flattener 2.0 main window options

- **Transparency Quality/Speed**—select one of the following options:
  - **Highest /Slowest**: The default setting which leaves as much of the job as possible in vector form. Detailed artwork may still be rasterized. The setting takes the most time and demands the most memory. However it produces the highest-quality resolution.
  - **Lowest /Fastest**: This setting rasterizes all the objects in the job (all to CT). It is the preferred setting when you print or export detailed artwork.
  - **Lower /Faster**: This setting maintains simple vector objects while rasterizing more detailed areas. This setting is best for jobs that contain only a few transparent objects.

    Note: Both the **Lowest /Fastest** and **Lower /Faster** settings convert text to CT.
  - **Medium /Medium**: This setting leaves most objects as vectors and rasterizes the more detailed transparent areas.

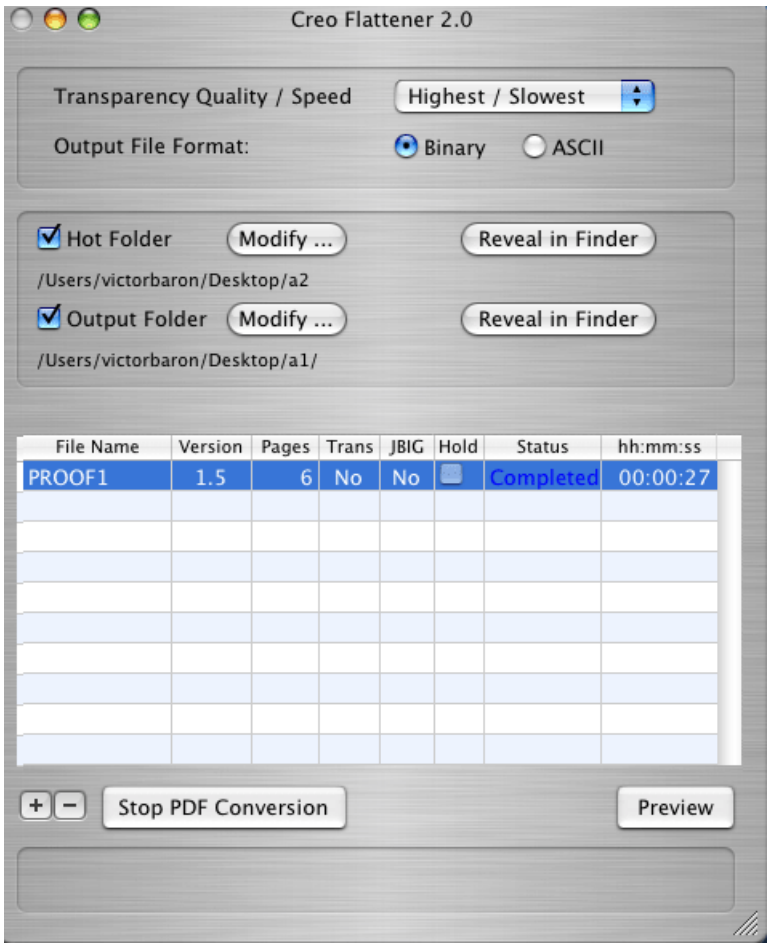
  - **Higher /Slower**: This setting leaves most of the job in vector form and rasterizes detailed artwork. This setting can increase processing time when the artwork contains many transparent areas
- **Output File Format**—select one of the following options:
  - **Binary** to output the file in binary format. This is the recommended option because it results in a smaller file size than ASCII.
  - **ASCII** to output the file in ASCII text format.
- **Hot Folder**—a new feature that supports predefined hot folders. That is, the application automatically converts files that enter the hot folder.
  The current hot folder path is listed. Click **Reveal in Finder** to quickly browse to the hot folder. To change the hot folder click **Modify**.
- **Output Folder**—the destination folder of the PS files that are created after the PDF files are converted.
  Note: The destination folder can be a Brisque or PS/M mounted hot folder.
  The current destination folder is listed. If not selected, the default destination folder is the folder of the input file. Click **Reveal in Finder** to quickly browse to the destination folder. To change the destination folder click **Modify**.

To add files to the Creo Flattener queue use one or more of the following methods:

- Drag a PDF file onto the information display section of the main window (this section of the window must always be open). A new row is added with the new PDF file information.
- Click the **+** button in the information display section of the main window and select a file in the browser window that appears. A new row is added with the new PDF file information.
  To delete a file that from the list, select the file and click the **–** button.

  Note: To add or delete more than one file, use the <Shift> key.
  To add several files from the file selection dialog box, use the <Apple> key.
  To delete several files from the queue, use the **–** button together with the <Shift> key.
- Select the **Hot Folder** option and define a hot folder path. All PDFs currently residing in the folder are automatically added.
- Select **File>Open** from the Creo Flattener top menu and select a file from the file selection dialog box that appears.

When you add a PDF to the Creo Flattener queue, the file information section of the main window provides information on the PDF file, as shown in the figure on the next page.



