

EFI Metrix Release Notes

Version 21.2.0.625

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EFI Metrix 21.2 | *EFI Metrix Release Notes*

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Welcome to Metrix 21.2

EFI Metrix is an industry-leading job planning engine that transforms big data into actionable data in the most proven end-to-end integrated solution with a holistic view into manufacturing. With over 1,200 Metrix users in 25 countries and 14 years of continuous, aggressive development, Metrix is recognized as the de facto industry standard for dynamic, intelligent production planning, and automated imposition. Metrix 21.2 introduces new features and enhancements and addresses issues found in previous releases.

Contact Information

EFI Support

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Web Site: | communities.efi.com |
| US Phone: | 1.855.EFI.4HLP (1.855.334.4457) |
| UK Phone: | +44 (0) 800.783.2737 |
| EU Phone: | +49.2102.745.4500 |
| E-Mail: | metrix.support@efi.com |

Metrix Support hours are 8AM CET to 5pm ET Monday – Friday. You may contact support at the above numbers or via our customer portal at communities.efi.com.

Note For problems involving infrastructure (e.g., computers, networks, operating systems, backup software, printers, third-party software, etc.), contact the appropriate vendor. EFI cannot support these types of issues.

EFI Professional Services

| | |
|------------------|--|
| US Phone: | (651) 365-5321 |
| US Fax: | (651) 365-5334 |
| E-Mail: | ProfessionalServicesOperations@efi.com |

Notes EFI Professional Services can help you perform EFI software installations, upgrades, and updates. This group can also help you implement, customize, and optimize your EFI software plus offer a range of training options.

System Requirements

Please ensure your system is running one of the supported operating systems listed below before beginning the installation process.

Metrix 21.2 system requirements:

- Metrix 21.2 requires 64-bit systems. It will **not** run on 32-bit systems.
- Metrix now supports Mac OS 11* and OS X 10.15 (Catalina)

Notes *Metrix now uses a different PDF renderer for creating previews. On Mac OS 11, there were performance issues with the old renderer. The new one does not have a negative impact on performance, but the quality of the previews is not as good, especially for text. Contact Metrix Support if this is problematic for you; they can provide instructions on how to force Metrix to use the old PDF renderer.

Metrix 21.2 does not support Mac Retina displays at this time. UI elements may appear at a lower resolution than expected, but this does not impact performance.

Microsoft has ended support for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 effective January 14, 2020, so Metrix 21.2 does not support these platforms. We recommend you upgrade your system to Metrix current minimum system requirements.

For more information on the installation process, please see the *EFI Metrix 21.2 Installation Guide*.

Windows Minimum System Requirements for Metrix 21.2

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|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>Processor</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intel compatible • Minimum 2-core and 4-thread processor for rectangular products • Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Irregular Shape products • Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Super Wide Format • Recommended: 8-core and 16-thread |
| <i>Processor Speed</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.8 GHz minimum |
| <i>Windows Operating System</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Windows 10.x (64-bit) • Microsoft Windows 8.x (64-bit) • Microsoft Windows Server 2019 (64-bit) • Microsoft Windows Server 2017 (64-bit) • Microsoft Windows Server 2016 (64-bit) • Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 (64-bit) • Microsoft SQL Server 2014 SP3 and SP4 (64-bit) • Microsoft SQL Server 2016, 2017, and 2019 <p>Note Metrix no longer supports Microsoft Windows 7.x or Windows Server 2008.</p> |
| <i>Memory</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrix Client – 4 GB RAM • Metrix Data Server – 2 GB RAM • Automation Server Pro – 16 GB RAM (Minimum) to 4 GB RAM per CPU Core (64 GB RAM Maximum) • Automation Server Enterprise – 64 GB RAM (Minimum) to 4 GB RAM per CPU Core (256 GB RAM Maximum) |

