

EFI Metrix Release Notes

Version 21.1.0.555

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EFI Metrix 21.1 | *EFI Metrix Release Notes*

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## Welcome to Metrix 21.1

EFI Metrix is an industry-leading job planning engine that transforms big data into actionable data in the most proven end-to-end integrated solution with a holistic view into manufacturing. With over 1,200 Metrix users in 25 countries and 13 years of continuous, aggressive development, Metrix is recognized as the de facto industry standard for dynamic, intelligent production planning, and automated imposition. Metrix 21.1 introduces new features and enhancements and addresses issues found in previous releases.

### Contact Information

#### EFI Support

<b>Web Site:</b>	<a href="https://communities.efi.com">communities.efi.com</a>
<b>US Phone:</b>	1.855.EFI.4HLP (1.855.334.4457)
<b>UK Phone:</b>	+44 (0) 800.783.2737
<b>EU Phone:</b>	+49.2102.745.4500

**E-Mail:** [metrix.support@efi.com](mailto:metrix.support@efi.com)

Metrix Support hours are 8AM CET to 5pm ET Monday – Friday. You may contact support at the above numbers or via our customer portal at [communities.efi.com](https://communities.efi.com).

**Note** For problems involving infrastructure (e.g., computers, networks, operating systems, backup software, printers, third-party software, etc.), contact the appropriate vendor. EFI cannot support these types of issues.

#### EFI Professional Services

<b>US Phone:</b>	(651) 365-5321
<b>US Fax:</b>	(651) 365-5334
<b>E-Mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:ProfessionalServicesOperations@efi.com">ProfessionalServicesOperations@efi.com</a>

**Notes** EFI Professional Services can help you perform EFI software installations, upgrades, and updates. This group can also help you implement, customize, and optimize your EFI software plus offer a range of training options.

# System Requirements

Please ensure your system is running one of the supported operating systems listed below before beginning the installation process.

**Metrix 21.1 system requirements:**

- Metrix 21.1 requires 64-bit systems. It will **not** run on 32-bit systems.
- Metrix now supports Mac OS 11\* and OS X 10.15 (Catalina)

**Notes** \*Metrix now uses a different PDF renderer for creating previews. On Mac OS 11, there were performance issues with the old renderer. The new one does not have a negative impact on performance, but the quality of the previews is not as good, especially for text. Contact Metrix Support if this is problematic for you; they can provide instructions on how to force Metrix to use the old PDF renderer.

Microsoft has ended support for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 effective January 14, 2020, so Metrix 21.1 does not support these platforms. We recommend you upgrade your system to Metrix current minimum system requirements.

For more information on the installation process, please see the *EFI Metrix 21.1 Installation Guide*.

**Windows Minimum System Requirements for Metrix 21.1**

<i>Processor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intel compatible</li> <li>• Minimum 2-core and 4-thread processor for rectangular products</li> <li>• Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Irregular Shape products</li> <li>• Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Super Wide Format</li> <li>• Recommended: 8-core and 16-thread</li> </ul>
<i>Processor Speed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.8 GHz minimum</li> </ul>
<i>Windows Operating System</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microsoft Windows 10.x (64-bit)</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows 8.x (64-bit)</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows Server 2019 (64-bit)</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows Server 2017 (64-bit)</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows Server 2016 (64-bit)</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 (64-bit)</li> <li>• Microsoft SQL Server 2014 SP3 and SP4 (64-bit)</li> <li>• Microsoft SQL Server 2016, 2017, and 2019</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b> Metrix no longer supports Microsoft Windows 7.x or Windows Server 2008.</p>
<i>Memory</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metrix Client – 4 GB RAM</li> <li>• Metrix Data Server – 2 GB RAM</li> <li>• Automation Server Pro – 16 GB RAM (Minimum) to 4 GB RAM per CPU Core (64 GB RAM Maximum)</li> <li>• Automation Server Enterprise – 64 GB RAM (Minimum) to 4 GB RAM per CPU Core (256 GB RAM Maximum)</li> <li>• Automation Server with Non-Rectangular module – 8 GB RAM (Minimum) and 1 Dual-core Processor (Minimum)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automation Server with Display Graphics/Media Optimization/Super Wide Format – 16 GB RAM (Minimum) (32 GB RAM and 16-core, 32-thread processor or better recommended)</li> <li>eFlow License Manager – 256 MB RAM</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you use the Content Previews module, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 6 GB with 8 GB or more recommended.</li> <li>The Content Previews module is processor intensive, so a fast multi-core processor is recommended. If PDF content is being accessed across a LAN, gigabit network speeds are recommended when accessing large content files.</li> <li>If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 16 GB.</li> <li>If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization with a Super Wide Format, a 16-core processor is recommended.</li> </ul>
<i>Monitor Resolution</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1280 x 1024 or higher</li> </ul>
<i>Network (multi-user)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Static IP address for the Data Server, eFlow License Manager, and Automation Server. Automation Server runs as a service and needs a local administration account.</li> </ul>

