

PPML Driver

This manual describes the use of the PPML Driver for Adobe® InDesign® with Premium editions of the AccurioPro® VDP software from Konica Minolta. This Print Driver produces Personalized Page Markup Language output compatible with any PPML consumer.

Topics Covered in this Manual:

- ✓ Overview
- ✓ Installation
- ✓ Using the PPML Driver
- ✓ Setting PPML Driver preferences
- ✓ Using the “Mark as Variable” feature
- ✓ Using the “Mark Image as Pass-Thru” feature
- ✓ Applying custom job names (file names) to the output
- ✓ Using a “Number of Copies Frame” for page sets in the output
- ✓ Technical Support

AccurioPro
Variable Data

Overview

About the PPML Driver

PPML is an optimized print format that is designed for variable data printing applications. Using the PPML Driver with AccurioPro VDP allows you to produce merged output in PPML format that is compatible with most PPML-enabled digital printers. A PPML-formatted job consists of a PPML file and object files. Each object file contains either fixed content or variable content from a merged page. The PPML file lists which object files should be combined to print each merged page.

Additionally, the PPML Driver treats any content that is repeated in a job as a reusable object. This means that only one object file is created for each of these, and the PPML job can then use each of these object files any number of times. This enhances the performance of the merge session. This also enhances the performance of the printing system which stores the reusable object files in a preprocessed (“RIP’ed”) format in memory for reuse while printing the job.

Requirements for the PPML Driver

First, you must be using a Premium edition of the AccurioPro VDP software for Adobe® InDesign®. Additionally, the workstation where the PPML Driver will be running must have enough disk space available to store the output files that a merge session will produce. Also, please note that PPML output is not supported by all printing systems; you must have a printing system that supports the PPML format.

About this Manual

This manual presents detailed descriptions of the installation, features, and user interface for all versions of the software. Since for the most part, the software operates the same regardless of the version, pictures from the Macintosh platform are used throughout the documentation. In the few cases where a particular window or functionality differs significantly from one version to another, specific pictures and settings are fully identified.

Additional Documentation

Tutorial #1a (The Basics) — the Form Letter tutorial — in the AccurioPro VDP Tutorial Manual offers a step-by-step example using some of the features described in this manual. The AccurioPro VDP Tutorial Manual is available in PDF format in AccurioPro VDP Documentation. To download the latest version of AccurioPro VDP Documentation, go to the following web page: www.accurioprovdvp.com/downloads.

Installation

Standard Component

If you are already running AccurioPro VDP in Adobe® InDesign®, the PPML Driver is already installed as a standard component of the AccurioPro VDP software.

The PPML Driver is a standard component of the AccurioPro VDP software package for InDesign. As such, this module is installed automatically when the AccurioPro VDP software is installed in InDesign. This module works only in conjunction with Premium editions of this software package.

Required Modules

PPML Driver

(file name: MPS DM PPML Driver)

This is the module that enables the PPML output capabilities of AccurioPro VDP.

Using the PPML Driver

This manual assumes that you are already familiar with the basic operation of the Konica Minolta AccurioPro VDP software and that you have completed **Tutorial #1a (The Basics)** in the AccurioPro VDP Tutorial Manual, which is available in PDF format in AccurioPro VDP Documentation. If you are not familiar with AccurioPro VDP, read this introductory tutorial first before continuing with this manual.



For best performance, place the document that you will be merging and all of its required files (data file, document files, graphic files, text files) on the workstation where AccurioPro VDP is running. For optimal performance, we do not recommend merging files from a File Server volume because this will increase the amount of time required to import these while merging the document. Please note this is a recommendation for optimal performance and not a requirement. A Print Driver merge session can import files from a File Server volume.

Start a PPML Merge Session

To use the PPML Driver, follow the steps outlined below:

1) **Open a document.**

Open a document that has been prepared by AccurioPro VDP for variable data. For this example, open the sample Form Letter document (“Form Letter.indd”) which exists inside the “1) Form Letter” Tutorial Files folder in AccurioPro VDP Documentation. Confirm the document has the AccurioPro VDP Links that you added when you followed the steps in **Tutorial #1a (The Basics)**.

When opening the document, replace any missing fonts, and update any modified/missing pictures (the pictures are in the same folder as the sample document). Also, if you want to print any item that is off of the live area of the page (i.e., it is on the pasteboard area), then be sure that one edge of the item is touching the page.

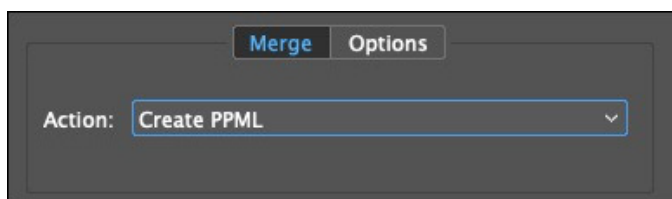
2) **Select Merge from the AccurioPro menu.**

This opens the **AccurioPro** window.

3) **Choose the range of records you wish to process.**

For this example, select **All**, check **Skip Header Row**, and **Step by 1**.

4) **For the Merge Action, select Create PPML.**



5) **Select appropriate Options for this merge session.**

To access options for a merge session, click the **Options** button. You can then select the options that would be appropriate for this merge session. For this example, select **Off** for **CopyFit**, and select **Standard Mode** for **Rules**.

6) **Click the Start button, and select a data file if prompted to do so.**

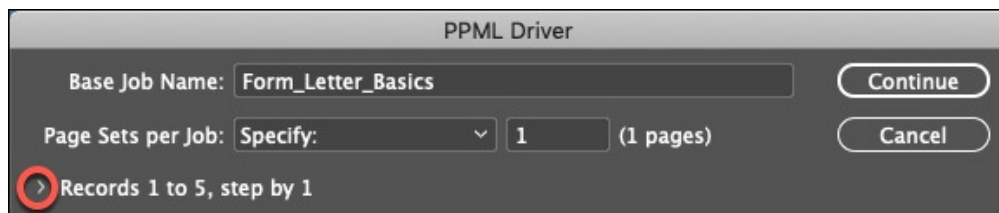
The sample data file for the Form Letter tutorial is named “Form Letter.txt” and is located in the “1) Form Letter” Tutorial Files folder.

7) **Select PPML Driver options for the merge session.**

Before starting the merge session, AccurioPro VDP opens the **PPML Driver** window which allows you to select additional options that pertain to a PPML Driver merge session, as described in the next set of steps.

Select PPML Driver Options

The **PPML Driver** window, shown below, lets you select options that are specific to a PPML Driver merge session. If the window is not fully extended, you may click the “disclosure triangle”, which is shown circled in the picture below:



Each option on the **PPML Driver** window is described below:

Base Job Name

The Base Job Name serves as the base of the file names that will be given to the files the merge session creates. By default, the Base Job Name is the name of the current layout/document. However, certain characters will be automatically converted to an underscore (_) or a hyphen (-) to ensure the name will be compatible with any system. Additionally, to provide a unique name for each file that the merge session creates, the Print Driver will automatically add a separator character, the record range whose pages the file contains, and then the appropriate file name extension. Note there are several preferences related to naming output. For more details about these, see the “Preferences” topic later in this manual.

