Automation Engine 12.0

What's New

V1.0

Dries Vandenbussche

This document covers following chapters …

System Requirements

PDF/X-4

Ease of Deployment

Odystar and Nexus PDF Processor migrations

Hybrid press support

Scripting support

This document covers following chapters …

Smart Views

Simplified pilot for shuttle operators

WebCenter link from Automation Engine

Viewer Improvements

Commercial Printing

Unique Plate ID

Other small features / enhancements

Automation Engine 12
System requirements

System requirements

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- **Server & Client**

Current system requirements (Assembly 6) still apply

Link to the requirements

- **Browsers**

Safari 5 (and higher)

Chrome 19 (and higher)

Firefox 13 (and higher)

Internet explorer 8 (and higher)

Java preferences: Java SE 6 64-bit should be placed on top

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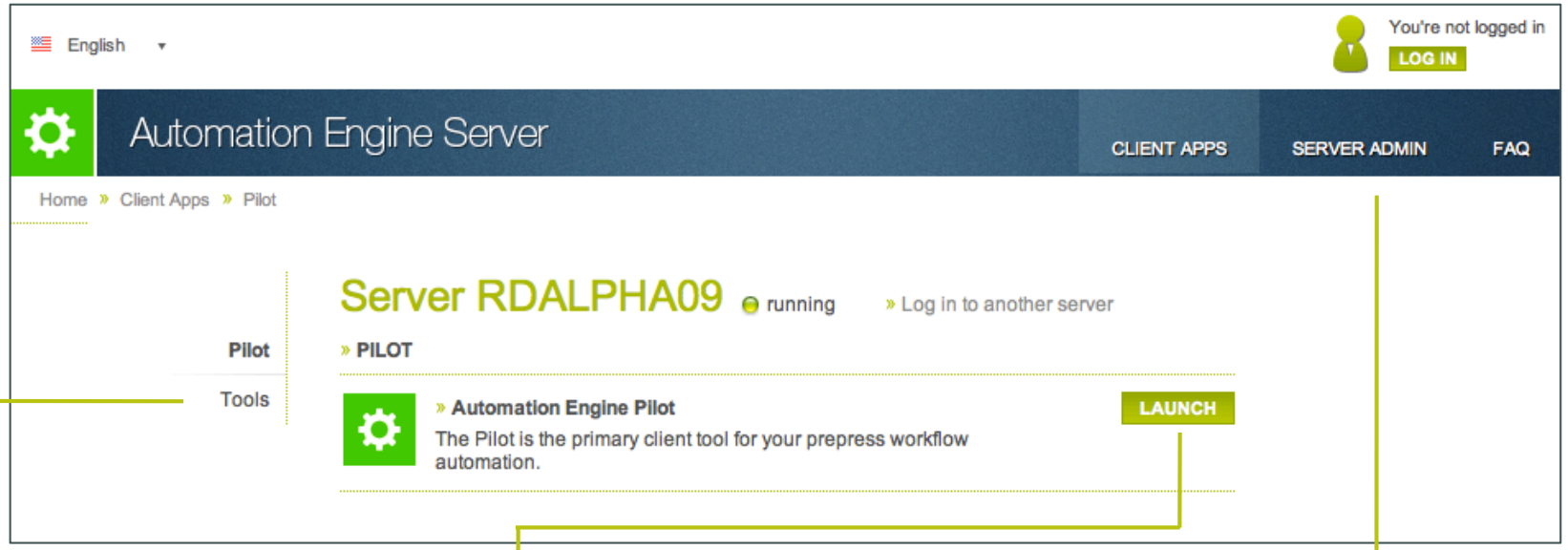
Ease of deployment

Ease of deployment | Improved administration tools

Value

- Easy accessible: all admin tools are
  - Web based
  - Centralized
  - Mac and PC
- Reduction of installation time through Java WebStart
  - Always automatically in sync with the server version
- More flexible tools to move backups or restores between different machines
  - Enables easy upgrades from version x to version y
  - Enables easy movement from server x to server y

Ease of deployment | Administration



Tools

Easy way to find all Client Related Products and Tools

WebStart

Launch

Automatic synchronization between Server and Client

Admin

Ability to Backup/Restore Databases, Configurations and Resources

Ease of deployment | WebStart

- **WebStart**
  - First time you enable a Client on a workstation, you browse to the server (via Safari, FireFox, Internet Explorer, …)
  - Install the Pilot via Java WebStart
  - Pilot is installed on your computer
  - When logging in, version control will happen > when out of sync, the local pilot will automatically synchronize with the server version again
  - Upgrading the server is sufficient, clients will be updated on next start up (version control)
  - Easy to 'find' the Client software
  - Synchronization of server and Pilot takes seconds

Ease of deployment | Backup / Restore

- **Backup / Restore**
  - Following elements will be taken into account
    - Configurations
      - SmartNames
      - Tickets
      - Dispatchers
      - Hotfolders
      - UAR
      - …
    - Databases
      - BSJobs (FlexoPlates, JDF server)
      - Tasks
      - History
      - Application Server
    - Resources
      - Curves, CMS, Marks, Fonts

Ease of deployment | Backup / Restore

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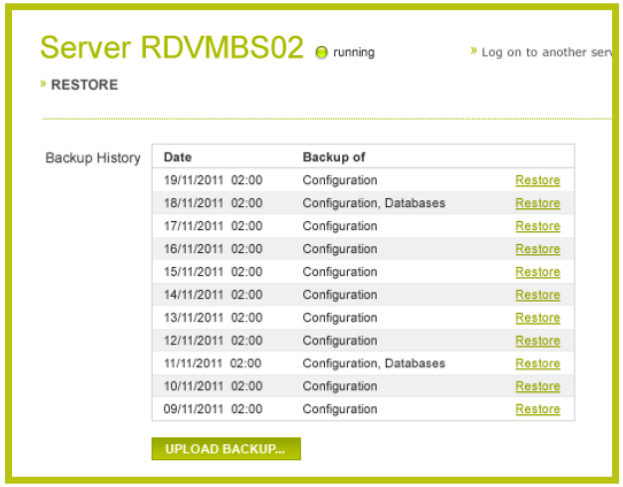
- **Backup / Restore**



- Independent from the location of the Database, a secure backup can be made
- Backup can contain: Configurations, Databases and Resources
- AE becomes 'Host independent' > a restore on a different machine will be straight forward
- Tool accessible from wherever in the network, no need to be on the server itself anymore.
- Backup/Restore tools to migrate from AE10 to AE12 are also available

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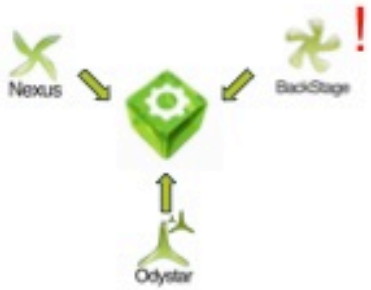
Odystar and Nexus PDF Processor migration

History | Merging of 3 workflows into Automation Engine

2010

Automation Engine 10.0

May 12, 2010



2010: First phase of merge

- Migration for BackStage customers
- Early migration for Nexus and Odystar customers

2011

Automation Engine 10.1

Q2, 2011

2011: Second phase of merge

- Migration for Nexus Processor customers
- Initial support for Nexus PDF and Odystar PDF technologies

2012

Automation Engine 12

Q2, 2012

2012: Third phase of merge

- Migration for Nexus PDF and Odystar customers
- All workflow technologies integrated to complete migration for all customers

Migration of Odystar functionality

Value

- Ensure **migration** from **Odystar** and **Nexus PDF processor** customers is covered
- Focus on **one server** framework from now on
- Strengthen the current AE version with **added functionality**

New Tasks

- Adjust PDF Screening

  Adjusts screening information from incoming PDF document (angle, type, dotshape, ruling)

- Compare PDF

  Compares 2 files and shows the differences

- Resize PDF for Output

  Resizes page content and page size

- Version PDF

  Allows merging base layers with version files
  Allows splitting versioned files into base layers and version files

New Tasks

- Run Script
  Ability to start a script on dedicated machine (eg. Apple Script)

- Process PDF Spreads
  Allows splitting a reader spread document
  Allows creating a reader or Printer spread document, starting from single pages

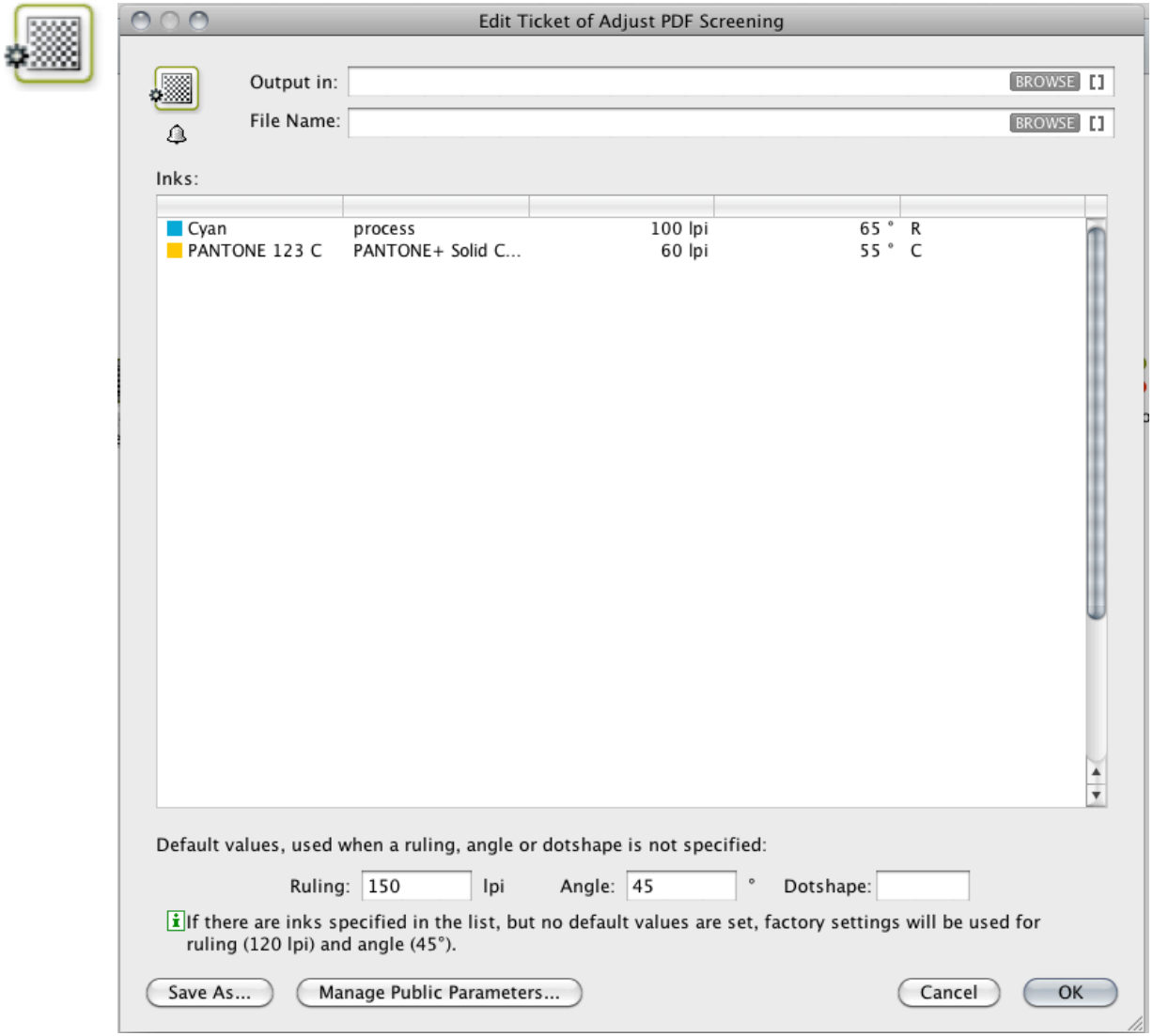
- Join PDF Pages from Runlist
  Creation of multipage PDF file, starting from a runlist referring to multiple PDF files

- Resolve OPI
  Automatic replacement from lowres images into high res.
- *It also allows remapping links to linked images from one location to another.*

