

Automation Engine, Imaging Engine, Pack Proof, Color Pilot and Curve Pilot 22.07 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 22.07. It only covers the changes since version 22.03.

If you are updating from version 21.11 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 22.07. You can find these on the online help for these versions (or on the product installer media for older versions).

1.1 Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Contents	1
2.	Licensing and System Requirements	2
2.1	Licensing	2
2.2	System Requirements	2
3.	Documentation.....	2
4.	New and changed features.....	3
4.1	Automation Engine	3
4.2	Imaging Engine	6
4.3	Bitmap Viewer	6
4.4	Pack Proof.....	6
4.5	Color Pilot.....	6
4.6	Print Control Wizard (Printing Conditions)	6
4.7	Curve Pilot, HD Flexo Screens and ScreenManager.....	7
5.	Features in prerelease.....	7
5.1	Color on Esko Cloud for Automation Engine SaaS.....	7
5.2	SSO with Azure AD for Automation Engine SaaS	7
5.3	Color Pilot – Uploading of Esko Profiles to Esko Cloud.....	7
6.	Known Limitations & Important Changes	8
6.1	Automation Engine	8
6.2	Pack Proof.....	9
6.3	Color Pilot.....	9
6.4	FlexRip/FlexProof.....	9
7.	Solved customer issues.....	10
7.1	Automation Engine	10
7.2	Imaging Engine	11
7.3	Bitmap Viewer	12
7.4	Pack Proof.....	12
7.5	Color Pilot.....	12
7.6	Print Control Wizard (Printing Conditions)	13
7.7	Curve Pilot, HD Flexo Screens and ScreenManager.....	13

2. Licensing and System Requirements

2.1 Licensing

Automation Engine, Imaging Engine, Pack Proof, Color Pilot and Curve Pilot 22.07 require version 22 licenses.

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 22.03:

- Automation Engine Agent: due to a connection problem, support for Windows 2022 and Windows 11 had to be recalled. A fix for this connection problem is planned for version 22.11.

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

- Dropped support for macOS Mojave as a client platform

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
KB341861822	Plate ID – Components and versions: This article describes which versions of which components are required to set up an end-to-end Plate ID workflow.
KB341862828	Bitmap Viewer Mac - Standard user cannot see Seamless View icon
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
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.
KB361613907	Pack Proof - How to upgrade to version 22.03 and restore a backup.
KB376374795	Print Control Wizard 22.07 - re-activation of license required if you have already a PCW 22 license activated.
KB376386657	Running the “FlexRip/FlexProof 14.0 installation” to update the Screen Data 1.0 might fail.

4. New and changed features

4.1 Automation Engine

4.1.1 Interact with Database for AE SaaS

Automation Engine SaaS customers can now also make use of the Interact with Database task. An external database can now be configured over the Automation Engine Agent.

4.1.2 Launch Workflow

There is a new workflow control to launch a workflow. It was already possible to run a (referenced) workflow within a main workflow, but the main workflow had to wait until all the launched workflows were finished. Especially in cases where one workflow spawned many workflows, this could cause unneeded load on the server. The new 'Launch Workflow' workflow control allows to launch a workflow in a more efficient 'fire-and-forget' mode (so the main workflow will not wait for the result of the launched workflow).

4.1.3 Centralized fonts for NDL tasks

When [NDL tasks](#) need to generate text, fonts are used. The most typical example for this is placing a Dynamic Text mark. NDL tasks will now take their fonts from the central resource share 'BG_DATA_FONTS' first (instead of the Windows fonts folder of each AE master/assistant where a task was executed). If the font needed is not found in 'BG_DATA_FONTS', then the task will look for it in the Windows Fonts folder.

This change in behavior could lead to different output if a (slightly) different version of the same font is present in both 'BG_DATA_FONTS' and the Windows Fonts folder. To have the exact same output as before this change, you can copy that font from the Windows Fonts folder to 'BG_DATA_FONTS' (using the new 'Manage Fonts' page).

4.1.4 Manage Fonts

There is a new 'ADMIN' page 'MANAGE FONTS' in the browser client that allows a user to upload and remove font files from the central fonts share.

4.1.5 Seconds in the Wait task

The 'Wait' task can now be configured to wait a couple of seconds (instead of at least a minute).

4.1.6 Prepare for Inspection task with anti-aliasing

The 'Prepare for Inspection' task can now be configured to apply anti-aliasing on the RGB TIFF preview.