Page Sets per Job

A Premium edition of AccurioPro VDP allows you to control the number of print jobs (in this case, PPML files) that will be created by this merge session. Selecting **All** will create one job (one file) that contains all of the merged pages. You may prefer to indicate a maximum number of merged page sets (variations of the document) to place in a single job (output file), which allows you to produce jobs (output files) of a more manageable size when merging large data files.

All

Select **All** (the default setting) to automatically include all of the merged pages in a single job. For example, if you are merging 427 records one-by-one into a two-page document and select **All** for **Page Sets per Job**, the merge session will produce one job that contains all 427 merged page sets (954 merged pages, the 427 variations of the two-page document). The job’s name will indicate the record range it contains based on which record is in the first-up on each merged page set, for example: “Form_Letter_1-427.ppml”.

Specify

The **Specify** option allows you to control the number, and therefore size, of the jobs that the merge session will create. This option also lets you start processing merged pages on your printing device while the merge session continues producing remaining pages. For a multiple-up document (a document that is set up to merge multiple records onto a page), use this option to automate running Step-by-Step or Stack Range merge sessions on consecutive ranges of records.

Select **Specify** to automatically separate the output into several jobs for the printer, which can result in greater overall throughput. We call this “chunking”. When the merge session finishes producing the first “chunk”, the merge session can send the job to the printer so the printing device can get started (rather than waiting for the session to finish producing all of the pages). Then the session automatically continues merging to produce the next chunk of output and then sends that job to the printer. This process continues until all of the records have been processed.

After you select **Specify**, then enter your desired number of page sets per job. Note that the Print Driver window will also display in parentheses the number of merged pages that will be contained by the number of page sets you have specified. If you enter the number “1”, then the merge session will produce a job for each new page set. If you enter a number that is greater than the total number of page sets to be processed, then all of the merged pages will be printed in a single job.

For example, using the above example of merging 427 records one-by-one into a document, if you select **Specify** and enter “100” for **Page Sets per Job**, then the merge session will create five jobs, four containing 100 merged page sets each, and one containing the final 27 merged page sets. Each job’s name will indicate the record range it contains based on which record is in the first-up on each merged page set, for example: “Form_Letter_1-100.ppml”, “Form_Letter_101-200.ppml”, “Form_Letter_201-300.ppml”, “Form_Letter_301-400.ppml”, and “Form_Letter_401-427.ppml”.

Subset

The **Subset** option, which is available when you are using a **Cut & Stack** or **Stack Subset** mode for the merge session (described in **Tutorial #3** in the AccurioPro VDP Tutorial Manual), allows you to control the number and size of the jobs that the merge session will create by automating running multiple Stack Subset merge sessions on consecutive ranges of records. This lets you cut & stack each printed job independently of the other jobs the merge session creates. Also, this option lets you start processing merged pages on your printing device while the merge session continues producing remaining pages.

Select **Subset** to automatically separate the output into several jobs that contain subsets of the records selected for the merge session. The subset of records for each job will be merged in a Cut & Stack sequence.

After you select **Subset**, then enter your desired number of page sets per job. When merging, the merge session will separate the records into subsets that contain the number of records required to merge each job and will merge the subset of records for each job in a Cut & Stack manner.

For example, when merging all 8 records of an 8-record data file into a 2-up document in a Cut & Stack mode, if you select **Subset** and enter “2” for **Page Sets per Job**, the merge session will merge the first four records (record #1 through record #4) in a Cut & Stack sequence into the first job and then will merge the last four records (record #5 through record #8) in a Cut & Stack sequence into the second job. Each job’s name will indicate the record range it contains based on which record is in the first-up on each merged page set, for example: “ID_Badges_1-2.ppml” and “ID_Badges_5-6.ppml”.

Setup

Presets

Use this popup menu to select a Preset configuration of options that are compatible with your printing device. Several default Presets are provided for a number of popular digital printers. The **Standard** and **Standard + Bleed** Presets are provided for generic PPML output and work for most PPML-enabled printers. Please note selecting a Preset that is incompatible with your printing device could result in printing errors. Contact Konica Minolta AccurioPro VDP Support if you are unsure about which Preset to use.

The **Presets** option is available on all of the panes on the **PPML Driver** window. Selecting a Preset automatically selects options on ALL of the panes on the **PPML Driver** window. You may then change the pre-selected options before continuing (any options that are not

applicable to the selected Preset will be dimmed). Please note making selections that are incompatible with your printing device could result in printing errors. To return the options to the original default settings for the current Preset, simply re-select the Preset.

You cannot save changes to the default Presets, however, the **PPML Driver** window retains your latest selections as its current defaults until you either select a different Preset or reselect the same Preset. Each time you select a Preset, the options are reset to the original default settings for that Preset.

Additionally, you can save your own Presets. To create a custom Preset, select **Save As** from the **Preset** popup menu, enter a name for the Preset, and click **OK**. You can change the options for a custom Preset before continuing, and you can save the changes by immediately selecting **Save** from the **Preset** popup menu. You can also rename, duplicate, and delete custom Presets selecting one of these actions from the **Preset** popup menu.

Paper Selection

Use the **Size** popup menu to select the appropriate size for the output (page dimensions plus any bleed). For jobs that will not be imposed by a printing system, select the size of the paper on which the job will be printed. For jobs that will be imposed by a printing system, select the size of the page plus any desired bleed area.

For your convenience, you can select **Match Document Size** to use the same dimensions as the document, or select **Match Document Size + Bleed** to include the amount of **Bleed** you specify on the **PPML Driver** window. You can also select one of the pre-defined sizes or select **Custom** to enter other dimensions.



If you specify a size for the paper that is larger than the size of the page plus any bleed, then the printed content will be centered on the paper (page image), and the area that extends the boundaries of the printed content will be a non-transparent white. If you select a paper size that is smaller than the size of the page plus any bleed area, AccurioPro VDP will warn you before the merge session continues. If you choose to continue with the smaller size, content may be clipped or missing when the pages are printed.

Bleed

Enter the amount of Bleed that will be included in the output for each page. If the job does not require any bleed, enter the number "0".



Printing Pasteboard Items: *Before continuing, if you want to print any item that is off of the live area of the page (e.g. it is on the pasteboard area of the document), then be sure that one edge of the item is touching the page.*

Enable Subset Finishing

Check this option to define each merged page set as an individual document for finishing purposes. When this option is unchecked (the default setting), all of the page sets that are included in a job will be defined as pages of the same document.

Output

The screenshot shows the 'Output' settings window. On the left, a sidebar contains 'Setup', 'Output' (highlighted), 'Options', and 'Destination'. The main area has a 'Presets' dropdown set to 'Standard'. Below this is a 'Resources' section with a checked 'Download Fonts' checkbox and an unchecked 'Include Pass-Thru Images' checkbox. The 'PPML Objects' section contains several dropdowns: 'Type' is 'External Data', 'Data' is 'ASCII', 'OPI' is 'Include Images', 'Color' is 'CMYK', and 'Transparency Flattener' is 'Medium Resolution'. At the bottom, the 'Create Zip File Container' checkbox is checked.

Resources

These options determine which resources will be included in the output.

Download Fonts

Turn on (check) this option if you wish to include font information in the output.

Include Pass-Thru Images

This setting applies only to images that you have marked in the document as Pass-Thru Images. If your document does not have any images marked as Pass-Thru Images, then you may ignore this PPML Driver setting. For more information about marking images as Pass-Thru Images, see the “Mark Image as Pass-Thru Image” topic later in this manual.