Not covered yet

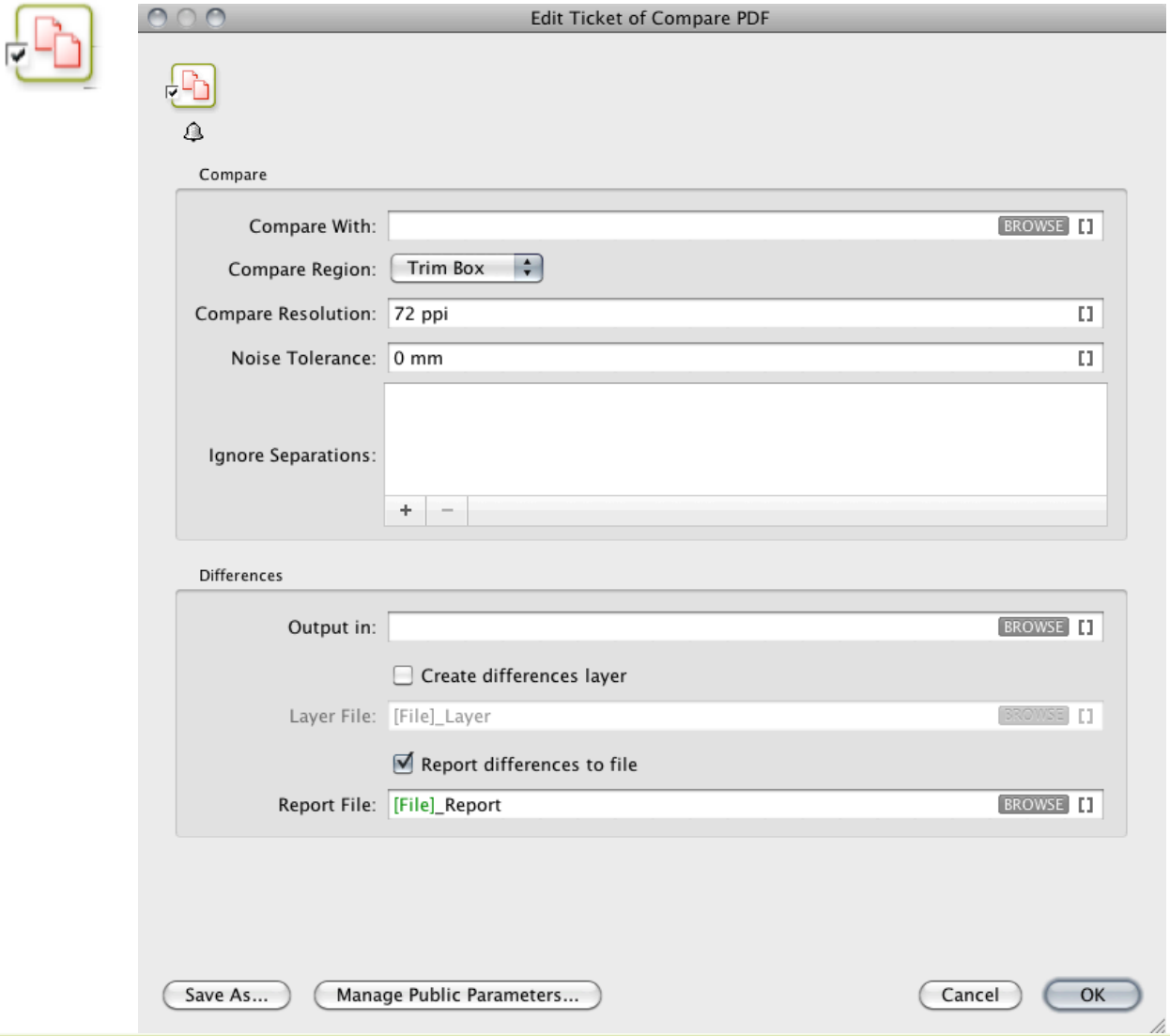
	• Certify GW	*2012 Q4 →AE 12.x* *Support to certify a PDF file*
	• Rip GW	*2013 → Imaging Engine*
	• Decorate GW	*2012 Q4 →AE 12.x* *Smart-Marks support* *2013 → major new release*
	• Repeat File GW	*Dynamic Marks support* *Layout Module* *Marks support: see Decorate GW*
	• Scattered GW	*2013→ Imaging Engine* *Will cover most use cases of Scattered gateway*
	• Dynastrip GW	*2012 Q4 →AE 12.x* *Extension of JDF Layout support:* *Auto growth sheets*
	• Receive GW	*2012 Q4 →AE 12.x* *Support for polling E-Mail, FTP sites, …*

Adjust PDF screening (Prepare for Output gateway)



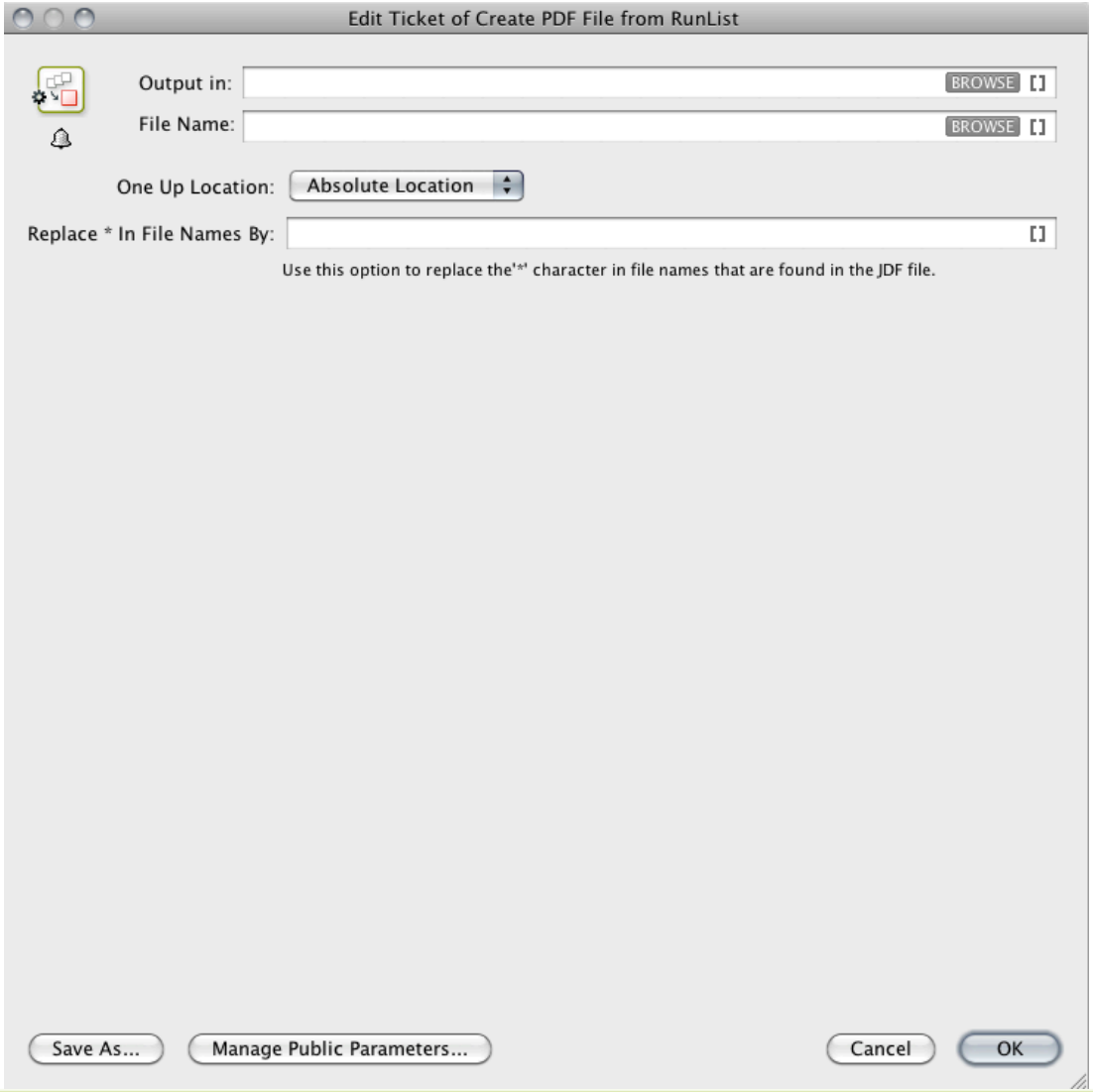
Adjust **screening** information on generic PDF files and Normalized PDF files

Compare PDF (Compare Files and Versions gateways)



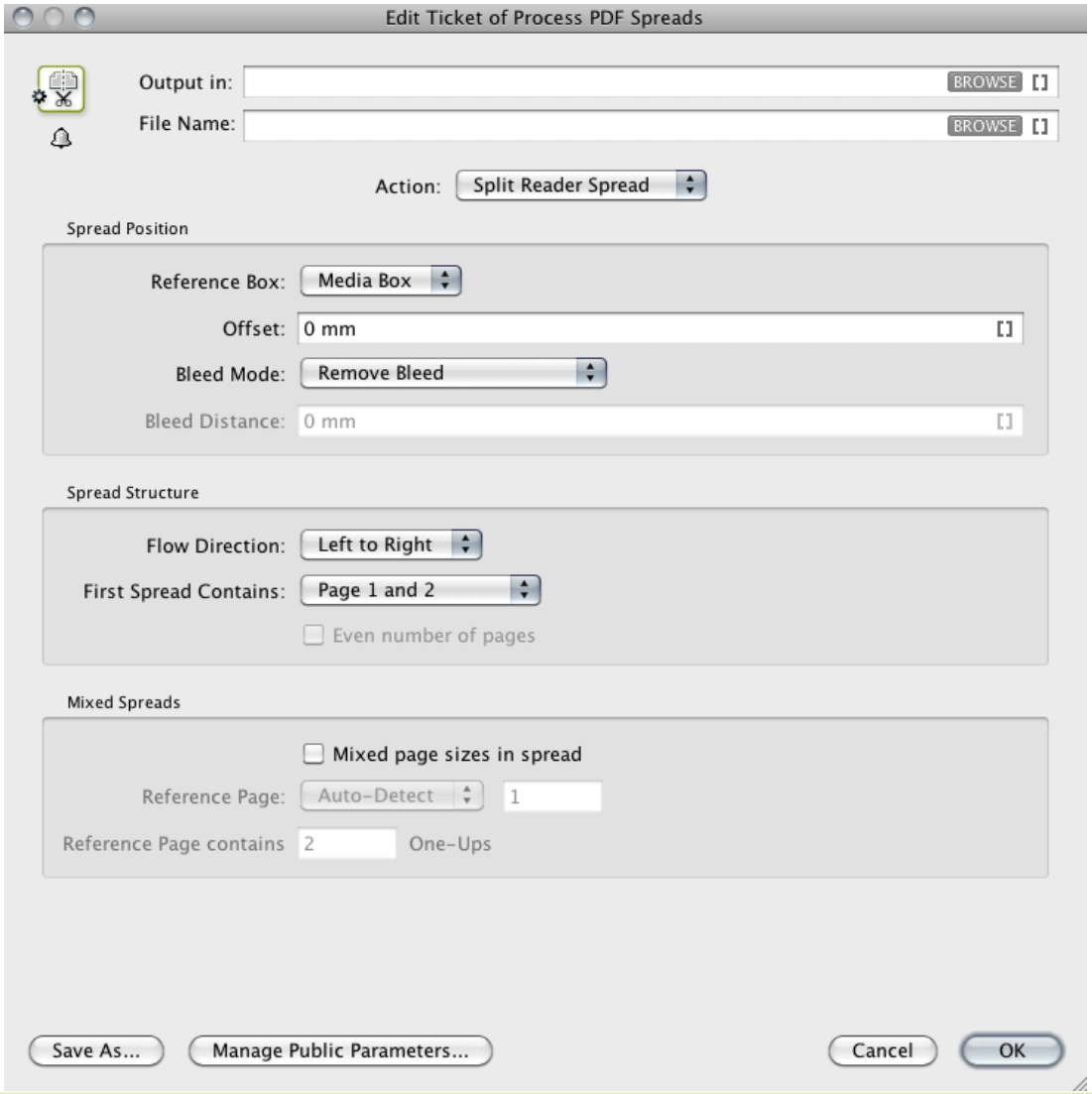
Compare PDF files for **QC** or **plate reuse** purposes

Create PDF file from RunList (Join Pages gateway)