4.1.7 Processing Steps in the File Info dialog

The 'File Info' dialog has been extended with a new 'Processing Steps' tab, listing all the processing steps used in the file and its links.

4.1.8 Attach a grid to a grid in the Step & Repeat Tabular task

It is possible to attach one grid to another one in the 'Step & Repeat Tabular' task. Previously we could only position a grid relative to page box.

4.1.9 Formula support in the Step & Repeat Tabular task

It is now also possible to use formulas to define sheet and plate size, grid position, 1-up repetitions, gaps and many other parameters. The set of basic SmartNames that can be used in the formulas is similar to what was available in the BRIX based 'Step & Repeat Tabular (Classic)' task.

4.1.10 External references in the Export PDF Info task

When PDF+ output format is chosen for the XML report it now also contains a list of external references including their type (image, PDF, ...).

4.1.11 Conflict handling in Ticket Import

When importing a ticket, all resources that would be overwritten by the import are listed in a new dialog where you can, per resource, choose to exclude them from the import (avoid overwriting). The same import dialog also allows to open the there listed SmartNames next to each other which makes it easier to compare them and make your decision.

4.1.12 PitStop update

Automation Engine 22.07 comes with an integrated PitStop 2022.

4.1.13 Favorite workflows in My Workspace Products view

In My Workspace, you can now also launch Favorite workflows on a Product.

4.1.14 Printing Unit support

The File Info dialog will now show the printing unit for each separation.

The tasks 'Export to Gravure using HELL Job Ticket' and 'Export to Unscreened Separations' now take these printing units into account when generating separation names (when printing units are defined in the input file).

A new SmartName 'Print Order' now makes it possible to check in a workflow if a file has printing units defined and if they imply a normal or reverse printing order.

4.1.15 Smart Views in My Workspace

My Workspace users will now also see Smart Views for Jobs, Products, Tasks and To-Dos. The Smart Views need to be created and applied to the user by an administrator in the Pilot.

4.1.16 Download Multiple Files in My Workspace

A My Workspace user can now download multiple files in one go.

4.1.17 Improved UX for session timeouts in the browser based clients

There is now a better indication that a session has timed out. Inactive tabs are kept alive longer.

4.1.18 Launch a workflow via drop zones without a file

A My Workspace user now can enable a drop zone to launch a workflow without needing to drop a (dummy) file.

4.1.19 Compare Products in My Workspace

In My Workspace, in the Products view, a user can select 2 Products to compare in the Viewer.

4.1.20 Central Password management for WebCenter tasks

All WebCenter tasks can now be configured to use a centrally stored password (instead of storing the password in the task ticket). This avoids having to update possibly dozens of tickets each time you have to change these WebCenter credentials (typically for security reasons or any changes in WebCenter-users).

4.1.21 Output pins for the Preflight Color for Digital Printing (Content based)

The 'Preflight Color for Digital Printing (Content based)' can now route its output to a pass, fail or warning pin (like other preflight tasks can).

4.1.22 Route directly on XPath, XMP Path and JSONPath

The Router is now able to route directly on XPath, XMP Path or JSONPath queries.

4.1.23 Keep all values as strings in Convert XML to JSON task

The 'Convert XML to JSON' task now offers the option to 'Keep all values as strings'. When selected, all element values will in output files be kept as strings (provided in quotes).

4.1.24 Gang Run Printing: Roll Length in Layout Proposal

Extra 'Roll length' feedback is shown in the layout proposal of a selected substrate queue.

4.1.25 Flexo Engine - Solvent Saver option for Plate Merger

A new 'Solvent Saver' option was added to the Merge Queue settings of the Plate Merger. It automatically converts plate waste areas at the borders to 100% solid so that during wash-out no extra solvent is spent on parts of the plate that are not used afterwards.

4.2 Imaging Engine

4.2.1 Printing unit support

A new SmartName 'Printing Unit' was introduced which makes it possible to add the printing unit of a separation to the output file name.

The printing unit will be present in the XMP data of the output file if the input file has printing units defined for the separation(s) in the output file.

4.3 Bitmap Viewer

There is no new version of Bitmap Viewer.

4.4 Pack Proof

No new features compared to 22.03.

4.5 Color Pilot

4.5.1 Epson SureSpectro AS-4000 support

Support added for the Epson SureSpectro AS-4000, an optional built-in spectrophotometer developed by Epson which can be used on certain SurePress models.

Note that the Esko DFE 4.0 is required.

