Automation Engine, Imaging Engine, Pack Proof, Color Pilot and Curve Pilot 21.07 Release Notes

1. Introduction

This document gives an overview of the new features and changes in Automation Engine, Imaging Engine, Pack Proof, Color Pilot and Curve Pilot 21.07. It only covers the changes since version 21.03.

If you are updating from version 20.1 or earlier versions, we advise you to read the release notes of all versions between your current version and Automation Engine, Imaging Engine, Color Pilot and Curve Pilot 21.07. You can find these on the corresponding product installer media.

1.1 Contents

2. Licensing and System Requirements

2.1 Licensing

Automation Engine, Imaging Engine, Pack Proof, Color Pilot and Curve Pilot 21.07 require version 21 licenses (so no change compared to 21.03).

2.2 System Requirements

For a complete overview of the System Requirements, see the corresponding product pages on: https://www.esko.com/en/systemrequirements

Changes compared to 21.03:

- The Pack Proof client apps now support macOS Catalina (10.15) and Big Sur (11)

Changes that can be expected in *a next* version:

- Support for Windows 8.1 as a client platform will be dropped
- Support for macOS 10.14 as a client platform will be dropped

3. Documentation

In addition to these release notes, extensive documentation on the new features can be found in the respective product pages of the online help and knowledge base – both via following link:

https://www.esko.com/en/support/documentation

Following Knowledge Base Articles are of interest for this version:

KB Article	Description
KB288327838	**Automation Engine – Compatibility with Digital Flexo Suite / PlatePrep:** This article lists which versions of Automation Engine are compatible with which versions of DFS/PlatePrep (CDI).
KB288327774	**Automation Engine – Compatibility with Grapholas:** This article lists which versions of Automation Engine are compatible with which versions of Grapholas (CDI).
KB288327758	**Automation Engine – Compatibility with iPC:** This article lists which versions of Automation Engine are compatible with which versions of iPC (Kongsberg).
KB76723863	**Automation Engine - PitStop Server Compatibility Matrix:** This article lists which version of Enfocus PitStop is used internally in the 'Preflight with PitStop' task (for different versions of Automation Engine).
KB185615059	**FlexProofE, Pack Proof - How to install and use generic Esko EPL files.**
KB325882668	**Pack Proof - How to make a contract proof on an Epson SureColor P75x0 and P95x0 with the CT driver.**
KB325898165	Article about potential connection problems with older versions of SQL.

4. New and changed features

4.1 Automation Engine

4.1.1 Advanced To Do support in Browser Client

An operator using the Browser Client (My Workspace or the Roll Fed Labels Workspace) can now also see and modify the Workflow Parameters in a To-Do item, as was already possible in the Pilot.

4.1.2 Improved file upload in My Workspace

When uploading files in the Browser Client (My Workspace, Roll Fed Labels Workspace), upload progress will be shown. Additionally, an operator can now cancel a pending upload.

4.1.3 PDF+ VDP support in the Expand Dynamic VDP task

The existing Expand Dynamic VDP task now supports both templates from DeskPack (VDT) and PDF+ templates from ArtPro+.

4.1.4 VDP support for Step & Repeat CAD based (Dynamic)

It is now possible to create a CAD-based VDP template in ArtPro+, expand it with the Expand Dynamic VDP Data task and step the result with Step & Repeat CAD based (Dynamic):

- The output can be saved either into a single PDF file or multiple files
- The order in which individual VDP instances are used in the output can be defined.
- The output can be either generated sheet by sheet or stack by stack

4.1.5 PDF+ VDP templates for Roll Fed Labels

The Roll Fed Labels Workspace now allows to create Production Jobs using PDF+ VDP templates.

4.1.6 Backing-up in Step & Repeat CAD based (Dynamic)

Previously, the Step & Repeat CAD based (Dynamic) task would always generate a two-page file with front and back. Now, the task can also output the front only or the back only.

4.1.7 Import cutting data as processing steps

For MFG and CF2 templates, the Step & Repeat CAD based (Dynamic) task now has an option to import the cutting data into a new processing step layer of type Dimensions.

This functionality is identical to import cutting data in ArtPro+.

