

PRESS RELEASE

Gradual Software and Ultimate Technographics Inc. form Cooperative Alliance

Complementary solutions deliver flexible, fully automated imposition workflows

Ghent (Belgium), 24 April, 2007 — Gradual Software, specializing in software solutions for automating the publishing process, and Ultimate Technographics Inc., the leading imposition software developer and the inventor of digital imposition, announce a partnership to combine Gradual's SWITCH automation software and Impostrip On Demand digital imposition software to provide digital printers with a fully automated imposition workflow solution.

Ultimate Technographics' Impostrip On Demand is the first automated imposition solution for digital print of brochures, catalogues, books, calendars, business cards and direct mail products. Impostrip On Demand automates through a unique "smart" hot folders mechanism. Dynamic Templates designate the usage of the same hot folder for jobs of different page sizes and page numbers, significantly reducing the number of hot folder workflows needed.

Gradual's SWITCH family of products, including LightSWITCH, FullSWITCH and PowerSWITCH, enables users to implement workflow automation solutions tailored to meet the production needs of individual work environments. PowerSWITCH provides advanced automation features, such as support for scripting and metadata, together with SWITCHclient, a workgroup client that makes it easy to deploy automation for a complete workgroup.

Automated dynamic imposition through smart hot folders

The companies' solutions work in complete synergy to link hot folders and create a fully automated production workflow that can be easily configured and or modified. David van Driessche, Chief Operating Officer at Gradual, comments: "The fact that Impostrip is a hot folder-driven imposition product designed for digital print makes

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it an ideal partner for Gradual's automation products. FullSWITCH and PowerSWITCH can link directly to an Imposstrip hot folder to facilitate an automated workflow, beginning with FTP submission, preflighting and other prepress functions, all the way through to a completely imposed print product on a digital press."

Flexible workflows via advanced automation tools

From Gradual's perspective, the cooperation builds upon the company's mission to deliver enhanced automation capabilities for the growing market of digital on-demand printing, from A to Z, including imposition. "Imposstrip On Demand is dedicated towards the on-demand market, where the imposition requirements are not as complex. But the unique possibility of combining jobs of different sizes within one imposition job, and adding full automation, provides significant advantages for a digital printer," states van Driessche. "Workflow automation delivers dramatic time savings as well as optimized usage of substrates. The printer simply drops the files in the same hot folder workflow, even if page sizes differ. Imposstrip dynamically impositions all pages with marks in proper position relative to the size, then SWITCH automatically sends the imposed files to the digital printing press."

Versatility through targeted products and customized processes

All of Ultimate's products are hot folder driven, so SWITCH can be used to automate a variety of specialized workflows, such as Imposstrip On Demand for digital print, Imposstrip Book Stacker for digital books, Card Stacker for web2print invitations and cards, and Repurposing and Proof to bridge offset to digital. SWITCH can also automate Imposstrip for offset print workflows along with Ink Ready to control ink density on press. Imposstrip Page Pairing combined with SWITCH offers an excellent solution for automating newspaper production.

Quick snapshot of automation efficiency

The following is a scenario of how Imposstrip's hot folder-based imposition capabilities and SWITCH's workflow automation tools work together. Business cards or complete book pages in PDF format arrive through email or FTP on a "smart" hot folder. Preflighting software verifies print-readiness, and if an error is detected, the file is returned to the customer. No need to check the page size, as Imposstrip detects and dynamically imposes them based on the actual size and the imposition layout-template (including user-defined marks, printing strips, collating marks

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etc.). If the imposition reveals a printing problem, a message is sent to alert the user. Each workflow scenario can be used to impose files of different sizes. After the imposition stage, SWITCH certifies the files (if necessary) and sends them to directly to the printing press.

Drs. Gerard Korving, Vice President of Krips B.V. in The Netherlands comments: “Beginning 2006 we started the investigation for automated impositioning. Our first goal was to reach automation to avoid manual intervention with incoming files. Our second goal was to get the imposed files ready for plate production in a minimum of time. We finally choose the Gradual’s FullSwitch solution combined with Ultimate’s Impostrip. This solution using Impostrip’s smart HotFolder configuration and Gradual’s automation features gave us the possibility to get a fully automated system for imposition. This solution acts like a toolbox and my staff setup the system of hot folders. Ultimate is for us a very useful solution and Krips B.V. already reached the two set goals.”

Gradual's SWITCH technology was a perfect match for Ultimate's search for a full-featured yet flexible automation solution to automate imposition as well as the complete prepress workflow. “Digital printers do not have time to set up complicated workflows, one job at a time – they need complete automation. The SWITCH product family enables users to use the tools they prefer to configure a customized workflow and to combine them with the most automated and powerful imposition solution,” explains David Watson, President and CEO of Ultimate Technographics. “Gradual and Ultimate provide the ultimate solution to easily and effectively create completely automated production to a digital press.”

About Gradual Software

Gradual Software was established in November 2004 to develop and deliver software for full automation across the numerous stages of professional publishing.

Gradual’s automation solutions are designed to benefit all participants in the publishing workflow, including content originators (authors and designers), content processors (editors, designers and layout artists), brand owners (publishers and marketing departments) and service providers (printers). Gradual offers the SWITCH family of workflow automation software consisting of three modules.

Gradual Software is privately held by its management team, and is located in Ghent, Belgium. For more information, please visit www.gradual.com

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About Ultimate

Headquartered in Montreal, Canada, Ultimate (www.imposition.com) invented digital imposition over 18 years ago with the first release of Imposition, and has continued to play a leading role in the market ever since in providing the most innovative and progressive imposition products. The company is continually evolving Imposition to be the first to take advantage of new operating systems or DTP applications and over 150 other applications supported in PostScript and PDF. Over 25,000 imposition solutions have been sold to date to prepress professionals and digital printers around the world, and the company has a rich history of providing imposition technology into hardware and software workflow solutions for print industry providers including AGFA, IBM, Kodak, Xerox, Creo-DOP, HP-Indigo, Xeikon and others.

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