New in Automation Engine 14

- Quality
- Automation Engine Connect
- Automated Color tasks
- Link to inspection systems
- Value for maintenance
Changes in modules
Changes in the Modules

Automation Engine Base

NEW
Job Management

NEW
Automation Engine Connect

NEW
Color

NEW
Reporting & 3D

NEW
Layout + iCut Automate

NEW
Processor

NEW
iCut Automate

NEW
Viewing & QA

NEW
Inspection & Finishing

AE 14 Tasks vs. modules
Quality
System requirements

**Server**
- Windows 2003
- Windows 2008
- Windows 2008 R2
- Windows 2012
- Windows 2012 R2

**Client**
- Windows XP
- Windows 7
- Windows 8
- Windows 8.1
- Mac OS 10.6.x
- Mac OS 10.7.x
- Mac OS 10.8.x
- Mac OS 10.9.x

**Database**
- SQL Server Edition 2005
- SQL Server Edition 2008
- SQL Server Edition 2008 R2
- SQL Server Edition 2012
Deployment

- **Easier** installation
- **Faster** installation
- **Less** system **maintenance** required
- **Less training** required

- The Application server component is now part of the Automation Engine product.
  - Till now, this component needed to be installed and maintained as a separate item
Diagnostics

- **Simplification** of error handling through clear messaging
- Optimized troubleshooting tools to **reduce calls & unproductive hours**

- Diagnostics tool in Server admin section of webpage automation Engine
- Doctor Tool within pilot and pilot logon window
A new tab has been added: **Diagnostics**

- **Immediate feedback** on the **status** of all Automation Engine databases
Diagnostics

- **Immediate feedback** on the **status** of the network, directly related to Automation Engine.
Diagnostics

- The **Connection Doctor** helps detecting possible issues on the server
- Accessible through the **Tools menu** in the **Pilot** or when facing a problem to **connect to the Pilot**
Value for maintenance
Value for Maintenance

**New tickets**
- Merge PDF Files
- Join XML
- Extra Artpro Action Lists

**Improvements**
- Smartnames
  - Tagging
  - Selection References
  - Delete unused SN’s
  - Formatting
  - ...

**Job Creation**
- Ability to create Job
- In canvas

**Pilot improvements**
- Aligning in Canvas
- Hiding in Canvas
- Ticket Tagging
- Workflow View

**New Workflow controllers**
- Select Referenced files
- Modify Workflow Parameter Values

**Commercial Print**
- Create (empty runlist)
- Create PDF from Page Gallery

**Access Points**
- Revamped Upload Points
- Direct link to Workflow

**Products**
- Link Products to Jobs
Job Creation
Create Job in a Workflow

- Possibility to **create multiple Jobs starting from 1 XML file**
- **Easier way** to create or update your jobs
- **Benefit** from the workflow power: routing, Action Lists, workflow parameters, ... can be used to create or update Jobs in a most effective and flexible way
- **Maps perfectly** on the **Accesspoints** (see later)

- The ‘Create Job’ task can now be added inside the workflow canvas
- A specific workflow can be launched for both the creation of the workflow as for an update on an existing Job
Create Job in a Workflow (2)

Order info from MIS

Splitting of orders

Job Creation on AE

Workflow starts

Data Splitter

Create Job

Start

Split into Jobs

Update MIS

OK
Improvements
SmartNames
Improvements in SmartNames

- **Easier to manage** the SmartNames because of the Related SmartNames View
- **No** need anymore for **complex scripting** thanks to formatting
- **Less SmartNames** required through formatting options
- **Clean SmartName list** through smart cleanup rules
- Possibility to show and filter related SmartNames
- Possibility to select and filter dependencies
- Possibility to delete not used SmartNames
- Possibility to only calculate results on filtered SmartNames
- Support for formatting
- Support for tagging SmartNames
- Easy way to setup Database SmartNames without configuring ODBC on Windows level
SmartNames: Text Formatting

