Automation Engine 12.1
What’s new

printable version

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Product Manager Server Platforms
General Information
System requirements

● Server
  – Windows 2003 Server
  – Windows 2008 Server
  – No support yet for Windows 2012 Server

● Client
  – Windows 7 | Windows 8 | Windows XP
  – Mac OSX 10.5.8 | 10.6.x | 10.7.x | 10.8.x
Ease of deployment | Product Installer

What?

- Automation Engine **Product Installer** in stead of the usual Suite installer

Why?

- This allows an **easier, faster** and **more straight forward** installation of the server component

- This results in time savings and cost reduction as the prepress production down time is drastically reduced
Ease of deployment | Client Installers

What?

- New Automation Engine **automatic Client Apps Updater** for mac and pc

Why?

- Automatic synchronization between server version and client version ensures **up to date software**

- This results in **time savings** and **cost reduction** as the prepress production down time is drastically reduced

- Java Webstart technology has been discontinued
Ease of deployment | Sample workflows

What?

- Sample workflows for each segment can be installed with a single click. This encompasses workflows, sample files, profiles, curves, sample reports, mark sets, etc.

Why?

- **Educational purpose**: learn in an interactive way how typical flows can be built and learn how you can benefit from the new functionality in Automation Engine 12.1

- **Up to speed in a second**: in stead of starting from scratch, both customer and service people can start from predefined standard workflows
What’s new in the Modules?
AE 12.1 | What’s new in the Modules?

- Job Management
- Automated Job Creation
- Reporting & 3D
- Layout
- Processor
- i-cut Automate
- Viewing & QA
- Inspection

Automation Engine Base
Automation Engine Base

- **XML**
- **Create XML TASK**

- **Download**
- **Upload Points**

- **Automation Engine Base**
- **Workflow Parameters**

- **Shuttle Standalone**

- **SmartName View**

- **Keep XMP**

- **Groups**

- **Link between AE and WCR**
What?

- A new SmartName View in the Automation Engine pilot that allows managing all SmartNames

Why?

- Create/Check/Validate new SmartNames in a **faster** and more **efficient** way
- **Easy to train/configure and manage** through extra tools like Descriptions, private tags, advanced filtering, auto updating, …
What?

- A new SmartName type that allows the creation of conditions in an intuitive way without the need of knowing how to script.

Why?

- **Reduce complexity** to build simple conditions.
- **Easy** to train, configure, maintain, support and manage.
AE Base | Groups

**What?**

- Support for Groups. Users can belong to different groups. Group access rights are being taken into account.

**Why?**

- Define Groups to have **full control on the security level** of different groups and users.
**What?**

- The output of this task results in an XML file. All SmartNames can be added to the content of the XML file.

**Why?**

- **Optimization** of the integration between Automation Engine and an external system.
- Support for **replacing reserved characters** in SmartName values ensures a correct interpretation of the created XML files.
AE Base | Event driven hot folders

What?

● A **variable polling interval** can be achieved to start the hot folder activity

Why?

● Some use cases require a faster polling interval than the standard minimum interval of 1 minute (e.g.: XML/JDF based MIS integrations working via hot folders)
Therefore, some **optimizations** have been built in
AE Base | Upload Points

What?

- Upload points allow polling of FTP sites and mail boxes. After data has been detected, it will be moved or copied onto a dedicated place on the production (file) server.

Why?

- This mechanism allows managing incoming files in a **structured** and fully **automated** way.
- **Time to market** is reduced tremendously.
- Works **24/7**
What?

- Workflow Parameters are a category of parameters that are **specific for a workflow**
- They can be used in any **SmartName**-enabled field in the workflow

Why?

- **Values can be reused** several times without creating additional public parameters
- **Operator choices** can be added in **reports** (ReportMaker)
- Ideal solution for S&D: multiple substrates and quantities are required for multiple documents in the same Job
- Workflow parameters can be driven via XML files: easy **integration** with **W2P** solutions
 Operators can drive parameters (variables) that will be used in executing the workflow. Choices can be reused on different places within the workflow.
**AE Base** | Workflow Parameters – XML workflow

- **External systems** can drive workflow variables that will be used during execution of the workflow.
AE Base | Shuttle standalone

What?

- Application to start and/or follow workflows on Automation Engine
- Limited compared to the Automation Engine Pilot application
- Easy to use

Why?

