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Technical bulletin

Using Prinergy Import/Export in a Multi-Site Workflow

Introduction

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to provide information about using the Prinergy® import/export feature in a multi-site workflow.

The import/export jobs feature was introduced in Prinergy 2.0. The ability to import and export partial jobs was added in Prinergy 2.1.

To export a job, Prinergy copies job components into a zip file—<job name>.zip. The exported job can contain the following: imposition plans, PDF pages, page sets, page assignments, page geometry, final color separations and color mappings, and color database information from the Per-Job Color Editor. In a partial job export, an operator selects one or more signatures for exporting. Prinergy exports components for the selected signature(s) into the zip file.

Prinergy Connect and Prinergy Powerpack have full import and export capabilities. Prinergy Direct lets printers import imposed jobs from Prinergy Connect or Prinergy Powerpack and output to proofs, film, and plates. Prinergy Publish lets trade shops, publishers, and agencies export jobs for sending to a printer site for printing.

Workflows

Hub and spoke and reverse hub and spoke printing plant configurations often make use of Prinergy's import/export feature.

Hub and Spoke

A hub and spoke configuration is one in which a central plant (hub) is linked to one or more remote plants (spokes) and sends work to those plants.

The hub does the initial job processing, then exports the job to send to a spoke plant where processing is finished (platemaking and printing). The point to which jobs are processed at the hub varies. The hub may do page creation only, or it may also do page assignment and imposition. The hub may even do some platemaking and send only overflow work to the spokes.

A hub and spoke configuration allows a printing company to:

- Concentrate expertise, for example, concentrate page creation expertise at some locations and platemaking and printing expertise at other locations
- Concentrate computer-to-plate equipment and printing presses at specific locations
- Manage workload by distributing overload to plants with unused capacity

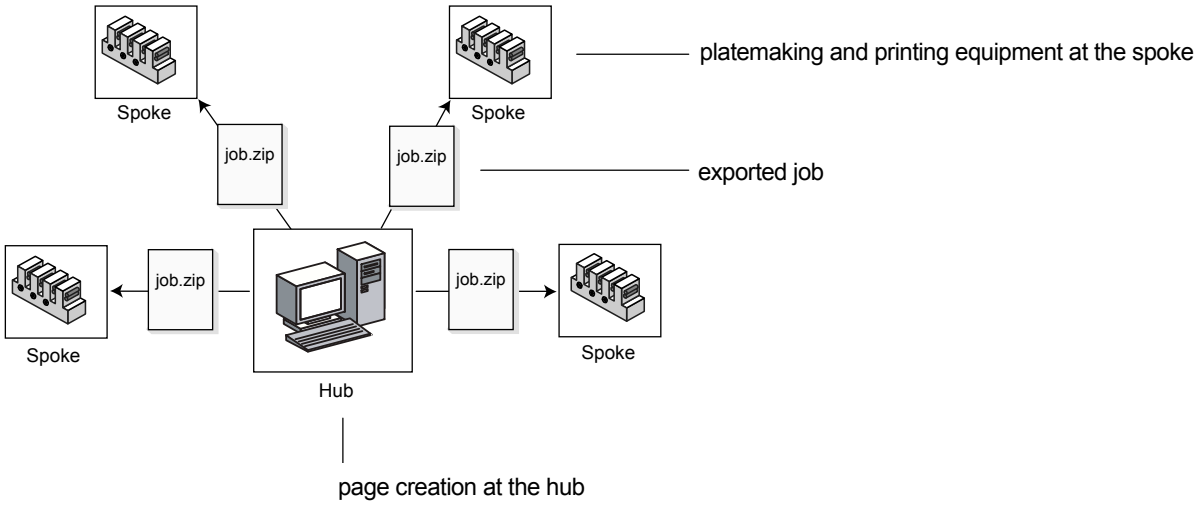


Figure 1. Sample hub and spoke workflow

Reverse Hub and Spoke Workflow

A reverse hub and spoke printing plant configuration is one in which one or more remote plants (spokes) are linked to a central hub plant and send work to that plant.