Turn off (uncheck) this option (the default setting) if you prefer to use other means to place the Pass-Thru Image files in the appropriate location for external PPML resources on your digital printing system. The PPML output will still reference the files for the Pass-Thru Images but these files will not be included in the output. This will enhance the performance of the PPML Driver.

If you would prefer to have the PPML merge session include the Pass-Thru Image files, check the **Include Pass-Thru Images** option. When this option is On (checked), each job that the session produces will include the Pass-Thru Image files that are required to print that individual job. Depending on which option you select for the Destination of the session's Image Objects, described later in this manual, the Pass-Thru Image files may be included within each PPML job the session produces or may be placed in a folder you select (for example, the folder on your digital printing system for external resources).

PPML Objects

These options determine the manner in which the various elements (objects and fonts) for a job will be included in the output. Typically, there will be no need to change these values.

Type

You can select from the following types of output:

External Data: Will create all of the elements for a PPML job as external files in the same folder as the PPML file. This type of output is fastest, and is preferred for use when creating PPML ZIP file output (discussed later in this manual). This format is supported by most PPML printing devices. This format allows for a significant performance enhancement for both the Print Driver and your printing device.

Internal Data: Will create all of the elements for a PPML job as internal data. With this selection, the elements for each job will be incorporated "inline" in the job's PPML file. This format is required on some PPML printing devices, and is typically not used when creating PPML ZIP file output. Please note that this Internal Data output takes longer to create than External Data output. Also, since all of the elements will be contained within the output file, choose an appropriate **Page Sets per Job** setting.

OPI

Select the OPI options you wish to use for the merge session. For best results, choose the same OPI option that you would choose if you were exporting the document to an EPS file to send to your printer.

Data

Select the format for the output. For best results, choose the same format that you would choose if you were exporting the document to an EPS file to send to your printer.

Color

Select the color for the output. For best results, choose the same Color that you would choose if you were exporting the document to an EPS file to send to your printer.

Transparency Flattener

Select one of your Adobe InDesign Transparency Flattener presets to specify how transparent objects appear in the output. For best results, choose the same Transparency Flattener setting that you would choose if you were exporting the document to an EPS file to send to your printer.



*If your document has a Transparency Effect (including Drop Shadows) applied to any objects, examine the document to determine which objects must be printed together to produce the transparency effect. This will determine which Print Driver for AccurioPro VDP you will prefer to use for this job. If the transparency effect involves an interaction between fixed objects only (none of the objects are variable), you may use the **PPML Driver**.*

*If the transparency effect involves an interaction between fixed and variable objects, use the **PDF Driver**, assuming your digital press supports the PDF/VT or PDF format where transparencies have been retained and not flattened (when using the PDF Driver on this type of job, select Acrobat 5 or above for the Export Adobe PDF Compatibility setting). If your digital press does not support a PDF format, then use the **PostScript Driver** to print the output in a non-optimized manner, which will retain any and all transparency effects. For more information about using the PDF Driver or the PostScript Driver, see that Print Driver's manual, which is available in PDF format in AccurioPro VDP Documentation.*

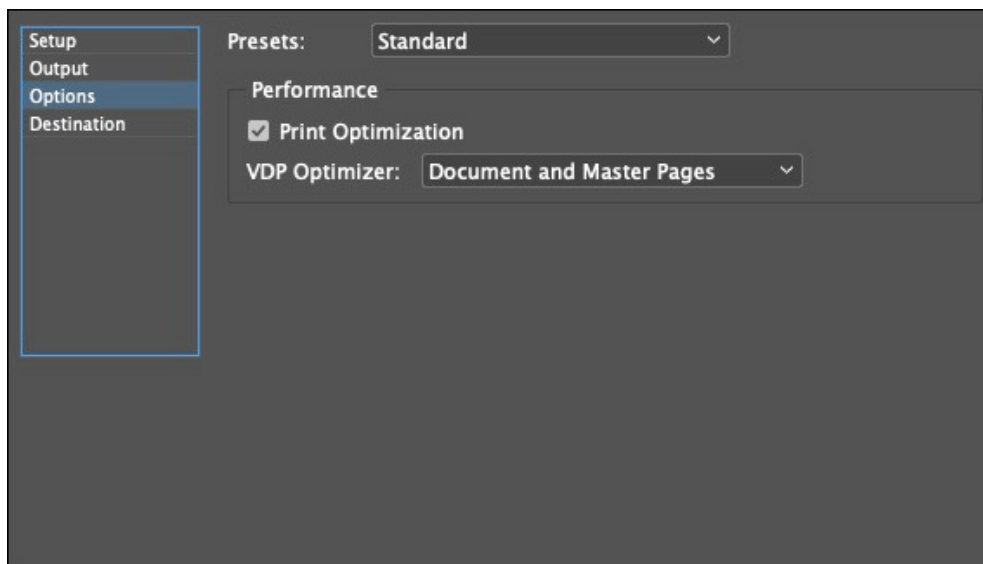
Create Zip File Container

When this option is checked, each job will be saved in a Zip File Container format. Each Zip file will contain all of the elements that you chose to include in each job that the merge session produces. If you have set **Page Sets per Job** to a value other than **All**, the Print Driver will create a Zip File Container for each job that is created by the merge session.



Creating a Zip File Container is recommended for PPML jobs that contain External Data Objects. Note that some PPML consumers do not support Zip File Containers. If your printing device does not support the PPML ZIP file format, you can still take advantage of the performance enhancement provided by selecting External Data if your printing device supports processing a PPML file that uses external elements located in the same folder as the PPML file. In that case, simply transfer the PPML ZIP file to the print server, extract its files into a single folder, and then import the PPML file from within this folder.

Options



Performance

These options enable features to optimize the merge session.

Print Optimization

Turn on (check) this option (the default setting) to enable special printing optimizations that are exclusive to Print Drivers for AccurioPro VDP.

VDP Optimizer

This option enables the exclusive “VDP Optimizer” feature, which is a separate plug-in component for AccurioPro VDP. The VDP Optimizer ensures the fastest possible performance for large variable data jobs. This option will work for any VDP job, but is most helpful when producing a large volume of VDP output for hundreds of records. Select **Document Pages Only** (the default setting) to enable optimizing all pages in the document. If your document is using a Page Rule that applies Master Pages, then you may prefer to select **Document & Master Pages**.



*For more information about Rules, including an example of a job that uses a Page Rule to apply Master Pages, see **Tutorial #1c**, which is available in PDF format in AccurioPro VDP Documentation.*

Destination

Setup
Output
Options
Destination

Presets: Standard

PPML

Action: Prompt for Folder

Printer: Brother MFC-9340CDW

Folder: Select Folder...

Image Objects

Action: Keep with PPML

Folder: Select Folder...

☐ Save a Backup Copy

PPML Action

This section specifies what to do with each job after it has been produced. Select an **Action** to tell the merge session where to place or send each job as soon as it has been produced. Each option is described below:

Prompt for Folder

This is the default option. The jobs will be placed in the destination folder that you select after you click the **Continue** button. You can then submit the jobs to whichever printer you prefer at any time by using a submission tool for that printing device or by placing the jobs in a “Hot Folder” if your digital printing system provides support for Hot Folders. Or, you may select a Hot Folder as the destination folder, noting that this means you may not end up with a copy of the output on your own system.



