



WebFlow

Effective workflow available for WebProof users

Save costs through increased automation, fewer repetitive tasks, standardised processes and fewer human errors. WebFlow lets you initiate and control the movement and renaming of files from A to B between different systems; for example, to/from WebProof and your front-end MIS system, and to/from WebProof and your back-end printing systems (for Split, Preflight, RIP sequence, etc.)

The animated workflow can be shown on a huge flat screen, visible to everybody in the production area. This includes an automatic alert when a stoppage occurs; for example, after a preset time of e.g. 5 seconds. WebFlow works together with most preflight, imposition, RIPping and other workflows.

With the WebFlow and WebProof traditional interface, your client or graphic designer can make corrections directly, via the internet, to the original InDesign document, and everything is logged.

WebFlow is useful not only for managing PDF graphic files but also for any other types of files that these systems need. This means you can design an automated set-up for projects or jobs that will run through your entire order/design/print process. When one person's input or an electronic process is complete, the project automatically moves on to the next step.

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| Auto-change in WebProof and WebFlow | This facility includes response/status changes in WebProof made by clients, Express users or others, and automatic movement or copying of files to other folders/processes. |
| Auto-create project | When new ads or other jobs appear in your ad booking system, WebFlow can initiate new ad projects in WebProof or from another MIS system – with the same name and details! There is no need for manual creation of new ads or jobs in the system. |
| Email connector | E-mail Connector lets WebFlow extract PDFs and other designated file types from POP3 email accounts and attach them to pages or ads in WebProof or save them in your file system. Regular Expressions are used to identify which emails are of interest and to extract other important information from them. |
| FTP-connector | WebFlow includes FTP functionality (receive/send), which means that when a client approves a page or a project in WebProof, for example, all high-resolution PDF files (or other files) are automatically sent to the printer/supplier. |
| Portal-connector* | This is a webpage where your customers can upload data into WebProof. It is an easy, streamlined way of receiving data into your workflow and an efficient alternative to email or FTP. Contact WebProof for prices for setting up and programming the Portal. |
| Clustering/backup* | This enables active-standby clustering of the WebFlow server on your premises. WebFlow writes all data and configuration information to a standby server, so the second server can take over if your primary server fails. |
| Mirror/Synchronise* | Mirror/Synchronise maintains real-time mirroring of your file system structure at another location. |
| Split/merge PDF pages | WebFlow can merge or split any PDF pages, which in many situations is a highly useful facility. |
| Preflight | WebFlow works alongside all types of preflight programs such as PitStop, OneVision, Azura, etc. and automatically attaches a preflight report to the error page and sends email notification to the client or others. |
| Merge PDF from different PDF files* | This lets you merge black text from a four-colour PDF with the black colour in a neutral PDF. If you want to send a 'blueprint' of a four-colour + text, all you need to do is drop the files into WebFlow. |
| Converting most file formats to PDF | WebFlow can receive most file formats and convert them into other file formats. For example, it can convert all forms of bitmaps to PDFs, which means no special output unit is needed on the RIP to produce PDFs. All that is needed is a system to send the TIFF files, etc. |
| Filename conversion, suffix, prefix etc. | WebFlow has the facility to change the file name automatically when one system delivers a file with a particular name, but another system requires another kind of file name. WebFlow will insert time-stamp or counter, replace, change or add prefix; change/add suffix, etc. |
| Distiller control available | From WebFlow you can control all distillation options. |
| Automatic zipping | Both zipping and unzipping files/folders are inbuilt functions within WebFlow. |
| Auto-start of other software from WebFlow | If one application in the workflow freezes or stops working for any reason, WebFlow can be set up to restart the software that halted the proofing process automatically. |
| PDF generated from InDesign | Simply drop an InDesign file into a WebFlow folder and it will automatically generate a PDF. |
| Multi-distribution of files | Multi-distribution of files/ads to different newspapers/printers etc. occurs via prefix lists, project codes, etc. |
| Placing watermark | To copyright a design, WebFlow can automatically embed a watermark into a PDF. |

