# DotShop Composer Plug-In Help

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# Welcome to DotShop Composer

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## About DotShop Composer

DotShop Composer is companion software to Prinergy DotShop, a plug-in to Adobe Acrobat 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 the screen instance properties within 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.

   For each screen instance, choose whether to enable modifications of the screen angles and calibration curves from within DotShop plug-in by selecting or clearing the following check boxes:

   - **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. If enabled, modify the screen angles or calibration curve as required.
4. Add or adjust traps, as required.
5. Output in Prinergy to proof, plate, or film, setting screening and calibration as required.

   You can choose one of the following screening modes:

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

# Updating DotShop Composer

## Updating the DotShop Composer

DotShop Composer updates are included in the Prinergy server software updates.

## Prinergy DotShop Plug-in

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

# 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 a service representative 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 window:

➢ From the **Start** menu, select **Programs > Prinergy > DotShop Composer**.

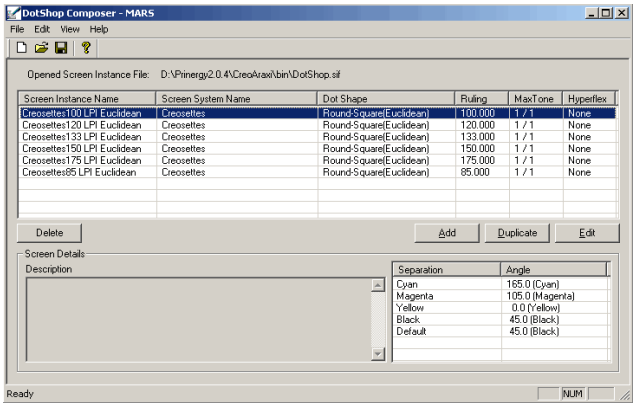



Figure 1: Contents of the SIF file in a DotShop Composer window

## 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 Adding, Editing, and Deleting Screen Instances on page 8.
2. From the DotShop Composer **File** menu, click **Save**.

### To create a new SIF file:

1. From the DotShop Composer **File** menu, click **New**.
2. Add and edit screen instances. See Adding, Editing, and Deleting Screen Instances on page 8.
3. From the DotShop Composer **File** menu, click **Save** .

### To open another SIF file in another location:

1. From the DotShop Composer **File** menu, select **Open**.
2. In the Specify Location of DotShop Screen Instance File dialog box, browse to the location of the **DotShop.sif** file you want to use.
3. Click **Open** to open the SIF file.
4. In the DotShop Composer dialog box, make any changes you want to the screen instances. See Adding, Editing, and Deleting Screen Instances on page 8.
5. From the DotShop Composer **File** menu, click **Save**.

## Managing Several SIF Files

You can create several SIF files and 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. Take one of the following actions:
   - Copy a stored SIF file into the **%ARAXIHOME%\CreoAraxi\bin** folder.
   - Rename the SIF file you want to use to **DotShop.sif**.

## Delivering Screen Instances to the DotShop 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.

# Adding, 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 Macintosh or Windows client.

### To add screen instances to a SIF file:

1. In DotShop Composer, take one of the following actions:
   - From the **File** menu, select **New** to create a new SIF file.
   - From the **File** menu, select **Open** to open and modify an existing SIF file.
2. Click **Add**.

