

This document contains information about what is new in XF v4.0 as well as the most important known issues which QA thinks everybody involved needs to be aware of. This is an extract of the most important of 285 defects which have been moved to future releases plus a list of Frequently Asked Questions which showed up during our field test.

For more known issues please have a look at Test Track which lists all issues found during testing (<http://testtrack.efi.internal> – using Product “EFI Colorproof XF 4.0.1” and “EFI Colorproof XF 4.5”).

WHAT IS NEW

Highlights

- Dynamic Wedge™ (patent pending)
 - Dynamically created wedge with either 16, 32 or 64 patches definable
 - Contains job key colors including spot colors
 - Job-specific analysis
 - Recommended for color-critical jobs where “static wedges” (for instance Ugra/Fogra media wedge) are not adequate
 - Concerted control of all key colors
 - Verification
 - job-specific optimization (if required)
- Intelligent re-ink-limiting / re-linearization
 - Calibration check e.g. after replacing ink cartridges / changing media
 - Printing, measuring and analyzing a small chart
 - Depending on analysis
 - Re-linearization ($dE < 2$) or
 - Re-ink-limiting / re-linearization ($dE \Rightarrow 2$)
 - Fast and handy way to evaluate and (if required) improve the calibration accuracy
- Enhanced spot color simulation
 - New algorithm for best possible inkjet values for lowest dEs
 - Integrated technology, no user interaction required
 - 16 bit – more precise $L^*a^*b^*$ definition
- Label printing
 - Verification results (OK/Not OK) directly printed on proof with Epson Stylus Pro x900 Series
 - Automated, without user interaction

Other cool stuff

Ease of use

- Wizards for licensing, setup and configuration
- Saving and import of Environments (workflow & output)
 - Job-specific in Job Explorer
- „One-click“ spot color handling

Production tools

- Uniform page scaling
- Conversion of colored files into grayscale prints
 - Five pre-defined shades (cold to warm)
- Enhanced tiling
 - Removing, merging and splitting tiles
 - Multiple tile selection
 - Numeric tile size definition (width and height)
 - Nestings of single tiles, including rotation
- „Seamless“ Step & Repeat
- Cropping of PDF according to selected PDF box

Productivity

- Intelligent PDF RIPPING
 - RIPPING of selected pages only
- Quicker processing of ImageEPS/PDF files with EFI native engine
- Multiple CPSI
 - 4 interpreters = up to 4 PDF/PS-based files processable
 - 1 interpreter needs 1 processor

Technologies & standards

- Windows Vista support
- Adobe CPSI 3018 support
 - PDF 1.7 support
- Adobe PDF Print Engine v2.0 support
- JDF integration to
 - EFI MIS solutions EFI PrintSmith 8.0.7 & Hagen 10.0.1
 - Web-to-Print solution EFI Digital Store Front 3.2
 - Job directly printable from MIS / W2P incl. number of copies
 - Status feedback from XF (received, processed, closed)

- Pantone GOE Uncoated support
- RAW support
- PDF/X-3 compliant PDF export with File Output Option
- Proxy server support (Online Updater)

Flexibility

- Job ticket
 - Adjustable font size
 - Definable width
 - Adjustable colorant, substrate, system
 - Definable distance to job
 - Company logo support (EFI logo default)
- Two control strips supported
- Auto-positioning of job ticket and control strip(s)

Usability

- Automatic placement of jobs manually added to a nesting
- Enhanced XF Control
- Start XF Client, Activation wizard ...
- Auto-refresh of Client
- Faster display of spot color table ...
- Progress bar for file import
- Info about unknown file formats in job properties
- Broadcasting XF Server in network

Quality

- Enhanced linearization
 - Enhanced gamut utilization
 - New order of linearization steps
 - New method to define total ink limit
 - Automatic, numerically and visually
- Barbieri LFP/Swing
 - Scan- and single patch mode
 - Automatic and manual positioning

Compatibility

- Restore of eXpress backup

New printers

- HP DesignJet Z3200
- HP DesignJet 510
- Mimaki JV4

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I cannot find the location of Media Profiles/Tickets/Working folder...

All folders containing data which gets changed by XF have been moved to the OS default location for program data.

But where is my program data folder?

It depends on the OS.

OS X: “/Library/Application Support/EFI”

Win XP/2003: “C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\EFI

Win Vista/2008: “C:\ProgramData\EFI”

On Windows XP the media profiles can still be found in the Program Files folder as the path of some folders will otherwise be longer than allowed by the OS.

On Windows those folders are hidden so you have to change your explorer settings to show hidden folders to be able to see them.

In the dock (Mac) or in the XF Program group (Windows) you will also find direct links to those folders.

I have a job which I need to send out but my verification fails. What can I do to pass verification asap?