4.1.8 Screen Sets and Processing Steps in Viewer

The Viewer now has support to
- Show or hide layers and nested processing steps
- Visualize the Screen Sets used

For now, this functionality is only available in the Pilot Viewer.

4.1.9 Pilot connections to multiple servers

There is a 'New Connection' entry in the Pilot's File menu, allowing to connect to different Automation Engine servers from the same workstation (at the same time).

4.1.10 Smart Ink Name in Prepare Graphics for Nesting

SmartName support was added to define the Cut Path's Ink Name.

4.1.11 New and updated actions in PDF Action Lists

The Apply PDF Action List task now has support for following new actions from ArtPro+:

- Update stroke color

- Insert Content From PDF

- Create Barcode and Set Barcode Value

- Modify Screen Sets

- Set Object Screening

Below actions got updated:

- Select object by attribute: more options were added for selecting images

- New options were added to update linked placed art, update structural design, update linked images
- All actions for creating/modifying barcodes were adjusted to support all the barcode types available in ArtPro+

4.1.12 Scheduled Access Point

There is a new type of Access Point: the Scheduled Access Point. This Access Point allows to start a workflow at a scheduled interval.

4.1.13 Public Parameters support for Smart dates

Tasks having a Smart-enabled date selector, now also support Public Parameters for that option.

4.1.14 Kongsberg Table view improvement

The Kongsberg Table View now shows the produced number of sheets.

4.1.15 Updated Pitstop Library

The Preflight with Pitstop task now uses the latest Pitstop technology. See Pitstop 2021 release notes for an overview of the new features: https://cdn-www.enfocus.com/sites/default/files/media/news/release-notes/pitstop-2021/pitstop_2021_-_whats_new_-_release.pdf

4.1.16 Copy view data

The Copy/Move File task now allows control over copying/moving hidden prepared view data along or not.

4.1.17 LDAP (LDAPS) Identity Provider

It is now possible to define an external LDAP identity provider, which can take over to grant access for domain Windows users. Automation Engine group membership and role attribution can be controlled by this type of provider (typically a Windows domain controller), without the need to adapt local Windows groups on the Automation Engine system. Existing users, based on domain Windows users, can be migrated to 'LDAP' users too.

Note: this feature was already announced in previous versions as prerelease and is now ready for general release.

4.1.18 Convert to ARD/MFG

A new task was added to convert a CF2 one-up design to an ARD file or a CF2 layout file to an MFG file.

4.2 Imaging Engine

4.2.1 Adobe PDF Print Engine 5.6

The latest update of the Adobe PDF Print Engine (APPE) 5.6 was integrated in this Imaging Engine version.

The rendering of stroked paths has been improved: there is a noticeable finer appearance of strokes at lower resolutions and in case Fine Line Rendering is selected fine strokes are better preserved.

Large images are handled in a more efficient way resulting in significantly improved performance when full Image Resampling is selected.

4.2.2 Prepare for Viewer task for LENX files

The Prepare for Viewer task is also supporting LENX file input now. This makes it possible to re-prepare a full set of digital films (all separations) after only one separation is re-ripped.

4.3 Pack Proof

Pack Proof 21.07 comes with a new version of the Esko Proof Server: version 20. This Esko Proof Server version is based on EFI Fiery XF Server 7.1.4 technology.

The names and the look and feel of the client applications drastically changed: these are now called "Fiery Command WorkStation" (version 6.5) and "Fiery Verify" (version 2.5). Please use the following link to be guided: https://docs.esko.com/docs/en-us/packproof/21.07/quickstartguide/ProofServer_QuickStart.pdf.

New in this version of Pack Proof:

- Support for Epson Sure Color P75x0 and P95x0 proofers.
- Support for the i1 3rd generation devices (i1Pro3 and i1iO).
- Support for Measurement Conditions: M0, M1 & M2.
- The client applications (Fiery Command WorkStation and Fiery Verify) are supported on macOS 10.15 (Catalina) and macOS 11 (Big Sur).

4.4 Color Pilot

No new features compared to 21.03

4.5 Screens and Curve Pilot

No new features compared to 21.03

5. Known issues and limitations

5.1 Automation Engine

Due to stricter security settings of AE's underlying Java platform, connections to older SQL servers might be broken after an upgrade to version 21.07. This can be the case for SQL server versions that are no longer listed as supported on our system requirements pages. For more details, see KB325898165.