Join multiple pages to one multipage PDF file based on a (JDF) **RunList**

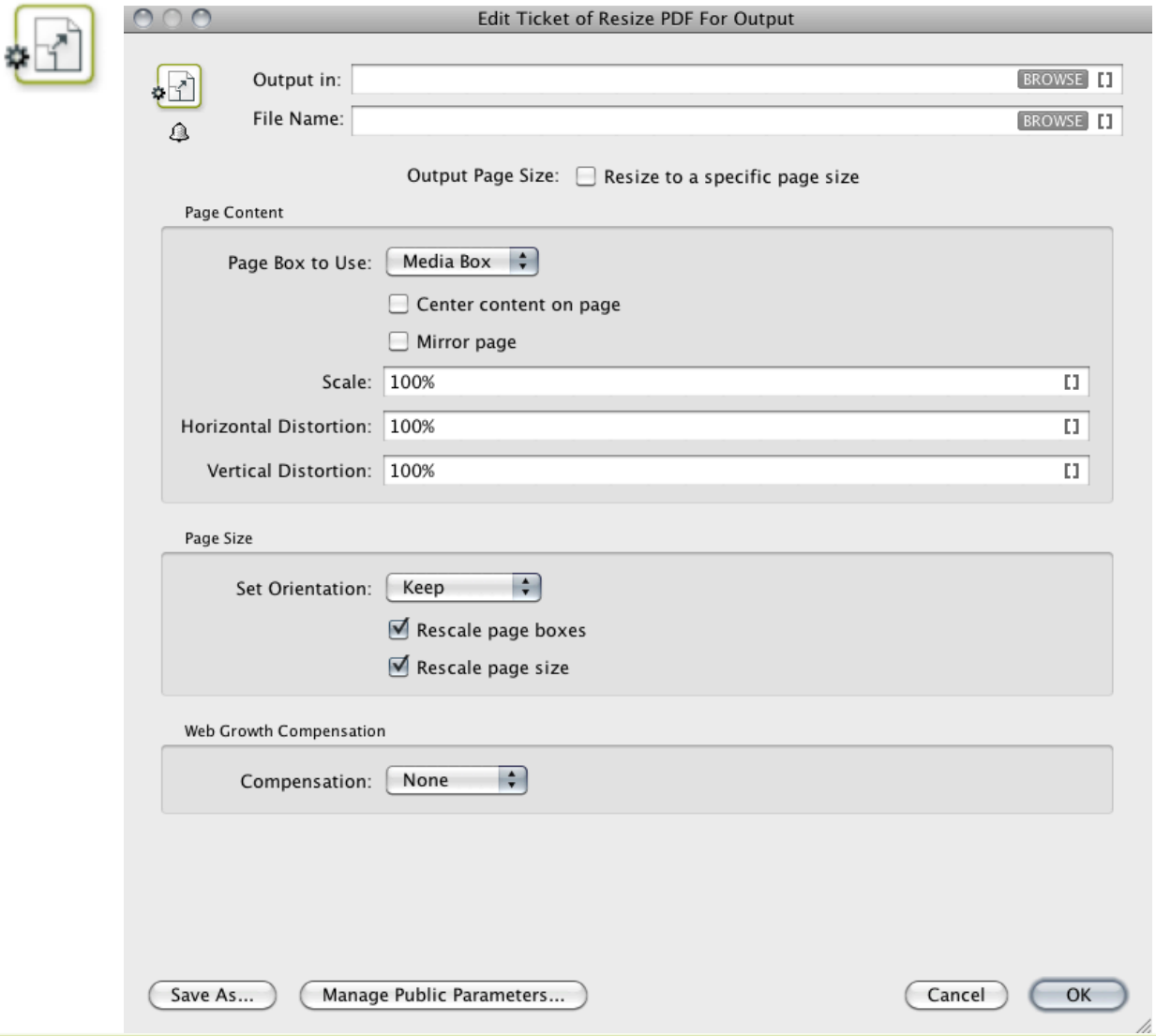
Process PDF spreads (Process Spreads gateway)



This task allows you to **create** spread files, **split** spread files, specify **bleed** distances and control the **order** and **positioning** of pages in spreads.

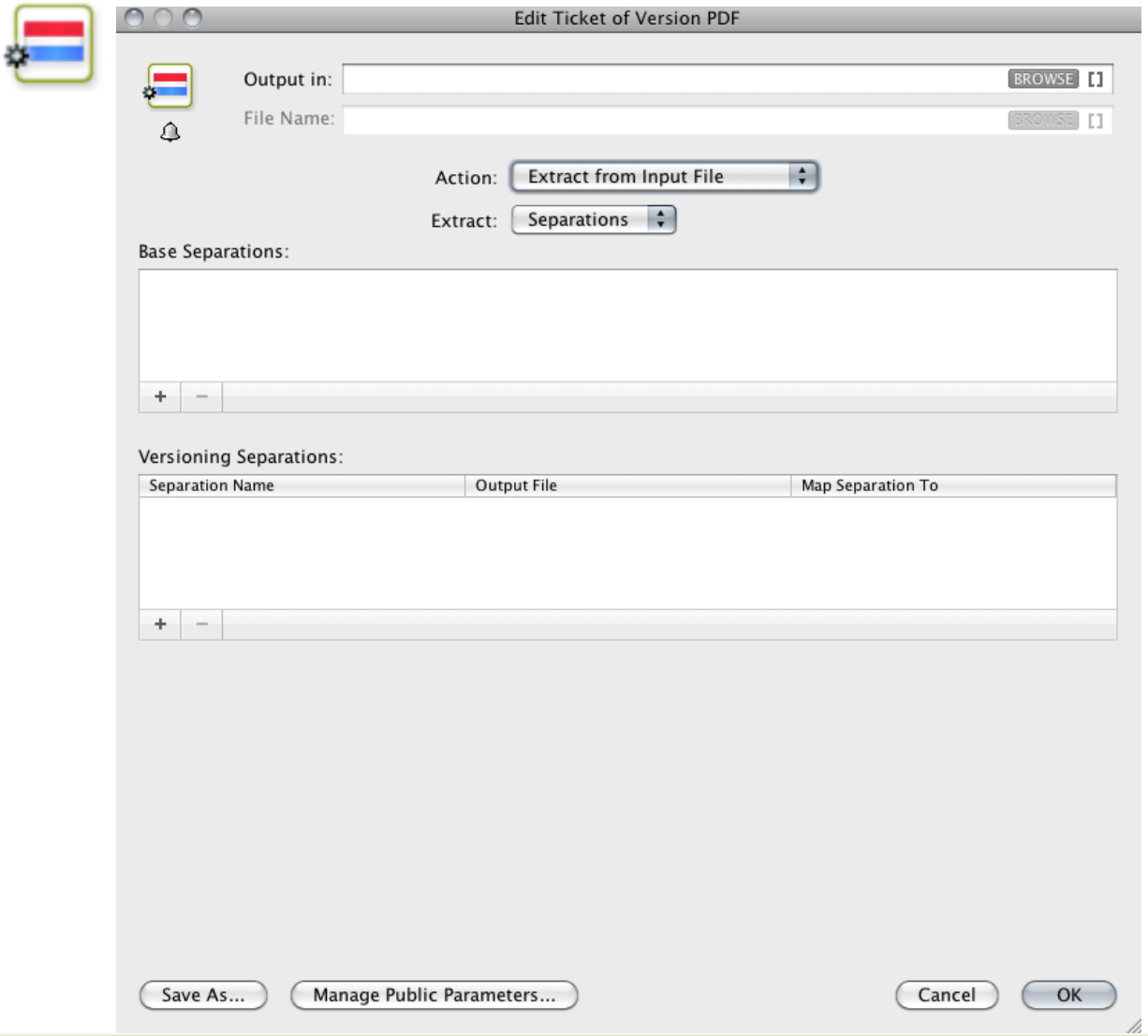
The task can handle jobs which contain a combination of single pages and spread pages.

Resize PDF for output (Prepare for Output gateway)



Resizes the page **content** and page **size** of a PDF document

Version PDF (Fuse & Disjoin Versions gateways)



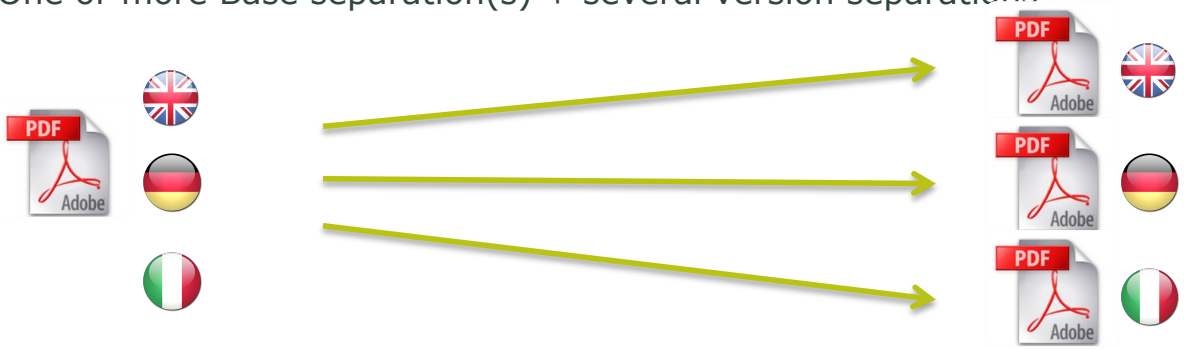
Version PDF allows you to extract or **combine** a base file and one or more version files into one or more **versioned** files based on **separations** or **layers**

Version PDF

- **Extract from input file**

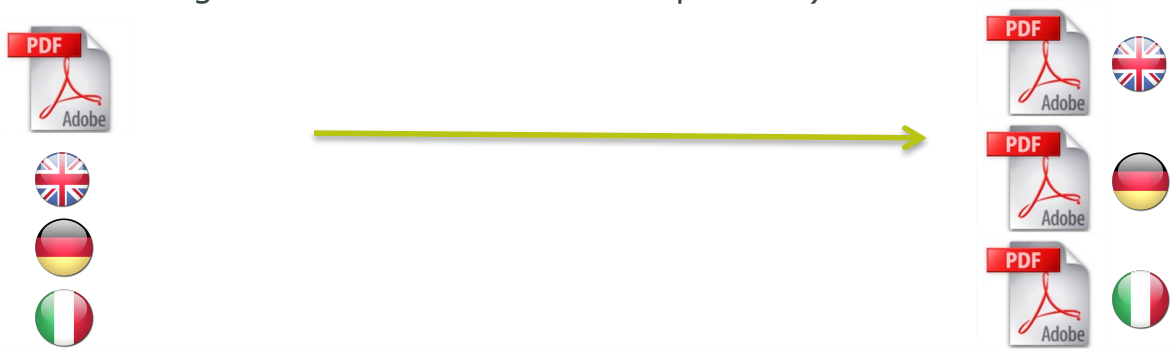
Files to be processed either have:

- One or more Base layer(s) + several version layers
- One or more Base separation(s) + several version separations



- **Combine with external files**

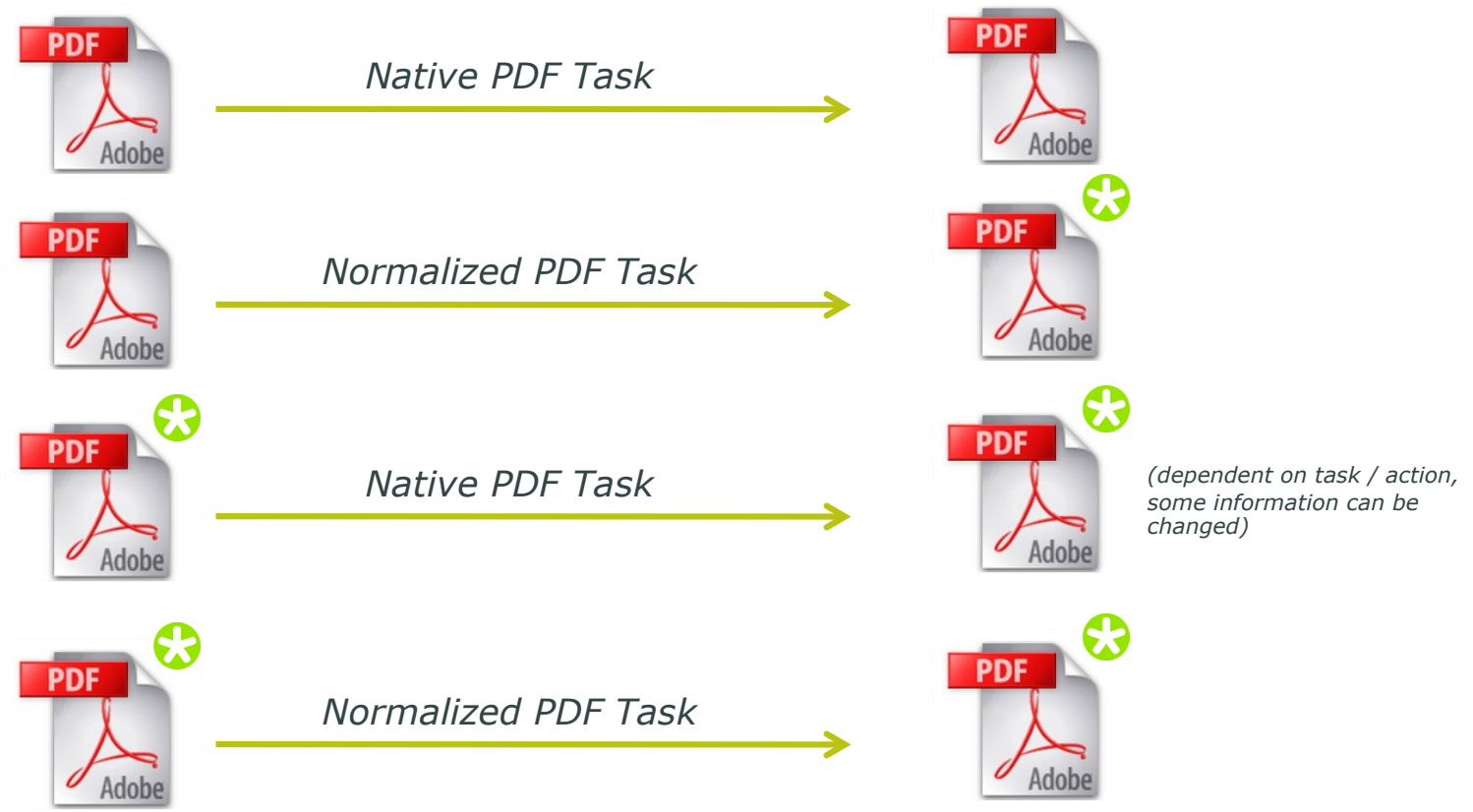
Allows you to combine a base file and one or more version files into one or more versioned files (i.e. files containing both base and version components)



