5—Working with Profiles

Profiles are an important part of the versatility of Extensis Preflight Pro. Preflight Pro gathers an enormous amount of data and checks a large number of conditions for problems. Using Profiles, you specify which problems you consider important, set their severity (so you can separate "job stoppers"—problems that would keep the job from outputting, from non-essential problems—conditions that might not be considered good housekeeping in a document, but won't prevent it from outputting). You can even set your own threshold for some problem conditions.

Working in the Profile dialog

Profile configuration dialog

The Profile configuration dialog displays six dialog box tabs listing all the elements that will be flagged and reported as problems. Severity, as indicated when the problem is reported, is determined by the setting of the condition flag: error, caution, ignore.

A Displays the Profile name

B General tab

C Fonts tab

D Picture Box tab

E Picture File tab

F Color tab

G Trapping tab

H Help box: Displays a detailed description of the profile item as the mouse passes over the item

I Cancel: Click here to close the Profile without making changes

J Save: Click here to Save the current Profile settings and close the Profile

Problem severity flags:

K Error: Select the Error flag to indicate that a problem found with this item should be flagged as "error"

L Caution: Select the Caution flag to indicate that a problem found with this item should be flagged as "caution"

M Ignore: Select the Ignore flag to indicate that a problem found with this item should be flagged as "ignore"

Why do I need a Profile?

When a document is "inspected," all of the information which is available about the document is gathered. This information is stored in a database of information inside the Preflight Pro job file. Some of this information can be viewed inside the Job Jacket window using the Pictures, Fonts, and Colors tabs. (Even more detailed information is available by double-clicking an item listed in any of these three tabs). By itself, this information, while very useful and valuable, is just information. You could painstakingly view each piece of the collected data (which you may want to do for other reasons), but doing so would be a cumbersome way to determine whether the conditions have been met which will allow the document to output properly. That's where Profiles come in.

Profiles act like filters for problem conditions, allowing you to determine what conditions constitute a problem, and what importance that problem will be given when it is reported. Profiles are specified by you. They don't affect what information is gathered—all available information is gathered for all pages of every document selected for inspection. By confiugring a Profile then assigning it to a document, you tell Preflight Pro what the information gathered during the inspection means to you in relationship to outputting the job, that is, what conditions you to consider to be a problem, and how serious an issue you consider each problem to be.

When does Preflight Pro look at the Profile?

Unless you specify otherwise (in Preferences: General), Preflight Pro looks at the Profile after the document has been inspected, when a Profile is assigned, when the Output Instructions are edited, and when a problem report is generated. Information gathered during the inspection is compared with baseline data from the Profile and the Output Instructions to determine whether a problem condition exists.

After an inspection, when the Job Jacket Files window appears, you can select a different Profile from the Profile pop-up, and the icons in the Status and Page columns will reflect whether or not problems were found. To view specific problems found, you must generate a Report.

When the Report window appears, if no problem was found for any given Profile item, the item will not be shown in the problem list. For items where problems were found, the problem(s) will be reported as one of the three conditions (error, caution, ignore) that you specified in the Profile.

Important

After you configure a Profile, you must assign it to a document. If you do not, Preflight Pro will not know to use that Profile when analyzing the document for problems.

You can reassign Profiles on the fly, and Preflight Pro will respond by generating a new report based on the new Profile. This allows you, for example, to test the document for laser proofs using a more generous outline of problem conditions, then quickly re-check the document with a more stringent set of conditions appropriate for outputting to a specific RIP.

To create a new Profile:

1. **Select "Configure Profiles" from the Profile menu.**
2. **Click "New," or select a Profile similar to the one you wish to configure and click "Duplicate."**
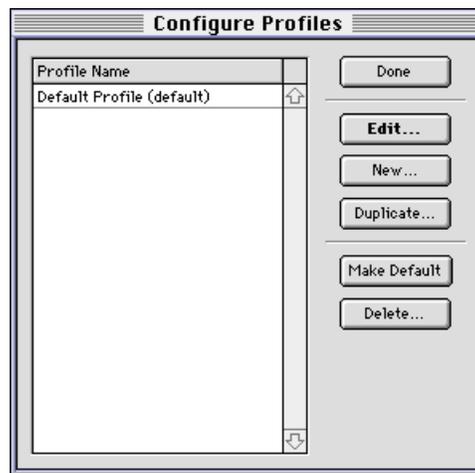
You will be asked to name the new Profile, then the Profile configuration dialog for your new Profile will appear.

