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About DotShop Composer

DotShop Composer is a companion application to Prinergy DotShop, an Adobe Acrobat plug-in that lets you apply halftone screening to objects as well as entire pages in Portable Document Format (PDF) files. DotShop screening is a licensed option in Prinergy.

Using DotShop Composer, you edit a Screen Instance File (SIF) that is used by the DotShop plug-in. The SIF file contains a number of screen instances that are supported by your system and that you can choose from and apply to objects in your PDF file using the DotShop plug-in. A screen instance consists of a specific screen system, dot shape, screen (line) ruling, dot size, angle set, and angle orientation. Depending on options you chose when you created a screen instance, you can also edit some of its properties when applying screening using the DotShop plug-in.

DotShop Screening Workflow

A typical DotShop screening workflow may include the following steps:

1. Create a series of screen instances using DotShop Composer, choosing from the following checkbox options for each screen instance:
   - **Allow Plug-in to change CMYK screen angles** (as well as spot colors)
   - **Allow Plug-in to change calibration curve**
2. Refine a file in Prinergy with or without trapping.
3. Apply screens to selected objects or to the entire page using the DotShop plug-in.
4. Add or adjust traps if needed.
5. Output in Prinergy to proof, plate, or film, setting screening and calibration if needed.

   You can choose one of the following screening modes:

   - **Override All Screening** (use process plan screening)
   - **Keep DotShop Settings** (use DotShop screening then use process plan screening)
   - **Use Document's Screening, if present** (use DotShop screening then use "unknown" screening from creation software then use process plan screening).

Updating DotShop Composer

Updating the DotShop Composer

Creo delivers a DotShop Composer update with a Prinergy 2.2.x.y software update. Check the Prinergy update's readme file to confirm that a DotShop Composer update is included.

Prinergy DotShop Plug-in

The Prinergy DotShop plug-in for Adobe Acrobat is installed when Adobe Acrobat and Prinergy Workshop are installed on Prinergy servers or on Windows and Macintosh client machines.

Getting Technical Help

Finding Help Information

From the DotShop Composer main menu, select **Help>DotShop Composer Help** to open the PDF file containing the DotShop Composer help document.

Viewing the About Dialog Box

From the DotShop Composer main menu, select **Help>About DotShop Composer** to display the About dialog and check which version of the DotShop Composer software is installed on your Prinergy server.

Calling Customer Support

Call the Response Center at 1-877-788-2727 (toll free)

Setting up Your DotShop Composer Workspace

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Starting DotShop Composer

The DotShop Composer software is available on the primary server in a Prinergy System.

To start DotShop Composer:

- Select **Programs>Prinergy>DotShop Composer** from the **Start** button in Windows.

  The DotShop Composer window opens and displays the contents of the SIF file.

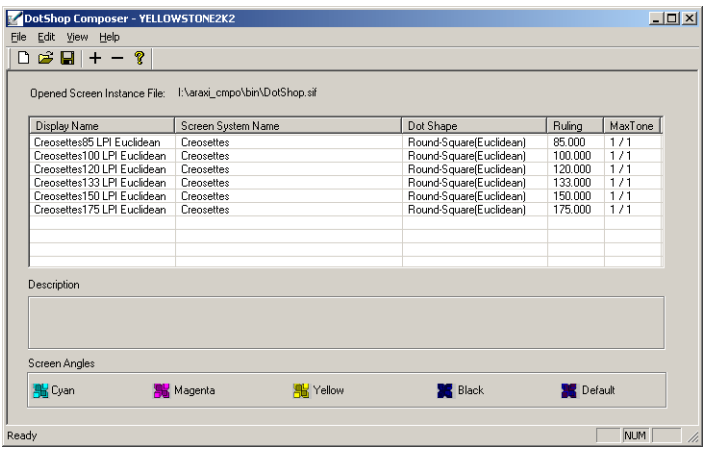


Figure 1: Opened DotShop Composer Window

Opening or Creating a SIF File

When you first open DotShop Composer, a screen instance file (SIF) called **DotShop.SIF** is automatically created in the **%ARAXIHOME%\CreoAraxi\bin** folder and populated with the screen systems and calibration curves that are licensed for your system. When next opened, DotShop Composer looks in its folder for the saved SIF file and displays its contents.

You can do any of the following:

- Edit the SIF file
- Overwrite the SIF file
- Copy and rename an archived SIF file
- Manage several SIF files

Note: The SIF file is always called **DotShop.sif** so that it can be recognized by the Prinergy DotShop plug-in.