4.6 Print Control Wizard (Printing Conditions)

4.6.1 Single Color calibration for Flexibles/Labels

Next to the multicolor wizard, we have a quick calibration wizard based on single color (just like we had in 18.1).

4.6.2 Crystal V for Flexibles/Labels

Crystal V (which we had already for Corrugated HQPP) is now also available for Flexibles and Labels. Crystal V is an improvement of the current Crystal Screen.

4.6.3 Check Color Differences of Solids and Overprints

The multicolor chart for Flexibles/Labels includes now patches for creating a press profile. So, when doing a full color calibration, you will be able to save a press profile that can be used for proofing and use it as target for future calibration. This saves an extra print run.

4.6.4 UX improvements

Several UX improvements, including better split of the charts in different elements.

4.7 Curve Pilot, HD Flexo Screens and ScreenManager

No new features compared to 22.03.

5. Features in prerelease

5.1 Color on Esko Cloud for Automation Engine SaaS

Automation Engine SaaS customers using ink books, profiles and digital strategies for HP digital presses (and only those customers), will be able to use color data on Esko Cloud.

5.2 SSO with Azure AD for Automation Engine SaaS

Automation Engine SaaS customers can now make use of single sign-on with Azure Active Directory via the OIDC protocol.

5.3 Color Pilot – Uploading of Esko Profiles to Esko Cloud

Uploading of Esko Profiles to Esko Cloud.

6. Known Limitations & Important Changes

6.1 Automation Engine

6.1.1 Different fonts for text marks

See also *'Centralized fonts for NDL tasks'* in the above chapter *'New and changed features'*.

When NDL tasks need to generate text, fonts are used. The most typical example for this is placing a Dynamic Text mark. NDL tasks will now take their fonts from the central resource share 'BG_DATA_FONTS' first (instead of the Windows fonts folder of each AE master/assistant where a task was executed). If the font needed is not found in 'BG_DATA_FONTS', then the task will look for it in the Windows Fonts folder.

This change in behavior could lead to different output if a (slightly) different version of the same font is present in both 'BG_DATA_FONTS' and the Windows Fonts folder. To have the exact same output as before this change, you can copy that font from the Windows Fonts folder to 'BG_DATA_FONTS' (using the new 'Manage Fonts' page).

6.1.2 Soon Outdated: 32-bit ODBC SmartNames and External Databases

SmartNames of type '32-bit ODBC Query' and External Databases using DBMS Type 'ODBC Source' will become outdated soon. These SmartNames and External Databases use outdated 3rd party components which will have to be removed in an upcoming version.

As an alternative, use Database Query SmartNames and External Databases using DBMS of type 'Microsoft SQL Server', 'Oracle' or 'Other' using a JDBC driver.

6.1.3 Changed behavior for Workflow Parameters

To get to a more consistent and intuitive behavior, workflow parameters and their values will now always be transferred to any sub-workflow (as a reference or as a copied sub-workflow).

If parameters need to be set in the sub-workflow, then they must be set using the workflow control 'Modify Workflow Parameter Values'.

6.1.4 Stored Passwords in the Create or Modify WebCenter Project task

When using a 'Stored Password' in the 'Create or Modify WebCenter Project' task, the lists of project templates, project statuses, customer companies and customer locations will not be populated with the available values on WebCenter.

If you need these lists to be populated, then you need to (temporarily) use a username and password.

6.2 Pack Proof

6.2.1 Priority in Fiery Command Workstation

The old 'Esko Proof Client' could change priority in the proof queue, the new 'Fiery Command WorkStation' does not have this functionality.

Now there is a workaround (currently only for the Windows client): a patch for the 'Job Editor' allows to edit the job (when in hold) and raise the priority there. This patch is available as a hotfix and as an automatic post-install when installing Fiery Command WorkStation using the 22.07 DVD.

6.3 Color Pilot

6.3.1 License reactivation for new features in Print Control Wizard

The new features 'Crystal V' and 'Color Profile' in 22.07 are licensed, which means new license features are added to the existing Print Control Wizard license bundle.

This means that if you have already activated a Print Control Wizard 22 license, that you will not have the new features available. You then need to re-activate your PCW license.

6.3.2 Automation Engine 22.07 required for Printing Conditions

Printing Conditions in Color Pilot only work with an Automation Engine/Imaging Engine 22.07. Older versions of Automation Engine will not show new or imported printing conditions created in Color Pilot 22.07.

