

FirstPROOF v3.1 Release Notes

The 3.1 release of FirstPROOF is an update of both Std and Pro containing a number of useful new tools, features and improvements. In addition, a few important bugs in 3.0 have been fixed.

1. Changes and Fixes To FirstPROOF:

1. An “Open...” function has been added which allows you to select a folder from which to open TIFF files; the TIFF File Name Filter to use can be chosen from the Open dialog box. This is essentially a short cut to creating a TIFF Input. If you want to configure other things such as Units of Measurement or the Source Language, you need to create a TIFF Input and set them there.
2. A Notes panel has been added in the Control Box. This allows the user to make notes on a job that is either in Held, Rejected, Approved or Input mode. All Notes are visible & editable by any user. When a job is Output, the notes are deleted. Whenever a job is Approved or Rejected (or other actions are performed), the system automatically adds a small note to that effect. To enter a note, the user needs to unlock the Notes panel (using the padlock), type-in the text and then lock it to commit the change. Notes are updated when either: a) a Refresh is done, b) the user changes jobs, or, c) the user unlocks the Notes. The Notes panel is intended as a ‘scratch area’ in which Notes can be associated with a job. It is not meant to be a job log or action log of what has gone on in FirstPROOF - this will likely be added as a separate feature in a future release.
3. The Output of separations for a RIP (PGB) Input can now be done manually (if the RIP’s Inputs are ‘Off’) as well as automatically. If FirstPROOF can not connect to the RIP, it will create a PostScript file called “HMROutput.ps” in the RIP’s Page Buffer folder. The user can then go “Print File...” on their Harlequin RIP to add the Page Buffers to the Output Controller.
4. The list of Page Setups for a RIP (PGB) Input can now be refreshed manually (if the RIP’s Inputs are ‘Off’) as well as automatically. If FirstPROOF can not connect to the RIP, it will ask the user to “Print File...” the “HMR List Page Setups.ps” file and then continue.
5. A Zoom Area Tool has been added. This is similar to the Zoom In Tool, but allows for either: a) instantaneous zoom in (click), b) instantaneous zoom out (control-click), or, c) select an area and zoom in so as to best fit that area (click-drag - similar to what you can do in the Navigator). This differs from the Zoom In Tool where the same action (click-drag) temporarily switches to Hand Mode so as to pan the image (useful in locating the point where a zoom is required). Which you use, depends on personal choice.
6. A Color Manager Import button has been added to the Color Manager (to the right of the two check boxes). This allows for importing any color tables you might have. The format of the color tables should be as a simple text file, with either one color per line “color\t[alias]\tr g b” or “color\t[alias]\tc m y k”, or one color spread over multiple lines “color” + “[alias]” + “r g b” (or “c m y k”). Where “\t” is a tab, “[alias]” is an optional alias for the color name, “r g b” is a 3 component RGB color, “c m y k” is a 4 component CMYK color, and “r g b” or “c m y k” can either be integers (0 to 255) or floating point numbers (0.0 to 1.0).
7. A Proportional View menu item has been added to the Options menu (at the bottom). If this menu item is enabled, then images that have non-equal (integer ratio) resolutions will be viewed in proportion. For example, a 720x1440 dpi image destined for an Epson printer will normally be ‘stretched’ vertically (being twice as high as wide) when viewing. Enabling the Proportional View option means that the higher resolution (1440 dpi in the example above) gets scaled down so as to match the lower resolution (720 dpi in the example above). This currently only works for integer ratios (e.g. 720 x 300 dpi is NOT currently supported, but we hope to add that in a future release).

8. Tiled TIFF files are now supported. This provides full compatibility with Dainippon Screen TrueFlow/PixelStream, Agfa Apogee/ApogeeX and Creo Prinergy/VPS systems.
9. TIFF files compressed using Flate are now supported.
10. The Compression type is reported in the Info box. If multiple images are selected and they all use the same compression this will be reported, otherwise it will report "Mixed".
11. Option/Alt-Click has been added as a means of selecting a single separation (and de-selecting all others) in the Page List.
12. ".." has been added as a special prefix to a TIFF File Name Filter. If ".." is added at the start of the filter, then the folder in which the TIFF file is located is included in the name which gets matched; e.g. "…:%.tif" gets "folder:box.tif" where "%.tif" gets just "box.tif".
13. The reduced view cache is now purged when a TIFF file is updated (e.g. gets replaced).
14. All Site and User Manager changes now take immediate effect, without requiring the user to Logout/Login.
15. The reduced views now correctly shows their +/-ve sense, if +/-ve sense is toggled in a PGB by the Hqn RIP (by the user going into the Info box and clicking Negative).

2. Changes and Fixes To FirstPROOF Std:

n/a - all changes to FP Std are listed above since they were added across all products.

3. Changes and Fixes To FirstPROOF Pro:

1. A Selection Manager has been added, which allows you to save, delete & select a Selection Set (creating using the Selection Tool). This allows you to create Selection Sets (De-Imposition Templates) for commonly used formats (e.g. 2-up, etc...), from which individual areas (or pages) can then be selected. The current Selection Set is always in force and can be used by simply using the Function Keys to select an area and then the View Selection tool to reduce the view to just that Selections Area. Selection Sets are deleted using the trashcan icon, and created using the "New..." item in the Selection Sets menu.
2. The use of the Function keys to select a given area (or page) from a Selection Set has been extended to also use the Control/Cmd (Apple) and Shift keys. A Function Key on it's own selects F1...F12 / F1...F15 (PC/Mac), with the Shift Key it selects F13...F24 / F16...F30, with the Control/Cmd Key F25...F36 / F31...F45, and with the Shift & Control/Cmd Keys F37...F48 / F46...F60. The limit on the number of selections has been raised to 60.
3. Merging of TIFF files compressed using LZW is now supported. Previously a blank page would have been produced.
4. The overall Ink Coverage reported in the Job's Page List now displays ">0%" for separations that are greater than 0% but less than 0.5% (above 0.5% it rounds to 1%). Similarly it now displays "<100%" for separations that are less than 100% but greater than 99.5% (below 99.5% is rounds down to 99%). This now allows you to tell if a separation is completely blank, or nearly but not quite blank.
5. The 'Image Type' (Positive or Negative) is now remembered across multiple Merges.
6. The Object Measurement Tools (1D & 2D) now report measurements to 4 decimal places.
7. Several (subtle) crashing bugs have been fixed with the Dot Gain Tool.

4. Mac Changes:

1. A bug has been fixed with the Merging of separations in FirstPROOF Pro where the destination file used a long file name. It used to report an error, but now works fine.

5. PC Changes:

1. The printing in FirstPROOF Pro has been substantially improved, with typically a 60-75% reduction in spool data. This substantially speeds up printing. Unfortunately, it was not possible to do this on the Mac (although we're still trying), so the printing on the PC is much more flexible and faster there now.
2. A bug with printing and Auto-Refresh enabled in FirstPROOF Pro has been fixed. It often used to crash, but now works fine.
3. A screen resize issue has been fixed in FirstPROOF Standard which caused some of the UI elements to 'sit on top of each other', either when the window was resized too small (more common) or on larger monitors (rarer).
4. The 'hiliting' of selected items in the Job Page List has been fixed to display in the correct hilite color (bright blue), as opposed to the semi-hilite color it used to use (light gray).