

# **FirstPROOF v3.0 Release Notes**

## **Introduction**

The 3.0 version of FirstPROOF marks another significant step forward for Hamillroad Software, both on a technical level and on a product level and is probably the largest release to date in terms of new additional functionality. A number of the new tools and features added are unique to FirstPROOF, and further emphasise its position as the leading virtual-dot soft-proofing product on the market.

The most significant news on the product level is that FirstPROOF has been re-launched under new product (variant) names, FirstPROOF Standard and FirstPROOF Professional along with new more professional looking logos. This simplifies the previous four variants (of PGB, TIFF, Dual and Plus) down to two (Std and Pro); much easier to market, sell, support, develop, localise, etc...

FirstPROOF Standard is essentially FirstPROOF Dual (but with a number of new features), and FirstPROOF Professional is essentially FirstPROOF Plus (but with an even greater number of new features). All users of FirstPROOF PGB, TIFF or Dual can use their existing Keys to run FirstPROOF Std, and all users of FirstPROOF Plus can use their existing Keys to run FirstPROOF Pro.

In addition to the revamped product line-up of FirstPROOF Std and FirstPROOF Pro, there is also a new variant called FirstPROOF Lite, which is a reduced functionality FREE version of FirstPROOF. This has been produced as a Sales and Marketing Tool, effectively for advertising our products & technology. This product is in fact built in to both FirstPROOF Std and FirstPROOF Pro - after the 30 day demo period has expired, both of these variants change to running in Lite Mode, with certain functionality shut-off. So someone using FirstPROOF Lite gets to try out the full functionality of FirstPROOF Pro.

The most significant news on the technical level is that we have added printing to FirstPROOF Pro (after numerous requests for it). This essentially gives you the most powerful soft-proofing system in the world, coupled with the ability to then generate a high-quality ROOM content proof, on an inexpensive Mac or PC printer, and all from the original plate data. A number of the tools added to FirstPROOF Pro were built specifically with the printing in mind (such as the Selection Tool) and together these provide significant power and utility.

In addition to the above, a number of tools and features have been added to both FirstPROOF Std and FirstPROOF Pro, which are detailed below. There are also some substantial performance enhancements with the viewing of reduced zoom levels; in particular, viewing the 50% & 25% zoom levels is now instantaneous, with none of the previous overhead of caching large amounts of data, and the calculation of the additional reduced zoom levels is significantly faster (and can appear to be more than four times faster).

We have also taken into account customer feedback about the security system; in particular the inability to save settings before Product Activation and the fact that FirstPROOF quits when the Demo Mode expires (before Product Activation). FirstPROOF now allows you to permanently save settings whatever the status is, and if the demo period expires, FirstPROOF will continue to run, albeit in Lite mode until Product Activation.

The following describes the changes to FirstPROOF.

