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Information technology — Office equipment — Automated colour profile distribution

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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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Contents

Page

Foreword

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 28, *Office equipment*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

Introduction

This document applies to the distribution of print settings profiles to large format colour inkjet printers.

An important consideration of a printer controller for a colour printer is the ability to apply colour management. This is especially the case for commercial printing where the output products should be of sellable quality.

The process of colour management is typically accomplished through the use of print settings profiles, sometimes referred to as a “colour profile”.

A print settings profile is created by printing out swatches or charts, measuring them using colour measurement devices, and using the measurement data to generate the settings and calibration data.

Ideally a separate print settings profile should be created for each situation comprising of at least the following: type or make and model of the print medium; print mode; make and model and version of the controlling software; and environmental factors such as temperature and humidity. That is because each of these elements may substantively affect the content of the print settings profile. It can also be necessary to create a separate profile for intellectual property, licensing, or legal reasons.

However, it is not always possible or feasible to obtain a print settings profile through this method of printing and measurement because of issues with cost, time, expertise, etc.

Another way to obtain a profile is to download a pre-made one from the Internet. This typically involves browsing or manually searching for a profile, downloading it if it is available, then installing it in the printer controller if possible.

This document describes a method to acquire pre-made print settings profiles from the Internet in a more seamless and automated fashion. The primary benefit of this method is to save time and reduce the likelihood of error for the printer operators.

This method is especially useful for large format inkjet printers due to several reasons:

- they tend to be used for printing on a variety of print media;
- they typically already have printer controllers with sophisticated colour management;
- they typically have skilled operators;
- they are typically used for commercial purposes.

This method might apply to other types of printers as well, but it is not clear at the moment. There might be additional parts to this document that cover those types of printers at a later time.

In the future, there is a possibility that print settings profiles can be computationally generated for each situation through a combination of ‘big data’ and AI technologies, bypassing the need for pre-made profiles.

There is also a possibility that print settings profiles can factor in more situational parameters, such as different illuminant or observer conditions.

Information technology — Office equipment — Automated colour profile distribution

1 Scope

This document specifies a method of automated colour profile distribution to large format inkjet printers.

This document applies to digital colour printers and their printer controllers for which ICC colour management is necessary or desired. This document also applies to the print settings profile providers.

The extent of automation covered includes the printer controller acquiring information about the overall situation, connecting to a print settings profile provider on the Internet, determining the best possible profile to download (if it exists), and downloading and installation of the profile.

This document covers general concepts and procedures and does not go into a level of detail necessary to establish syntactic or semantic interoperability. This document covers ICC version 4 output profiles as specified by ISO 15076-1, but does not cover device link profiles.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
credential
private information required for authentication and authorization

3.2
automated
operated with minimal or no human intervention

3.3
colour management
communication of the associated data required for unambiguous interpretation of colour content data, and application of colour data conversions, as required, to produce the intended reproductions

Note 1 to entry: Colour content can consist of text, line art, graphics, and pictorial images, in raster or vector form, all of which can be colour managed.

Note 2 to entry: Colour management considers the characteristics of input and output devices in determining colour data conversions for these devices.

[SOURCE: ISO 15076-1:2010, 3.1.11]

3.4
print settings profile provider
software and hardware system designed to distribute *print settings profiles* (3.10)

3.5
complete print medium name
identifier for *print medium* (3.9) having unique reproduction characteristics

Note 1 to entry: This often includes the manufacturer brand and model brand name and may require additional qualifications.

3.6
ICC profile
digital file formatted in accordance with ISO 15076-1:2010

3.7
colourant set
identifier for colourants having unique reproduction characteristics

Note 1 to entry: Usually this often includes the manufacturer brand and model brand name and may require additional qualifications.

3.8
colourant setting
setting related to colourant restrictions or other colourant-related options as typically set in *printer controllers* (3.12)

3.9
print medium
material or sets of materials to be loaded into a printer and printed on

Note 1 to entry: The plural version of this term is print media.

3.10
print settings profile
digital file that is or contains an ICC output profile along with *colourant settings* (3.8) and optional additional metadata

3.11
print mode
mode of printing that usually implies some specific printer resolution and/or number of passes

3.12
printer controller
hardware, firmware, and software that collectively controls a printer, including managing colour

3.13
roll medium
medium in roll form

3.14
sheet medium
medium in rectangular sheet form that may be flexible, semi-rigid, or rigid

3.15
application programming interface
API
set of well-defined methods, functions, protocols, routines or commands which application software uses with facilities of programming languages to invoke services

Note 1 to entry: An API is available for different types of software, including Web-based system/ecosystem.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 23029:2020, 3.1]

4 Preliminary requirements

The printer controller shall be capable of applying a print settings profile to ensure intended colour reproduction.

The printer controller shall also be able to connect to and make a request to a server. It shall be able to download and store print settings profiles.