To edit the SIF file:

1. Add, edit, and delete screen instances in the file. See Creating, Editing, and Deleting Screen Instances on page 13.
2. Click **Save** from the DotShop Composer **File** menu.

To create a new SIF file:

1. Click **New** in the DotShop Composer **File** menu.

   A blank DotShop Composer window opens.

2. Add and edit screen instances. See Creating, Editing, and Deleting Screen Instances on page 13.
3. Click **Save** from the DotShop Composer **File** menu.

To open another SIF file in another location:

1. Click **Open** in the DotShop Composer **File** menu.
2. The Specify Location of DotShop Screen Instance File dialog box opens.

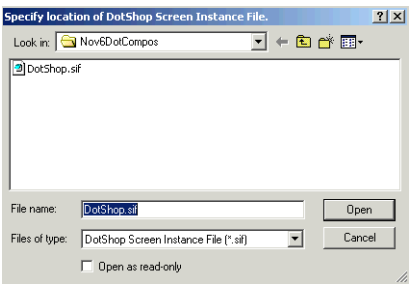


Figure 2: Location of DotShop Screen Instance FIle Dialog Box

3. Browse through your folders to the location of the DotShop.sif file you want to use.
4. Click **Open** to open the SIF file.

   The DotShop Composer window opens and displays the contents of the SIF file.
5. Make any changes you want to the screen instances. See Creating, Editing, and Deleting Screen Instances on page 13.

6. Click **Save** from the DotShop Composer **File** menu.

Managing Several SIF Files

You can create several SIF files and store either rename them or store them in another folder. The only SIF file that will be used by the DotShop plug-in is the one named **DotShop.SIF** in the **%ARAXIHOME%\CreoAraxi\bin** folder.

To use a stored SIF file:

1. Rename the existing DotShop.SIF file.
2. Copy a stored SIF file into the **%ARAXIHOME%\CreoAraxi\bin** folder.

   Or:

3. Rename the SIF file you want to use to **DotShop.SIF**.

Delivering Screen Instances to the Plug-In

The SIF file in the default **%ARAXIHOME%\CreoAraxi\bin** folder on the Prinergy server is automatically available to a licensed DotShop plug-in on the Prinergy client. There is no need for the user to mount a server or copy the file.

Creating, Editing, and Deleting Screen Instances

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Adding a Screen Instance

You can open a new or existing SIF file in the DotShop Composer window and add screen instances to it. These screen instances will be available to the Prinergy DotShop plug-in user on the Mac or Windows client.

To add screen instances to a SIF file:

1. In DotShop Composer, click **File>New** to create a new SIF file.

   Or:

   Click **File>Open** to open and modify an existing SIF file.

2. Click the  icon in the DotShop Composer toolbar or click **Add** in the **Edit** menu.

   The Add New Screen Instance dialog box opens.

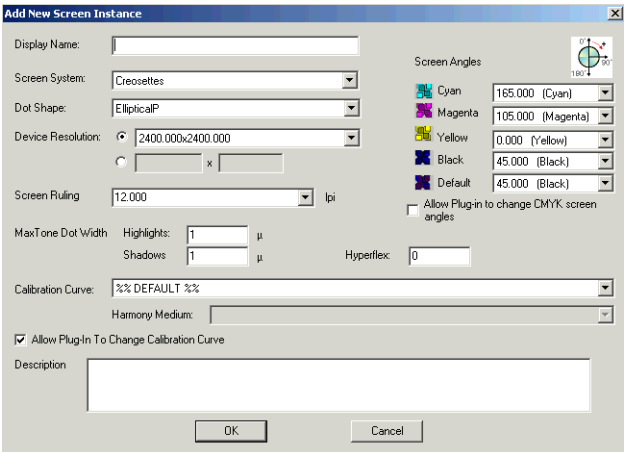


Figure 3: Add New Screen Instance Dialog Box

3. Select from the following properties to create a new screen instance:

   - **Display Name**: Enter a unique name for the screen instance. This name will appear in the DotShop plug-in, where you can select it from a list of screen instance names. Create a meaningful name, for example, describe the contents of the screen instance or when to use it, so you can more easily identify the screen instance you want in the plug-in.
   - **Screen System:** Screen systems contain predefined screening information. AM (conventional) screen systems include screen angles, screen rulings, and default screen assignments for colorant separations. FM (stochastic) screen systems identify a stochastic screening family, such as Staccato.



