

XF Rendering Server 2008

AFP Output Capabilities

Advanced Function Presentation™ (AFP™) is the industry-leading architecture for mission-critical transaction printing. It provides an end-to-end presentation solution that supports centralized resource management and high print volume and speeds.

Overview

Advanced Function Presentation™ (AFP™) is a page description language from IBM introduced in 1984 initially as Advanced Function Printing. It was first developed for mainframes and then brought down to minis and workstations. AFP is implemented on the various platforms by Print Services Facility (PSF) software, which generates the native IBM printer language, IPDS™ (Intelligent Printer Data Stream™), and depending on the version, PostScript and LaserJet PCL as well.

As originally conceived and developed, AFP was a system of architectures and processes aimed at printing documents on paper. It is still unparalleled in system management of printers and printer resources.

AFP consists of IPDS™ (Intelligent Printer Data Stream™) which is a bi-directional protocol used between PSF and the printer and MO:DCA-P™ (Mixed Object: Document Content Architecture-Presentation™) which describes the page layout.

MO:DCA-P™

MO:DCA-P™ is the Page Description Language file format that describes the text and graphics on a page. The 'Mixed Object' moniker refers to the fact that AFPDS™ can contain multiple types of objects, including text, images, barcodes, etc. This AFP data stream is comparable to PDF or PostScript.

Ecrion's Implementation

XF Rendering Server Document Generation Platform can generate MO:DCA-P™ documents which can be used for high-volume business output. The server can transform XML data into AFP output for viewing, archiving, further transformation, or printing. The software offers full composition support, including fonts, rules, and complex layouts. In addition, colors can be specified as black and white, highlight, RGB and CYMK. For very large jobs, page tagging and indexing is also possible.

The support for AFP extends XF Rendering Server's reach into the high-volume enterprise environment, where AFP is most prevalent. With the addition of AFP capabilities, the XF Rendering Server Document Generation Platform now supports all of the mainstream Print Definition Language (PDL) output formats, including PDF, XPS, Postscript and HTML for multi-channel delivery of personalized content.

XF Rendering Server AFP Capabilities:

- Use AFP raster/outline fonts, Adobe® Type1 and TrueType fonts
- Supports TIFF, JPEG, PNG, GIF and all major image formats
- Supports SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics)
- Bar code support
- Color support for all elements
- Hyphenation in 30+ languages
- Input Formats: **XSL-FO, HTML, WORDML/DOCX, SVG**
- Output Formats: **PDF, Postscript, XPS, PCL, TIFF, JPEG, AFP (MO:DCA-P™)** document

Benefits

Advanced Function Presentation™ (AFP™) is the industry-leading architecture for mission-critical transaction printing. It provides an end-to-end presentation solution that supports centralized resource management and high print speeds. Output integrity is integrated into the base architecture using formally architected error detection, reporting, and recovery mechanisms.

IBM's AFP platform is a published standard in the print industry for printing variable data at very high speeds with complete integrity. AFP incorporates other industry formats, including EPS, PDF, TIFF, GIF, JPEG, XML, XSL, PostScript, PCL to cover the entire range of text, image, graphics, process color, highlight color and monochrome printing.

Using AFP, users can control formatting, the form of paper output, whether a document is to be printed or viewed online, and manage document storage and access in a distributed network across multiple operating system platforms. AFP is primarily used in large enterprises with printer rooms and expensive high-speed printers.

AFP has long been the de-facto standard for monochrome transaction print because its technical foundation is tailored to the requirements of this industry:

- **Object-oriented format** supports parallel processing and data stream Manipulation
- **Architected error detection, reporting, and recovery** supports print Integrity
- **Outboard formatting** supports print re-purpose without changes to application printfile
- **Centralized resource management** supports automatic, efficient, nonredundant resource processing
- **High print speeds** supported by fast text, graphics, image objects and management of recurring resources

Conclusion

With the incorporation of AFP into the workstation and Operating System/400 (OS/400) environments, thousands of AFP installations now run on every major IBM platform. Xerox supports MO:DCA-P in its Printer Access Facility, XPAF.

XF Rendering Server 2008 is:

- Able to transform XML data into AFP output for viewing, archiving, further transformation, or printing
- Offering full composition support, including fonts, rules, and complex layouts; black and white, full color RGB, CYMK support for images and text
- Able to generate print-ready documents in **PDF, XPS, Postscript, HTML, JPEG, TIFF, AFP, INX** and more from one single source of content
- A scalable server architecture able to produce documents at high speed
- Able to generate signed and encrypted documents for secure distribution.

Microsoft, Windows, are trademarks, or registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. Adobe, Acrobat, Reader are registered trademarks or trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated in the United States and/or other countries. Intel and Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Visit [XF Rendering Server 2008](#) to find out more information about the product.

Last updated: February 2008.

Copyright© 2002-2008 Ecrion Software Inc. All Rights Reserved.

