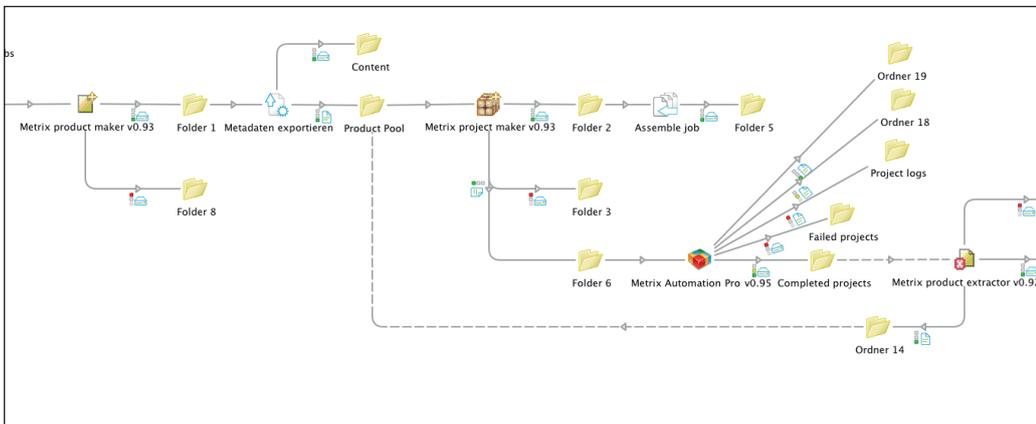


Metrix Automation Pack

To use Metrix optimally, it is important to create certain conditions. This includes, among other things, the provision of CSV or XML files, which include product-specific information such as trim size, bleed, paper type, direction, and number of copies. Such data are typically derived from MIS systems. The absence of such systems or the incompatibility of the output formats previously restricted the target group for Metrix. Smaller companies understandably shy away from investing in expensive MIS and database systems.

So far Metrix itself offered no mechanisms to automate the sub-processes as the import of project data, generating the sheet-layouts, adding brand sets and generating the output files. These sub-steps were therefore carried out manually by employees at Metrix workstations. Even this form of work offered a great deal of optimization compared to the previous, non software assisted operation. But it gets better: In Metrix there is now a new Metrix module called Automation Pro available, which enables the monitoring of hot folders, reads the incoming project files and processes them according to the stored settings.



Prerequisite for the use of Automation Pro are project specific XML files that contain all product information that is to be processed. But how do you create such files if no compatible MIS or order management system is available? This is where the combination of **Enfocus Switch** and the **Metrix pack** for Switch come in.

One of the strengths of Switch is to filter and sort data based on various criteria. Thus quickly and elegantly matching products are identified and grouped. The **Metrix Product maker** script automatically generates the product XML files that contain all relevant parameters. These can be extracted by reading originally incompatible MIS data or by simply parsing the file naming conventions.

Another script called **Metrix Project maker** collects one or more of such product XML files for a project. To this end the Switch-user has a variety of different grouping criteria. Be it that you have to collect a certain number of products or any products that have accumulated during a certain period in the Inbox folder.

The script hands the finished project on to the **Metrix Automation Pro** Script. Here the Switch user defines how sheet optimization should take place and which of the output formats supported by Matrix are needed. The script is able to communicate directly with Metrix' databases and can for example read out the list of available printing machines, paper and sheet formats. This saves the user time and eliminates costly consequential errors by incorrect entries.

When the sheet optimization is done and the output files have been generated a fourth script called **Metrix Product extractor** can break down the sheet layouts into the underlying basic products. This can for example be necessary if the degree of filling of a layout is not optimal or only the first layout of a group of layouts is to be processed. The extracted product XML files can of course be fed to the next automated optimization process.

The combination of EFI Metrix including Automation Pro Modul, Enfocus Switch and the Metrix scripts for Switch, developed by Impressed, facilitate a complete automation required for sheet optimization - from product sorting, creation of product XML files, collecting products for a Metrix project, the actual optimization, the generation of the Metrix output files to managing these output files.

EFI Metrix has become over the last few years the de-facto solution in the field of ganging and sheet optimization. Worldwide hundreds of users use this software to optimize these time- and cost-intensive processes.

This involves minimizing the production and material costs by determining sheet layouts for a variable number of products with different sizes, run lengths and processing parameters for existing print- or processing systems.

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