The spokes do the initial job processing, then export jobs to send to the hub, where processing is finished (platemaking and printing). Like the hub and spoke workflow, the point to which jobs are processed at the spokes varies. Spokes may do page creation only, or may also do page assignment and imposition.

European printers for whom regional versioning jobs are common often use a reverse hub and spoke configuration. Page preparation is done in different language areas.

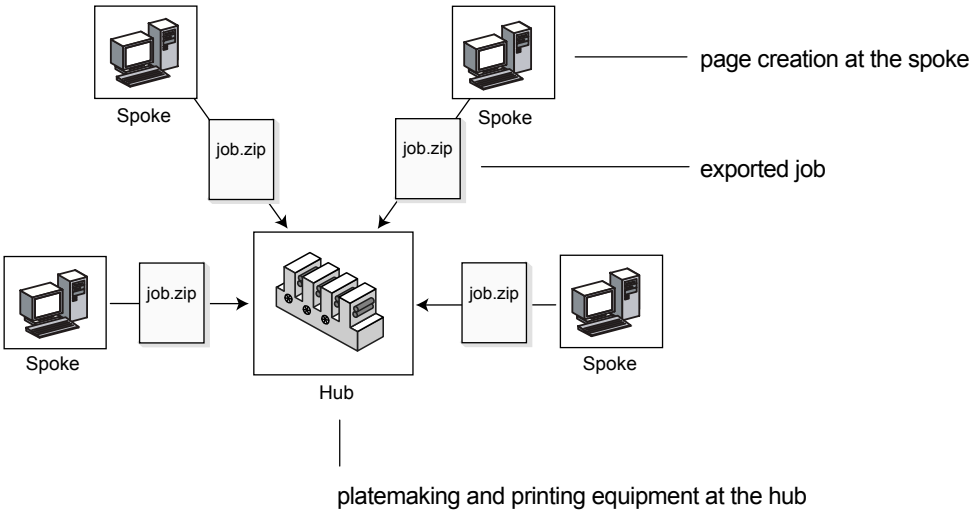


Figure 2. Sample reverse hub and spoke workflow

Using Partial Import/Export

Prinergy 2.1 can import and export partial jobs. This allows remote sites to start work on jobs that are not yet complete, and gradually assemble the complete job.

For example, if a job has three signatures but only one is ready, the one signature can be exported to the remote site. The signature can be printed and the resulting pages warehoused until the whole job is ready. For example, a printer printing telephone directories might use this process if the directory has standard front matter that is ready ahead of the inside pages.

At a remote site, the first import of an exported zip file creates a new job. When additional zip files are imported, Prinergy adds to the job. When the partial import is done via a hot folder, the zip file name must be the same as the original zip file. For more information, see *How to Import*.

Incremental import processing plan options indicate whether the most recent import should overwrite existing page sets, imposition plans, page assignments, and APA (Automatic Page Assignment) files.

Using Import/Export for Internal Purposes

Some customers use Prinergy's import/export feature for:

- Storing completed jobs.
- Saving in-progress jobs in case a switch to Emergency Platemaking (EPM) is required.

Storing Completed Jobs

Exporting and storing completed jobs allows a site to destroy the job in Prinergy, knowing that they can use the exported job to restore the job if they need to. A printer that is contractually obligated to store jobs for a certain

period of time after printing may use such a system. In that case, the printer must keep completed jobs for a period of time but may only rarely need to recreate them.



Note: The exported job file contains enough information to restore the job in order to produce output. Exporting does not save the entire job, such as PostScript or PDF source files, job history, and so on.

Saving In-Progress Jobs in Case of Emergency

Prinergy's optional Emergency Platemaking (EPM) feature allows a printer to continue processing jobs and producing plates even if the primary server fails. EPM will use a secondary server as the primary server until the original primary server is restored. (For more information about EPM, see the *Prinergy 2.1 System Administration Guide*.)

A site can export in-progress jobs at specific intervals, for example, every four hours or at the end of every day. Then if the primary server goes down and the site needs to switch to EPM mode, operators can import the exported jobs and continue working on them. Depending on how much time passed between the export and the server going down, operators may have to redo some work on the jobs, but they won't have to start the jobs all over again.