It can be useful to send output, or a copy of the output, to a Hot Folder. A Hot Folder can automatically send each job to your printer for processing as soon as each job has been produced and also can optionally assign specific printer settings to those jobs. Additionally, a Hot Folder can normally send a job to a printer significantly faster than a print queue on your system can.

Place in Specified Folder

This option instructs the merge session to place each job in the currently specified folder. Use the **Select Folder** button to specify the folder. This option can be useful if you prefer to place output from all of your PPML jobs in the same folder, as the PPML Driver will

remember which folder you last specified. You may select any folder, including a “Hot Folder” if your printing device provides Hot Folder support. Selecting a Hot Folder can be useful, as described above.

Send to Specified Printer

This option instructs the merge session to send the jobs to the specified printer. Like the Hot Folder approach, this approach also ensures parallel processing by allowing the printing device to begin processing pages while the merge session continues producing output.

When the **Send to Specified Printer** option is selected, the **Printer** popup menu will become active. The **Printer** menu will list all of the printers available to you on your system. Choose the printer that you wish to receive the jobs. You will probably prefer to choose a printer that has been set up to send jobs to the Hold queue on your printing device, which will allow your printer operator to apply appropriate printer properties to a job before printing it. As soon as each job has been produced, it will be downloaded to the selected printer.

Image Objects Action

This section specifies what to do with each image object after it has been produced. Select an **Action** to tell the merge session where to place the Image Objects that the session will produce. Each option is described below:

Keep with PPML

This is the default option. The Image Objects will be a part of the PPML output.

Place in Specified Folder

This option, which is intended for use only with printing systems that support processing external resources, instructs the PPML Driver to treat the session’s Image Objects as a separate component and these objects will not become a part of the PPML output. Instead, they will be placed in the folder that you specify here.

For efficiency and to avoid overwriting files that are already in the specified folder, Image Object files will be placed in the specified folder only when a file of the same file name does not yet exist in that location. Therefore, choosing this option can be especially helpful if you have chosen a **Page Sets per Job** setting that will separate the merged page sets into several jobs, because this allows the PPML Driver to produce a single instance of an Image Object rather than a new instance in each job the merge session produces that uses that same Image Object.

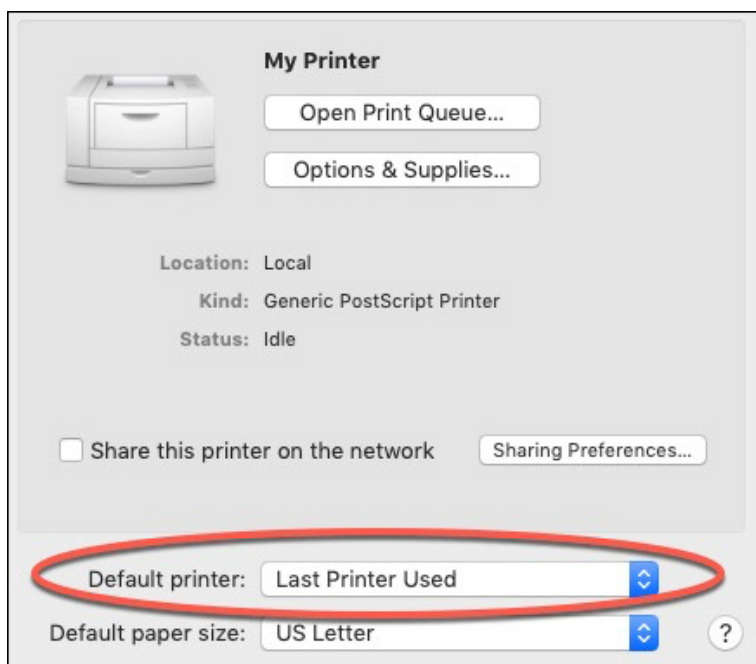
Use the **Select Folder** button to specify the destination folder for the Image Objects. You may choose the folder where a specific digital press has been set up to search for external resources, or if you prefer, you may choose a local folder and then copy or move the Image Objects to the appropriate external resources location on whichever digital printing system you choose at your convenience to process this PPML job(s).

Save a Back Up Copy

This option is available only when you have selected **Place in Specified Folder** or **Send to Specified Printer**, as described above. When this option is On (checked), a copy of the output will be saved in a folder that you will be prompted to select after you click the **Continue** button on the **PPML Driver** window. You may find it helpful to save a backup copy when you are choosing to send the output to a Printer or to a Hot Folder that will move the output to a Printer, since neither of these two destinations will provide you a copy of the output on your own system.

Important Information for Those Using a Macintosh OS X System

To use the **Download to Printer** option successfully on a Macintosh OS X system, it is recommended that you set your system's default printer to the "last printer used". For example, open your **Printers & Scanners** System Preferences and select **Last Printer Used** from the **Default printer** popup menu, as shown circled in the picture below:



Using Destination with Page Sets per Job to Streamline Jobs

Choosing the **Place in Specified Folder** or the **Send to Specified Printer** option in conjunction with the **Page Sets per Job: Specify** or **Page Sets per Job: Subset** option can help to streamline a merge session by allowing you to "chunk" the variable data job into more manageable sections. For example, if you select **Specify** for **Page Sets per Job** and enter the number "100" as the maximum number of page sets per job, then AccurioPro VDP

will merge the first 100 page sets and the Print Driver will incorporate all of the required elements for those pages into a single job. The Print Driver will then send that job to the Hot Folder or printer to start the printing process. Once the job has been sent, AccurioPro VDP and the Print Driver continue with the next job in the merge session. As subsequent jobs are created, each one is immediately sent in turn to the selected Hot Folder or printer.

Run the PPML Merge Session

Follow the steps below to continue with the PPML merge session.

1) Click the Continue button when you have finished selecting options.

2) Select a destination folder for the PPML output, if prompted to do so.

If you chose **Prompt for Folder** for the Destination Action for the PPML, or if you chose to **Save a Backup Copy**, then you will be prompted to save the PPML output in a PPML file format or in a Zip file format, according to the **Create Zip File Container** option you selected on the **PPML Driver** window. Information is provided for each option below:

Save each PPML job in a PPML file format (do not create Zip File Container)

Select the location where you wish to place the PPML file(s). Each PPML file (job) that the session produces will be saved in this location. If you elected to produce the elements for each job as external data, all of the external files will also be stored in this same location. Additionally, if you elected to keep Image Objects with the PPML file(s), all of the Image Objects will be stored in this location.

Save each PPML job in a PPML Zip file format (create Zip File Container)

Select the location where you wish to place the PPML ZIP File(s). Each PPML ZIP file (job) that the session produces will be saved in this location. If you elected to produce PPML elements as external data, each of the PPML ZIP files that the session produces will contain its external files. Additionally, if you elected to keep Image Objects with the PPML file(s), each of the PPML ZIP files will contain its Image Objects.



For best performance, select a location on the workstation where AccurioPro VDP is running.