Normalized PDF versus native PDF

- Independently from the PDF flavor, a workflow will be able to start

  No need to know which tickets are 'native PDF' based or 'Brix' based



OCG support | synchronization of Products

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- **OCG** = *Optional Content Groups*
- The 'Layer' behavior in all Esko applications is now following the behavior of Adobe Illustrator
  - Visibility of layers
  - Printability of layers
  - Order of layers

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Full Hybrid press support

Full hybrid press support

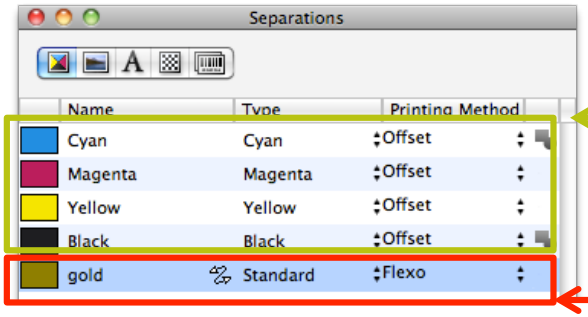
Value

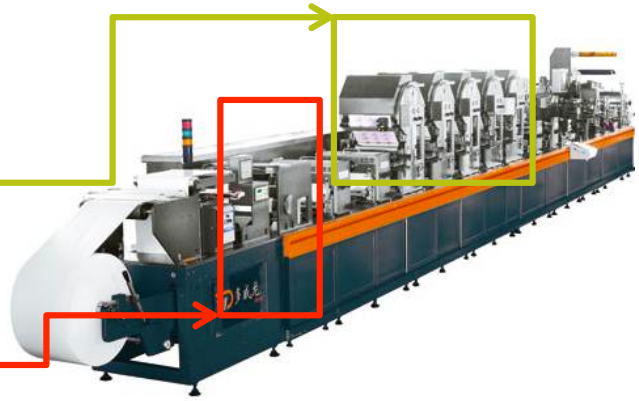
- Expanding the lead in the **narrow web** printing segment
  70 to 80% of all narrow web printing machines are hybrid* presses today
  *(*presses combining more than one printing technique)*
- At this moment, no software vendor is fully supporting the requirements for this market segment
- Expanding the possibilities for **packaging** in general
  - Security cards (combination of offset and silkscreen)
  - Cosmetic industry
  - Combination of digital and conventional presses: Variable printing, …

nilpeter gallus MARKANDY

Example

- Below label has 5 separations: CMYK is printed in offset, gold is printed in flexo.



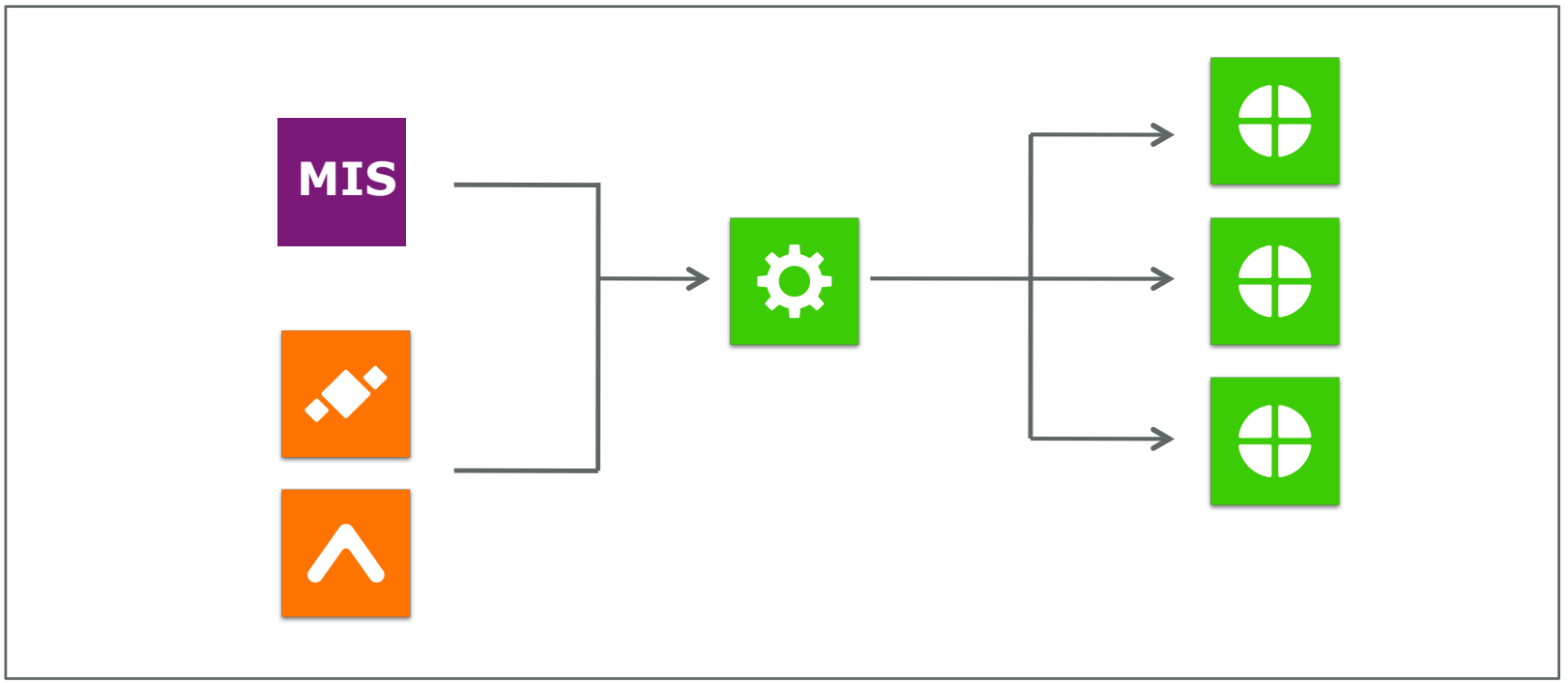


Label **Prepress settings** **Combi press**

New Features | New Ink Attributes

What

- Definition of Printing Method (offset, silkscreen, flexo, …)
- Can be applied on both JDF level and Interactive Applications



Extract inks

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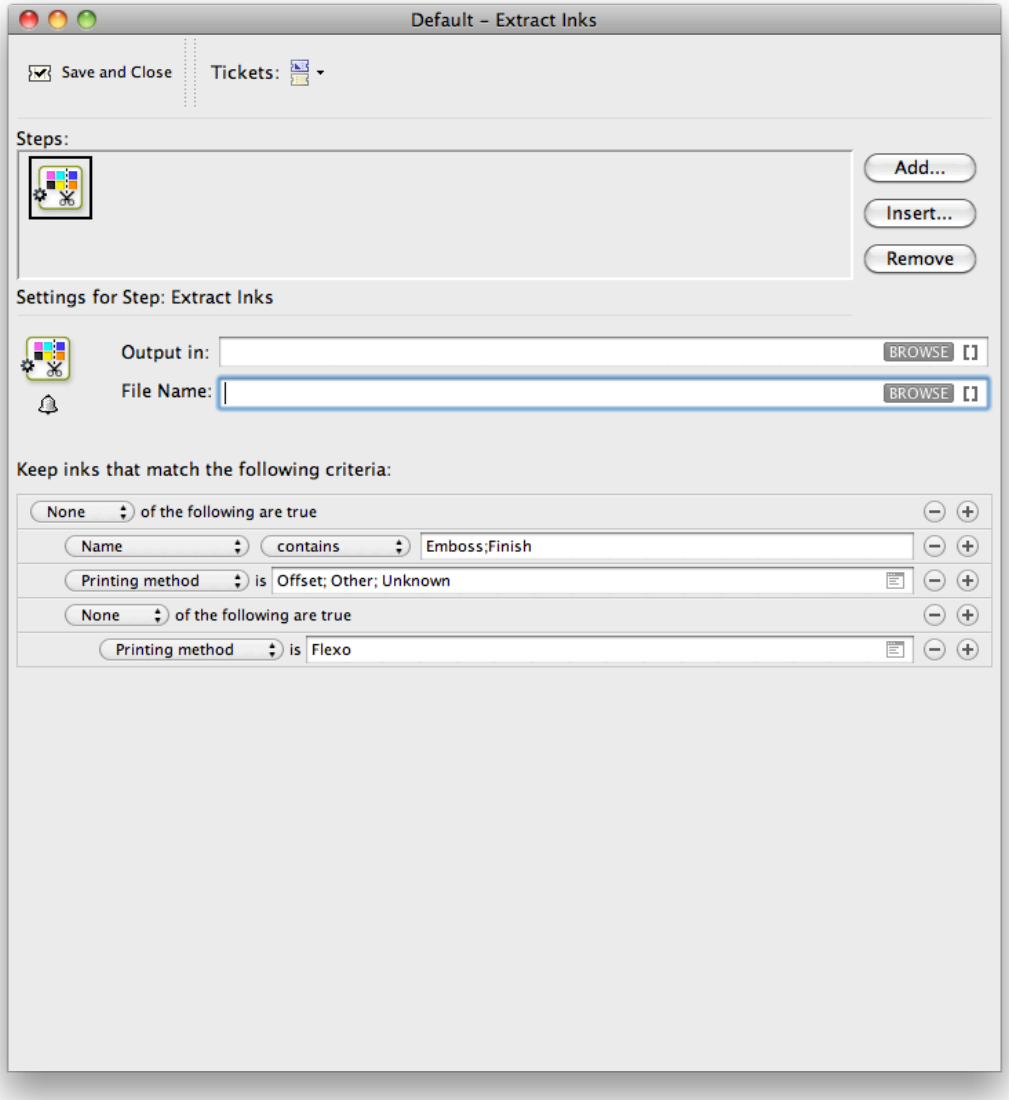


This task allows you to extract separations based on a certain printing method

Automation Engine 12
Scripting support

Scripting Support | Important message!

Sample scripts are provided as-is with no warranty of fitness for a particular purpose. These scripts are solely intended to demonstrate techniques for accomplishing common tasks. Additional script logic and error-handling may need to be added to achieve the desired results in your specific environment.