In the XF Client select the verified job and click on “Optimize” to create an optimization for this particular job “on-the-fly” and then print it again. In most cases this brings the job inside the needed tolerances so you are ready to go in a very short time.

Why is Color Verifier showing slightly different dE values than the XF Client?

Those are rounding up/down differences which cannot be prevented. As they are very small (third place behind the decimal point) they will not affect whether your proof fails or not.

I set my XF to verify jobs on an Epson Stylus Pro X900 with the internal SpectroProofer but it cuts without measuring. What did I do wrong?

When using the media width 42" or 44" on Epson Stylus Pro 9900 or 20" or 24" on Epson Stylus Pro 7900 there is not enough margin space for the measurement device. To get round this problem, we have created special media sizes with "SpectroProofer" in their name which take this into account. Using these media sizes the control strips/measurement charts will be positioned with a wider margin on the right-hand side so the printer can measure it. This will have no impact on standard jobs printed through a workflow. For these jobs the "standard" printer margins are used, for the control elements the wider measurement device margins.

The dynamic wedge in my printout has fewer patches than I set up. What happened?

XF only prints as many patches as colors found inside your document. So, for example, if your document contains red only and you select 64 patches for the dynamic wedge, XF will print only one red patch.

I did an optimization but after the first run my values got even worse. What went wrong?

The optimization we implemented is an iterative algorithm. Depending on the start values, which are determined by the used EPL, media and printer, the first results may get worse but doing an iteration should then bring better results.

Is XF compatible with 64-bit operating systems?

Yes it is. But: as XF is a 32-bit application it will not benefit from the advantages of 64-bit systems.

Why do I have to uninstall my XF 3.1.8 before installing 4.0?

We had to change several folders inside the XF installation to be more compatible with the operating system. As a result of the changed structure it is not possible to update the application without side effects.

How to convert my 3.1.8 into 4.0?

The easiest way is to create a backup (using the XF backup function) of your 3.1.8. Then, uninstall 3.1.8, install 4.0 and restore your backup into 4.0.

Does the backup from 3.1.8 really work in 4.0?

Well, 99%. There is a known issue that the media type is not restored correctly because 3.1.8 doesn't save it properly. This means you have to verify all output devices after the restore – but that's it.

I can't find the X-Rite iCColor on my Mac since I changed to Intel Mac – where did it go?

As X-Rite does not offer Intel Mac drivers for the device it is only supported on PowerPC and Windows.

I can't find my printer supported when using Mac but according to the website it is supported...

For some supported printers there is no development kit available on Mac. Therefore we are not able to provide drivers on Mac.

I have downloaded an update but the Client update always fails on Mac (CRC error, corrupt file, Installer appears to be damaged). How do I solve this?

If the update is not launching correctly or the Client does not get updated, use the disk utility from Mac OS X and repair the file permissions. Under certain circumstances you may have to repair them twice. If the update doesn't launch correctly or the Client doesn't get updated, users will have to remove the EFI_Colorproof_XF.xml file from Library > Preferences, run the disk utility to repair the permissions and then launch the Client. The Client will ask for the update to be installed and it will get installed. Alternatively, to avoid the problem described above, it is always better to install the update so the XF Server gets updated, then run the 'Disk utility' and then launch the XF Client to get the client update from the XF Server.

Why does my dynamic wedge not get printed?

Dynamic wedges are only supported for CMYK jobs. If your file was created in a different color space the dynamic wedge setting is ignored.

Why can't I verify my nesting in Color Verifier?

If you have a nesting with multiple documents where the control strip is selected for both sheet and page, only the control strip information for the individual the jobs can be verified.

When doing a re-Linearization my result gets worse. What should I do next?

This may happen. In such a situation please do a further iteration. In the unlikely event of no improvement (which may happen if the EPL cannot be corrected because the printer changed too much) it is recommended to either try an optimization instead or create a completely new base linearization plus profile.

There are four different charts available in Color Manager for optimization/profiling. Which is the right one to choose?

In most cases IT8.7/3 is a good choice – but to achieve optimal results we suggest using IT8.7/4 for profiling and optimization.

How does the automatic calibration in XF for Epson Stylus Pro X900 work?

The automatic calibration is a combination of re-ink limiting and re-linearization. XF checks the ink limits as well as the average delta E of the linearization curve compared to the original values from the EPL. If the ink limits are more than 2 delta E away from the original primary colors then a re-ink-limiting is initiated. If the average delta E values for the linearization are 2 or above then a re-linearization is initiated.

I changed the CMYK source profile in my workflow and now I would like to optimize it, but Color Manager still shows the previous CMYK profile after selecting the workflow. Why?

This happens if you selected the previous CMYK profile also as a simulation profile. So, either select “none” or select the new CMYK or source profile as the simulation profile. Another reason may be that you did not hit the Save button before launching Color Manager...