## **1. Changes To The Base Product (FirstPROOF Std and Pro):**

1. The number of toolbar icons has been reduced, with there being new popup-buttons for Refresh Incremental/Full and Zoom In/Out Mode. The Re-Map Pages button has also been removed (as is not often used) and is now only available from the menu. Although FirstPROOF Std had room on the toolbar for more tools, FirstPROOF Pro had too many, so since we wanted the two products to have the same toolbars, this was the best solution.
2. The Actual Pixels (renamed from Actual Size) and Best Fit buttons now retain their state, so if the view is set to 100%, the Actual Pixels button now displays as 'pushed in' (and active) rather than being disabled. This more clearly shows the zoom state.
3. Zooming in to 50% and 25% is now instantaneous, with no data being cached.
4. Calculation of zoom levels is now done one separation at a time, as opposed to all at the same time. This means that they are produced faster, since we make better use of the available OS I/O (file read-ahead and caching).
5. Changing zoom levels is now allowed when there is at least one separation available at the new zoom level (previously they all had to be available). Whilst viewing, any other separation zoom levels are produced, and then added to the main view when ready. This allows us to change zoom levels in typically one quarter of the time we used to (for example when viewing CMYK).
6. A Full Screen view mode has been added, which allows use of the whole screen for viewing. Once Full Screen mode is entered, it can be exited using either the menu accelerator for Full Screen, or by pressing the Escape key. To get the largest view possible, one can use Full Screen, Control Box, Toolbar, Status Bar and Rulers (and then one can float the Navigator window as an overview).
7. The Navigator window (docked or floating) can now be copy-n-pasted to the clipboard, where it is available for other applications (e.g. to include in an email to a customer).
8. The (later of the) File Creation/Modification Time & Date has been added to the Info window. This allows for easy checking that the latest version of a file is being used.
9. Two new buttons, Approve and Reject have been added to go along with the Delete and Output. These allow the user to mark a job as Approved or Rejected. An Approved job can be Deleted, Output or Rejected. A Rejected job can only be Deleted or Approved, so must be Approved prior to Output. The status of these is shown with a (Red) 'A' and a (Red) 'R' in the Job Name and Page List.
10. The Job Name popup has been made wider, so that more of the job name is visible.
11. An optional Site Manager has been added, which allows sites to be created that have restricted access to specific Inputs and Sub-Inputs. For a PGB Input the Sub-Inputs are the Page Setups on the RIP and for a TIFF Input the Sub-Inputs are the Sub Folders in the Input Folder. Note that for PGB Inputs, Held Mode must be enabled and a Page Setup must be in Held Mode for access control on it to work, and, that for TIFF Inputs, scanning of sub-folders must be enabled for access control on it to work. [Also note that the option to move a job from its Sub-Folder to the Output Folder on Output, moves that job to the Root, where Allow Root Access is used.] A default 'Local Installation' site exists which can't be deleted. The current active site is shown in the Site Manager in red, and this site can't be deleted either.
12. An optional User Manager has been added, which allows users to be created who belong to a specific site (thus restricting what Inputs and Sub-Inputs they can see). Further options then exist to control what they can do - Delete Jobs or Output Jobs. All users can View, Approve and Reject Jobs (as otherwise why let them use FirstPROOF!). A default 'Administrator' user exists which can't be deleted. The current active user is shown in the User Manager in red, and this user can't be deleted either. By default, no Administrator password is set and when FirstPROOF starts, the user is not required to login. If an

Administrator password is set, then the user is required to Login when FirstPROOF starts up, entering their user name and password.

13. A Logout menu has been added to the File menu. This menu item also shows the name of the current logged in user. Once Logged Out, FirstPROOF remains active, but requires the user to either Login again (or Quit).
14. The largest screen size supported has been increased to 2048x2048; previously it was 1600x1600. We can go larger if required, but internally we need to know the maximum.
15. Confirmation is now required when outputting, so one can't accidentally output a job.

## **2. Changes For TIFF Inputs:**

1. There are three new options available when configuring a TIFF Input:
  - a) The ability to scan sub-folders of the Input folder can now be enabled or disabled.
  - b) TIFF files output from a sub-folder of the Input folder can now either be moved to a corresponding sub-folder of the Output folder, or directly into the Output folder.
  - c) If after moving the TIFF files from a sub-folder of the Input folder to the Output folder, the sub-folder is empty, it can optionally be deleted.
2. Two new standard TIFF File Name filters have been added for use with the Hqn RIP.

## **3. Changes For PGB Inputs:**

1. A new Hold Manager has been added, which allows for selectively choosing which individual Page Setups on the RIP will work in Held Mode. This could be done before, but required the use of a Page Feature in the RIP (which still works). It can now be done remotely from within FirstPROOF for all connected RIPs. A Refresh button is available in the Hold Manager to update the list of Page Setups in FirstPROOF for a particular RIP. If a RIP is working in Held Mode or not is still enabled/disabled using the Output Mode - Direct or Held Mode - menu items. The Hold Manager is just used to decide which Page Setups will work in Held Mode, once Held Mode is enabled.

## **4. Additions to FirstPROOF Standard:**

1. Both PGB and TIFF Inputs are now included in the base product.
2. The Navigator behaviour of being able to move around the main view by dragging the 'green box' has now been added to the base product.
3. The Navigator behaviour of being able to select an area of the image to view has now been added to the base product.

## **5. Additions to FirstPROOF Professional:**

1. The Units of Measurement in the Configure Input dialog (for both PGB and TIFF) have been extended to contain an additional set for the Color / Density Tool. This can now be configured to report Colors & Densities as either a percentage (0 to 100), or as a color / density value (0 to 255).
2. The Auto-Screen tool has been improved:
  - a) It is faster when one of the separations being measured is 'blank'.
  - b) The number of incorrect results has been reduced (which happened when we detected a pattern in the job and mistook that for the screen).
  - c) It no longer re-calculates the screen when enabling a tool that does not need it (for example if the Black View Tool is enabled).
3. Measurements taken with the 1D / 2D Object Tool are now retained across zoom levels.