It is up to the user to verify that his intended use of the offered automation functionality is compliant with any third party license agreement and/or other restrictions applicable to any non-Esko products

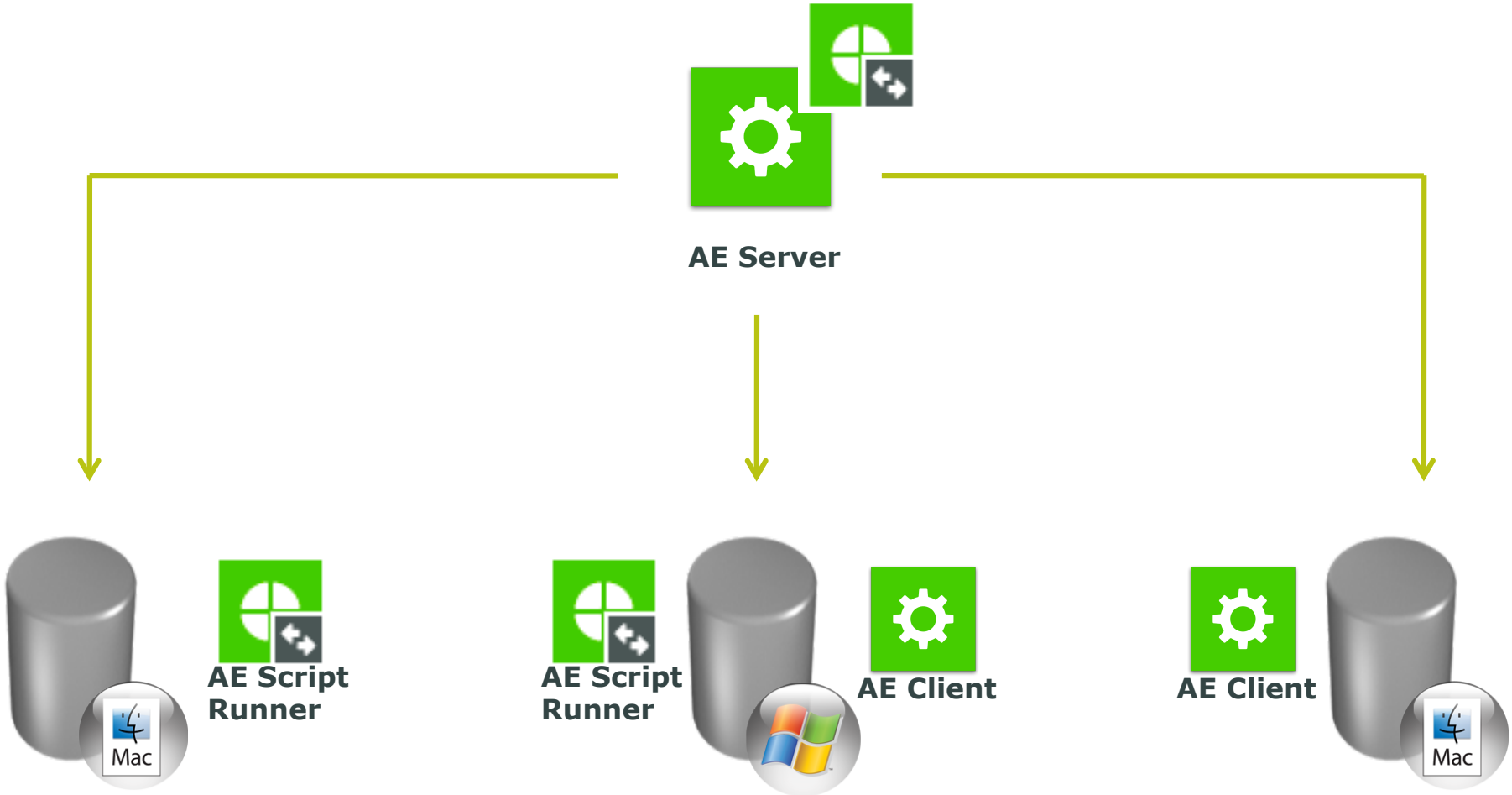
Scripting Support

Value

- Ensures **migration** from Odystar and Nexus customers is covered
- Enables file format **integrity** (standardization) as input for all workflows
- Perfect solution for the **Preflight** process (standardized PDF as input)
- Answer for **Artwork Automation**
  - Dynamic Content
  - Image conversion in Photoshop
  - Flattening from layers in Photoshop
  - Indesign server activities
  - …

New Features | Scripting Support

How



New Features | Scripting Support

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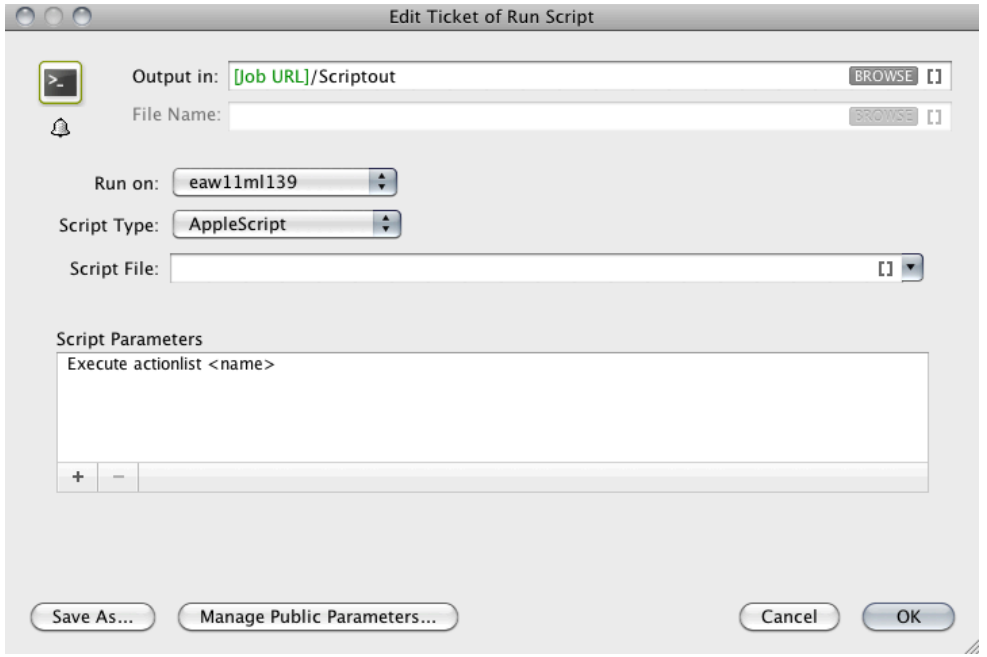
What

- Automation Engine 12 allows to automate actions from Adobe applications (e.g. Illustrator, Photoshop, Indesign) and 3rd party tools (e.g. Alwan)
- The scripting Task will run on the AE server. The execution of the script will be done on a 'Script Runner'. This Script Runner can be installed on Windows and Macintosh workstations.
- Supported scripting:
  - AppleScript *(on Mac)*
  - ExtendScript *(on Mac and PC)*
  - ShellScript *(on Mac)*
  - Windows Script *(on PC)*
  - Batch files *(on PC)*
- Building Scripts will not be done by Esko: customer is responsible for creating and maintaining their own scripts

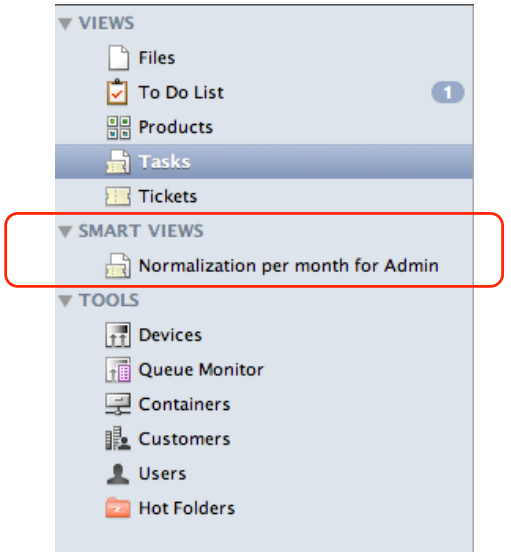


Automation Engine 12
Smart Views

Smart Views

What?

- Smart filtering on all levels of the Pilot
  - Same filtering behavior as on MacOSX
  - Filters can be saved and used as a customized View



Example: all normalized tasks from operator x executed in a specific period …

Tickets: all default tickets containing 'PDF' …

Smart Views

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- **Scope Bar**

When a view is filtered by using the **search field**, a scope bar is shown at the top. The scope buttons can be used to define the scope of a look-up.

- **Filter Rows**

When more precise filtering is needed a user can add additional criteria

- **Saving**

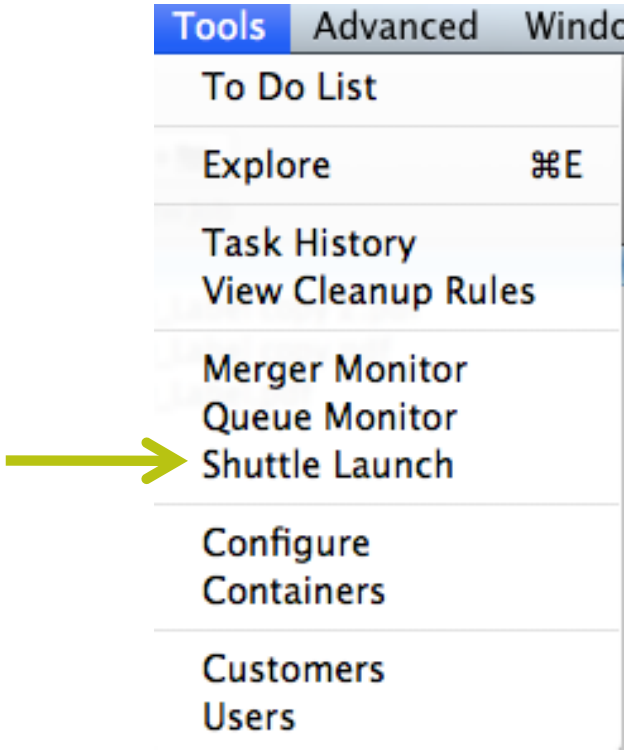
A filter can be saved by clicking the *save* button in the scope bar. For each saved filter a user has the option to make it available in the views bar. This setting can be changed afterwards.

Automation Engine 12

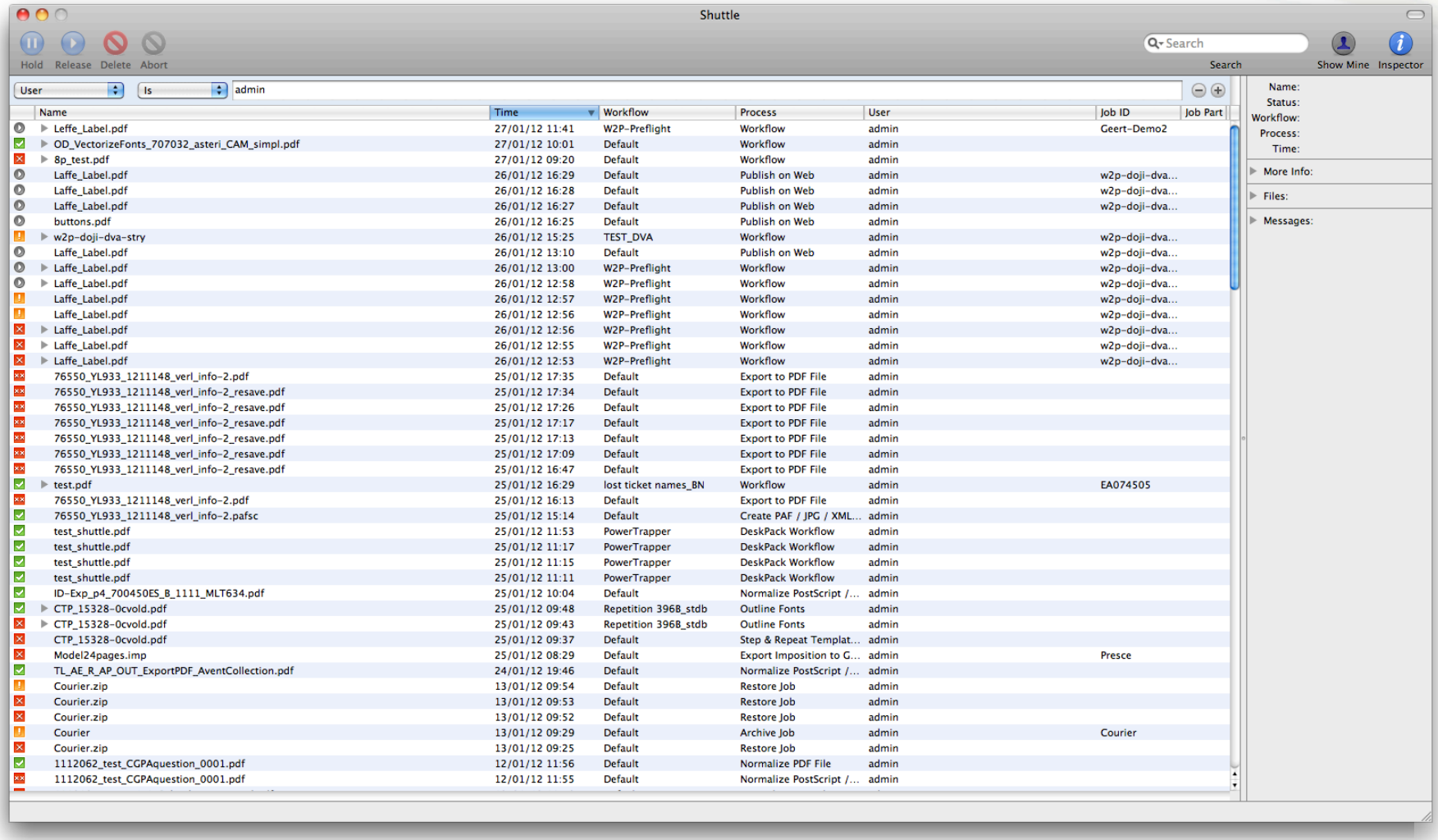
Simplified Pilot for Shuttle operators

Simplified Pilot for Shuttle operators

- Simple Pilot: allows simplified "shuttle" view for certain operators (based on UAR: Shuttle operator) – increased ease of use.
  - Only give access to Public tickets
  - Only give access to Public Parameters
- Drag & Drop
  - New in AE12: Available from the 'Tools' menu



Task View ...



