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Technical bulletin

Inputting Press-Ready PDFs into a Prinergy System

Introduction

An exchange format specification, such as PDF/X-1a:2001, attempts to produce a PDF that has agreed-upon, predictable characteristics such as geometry information, OPI status, fonts, and color space. Although this ensures that the pre-defined PDF creation specifications are followed, it does not necessarily guarantee output (RIP) success. This is a logical conclusion, since output success depends on the ability of a PDF to process through a RIP with the intended output result (for example, correct overprints and traps).

However, an exchange file that has been further RIPed to separations (which have been verified to be correct by the publisher) could be considered "press-ready". All that remains for the printer to do with the "press-ready" file is to impose, perform a last VPS check, and final output. The printer site is not expected to perform any modifications on the input files, since the publisher site has checked that color conversion has taken place, traps and overprints are present in the file, preflight problems have been corrected, fonts have been included, the file RIPs correctly, and so on. The printer assumes that all settings in the files are as the page-preparation site intends on final output.

Because the page-preparation site is responsible for all color conversion, trapping, overprint setting, and so on, they must proof to an appropriate separation-capable proof, such as VPS, Spectrum, InSite, or Prinergy's Separation Viewer plug-in for Adobe® Acrobat®, and ensure that the separations will RIP and output as expected.

Note: Adobe Acrobat 6's Separation Preview tool is a good general predictor of separated output. Adobe Acrobat 5's Overprint Preview tool is a good method for anticipating some overprints, but in general it is not good enough, because it cannot toggle separations, which is often necessary for viewing traps, rich blacks, and so on.

This technical bulletin outlines how to import "press-ready" PDFs into a Prinergy system, and the potential pitfalls in doing so.

Settings for Importing Press-Ready PDFs into Prinergy

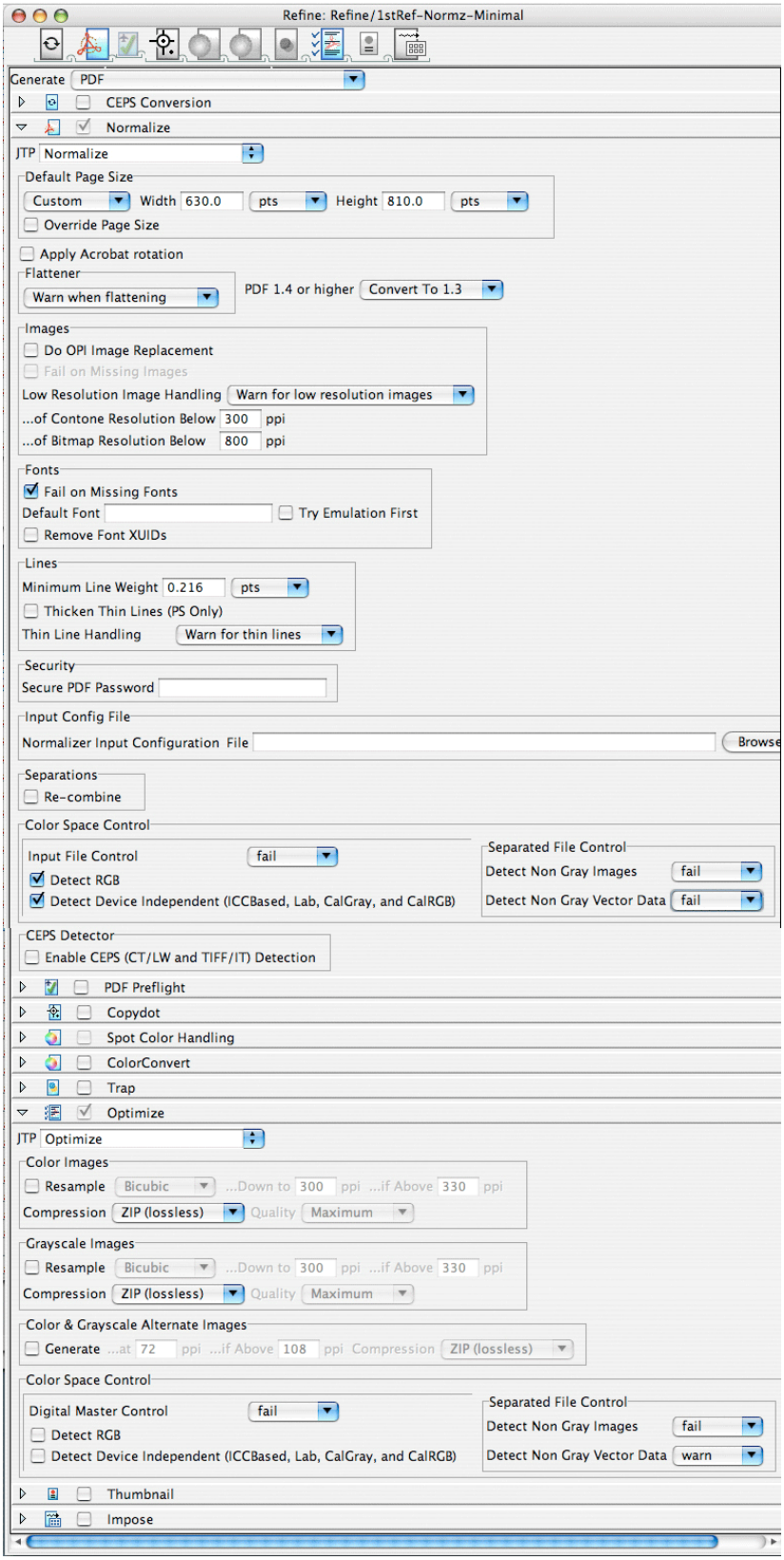
The procedure in this section reflects the options available in Prinergy version 2.3.

