



ProPag

Automated Page Assembly



In the search for optimization potentials, it is of paramount importance to automate repetitive manual tasks and avoid redundant work. At the same time, elements that have been produced at local sites must be merged as late as possible in order to cater for late changes. In view of requirements like this, ProPag digitalizes the traditional page assembly process and ensures that this complicated workflow can be fully automated. All page elements from the ad and editorial departments are automatically assembled into digital pages by ProPag. The output is then forwarded directly to the output management system (OM) for the automated production of printing plates.





Full automation

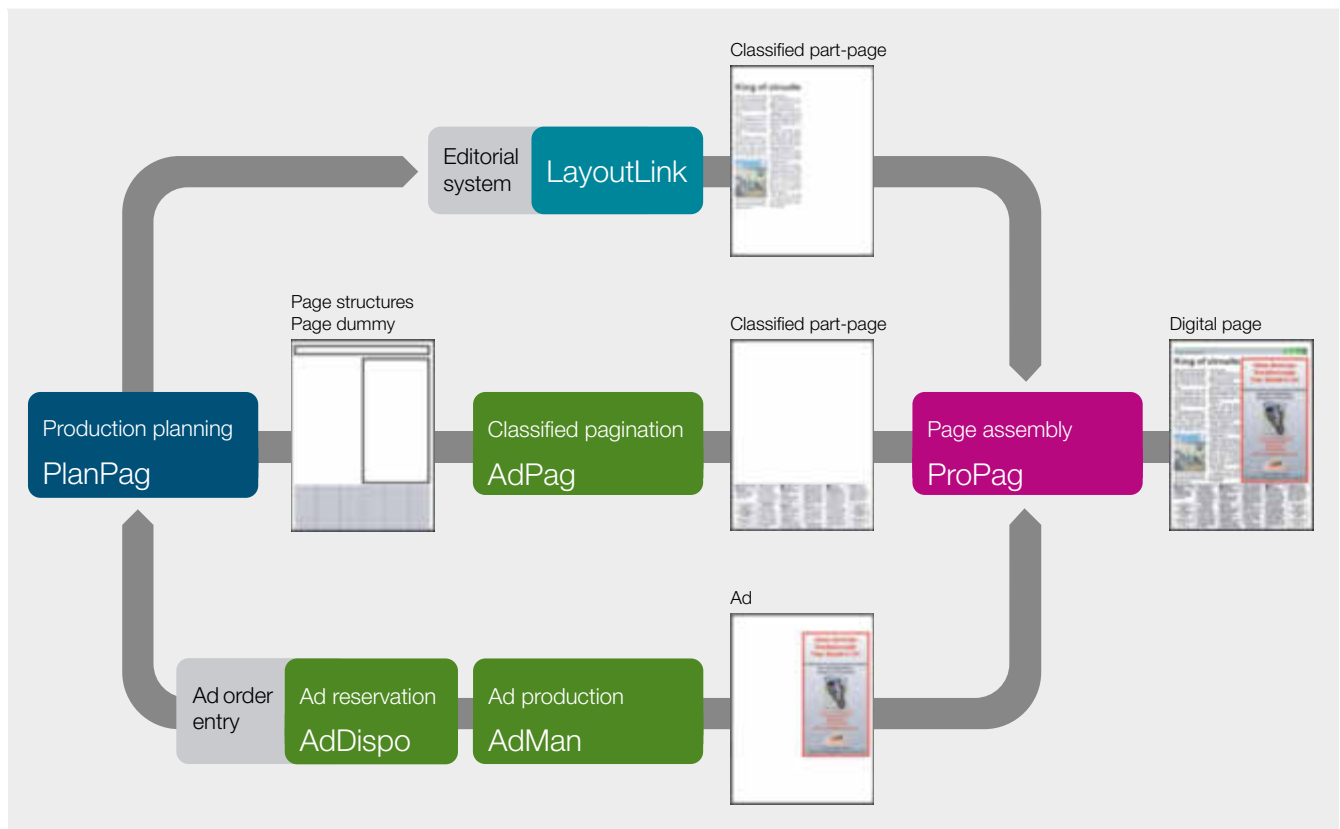
From a conceptual point of view, ProPag is based on traditional prepress methods, but goes one decisive step further by fully automating the page assembly process, one of the most time-consuming processes in the workflow. In contrast to traditional manual assembly at light tables, at which elements have to be matched and “small irregularities” corrected, page assembly with ProPag is fast, efficient and fully automated, i.e. it can be performed without manual intervention. By automatically generating and positioning standard elements such as page folios, dividing rules, date lines, EAE barcodes or layout types, prepress staff are able to concentrate on creative tasks – and this is much more than just a positive side-effect.