Screen systems contain an optimal set of screening characteristics for a particular screening requirement. You can reduce screen artifacts by predetermining the relationship among screen angles, screen rulings, and the screens to which these are assigned. See Prinergy Online Help for a description of screen systems.

- **Dot Shape:** The list of dot shapes varies, depending on the screen system selected in the **Screen System** box. For a complete description of dot shapes, see the Prinergy Online help.
- **Device Resolution:** The device resolution refers to the resolution of the output device for the selected screen setting. Typically, you select one of the predefined values in the drop-down menu as these are obtained automatically by a query of the available devices connected to your Prinergy server. Occasionally, you may require a custom setting, so you can enter any device resolution you need here. It is important that you match this resolution to your output device, or RIP errors may result. The output process plan setting for resolution overrides this setting.

  Note: Changing the device resolution in DotShop Composer does not affect the output resolution in Prinergy. It only affects the lpi value that shows in the DotShop Composer screen instance. To adjust output resolution, you must edit the output process plan in Prinergy Workshop.
- **Screen Ruling (lpi)**: Available when an AM screen system is selected in the Screen System box. The list of available values depends on the values set in **Screen System** and **Device Resolution**.
- **Feature Size (microns)**: Available when an FM screen system such as Staccato is selected in the **Screen System** box.

- **Maxtone Dot Width**: For AM screening only. Maxtone compensates for the removal of less-than-minimum size dots by special screening techniques to ensure that full tonal range is maintained. Maxtone is a licensed feature that is useful for flexo printing and other applications where small dots washing off of substrate are a problem. In the **Highlights** box, specify, in microns, the minimum dot size on output. In **Shadow**, specify the limit for the spacing between dots, in effect, the maximum dot size.
- **HyperFlex**: For AM screening only. Specify a value in pixels to fix the number and bridging of AM dots for flexo printing. To determine this value, you must run a press test. See the *Prinergy Advanced Flexo Implementation User Guide* for the procedure.
- **Screen Angles**: When you select a screen system, it comes with a set of screen angles. Depending on the situation, however, screen systems may be susceptible to moiré, for example, between smooth tints of two separation pairs: cyan-yellow (greens) and magenta-yellow (flesh tones). You can change angles to allow moiré susceptibility to be shifted from one of these separation pairs to the other. The **Default** angle applies to spot colors. You can also check **Allow Plug-in to change CMYK screen angles** so that you will be able to change the screen angles using the DotShop plug-in.
- **Calibration Curve**: You can assign a calibration curve to your screen instance. This curve will be the only one available for you to use with this screen instance in the DotShop plug-in, unless you check **Allow Plug-in to Change Calibration Curve**. You can also select no curve or a default curve.



If you select **%%DEFAULT%%** for the calibration curve, no calibration curve will be applied by DotShop; the calibration curve set in the output process plan will be used instead. If a file can go one of a number of output devices, this is a good option.

If you select **%%NONE%%**, no calibration curve will be applied to the output.

If you select **%%AUTO%%**, **Allow Plug-in to Change Calibration Curve** is not available and **Harmony Medium** is now selectable.

- **Harmony medium**: When **Calibration Curve** is set to **%%AUTO%%**, **Harmony Medium** is selectable. You can enter a Harmony medium to correspond with a particular screen set for output to different media as determined by the process plan. For example, you can have two screen instances with 133 lpi round dots, one appropriate for output to film and the other to plate.
- **Description**: You can enter a description for a screen instance so you can see more information about a selected screen instance while in the DotShop plug-in.

4. Click **OK** to add the new screen instance to the screen instance file.

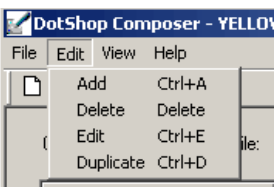
   The new screen instance is listed in the DotShop Composer window.

Adding a Screen Instance By Duplication

You can also add a screen instance to your SIF file by duplicating then editing an existing screen instance.

To add a screen instance by duplication:

1. Click **File>Open** to open and modify an existing SIF file.
2. In the DotShop Composer window, select the screen instance you want to duplicate from the list of screen instances in the file.
3. Click **Duplicate** in the DotShop Composer **Edit** menu.



A copy of the duplicated screen instance appears at the bottom of the list.