Minimal Refine

When importing PDF pages from a page-preparation site into Prinergy, the printer must perform a minimal Refine. This Refine makes Prinergy aware of separation and geometry information, and reports potential

preflight problems. Though there are additional process plan options available that the printer site may choose to turn on for reporting purposes (for example, low-resolution images), the following MUST be set as indicated:

- CEPS Conversion = **Off** (When activated, this step converts CEPS formats to PDF.)
- Normalize = **On** by default (When refining PostScript files, this step performs idiom replacements while converting to PDF. When Refining PDF files, this step performs some preflight checks. It also makes Prinergy aware of geometry and separation information.)
    - Do OPI Image Replacement = **Off** (When activated, this step performs OPI replacement.)
    - Fail on Missing Fonts = **On** (This step causes the Refine process to fail when fonts are missing in the input file.)
    - Input File Control = **Fail** (This and the following four options are available in Prinergy 2.3 or higher.)
    - Detect RGB = **Selected**
    - Detect Device Independent (ICCBased, Lab, CalGray, and CalRGB) = **Selected**
    - Detect Non Gray Images = **Fail**
    - Detect Non Gray Vector Data = **Fail**
- Copydot = **Off** (When activated, this step performs Copydot-specific optimizations.)
- ColorConvert = **Off** (When activated, this step performs various color conversion and management functions.)
    - Set Colors to Knockout = **Off** (When activated, this step causes all colors to knockout the objects below them.)
    - Set Black to Overprint = **Off** (When activated, this step causes all black objects to overprint the objects below them.)
- Trap = **Off** (When activated, this step traps composite PDF files.)
- Optimize = **On** by default (This step performs additional preflight checks.)
    - all Resampling = **Off** (When activated, this step performs resampling of images that are above the specified threshold.)


Refine: Refine/1stRef-Normz-Minimal
Generate PDF
CEPS Conversion
Normalize
JTP Normalize
Default Page Size
Custom Width 630.0 pts Height 810.0 pts
Override Page Size
Apply Acrobat rotation
Flattener
Warn when flattening
PDF 1.4 or higher Convert To 1.3
Images
Do OPI Image Replacement
Fail on Missing Images
Low Resolution Image Handling Warn for low resolution images
...of Contone Resolution Below 300 ppi
...of Bitmap Resolution Below 800 ppi
Fonts
Fail on Missing Fonts
Default Font
Try Emulation First
Remove Font XUIDs
Lines
Minimum Line Weight 0.216 pts
Thicken Thin Lines (PS Only)
Thin Line Handling Warn for thin lines
Security
Secure PDF Password
Input Config File
Normalizer Input Configuration File
Browse
Separations
Re-combine
Color Space Control
Input File Control fail
Detect RGB
Detect Device Independent (ICCBased, Lab, CalGray, and CalRGB)
Separated File Control
Detect Non Gray Images fail
Detect Non Gray Vector Data fail
CEPS Detector
Enable CEPS (CT/LW and TIFF/IT) Detection
PDF Preflight
Copydot
Spot Color Handling
ColorConvert
Trap
Optimize
JTP Optimize
Color Images
Resample Bicubic ...Down to 300 ppi ...if Above 330 ppi
Compression ZIP (lossless) Quality Maximum
Grayscale Images
Resample Bicubic ...Down to 300 ppi ...if Above 330 ppi
Compression ZIP (lossless) Quality Maximum
Color & Grayscale Alternate Images
Generate ...at 72 ppi ...if Above 108 ppi Compression ZIP (lossless)
Color Space Control
Digital Master Control fail
Detect RGB
Detect Device Independent (ICCBased, Lab, CalGray, and CalRGB)
Separated File Control
Detect Non Gray Images fail
Detect Non Gray Vector Data warn
Thumbnail
Impose

Export/Import

When importing pages from a Prinergy page-preparation system (for example, a Prinergy Publish system), the job should be exported from the Prinergy Publish system, and then imported into the printer's Prinergy system. This registers the pages in the Prinergy database without the minimal Refine.

Optionally, if receiving loose PDFs (no Prinergy job context), the printer can perform the minimal Refine as described in the *Minimal Refine* section on page 1.

Potential Pitfalls

- When transferring a page from an unknown workflow configuration to Prinergy for the first time, testing should be done to ensure appropriate Prinergy interpretation of the pages.
- Although the printer site can assume that the supplied PDFs are ready to RIP, it is still useful to pre-render the signatures to VPS to ensure that output will be as expected.

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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