6.4 FlexRip/FlexProof

6.4.1 Screens installer issue

Running the 'FlexRip/FlexProof 14.0 installation' on the ISO will update the Screen Data 1.0. This might fail with error: 'The previous installation of the product is corrupt'.

Workaround: manually run the Screen Data 1.0 kit installer from the Packages folder on the ISO.

7. Solved customer issues

7.1 Automation Engine

Following customer reported issues are solved in **Automation Engine 22.07**:

Case Number	ID	Description
CS01317474	AE-18505	Fixed the preview values of workflow parameters of a sub workflow in the workflow editor.
CS01358942, CS01540538, CS01493634	AE-19183, AE-23557, AE-22307	In case of PDF+ files, the File Info dialog and Router could report unwanted CMYK for a "white" object in ICCSpace.
CS01437440, CS01526514	AE-20918, AE-23264	Sometimes the file was locked after opening the file in the viewer in My Workspace.
CS01468825	AE-23342	The ReportMaker task was adding a rectangle with 0% tint for the soft mask inks in the task input file when using the 'show separations' option.
CS01511102	AE-22710	PitStop Profile Editor: repaired the possibility to work 'offline' when the AE server cannot be reached.
CS01514736	AE-22814	A new option 'Keep all values as strings' is added to the 'Convert XML to JSON' task. When active, all element values will be taken as strings and provided in quotes in output files.
CS01516742	AE-22861	Task Normalize Postscript / PDF / Illustrator 8.0 File (Classic): all inks from a CT object are marked/added now. Which results in separations been detected as an artwork ink and no longer been converted from normal ink to technical ink.
CS01521820	AE-23010	Distortion of a plate or film as defined on Grapholas was not applied if using Flexo Engine.
CS01525109	AE-23327	Task Create Sheet Layout: graphics with a die shape that don't fit the sizes of the CAD designs could get misaligned.
CS01527393	AE-23248	Gang Run Printing: i-script marks, when asked to be generated on front & back, were not in a dedicated layer on the back side print PDF.
CS01529560	AE-23337	Task Prepare Graphics for Nesting: creating cut paths on large images was resulting in partial cut paths (some parts were cut off).
CS01530927	AE-23365	Task Export PDF Info: XMP output now contains the base doc URL.
CS01531313	AE-23362	Task 'Check Job Parameters' now supports ITF-14/ITF-16 bar code with advanced box options as generated by DeskPack.
CS01531895	AE-23407	CIP3 task related SmartNames ([sheetnumber] and [sheetside]) had been unlinked from the commercial printing license so that they are also available for an Automation-Engine without commercial printing license.
CS01532345	AE-23502	In some cases, the 'Inspect Barcodes' task failed while inspecting.
CS01533884	AE-23410	Fixed a crash in the Optimize PDF task.
CS01535222	AE-24103	Fixed an issue with highlighting related SmartNames when there exists a 32-bit ODBC Query SmartName.
CS01535298	AE-23470	Fixed an issue with wrong output in the 'Apply PDF Action List' task.
CS01538190	AE-23693	The task 'Prepare Graphics for Nesting' now adds a page preview to the output file. This speeds up the gang run nesting (generation of PNG preview for displaying the Layout Proposal in the Pilot).
CS01539311	AE-23530	Task 'Prepare Graphics for Nesting': Extracting cut path by ink failed when using native PDF files with unused inks.
CS01540875	AE-23631	The 'Prepare Station' task failed to correctly align ARD shapes in case the input PDF file consists of unconnected line segments originating from degenerated strokes.
CS01541497	AE-23581	The Optimize PDF Separations task now recognizes opaque inks from PDF+.