The calculated TIL is higher than the measured TIL. What went wrong?

Nothing went wrong. Due to the used algorithm it is possible that the calculated value is higher than the one selected before manually.

My Barbieri SpectroLFP does not measure my dynamic wedge for one job, but for the other jobs it works fine – what is the difference?

The difference is the number of patches. The Barbieri SpectroLFP needs a minimum of 8 patches for a wedge. If your chart has less it cannot be measured.

I tried to copy and paste a part of the description of my output device, but when I try to paste the information XF creates a new Output Device. Why is it not working correctly?

This is intended behavior. Copy and paste within System Manager is only for creating users/workflows/output devices.

I try to enter a value in a box in Job Explorer but often the cursor disappears so I cannot enter a value. What is the reason?

The cursor in Job Explorer disappears when the mouse pointer is over the preview. As this is an active, Open-GL preview it is automatically activated so the cursor disappears outside the preview area.

Why are some files wrong/outdated when I do a restore?

The files were loaded/changed after creating the backup. The files (jobs, control strips, etc.) which were changed after creating the backup may get reset. XF does not delete files when restoring a backup – but it does overwrite existing files.

Whenever I try to print to my HP-Z series printer I get the error “wrong file format” in the printer panel. How do I get rid of this message?

This seems to be caused by some media types. Selecting a different media type should solve this issue.

An update was downloaded to the XF Server. When the Mac Client tries to install the update I am asked for user name and password. Which account data needs to be entered as my XF credentials do not work?

The Updater needs the login of an administrator when system files get updated – so entering your OS X admin account data is needed here.

What does the error “Rendering of data failed” mean?

This error shows up when processing EPS, PS or PDF files and CPSI does not get enough RAM to process the file. The system requirement is 1 GB RAM per core.

In my preview I have two control-strips next to each other but in my printout the control-strips they are underneath each other. Why?

As the preview is only showing placeholders for job-tickets and control-strips which may be different to the once which get printed the preview is not accurate for these items.

The wedges under my jobs in a nesting do not get printed – what did I do wrong?

When changing a setting for one control-strip in Job-Explorer please make sure to verify on the tab for the other control-strip that all values are displayed correctly as it may happen they get stored wrong if the tab does not get opened.

KNOWN ISSUES

General – Files not loaded

It is a limitation of the current product that we don't fully support files with special characters in their name. This results in files not appearing in the job list.

General – Error “Selected profile is invalid. Full Gamut.”

When using a 12-ink printer it is not possible to use one of the photo or fine art workflow templates. This is because for these templates XF uses the media profile as the destination. However, XF does not support profiles with more than 6 colors as the destination (5735, 9679).

Activation Wizard – Crash when started during Server start

When the Server is starting up and has no license, the Activation Wizard may crash when started. No license should be added during Server startup; The correct procedure is: 1) Shut down Server. 2) Add license. 3) Start Server.

Client – Nothing happens when creating a nesting

When creating a nesting with, for example, 20 jobs it takes approx. 30 seconds to create a manual nesting. This is a long time without any indication that something is actually happening. In a future release we may display an hourglass to show activity.

Client – Limited scroll wheel support

In the Windows Client the wheel has no effect in the job list, on Mac it has no effect in property inspector.

Client – Name selection not working

In the Client login dialog, the Server drop-down only contains the IP addresses of the servers in the same subnet – the Server names are not available. (9660)

Client - Proportional scaling gets lost after dragging image in the preview

The scale proportionally button resets (returns to non-proportional scaling state) after starting to drag corner of image, or any other mouse action on image. (11711)

Client – Uniform page scaling in metric only

The default scaling sizes are always shown in mm – they are not available in inches (8287).

Client – Window size and position not stored

The Client does not save the size of the application window or open tabs etc. (7991).

Client – Wrong print mode

When switching to another EPL/media the print mode on the Special tab does not get updated correctly so you get a warning sign on the Special tab (10794).

Client – Paper white not shown

The paper white simulation is applied to the job ticket and the space between job and job ticket. However, this is not reflected in the preview (9734).

Client – Save not directly available

After some actions the Save button is occasionally not enabled. The user has to perform some other action first to be able to save changes (9918, 11750, 8954).

Client – UI distorted

There seem to be a few rare situations when resizing, minimizing and maximizing the Client and/or the preview results in a distorted UI. Similar issues were seen after re-login to Server (i.e. after disconnect).

Color Manager – Wrong chart for light ink in solid

The curves displayed for black medium ink in solid (Advanced dialogue) is wrong for several printers. (11792)

Color Manager – Light and solid inks might get mixed up during the linearization of Canon printers

It is possible that Color Manager 4.0 will mix up light and solid inks for Canon printers and glossy / semi-glossy media. To prevent this (as a workaround) please open up and close the “Advanced” dialogue in the first step of

the linearization (“Setup”). This will immediately solve the problem that otherwise might occur in the following steps.

