

## **FirstPROOF v1.4 Release Notes**

The 1.4 version of FirstPROOF marks a significant step forward for Hamillroad Software, as FirstPROOF has been re-engineered, based on the Mac 1.3 C++ source code, so that is now uses a common code base for both Mac and PC. This re-engineering was necessary because the original PC Delphi code that FirstPROOF was first written in was not portable to the Macintosh (or several other platforms) and having re-written it in C++ for the Mac we wanted to achieve a single source base for our products.

Platform specific parts of FirstPROOF have been implemented in a Core Platform Abstraction Layer for standard components (such as file i/o, network tcp i/o, timers & clocks, etc...) and as a UI Abstraction Layer for UI components (such as dialogs, popup menus, etc...). This means that the same set of core features are now available on both platforms and the application exhibits the same behaviour on both platforms.

As part of the re-engineering work, all the features that were in both the original PC 1.2 and Mac 1.3 have been fully added. That is the 1.4 version is now a superset of the 1.2 and 1.3 versions; previously some of the features of the PC 1.2 version such as limited auto-selection of RIP Connections had not made it into the Mac 1.3 version.

This document describes the changes between the PC 1.2 and 1.4 versions, and the Mac 1.3 and 1.4 versions. It does it by going through the major changes followed by the minor changes and finally gives an overview of the security changes.

### **1. Major Changes:**

For the PC the most significant visual change is that standard Microsoft UI elements are now used, instead of Delphi UI elements. This gives a slight change to the visual characteristics of the product, but does not fundamentally change anything.

From PC 1.2 and Mac 1.3:

1. Performance – there is a significant increase in performance between both the PC 1.2/1.4, and Mac 1.3/1.4. On the PC, roaming around a view can be anything up to 2x faster (as can rotating or flipping the view, or toggling the trap black option). On both the Mac and PC, producing Reduced Views can also be anything up to 2x faster.
2. Auto-Select – once a RIP Connection has been created in the “RIP Connection Manager” (or by auto-detection/configuration of an adjacent SW folder), on exit from that dialog and in all other situations, the previous RIP Connection and Job is now always selected, or if there was no previous selection, the first RIP Connection and Job is selected.
3. Language Scripts – the “Configure RIP Connection” dialog now allows the selection of a Language Script. This script is used to display the Job Name in the main FirstPROOF window, thus allowing native language job names, such as Japanese, to be correctly displayed. Note that this works even if the attached Harlequin RIP has not been localised. Each different RIP Connection can use a different language script, so one can have one RIP Connection displaying in English, another in Japanese, and yet another in Chinese. Note that one can even have two RIP Connections pointing at the same RIP with one in Japanese and a

second in Chinese – this allows the display of native job names, even when a mix of Japanese and Chinese jobs are sent to the same RIP.

4. Resizable Navigator Window – the floating Navigator window is now re-sizeable up to a maximum of 512 by 512 pixels. For larger pages sizes at high resolutions, such as 40” square at 2540 dpi, this allows it to be made larger and therefore easier to view.
5. Accelerator Keys – the choice of accelerator keys has been tidied up to be more logical. They are now exactly the same on both the Mac and PC, with the Mac using its familiar Apple/Command key and the PC using its familiar Control key.
6. Menu and Toolbar Items – all menu items now display a fixed text item (as opposed to changing the contents of the menu) and where the state changes, indicate this by use of a tick mark. A good example of this is the first item on the View menu which used to say “Show Negative” and “Show Positive”; this now only says “Show Negative” and indicates if that is the case with a tick or bullet mark. This has been done with localisation support in mind, where one does not want menu items changing if this can be helped.
7. Reduced View Generation – these are now only produced during idle time, which allows for superior viewing during their production (if required). That is the Roam View is now much more useable (responsive) during the production of Reduced Views.

From PC 1.2:

1. Incremental Refresh – there is now an option to perform an incremental refresh, which only updates the jobs, page and separations according to any changes. This is substantially faster than the previous Full Refresh.
2. Job & Page State – the currently selected job and the state of all pages (including whether a certain page was open and which separations are selected) is now remembered. This works across all operations, such as an incremental refresh or when editing RIP Connections, apart from when doing a Full Refresh or if the RIP Connection is significantly modified (such as changing the Image Path).
3. Auto Refresh – based on the Incremental Refresh and Job & Page State, this allows a ‘silent’ automatic update of the current Jobs and Pages for a RIP Connection, whilst the user is working. It is enabled in the “Configure FirstPROOF” dialog and can be temporarily enabled/disabled using the Auto-Refresh menu item (Command/Control-K). It is also temporarily disabled when any dialog is displayed, or when any page is being Viewed.
4. Security – the security system is now as per the Mac 1.3 version, with the ability to Register the product by one method (eg email) and then subsequently by another method (eg fax), for example if the first one fails. The security details can be viewed at any time (once entered).
5. Zoom in/out – the zoom buttons can now be picked up by holding down the Control key whilst selecting the appropriate zoom button. This allows one to then select a point in the Roam View which ends up getting centred on the Roam View after the zoom in/out. This allows for greater control over zooming.
6. Roam View Hand Movement – the Roam View can now be picked up by double clicking on the Roam View. This allows for small movements without having to hold down the mouse button all the time.
7. Roam View Mouse Movement – both standard uses of the mouse wheel now fully work, allowing for easy movement of the Roam View.