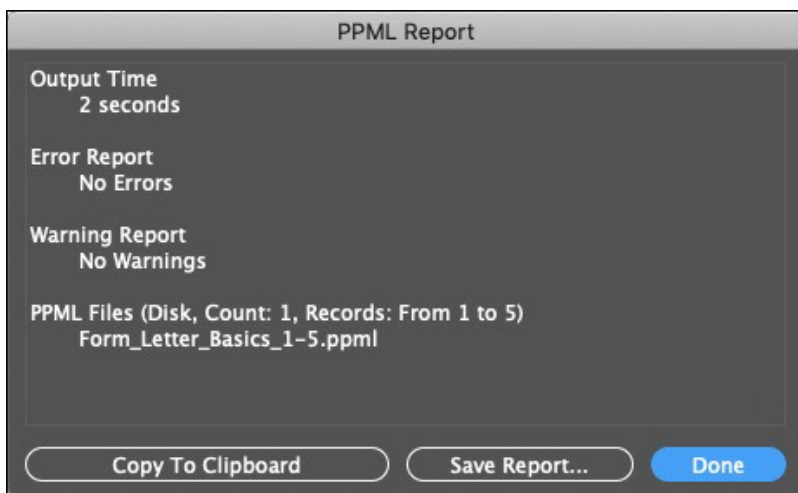
*Note: You will only be prompted to select a folder if you set the **Destination PPML Action** to **Prompt for Folder** or if you chose to **Save a Backup Copy**. For backup copies, you may wish to create a temporary holding folder for your output that you can clear from time to time.*

Track the Progress of the Session

The merge session displays progress windows as the output is being produced. You may click **Cancel** at any time to cancel the session. When the session is completed, the Print Driver presents a summary report, which is described next.

Review the Summary Report

A summary report details the jobs that were created and any page sets that were omitted due to errors. You may copy the report to the clipboard, or save it as an external file. A sample summary report is provided in the picture below:



Print the PPML Output

The PPML Destination, and Image Objects Destination if specified, should now contain all of the output from the merge session. Additionally, if you chose to **Save a Backup Copy**, the Backup Copy Destination will contain a copy of all of the output from the merge session. For information about printing a PPML job on your printer, consult the documentation for your printing system.

PPML Driver Preferences

There are a number of AccurioPro VDP preferences available that apply to this Print Driver. To access these preferences, select **Preferences** from the **AccurioPro** menu. This opens the **Preferences** window for AccurioPro VDP. Click the **Output** button to modify the Output preferences, which allow you to control various aspects of a Print Driver merge session, including file naming. For a detailed description of each preference, including those that apply to this Print Driver, see the **AccurioPro VDP Preferences** manual, which is available in PDF format in AccurioPro VDP Documentation.

Using the “Mark as Variable” Feature

This feature allows you to mark an object as a variable object. Use this feature if your document contains any fixed content that should not be printed separately from variable content, but instead should be printed with variable content. Examples include fixed content that wraps around variable content, fixed content that has variable content wrapping around it, and fixed content that is positioned above a variable object on the page.

Mark Items as Variable Objects

To use this feature, simply select the object (frame) that you wish to mark as a variable object, and then select **Mark Item as Variable** from the **AccurioPro** ⇒ **Utilities** ⇒ **Print Driver** menu. The frame edge will then display a visual indicator to indicate the frame has been marked as a Variable Object, as shown circled in the picture below of the Postcard tutorial file for **Tutorial #2** in AccurioPro VDP Documentation:



To unmark an object that has been marked as variable, select the object that has been marked as a variable, and then select **Unmark Item as Variable** from the **AccurioPro** ⇒ **Utilities** ⇒ **Print Driver** menu.

Using the “Pass-Thru Image” Feature

This feature allows you to mark an image as a Pass-Thru Image. Pass-Thru Images are pictures that can be printed in their original state — the PPML Driver does not need to produce object files for these pictures. Instead, the PPML Driver may use a copy of the original graphic files as the object files for these pictures.

Marking an image as a Pass-Thru Image will enhance the performance of the PPML Driver whenever a session will be producing output for a job that uses a large number of high-resolution images. Additionally, marking an image as a Pass-Thru Image will further enhance the performance of the PPML Driver when these image files do not need to be included in the output because you will be using other means to place these graphic files as external resources on the digital printing system.

For Pass-Thru Images to print successfully, please note that Pass-Thru Images must be the exact same size as their picture frame (the size of each graphic must exactly match the size of the frame marking its position in the document). Also, the Pass-Thru Images must not require any printing effects that would only be present if the graphic files were placed in the document, which includes any effects that have been applied to their frame such as a stroke or color.

Mark Image as a Pass-Thru Image

To mark an image as a Pass-Thru, first select the frame for the image in the document. Then, open the **AccurioPro** menu and select **Utilities** ⇒ **Print Driver** ⇒ **Mark Image as Pass-Thru**. When a picture frame has been marked as a Pass-Thru Image, the frame will display an icon (👉), as shown below:

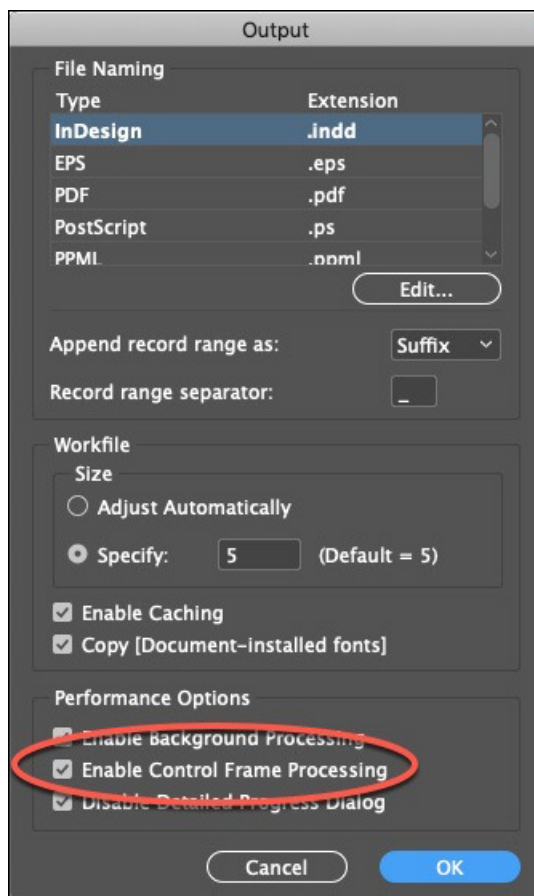


To unmark an image that has been marked as a Pass-Thru, select the frame that has been marked as a Pass-Thru, and then select **Unmark Image as Pass-Thru** from the **AccurioPro** ⇒ **Utilities** ⇒ **Print Driver** menu.

Enabling Control Frame Processing

A Premium edition of AccurioPro VDP provides the ability to apply additional processing instructions to a Print Driver merge session. You may wish to control, for example, the file names that the Print Driver will apply to the output for a job, which is the next topic in this manual. You can also control the number of copies that will be produced for the merged page sets in your PPML output. This additional processing is accomplished by adding a “Control Frame” to the document and by enabling the Control Frame Processing capabilities of AccurioPro VDP. If the Control Frame Processing capabilities are not enabled, then a Print Driver will ignore any and all control frames that have been placed in a document.