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|-----------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automation Server with Non-Rectangular module – 8 GB RAM (Minimum) and 1 Dual-core Processor (Minimum) Automation Server with Display Graphics/Media Optimization/Super Wide Format – 16 GB RAM (Minimum) (32 GB RAM and 16-core, 32-thread processor or better recommended) eFlow License Manager – 256 MB RAM <p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you use the Content Previews module, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 6 GB with 8 GB or more recommended. The Content Previews module is processor intensive, so a fast multi-core processor is recommended. If PDF content is being accessed across a LAN, gigabit network speeds are recommended when accessing large content files. If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 16 GB. If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization with a Super Wide Format, a 16-core processor is recommended. |
| <i>Monitor Resolution</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1280 x 1024 or higher |
| <i>Network (multi-user)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Static IP address for the Data Server, eFlow License Manager, and Automation Server. Automation Server runs as a service and needs a local administration account. |

Mac OS X Minimum System Requirements for Metrix 21.2

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Processor</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel Core 2 Duo Minimum 2-core and 4-thread processor for rectangular products Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Irregular Shape products Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Super Wide Format Recommended: 8-core and 16-thread processor |
| <i>Processor Speed</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.8 GHz minimum |
| <i>Macintosh Operating System</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OS 11 (Big Sur) (*see Note above) OS X 10.15 (Catalina) OS X 10.14 (Mojave) OS X 10.13 (High Sierra) OS X 10.12 (Sierra) OS X 10.11.x (El Capitan) OS X 10.10.x (Yosemite) OS X 10.9.x (Mavericks) Microsoft SQL Server 2014 SP3 and SP4 (64-bit) Microsoft SQL Server 2016, 2017, and 2019 <p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eFlow LIM v. 8.1.81051.20 and later is supported on Mac OS X 10.15 (Catalina) and OS 11 (Big Sur). Earlier versions of eFlow LIM |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| | <p>will run only on Mac OS X 10.12 (Sierra) through OS X 10.14 (Mojave).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrix requires Java 11. Metrix installs and uses this version internally, regardless of the Java version that is installed on the computer. • If you use the Content Previews module, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 6 GB with 8 GB or more recommended. • The Content Previews module is processor intensive, so a fast multi-core processor is recommended. If PDF content is being accessed across a LAN, gigabit network speeds are recommended when accessing large content files. • If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 16 GB. • If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization with a Super Wide Format, a 16-core processor is recommended. |
| <i>Memory</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrix Client – 4 GB RAM • Metrix Data Server – 2 GB RAM • eFlow License Manager – 256 MB RAM |
| <i>Monitor Resolution</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1280 x 1024 or higher |
| <i>Network (multi-user)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Static IP address for the Data Server and eFlow License Manager. |

Licensing

Upgrade your eFlow License Manager to the latest version to ensure optimum performance and security. The installers can be found on <https://www.efi.com/marketing/productivity-software/downloads/metrix-installers/>.

Notes eFlow LIM v. 8.1.81051.20 and later is now supported on Mac OSX 10.15 (Catalina) and Mac OS 11 (Big Sur).

If you are installing eFlow LIM on any version of Mac OS X, see the *EFI Metrix 21.2 Installation Guide* for instructions and important information.

New Features

For detailed information and usage instructions on the new features and enhancements introduced in Metrix 21.2, see *EFI Metrix 21.2 What's New* and the *EFI Metrix 21.2 User Guide*.

New in 21.2

- **Redesigned User Preferences dialog**

The User Preferences dialog is redesigned to improve usability. Some preferences were moved to different sections, and some now store the settings in the database rather than in a preferences file. A Search field was added to help you find the preference you want to edit. Also, new Tooltips and a Help button were added for each preference to provide a description of its functionality, and a Reset Panel To Defaults button is available to restore each panel to its default settings.

- **New User Role**

There is a new User Role in the database: Can Edit Global Preferences. When this is set to **True**, a user with that User Role can edit the preferences that apply globally to all Metrix clients.

- **Layout Tooltips**

Metrix 21.2 now displays tooltips for products on layouts so you can easily view the component instance number, product size, and Planned Color.

- **Manual rotation of Irregular Shape products**

In Metrix 21.2, you can select a component instance on a layout and specify a specific rotation in one-degree increments. This works only with Irregular Shape and Die-cut products that are planned without using Die-cutting Tool Geometry.

- **UV Inks for Cutter Alignment Marks**

There is now an option to specify UV inks for Cutter Alignment Marks.