- An operator or freelancer needs to be able to work with a **simple interface**, so **training is limited** and **security is guaranteed** (operators cannot 'break' workflows or access other file stores)
**AE Base** | Keep XMP

**What?**

- Ability to keep meta data that has been added by internal or external applications when going through an Automation Engine workflow.

**Why?**

- XMP sections can contain metadata for automation purposes in downstream processes or tracking information.
- Allow usage of 3rd party tools that add XMP data to native PDF files outside the Esko specific parts.
Job Management

Products: Parameters

Check Product Parameters Task

Add to Product Task

Product Parts: Parameters

Product Parts: Inks

Wait for Product Status

Full Product SmartName support

Link between Products and WCR Documents
**Products** | Improved integration between MIS and AE

**What?**

- **Extension** of Product information
  - Support for Parameters on Product level
  - Support for Parameters on Product Part level
  - Support for Inks on Product Part level
  - Full SmartName support for Product- and Product Part parameters

**Why?**

- **Improved integration** between MIS – Automation Engine
- Ability to push more information from MIS to Automation Engine → **more automation and smart decisions can be made**
- **Simplification of Workflows** through extra tasks (Wait for Status Change)
Products | Improved integration between MIS and AE

Verification of barcode & inks

Product and Product Part Properties
Products | Improved integration between MIS and AE

Hold a workflow until all Products are approved
Products | Improved integration between AE and WCR

What?

- Uploading Product(parts) from Automation Engine will be mapped to the Bill of Material from WebCenter
- Product(part) parameters will be mapped onto Document Attributes on WebCenter

Why?

- **Improved integration** between Automation Engine and WebCenter
- A much **more intuitive and flexible way of working** when dealing with Products on AE and approval on WebCenter
Upload a Product to WebCenter

Product results in Bill of Material on WCR
Product Parts from AE, result in Attributes on WCR

Products | Improved integration between AE and WCR
Automated Job Creation

Support for Barcodes

Support for Inks
Automated Job Creation

What?

- The Automated Job Creation task has been expanded. You can now add **barcode and ink information** to the Job Setup when creating a Job via XML.

Why?

- Almost **75% of MIS or ERP systems** can only export XML data (not JDF enabled).

- **No technical reason or limitation** to differentiate the Job Creation possibilities between XML and JDF.
Reporting & 3D

Report: support for Workflow Parameters

Support for Collada
What?

- **Workflow Parameters** can be added to the reports, created with ReportMaker

Why?

- **Decisions** taken by the **operators** can be shown in the **reports** (Shuttle)
- **XML information** from an external system can be easily added to **reports**. This allows verification
3D | Support for Collada Export

What?

- The Export to 3D task supports Collada as output format
- The task supports multi part designs so that 3D displays can be created automatically

Why?

- Automation Engine can automatically create 3D files that can be viewed on an i-Pad or i-Phone and on WebCenter
- Designs existing out of multiple parts (scenes) can be automatically created in the background. The creation of pack shots with different angles is a typically use case
Layout

- Create Imposition from Runlist
- Add Marks to imposition
- Apply Creep
Layout (CP) | Add marks to imposition

What?

- On the fly *generation of a Mark set*, specifically meant for decorating impositions

Why?

- Mark sets are not always available in JDF imposition templates created by third party applications
- Allows *applying conditional marks* by grouping different tickets
Layout (CP) | Add marks to imposition

How?
Layout (CP) | Sheet expansion

What?

- Automatically **expand** the **amount of sheets** based on the amount of incoming pages
- Support for **binding methods** (assemblies) and support for **Work & Turn** and **Work & Tumble**

Why?

- Required in **digital print**
- Required for certain **migrations**
**Layout (CP) | Creep support**

**What?**

Creep specifies the distance pages move away from the spine to accommodate paper thickness and folding in Saddle Stitch and Perfect Bound documents.

**Why?**

- When used correctly the creep will make sure the pages are **aligned** on top of each other **after folding**
- This task is required to **compensate** for the slight **shifting** of pages due to the **folding of paper** with a certain thickness
## Processor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optimize PDF Separations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjust PDF Screening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Certified PDF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Pitstop 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Smart Preflight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitstop Profile Editor on board</td>
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</tbody>
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Back to overview
**Processor |** Pitstop 11 integration

**What?**

Support for the newest libraries of Enfocus Pitstop in the Preflight with Pitstop task

**Why?**

- Preflight PDF documents, based on the Pitstop server 11 Library so we are **aligned** and synchronized with the latest technology from Enfocus allowing us to use all **new features** from that version
What?