Name	Time	Workflow	Process	User	Job ID	Job Part
Leffe_Label.pdf	27/01/12 11:41	W2P-Preflight	Workflow	admin	Geert-Demo2	
OD_VectorizeFonts_707032_asteri_CAM_simpl.pdf	27/01/12 10:01	Default	Workflow	admin		
8p_test.pdf	27/01/12 09:20	Default	Workflow	admin		
Laffe_Label.pdf	26/01/12 16:29	Default	Publish on Web	admin	w2p-doji-dva...	
Laffe_Label.pdf	26/01/12 16:28	Default	Publish on Web	admin	w2p-doji-dva...	
Laffe_Label.pdf	26/01/12 16:27	Default	Publish on Web	admin	w2p-doji-dva...	
buttons.pdf	26/01/12 16:25	Default	Publish on Web	admin		
w2p-doji-dva-stry	26/01/12 15:25	TEST_DVA	Workflow	admin	w2p-doji-dva...	
Laffe_Label.pdf	26/01/12 13:10	Default	Publish on Web	admin	w2p-doji-dva...	
Laffe_Label.pdf	26/01/12 13:00	W2P-Preflight	Workflow	admin	w2p-doji-dva...	
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test.pdf	25/01/12 16:29	lost ticket names_BN	Workflow	admin	EA074505	
76550_YL933_1211148_verl_info-2.pdf	25/01/12 16:13	Default	Export to PDF File	admin		
76550_YL933_1211148_verl_info-2.pafsc	25/01/12 15:14	Default	Create PAF / JPG / XML...	admin		
test_shuttle.pdf	25/01/12 11:53	PowerTrapper	DeskPack Workflow	admin		
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Model24pages.imp	25/01/12 08:29	Default	Export Imposition to G...	admin	Presce	
TL_AE_R_AP_OUT_ExportPDF_AventCollection.pdf	24/01/12 19:46	Default	Normalize PostScript /...	admin		
Courier.zip	13/01/12 09:54	Default	Restore Job	admin		
Courier.zip	13/01/12 09:53	Default	Restore Job	admin		
Courier.zip	13/01/12 09:52	Default	Restore Job	admin		
Courier	13/01/12 09:29	Default	Archive Job	admin	Courier	
Courier.zip	13/01/12 09:25	Default	Restore Job	admin		
1112062_test_CGPAquestion_0001.pdf	12/01/12 11:56	Default	Normalize PDF File	admin		
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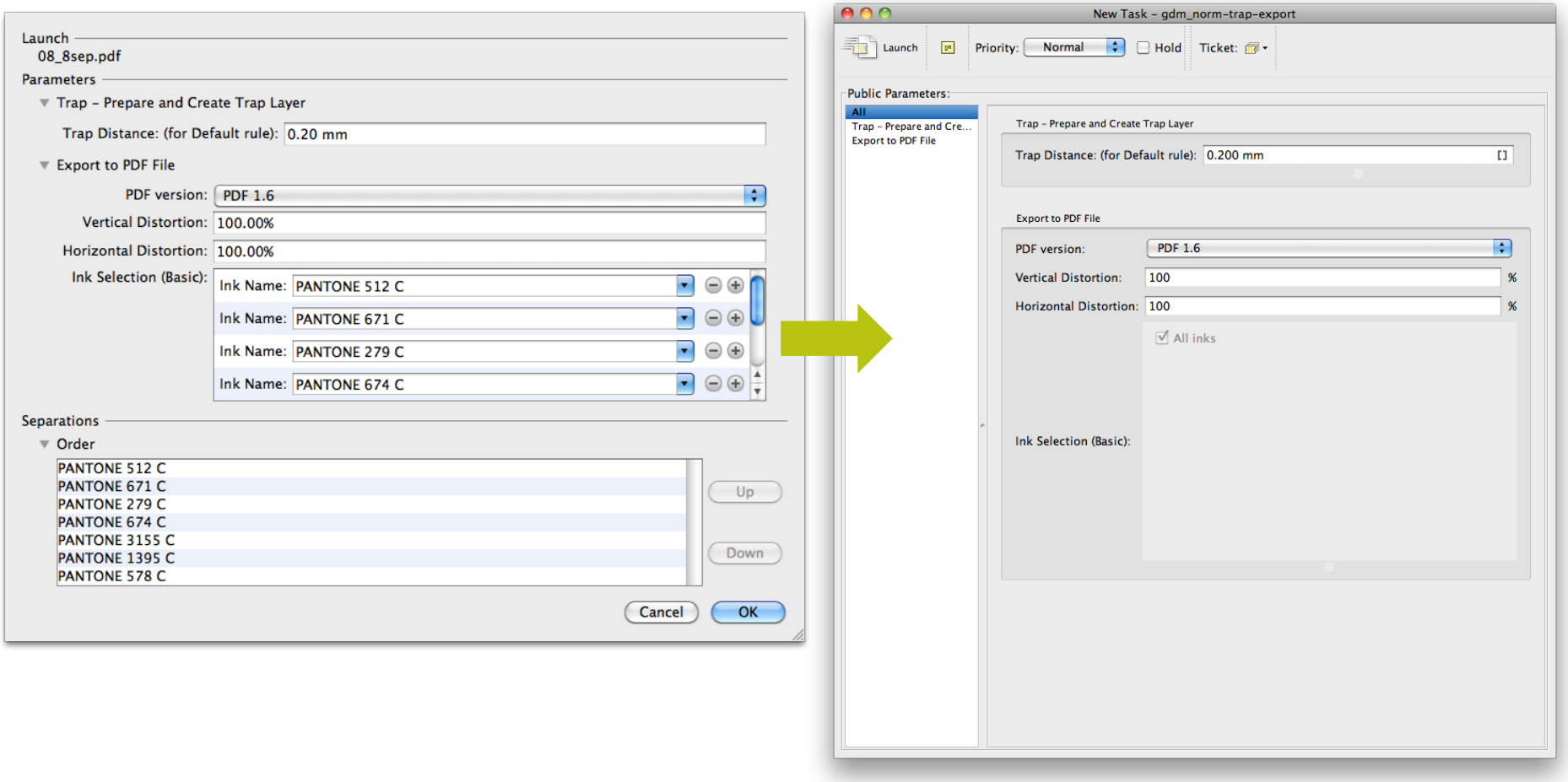
Public Parameters ...



Launch window ...

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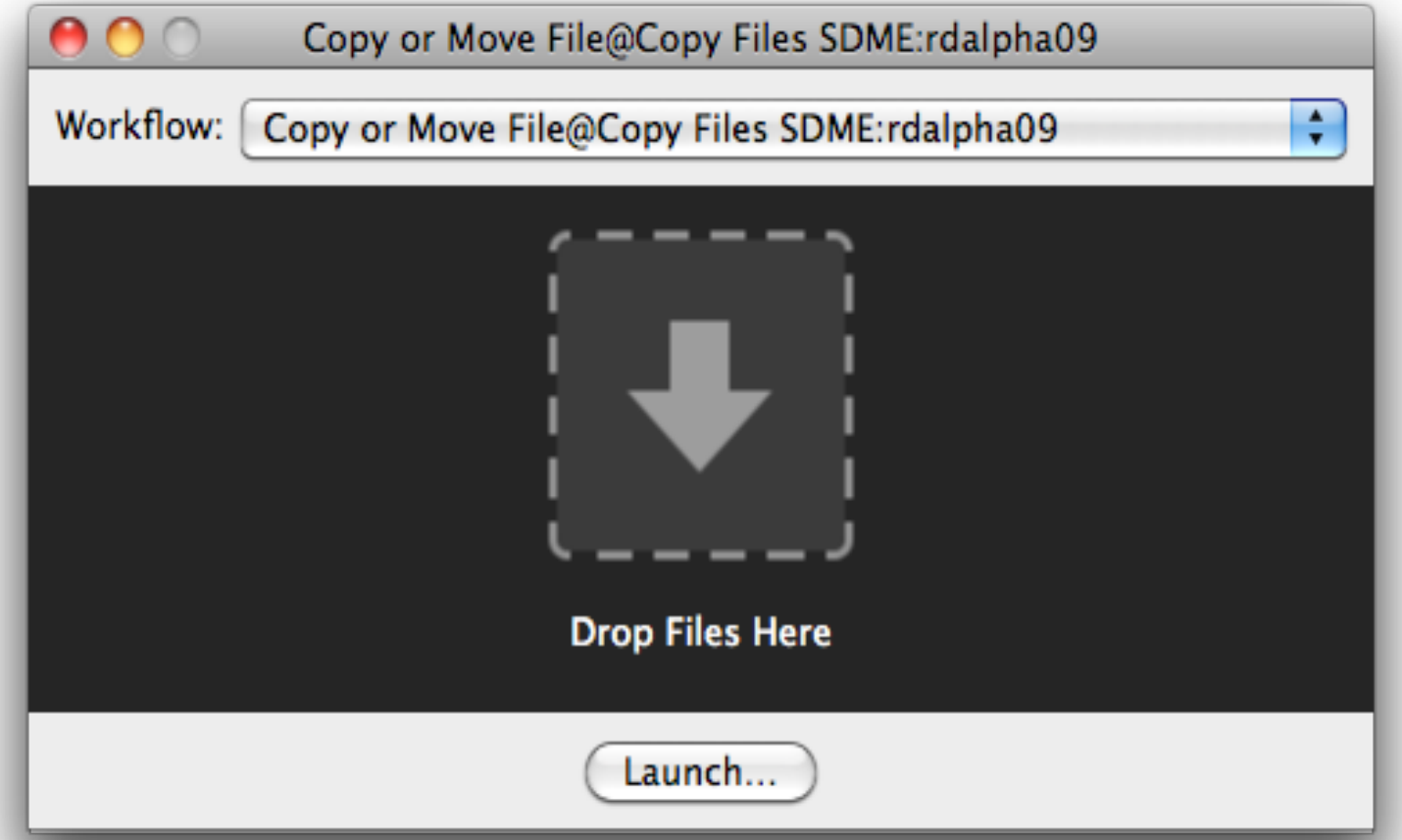


Automation Engine 12
WebCenter link from AE

WebCenter link from AE

Value

- **Improved integration** between 2 platforms

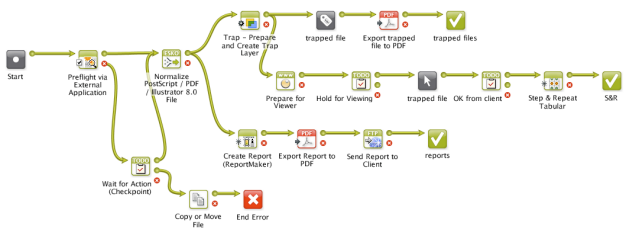
  - **Dashboard** capabilities
    - Reporting on KPI's
    - Tracing jobs (internally and externally)
  - **Creation** and **Modification** of WCR Projects
    - In case MIS is driving and AE is used as a communicator to WCR
    - AE ensures MIS and WCR are in sync any time

  - Execute **production** activities from a **business management** flow
    - Web2Print
    - Preflight