To confirm Control Frame Processing is enabled on your system, select **Preferences** from the **AccurioPro** menu to open the **Preferences** window. Then, click the **Output** button on the **Preferences** window. This will open the **Output** window where you will see the **Enable Control Frame Processing** option, shown circled in the picture below:



Using the “Filename Frame” Feature

When using a Premium edition of AccurioPro VDP, you have the option of adding a unique type of text frame called a “Filename Frame” to your document. A Filename Frame is designed to provide customized names for merged Print output. This allows you to have complete control over the naming of the jobs that a Print merge session creates. When you use the Filename Frame feature, all other Print Driver job name settings (including Base Job Name and record range) are ignored. Rather, the name of each job will be taken from the text that is inside the job’s merged Filename Frame.

The Filename Frame can contain any text, including Variable Links. In fact, by placing a Link inside the Filename Frame, you can automate the naming of your jobs by linking to a data field which contains unique names. Typically, the Filename Frame is most helpful when producing an individual job for each new page set (setting Page Sets per Job to the number “1”). However, the Filename Frame can be used for any number of Page Sets per Job.

Note that the content of the Filename Frame itself will not appear on any printed pages because AccurioPro VDP automatically sets it up to be nonprinting (AccurioPro VDP turns on the frame’s “Nonprinting” attribute).

To use the Filename Frame feature, follow the steps outlined below:

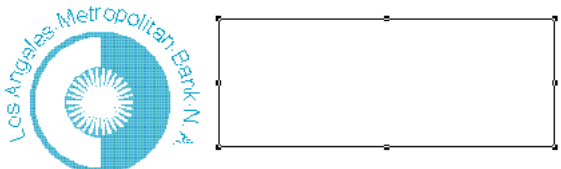
1) Open a document.

Open a document that has been prepared by AccurioPro VDP for variable data. For this example, open the sample Form Letter document (“Form Letter.indd”) which exists inside the “1) Form Letter” Tutorial Files folder in AccurioPro VDP Documentation. Confirm the document has the AccurioPro VDP Links that you added when you followed the steps in **Tutorial #1a (The Basics)**.

2) Create a text frame in the document and select it with the Selection tool.

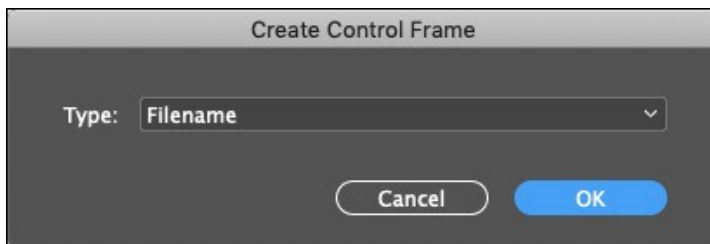
You can place the text frame anywhere on the page (but not on the Pasteboard area). The frame will not print because, when you assign this frame to be the Filename Frame, AccurioPro VDP will automatically set the frame to be nonprinting.

Next, use the Selection  tool to select the new text frame. Below is an example using the Form Letter tutorial document:



3) From the **AccurioPro** menu, select **Utilities** ⇒ **Print Driver** ⇒ **Control Frame** ⇒ **Create**.

This will open the **Create Control Frame** window, as shown below:



4) Select **Filename** from the **Type** menu, and click **OK**.

The text frame gains a dashed Magenta border with a shaded Magenta background and a non-printing label, indicating it is a Filename Frame. Also, if you look at the InDesign **Attributes** window for this frame, you will see that AccurioPro VDP has turned on the **Nonprinting** option, meaning that the frame (and its content) will not appear on any printed pages.

An example of a Filename Frame is shown in the picture below:



*If you accidentally assign a Filename Frame to the wrong text frame, simply select that text frame, and then select **Utilities** ⇒ **Print Driver** ⇒ **Control Frame** ⇒ **Remove** from the **AccurioPro** menu. This will remove the Filename Frame assignment and will also restore the text frame's original stroke, background, and printing attributes.*

5) In the Filename Frame, insert at least one Variable Text Link along with any desired fixed text, and the appropriate file name extension (".ppml").

As discussed earlier, the content in the Filename Frame will determine the name for each job the Print Driver merge session will produce. So, if you were to type a filename into this frame manually, that filename would be used as the name for all jobs that the merge session creates. Note that since this filename would be invariable, if multiple jobs were produced by a merge session, they would overwrite each other because the exact same filename would be used over and over again. Obviously this is not a desirable result.

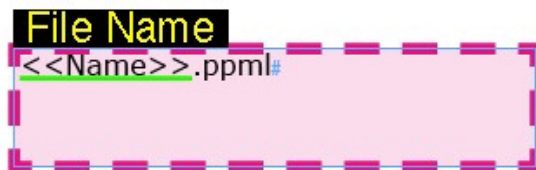
To vary the filename of each job that a merge session creates for a document, you must first include in your data file a field which contains a unique filename for each job that you wish to create. Then, to make the content in the Filename Frame variable, just place a Variable Text Link for that data inside the frame as you normally would.

For an example, we will be using the "Name" Link for the "Name" field in the sample Form Letter data file. This will produce jobs that use the Name data ("Roland Reed", "Cindy Olsen", "Thomas Corbo", etc.) for their filenames. Each record in our sample data file contains a unique name, which is why we can use it for this example.

The picture below shows an example of a Filename Frame where the "Name" Variable Link has been inserted as a Text Link:



Now, because the text that appears inside the Filename Frame is going to be used as the file name for a PPML file, add “.ppml” for the file name extension. For example, simply enter the characters “.ppml” to the right and outside the “Name” Text Link that we just inserted, and remove any extraneous word spaces, as shown below:



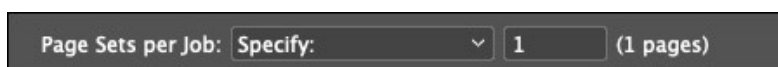
Note that it is important to add the “.ppml” characters outside the “Name” Text Link. Otherwise, the “.ppml” characters will be replaced by the incoming variable text during the merge process. If the “.ppml” characters are inside the Text Link, you can easily move them to the outside by highlighting the “.ppml” characters and then click the **Remove** button on the **AccurioPro** panel (or select **Utilities** ⇒ **Link** ⇒ **Clear Selection Range** from the **AccurioPro** menu).

6) Merge the document.

Merge the document as described earlier in this manual except set the **Page Sets per Job** option as described below to use the Filename Frame feature successfully:

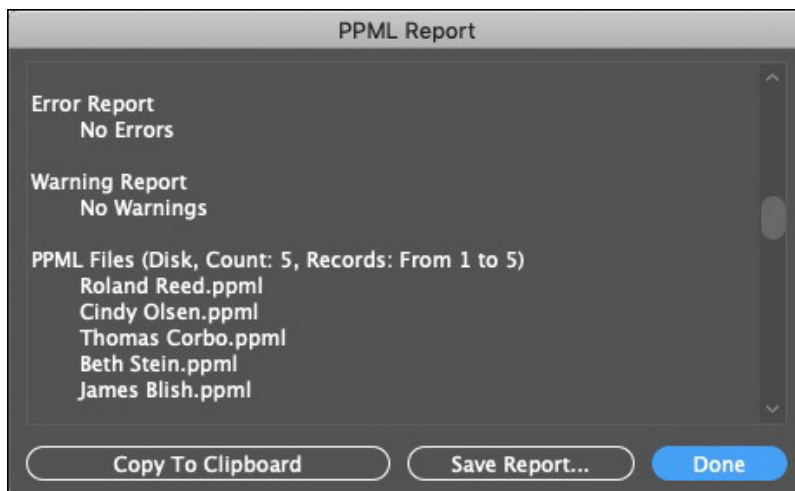
Set the **Page Sets per Job** value.

