



The Virtual Prepress File Bridge Module is a personalized file delivery system. The system makes file delivery easy for the person sending the file as well as the person receiving the file. In addition, it attaches useful information to the file as it's processed. The system is comprised of two main components:

1) File Bridge Flow:

The "File Bridge" flow is designed to automate the process of job submission into the Virtual Prepress Core Preflight Module while capturing, recording and maintaining the metadata necessary for proper job setup, routing, and notification. The process begins with a client upload request to a dedicated email account (upload.request@yourcompany.com). A web based request form can also be setup on your website to trigger the process. File Bridge then creates and emails a unique personalized upload link to the sender of the request. File Bridge also checks the incoming request against the Virtual prepress database, and if the sender of the request didn't already exist in the database then a new contact record is created and an internal email notification is delivered that indicates a new user needs to be configured in the database.

When a user clicks the upload link in their email they are directed to a file transfer site where they fill out a simple form and upload their files. Upon logout, the file transfer site delivers the form as an XML file to File Bridge. File Bridge then monitors the unique upload locations for incoming files and records the upload information into the Virtual Prepress database. The "Contact Setup" checkpoint is a Switch Client interface designed to create an association between the sender of the files (the contact) and the internal notification recipients (usually csr or sales). The "Contact Setup" checkpoint is a "one time" setup where the information recorded at the checkpoint is written to the database and used for routing notifications and job setup. Future uploads from the same contact will use the information recorded in the database, bypassing the "Contact Setup" process.

File Bridge has a direct integration with the Virtual Prepress Core Preflight module so that the files delivered directly from the client could also be routed through the preflight automation process to a preflight review checkpoint where the temporary job number can be converted to a production job number (usually assigned in your MIS system).

2) Virtual Prepress Database:

The Virtual Prepress database is fully integrated with File Bridge to record store and maintain a contact database used to associate the files uploaded from a customer to a notification routing system. The main objective of the "Sort Jobs" flow is to correctly identify the type of files that were delivered in order to route them to the server and "Process Jobs" flow for processing, or notify the appropriate person or persons that Switch was unable to process the files and they need a manual preflight.

A browser based control panel application is used to maintain the Virtual Prepress database. The contact database was designed to be populated (on the fly) through customer upload requests and a "Contact Setup" checkpoint integrated with the database through Switch. The control panel application was designed to provide a simple interface to edit the contact information within the database.

The main purpose of the File Bridge module is to provide a simple file delivery mechanism for all your clients that "bridges" the metadata associated with the files into a workflow system that allows the routing, notification and automated processing of files into a production system.

*Some setup/configuration with your information technology systems may be necessary to allow File Bridge to receive files from your customers.

** Setting up a web based upload request form is not included in the price of File Bridge. This can be done by your webmaster, or you can contract ASI to perform these services.