Exporting From Prinergy Publish

Prinergy Publish is a Prinergy system that has been configured as a page preparation station. Publish lets trade shops, publishers, and agencies export jobs for sending to a printer site for printing. To be able to import the jobs, the printer site would also need to have a Prinergy system. (Publish can also output PDF or PDF/X-1a:2001, separated PostScript, and vector DCS files.)

The exported job can include page assignments or not. Exported jobs need an imposition in order to preserve page set assignments. If the printer needs a Prinergy job with pages assigned to page positions, the Prinergy Publish operator adds a page set to the job, assigns pages to the page set, and assigns a "dummy imposition" with the correct number of pages to the page set. When the job is complete and ready for hand-off, the entire job is exported.

Export Options

You can choose whether to include the PDF pages in the export zip file. This is done by selecting or clearing the **Include Pages in Job Exports** check box in the export process plan. By default, the pages are included.

For example, a prepress house might exclude the pages from the job export if they want to correct the imposition, but use the pages that are already at the printer. To do this, they would clear the **Include Pages in Job Exports** check box in the export process plan. At the importing site, the printer would select the **If Page Set Already Exists** check box in the import process plan to allow the corrected imposition plan to be imported.

Then the printer would select one of the following options: **Delete existing page set and imposition**, **Create alternative page set and imposition**, or **Keep existing page set and create new imposition**.

Note: To import an exported job into a Prinergy 2.0.7 system, the **Create Backwards Compatible Export** check box must be selected in the export process plan.

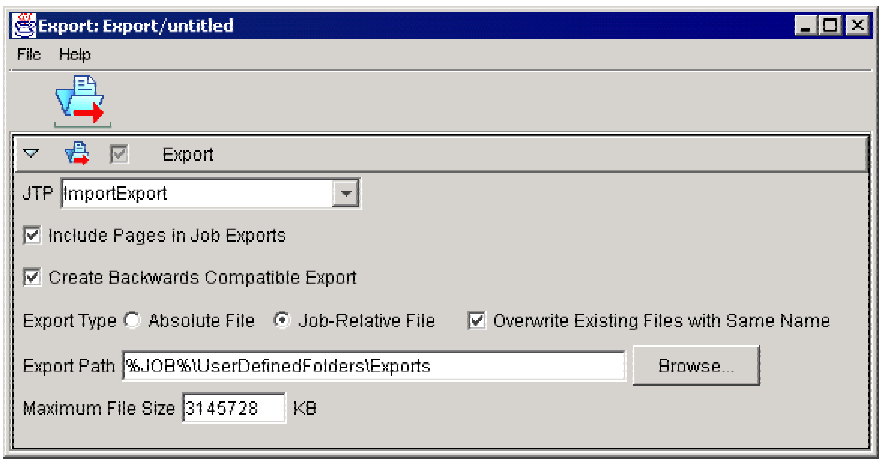


Figure 3. Export process plan dialog box

For more information about export process plan options, see the Prinergy Workshop online help.

How to Import

Using a Pre-Job and Hot Folder

To import a job:

1. Create a pre-job.
2. Create a hot folder in the pre-job.
3. Assign to the hot folder an import process plan, or a workflow plan that includes an import process plan.
4. Drop the import/export zip file into the hot folder.

   Prinergy creates a job with the same name as the zip file.

   To import subsequent zip files into this job, drop the zip files into the hot folder. As long as the zip file has the same name as the job (<job name>.zip), Prinergy will add the contents of the zip file to the existing job.

Using the Import Menu Option

To import a job (complete job or first partial import):

- In Job Finder, from the **File** menu, select **Import Job**.

Prinergy creates a job with the same name as the zip file and adds the contents of the zip file to the new job.

To import into an existing job (second and subsequent partial imports):

1. Open the job in Job Manager.
2. From the **File** menu, select **Import Job (Incremental)**.

   Prinergy adds the contents of the zip file to the existing job. When you use the **Import Job (Incremental)** menu option, Prinergy adds the contents of the zip file to the job, regardless of the zip file name.