Color Manager – wrong decimal separator

Color Manager always needs a dot (“.”) as decimal separator – no matter which regional settings are selected.

Color Manager – OKI 9600 multilevel dithering mode

The dithering mode screening is available for OKI 9600 in Color Manager but is not supported for OKI 9600 multilevel driver (3745).

Color Verifier – One job with control strips for different devices

Using control strips for different measurement devices on one job is not supported.

Color Verifier – Nesting job not displayed

If a nesting is created with a sheet wedge and the sheet wedge shall be verified in Color Verifier, then please select any job within the nesting and click on "Verify" in Job Explorer on the "Verify" tab. Color Verifier will open up and you can measure the wedge. In order to send the result back to the client, you currently have to switch back to the Job Explorer, select the nesting itself (not any job) and click on "Verify" as well. Now the result can be sent back to the client.

Color Verifier - Measurement values of sheet control strips shown for page control strips

Within a nesting, Epson SpectroProofer is only able to measure sheet control strips (the control strip below the nesting), not page control strips. As a consequence the client will only show the measurement data for the sheet control strip. If "Verify" is clicked for either the sheet or page control strip, then Color Verifier opens and will show the sheet control strip measurement data for both the sheet control strip (correct) and the page control strip (not correct). Please ignore the measurement values for the page control strip, they are neither valid nor relevant for the verification of the nesting.

Dot Creator – No effect in control strip

The control strip does not get rastered when Dot Creator is in use (6025).

Dot Creator – Inaccurate preview

Various Dot Creator settings are not reflected in the preview – the preview will look the same (8135).

Job Monitor – Nesting not refreshed correctly

If you create a nesting in Job Explorer and then add more files, Job Monitor may not display the new jobs as part of the nesting (11628).

Mac Client – Properties scroll buttons point to wrong direction

The buttons to scroll through the tabs in the properties show an up and down arrow, but scroll right/left (10884).

Mac Server - License not detected

- If you have two Macs with the same name in the network this may result in license issues.
- When restarting a Mac running Mac OS X 10.3 in a DHCP-Server network environment, the licenses may not be found. If this happens, just restart XF using XF Control. The problem seems to be related to a DHCP setting. (11662)

Mac Server – System printer not usable for printer connection

The option “System printer” for a connection to a printer does not work on Mac (3550).

Nesting – Crop marks for nested jobs cannot be deselected

The crop marks reappear after the job is nested even if they have been removed initially (11348).

Nesting – Jobs not always placed correctly

In a nesting (filled space) that is automatically created after a specified time period has elapsed, jobs may not get positioned correctly on roll media (11804). The same thing happens when a combination of different features (e.g. crop marks, scaling, nesting) are applied. Clicking on “Refresh” on the Nesting tab does not remedy the problem (11891).

Nesting – jobs not getting placed with defined sheet size

When creating an automated nesting in a Workflow using GraCol-Template and with “fit to size” activated which is additionally using a custom sheets size which is smaller than the selected media size a nesting get’s created but the jobs do not get placed. Reason behind: using “fit to size” XF is always scaling the job to the media size and not the sheet size so the jobs are bigger than the sheet and cannot be placed.

Nesting –Possible to nest a tiling

Although not currently supported, it is possible to create a tiling in XF and then use the standard nesting functionality. To nest a tiling the option on the Tiling tab needs to be used (9756).

Printer – HP Designjet Z3200 with screening file - automatic linearization gets stuck

Creating a base linearization for the HP Designjet Z3200 using an spt file will fail because the Total Ink Limit Chart cannot be measured (11734).

RPF – Simulation profile rendering intend not loaded

The rendering intent of a simulation profile saved in the .rpf file is not applied when the .rpf file is imported in a workflow (11868).

Server – Crop marks printed wrong

When having a system with crop marks for page, Control strip for sheet plus verification and print label on Epson 9900 in some nesting crop marks were missing or truncated. Very rare seen in a nesting was also footer overlapping the job-ticket.

Virtual Printer – Not working if hotfolder is changed

To change the hotfolder for a virtual printer you need to deactivate the virtual printer first and then activate it again after you have changed the hotfolder. Otherwise the virtual printer will not behave correctly.

Windows 2003 Server / Vista / 2008 Server – Tools not launching

If any part of the XF application is not starting on Windows 2003 Server you have to add this as an exception for the "Data Execution Prevention". To do this, right click "My Computer"-> Properties -> Advanced. In the area "Performance" click on "Settings" then go to the tab "Data Execution Prevention". Select "Turn on DEP for all programs and services except those I select". Then, click on "Add", navigate to the exe-file of the application and select it.