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Technical bulletin

Output Files from Adobe Creative Suite for Prinergy and Prinergy Evo

This technical bulletin describes some best practices when outputting PostScript® or PDF files from Adobe® Creative Suite (CS) 2 software, for input into Prinergy® and Prinergy Evo® software.

The Adobe CS package provides users with a unified approach and common interface for document creation including generating PostScript® and PDFs, that is, an integrated suite of desktop applications for graphic design and prepress environments.

What's in the Adobe Creative Suite?

Adobe Software	Premium	Standard
InDesign® CS2	√	√
Photoshop® CS2	√	√
Illustrator® CS2	√	√
Acrobat® 7 Professional	√	

Adobe .joboptions files, also known as presets, which enable consistent production of PDF, are shared from Acrobat 7 to other software applications in Adobe CS:

- **InDesign**—Choose presets when exporting PDF.
- **Photoshop**—Choose presets when saving.
- **Illustrator**—Illustrator uses its own presets when you save to PDF.

  Prinergy Pages Distiller .joboptions file as well as the Creo Distiller Assistant is loaded into Acrobat 7 with the Prinergy Workshop installer. The job options can be accessed whenever users save PDFs from InDesign or Photoshop CS applications.

What's New in Adobe CS 2?

Some new features in the following Adobe Creative Suite 2 software applications are:

- **InDesign**—Object styles, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe PDF layer support, InDesign snippets and backwards compatibility.

- **Illustrator**—Live Trace and Photoshop layer composite support.
- **Photoshop**—Multiple layer control and Smart Objects.
- **Acrobat 7 Professional**—PDF/X-1a:2003 and PDF/X-3:2003 print production standards compatibility.

For additional information, see the online documentation that accompanies the Adobe CS package.

Recommended Output from InDesign CS 2

The recommended outputs from InDesign for input into Prinergy are:

Format	Comments
PostScript	No problems found during testing.
PDF	PDF is preferable only because of the convenience from the designer perspective.

When outputting to PDF:

- Use the latest Prinergy version available (since InDesign files might use transparency, which should be processed with the latest available Adobe components).
- Use the setting **Subset fonts below 100%** (recommended by Adobe). Otherwise, using fully embedded fonts may result in fonts getting swapped with the RIP's font.

Flattening Files

You can choose to flatten your files in InDesign (Save with Acrobat 4 compatibility/PDF 1.3) or allow Prinergy to flatten the files (Save with Acrobat 5 or 6 compatibility). Flattening in Prinergy is faster, yields better results, and reduces the possibility of flattening files with unsuitable settings.

Flatten using InDesign

If you choose to flatten the files in InDesign while outputting to PDF, do the following:

- Perform as much spot-color resolution in the application as possible. For example; if Spot1 will be printing CMYK, then convert it to CMYK in InDesign. Converting spots post-flattening can result in unexpected results. (The Overprint Handling feature in ColorConvert in 2.3 will also address spot conversion issue). In Prinergy; turn off "Set colors to knockout" in ColorConvert.
- Export as a certified PDF (PDF/X-1a:2003).

  Note: The PDF/X-1a:2003 standard requires fonts to be embedded, files to be flattened, embedded hires and not RGB, and allows both CID fonts, and spot colors (including DeviceN).

- Use the following flattener settings (select **Edit > Transparency Flattener Presets**) for maximum quality:
  - Raster/Vector Balance: Vectors (but less than 100 for Clip Complex Regions selection to be active)
  - Line Art and Text Resolution: 300 dpi (suggested: < 600 dpi)
  - Gradient and Mesh resolution: 150 dpi
  - Convert All Text to Outlines: OFF
  - Convert All Strokes to Outlines: OFF
  - Clip Complex Regions: ON

Flatten in Prinergy

If you choose to allow Prinergy to flatten the files, output your files as PDF 1.4 or greater to retain native transparency.

Notes:

- Prinergy 3.0 will merge all layers (PDF 1.5 layering feature) to one layer.
- OPI: Operators should save thin PDF with the following distiller settings as available in InDesign CS:
  - Preserve OPI comments
  - PDF 1.3 compatible to avoid image bounding boxes replaced by black boxes when refined with OPI
- Files that contain copydot data should be saved as thin composite, or fat separated PostScript rather than PDF to avoid low-resolution preview images being incorporated into the file.
- Geometry, transparency and drop shadows are all retained correctly (transparencies flattened when refined in Prinergy). Colorized TIFFs are also OK.

Recommended Output from Illustrator CS 2

The recommended outputs from Illustrator for input into Prinergy are:

Format	Comments
PDF 1.4	None
EPS	None

Notes:

- The new feature "Expanded stroke options" allows users to determine the position of a stroke on a path. However, trapping of these objects in Prinergy has not been affected.

- Geometry, transparency and drop shadows all retained (transparencies flattened when refined in Prinergy).
- Layers in PDF1.6—Layers are merged to a single after refining.
- Objects using JPEG2000 compression are converted to ZIP compression.
- DCS2 file handling—we recommend that users create a sample or FPO of the DCS2 file, place the sample file in Illustrator, write to EPS, and then refine with OPI = on.

Recommended Output from Photoshop CS 2

When outputting from Photoshop for input into other creative applications and eventual input into Prinergy, the recommended formats are:

Format	Comments
TIFF	None
EPS	None
PDF	Desired file format when images contain spot colors as PDF will support DeviceN **Note**: Duotones and monotones should be saved as PDF for input into InDesign or Illustrator.
DCS	Select**: Image > Mode > Multichannel**, then save as DCS. This method is to be used when image contains spot colors and will be placed in Quark Xpress®.
PSD images (native Photoshop format)	PSD images with spot layers work if placed into InDesign; however, if images are to be placed in Illustrator, save as EPS or PDF file format.

Notes:

- Masks, layers and JPEG2000 have not proven to be problematic in testing.
- Adobe CS applications don't seem to be using any of the following features of JPEG2000:
  - Embedded alpha channels
  - Thumbnails
  - Alternate images

Recommended Output from Acrobat 7 and Prinergy

The recommended output from Acrobat 7 and Prinergy for input into Prinergy is:

Format	Comments
PDF	Use Prinergy Pages Job Options plus Creo Distiller Assistant.

Font Notes:

OpenType fonts (OTF) an extension of the TrueType font format have not been found to cause any problems when used in desktop applications and for the most part are converted to CID or Identity-H fonts when output as PDF from InDesign.

There is a know issue with OTF in one particular scenario: If operators embed OpenType fonts into a document by distilling an Illustrator EPS or PS file that does not have embedded fonts into PDF 1.6 (using Acrobat Distiller 7 and without subsetting fonts), the document with embedded OpenType fonts will likely fail to refine in Prinergy.

Disclaimer

Despite these general recommendations for preparing files, RIP-based proofs are still recommended to verify file integrity.

About Kodak Graphic Communications Group (GCG)

The leading provider of graphic communications solutions worldwide, Kodak's Graphic Communications Group (GCG) offers image capture systems; professional color, copydot, and high-speed document scanning systems; inkjet printing and proofing systems; workflow and color management software; thermal imaging devices for film, plates, and proofs; high-quality proofing media, printing plates, and recording film; on-demand color and black-and-white printing systems; data storage products; and professional services. Creo joined the GCG in June 2005, when it became a wholly owned subsidiary of Kodak. With corporate headquarters located in Rochester, N.Y., Kodak (NYSE: EK) had sales of $13.5 billion in 2004 and is committed to a digitally oriented growth strategy.

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