**Without formatting**

**With formatting**

With formatting

Without formatting

Result: this is my text where some annoying spaces are in the input file
SmartNames: Number Formatting

Without formatting

With formatting

Without formatting
SmartNames: Number Formatting conversion

With formatting

Without formatting
SmartNames: Date & Time Formatting

With formatting

Without formatting
SmartNames: Dependencies and relations

**Input XML:**

```xml
<distance>
  <value>490.29</value>
  <text>49.0 km</text>
</distance>
```

Xpath SmartName = `[Distance]`

Regular expression to only select the number

Calculation to define the price, based on the distance

**[Fuel Cost]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>IVY – get the distance from Google Maps</th>
<th>XPath</th>
<th>Global</th>
<th>Global</th>
<th>49.0 km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>SAMPLES CAD EN The document ID from ArtiosCAD Enterprise</td>
<td>XPath</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>xpath_unres...</td>
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<td>Duration</td>
<td>IVY – get the duration from Google Maps</td>
<td>XPath</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<td>E-mail Address of the CSR fo...</td>
<td>The e-mail address of the customer service representative of the job</td>
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<td>Job Inf...</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>jjio.dominic...</td>
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<td>The extension of the input file</td>
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<td>Global</td>
<td>xml</td>
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<tr>
<td>File URL</td>
<td>The URL of the folder of the input file</td>
<td>System</td>
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<td>Global</td>
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<tr>
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<td>The name of the first folder of the input file</td>
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<td>Automation...</td>
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<td>Folder of File</td>
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<td>Global</td>
<td>XML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder of first Input of Master...</td>
<td>The Folder of the first input of the (most outer) Workflow</td>
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<td>Task Inf...</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>&lt;mowf.inp1...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder of Input</td>
<td>The name of the folder of the input file</td>
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<td>File Inf...</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>XML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel Cost</td>
<td>IVY – Fuel cost calculation based on Google Maps</td>
<td>Script</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>4.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuel Cost no km</td>
<td>Extraction of the word km in the amount of kilometers</td>
<td>String E...</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>49.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get Design Name from VPE...</td>
<td>SAMPLES CAD EN The SQL query to get the design name from the VPE XRef...</td>
<td>Script</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>SELECT TRI...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SmartNames: Tags

- Multiple tags can be added to each SmartName

- Easy Filtering on Tags
- Extra Smart Views can be created
SmartNames: Database Queries

- You can now avoid using ODBC to connect to your databases to make a database query SmartName.
- SQL, Oracle, ... server connection as datasource are available via External Databases in configure.
Additional SmartNames have been defined for the artwork's **Trim Box Width**, **Trim Box Height**, **Media Box Width**, **Media Box Height** and the **Number of Pages** of a file.
Access Points
Access Points

- **Easy to manage** incoming data through a single point of access
- **Easy to learn** thanks to similar setup behavior between different Access Point types
- **Faster setup** because reduced amount of clicks
- **Better control** thanks to optimized admin tools

- Revamped FTP, mail and Hot Folder setup
- Options to duplicate and Scan all types of Access Points
- Possibility to link workflows directly to Access Points
- Access Point SmartNames are available in the linked workflows through Workflow Parameters
Access Points

- One central location for communicating with Automation Engine

- Reusable components for all Access Points
  - Monitoring
  - Automatic Actions
Access Points: (Hot) Folder

You only need to select the folder where the files will be dropped ...  

... and select the workflow to be launched afterwards
Access Points: FTP & E-Mail

Specific settings for FTP
The other tabs are identical to the other Access Points

Specific settings for E-Mail
The other tabs are identical to the other Access Points
Access Points: Database & Web service (AE)

Specific settings for Database
The other tabs are identical to the other Access Points

Specific settings for HTTP (AE)
Pilot Improvements
Workflow improvements: Hide Transitions

Avoid complex visualization of workflow connections by using the “hide transitions” option.

