

EFI Fiery JDF Connector

Businesses Work Faster and More Efficiently by Bridging the Communications Gap among their Creative, Production and Print Management Equipment

As part of its customer commitment to open, market-leading technology, EFI™ has developed the EFI Fiery® JDF Connector (FJC). The complimentary add-on solution works with EFI Fiery and JDF-enabled solutions to connect companies' creative, production and print management solutions for faster and more efficient digital production and business processes.

Why is FJC Important to the Print Industry?

FJC is based off of CIP4's industry-standard Job Definition Format technology (JDF), which facilitates real-time movement of job details such as production times, media instructions, customer information, specific delivery instruction and the buyers' intent particular to job production. It optimizes each solution by simplifying the information exchange between different applications and systems throughout companies' IT infrastructure. To ensure that the technology meets today and tomorrow's marketplace needs, EFI serves as a key partner member of CIP4, a non-profit association that brings together companies, consultants and end-users in print communications, graphic arts and other associated industries to study and define future JDF requirements.

Why Use FJC integration into the Fiery Server?

The EFI Fiery JDF connector moves job instruction detail such as customer information, specific delivery instruction and the buyers' intent particular to job production. It does these tasks by transforming graphic arts professional's print production definition (e.g., intent) for a particular job into print processing instruction. It then carries this job intent and instructions from concept to completion.

- Cuts down on manual tasks such as entries and re-entry of meta data.
- Streamlines workflow by having print buyers submit product descriptions directly to the Fiery server, saving precious time.
- Automates data collection, saving overhead costs. It also makes the billing process faster and more accurate and offers detailed data collection that is not feasible on a manual system.
- Reduces operator error because FJC programmatically allows customers to specify the customer-supplied artwork PDL files, decreasing the chances of printing the wrong file.
- Delivers advanced job management capabilities by enabling jobs submitted to the Fiery server to be registered into your EFI Print MIS. This connectivity allows for more efficient business processes such as precise accounting. It also permits EFI Print MIS solutions to define and submit jobs to the Fiery server without being bound to specific content. In addition, it provides late content binding, instantaneous job and device tracking and pre-and-post calculations on graphic arts jobs.

In doing so, FJC achieves the following benefits:

Example of Adobe Acrobat 7 and 8 Connectivity to Fiery via FJC

With the Adobe Acrobat 7 or 8/Fiery integration via the FJC, businesses receive significant return on their equipment investment because each solution is fully utilized, and job details move through their IT infrastructure faster and more efficiently.

In this example, the user chooses Adobe Acrobat to send a job intended for the Fiery to the FJC server module. The operator uses the FJC client utility remotely connected to the FJC server module to provide information to the job (e.g., media) then instructs the server module to send the job to the Fiery. This process is totally automated by the FJC, unless there is a problem translating the job ticket, or job data is missing.

Once the FJC server module has sent the job to the Fiery, the operator can do any necessary pre-production actions on the job with EFI Command Workstation®. Once the job is printed, the operator also can use the FJC client utility to resolve any outstanding job closing flags (e.g., actual media used, etc.) and then instruct the FJC server module to close the job.

The FJC server module then writes all job ticket updates, status and return information and returns the job production data to the EFI Print MIS solution or other submitting tool. At this point, the job is removed from the FJC job list.

Why Use EFI Print MIS to Fiery Integration?

Over 10,000 businesses use EFI Print MIS solutions today to manage their printing operations. There also are more than 1.4 million EFI Fiery controllers worldwide to drive digital production. The EFI Fiery JDF Connector allows users to maximize companies' current equipment by integrating their EFI Print MIS solutions with their existing production equipment, so managers, customer service representatives and sales people have real-time access to accurate job details and business processes and can FJC provides a seamless link between companies' EFI Print MIS and digital printing systems that exchange vital information with the production process without any operator handling, dramatically