- **Copy or move Components from one layout to another**

You can now make a copy of a component that is on a layout and add it to another layout in the Project Explorer by holding down the Alt (Windows) or Option (Mac) key as you drag the component. (Issue Reference: 15332).

- **Auto Production changes**

Auto Production is now supported for layouts that were planned using the Display Graphics algorithm.

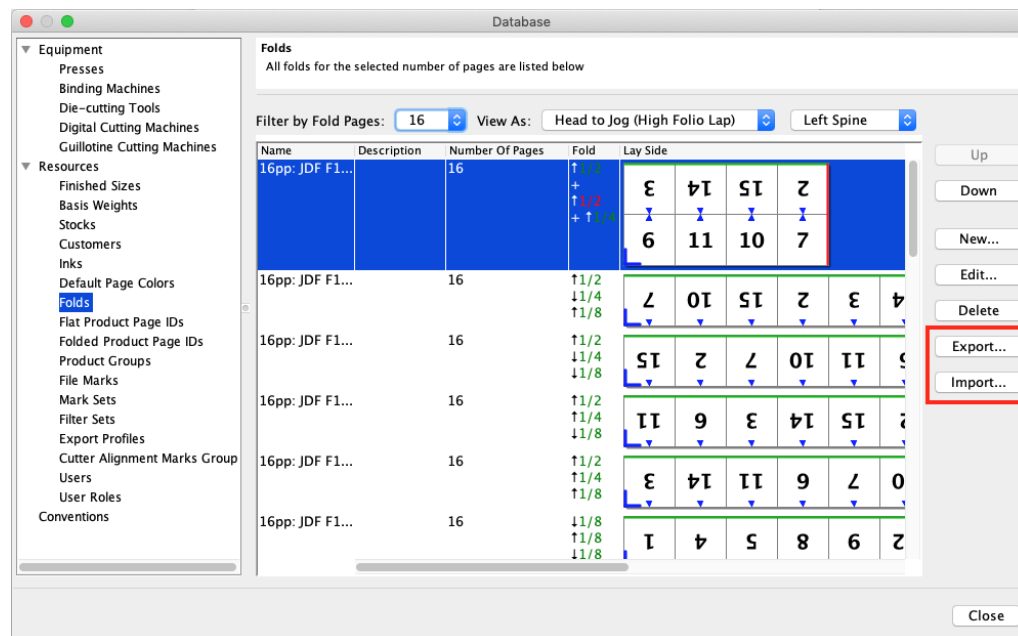
When a layout is planned using the Display Graphics algorithm, Auto Production only allows digital presses to be used, even if the original press is not digital.

If all products in the project are one-sided, with the Filename set to "Blank," only the One-sided Printing Method can be used.

New in 21.2.0.603

- **MXML support for Fold Patterns**

Fold patterns are now supported in MXML. Export and Import buttons have been added to the database.



Example:

```

<ResourcePool>
  <FoldSheet Cols="4" Description="" JDFCatID="" JogSwapped="false" Name="FoldPatternName"
  Rows="2" SpineSwapped="false">
    <Fold Direction="Up" From="Bottom" Position="1"/>
    <Fold Direction="Up" From="Left" Position="1"/>
    <Fold Direction="Down" From="Left" Position="1"/>
    <Fold Direction="Up" From="Left" Position="1"/>
  </FoldSheet>
</ResourcePool>

```

- **Support for Allowed Overs with Display Graphics algorithm**

It is now possible to specify Allowed Overs for products that are planned with the Display Graphics algorithm. In some cases, this may result in fewer individual layouts. Allowed Overs is a product property. For more information, see [EFI Metrix Tech Note – Allowed Overs](#). (Issue Reference: 16111)

- **Optional MXML attribute for CheckProject command to redirect failed projects**

In earlier versions, Metrix only moved a project to the “Failed” folder if there was a syntax error, missing resource, or something else that would prevent the job from running. The CheckProject command used the status data to set the “can’t export” flag if any of the status states did not meet the requirements of the CheckProject level. This meant the project technically succeeded although there might be some partial layouts, which was acceptable to some customers. There is a new optional attribute, “OnlySucceedIfStatusAtLeast,” that can be included with the CheckProject command. If this attribute is used and the project status is not at least the given value, the MXML project will fail and be put in the “Failed” folder rather than the “Completed” folder. The default is for the project to always Succeed in order to be compatible with existing MXML command files. This applies only to MXML 2.0 and later. (Issue Reference: 16295)