Select workflow control / task to them visible again.
Workflow improvements: Distribute space

Evenly distribute the **horizontal and/or vertical space** between workflow blocks to create workflows that are **clear, well-organized** and **easy to debug**.

**Note:** You can also distribute the horizontal and/or vertical space between a selection of workflow blocks. The horizontal and/or vertical distribute space actions can be undone and redone.
Support for tabs in the Pilot

- The support for tabs is great if you want to easily toggle between different Views or Tools.
- These tabs are stored for each user: this allows a maximum flexibility in the creation of your personal UI.
Ticket tags

- Tag tickets in the **save dialog**

- An existing ticket can be tagged using the **info dialog**

- **Multiple tickets** can be tagged in one action. First select the Tickets, then choose the **Tags**.

**Note:** Default tickets and job tickets cannot be tagged
Workflow view

- Perfect overview on all workflows without going into details and subtasks
- Very easily you can zoom in on the details from each flow
New Workflow Controllers
Select Referenced File

- An easy way to **select files from XML** to launch workflows where the files are referenced in the XML.
- An easy way to **select a file by URL** using SmartNames so that I can continue my workflow on a file which was not yet inside my Workflow without having to split the URL in Folder and File parts.
Modify workflow parameters values

- Workflow Parameters from an XML file can be recalculated at the start of every task within the Workflow.

- Easy way to pass information from one "Integrate with WebCenter" task to a next to avoid complex constructions with lots of SmartNames, merging and splitting XML files, ...
The Select File Task seems to be one of the most popular tasks used by our customers. In many cases the user does **not want to search** for a file (i.e. no wildcards or filtering), but just **select a file**, i.e. this operation should go extremely fast, using a task is overkill.

```xml
<Job>
  <Folder>file://gs/vwmae14/ExampleJobContainer/AE14_Training/PDF files</Folder>
  <File>01_shrek.pdf</File>
  <Quantity>18</Quantity>
  <Escale>100</Escale>
  <Substrate>forex</Substrate>
  <DieShape>BORDERS</DieShape>
  <Bleed>2.0</Bleed>
  <Page number="1"/>
</Job>
```

```xml
<Job>
  <URL>file://gs/vwmae14/ExampleJobContainer/AE14_Training/PDF files/01_shrek.pdf</URL>
  <Quantity>18</Quantity>
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  <DieShape>BORDERS</DieShape>
  <Bleed>2.0</Bleed>
  <Page number="1"/>
</Job>
```
New Tickets
Join XML Files

- **Join multiple XML files** into **one XML file** to combine XML data from different sources (f.i. Interact with Database, Interact with Web Service, Database Upload Points,...) and from multiple XML input files.
Set opaque ink to knockout

- When migrating from Odystar/Nexus to Automation Engine, you need to be able to set an opaque separation in knockout to make a valid proof (ink attribute opaque in Adobe PDF files does not exist)
- In Nexus/Odystar this was possible via the Flatten activity, some customers use this for proofing or viewing.
Additional ArtPro Action Lists

Functionality available in ArtPro is also available now as an automated background action. For a more detailed description, we refer to the ArtPro manual.

- **Clip**
  Clip uses the front most selected path as a cutting form to adjust the shape of the underlying paths. Any part of the underlying paths that falls outside the front most one will be cropped. Thus it masks out the selected paths underneath. The original paths are modified.

- **Join**
  The Join Paths function joins the two nearest open points of the selected paths with a straight line. This is repeated until no open points are left.

- **Unite**
  Unite creates the union of the selected paths. Select the necessary paths with the Select Objects activity and then apply the Unite activity.

- **Make Compound**
  With Make Compound all the selected paths will become one single object. Where paths are overlapping, a look-through window to the background is created.
Merge PDF Files

- **Easy way** to join different PDF files together
- **Reduces errors** through automated joining
- **Time reduction** through automating the task

- Merge PDF files joins multiple input PDF files together into 1 single PDF document
- Sorting of incoming files happens through the Sort task
● Sorting the PDF files prior to merging will result in a multi page document that contains your sorted pages

● As an example, multiple reports can be combined and sent for approval to the customer
Regulation text x-height

- Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers (EU FIC) requires food labels to be clear and understandable in order to assist consumers to make better informed choices.