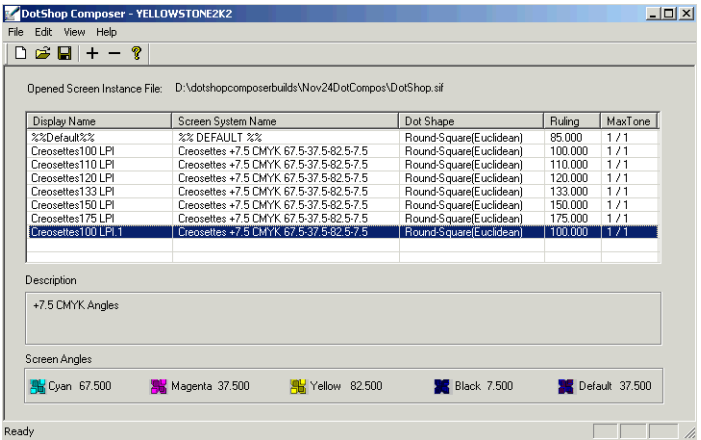


Figure 4: Duplicated Screen Instance in DotShop Composer

4. Do one of the following:

   Select the duplicated screen instance. Click **Edit** in the DotShop Composer **Edit** menu. The Edit Screen Instance dialog box opens and displays the properties of the selected screen instance.

   Or:

   Double-click on the duplicated screen instance to open it in the Edit Screen Instance dialog.

5. Change the properties. The properties are described in Adding a Screen Instance on page 14.

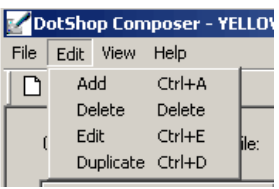
6. Click **OK**.

Editing a Screen Instance

You can open an existing SIF file in the DotShop Composer and change the screen instances it contains.

To edit a screen instance:

1. Click **File>Open** to open and modify an existing SIF file.
2. In the DotShop Composer window select the screen instance you want to change from the list of screen instances in the file.
3. Click **Edit** in the DotShop Composer **Edit** menu.



The Edit Screen Instance dialog box opens and displays the properties of the selected screen instance.

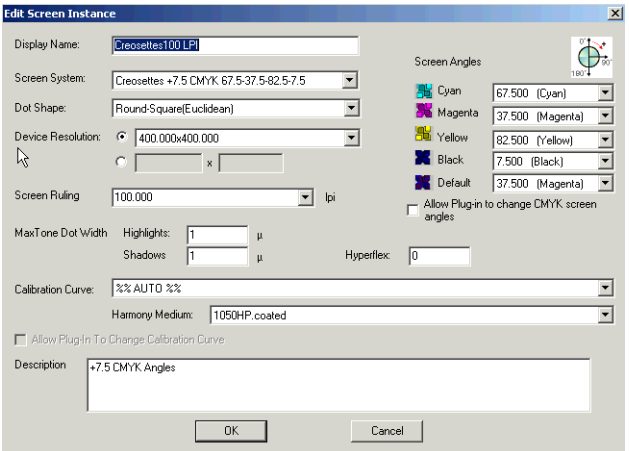


Figure 5: Edit Screen Instance Dialog Box

4. Change the properties. The properties are described in Adding a Screen Instance on page 14.
5. Click **OK**.

Deleting a Screen Instance

You can open an existing SIF file in the DotShop Composer and delete screen instances it contains.

To remove screen instances from a SIF file:

1. In the DotShop Composer window, select the screen instance you want to remove from the list of screen instances in the file.

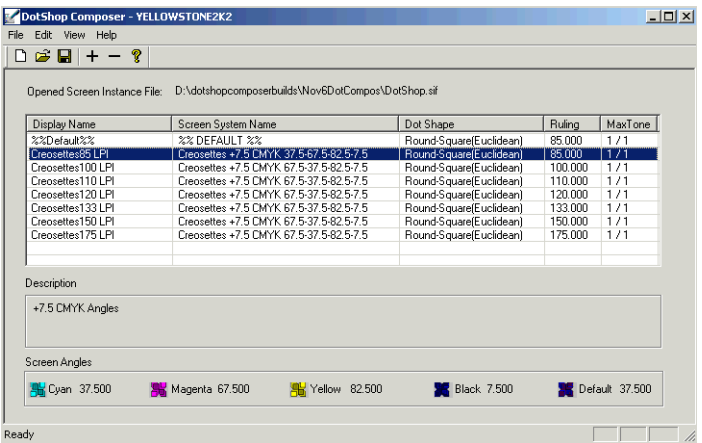


Figure 6: Selected Screen Instance in DotShop Composer

2. Click the icon in the DotShop Composer toolbar.

   The screen instance disappears from the list.

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