6. Solved customer issues

6.1 Automation Engine

Following customer reported issues are solved in **Automation Engine 21.07**:

Case Number	ID	Description
CS00640554	AE-5506	Gang run printing: the nesting algorithm now contains an optimization for graphics containing circular cut paths (hexagonal packing).
CS01070350	AE-15870	Adding a test strip to Automation Engine should not fail anymore due to an unnecessary check while generating its preview.
CS01140022	AE-14698	Due to rounding errors, a very small scaling could be applied when placing tiffs in a PDF document.
CS01151487	AE-14943	A problem was fixed when setting overprint on separations that contain 0% of an ink.
CS01194667	AE-15720	Color Preflight could not handle non-ascii characters in the input file path.
CS01247154	AE-16909	The 'fill printing lanes' task now allows VDP jobs along lanes using multigrid dies.
CS01251122	AE-17689	Drop shadow was mirrored in specific case when adding marks.
CS01252643	AE-17069	Fixed an issue, where a bad ink definition in ArtPro marks file, saved by older version of ArtPro could lead to double inks when applying theses marks an ArtPro S&R file.
CS01255664	AE-17063	Nexus Servers will no longer be checked if no license for Send to Nexus is available.
CS01258539, CS01417813	AE-17093, AE-20458	Export ArtPro To Normalized PDF File: Staggered cut linked to unregistered inks is positioned correctly now when ripping this Normalized PDF file.
CS01261032	AE-20784	Exporting a certain PDF to ArtPro did give a wrong result.
CS01261032	AE-17144	Exporting a PDF to ArtPro did give a wrong result.
CS01300532	AE-18134	Prepare for Inspection Task did not create Station Tiff file in certain cases.
CS01312304	AE-18373	Step & Repeat CAD based (Dynamic): fixed problem with marks update.
CS01312843	AE-18431	Normalize Postscript / Illustrator 8.0 File / PDF: with the option "Import 1-bit images as contours", the opacity mask is again applied on the contourized path after importing the PDF file.
CS01327124	AE-18603	Fixed an issue, where text could be shifted when Exporting an ArtPro file to Normalized PDF.

CS01329674	AE-18689	Fixed an issue where the inks table of the "Normalize PDF File" task panel could inadvertently be made public.
CS01331103, CS01331103	AE-20768, AE-18672	Fixed a font issue when converting a PDF to ArtPro file by supporting more variations of TrueType fonts.
CS01340801	AE-18806	Export To PDF File - Task is no longer crashing with 'system error 5' on a specific file.
CS01351101	AE-19031	Some PDFPLA files could not be viewed by the AE Viewer when configured to view as in ArtPro+.
CS01351632	AE-19040	Issue with error "java.lang.IndexOutOfBoundsException" shown when opening files in the Pilot Viewer is resolved.
CS01370755	AE-19455	Export To PDF File - Increased buffer size on JPEG compression.
CS01374115	AE-19509	Optimize and Clean (PS fix) - Task no longer hangs while processing specific PDF files.
CS01377634	AE-19605	In some cases, when exporting an ArtPro file to postscript, where a dot gain compensation curve was used, it could happen that a 100% value of a separation was not kept at 100%.
CS01381006	AE-19693	Normalize Postscript / PDF / Illustrator 8.0 File - When using the available pdf XMP info while normalizing, an issue got fixed to keep the correct Printing Method rather than changing it to 'Unknown'.
CS01383424	AE-19716	In some cases, an error pops up "String or binary data would be truncated" when closing the viewer
CS01390591	AE-19866	Fixed an issue where the total number of global Smart Views copied could be wrong when copying to multiple users. When setting a global Smart View as favorite (in views bar), this no longer affects other users.
CS01394324	AE-19978	Changed shortcut for "Move to History" to cmd+alt+M.
CS01397707	AE-20037	Fixed an issue where a specific PDF file could not be converted to ArtPro.
CS01397901	AE-20041	Fix on CMYK conversion in the PDF tasks.
CS01400006	AE-20302	Canceling the Global Vision's Inspection task makes all other consequent inspection tasks failing for next several minutes.
CS01400522	AE-20195	The Export PDF Info task no longer takes a connection in EventBroker.
CS01400628	AE-20216	Products created in the browser no longer runs in context of random job.
CS01400897	AE-20153	Optimize PDF - An explicit clip without a path being defined, is no longer clipping the complete content.
CS01401338	AE-20620	Optimize PDF : problem is no longer occurring in the current version.
CS01402082	AE-20196	Imaging Engine Contact proof did fail incorrect with a message there are unregistered inks, in case these inks were available in multiple ink books.
CS01403583	AE-20174	On some browsers and macOS Big Sur, the client applications could not be downloaded.
CS01407672	AE-20340	Issue fixed for Imaging Engine output or in Viewer when showing pdf files as in PackEdge: 2 Images in 1 opacity mask, of which one image was inverted, is been rendered correctly now.
CS01408220	AE-20297	Calculation of proposals in CDI Merge queues did become slow in some cases.
CS01408471	AE-20307	The lane filler now allows xml input with 90 degree in-line rotations (as generated by CERM).
CS01408760	AE-21123	An issue has been fixed, in case an ArtPro file has linked files with special characters in its filename, could no longer be processed by the Export to Normalized PDF (embed all) task, causing the Imaging Engine task to fail.