When using the Filename Frame feature, you will typically want to set the **Page Sets per Job** value to the number “1”. That way, the merge session will create an individual job for each merged variation of the document. For example, using the Form Letter tutorial where the document has one page, enter “1” (as shown in the picture below) and the Print Driver will create five jobs, each containing one merged page.



7) Review the summary report.

When the merge session has finished, you will be presented with the summary report window listing the jobs created by the merge session. Notice that each job's name reflects the contents of its merged Filename Frame. For example, five jobs were created from this set of steps, each one basing its name on the "Name" data in the sample data file, as shown below:



As long as the **Control Frame Processing** feature is enabled (see the "Enabling Control Frame Processing" topic earlier in this manual) and the merge session is able to locate a Filename Frame in the document, then the session will use the contents of the Filename Frame for the names of the jobs it produces. If Control Frame Processing is not enabled, or if the session cannot find a Filename Frame in the document, then the session will name the jobs as it normally does by automatically appending a record range and file name extension to the Base Job Name.



If you create a job containing more than one merged page set (i.e., you set the **Page Sets Per Job** to any number greater than the number "1"), the job will carry the name provided by the first Filename Frame in that job. Additionally, if your document contains more than one sequence of Links, the output will be given the name provided by the record(s) that were merged according to the Sequence Number you assigned to the Links in the job's first Filename Frame.



The file names of PPML Driver output may contain a maximum number of 128 characters, including the file name extension (.ppml). Before you run a PPML Driver merge session that will use a Filename Frame, run a **Longest Line Test** merge session to confirm the longest file name the merge session will produce will be less than 129 characters.

Using the “Number of Copies” Feature

When using the PPML Driver, you have the option of adding a unique type of text frame called a “Number of Copies” control frame to your document. Use a Number of Copies Frame to specify the number of copies to print for each page set in the output.

A Number of Copies Frame can contain any numeric text, including AccurioPro VDP Variables whose merged result will be numeric text. In fact, by placing a Link inside the Number of Copies Frame, you can vary the number of copies that are produced for each page set.


To use the Number of Copies feature, follow the steps outlined below:

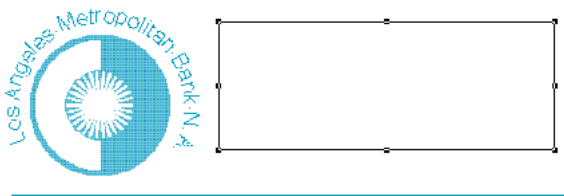
1) Open a document.

Open a document that has been prepared by AccurioPro VDP for variable data. For this example, open the sample Form Letter document (“Form Letter.indd”) which exists inside the “1) Form Letter” Tutorial Files folder in AccurioPro VDP Documentation. Confirm the document has the AccurioPro VDP Links that you added when you followed the steps in **Tutorial #1a (The Basics)**.

2) Create a text frame in the document and select it with the Selection tool.

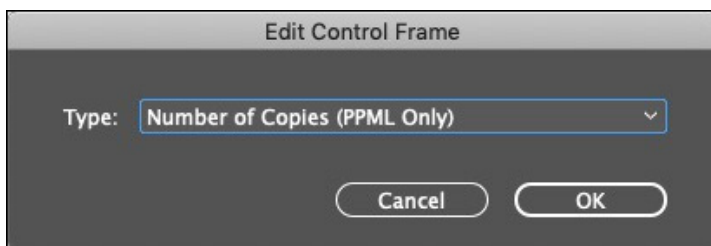
You can place the text frame anywhere on the page (but not on the Pasteboard area). The frame will not print because, when you assign this frame to be a Number of Copies Frame, AccurioPro VDP will automatically set the frame to be nonprinting.

Next, use the Selection  tool to select the new text frame. Below is an example using the Form Letter tutorial document:



3) From the **AccurioPro** menu, select **Utilities** ⇒ **Print Driver** ⇒ **Control Frame** ⇒ **Create**.

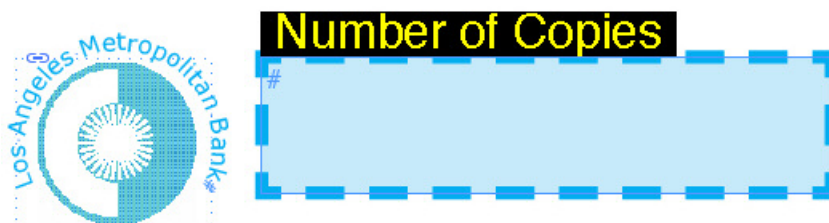
This will open the **Create Control Frame** window where you may choose the **Type** of Control Frame that you wish to create.



4) Select **Number of Copies (PPML Only)** from the **Type** menu, and click **OK**.

The text frame gains a dashed Cyan border with a shaded Cyan background and a non-printing label, indicating it is a Number of Copies Frame. Also, if you look at the InDesign **Attributes** window for this frame, you will see that AccurioPro VDP has turned on the **Nonprinting** option, meaning that the frame (and its content) will not appear on any printed pages.

An example of a Number of Copies Frame is shown in the picture below:



*If you accidentally assign a Number of Copies Frame to the wrong text frame, simply select that text frame, and then select **Utilities** ⇒ **Print Driver** ⇒ **Control Frame** ⇒ **Remove** from the **AccurioPro** menu. This will remove the Number of Copies Frame assignment and will also restore the text frame's original frame, background, and printing attributes.*

5) In the Number of Copies Frame, enter a number or insert a Variable Text Link whose data will be a number.

As discussed earlier, the content in the Number of Copies Frame will determine the number of copies for the merged page sets that are included in the output for the job. So, if you were to type a number into this frame manually, that is the number of copies that will be specified for each merged page set that a PPML merge session will produce for this document.

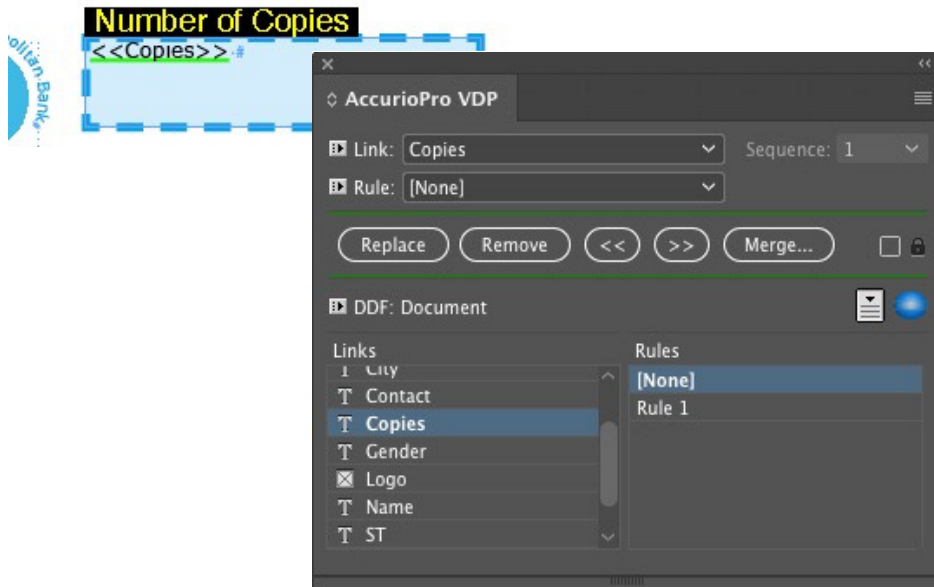
For example, if you placed the number “2” in this frame, then the PPML output will specify 2 copies for each page set that the output contains. Since the text inside the Number of Copies Frame will be used as a number to specify the number of copies for each page set in the PPML output, it is important that you enter only numeric text in this frame.