Key Fixes in 2021.2.0.625

- **Exported Imposed PDF off-center when PDF Sheet Bleed is used**

When exporting Imposed PDF with a PDF Sheet Bleed amount specified, the layout is now centered in the PDF output. (Issue Reference: 16444)

- **Confirmation message when deleting projects**

The issue where no confirmation message appeared when deleting projects from the database has been fixed. (Issue Reference: 16426)

- **New SetProjectProperty Command**

Some projects that should have failed were being sent to the Completed folder by Automation Server when they should have been sent to the Failed folder. There is a new Command to address this problem: <SetProjectProperty Object="Project" Property="Fail" Value="true" OnlyDofExporting="NotAllowed"/> (Issue Reference: 16445)

Known Issues for the Metrix 21.2 Release

- Metrix Automation Server is unable to send commands to SMTP hosts using Amazon Simple Email Service (SES). When using SES, Metrix Automation Server is unable to send emails, which results in errors that prevent commands from being sent. (Issue Reference: 16413)
- When upgrading from Metrix 2016.1 or earlier, you are required to back up your database, install 2019.2, and then upgrade the database for 2019.2 before you can install 21.2 and upgrade the database again. (Issue Reference: 14185)
- When dragging Irregular Shape products on Side 2 of a layout, the rules are not applied for snapping to other items and preventing the overlapping of instances. (Issue Reference: 15717, 15718)

- Auto Production does not reset bound product components to minimum trim values. (Issue Reference: 14168)
- Page To Bleed Gap does not work with Irregular Shape and Die-cut products. This will be addressed in an upcoming release. (Issue Reference: 13482)
- Metrix will not save the default printer in the Export window. (Issue Reference: 8441, 13310)
- Japanese fonts may print as indecipherable text when there are multiple PDFs in a project that contain fonts with the same name but different glyphs. (Issue Reference: 13452)
- The Auto Expand Trims option does not work with Auto Layout. (Issue Reference: 12858)
- Unable to scroll beyond the right or top edges of a sheet when a layout is magnified. (Issue Reference: 13782)
- The Allowed Bleed Intrusions setting for die-cutting tools works in most cases, but there are a few situations in which it does not work per expectations. (Issue Reference: 13208)
- Help menu on Mac OS sometimes disappears after selecting other menu items. You can still select the Help menu by clicking on the menu bar directly to the right of the Settings menu. (Issue Reference: 13411)
- Die-cutting tools and standards created in 2018.1 show errors when opened in 21.2 if the multi-up file used to create a die-cutting tool had horizontal and/or vertical offsets defined. Metrix ignored horizontal and/or vertical offsets in 2018.1, but in 21.2 the offsets are applied. This results in misalignment of the die-cutting tool on the sheet and/or errors in standards and projects that use the die-cutting tool (for example, "Sheet must be large enough for Die-cut Tool").
Workaround: Edit the die-cutting tool and change the Anchor Horizontal Offset, Anchor Vertical Offset, Minimum Sheet Width, and Minimum Sheet Height values. (Issue Reference: 14296)
- If content is not found when importing a CSV product while running Metrix using millimeters, when you relink the content, the initial view may be zoomed out to 2%. Selecting Fit to Page may not cause Metrix to correctly redraw the product view.
Workaround: Select a specific magnification value from the popup menu. (Issue Reference: 15742)
- If an Irregular Shape product does not fit on the selected sheet size even though it should fit, this is likely due to the "normalization" rotation that Metrix does as part of the Auto Plan and Auto Layout algorithms prior to placing the instance on the sheet. Normalization is used to find the best rotation for instances so they can be nested most efficiently. As an example, if the product is 47x24" and the sheet size is 48x26", the instance fits on the sheet if there is no rotation. However, when the instance is rotated, it will then be at an angle relative to the sheet, making its bounding box greater than 48x26".
Workaround: Manually create a layout and add the instance to the sheet. This eliminates the normalization rotation, placing the instance at 0° rotation so it will fit. (Issue Reference: 16044)