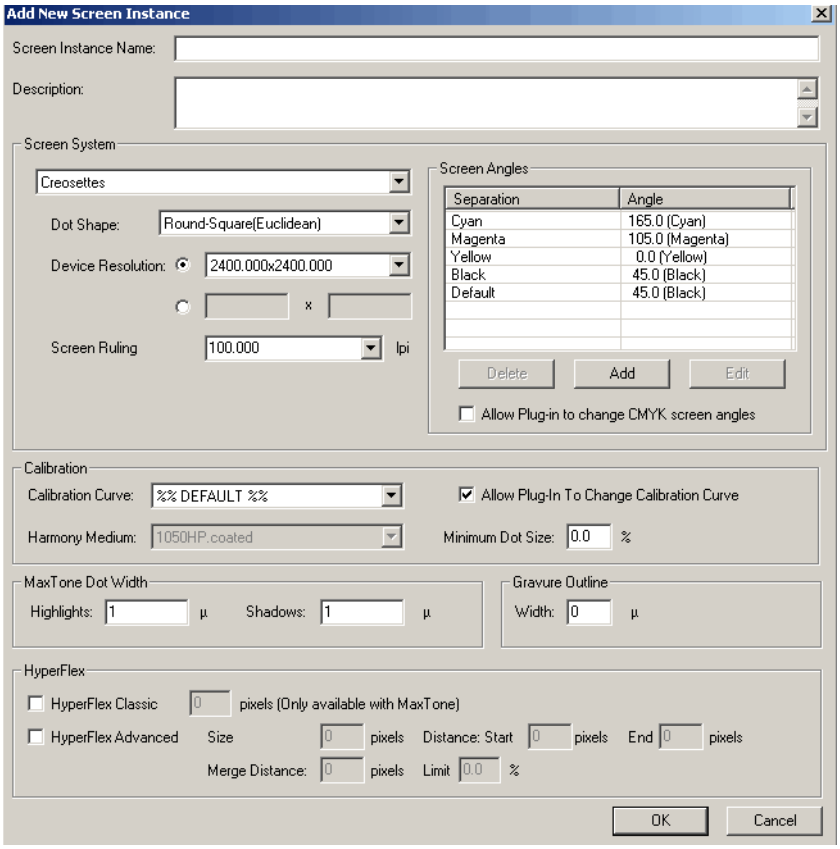



Figure 2: Add New Screen Instance dialog box

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Screen Instance Name** box | Type a unique name for the screen instance. Once this screen instance is saved, this name appears in the list of screen instances in the Dot Shop plug-in. |
| **Description** box | Describe the contents of the screen instance, or when to use it. |

**Screen Systems** area

For more information on screen systems, see the Prinergy Workshop online help.

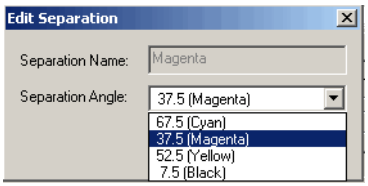
| | |
|---|---|
| Unlabeled list | Select a screen system from the list.<br>Screen systems contain predefined screening information:<br>• AM (conventional) screen systems include screen angles, screen rulings, and default screen assignments for colorant separations.<br>• FM (stochastic) screen systems identify a stochastic screening family, such as Staccato.<br>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. |

**Separation** and **Angle** columns

Each AM screening system 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 such as cyan-yellow (greens) and magenta-yellow (flesh tones).

You can change angles to shift moiré susceptibility from one of these separation pairs to the other.

1. In the Separations and Angles table, select the separation you wish to change and click **Edit**.
2. In the Edit Separation dialog box, in the **Separation Angle** list, select an alternate screen angle for the separation.
3. Click **OK**.



**Adjusting spot color angles**

By default, spot colors are mapped to the **Default** angle. To adjust the default angle, follow the preceding procedure for separations.

To add a named spot color to the list:

1. Click **Add**.
2. In the Add Separation dialog box, in **Separation Name**, type the name of the spot color *exactly as it appears in the input file*.
3. In the **Separation Angle** list, select a screen angle.
4. Click **OK**.

To delete a spot color from the list:

1. In the **Separation Angles** area, click the spot color you want to delete.
2. Click **Delete**.

**Allow Plug-in to change CMYK screen angles** check box

Select this check box if you want to modify the screen angles within the DotShop plug-in.

**Dot Shape** list

The list of dot shapes varies, depending on the screen system selected. For a complete description of dot shapes, see the Prinergy Workshop online help.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Device Resolution** list or boxes | 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 list as the Prinergy server obtains this list by querying the available devices.<br><br>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 template setting for resolution overrides this setting.<br><br>**Note:** Changing the device resolution in DotShop Composer does not affect the output resolution in Prinergy. It only affects the line-per-inch (lpi) value that shows in the DotShop Composer screen instance. To adjust output resolution, you must edit the output process template in Prinergy Workshop. |
| **Screen Ruling** list | Available when an AM screen system is selected in the **Screen System** list. The list of available values depends on which screen system and device resolution you selected. |

**Calibration** area

For more information about calibration curves, see the *Advanced Flexo Implementation User Guide*.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Calibration Curve** list | You can do one of the following: assign a calibration curve to your screen instance, assign no curve, or assign a default curve.<br>• If you assign a calibration curve, it will be the only curve available for this screen instance in the DotShop plug-in, unless you enable changes in the DotShop plug-in by selecting **Allow Plug-in to change calibration curve**.<br>• If you select **%%DEFAULT%%**, the calibration curve set in the output process template will be used. If a file can go to several output devices, this is a good option.<br>• If you select **%%NONE%%**, no calibration curve will be applied to the output.<br>• If you select **%%AUTO%%**, **Allow Plug-in to change calibration curve** is unavailable and **Harmony Medium** becomes available. |
| **Allow Plug-in to change calibration curve** check box | Select this check box to enable changes to the calibration curve while in DotShop. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Harmony Medium** list | This option is available when **Calibration Curve** is set to **%%AUTO%%.** You can enter a Harmony medium to correspond with a particular screen set for output to different media as determined by the process template. For example, you can have two screen instances with 133 lpi round dots, one appropriate for output to film and the other to plate. |
| **Minimum Dot Size** box | Type the lowest tint percentage at which dots will be imaged. Type a value with up to one decimal place—for example, 10 percent or 10.5 percent. |

**MaxTone Dot Width** area

For more information on Maxtone, see the *Advanced Flexo Implementation User Guide*.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Highlights** box | Type the size, in microns, of the Maxtone dot for the highlights. |
| **Shadows** box | Type the size, in microns, of the Maxtone reverse dot for shadows. |

**Gravure Outline** area

**Width** box

If using gravure, type the width of the outline, in microns.