The following information is provided for each PDF (each row represents a PDF file):

- **File name**
- **Version**—the PDF version of the input PDF file
- **Pages**—contained in the PDF
- **Trans**—does the PDF contain a transparency. If it does, you should select **CT Quality** in the RIP process later on, as instructed by the application in such cases.
- **JBIG**—does the PDF contain elements or images using JBIG compression
- **Hold**—when checked, the specific PDF file is put in hold status and will not be converted.
- **Status**—defines the PDF status. The following options are available:
  - **Completed**—the file was successfully converted from PDF to PS
  - **Hold**—appears when you checked the **Hold** option, above
  - **Running**— appears briefly during the conversion
  - **Waiting**—file is waiting in the queue for its conversion (queue is busy with another file)
  - **Error**—appears in red when an error is detected during the conversion. Click the row to view the error message which appears at the bottom of the main window.
- **hh:mm:ss**—shows the conversion time.

Stop PDF conversion/Start PDF conversion (a toggle button)

If **Stop PDF conversion** is shown, this indicates that the PDFs currently listed in the queue and any PDF that is added to the queue or to the hot folder are automatically converted, providing that the file is not in **Hold** status.

If **Start PDF conversion** is shown this indicates that PDFs are not being converted although you can still add files to the queue, using the **Hot Folder** option, or one of the other methods for adding files.

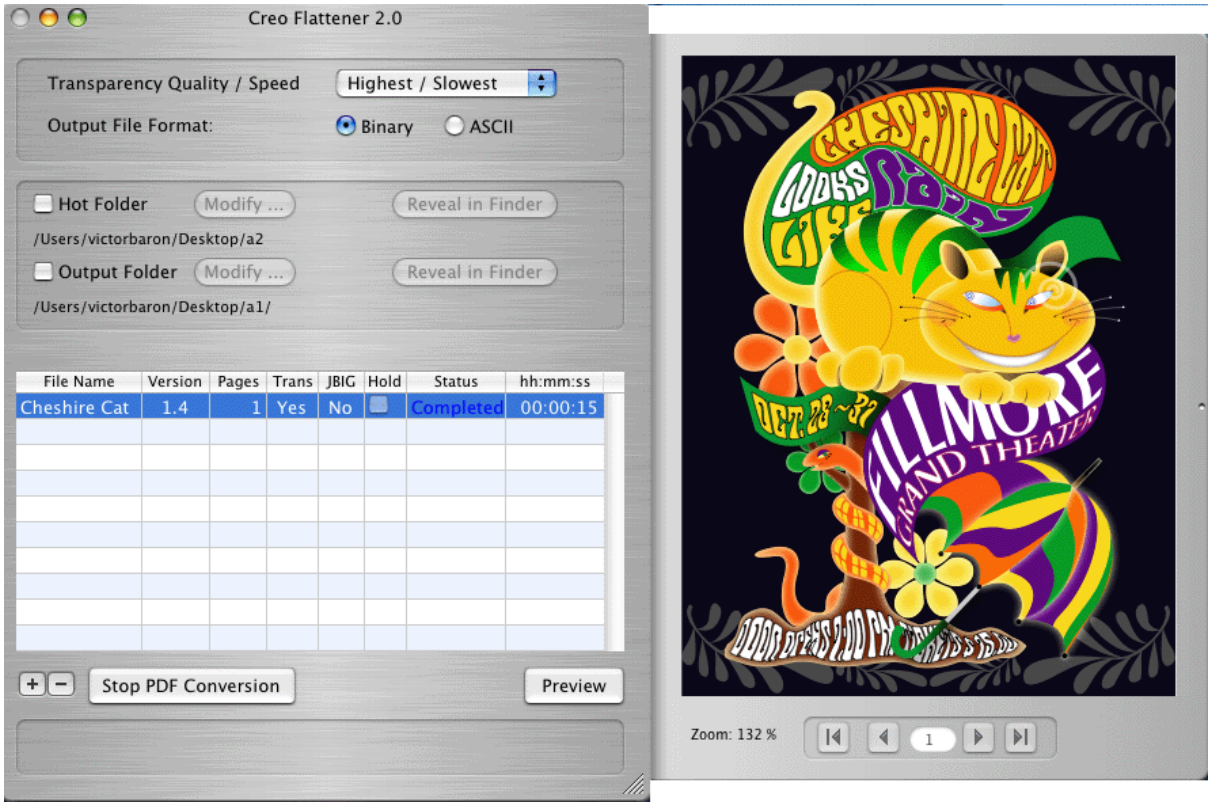
You can use this mode as a preflight check to decide which files you want to convert based on the information displayed. Files that you do not want to convert can be removed from the queue using the **–** option, or you can place the file on Hold using the **Hold** option. Then once you activate **Start PDF conversion**, only the files designated for this operation will be converted.

To stop the conversion, click **Stop PDF conversion**; to resume conversion, click **Start PDF conversion**.

Preview

Preview is a new feature in version 2.0. Select a PDF file from the file information section and click **Preview**. A preview of the selected file appears, as shown below.

Using **Preview** can slow the application performance. Therefore, if it is not required or after viewing the preview it is recommended that you close the Preview window by clicking the **Preview** button.



If the PDF is a multi-page file, use the standard PDF navigation arrows or the page entry box that appear below the PDF preview to view other pages in the file.

About Creo

Creo is a world leader in solutions for the graphic arts industry. Core product lines include image capture systems; inkjet proofers; thermal imaging devices for films, plates, and proofs; professional color and copydot scanning systems; workflow management software; and proofing and printing consumables. Creo is also an original equipment manufacture supplier of on-press imaging technology, components for digital presses, and color servers for high-speed, print-on-demand digital printers. Creo trades under the symbols CREO on NASDAQ and CRE on the Toronto Stock Exchange. www.creo.com

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