CS01408962	AE-20356	The Step & Repeat Tabular task failed when one of the grids had a file name containing SmartNames where the resolved file name started with a space. This is an illegal file name and now the leading space is automatically stripped.
CS01409478	AE-20366	Imaging Engine output of spot color PANTONE Black 6 C was sometimes rendered as red.
CS01409539	AE-20312	Optimize and Clean (PSFix) - Task no longer crashes with 'System error 5' when processing specific PDF files.
CS01410151	AE-20321	When using the Send to Agent task, the destination directory will now be created if it doesn't exist. Also added check to make sure the destination directory is always part of an agent container.
CS01410779	AE-20358	The number of copies for the layout was not always correct when Gang Run Printing was generating multiple layouts by re-using a previous layout.
CS01411901	AE-20478	An ArtPro Action list did crash when exporting to a ink coverage report.
CS01413582	AE-20392	After running the Prepare for Viewer task, the view data folder could no longer be deleted.
CS01414461	AE-20383	Check for Mac OS X version Big Sur made less stringent (major version 11 or version 10.16) so that downloading the client on Big Sur will work for browsers other than Safari.
CS01415133	AE-20399	Rulings were not always correctly set by the Adjust PDF Screening task when used in combination with Printing methods.
CS01415525	AE-20417	Using [Job CSR] SmartName was not working for internal users where username and Full name where not equal.
CS01416458	AE-20427	The BRIX CAD Based Step & Repeat tasks (Create Sheet Layout & Step & Repeat Template Based) will now ignore inner holes in the die shape when generating bleed mask for the back-side layout.
CS01416948	AE-20823	FTP Access Points: Using a UNIX parser io (default) MACOS PETER parser for directory listings in the Apache commons-net FTP client when connecting to a Rumpus FTP Server. This can be achieved via systemKey=UNIX (as value for pt.Opt3)(Access Point)
CS01417126	AE-20438	Fixed an UI issue in Pilot for a 4K monitor.
CS01417772	AE-20446	In some cases, files could be locked by the Automation Engine Agent hotfolder.
CS01418872	AE-20479	In case Plate parameters were different for the same plate type on different CDI's, output could be wrong.
CS01421346	AE-20515	In some cases, the ink order in the File Info of the Pilot or Export PDF File info task was incorrect.
CS01422301	AE-20528	The BRIX based Step & Repeat tasks sometimes considered all process inks used in native PDF input files (happened when other ink was used with multiple screenings).
CS01422378	AE-20842	Gang Run Printing: nesting could fail in case of graphics with similar sizes.
CS01422725	AE-20574	Tasks moved to History before the fix, cannot be repaired. Only for tasks that are moved after the fix, the report should be included, always.
CS01423216	AE-20527	The Join Paths function in ArtPro+ or Process Action List task will not use the content of a selected placed art object anymore. Only the selected open paths of the document are taken into account.
CS01423231	AE-20590	Job Parameters: After a job is created and/or updated from JDF, adapting a job parameter may sometimes not work properly.
CS01425570	AE-20582	In some cases, you could not sign in to My Workspace anymore due to resource leaks.