- Full support to check/adapt text to the required size via Pitstop Action Lists in Automation Engine
Regulation text x-height

- In case text is contourized and the automatic check can not be used, the Viewer has a ruler on board to check the size in a most efficient way.
Products
Link Products to Job

- Incoming files can not only be promoted to **Products**, they can also immediately be **linked to the Job-order** they belong to.
- **No need for complex JDF constructs** to execute this business need.

- A new task has been introduced that allows linking Products to Jobs.
- Quantity can be added for the Product in that specific Job-order.
Link Products to Job (2)

- Products can not only easily be created, but they can also be linked to one or more Jobs (Orders) now.

- When a file is send to prepress, the data can be prepared and automatically be ‘upgraded’ to a product, immediately followed by an automatic link to certain Jobs.
Commercial Print
Create Runlist task

With the "Create Runlist" task, you can create a new runlist from scratch. The result of this task is a runlist in the fasttrack Database. Starting the task in a job, it will be added to the imposition gallery in the pages view for this job.
Create PDF from Runlist

- The "Create PDF File from RunList" task can be used to create a multipage PDF file containing (a selection of) the pages of a RunList. This is typically done for proofing purposes.
Connect
Why do we do this?

- MIS
- ERP
- Web Portal
- Shipping
- ...
Why do we do this?

- **Harmonizing** the method of integration
  - New framework for all suite components that need integration

- **Broadening** the scope of integration
  - MIS
  - Web Stores
  - Finance
  - Shipping
  - ...

- **Scalable**
  - Customizable with solution services

- **Sustainable**
  - No need for custom development
What is it?

- Automation Engine Connect is a module on Automation Engine base, OBGE or Automation Engine framework.

- It’s a toolkit that allows integration from a third party product with an Esko component (WebCenter, Automation Engine or Artios CAD).
### Zoomed in ...

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**Workflow Component**

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**3rd Party**

- **AE**
- **WCR**
- **CAD**
Example 1: Create ShopCard (SpecLink)

Ask the PowerPoint file to see the animation.
# Example 1: Create ShopCard

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**Workflow Component**

**HRMS** ➔ **ESKO AE** ➔ **WCR** ➔ **CAD**
Example 1: Create ShopCard (Speclink)

<table>
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<th>Delivery IN / OUT</th>
<th>Format IN</th>
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Workflow Component

**HRMS** → **AE** → **WCR** → **CAD**
In Automation Engine speak ...

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<tr>
<td>![Folder Icon] (Zipped)</td>
<td>XML</td>
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</tr>
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- **Map Data**
- **Esko AE Task**
- **Create Job**
- **Integrate with WebCenter**
- **Export CAD Design Info**
- **Create CAD Report from XML**
- **Interact with Web Service**
- **Interact with Database**
Map Data task

- The Map Data task is a powerful tool that can be used to:
  - **convert** CSV files into XML and vice versa.
  - **transform** the content of a CSV or XML file: extract, join, rename or re-format parts

- **Some example use cases**
  - After interacting with an external system, you need to simplify or re-write the XML files that you received.
  - You need to combine information from different sources into 1 file, but also reformat. For example getting job specification from an incoming XML file and getting ink information from the metadata of an uploaded PDF (XMP).
  - Transform an XML that you received before it can be used by the Create CAD Sheet task.
Map Data task

- The Map Data Task panel consists of three main parts:
  1. Option to choose the Output Format.
  2. Specify the content of the output file.
  3. List of Parameters that you want to read in the task's input files.
Map Data task

- Repeating content

Insert Repeating Content (XML statement 'For Each')

For each element (without knowing the number of elements upfront e.g. the number of inks) that is described in the input file, you want to pick up all its ink specifications (name, type, angle, LPI). This content will be repeated in the output file.
Interact with Web Service task

Data format (XML)

Request

Request method

Request body
Integrate with WebCenter task

- The "Integrate with WebCenter" task can be used to perform actions on WebCenter.
Integrate with WebCenter task

- Create or modify projects
- Create or modify users
- Set attributes values
- Delete a document
- Update WebCenter task
- ......
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
- Reporting for brand owners
How?