**Mac OS X Minimum System Requirements for Metrix 21.1**

<i>Processor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Core 2 Duo</li> <li>Minimum 2-core and 4-thread processor for rectangular products</li> <li>Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Irregular Shape products</li> <li>Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Super Wide Format</li> <li>Recommended: 8-core and 16-thread processor</li> </ul>
<i>Processor Speed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.8 GHz minimum</li> </ul>
<i>Macintosh Operating System</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OS 11 (Big Sur) (*see <b>Note</b> above)</li> <li>OS X 10.15 (Catalina)</li> <li>OS X 10.14 (Mojave)</li> <li>OS X 10.13 (High Sierra)</li> <li>OS X 10.12 (Sierra)</li> <li>OS X 10.11.x (El Capitan)</li> <li>OS X 10.10.x (Yosemite)</li> <li>OS X 10.9.x (Mavericks)</li> <li>Microsoft SQL Server 2014 SP3 and SP4 (64-bit)</li> <li>Microsoft SQL Server 2016, 2017, and 2019</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eFlow LIM v. 8.1.81051.20 and later is supported on Mac OS X 10.15 (Catalina) and OS 11 (Big Sur). Earlier versions of eFlow LIM will run only on Mac OS X 10.12 (Sierra) through OS X 10.14 (Mojave).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metrix requires Java 11. Metrix installs and uses this version internally, regardless of the Java version that is installed on the computer.</li> <li>• If you use the Content Previews module, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 6 GB with 8 GB or more recommended.</li> <li>• The Content Previews module is processor intensive, so a fast multi-core processor is recommended. If PDF content is being accessed across a LAN, gigabit network speeds are recommended when accessing large content files.</li> <li>• If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 16 GB.</li> <li>• If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization with a Super Wide Format, a 16-core processor is recommended.</li> </ul>
<i>Memory</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metrix Client – 4 GB RAM</li> <li>• Metrix Data Server – 2 GB RAM</li> <li>• eFlow License Manager – 256 MB RAM</li> </ul>
<i>Monitor Resolution</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1280 x 1024 or higher</li> </ul>
<i>Network (multi-user)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Static IP address for the Data Server and eFlow License Manager.</li> </ul>

## Licensing

Upgrade your eFlow License Manager to the latest version to ensure optimum performance and security. The installers can be found on <https://www.efi.com/marketing/productivity-software/downloads/metrix-installers/>.

**Notes** eFlow LIM v. 8.1.81051.20 and later is now supported on Mac OSX 10.15 (Catalina) and Mac OS 11 (Big Sur).

If you are installing eFlow LIM on any version of Mac OS X, see the *EFI Metrix 21.1 Installation Guide* for instructions and important information.

## New Features

For detailed information and usage instructions on the new features and enhancements introduced in Metrix 21.1, see *EFI Metrix 21.1 What's New* and the *EFI Metrix 21.1 User Guide*.

### New in 21.1.0.530

- **Mac OS 11 (Big Sur)**

Metrix 21.1.0.530 now support Mac OS 11 (Big Sur).

Metrix now uses a different PDF renderer for creating previews. On Mac OS 11, there were performance issues with the old renderer. The new one does not have a negative impact on performance, but the quality of the previews is not as good, especially for text. Contact Metrix Support if this is problematic for you; they can provide instructions on how to force Metrix to use the old PDF renderer.

## New in 21.1

- **New algorithms: Media Optimization and Display Graphics**

Metrix 21.1 introduces two new algorithms for calculating Metrix layouts: Media Optimization and Display Graphics.

- **Digital presses**

There is a new press property that allows you to designate a press as “digital.”

- **Changes to Auto Plan dialog and “Automatic” algorithm**

With the introduction of Display Graphics and Media Optimization algorithms in Metrix 21.1, the layout of the Auto Plan dialog and the behavior of Metrix when the selected Algorithm is “Automatic” have changed.

- **Ganging Style layout and component view**

When viewing layouts and components as “ganging style,” the Product ID now appears on the component.

- **Copying components from one layout to another**

It is now possible to copy components from one layout to another in the Project Explorer.

- **Irregular Shape products using Media Box or Trim Box**

Metrix 21.1 supports creating Irregular Shape products that use the Media Box or Trim Box as the Cutting contour line, allowing you to make rectangular products that can be planned on the same layout as non-rectangular products.

- **Auto Plan Sort Order**

There is the new **Sheet Area Use** option for sorting layouts.

- **No Ink is Blank Page**

There is the new **No ink is Blank Page** option for handling pages that are “Unassigned” and have no Planned Colors that allows Metrix to treat them the same as “Blank” pages. (Issue Reference: 15345)

- **Layout Tooltips**

You can now view tooltips on layouts to see the product component information when it is otherwise not readable.

- **UV Inks**

Support for UV inks and coatings was added in a Metrix 21.2 hot fix. If there are incompatibilities in the project regarding ink types, relevant messages will appear in the Auto Plan dialog.