The print settings profile provider shall include all settings needed for colour management (besides the ICC output profile) in its print settings profiles. This can include but is not limited to individual and total ink limits, resolution, pass mode, and print direction.

5 Overall situation

5.1 Flow of information

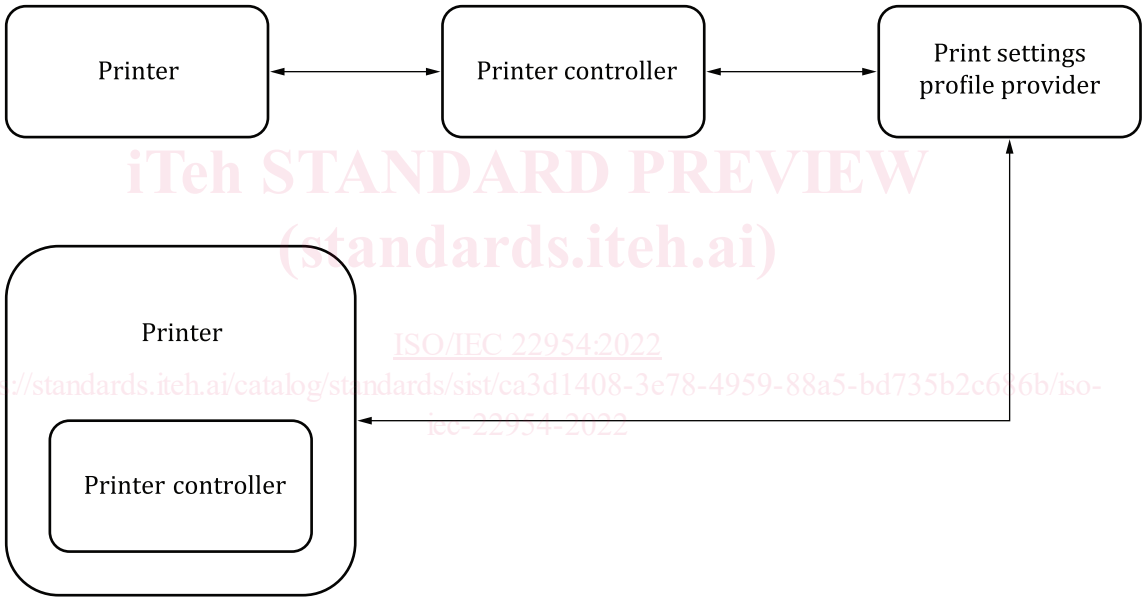

Figure 1 — Two arrangements for a printer controller

As shown in Figure 1, the printer controller can be external to a printer or it can be within a printer. The arrows indicate the flow of information to and from each entity.

The printer controller shall have information about the overall situation it is in, in order to effectively communicate to a print settings profile provider.

5.2 Medium identification

The complete print medium name of the medium loaded into the printer shall be either found automatically by or specified manually into the printer controller.

NOTE 1 In some cases, a roll medium has an identification device or chip attached to the inside of its core.

NOTE 2 In some cases, a sheet medium is packaged with a machine-readable identification label, device or chip.

5.3 Colourant identification

The colourant set loaded into the printer shall be either found automatically by or specified manually into the printer controller.

NOTE In most cases, the cartridge, bag, or other container containing the colourant contains identification information for the colourant set.

5.4 Printer controller identification

The printer controller shall have information about its version and the version information of any constituent components, such as firmware, printer driver, and raster image processing engine, where available.

5.5 Environment

The printer controller should provide information about the atmospheric environment, such as temperature, relative humidity, and barometric pressure, where such information is available.

6 Communicating with a print settings profile provider

The printer controller shall identify and include the URI for one or more print settings profile providers to communicate with. This information should be checked regularly and updated when necessary.

NOTE Multiple print settings profile providers can be handled in various ways. Through pre-defined custom rules, the printer controller can choose only one of the providers to contact. These rules can take into account such factors as the complete print medium name and the colourant set.

Alternatively, the printer controller can concurrently contact all print settings profile providers at once. How to handle results from multiple providers is described in 8.3.

The printer controller may provide information used for identification or authentication purposes, such as credentials, serial number, etc. to at least one of the print settings profile providers.

Communication shall be established between the printer controller and the print settings profile provider, including any identification and authentication that is required. The information described in Clause 5 shall then be submitted to the print settings profile provider(s).

7 Requirements for a print settings profile provider

7.1 API endpoint

The print settings profile provider shall provide an API endpoint on the internet that a printer controller may communicate with.

7.2 Authentication and authorization

The print settings profile provider may authenticate an API call based on the printer controller's sent identity and/or authentication information.

Based on any identity information given, the print settings profile provider may then determine what data the printer controller is authorized to be given. This would be based on the print settings profile provider's business logic. That business logic in turn may be based on a pre-defined contractual agreement between the print settings profile provider and the printer controller's manufacturer.