Outlining is needed with gravure to sharpen the edges of objects such as text. The outlining etches a dashed border around each object.

The value typed in the **Width** box is proportional to the output resolution. The actual width of the outline on output depends on the output resolution. For example, at a 2400 dpi output:

- A 10-micron outline outputs a 1-pixel border
- A 20-micron outline outputs a 2-pixel border

**Note:**

- Prinergy output always rounds the outline width to the nearest whole number of pixels.
- The minimum outline is 1 pixel wide

**HyperFlex** area

For more information about the HyperFlex options, see the *Advanced Flexo Implementation User Guide.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **HyperFlex Classic** check box | Select the check box to enhance Maxtone dots with HyperFlex Classic technology. Type the HyperFlex dot size in pixels.<br><br>To determine the proper HyperFlex dot size, you must perform a series of exposure tests. For more information, refer to the *Advanced Flexo Implementation User Guide*. |
| **HyperFlex Advanced** check box | Select the check box to enable HyperFlex Advanced, which places light valves around halftone dots to strengthen and support individual dots.<br><br>HyperFlex Advanced is currently available with AM screening and will soon be available with Maxtone. |
| **Size** box | Type the size of the light valve, in pixels. (The minimum value is 1 and the maximum value is 8.)<br><br>If feathering is being applied, this specifies the starting size of the light valve. The light valve size is scaled back, in a linear fashion, to zero (as defined by the **Limit** percentage). |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Distance: Start/End** boxes | These boxes set the distance between the center of the light valve and the center of the dot.<br><br>*Recommended settings*: Make the **Start** and **End** values the same, and greater than the **Merge Distance** value. For example, type `2` in both the **Start** and **End** boxes, and type `1` in the **Merge Distance** box.<br><br>If you are not using the recommended settings, do the following. In the **Start** box, type the distance from the light valve to the center of the smallest dot. In the **End** box, type the distance, in pixels, from the light valve to the centre of the largest dot.<br><br>**Note**: These dots refer to the dots in the tonal range below the minimum dot size. The minimum dot size is defined in the **Limit** box. |
| **Merge Distance** box | This value determines where the light valves will be positioned in relation to the halftone dots.<br><br>To position the light valves equidistant between adjacent halftone dots, see the recommended settings in the **Distance: Start/End** description. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Limit** box | Type the tint percentage after which HyperFlex Advanced will no longer be applied. This tint percentage is generally what you established as the media's minimum dot.<br><br>To determine the media's minimum dot, you must perform a series of exposure tests as outlined in the *Advanced Flexo Implementation User Guide*. |

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

## 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. From the DotShop Composer **File** menu, select **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**.
4. In the Edit Screen Instanace dialog box, change the properties. The properties are described in Adding a Screen Instance on page 8.
5. Click **OK.**

## Editing a Screen Instance

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

### To edit a screen instance:

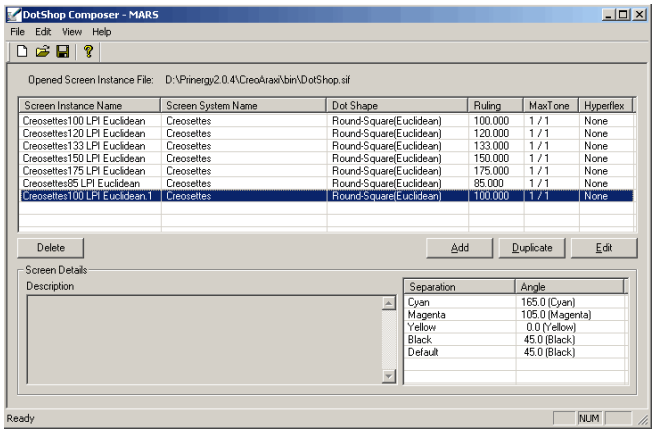
1. From the DotShop Composer **File** menu, select **Open**.
2. In the DotShop Composer window, select the screen instance you want to change from the list of screen instances in the file.
3. Click **Edit**.
4. In the Edit Screen Instance dialog box, change the properties. The properties are described in Adding a Screen Instance on page 8.
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.




2. Click **Delete**.

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