CS01428611	AE-20651	Added support in Map Data panel to find text in Repeating Content.
CS01428669	AE-20642	The Manage Color task could generate huge temp files which were not cleaned up.
CS01428801	AE-20692	In some cases, the ink order in the File Info of the Pilot or Export PDF File info task was incorrect.
CS01429579, CS01443834	AE-20677, AE-21039	PDF file with pages with different sizes were not shown correctly in the Automation Engine Viewer (when Viewing as in ArtPro+).
CS01429702	AE-20862	My Workspace : access rights are now checked for renaming and removing files and for modifying To Do's.
CS01429930	AE-20678	Job inks limit in Job Info panel raised to 64 entries.
CS01430098	AE-20721	Add Dynamic Marks: optimized regeneration of marks, the supplied mark set regenerates almost 3x faster (open file, apply marks, save). Fixed optimized marks separation order.
CS01431546	AE-20726	Stack overflow when publishing PAF files to WebCenter.
CS01433565	AE-20766	Fixed login page of My Workspace that not showing username and password fields.
CS01433614	AE-20805	The Optimize PDF task failed in case the task was launched with Public Parameters and no target ink book was specified in the 'Remap Separations' section.
CS01436284	AE-20976	In some specific case, a zip file was recognized as a PICT file.
CS01436446	AE-20857	Step & Repeat Tabular: slow calculation of a tabular step & repeat in case of large number of rows/columns.
CS01436576	AE-20885	Access Points: added timeouts to mail client.
CS01437053	AE-20874	Fixed an issue that could cause the keyboard shortcuts for deleting a file in the Products Data Zone to no longer work.
CS01437807	AE-20910	Create PAF/JPG/XML (LinkEdge) task: never create external image links when processing a normalized PDF file containing embedded images.
CS01438395	AE-20914	Add Ink Eaters based on named object was ignoring inner holes in these named objects.
CS01438495	AE-20915	Processing of Dynamic Marks in templates has been fixed and optimized.
CS01438514	AE-20940	When the Prepare for Viewer task detects missing font, the message was not correctly formatted.
CS01438877	AE-20924	Gang Run Printing: minimum layouts nesting now tries to better balance the placed quantities to reduce the number of layouts.
CS01440201	AE-20951	Fixed a security issue that allowed a Pilot user to download all files using the "Save to Downloads Folder" functionality. Files can now only be downloaded when file permissions allow it.
CS01440364, CS01415323	AE-20952, AE-20396	The Export to Normalized PDF File (Embed All) task could fail in some specific cases.
CS01440805	AE-21071	In some cases, the Automation Engine Viewer measured incorrect color percentages when viewing as in ArtPro+.
CS01441581	AE-20984	When the Step & Repeat Tabular is used in a workflow, it creates an empty output file if the ticket panel was never opened. Now it creates a default 1x1 grid.
CS01441955	AE-21009	In some cases, the ink list in the Imaging Engine ticket was incomplete for Normalized PDF files.
CS01442298	AE-21006	A problem testing a connection to certain versions of WebCenter was fixed.
CS01442585	AE-21042	Export Nested Layouts: the i-script output name got truncated to 11 characters if the layout contained a code 39 bar code and multiple cut file formats were exported.
CS01443059	AE-21054	Create Tiles task: tiling based on maximum tile sizes could end with error due to internal issue while calculating the number of tiles.

