

# PLANETPRESS SUITE PlanetPress Suite 6.2 is out with lots of exciting features!

## More design capabilities for creating high impact documents

### Enhanced Business Graphics using Microsoft® Excel



In addition to its already existing wide range of business graphics, PlanetPress Design now includes the option to dynamically generate and integrate business graphics created with Microsoft Excel. Users now have the possibility to display quality business graphics that are as pleasing to the eye as they are complex. Simply create a spreadsheet containing the desired graphic in Microsoft Excel 2000 and higher, customizing the type, colors and fonts used and adding information personalized to your business. After you save the spreadsheet, specify its location in the Business Graph object in PlanetPress Design, select the variable data to be used for building the graphics and voilà! You have integrated business graphics that are entirely variable as well as eye catching!

- Create eye catching business graphics using the advanced capabilities offered by Microsoft Excel
- Easily personalize a wide set of business graphics templates that can be called on demand within PlanetPress Design
- Allow users to modify the graphics templates without modifying the PlanetPress Design document

Note: this new feature is available for the followings printing methods:

- Optimized PostScript® using PlanetPress Watch on licensed printers
- Optimized PostScript and Windows® printing using PlanetPress Server on any printers

### Clipping Capabilities for Text and Images



Users of PlanetPress Design will now be able to create cool effects when designing a document using its new clipping functionality, restraining any visual output to a clipping path. Printing only the elements inside the path and ignoring everything outside of it, this new trend in graphic design is especially popular for designing catalogs, flyers, brochures and other promotional and transpromotional documents. Combined with the use of variable data, clipping brings personalization to a whole new level! By easily stamping a bitmap over a clipping path defined by the outline of a font, users can create visual effects that will be sure to catch the reader's eye.

- Easily preserve parts of images, eliminating backgrounds outside of clipping path for quicker document design
- Add texture to text and images in your documents
- Capture your readers' attention with enhanced visual effects for greater impact

### New Address Block Object with Metadata Output and Input Capability



PlanetPress Design includes a new and dynamic Address Object that facilitates the creation of address blocks, independently of the selected emulation. This new address block can include up to eight lines of address and its height can be dynamically and automatically modified, from top to bottom or bottom to top, allowing users to specify a fixed location for a zip code or barcode. Furthermore, the information contained in this address block can be converted to a Metadata file in PlanetPress Watch or PlanetPress Server for further processing by a third party application or plugin within a local or global process. The Metadata file created can be used by different applications for many purposes such as document reordering and data sorting to be later reintegrated in a PlanetPress Watch or PlanetPress Server process, determining for example a specific print ordering within a single job.

### CREO Variable Print Specification (VPS) Certification



PlanetPress Suite Version 6 has been tested and certified as ready to work with CREO Color Servers VPS' latest version for personalized printing. CREO VPS is a VDP format specifically developed for color production presses driven by Spire servers, and is based on PostScript. VPS is known for its efficient data transfer, ability to identify repeatable vs. unique elements, and efficient processing and caching.

## Added functionalities for even more streamlined workflows

### Additions of 2D Barcodes such as Data Matrix, MaxiCode and QR Code to the Barcode Library

The PlanetPress Design barcode library now includes 10 new barcodes, including Data Matrix, MaxiCode and QR Code.



**Data Matrix** - A very efficient two-dimensional (2D) barcode which can store from 1 to about 2,000 characters, Data Matrix uses a small area of square modules with a unique perimeter pattern, which helps the barcode scanner determine cell locations and decode the symbol. Characters, numbers, text and actual bytes of data may be encoded, including photos. Data Matrix codes are increasingly popular on printed media such as labels and transactional documents. The code can be read quickly by a scanner which allows the media to be tracked, for example when a parcel has been dispatched to the recipient.



**MaxiCode** - MaxiCode is a barcode that is currently used by postal services on packing slips for package sortation and addressing worldwide. Suitable for tracking and managing the shipment of packages, MaxiCode uses dots arranged in a hexagonal grid instead of bars. All MaxiCode symbols include a Structured Carrier Message containing key information about a package. This information is protected with an error correction code, allowing it to be read even if a portion of the symbol is damaged.



**QR Code** - Widely used in Japan due to its Kanji character encoding, the QR Code barcode was used initially for tracking parts in vehicle manufacturing but are now used in a much broader context spanning both commercial tracking applications as well as convenience-oriented applications. QR Codes storing addresses and URLs may appear in magazines, on signs, buses, business cards or just about any object that a user might need information about. A user having a camera phone equipped with the correct reader software can scan the image of the QR Code causing the phone's browser to launch and redirect to the programmed URL.

The following barcodes have also been added to PlanetPress Design's barcode library:

- Aztec
- Code 16k
- Micro QR
- GS1-DataBar (RSS)
- Codablock F
- Code 49
- Micro PDF
- Optimized PostScript using PlanetPress Watch on licensed printers
- Optimized PostScript and Windows printing using PlanetPress Server on any printers

Note: All these new barcodes are currently available for the followings printing methods:

### Automatic Database Conversion

In addition to its own existing database format, PlanetPress Watch and PlanetPress Server's database plugin now has the option to save the resulting data file in XML, CSV or fixed-length mode. This will make things easier for end-users who are not familiar with database structure and who'd rather use any of the above mentioned formats. It will also reduce the number of steps in many PlanetPress Watch processes since the conversion happens on the fly and does not need to occur through an additional transformation plugin.

### Default Start-Up Process

With PlanetPress Watch and PlanetPress Server running as a service, it sometimes needs preliminary tasks to be performed before any of the configured processes can run properly. By adding a single start-up process that gets executed once, each time the PlanetPress Watch or PlanetPress Server service is launched, end-users can initialize their systems adequately before any other process attempts to run.

### Unlimited Custom Variables

PlanetPress Suite end-users now have the possibility to define, set and use an unlimited number of custom variables for use in PlanetPress Watch and/or PlanetPress Server processes, increasing workflow efficiency and flexibility. Users can create process-wide (aka Local Variables) custom variables that can be reused across all branches of a single process, and configuration-wide (aka Global Variables) custom variables allowing information to be carried across processes, making inter-process communication possible. These variables are readily available from the Configuration treeview as well as from all contextual menus. These changes will allow, for instance, an entire file to be loaded completely into a custom variable from any branch in a process and reused, processed or inserted into the job data file at any other point in the process.