To vary the number of copies for each page set that a merge session produces for a document, you must first include in your data file a field which contains a number for the number of copies for a record. Then, just assign the Variable Link for that Number of Copies data to text in the Number of Copies Frame, as you normally would assign a Variable Link to text in any text frame.

For the example presented here, we will be using a Variable Link named “Copies”, which points to a “Copies” field that has been added to the sample Form Letter data file. Each record in this sample data file contains its own individual number in the “Copies” field, as shown below:

Name	Gender	Address #1	Address #2	City	ST	Zip	Logo	Contact	Copies
Roland Reed	M	1267 Vernon Ct	Suite #244	Hollywood	CA	90036	VISA.eps	contact1.txt	2
Cindy Olsen	F	4577 Roanoke St		Glendale	CA	90148	MSTR.eps	contact2.txt	3
Thomas Corbo	M	4522 Troy Ave	Unit 3-B	Burbank	CA	91504	AMEX.eps	contact3.txt	1
Beth Stein	F	294 Eagle St		Glendale	CA	90148	MSTR.eps	contact2.txt	3
James Blish	M	1433 Van Dyke	#22	Hollywood	CA	90036	VISA.eps	contact1.txt	2

The picture below shows an example of a Number of Copies Frame where the “Copies” Variable Link has been inserted as a Text Link:



Since the text inside the Number of Copies Frame will be used as a number to specify the number of copies for a record’s page set in the PPML output, it is important that each time the Link in this frame is merged, the frame will contain only numeric content.

6) Merge the document.

Merge the document as described earlier in this manual.

7) Review the summary report.

When the merge session has finished, you will be presented with the summary report window listing the jobs created by this merge session.

8) The output is ready for processing and printing.

Each page set within the output will include information regarding the number of copies to produce of that individual page set. If your digital press supports this feature, your digital printer will apply each page set's specified number of copies while processing and printing the output.



*As long as the **Control Frame Processing** feature is enabled (see the "Enabling Control Frame Processing" topic earlier in this manual), and the merge session is able to locate a Number of Copies Frame in the document, then the session will use the contents of the Number of Copies Frame to indicate the number of copies of a merged page set to produce. If **Control Frame Processing** is not enabled, or if the session cannot find a Number of Copies Frame in the document, the session will produce one copy of each merged page set as it normally does.*

More Information

For more information about AccurioPro VDP and its modules, please see the information that is included in PDF format in AccurioPro VDP Documentation, as described below:

Tutorials present various features of AccurioPro VDP in an easy-to-follow, step-by-step format to help you quickly learn more about using AccurioPro VDP. You will find PDFs of the tutorials with accompanying sample files in the “AccurioPro VDP Tutorials” folder which is inside the “AccurioPro VDP Documentation” folder.

Manuals for modules in the AccurioPro VDP software package are available in PDF format inside their corresponding folders in the “Supplemental Documentation” folder.

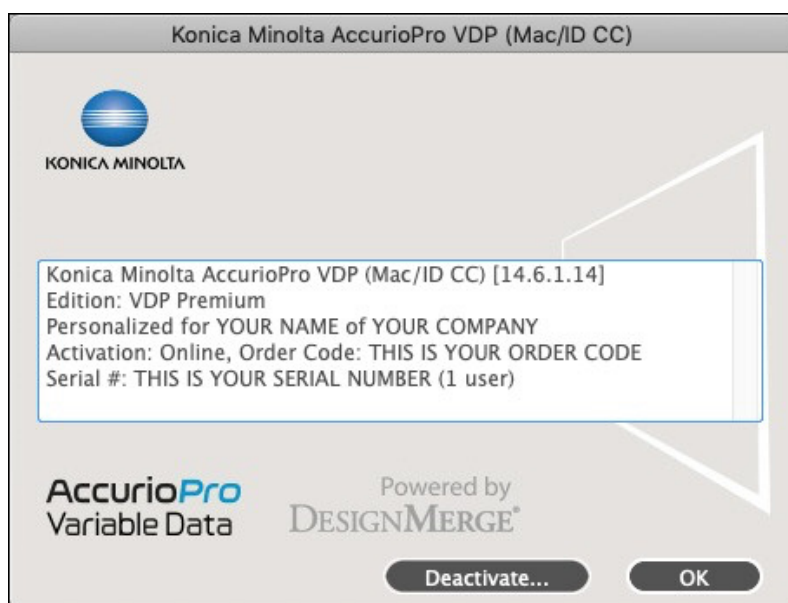


To download the latest version of AccurioPro VDP Documentation, go to www.accurioprovd.com/downloads.

Technical Support

For information about AccurioPro VDP Support and to submit a Support Ticket, go to www.accurioprovd.com/support. You can also go to this web page by opening the **AccurioPro** menu and selecting **Help** ⇒ **Online Support Center**.

When requesting support, please provide your **AccurioPro VDP Order Code**. The Order Code was originally provided on an email message. You can also see which Order Code has been used to activate your installation of AccurioPro VDP by opening the **AccurioPro** menu and selecting **Help** ⇒ **About AccurioPro**. An example of the About Konica Minolta AccurioPro window is shown below:



The About Konica Minolta AccurioPro window shown in the picture above allows you to deactivate the software. If you wish to move your installation of the software to a new system, open the About AccurioPro window for your current installation and deactivate your current installation. You will then be able to install and activate the software on your new system. Note that deactivating the software does not uninstall it. To uninstall the software, quit InDesign. Then open your InDesign application's "Plug-Ins folder". You will see a "Meadows" folder inside the "Plug-Ins" folder. Delete this "Meadows" folder. This uninstalls (removes) the software from your InDesign application.

Legal Stuff

Copyright & Trademark Information

This document is © Meadows Information Systems, LLC d/b/a Meadows Publishing Solutions. All rights reserved worldwide. Unauthorized reproduction of this document or its content without permission is expressly prohibited.

DesignMerge is a registered trademark of Meadows Information Systems, LLC. AutoPrice, CopyFit, GroupPicture, Price Style, 2D Bar Code Module, Bar Code Module, Data Exporter, PDF Exporter, Squinch Reporter, Index Builder, Page Printer, Picture Namer, Batch Print, Batch Update, Copy Grabber, Math Grabber, Tab Grabber, and Text Grabber are trademarks of Meadows Information Systems, LLC.

AccurioPro is a registered trademark of Konica Minolta.

Adobe, PostScript, Acrobat, Distiller, and InDesign are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

All other product names used herein are for identification purposes only and may be trademarks of their respective companies.