4. Guide lines are now shown in the Magnifier window, allowing for easy exact placement. Similarly, so are the 'lines' used when positioning the Ruler Origin.
5. A Modify button has been added, which is similar to the Merge button but available when a single separation is selected. This allows you to change the Color Name of a separation (something which an application receiving the files on Output might require).
6. An extra confirmation is required at the end of inputting the settings for the Merge Separations tool. This is so that you can't accidentally hit 'OK' whilst choosing your settings.
7. A new Selection Tool has been added, which allows you to select different areas in the view image (for subsequent viewing with the View Selection Tool). The selection areas can be selected/deselected by clicking on them, deselected by clicking outside an area, or by using the Function Keys (for the first dozen or so selections).
8. A new View Selection Tool has been added, which allows you to view a selected area of the view. Once viewing a selection, which selection area is being viewed can be changed by using the Function Keys. This tool is useful for viewing a single-page in an imposed flat (for example), but is also very useful when used in conjunction with the Cylinder Seam Tool and Print functions.
9. A new Duplex Tool has been added<sup>1</sup>, which allows you to view the front and back of a page at the same time, varying the level of transparency of the paper (from fully opaque to fully transparent). That is you can view the back of the job 'behind' the front of the job, 'through' the paper. The paper can also be 'turned over' so as to view the front or back. This allows you to check the front-to-back alignment of objects on the page.
10. A page in the Page List can be marked as a Back Page (used by the Duplex Tool) by right-clicking (PC) / double-clicking (or control-clicking) (Mac) on the Page and selecting one of the options in the resulting menu. This then automatically views the page as the front or back when the Duplex Tool is enabled. Additionally for TIFF Inputs, the 'Page Side' File Filter specifier (%s) can be used in conjunction with setting the 'Back Page Name' in the 'More/Less' (PC) / 'Advanced' (Mac) section of the Configure TIFF Input dialog, to automatically mark the Back Pages in a job.
11. A new Cylinder Seam Tool has been added, which allows you to check a job which will be seamed (for example wrapped around a cylinder). This displays two copies of the image side by side (either vertically or horizontally) thus allowing you to check the seam where they join. The Selection Tool and View Selection Tool are very useful when using this tool, as you can use these to select the page minus any crop-marks or color bars (actually just select the area contained by the cut-marks) so as to properly check the seam.
12. Printing of the image being viewed has been added. This allows for printing what is being viewed to any standard Windows or Mac printer, including 'printing' to a PDF file (requires 3<sup>rd</sup> party application on the PC). Three print options exist:
  - a) Print... This prints the current view (including all enabled tools, such as Grid Lines, Ink Limits, etc...) at the resolution chosen by the Page Setup dialog. For example this might print at 600 dpi on a HP, or 720 dpi on an Epson. The print is an exact size match content print. If the image being viewed is too large for the output device, it will be tiled into multiple pages.
  - b) Print One... This prints one copy of the current view to the currently selected printer (as per Print...), but with no user interaction.
  - c) Print View... This prints the whole image at the current zoom level at 72 dpi. Note that this is not an exact size match, but allows you to print exactly

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<sup>1</sup> The Duplex tool is dependant on us obtaining a license from Creo for a patent of theirs, for which we have an outline agreement. If the license agreement is not complete before we release, we will remove the Duplex Tool from the first release of 3.0 and release a minor update with it in as soon as we sign the agreement.

what you see. This is generally used with the Best Fit view so as to print the job onto a single piece of paper.

See the Printing Notes at the end of this document for further details.

## **6. FirstPROOF Lite:**

FirstPROOF Lite is built in to both FirstPROOF Std and FirstPROOF Pro. Once the 30 day evaluation (demo) period has expired, FirstPROOF switches to Lite Mode. FirstPROOF can be upgraded from Lite Mode to Std or Pro (whichever version it started out as) at any time by purchasing a Product Key and activating as normal.

Lite Mode gives you a high quality basic viewer for viewing multiple images (PGB or TIFF), from multiple sources, but with none of the advanced tools or workflow features of Std or Pro.

