



Print Solutions from Atac

Newsletter for Asia Pacific Region

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More information at...

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Bluecrest Releases Output Manager 4.0

Bluecrest has announced the release of Output Manager 4.0, available now as a free update to existing customers with a current Maintenance Contract.

This release provides the following new features:

- PDF metadata support – Support for document metadata has been added to both PDF input and PDF output clients. Metadata can now be preserved in a PDF-to-PDF workflow and is able to be extracted in Output Enhancement
- PDF Stamp and FreeText Annotation – PDF text, Stamp & FreeText Annotations can now be extracted in Output Enhancement
- Job Submit Time – A new text parameter, SUBMITTIME, representing Job Submit time, has been added to Output Enhancement
- Barcode recognition Quality Setting – The recognition speed of high-quality barcodes can now be improved by setting the Output Enhancement QualitySetting parameter to HighPerformance
- PDF Input preprocessor improved – The PDFIN_PREPROCESSOR command has three new values: RESAVE, REPARSE, OPTIMISE, which provide greater flexibility in repairing some issues in PDF input data
- AFP multipage TIFF support – Support for multipage TIFF in AFP Object Containers has been added in AFP input
- Black point compensation – A new command ICC_BLACK_POINT_COMPENSATION has been introduced to control black point compensation in LCMS colour management
- Windows Server 2025 support – Microsoft Windows Server 2025 support has been added to Output Manager. Refer to the Installation Guide for a list of supported systems
- Performance improvements – Various performance improvements have been introduced to the MERGE client
- Java 21 UI – The Output Manager user interface has been migrated from Java 8 to Java 21
- x64-bit migration – Many Output Manager modules have been migrated to and are now only available in 64-bit versions
- Obsolete modules removed – IDS Output, VXX Output, CheckHW, FRMLook, JDLDump, Kodak Colour Management System (Kodak CMS) & LGO Look have been removed from Output Manager

This is a major release of Output Manager, numbered 4.0. The next major release will be 5.0. Maintenance releases will be 4.1, 4.2 etc.

Contact Atac to discuss / obtain OM 4.0 today.

Output Manager – Substituting Outline fonts for Bitmap (PDF only)

Output Manager supports both Bitmap fonts (Type 3) and Vector fonts (Type 1, Type 2, Type 9 and Truetype).

Bitmap fonts are defined as a fixed character grid; when scaled they are “blocky” and curved surfaces are “stepped”.

Vector fonts are defined as points and algorithms; when scaled curved surfaces remain smooth, regardless of resolution.

Normal output from Output Manager is Bitmap, but in some circumstances Vector fonts can be passed through. If Postscript or PDF source files contain Vector fonts, then the profile command `PS/PDFIN_CREATE_OUTLINE_VDFS=YES` passes the Vector fonts through to OM’s intermediate VDF format.

Similarly, the profile commands `PS/PDFOUT_FONT_FORMAT=OUTLINE` and `PS/PDFOUT_STANDARD_FONT_FORMAT=OUTLINE` allow the VDF Vector fonts to be passed to the output file.

But what if you have a PDF which has Bitmap fonts, and you want to use Vector fonts in the output?

PDF-OUT (only) supports Font Mapping for this purpose. First you run the job with the profile command `PDF_FONT_MAPPING=path\mapfile.fmt`. PDFOUT prompts you, then creates `mapfile.fut`, a “best-guess” mapping file from Bitmap fonts encountered to suggested Vector font replacements.

You need to copy `mapfile.fut` to `mapfile.fmt`, then uncomment the Bitmap to Vector mappings you want enabled. The `mapfile` shows the source Bitmap font, the first location in the document where this is encountered, and the suggested Outline font replacement.

Removing the leading “*” enables the substitution.

Re-running the job with `mapfile.fmt` present produces output with Vector fonts substituted for Bitmap fonts.

There are other options to control point-size, character maps etc., all of which are documented within the `mapfile.fut` initially produced.

Now you can add value to Bitmap PDF input files, producing Vector PDF output files of higher quality.

Contact Atac for assistance with PDF Font Mapping, any time.

More information at...

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Need to change how you print?

If you're about to change the way you print, Output Manager (OM) can make it easier, regardless of the type of change or level of complexity.

You can eliminate or reduce the changes needed both locally and at the host by using OM to transform the printstream or its contents to suit your requirements.

Output Manager integrates smoothly with your current operations, and a hot-folder in / hot-folder out implementation ensures full automation. Integration is especially easy for customers with existing **Barr BHCS** systems as OM runs under the same OS as **BHCS**. OM can even run on the same physical or virtual PC, avoiding the need for additional hardware.

OM is ideally suited to printstream changes of any kind, including:

- Moving to a new printer with a different input PDL, different resolution capabilities, or different resource requirements
- Moving from cut-sheet printing to continuous / web printing (or the reverse)
- Providing cut-sheet redundancy for continuous jobs, with barcode replacement and page sizing as appropriate
- Migrating from mono or traditional colour to full digital colour printing
- Creating electronic copies of some or all documents for archive or electronic delivery
- Eliminating pre-printed stationery – no more stock warehousing and paper conditioning

With both a standard transform engine and a custom-scripting capability, OM can handle any level of complexity:

- Any-to-any transformation of PDLs and their resources (Metacode, AFP, Postscript, VPS, PDF, PCL, IPDS, IJPDS, XML, TIFF)
- Merging of jobs with different PDLs
- Adding variable electronic overlays and/or variable transpromo content
- Formatting full-colour bleed-areas
- Layout and imposition for continuous printing
- Sorting output into delivery "walking" sequence, with DPID barcode addition and complete postal manifest production
- Complete document re-engineering for mergers and acquisitions, (logo replacements, font standardisation etc.)
- Virtual insertions with personalised content, edge to edge in full colour

Atac has been implementing these solutions for over 25 years.

We offer free analysis & advice, proofs-of-concept, and fully supported on-site trials.

If you're looking at changing the way you print, contact Atac.

Q & A

Q. We are upgrading our BHCS PC from Windows 10 to Windows 11. Is BHCS 7.3.1.22 compatible with Windows 11 LTSC?

A. Yes, BHCS is compatible with all versions of Windows 11, as well as Server 2019, 2022 and 2025.

Q. Is Output Manager compatible with SQL Server, via ODBC?

A. Yes, OM is compatible with SQL Server, using ODBC 64-bit interface on the local machine. SQL is defined to ODBC-64, then OM can issue calls to open/login/read/write/query SQL via ODBC. This is the case whether SQL is located on the local PC or a remote machine.

Q. OM is very slow when processing PDF files containing PNG graphics, where TIFF graphics are much faster. A PDF with 300,000 PNG graphics took 8 hours to process, whereas the same file with TIFF images took 15 minutes.

A. The issue was present in OM 3.3.15 and fixed in 3.3.16, which now processes both types of images at the same pace; around 15 minutes. Handling of duplicated images has also been enhanced considerably.

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