   Incremental import processing plan options indicate whether the import will overwrite existing page sets, imposition plans, page assignments, and APA (Automatic Page Assignment) files. For information about page assignment options, see *Incremental Import Page Assignment Options*.

For complete instructions on importing and exporting jobs, see Prinergy Workshop online help.

Incremental Import Page Assignment Options

Options in the incremental import processing plan indicate whether the imported job will overwrite existing page assignments. There are three page assignment options in an incremental import process plan. The options are:

- **Lose old assignments and apply imported assignments with force**.
- **Keep old assignments and apply imported assignments without force**.
- **Keep old assignments and apply imported assignments with force**.

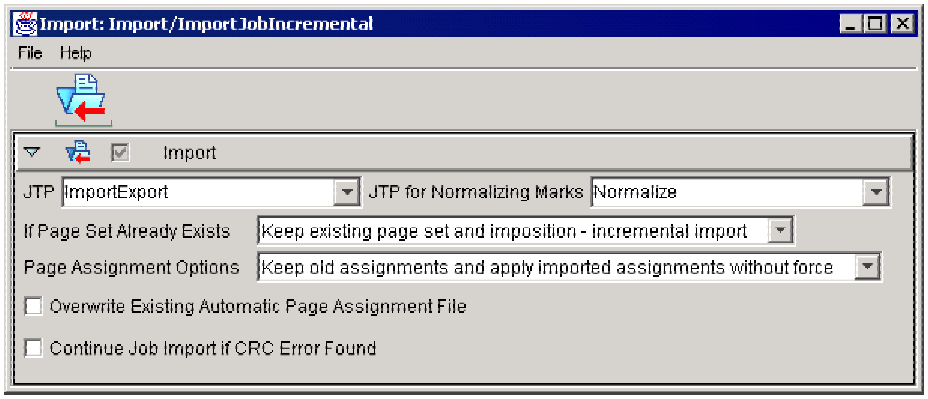


Figure 4. Incremental import process plan dialog box

The effects of the options are illustrated in Figures 5, 6, and 7. For more information about process plan options, see the Prinergy Workshop online help.