Lite Mode allows use of the following Tools and Features:

1. View, including enabling / disabling separations.
2. Hand Tool (with all its capabilities) and Hand Speed.
3. Actual Pixels and Best Fit.
4. Rotate Clockwise, Counter Clockwise and Mirror Flip (but not Auto Orientation).
5. Show Negative (but not Auto Show Negative).
6. Navigator Window (with all its capabilities – other than Copy-n-Paste).
7. Color Manager, Change Color and Change All Colors.
8. Rulers, Control Box, Toolbar, Status Bar and Full Screen.
9. Input Manager and Refresh.
10. Site Manager and User Manager (and Login /Logout).

For further details, see our web site – [www.hamillroad.com](http://www.hamillroad.com).

## **7. Bug Fixes:**

1. The creation of sub-folders on output now always works.

## **8. Mac Changes:**

1. Menu items to hide/show the Toolbar and Status Bar have been added.
2. The Mac File routines we use have been updated to use the latest Apple APIs. This means we now much better support long file names.

## **9. PC Changes:**

1. Accelerator keys have been added for the Toolbar and Status Bar menu items.
2. A Close Window menu item has been added, which closes the top most floating window (one of Navigator, Magnifier (Pro), Measurement Tools (Pro) or Dot Gain (Pro)).

## **10. Changes to the Security System:**

1. When entering a Product, Upgrade or Activation Key, you can now copy-n-paste the entire 25 character key, including the '-' characters, from a Product or Upgrade Key Certificate. You can also copy-n-paste an entire 25 character key where each set of 5 characters is separated by a space.
2. All settings in FirstPROOF are now saved when changed.

3. When Demo Mode expires, FirstPROOF no longer quits, but changes to Lite Mode until it is activated. This allows you to continue using the product (albeit in a reduced functionality mode) and also allows for easier activation.
4. FirstPROOF Std will accept old FirstPROOF PGB, TIFF or Dual Product Keys (in addition to new FirstPROOF Std Product Keys).
5. FirstPROOF Pro will accept old FirstPROOF Plus Product Keys (in addition to new FirstPROOF Pro Product Keys).

### **Printing Notes:**

1. We use whatever standard printer driver exists on your computer for doing the print. So whatever controls it provides will be used. For example, some Mac HP printer drivers do not allow you to select the resolution of the output device. In this case (for now at least) the lowest square resolution of the printer is used.
2. You can print separations, progressives, or composites simply by viewing a single separation, multiple separations, or all separations respectively and going print.
3. When you print, all the enabled view tools are printed too. This includes Grid Lines, Guide Lines, View Black, Trap Black, Ink Limits, etc... This can be very useful as you can 'print' a page to a PDF file, with for example the Ink Limits Tool enabled so as to show an Ink problem, which you can then mail to a customer.
4. If you are viewing a job using the Duplex Tool, it will print on one side of the paper, not on both sides.
5. Printing works well in conjunction with the Selection and View Selection Tools. For example, if you are viewing a large 8up flat of A4 pages and create Selections for each of the pages in the flat, you can then view each of those A4 pages in turn and print them on an A4 printer. You can also take an A4 page, remove the crop-marks, cut-marks & color-bars and print just the contents.
6. If the printer resolution is the same as one of the zoom levels that FirstPROOF uses, then we will simply print the data we already have. For example if viewing a 2400 dpi job, the printer is 300 dpi and you've already viewed the 12.5% zoom level, we simply print that zoom level which we've already created.
7. If the printer resolution is not the same as one of the zoom levels that FirstPROOF uses, then it down-samples the original data using a fast but high quality fractional down-sampling algorithm before printing it. This is only done once.
8. Currently, no de-screening is done, so the content proof might contain some screen moiré from the down-sampling. This will be fixed in a later release.
9. The content proof printed is exactly what is displayed, so is a RGB print. The ability to do a CMYK print will probably be added to a later release.
10. Currently, no color management is done, so the content proof might not match what you get on your press. You can however get close by adjusting the RGB view colors in the Color Manager, and making use of the Dot Gain Tool.
11. If you 'print' to a PDF file on the Mac, do NOT use the Preview application to view it, but Adobe's Viewer. There is a bug in Preview which means that although we output seamless tiles of the image, Preview displays those tiles with 'gaps' between them. This is a bug in Preview.
12. Do NOT use the Print View... option when viewing high zoom levels (e.g. 100%) of high resolution (e.g. 2400 dpi) large jobs (e.g. 25" x 25"). If you do, you'll end up with lots of pieces of paper!!