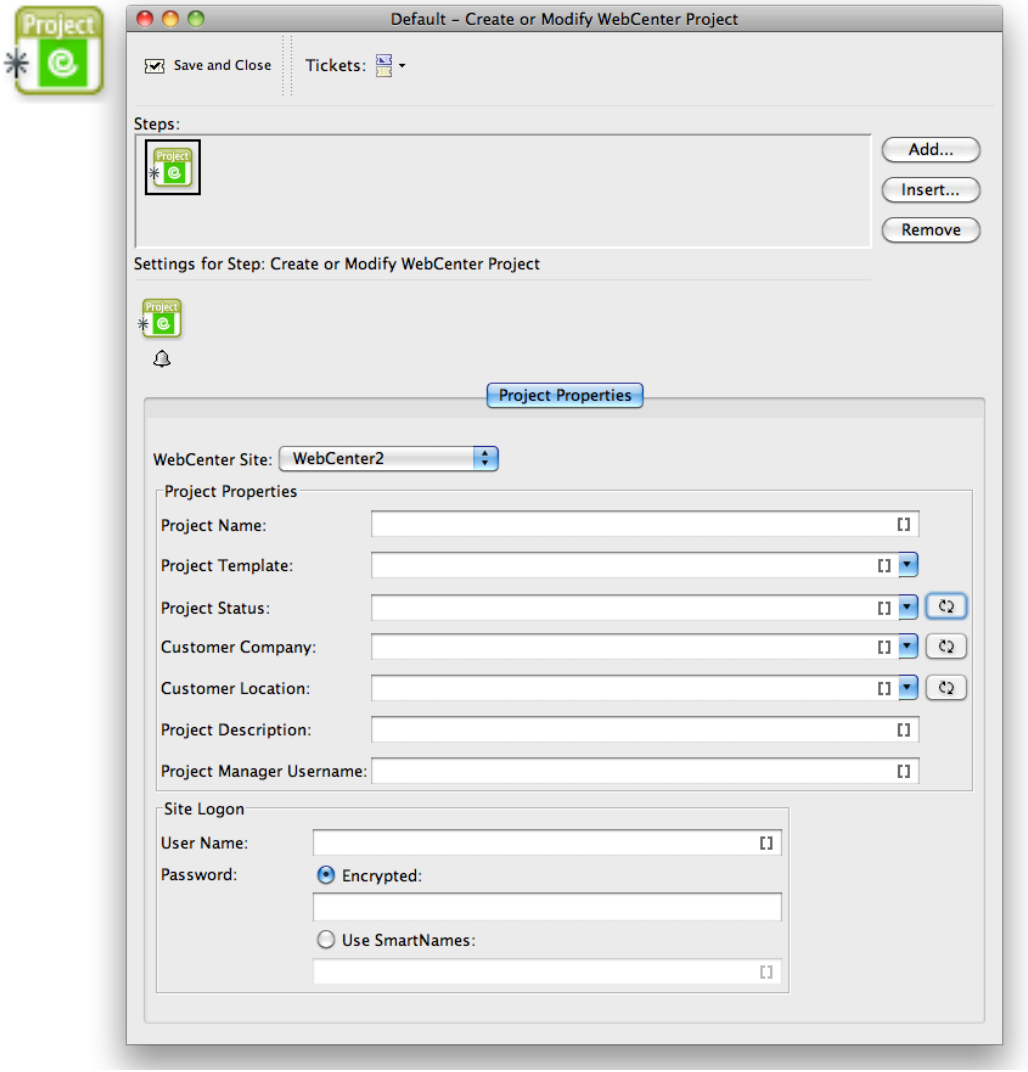
WebCenter link from AE

What

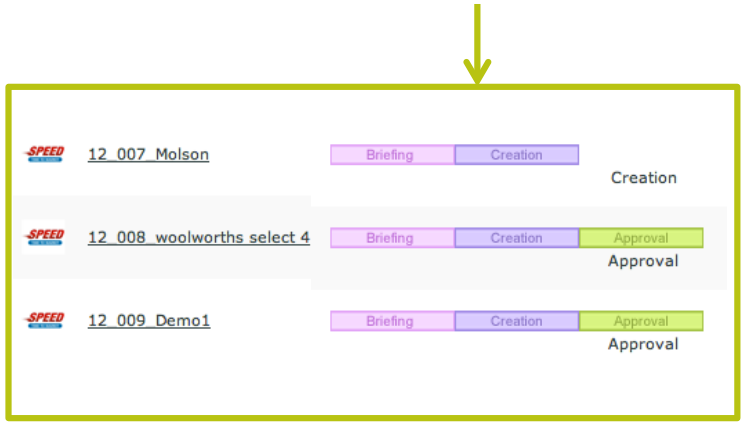
- Adapt the current Create WebCenter Project Task
  - Also possibility of updating project
  - Possibility of updating Project Status



Create or Modify WebCenter Project



A WebCenter project can be created and updated in AE12.0 Adding a Project Status allows an up to date dashboard view on WebCenter



WebCenter link from AE

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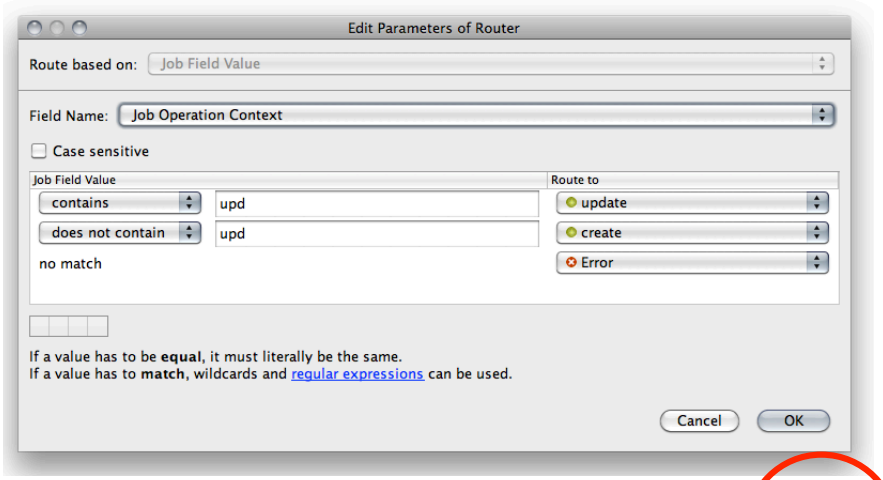
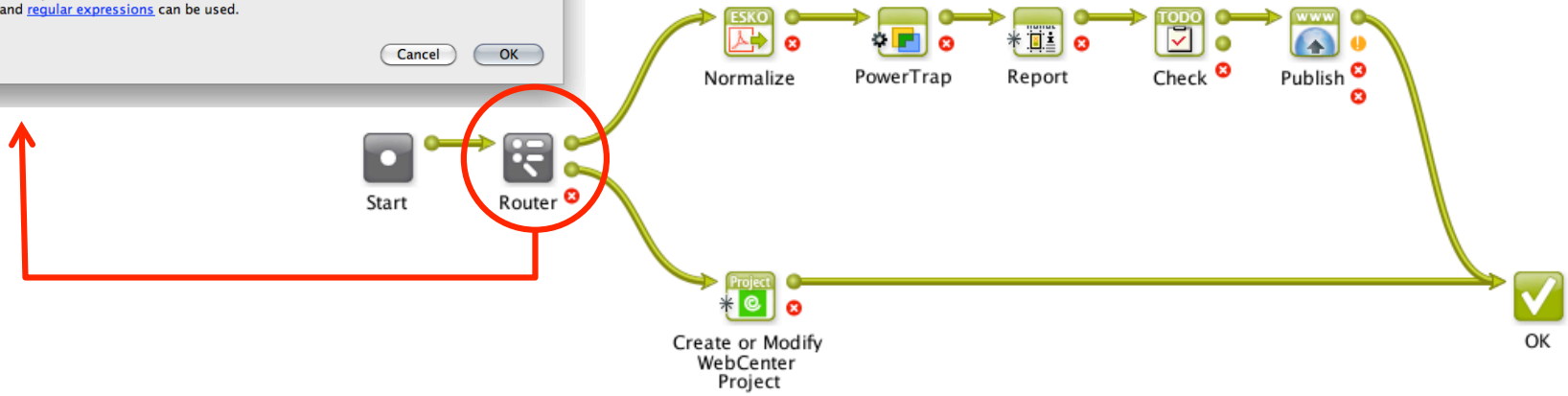
- In case the MIS system is leading, using AE as a vehicle to stay synchronized with the Project on WCR.



When a new JDF file from the MIS is sent to AE, a workflow will start automatically. The Router task can see if the Job is newly created or only updated. In case of an update, the newly created Parameters or status change will be sent to WCR



Automation Engine 12
Viewer Improvements

Viewer improvements

Value

- Viewer becomes full QA tool
  - Extra View(s)
    - Breakout preview
    - TAC preview
    - Flexo Plate preview
    - Flexo Print preview
    - Registration error preview
- QC operator can check and verify within one single application

AE Viewer improvements

Back to main page

Normal View

Print View

TAC View

Highlight View

Flexo Plate View

Registration View

Automation Engine 12
Commercial Printing

Commercial Printing | Full JDF layout support

Value

- Support for 3rd party Imposition
  - Flexibility in automation: source independent
  - Flexibility through full support Page and Plate view (page assignment)
- Page Approval via WebCenter
- 3rd party vendors
  - Kodak Preps
  - Ultimate ImpoStrip
  - Dynagram Inpo2
  - Dynagram Dynastrip
  - Litho Technics Metrix

New Tasks for Commercial Print

- Create Runlist

  Creation of Runlist from one or more PDF files. The result is a Runlist in the Pages View. (see page 59)

- Create Imposition from Runlist

  Combining a Runlist (available in the Page View) with a Layout template (JDF) from third party imposition SW, an imposition is created. The result is an imposition with Plates in the Plates View. (See page 60)

- Create Imposition from JDF Layout File

  Starting from a populated JDF Layout File, an Imposition with a Runlist in the Pages View and Plates in the Plates View, is created.

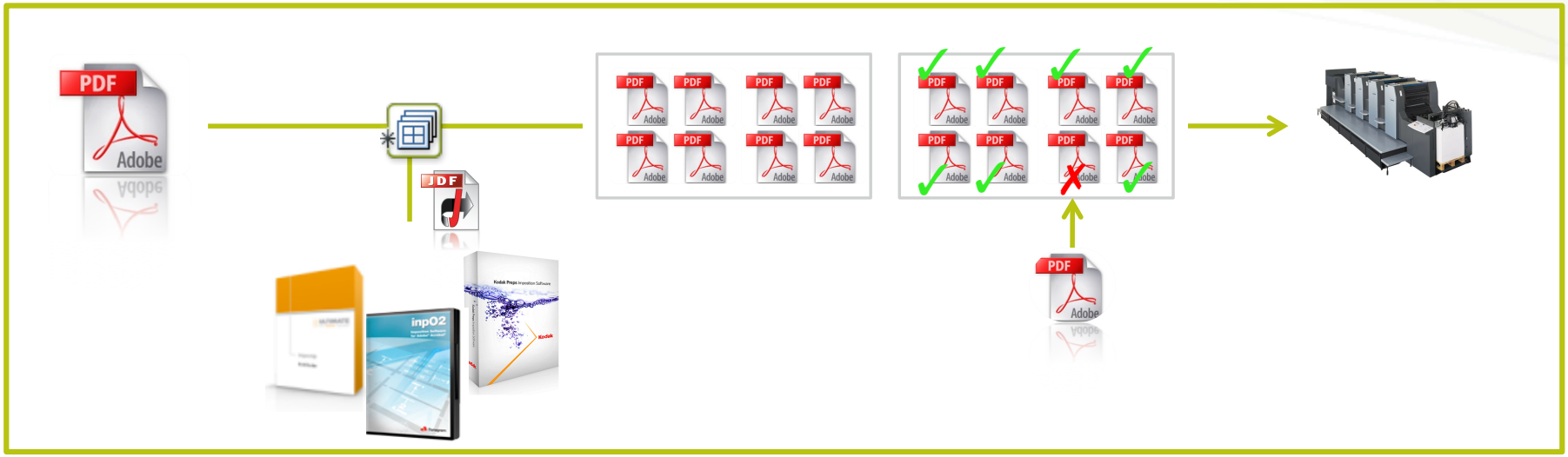
- Export Imposition to JDF Layout File

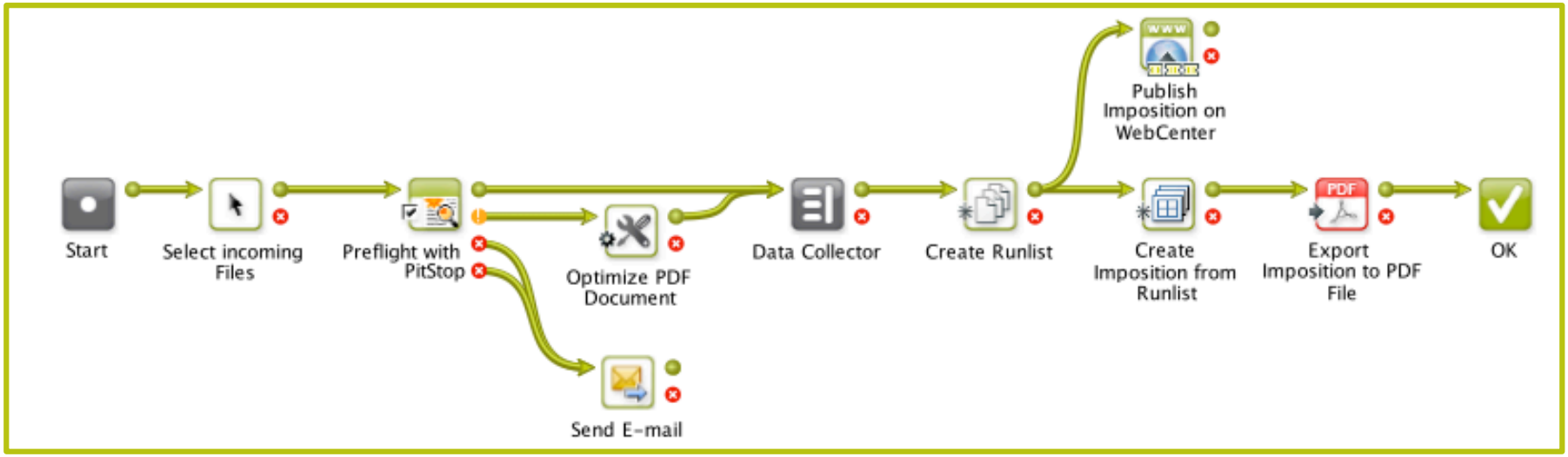
  This task exports the Plates from the Plate View to a JDF Layout file. This file can be sent to a JDF enabled output device.

- Export Imposition to PDF

  This task exports the Plates from the Plate View to a PDF file. This file can be sent to a PDF enabled output device.