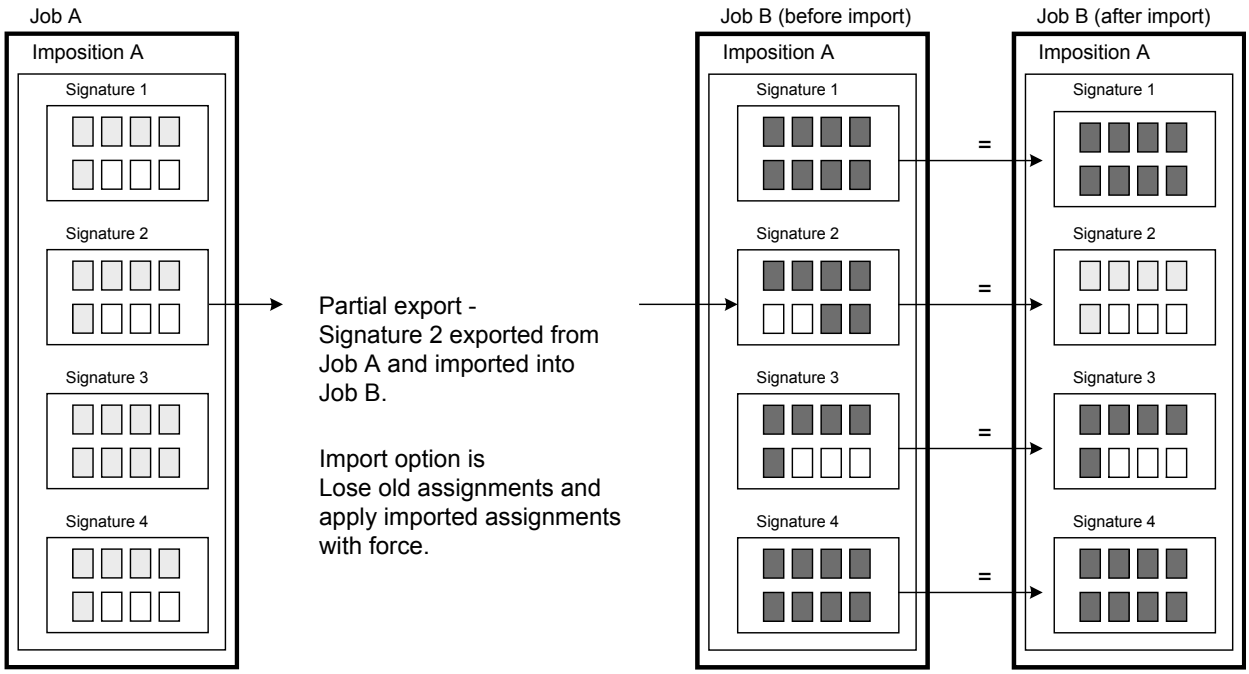


Figure 5. Lose old assignments and apply imported assignments with force

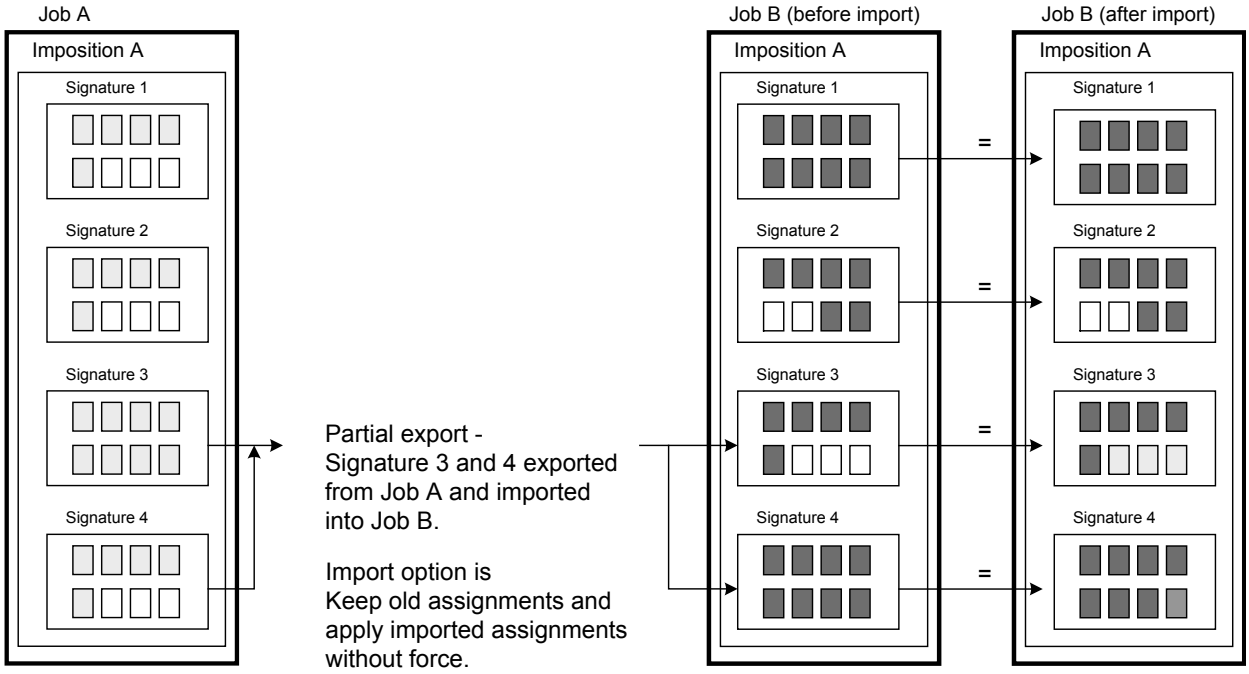


Figure 6. Keep old assignments and apply imported assignment without force

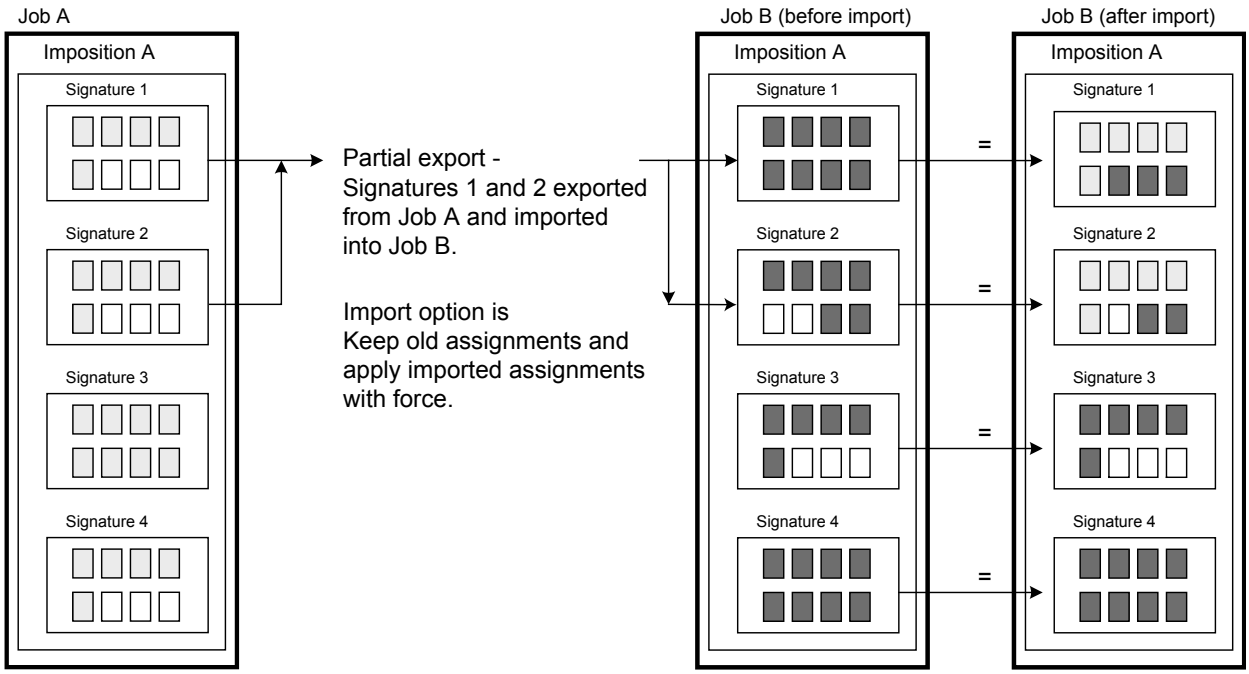


Figure 7. Keep old assignments and apply imported assignment with force

Automating Import/Export

This is an example of how to automate the import/export process in a hub and spoke or reverse hub and spoke configuration.

At the importing site, create a pre-job with a hot folder, and attach to the hot folder an import process plan or a workflow plan that includes an import process plan. You can create one pre-job and use it for all imports.

When the exporting site sends a zip file, drop the zip file into the pre-job hot folder. If no job with the same name as the zip file exists, Prinergy creates a new job and adds the contents of the zip file to the job.

You can continue dropping zip files into the same pre-job hot folder. Each time, Prinergy creates a job with the same name as the zip file if no job with that name exists. If a job with that name exists, the contents of the zip file are added to the existing job.

If the exporting site is connected to the importing site over a wide area network (WAN), the exporting site can create the zip file directly in the pre-job hot folder. To do this, in the export process plan, the exporting site specifies the pre-job hot folder at the importing site as the location for the zip file (**Export Path**).

As soon as the exporting site creates the zip file in the hot folder at the importing site, the Prinergy system at the importing site processes the zip file, without operator intervention.

The exporting site can create one export process plan for each importing site, with the **Export Path** pointing to the pre-job hot folder at the importing site. Operators at the exporting site then only need to select the export process plan for a particular importing site, and Prinergy will do the rest.

With this workflow, the exporting site does not have to navigate across the WAN between multiple Prinergy servers to find the job to update. This workflow also eliminates the need for individual hot folders for each imported job. This can make creating and deleting the exported zip files easier, because they are always in one place.

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; and workflow management software. 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.

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