Smart software for enterprise-wide optimization
EFI PrintFlow

EFI® PrintFlow®, an intelligent, rules-based tool, offers savings by optimizing the interaction of all plant activities with real-time calculations, unique ‘what-if’ capabilities, and an enterprise-wide scope. It facilitates an integrated, automated system to increase throughput, minimize costs, and boost profitability.

Beat the competition!

Find the best spot for each job automatically

PrintFlow is a truly dynamic scheduling system that automatically identifies the optimal path for each job. PrintFlow:

• Fits the sequence of steps required to all other jobs and conditions to produce a job efficiently.
• Sequences the jobs of every cost center to optimize the entire manufacturing process, from prepress through delivery.
• Matches each new job with all other jobs in the plant to reduce make ready time, waste and redundant steps.

PrintFlow Considers:

Dynamic, real-time status at a glance

PrintFlow provides an instant view of your schedule and available capacity by any timeframe you choose. Its unique Gantt chart shows you all the jobs within your plant in a single, configurable working window. Powerful manipulation software lets you quickly create summaries, tasks, links, timelines and more. As you make changes, PrintFlow instantly updates the schedule scenario to show you the impact of your decisions in terms of scheduling and equipment utilization.

More power to play what-if

The visual power of PrintFlow is complemented by its ability to perform powerful what-if scenarios that let you evaluate the impact of schedule changes. Each time you propose a change to the schedule, PrintFlow immediately re-optimizes, re-synchronizes and provides a new scenario with an impact analysis for comparison. You’ll know the effects of any action – good or bad – before you release your new schedule.

A digital magnet board — and so much more

The Gantt chart is where you view and manipulate your schedule. You can see if a job is late or how much slack time you have between operations. The Gantt chart allows manipulation (if necessary) of all tasks, while automatically calculating the switchover time between different tasks and controlling all upstream and downstream dependencies.
Fast answers
PrintFlow is the only true dynamic scheduling tool in the industry with optimization. PrintFlow gives you instant feedback to questions. In addition, PrintFlow lets you know if you will be incurring additional switchover time by making a change.

PrintFlow also gives you powerful tools to assist in manual scheduling activities. For example, as you drag a task across the schedule, switchover time is calculated automatically as PrintFlow compares task properties.

Optimize!
Find your weakest link and eliminate it
PrintFlow allows you to manage bottlenecks and control jobs. Identify weak links and see how much of an impact they actually have on your schedule.

Create a what-if scenario by adding a shift to the bottlenecked cost center
The what-if scenario generator provides the information you need to make better decisions. For example, is it worth changing work patterns over the next few days to ship 20 more jobs on time?

What-if comparisons
Compare what-if scenarios to see which jobs and customers are affected. Evaluate which jobs become late because of a rush job and which jobs ship on time with overtime at a certain the work center.

Synchronize!
Capacity at a glance
PrintFlow includes a powerful, user-customizable Capacity Utilization tool that allows you to look at utilization at the cost center, department, plant and company levels, and across time periods. Views include idle time, run time, overtime and more.

Smart, unlimited manual scheduling by job
PrintFlow gives you the tools and flexibility to operate totally automatically, totally manually – or anywhere in between. Using the PERT (Program Evaluation Review Technique) diagram, you can view, manage and schedule individual jobs. You can even break up long runs into multiple parts to run across multiple pieces of equipment.

Integrate!
Advanced integration with your EFI MIS/ERP software helps improve your entire workflow. Share job specifications and job status and attack the inefficiencies that undermine your investment in people and equipment. PrintFlow’s automated, integrated approach eliminates the need for re-keying and delivers more accurate data in real time.

Remote access
PrintFlow is also available in a browser-based format, providing access to remote personnel. Managers, for example, can use the PrintFlow Website to address a second- or third-shift situation without going to the site. Remote users can be given read-only or working time access/edit rights to the PrintFlow website.
TGO: A revolutionary scheduling strategy

PrintFlow’s strategic advantage is the application of the Theory of Global Optimization (TGO), which applies the key manufacturing principles of Dr. Eli Goldratt’s Theory of Constraints to printing and converting. TGO builds profitability by increasing throughput across the entire operation and makes CIM (Computer Integrated Manufacturing) for printing and packaging a reality. Key principles of TGO include:

• A manufacturing operation is a chain of interdependent links. Only a few constraints control the throughput, on-time delivery and cost of the entire operation. Remove the constraints, increase production and boost the bottom line.

• The wider perspective of the plant takes precedence over the narrower focus of single jobs or cost centers.

• Increasing throughput is far more important than cost accounting.

• Profitability is created by the sum of all jobs, not the theoretical profitability of individual jobs.

• Higher efficiency or productivity in a single cost center does not lead to higher profits.

• On-time delivery is not determined by the most efficient cost center but by the weakest link.

PrintFlow advantages:

• Optimizes equipment use
• Minimizes make-ready time
• Increases capacity, throughput and on-time delivery
• Makes proactive scheduling decisions
• Responds more quickly to customer needs
• Reduces waste and increases profitability

PrintFlow highlights:

• Schedules the entire plant based on the Theory of Global Optimization (TGO)
• Optimizes to reduce switchover time and waste
• Uses what-if scenarios to evaluate changes
• Dynamically evaluates links and dependencies between cost centers
• Predicts and analyzes events as they occur
• Presents dynamic graphical schedule views
• Color-codes overtime, idle time and downtime, or any criteria you choose
• Allows manual overrides, freezing and grouping
• Automatically calculates production-stage due dates
• Offers drag-and-drop editing and customizable reports
• Integrates with EFI’s core management systems

EFI fuels success.

We develop breakthrough technologies for the manufacturing of signage, packaging, textiles, ceramic tiles, and personalized documents, with a wide range of printers, inks, digital front ends, and a comprehensive business and production workflow suite that transforms and streamlines the entire production process, increasing your competitiveness and boosting productivity. Visit www.efi.com or call 650-357-3500 for more information.

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