Commercial Printing | How does it work…





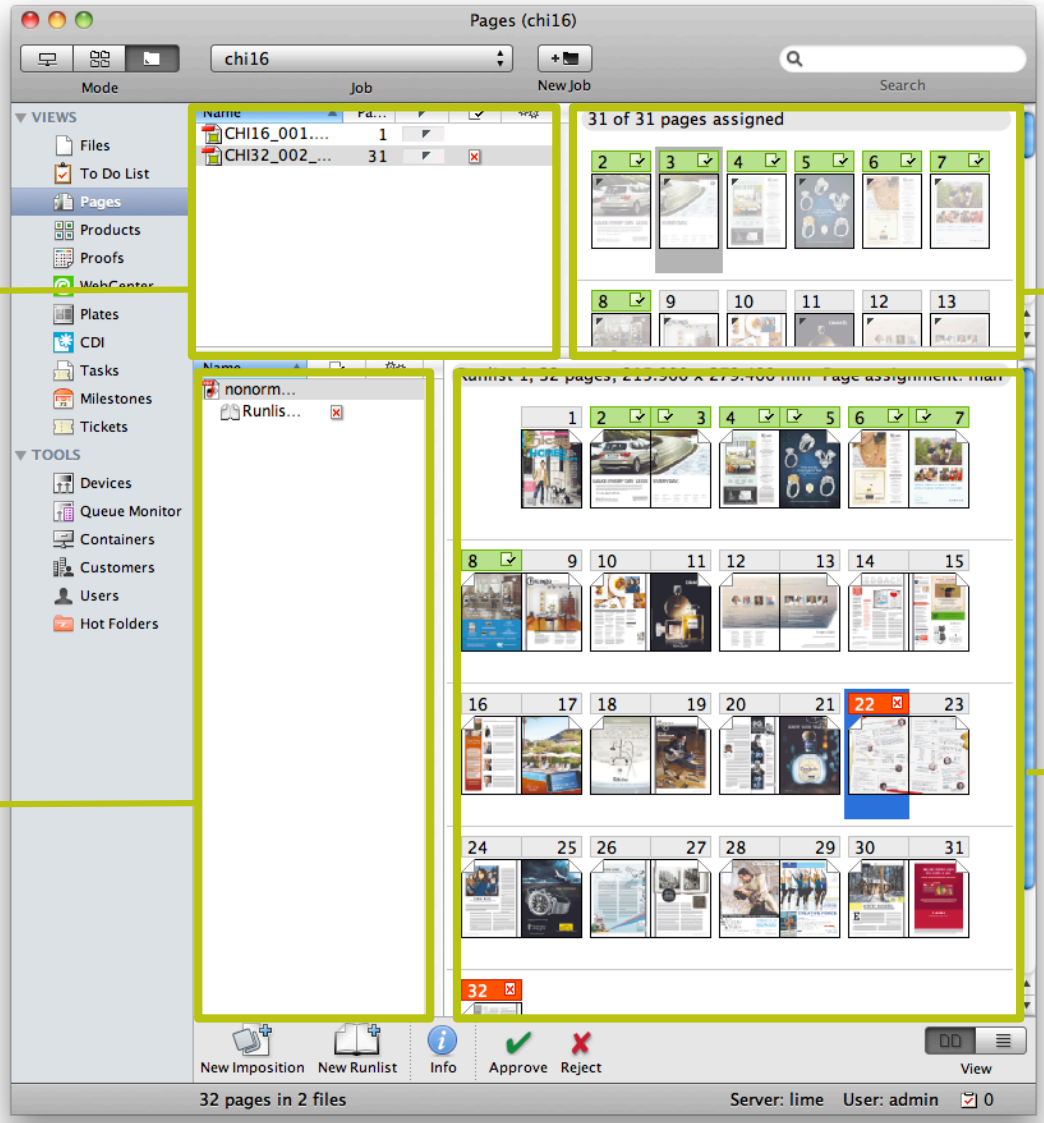
Pages View

File gallery
Contains Files

Page gallery
Contains pages

Imposition Gallery
Contains multiple runlists

Runlist details



Plates View

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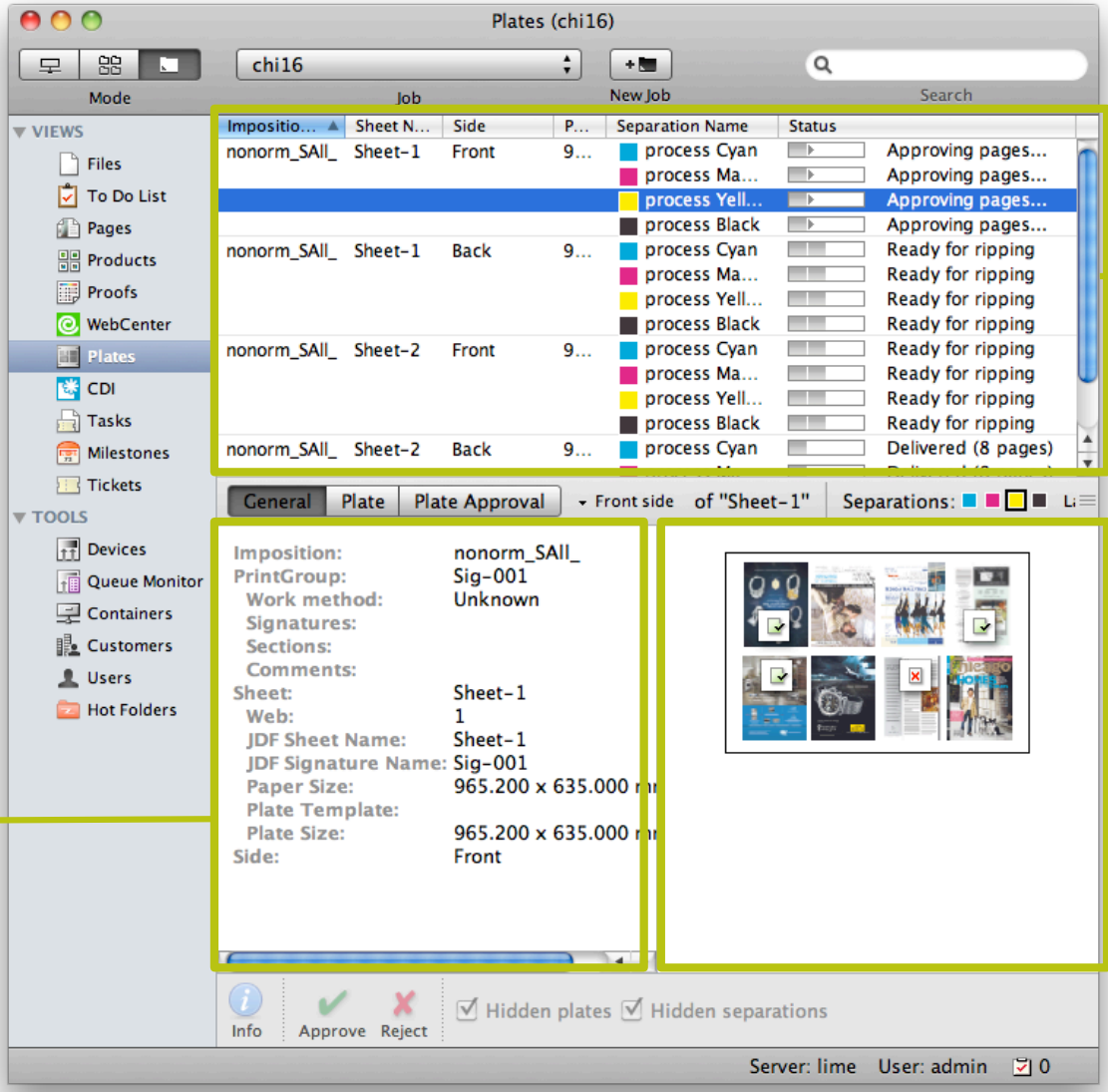

Plates Overview

Plate Preview

Plate Details

Automation Engine 12
Unique Plate ID

Unique Plate ID

Value

- Ensures **full control** on plates going to press
- 100% **traceable** how the plate has been created
- Unique ID can be **exposed** on the plate (CDI) or **added with a pen** during cutting the plate (Kongsberg table)

Unique Plate ID | Scheme

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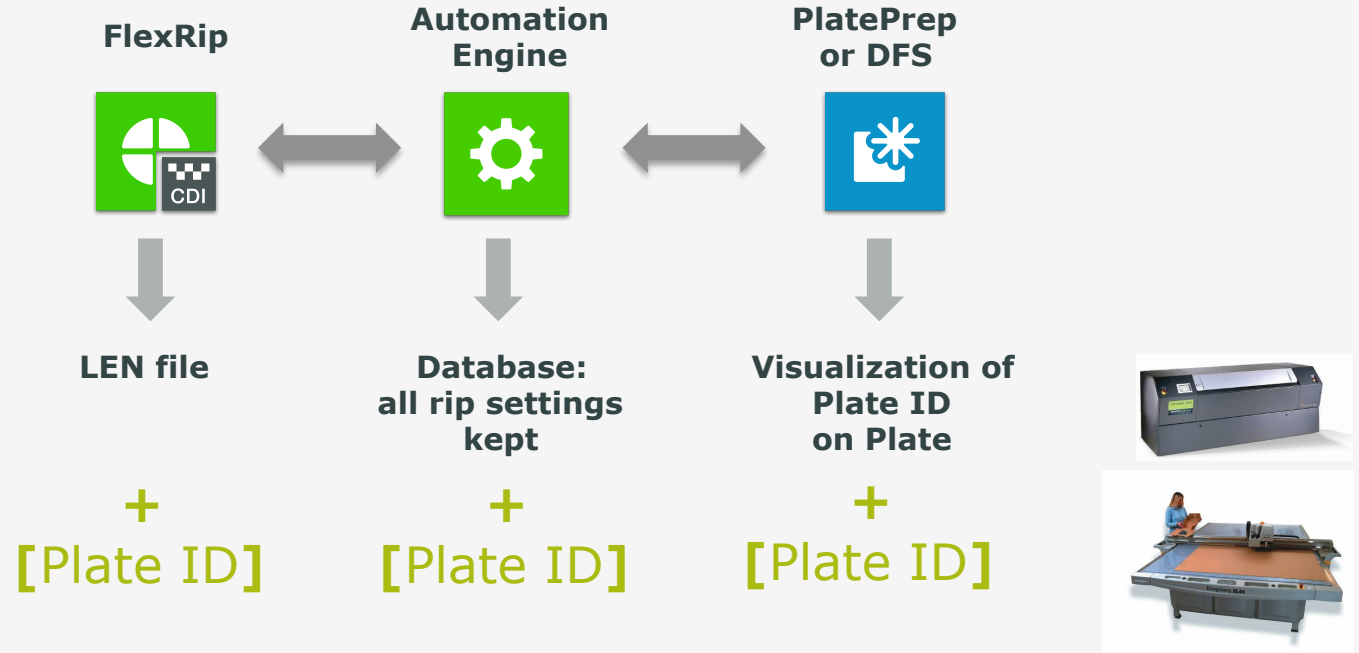

Automation Engine 12

Other small features / Enhancements

Other features / Enhancements

What?	Description
New SmartNames	• Order of first Input of Workflow • E-mail of Task Owner (Send email task)
Unzip task	• Character Set : set e.g. to Cp437 when having problems unzipping files with entries with special characters
Keyboard shortcuts	• When <ctrl>-F is pressed, the focus is moved to the search field and the scope bar is shown
Favorite attributes	• When a plug-in has many attributes to filter on, a user can define his favorites (e.g. "Job Overview" and "CDI" plug-in)
Task History	• The task history table is too slow to support live filtering. Added support for static filtering • The scope bar is always visible
Workflow	Move all incoming tubes at once (<ALT>)

Other features / Enhancements

Back to main page

What?	Description
ToDo list view	• The actions can now be released via the contextual menu
Ticket Browser	• When holding <Alt>, the button caption changes from "Open" to "Launch"
Checkpoint Task Action Dialog	• The action can be forwarded by clicking the forward button in the toolbar • The action can be deleted
Task details	• The details panel now shows the progress
CS mail extended with SmartName support	• When importing a WF ticket from a CS log mail, the SmartNames of the corresponding AE system are also imported for easier reproduction of a problem

Automation Engine 12
PDF/X-4

PDF/X-4

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- In April 2012 Suite 12 passed the PDF/X-4 audit of the VIGC (Vlaams Instituut voor Grafische Communicatie).
  - http://www.vigc.org/vigc-pdfx-4-audit/
- In this test correct rendering of a number of PDF/X-4 files in output oriented workflows was verified by the VIGC. These test files were specially designed to illustrate features of the PDF/X-4 specification.
- The test files included the Altona V2 test suite
  - http://www.eci.org/en/projects/ats
  - http://www.gwg.org/ghentoutputsuite.phtml