## **2. Minor Changes:**

From PC 1.2 and Mac 1.3:

1. Rotation and Mirror Flip – when rotating or flipping the view, it is now done in a smooth single step without updating the Roam View, scroll bars or Navigator View (including the position reporting – green box) several times. It is also much faster.

From PC 1.2:

1. Missing Reduced View Levels – reduced View levels in the popup menu that have not been produced are now indicated with a red cross next to them as opposed to in shaded blue. This is easier to see than before.
2. Accurate display of existing Reduced View Levels – when Viewing a Page, all existing Reduced Views are now correctly displayed in the popup menu. Previously only existing ones as per the “Configure FirstPROOF” “Down-sample” option were displayed, until selected.
3. Valid RIP Connection indication – if a RIP Connection becomes invalid, for example due to the RIP machine going down, or the Image Path directory being deleted, this is now displayed by the presence of a red cross next to the RIP Connection, both in the “RIP Connection Manager” and in the RIP Connection popup menu. A successful refresh will automatically remove it.
4. “Configure RIP Connection” “RIP Name” auto-completion – when a RIP Connection is created, if the RIP Name is empty and an Image Path is selected, a default RIP Name is now automatically filled in with a sensible default (either the name of the target RIP machine or Local).
5. Ruler Display – the rulers now move with the page (instead of staying fixed), thus allowing one to always see where one is in the page (even when the Roam View is small) – previously one could often get no part of the ruler displayed. This also drastically reduces screen flicker.
6. Dialogs – all dialogs are now centred on either their parent dialog, or on the main application window. Pressing the Enter key will now always OK a dialog (or take the default action).
7. Navigator Window Undocking – the Navigator window now remembers its previous position (and the new size) when Undocking after being Docked.
8. UI Elements – all UI elements (such as the RIP Connection popup menu) are now disabled when they contain nothing.
9. Double Clicking – double clicking is now more intuitive; on a Separation it brings up the “Custom Color Manager” dialog to change the color of the Separation, in the “Custom Color Manager” dialog it goes into the Edit dialog, and, on a Page it now opens up the Page and selects all its Separations.
10. Changing Color – the “Custom Color Manager” dialog default button now says Select when changing the color of a Separation (as opposed to Ok).
11. Menu Items - all menu items that go into dialogs now correctly end in “...”.
12. Reduced Views – Reduced Views are now produced so that the smallest one will fit into a 512 x 512 window. This differs slightly from before where it was done so that the smallest would fit into a window the size of the main computer screen.
13. File Permissions – all files that are now created by FirstPROOF (both Data and Workspace) are now created with unlimited access permission; that is anyone can read or write to them. This allows a single installation of FirstPROOF to be used by anyone without them having to have Administration/Super User privileges.

14. Machine Detection – the detection of machines during RIP Connection creation has been improved and now should not fail (unless the machine doesn't exist). Previously this could have failed due to security issues under Windows. This has now been improved by using several methods, the final method being to see if we can connect to the Inputs we create on the Harlequin RIP on that machine.
15. Roam View Area – when the size of the page being viewed is smaller than the Roam View, the boundary of this is now indicated with a black line.
16. Job Status Indicator – this is now displayed inside the Job popup menu, thus allowing one to see the status of all jobs at the same time.
17. Held vs Direct Jobs – the Held jobs (indicated with a red H) are now always inserted at the top of the Job Name popup menu.
18. Control Box Size – the Control Box has been made slightly bigger (~15-20%) to allow for more of the Job Name and Separation Color to be displayed.
19. Info Tab Dialog – the information in the Info box is now better spaced for easier reading.
20. Toolbar and Status Bar – as per standard PC applications, both the Toolbar and Status bar can be hidden (from the View menu). When used in conjunction with hiding the Control Box, one essentially gets a maximal full screen size Roam View.

From Mac 1.3:

1. Multiple Separation Viewing – multiple separated PGBs can now be successfully viewed at varying resolutions and enabled/disabled. The s/w correctly detects which reduced views have not already been produced and generates them accordingly, ignoring them in the main Roam View until produced. Previously an error could occur under certain circumstances (when one PGB was viewed at a reduced view and then an additional one added – by selecting an additional separation).
2. The Automatic Refresh menu item (which used to get dynamically added and removed) has moved from the Tools menu to the “Job List Refresh” sub-menu and is now always visible. Its accelerator key has changed from Command-Y to Command-K (in keeping with the other two accelerator keys).

### **3. Security Changes:**

1. Security and File permissions - FirstPROOF must be run at least once with Administration / Super User privileges. This is to prime the security system and get over the problem that both Windows XP and Mac OSX are very restrictive on what software is allowed to do. This is rarely a problem anyway, as most users tend to run with Admin rights – we have only had one report of a customer wanting to do this.
2. Product Keys - checks are now made on the network to ensure that a Product Key is only used once. This means that if a Product Key is registered twice and both copies used at the same time, this will now be detected and disallowed.