- **Snap to Sheet for Irregular Shape products**

Irregular shape and die-cut products planned without die-tool geometry now snap to the edges of the sheet. Snapping trim-to-trim is not supported for Irregular Shape products.

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## Key Fixes in 21.1.0.555

- Adding new Flat Product Page IDs**  
 The issue with not being able to add a new Flat Product Page ID to the database has been fixed. (Issue Reference: 16036, 16041)
- Variable text used as Flat Folio Page ID**  
 When a variable text mark such as <Product.Name> is used as a Flat Product Page ID, it now resolves correctly. (Issue Reference: 16036, 16040)
- Detection of improperly constructed Irregular Shape content files**  
 In some cases, Metrix was not correctly detecting incomplete or improperly constructed contour lines when creating Irregular Shape products. (Issue Reference: 16021)
- “Produce requested quantity” errors when planning some Irregular Shape products together**  
 When planning certain projects containing two or more Irregular Shape products using the Classic algorithm, insufficient sheets were being created. This issue has been fixed. (Issue Reference: 16021, 16051, 16022)
- Resized file marks used in a Mark Set are incorrectly resized when the Mark Set is applied**  
 When a file mark’s size was set to anything other than File Size and the size of the mark was edited, if that mark was saved as part of a Mark Set and subsequently used in a project, the mark no longer reverts to the original file size. (Issue Reference: 15975)
- MarkFileData folder**  
 When you add “general.MarkFileDataMemOnly=False” to the Metrix 2021.1.properties file, a folder named MarkFileData is now created automatically in C:\ProgramData\EFI\Metrix (Windows) or Applications/EFI/Metrix (Mac) and Metrix will cache the mark files to that directory. (Issue Reference: 16045)

## Known Issues for the Metrix 21.1 Release

- When upgrading from Metrix 2016.1 or earlier, you are required to back up your database, install 2019.2, and then upgrade the database for 2019.2 before you can install 21.1 and upgrade the database again. (Issue Reference: 14185)
- When dragging Irregular Shape products on Side 2 of a layout, the rules are not applied for snapping to other items and preventing the overlapping of instances. (Issue Reference: 15717, 15718)
- Blocks algorithm does not create optimal gangs when press has Press Guide Allowances defined. (Issue Reference: 14892)
- There may be some performance issues when working with large marks (over 1MB) in Metrix over VPN connections. (Issue Reference: 15370)
- Auto Production does not reset bound product components to minimum trim values. (Issue Reference: 14168)
- Page To Bleed Gap** does not work with **Irregular Shape** and **Die-cut** products. This will be addressed in an upcoming release. (Issue Reference: 13482)
- Metrix will not save the default printer in the Export window. (Issue Reference: 8441, 13310)
- Japanese fonts may print as indecipherable text when there are multiple PDFs in a project that contain fonts with the same name but different glyphs. (Issue Reference: 13452)
- The **Auto Expand Trims** option does not work with **Auto Layout**. (Issue Reference: 12858)

- Unable to scroll beyond the right or top edges of a sheet when a layout is magnified. (Issue Reference: 13782)
- The **Allowed Bleed Intrusions** setting for die-cutting tools works in most cases, but there are a few situations in which it does not work per expectations. (Issue Reference: 13208)
- **Help** menu on Mac OS sometimes disappears after selecting other menu items. You can still select the **Help** menu by clicking on the menu bar directly to the right of the Settings menu. (Issue Reference: 13411)
- Die-cutting tools and standards created in 2018.1 show errors when opened in 2020.2 if the multi-up file used to create a die-cutting tool had horizontal and/or vertical offsets defined. Metrix ignored horizontal and/or vertical offsets in 2018.1, but in 2020.2 the offsets are applied. This results in misalignment of the die-cutting tool on the sheet and/or errors in standards and projects that use the die-cutting tool (for example, "Sheet must be large enough for Die-cut Tool").

**Workaround:** Edit the die-cutting tool and change the Anchor Horizontal Offset, Anchor Vertical Offset, Minimum Sheet Width, and Minimum Sheet Height values. (Issue Reference: 14296)

- If content is not found when importing a CSV product while running Metrix using millimeters, when you relink the content, the initial view may be zoomed out to 2%. Selecting Fit to Page may not cause Metrix to correctly redraw the product view.

**Workaround:** Select a specific magnification value from the popup menu. (Issue Reference: 15742)

- If an Irregular Shape product does not fit on the selected sheet size even though it should fit, this is likely due to the "normalization" rotation that Metrix does as part of the Auto Plan and Auto Layout algorithms prior to placing the instance on the sheet. Normalization is used to find the best rotation for instances so they can be nested most efficiently. As an example, if the product is 47x24" and the sheet size is 48x26", the instance fits on the sheet if there is no rotation. However, when the instance is rotated, it will then be at an angle relative to the sheet, making its bounding box greater than 48x26".

**Workaround:** Manually create a layout and add the instance to the sheet. This eliminates the normalization rotation, placing the instance at 0° rotation so it will fit. (Issue Reference: 16044)

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