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

AE (server) → JDF Layout → Prepare for Inspection → Inspection

Digital Press
The task ...

MIME file

JDF inspection file

Mask file  Preview TIFF or PDF
Info transferred in the JDF file

- Stepped file information: Layout of the sheet(s)
- Expanded One up file information (within clipping path):
  - Position of the barcode(s)
  - Location of text areas
  - Location and values of spectrometer measurements
- Extra parameters (typically used to set thresholds on the sensibility of error detection)
Color
Color tasks on Automation Engine

- Allows **centralization** of all color conversions in production
- **Reduction of ink consumption** combined with a most **stable print quality**
- **Reduction of press setup time** thanks to an automated conversion into a fixed color set

- Manage color task allows ink savings through a brand new UCR/GCR technology
- Conversion to fixed ink sets through Convert to Equinox task
The module

**Ink saving**
GCR / UCR

**Equinox**
Convert to fixed ink panels
Ink saving

This image has a total area coverage of more than 280% (see red areas) which is my limit for my current print process.
After applying ink saving on the server, the image will be recalculated / reseparated in such a way that the image looks the same but the TAC has been reduced to 280% max.
The color evolution in packaging

1930’s

Spot Color

1970’s

Spot + CMYK

2005+

CMYKOGB
What are the production challenges?

- Production runs are getting **shorter**
  - CPC’s are creating more flavors/versions than ever
  - Special promotional campaigns lead to shorter but more print runs

- **Costs** need to go **down**
  - Shorter print runs means more cost.
  - Transport costs too high, don’t want to ship from China
  - Close warehouse, move to print-on-demand

- Without sacrificing **quality**
  - Brand colors need to be produced accurately
  - Brand colors are typically highly saturated color impossible to print with CMYK.
  - This is why spot colors are used.
Color tasks

- Convert Colors with Equinox task
  - Converting files from one printing space into another (up to 7 colors)
Central Color Management

Automation Engine can act as a central Color management hub, managing all digital Devices in your network!
Integration with WebCenter
Further integration with WebCenter

- Refurbished ‘Publish on WebCenter’ task
- Auto fill attributes
Further integration with WebCenter

- Check-in / Check-out files
- Mapping Documents WebCenter on Products in Automation Engine
Variable Data
Expansion on Automation Engine

- The expansion task creates PDF/VT files. This is an expanded file that contains both the static elements + all variables in a multipage PDF document.

- The input for this task is a Variable Data Template (VDT), created in Adobe Illustrator with Esko’s Dynamic VDP plugins.
Expansion on AE

Ask the PowerPoint file to see the animation.
Expansion on AE

Ask the PowerPoint file to see the animation
Expansion on AE

Ask the PowerPoint file to see the animation.
Expansion on Automation Engine

- Expansion on the server allows customers driving all kinds of digital presses on the production floor.

- A shared technology between expansion on the server or on the variant DFE’s allow a centralized and solid solution.

- Centralization of variable data allows a most efficient management.

- No limitation due to limitations of the digital press software.
Improved Documentation
New Chapters, Examples and Samples!

- The ‘old’ Reference and User Guides are being rebuilt into 1 Complete manual.
- Old content is rewritten in new chapters with more conceptual background and examples.
- See the already available new chapters (more to come):

![Automation Engine 14 - Complete Manual](image)

- Complete PDF (44 MB! 1272 pages)
- Chapter PDFs
- New 09oct14
- New 20aug14
- New