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| Big Brother SMS/email alert | If, for any reason, internal WebFlow processes or other external software on the network are not functioning smoothly, WebFlow will automatically send an email, SMS, sound or light alert after a definable number of seconds. |
| Extensive logging | Every step a file takes in the workflow is logged, and all errors are also logged, so it is easy to track the progress of a file through the workflow and to track errors. |
| Control external programs | WebFlow can call external programs either through the command line via scripting. |
| Backup all versions of a file | WebFlow has simple version control that can store different versions of a file. |
| Automatic retry | If an action in WebFlow fails, WebFlow will automatically retry the action; e.g. if an external server that WebFlow copies files to goes offline, no files are lost instead, and they are copied to the server once it comes online again. |
| Mac file info is preserved | Both OSX and OS9 file information (resource forks) is preserved through the flow. |
| Automatic notification | At any point in a workflow, WebFlow can send a notification to external programs/MIS that a file has passed that step in the workflow. |
| Image Database | <p>Image Database has the advantage of making images available to all its WebProof users, including its clients and other users external to their organisation. WebFlow manages all the high-resolution images locally and transfers a low-resolution version to WebProof. All ITPC metadata is also transferred and can be searched and sorted in WebProof in whichever way you prefer. We have seen image database functions used in a variety of ways by our clients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One client saves logos and images from previous projects for later use. • Another client first assembles everything in one folder when starting a new project, as typically there are many images to choose from initially. • A third client produces advertising material that frequently requires reuse of images from a collection such as logos, branded images, generic images, etc. • All three clients can find their images quickly, and then their clients and designers can locate the correct images equally quickly, wherever they are. |
| FileMaker-connector* | WebFlow can connect to FileMaker and transfer order-related data to WebProof. Many companies have developed their own MIS system in FileMaker that WebFlow can integrate into. |
| XML-connector* | WebFlow and WebProof can receive an XML file from other software and select the action to take; for example, attaching the information to specific pages or ads. Such stored XML data values are then searchable in WebProof. For example, with just an agency name, consultant's name, or order number, etc., you can find projects and pages that received this data. |
| AdBase/Medienet/Mpress connector* | You can import PDF and DSC files from the Ritzaus Medienet media server and upload to WebProof, including meta data contained in the DSC file. |
| Additional WebFlow* | Multiple instances of WebFlow can connect to the same instance of WebProof, which can be useful when outsourcing graphics work or when you have multiple, geographically distant branch offices. Because WebFlow supports network folders and FTP, you can even let WebFlow control and manage production across multiple offices, over WAN or the internet – it's up to you. |

Animated workflow on production screen

The workflow is animated, always shows where files are and what is going on, and includes flashing error icons, etc. This workflow overview, including external processes, is often displayed on a huge flat screen in the production area.

Security

WebFlow supports SSL/TSL and passive connections, which means that WebFlow can run behind firewalls.

InDesign Correction

Having WebFlow on your local network, combined with WebProof, makes it possible for the editor/proofreader to make corrections through the traditional WebProof interface, directly in the original InDesign files. You can decide who shall have access to this unique feature. This can save you considerable time and money.

Compability with other workflow systems

WebFlow is hot-folder-based and works together with all other workflows such as AGFA Delano, CREO, FUJIFILM Celebrant/XMF, KODAK Prinergy or Insite, HEIDELBERG Prinect, ESKO ARTWORK, Switch Enfocus, Puzzleflow, FotoWare Distribution Manager, OCE, Markzware, XITRON Navigator Elite, SCREEN Through Flow etc.

* All functions are available in the WebFlow module and only require setup of the workflow (input/output folders, filenames etc.), except for Portal, Clustering, Mirror, Merging layers in PDF, Multiple WebFlow, and XMLconnector, which are customer-specific – contact WebProof for prices for customisation, when the set-up is performed by WebProof.