PitStop Pro 11 introduces the concept of 'variable sets' – a group of variables to be used when preflighting or correcting PDF files. These variables are substituted at runtime with the right values for the job.

Why?

- Use SmartNames inside PitStop Profiles and Action Lists to take advantage of

  PitStop's "Smart Preflight" and reduce the amount of Profiles and Action Lists.
**Processor | Smart Preflight**

» PitStop Profile Editor
Create and edit PitStop profiles and action lists to preflight PDF files with.

**Smart enabled**

![PitStop Profile Editor](image)

Back to overview
**Processor | Certified output**

**What?**

- Performing a preflight operation leaves no trace in a traditional PDF.
- It is impossible to see whether a file has been preflighted or not, against which settings the file has been checked, and whether the preflight has detected any errors.
- A Certified PDF file is self-aware. It records whether or not it was preflighted, the settings that were used, and whether or not the file passed the test.

**Why?**

- As a Pre-Media company, I need to be able to certify to send this file to the converter
- As a Converter, I need to be able to check if the delivered file from the Pre-Media is certified
Processor | Change ink properties

What?

- Ability to change the **ink properties** of the PDF files (both native as normalized)
- **Ink type** and **printing method** can be set
- **Overprint** of ink types can be influenced

Why?

- Because of automatic mapping of ink characteristics, **errors can be reduced** and the job can be created correctly according to printing specific requirements
Processor | Change ink properties

How?

- In the Apply Ink Type window, select CF0102 as the Ink Name and Technical as the Ink Type.
- In the Apply Printing Method window, select groen as the Ink Name and Flexo as the Printing Method.
Processor | Adjust PDF Screening replacement

What?

- Ability to change the **screening properties** of the PDF files (both native as normalized)
- **Ruling**, **dotshape** and **angle** can be set
- Wide range of conditions to set the screening property

Why?

- The need to change screening parameters so the **correct output** on devices can be **guaranteed**
- This **saves time** in adapting the values and ensures there is **no risk** on typing something wrong in an interactive way.
How?

● This new "Adjust PDF Screening" task allows **rule-based modification** of the **screening parameters**. One defines rules that consist of a **matching criterion** and an **action**, which is to modify a number of aspects of the screening.
i-cut Automate

- A lot of effort has been put in optimizing the Sign & Display tools on Automation Engine.
i-cut Automate | Gang Run Printing

What?
- Queuing mechanism that manages all different substrates and sizes
- Based on nesting algorithms, sheets will be created
- Forced output is possible through operator intervention or based on due date

Why?
- Full control on job tracking
- Guaranteed on-time delivery: due date alerts, forced printing and some other tools ensure the files are delivered on time
- Nesting is done in a most optimal layout so that waste is reduced to the strict minimum
- Because of reports, sorting finished jobs is now easy
i-cut Automate | Gang Run Printing
Viewing & QA | Braille & Barcode verification

Braille verification

Barcode verification
Viewing & QA | Support for Braille & Barcode verification

What?

● Ability to **verify barcode & braille context** in the Automation Engine Viewer

Why?

● **Number 1 wish** when it comes to **Quality Control**

● **Saves a lot of time and money** to verify barcodes and braille content

● **No room for error** when it comes to barcodes and braille
Viewing & QA | Support for Braille & Barcode verification
**Inspection | Reduce setup time to zero**

**What?**
- Set of information and data that is transferred to the Inspection system
- Position of the one up files, position of barcode, location and spectral values of measurement points, text areas, ... are sent to the inspection front-end

**Why?**
- **Faster setup time** of inspection device
- **Essential** when dealing with **short runs** and **variable printing**
- Drive the inspection **upstream** → variables not defined by the press operators
Inspection | Reduce setup time to zero

Plato (editor) → OR → PDF Layout → 3th party RIP → Digital Press

AE (server) → PDF Layout → DFE → Digital Press

JDF Layout → Prepare for Inspection → Inspection

Reduce setup time to zero