CS01443148	AE-21027	Map Data : Applying XML formatting only on SmartNames directly present in the template (instead of applying it always during SmartName resolving).
CS01443242	AE-21035	Create Sheet Layout with MFG based Step & Repeat: in case the artwork panels do not match the ARD design, the SmartFlapping algorithm will revert to centerline truncation.
CS01445335	AE-21096	CAD based Step & Repeat tasks failed on some MFG designs (containing wave line types).
CS01445849	AE-21130	Fixed an issue, where Imaging Engine XPS Crystal UV could not be used from Device Manager/CDI, while it was possible to do so from a Manual Merger.
CS01446941	AE-21162	Export to Unscreened separations: fixed an issue caused by Chinese characters in the output path.
CS01447139	AE-21150	Fixes & improvements for AVT AutoSet integration v2.0. When using PDF+ as 1-up files, the positions of barcode and text may be wrong in the inspection package.
CS01447812	AE-21178	Fixed an issue where live workflow parameters from XML resolved incorrectly.
CS01451557	AE-21262	Problem with SmartMarks no longer reproducible.
CS01452087	AE-21320	Conversion from Normalized to PDF+ document can shift a barcode.
CS01452456	AE-21267	Fixed problem with Ticket export: avoiding ClassCast exceptions.
CS01454177	AE-21337	Virus scanners could complain when installing Automation Engine Pilot because of suspicious software. Fixed by signing the installers.

6.2 Imaging Engine (and related components)

Following customer reported issues are solved in **Imaging Engine 21.07**:

Case Number	ID	Description
CS01442168	IE-20347	In some cases the 100% spot color in the Step & Repeat file changed after RIP.
CS01447640	IE-20316	The separation list in the Imaging Engine ticket is no longer empty if a "Wait for Action" task was used in in front of it in a started workflow.
CS01446901	IE-20299	The performance issue with a particular file for CIP3 generation was solved.
CS01444664	IE-20269	Screening information inside the output files generated by the "Make all output files ready for viewing" option can now be read correctly by the Automation Engine viewer.
CS01438907 CS01400448 CS01416803	IE-20203 IE-20215 IE-19974	Imaging Engine no longer crashes in setups where a DFE is connected to the same CMS data.
CS01436851 CS01414993 CS01434450 CS01453884 CS01453864	IE-20206 IE-20063 IE-20135 IE-20345 IE-20362	Unnecessary multiple entries in the 'Screen and DGC info' in the XMP data are now merged into one entry.

CS01420530	IE-20142	The "Prepare for Viewing" task is now also supporting LENX file input.
CS01425910	IE-20064	High quality screens with curves applied no longer run the risk of printing white pixels in solid areas.
CS01420508	IE-20040	In case of single-page input for CIP3 all possible output assembly type options are now offered as well, similar as for multi-page. In the single-page case there will be no difference in output though for some of the options.
CS01414566	IE-19966	Angle, ruling and dot shape could be wrong for old tickets when using public parameters.
CS01397993	IE-19892	When reopening an existing ticket not all fields were always updated causing an inaccurate view of the dot shapes that would be used.
CS01285083	IE-18685	The performance issue with a specific job was fixed.
CS01104398	IE-16486	The performance issue with a specific job containing SmartMarks was fixed.

6.3 Pack Proof

Following customer reported issues are solved in **Pack Proof 21.07**:

Case Number	ID	Description
CS01391050	IE-19745	Pack Proof: Error out as soon as possible in case the job is too big (unless the Proof Server option "Print jobs that exceed the printable area" is enabled). Previously there was (no longer) an error in the task, so the job only errored out on the Proof Server.
CS01443970	IE-20253	Print verification did not work for the Esko strip.

6.4 Color Pilot

Following customer reported issues are solved in **Color Pilot 21.07**:

Case Number	ID	Description
CS01415946	CEP-11910	Inline Check & Recalibrate with new Proof Server doesn't work.
CS01434635	CEP-11991	Click-Unclick bug in manual refinement with stabilize settings.
CS01428466	CAL-7047	Creating a new printing condition failed when there was a "." (dot) in the name.
CS01294633	CEP-11797	Some ICC profiles become corrupt after importing in Color Pilot.
CS01388769	CEP-11872	Crash of Color Pilot 20.0 Build 22.
CS01414788	CEP-11869	Blends of some inks do not get output correctly on Proof.

6.5 Screens and Curve Pilot

Following customer reported issues are solved in **Screens and Curve Pilot 21.07**:

Case Number	ID	Description
CS01440424	CAL-7178	The errors occurring during the installation of some specific HD Flexo Screens were solved.
CS01406293	CAL-6843	All central HD Screens are no longer gone by default after an HD Flexo Screens client program uninstallation: the user now first needs to confirm before they are removed.
CS01439456	CAL-7174	It was impossible to create a new press sync curve in Curve Pilot when none of the existing press sync curves had an underscore in its name.