DataBasics Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 3107
Bellevue Hill NSW 2023

Telephone (+61) 02 9362 1590
Facsimile (+61) 02 9362 1595
Email info@databasics.com.au
http://www.databasics.com.au
ABN 70 078 990 119

DataBasics

DataBasics Product Information
Imposition Publisher and CTP

We are frequently asked questions with regard to the suitability of Imposition Publisher at printing plants where CTP (computer-to-plate) is to be installed, in some cases for the first time but perhaps replacing an older Imagesetter. The questioner rightly may think that the newer technology will impose greater demands on the imposition software than the Imagesetter ever did? Correct up to a point, however, it depends purely on what manufacturers equipment is installed or proposed and which of the manufacturers options are being utilized.

For example, an Agfa Avantra 44 without punches fitted or activated is not complex in imposition terms — it's just big ! This statement is not intended to single out one manufacturers kit; it is applicable to all available prepress equipment whatever the source of manufacture. So consider this, is there any real difference between a CTP device and an Imagesetter with punches fitted, apart from the obvious one of the media that is exposed ? We would suggest that the answer is that no major differences exist between them. As we have been supplying Imposition Publisher to the graphic arts industry throughout the world for a decade, it is reasonable to expect that we have developed all the controls and tools necessary to accurately place an image on to photographic media, in exactly the spot that is required.

However, it could also be argued that Imposition Publisher is not sending files directly to a Postscript printer, plate or film, but to a Raster Image Processor (RIP) which relegates the CTP or Imagesetter purely to the role of a plotter. The controls and tools developed for Imposition Publisher were vital a few years ago when RIPs were at PS Level 1 and quite rudimentary by today's PS Level 3 standards. Nowadays most RIPs have a full set of tools and controls because the CTP manufacturers realized that they could not leave such important issues to pure chance and leave the printer to sort out software that would achieve, for example, the exact position of an image in relation to the edge of the printing plate. Typically, todays RIPs are set up to over-ride application settings in the vital areas of

- output resolution
- colour separation screen angles
- distance from image to edge of plate

to achieve consistent and repeatable results on plate after plate.

In today's competitive market we have installed Imposition Publisher with all CTP devices that have proved popular with printers worldwide. This ranges from simple devices exposing paper/plastic type plates for short-run, low quality work, up to aluminium litho plates in excess of B1 size. Irrespective of this the majority of CTPs fall into the B3 to B1 size range. The B3 category tends to be a mix of polyester plate devices and more recently metal plate whereas the B2 and B1 devices predominantly expose metal plates. Among the many CTPs that Imposition Publisher is used repeatedly with are

- B3 - Purup/Eskofot DPX; Highwater Platinum; Global Graphics Cirrus2; AB Dick DPM;
- B2 - Highwater Platinum; Heidelberg Signasetter; Western Lithotech Diamondsetter; Creo Trendsetter: Presstek; Screen PlateRite8
- B1 - Scitex Lotem/Dolev 800; FujiFilm Luxel 9600; ECRM TigerCat; Agfa Avantra 44; Global Graphics Titan

and not forgetting the ubiquitous

- SRA3 - Heidelberg DI

A few specific case histories:-

Moderna, Belgium

A large commercial printer with both commercial web-offset and sheetfed presses producing directories, mail order catalogues, newspaper and magazine supplements/inserts, etc. They installed a FujiFilm Luxel 9600 CTP line as they needed greater productivity and had exceeded the capacity of the existing Trendsetter. Imposition Publisher Studio Professional and PDF Native is customized to handle the output of the Fuji Celebrant RIP and workflow allowing the customer to achieve high throughput in handling PS and PDF files created both in-house and by their publisher clients.

Fyens Stiftstidende, Denmark

A newspaper publisher and contract printer producing a range of newspapers and magazines on rotary newspaper presses. Two copies of Imposition Publisher Page Pairer were originally installed on their Sun Microsystems Enterprise 750 Servers to produce film through their existing Monotype RIP s and Imagesetters. These were subsequently phased out by the first Western Lithotech Diamondsetter CTP line, followed in less than 12 months by a second identical installation. In-house publications are created in Quark Editorial System and output as PostScript while contract publications are transmitted over broadband links in either PS or PDF format.

Headley Brothers, Kent, UK

A large all-Heidelberg printer with sheet-fed plus a 24pp and 2 x 16pp web presses, producing a wide range of books, journals, magazines and commercial colour print jobs. Their first CTP was returned to the manufacturer due to lack of productivity through unreliability and replaced by a B1 Imagesetter. They currently have Scitex Dolev 800, ScanGraphic Apollo and ECRM Stingray; all B1 Imagesetters to which was added a Scitex Lotem B1 CTP about 12 months ago. ScenicSoft Preps was supplied by Scitex as the preferred imposition software for the Brisque Impose RIP. However, it s failure to process copydot files means that Imposition Publisher produces more plates on the Lotem than Preps does by a factor of around 4 to 1. For those too young to remember, Copydot files are the digital equivalent of camera-ready-copy in the sphere of short-run book reprints !

Bell and Bain, Glasgow, Scotland

A leading UK book and journal printer with Crabtree SP56 Perfectors and various other sheet-fed presses. They originally installed Imposition Publisher when they had ECRM VR46 s outputting film. From a single IP Studio copy they progressed to a 5-user IP Client Server and then later added a further 2 copies of IP PDF Native as more and more publishers were sending them PDF files. Earlier this year having taken the decision to upgrade to B1 equipment they were alarmed when they learned that Imposition Publisher, which they wanted to retain, was not a preferred imposition package for Agfa, Heidelberg, Scitex, Screen, *et al* who dominate the market. Nevertheless after discussion, when their choice was down to Fuji CelebraNT and one other Workflow they were pleased to learn that Imposition Publisher was compatible with both. A FujiFilm 9000 Sumo Imagesetter was subsequently installed as they had last minute doubts over certain aspects of the plate technology. It is planned that CTP will be installed in 2002/3 when these issues are resolved.