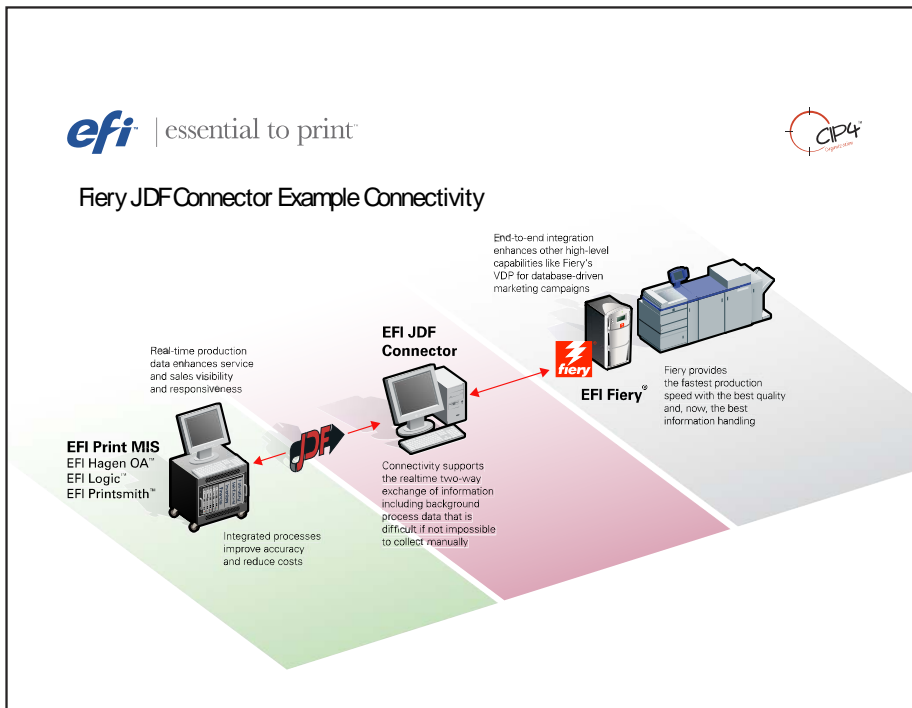
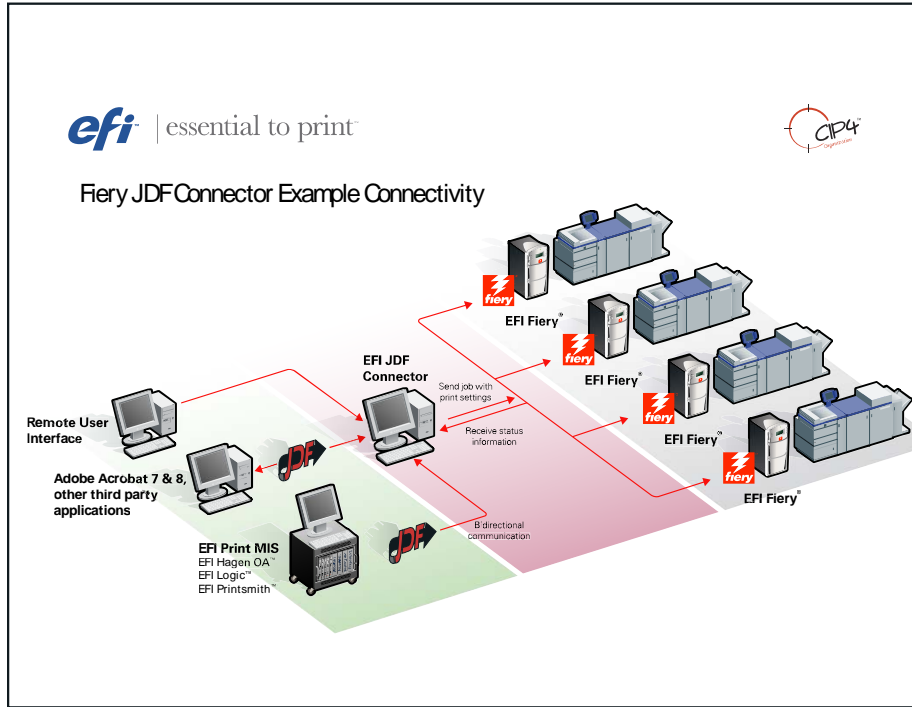
decreasing the typical production delays and non-chargeable rework associated with operator experience and error.

The connector's value begins with the collection of job data during the specification and estimating process. The EFI Print MIS passes this information from these processes into order entry and job planning to form the foundation for the production process. FJC moves this information from the Print MIS into the Fiery. As the work proceeds, process information is collected and reported back to the management system, giving staff instant access to accurate and detailed job status.

The integration benefits include:

- Improves customer retention: An integrated system increases customer satisfaction by helping them stay on schedule and budget and by providing them with accurate insight into their job status. Eliminate re-keying of information: Since data is shared throughout job estimating, order entry, planning, scheduling and production via a single datasheet, the production process is tighter and more accurate.
- Respond to industry trends quickly: Industry trends typically require shorter runs and lead times, making integration essential for higher profitability. Integration also helps businesses plan for and execute optimum performance and to decrease production delays.
- Reducing spoilage: Improved communication ensures that users print the right job the first time in a market where spoilage costs often cut into profit. Process integration delivers a positive impact on the bottom line.
- Handles repeat work faster and more accurately. FJC accomplishes this task by using archived production data.

The diagrams below demonstrates how FJC makes communication within print operations more efficient.



The dataset below provides an example of the type of information that is being exchanged among the EFI Fiery JDF Connector, the Fiery and an EFI Print MIS solution.

Dataset Example

EFI Print MIS into Fiery	Fiery to EFI Print MIS
Job ID	Job ID
Job description	Equipment description
Work type	Operator
Work details	Actual start time
Priority	Actual stop time
Start/stop	Production time
Customer ID, name and information	Production operation
Approval guidelines	Quantity completed
Sizes, pages, up, layout folios	Equipment settings
Substrate information	Operator comments
More...	More...