Central database

Automated page assembly with ProPag is based on the separation of page layout and content, i.e. the ad and editorial departments are each responsible for producing their own elements based on information they get from the PlanPag planning system. In the planning system, all print products and colors are defined here on the basis of templates and print catalogs. All PlanPag page layouts and their page elements are stored in the central ppi database with a unique Id and addressed to the editorial, ad and prepress departments as production orders. The advantages of this are evident:

- Responsibilities are clearly defined. Each department is responsible for ensuring that the page elements it supplies for assembly are complete and error-free.
- The ad and editorial departments can be sure that neither content nor layout will be changed in the downstream production workflow.
- Editorial elements and ads can then be edited and prepared for page assembly at any of the publisher’s remote offices.
- Personnel and labor-intensive corrections during manual assembly are no longer necessary, ensuring efficient and automated page assembly.

Excerpt from the ppi workflow. ProPag ensures full automation and production security during page assembly.





ProPag supports all standard data formats

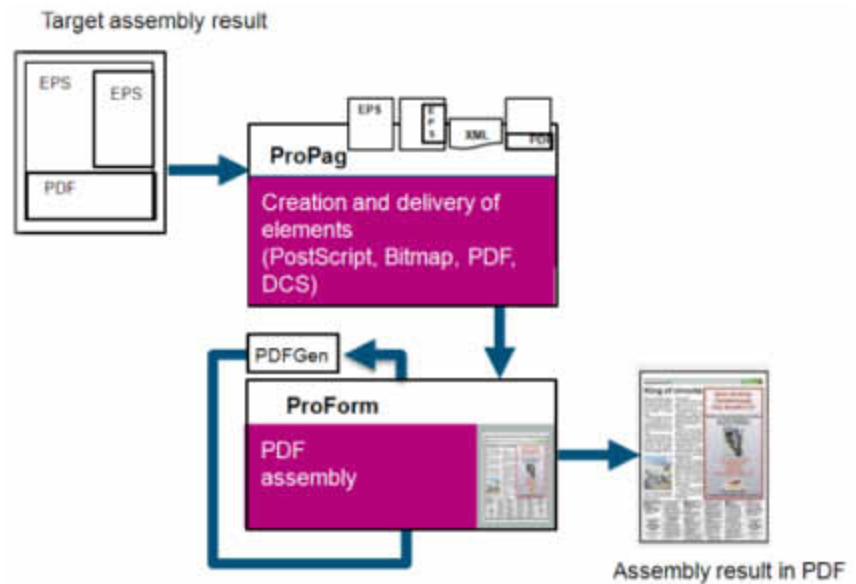
Page elements from the editorial and ad departments can be supplied in all standard data formats. ProPag processes both PostScript (EPS, EPP), bitmap (TIFF, etc.) as well as PDF and DCS files.

In a classic PostScript workflow, ProPag converts each PDF file into a temporary EPS file in order to integrate it in the digital page. The format is converted at the time of assembly. Assembly results can be output in both separated and composite PostScript as well as EPS formats.

In a native PDF assembly using the optional program ProForm, the output format PDF is generated by means of Adobe PDF Library. The input format for this can also be PDF (preferably PDF/X-3) and/or EPS. ProForm receives its assembly instructions as XML files only and is therefore database-independent.

High production security

In the order in which they arrive, all page elements (geometry, fonts, colors, etc.) are checked by ProPag for completeness and correctness. This consists on the one hand of a quality check, in which ProPag checks whether the data can be assembled and imaged, and on the other hand of comparisons of the planned/actual data, in which ProPag checks whether the delivered data corresponds to the planned data. Any differences are written to an error message. If all the elements of a page are “checked and ready for assembly”, the automated assembly process is triggered in ProPag. The entire process is fully automated and does not require manual intervention. These control mechanisms and the central database rule out the disappearance of individual files or the assembly of faulty elements.



Page assembly with the ProPag (ProForm) module merges all elements into a digital page.

Unique handling of colors

In order to meet the complex requirements of newspaper production, ProPag offers a number of unique options for the dynamic adjustment of colors, such as:

- Converting spot colors to process colors,
- Replacing spot colors by different spot colors,
- Converting spot colors to grayscale.

Other useful functions

The standard version contains a number of other useful functions that will make your assembly workflow more efficient and flexible:

- Integration of page references and tables of contents for individual or all desks,
- Forced imaging of missing and/or faulty elements is possible,
- Assembly of tabloid or double-truck pages.

Optional features

- Archiving/ePaper: processing of individual elements, pages or editions as PDF files for archiving or online purposes.
- Pre-RIP: ads can be converted to a bitmap file prior to assembly and integrated in a digital page for later assembly. Preripping detects potential errors during the uncritical phase and not at a time when production could be endangered.
- Distributed production: in conjunction with ppi's DistEl, automated page assembly is possible across different sites.
- Export function: XML export for automated page archiving.
- Color handling: reduced ink application for chromatic colors using the ppi InkReduction module.

How you benefit



- **Fast, efficient and fully automated page assembly with all standard file formats.**
- **Increased transparency and security during production.**
- **Later editorial and ad deadlines.**
- **Reduced material costs due to early delivery of the color forms and last-minute delivery of the black form.**
- **Optional: lower material costs due to reduced ink application for chromatic colors (ppi InkReduction).**

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