Application Note

English

Creo Flattener

version **1.0**

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www.creo.com

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Overview

Creo Flattener enables you to convert PDF files (including PDF files with embedded CID fonts) to PostScript® 3™ files.

PDF files constitute the input files, while the output files consist only of PostScript 3 files only.

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

Prerequisites

Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X.

Requirements

Creo Flattener requires a software access key (USB).

You can plug the software access key into one of the following locations:

- Directly into the Macintosh itself
- Keyboard
- USB
- Built-in USB port in the monitor, if available

Installing the Creo Flattener Software Access Key

Creo Flattener does not require installation. In order to use Creo Flattener, you need to install its software access key.

To install the Creo Flattener software access key:

1. Copy the **Creo Flattener - copy to disk** folder to your desktop.

   Note: The **Creo Flattener - copy to disk** folder contains the Creo Flattener application and the installer for the software access key (run Hasp Installer).

2. In the **Creo Flattener - copy to disk** folder, double-click the **run Hasp Installer** icon.

   The run Hasp Installer dialog box opens.



3. Click **Install**. The installation process begins.
4. After the installation process is completed, the following message appears.



5. Click **Quit**.

Converting PDF Files to PostScript 3 Files

To convert PDF files to PostScript 3 files, you activate Creo Flattener. When you input the PDF file, the conversion process starts automatically.

Activating Creo Flattener

To activate Creo Flattener:

1. Double-click the **Creo Flattener** icon; the Creo Flattener window appears.





Note: Alternatively, drag one or more PDF files onto the **Creo Flattener** icon.

2. Drag a PDF file onto the Creo Flattener window; the conversion process begins automatically.



Note: If the file that you drag into the window is not a PDF file, the conversion is not activated.

Alternatively, from the **File** menu, select **Open** and from the browser that appears, select the required PDF file (only PDF files are displayed in this browser).



Note: Creo Flattener checks for the RIP software access key before starting the conversion process. If the key is not found, the following message appears: `Cannot find software access key`.

Aborting the Creo Flattener Process

You may want to abort the Creo Flattener conversion process especially if you have submitted a batch of files that are taking a long time to process.

- To abort the Creo Flattener conversion process, press COMMAND + PERIOD.

Setting Creo Flattener Parameters

Before you begin the conversion process, you can set several parameters in the Creo Flattener window. If you change any settings, you can define the new settings to be the default settings.

➢ To define the parameters and output folder path as default, from the **File** menu, select **Save as Default.**

Selecting an Output Folder

To select an output folder:

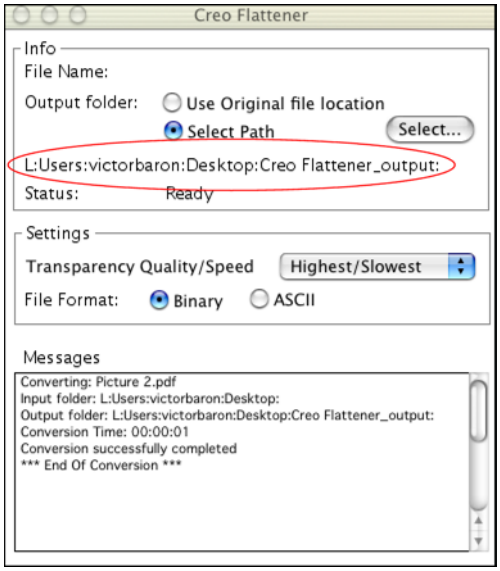
1. To create the PostScript file in the same location as the input file, under **Info**, in the **Output folder** section, click **Use Original file location**.

   To select a different output folder, click **Select Path** and then **Select.** From the browser that appears, select the folder where you want to create the PostScript file.



Tip: You may select a Brisque hot folder (that includes the RIP operation) as your output folder.

2. Click **Choose** to confirm your choice; the new path appears below the **Output Folder** option.





Note: If the output file location no longer exists and the path cannot be found, the PostScript file is not created and the following message appears: `Unable to open file for output, conversion failed.`

Setting Other Creo Flattener Parameters

Creo Flattener provides two parameters that affect the resulting PostScript file, as follows:

- **Transparency Quality/Speed**, with five available options:
  - ❒ Lowest/Fastest
  - ❒ Lower/Faster
  - ❒ Medium/Medium
  - ❒ Higher/Slower
  - ❒ Highest/Slowest (the default option)



Note: The higher the quality that you select, the longer the process time.

- **File Format**, with two options:
  - ❒ Binary: This format makes processing faster and is the default option.
  - ❒ ASCII: More compatible

Viewing Creo Flattener Status

The **Status** box in the **Info** section of the Creo Flattener window tells you whether the Creo Flattener application is currently processing a file or not. The status can be one of the following:

- **Ready**: You can submit a file(s)
- **Running**: The application is busy

Viewing Creo Flattener Messages

The **Messages** section of the Creo Flattener window provides information about the progress of the conversion process. The messages give the following types of information:

- The name of the file being converted (**filename.pdf**)
- The full path of the input folder
- The full path of the output folder
- Conversion time
- Conversion status, such as:
  `Conversion successfully completed`
  `Conversion failed`
  `Conversion aborted by User`
  `***End Of Conversion***` and so on.



You can scroll to view information about all the files that have been submitted since the application was last opened.

Exiting Creo Flattener

➢ To close the application, from the **File** menu, select **Quit**.

Known Bugs and Limitations

- When the conversion process fails and produces an error message saying `Implementation limit exceeded`, increase application memory (the default is 48MB).
- Creo Flattener does not properly convert multipage PDF files created in Acrobat with Crop and/or Rotate. (Single-page PDF files with Crop and/or Rotate are supported.)