CS01542086	AE-23749	Task' Export PDF Info': better handling of invalid trim box sizes.
CS01542382	AE-23672	Fixed an issue where downloading a document from the WebCenter view would download an HTML page instead of the actual document.
CS01542853, CS01545413	AE-23676, AE-23753	Fixed an issue where only the cached tasks were exported from the Task History.
CS01544588	AE-23673	Script SmartName resolving may become unreliable on systems under heavy load and with a very high volume of such SmartNames to resolve.
CS01545254	AE-23726	The PDF File Info Server could be slow or crash while processing a file with many thousands of (warp) layers/processing steps.
CS01546271, CS01553581, CS01553646	AE-23710, AE-23971, AE-23961	Fixed an issue where the units in the Viewer are not initialized according to the Pilot preferences.
CS01546487, CS01548654, CS01551564	AE-23894, AE-23816, AE-23909	After upgrading to Automation Engine 22.03, when using Automation Engine Viewer that is set to PackEdge view mode, the view is very slow compared to when using ArtPro+ View mode.
CS01547887	AE-23757	Using the option 'Include CAD info for Digital Flexo Suite' could make the 'Step & Repeat Tabular (Classic)' task crash in case of large amounts of objects in technical inks (in deeply grouped structures).
CS01548031	AE-23922	The 'Interact with Web Service' task would cause an exception when trying to put a response message in a workflow parameter when the contacted web service only sent a response code with no response message.
CS01549852	AE-23845	Task 'Convert JSON to XML': fixed an issue caused by incorrect replacement of reserved characters.
CS01550142	AE-23853	Task 'Create PAF/JPG/XML (LinkEdge)(Classic)' was going out of memory on certain stepped PDF+ files.
CS01550249	AE-23888	Fixed a communication issue between Automation Engine and WebCenter in very specific circumstances.
CS01550314	AE-23883	Fixed an issue with sending Milestone notification e-mails.
CS01550584	AE-23866	Task 'Adjust PDF Screening': The rule ' <i>is empty</i> ' was not working for 'printing method' and 'ink book'.
CS01551901	AE-23954	In the Server Admin tabs 'Databases' and 'SQL Server' it was not possible to select another SQL instance when the previously configured SQL instance was not running anymore or had been deleted.
CS01552772	AE-23950	Fixed an issue where creating Jobs took too long.
CS01553511	AE-23973	Gang Run Printing: overruled rotation settings from the submit ticket were ignored when nesting with graphics order different from 'Any'.

7.2 Imaging Engine

Following customer reported issues are solved in **Imaging Engine 22.07**:

Case Number	ID	Description
CS01559342, CS01549104	IE-21854, IE-21720	In case of non-embedded fonts Imaging Engine now always errors out. Previously the font was emulated, which was sometimes good enough, sometimes giving wrong output (so unpredictable output).
CS01555452, CS01547255	IE-21793, IE-21668	Technical and varnish inks are no longer wrongly displayed as normal inks in the Imaging Engine tickets.
CS01554015	IE-21766	Reopening a ticket with a Printing Condition no longer fails when no Dot Clean Up parameters are defined.
CS01542901	IE-21626	Ripping no longer fails for jobs which contain inks that are only used for opacity masks.

CS01538752	IE-21611	Ripping a particular file with a particular DGC Strategy no longer results in 2 lines in the XMP data (one being for "Solids only").
CS01525907	IE-21407	The RGB values shown in the viewer are now similar to the ones inside the PDF+ if those are present.
CS01499675	IE-21031	The XMP info on DGCs for Imaging Engine output is aligned better with FlexRip now: when a DGC strategy is selected in the ticket then the resulting DGC curve is now always listed in the XMP info, even when empty.
CS01429173	IE-20149	The Imaging Engine queue limit is now adapting to the number of workers.

7.3 Bitmap Viewer

There is no new version of Bitmap Viewer.

7.4 Pack Proof

Following customer reported issues are solved in **Pack Proof 22.07**:

Case Number	ID	Description
CS01517833	IE-21287	The missing Job Priority functionality was now added to the new Proof Server as well.
CS01541955	IE-21620	Varnish Inks are now printed again if they were selected in the Pack Proof ticket.
CS01438794	IE-20213	The measurement Condition from the proof ticket is now always honored, both for online and offline verification.

7.5 Color Pilot

Following customer reported issues are solved in **Color Pilot 22.07**:

Case Number	ID	Description
CS01549021	CEP-13028	The inks in the PDF generated by the Print to File tool aren't placed in a "inks on pages" order.
CS01541522	CEP-13043	Temporarily color strategies are shown in Automation Engine tickets (e.g., Proof for Contract Approval).
CS01524507	CEP-12681	Proof for Contract Approval task errors out in case the verification and the 'Overrule Substrate Color" option is enabled in the proofing color strategy.

7.6 Print Control Wizard (Printing Conditions)

Following customer reported issues are solved in **Print Control Wizard (Printing Conditions) 22.07**:

Case Number	ID	Description
CS01542904	CAL-8859	Printing Condition is not showing correct curve for 'other' inks.

7.7 Curve Pilot, HD Flexo Screens and ScreenManager

No customer reported issues were solved in **Curve Pilot, HD Flexo Screens and ScreenManager 22.07**.