Configuring Profiles

Problem severity flags

There are three levels of importance or severity you can set for each problem condition in a Profile: "error," "caution," or "ignore." Each of the three levels has an icon associated with it, so that when the problem report is generated, you can see just how serious (according to your specifications) each problem is.

You can use the "error" "caution" and "ignore" ("Show only") checkboxes near the top of the Consolidated Report window to quickly expand or contract the problem list. This allows you to concentrate, say, on just the "error" conditions, or view both the "errors" and "cautions" or to quickly view all of the problems no matter how insignificant they may be.

Note: Problem conditions set with the "ignore" flag are not really ignored. All problems in the document will be located and a flag assigned. However, using the "error" "caution" and "ignore" checkboxes you can limit your view so that "ignore" conditions are not shown in the report list, and do not affect the overall status of the document. Refer to chapter 4, "The Job Jacket" and chapter 6, "Reports" for more information on problem severity flag checkboxes.

You can use the "error" "caution" and "ignore" checkboxes near the top of the Job Jacket Files tab window to see which document pages contain problems. Pages will show the color associated with the highest level of problem found, as follows: a *Red* page icon signifies one or more problems were found; *White* icon indicates that no problems were found; a *Slash* through the page icon indicates that the page indicated was excluded from the report.
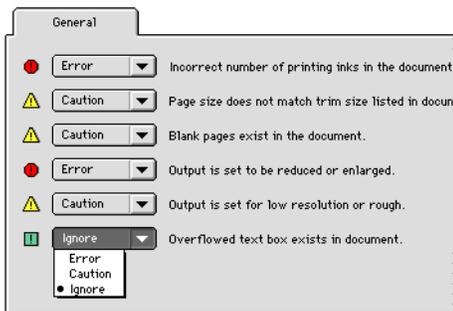
To configure a Profile:

1. **Select each Profile tab (General, Fonts, Picture Box, Picture File, Color, Trapping) in turn and indicate, for each item on each tab, the severity of the condition to be reported. Enter any additional problem parameters required for profile items where indicated.**

   Refer to the following pages for specific information about the problem elements contained on each Profile tab, what they mean, and what they test.

   If you don't consider a profile item a problem, it's wise to use the "ignore" severity flag. While the item won't really be ignored, you'll be able to easily limit the report by excluding items flagged as "ignore."

Assigning a Profile to a document

After configuring a Profile, it must be assigned to a document before it can be used in problem analysis.

To assign a Profile to a document:

1. **From the Job Jacket Files tab window, select the document you wish to assign the Profile to.**
2. **In the Profile column for the selected document, click and hold the mouse to enable the Profiles pop-up menu.**
3. **Locate the desired Profile on the list.**
4. **Release the mouse over the desired Profile to select it.**

   Verify that the new Profile has been assigned to the document.

Default Profile
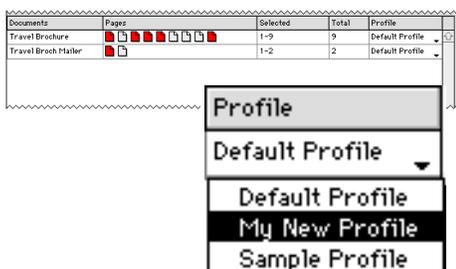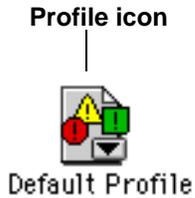
Where to place Profiles

Profiles must be located in the Profiles Folder located in the same folder as the Extensis Preflight Pro application (or alternately, in the Profiles folder located with the Job file), to be available for your job. Profiles are placed here automatically when they are created. However, if a document has been assigned a Profile that has been deleted or moved, the name listed in the profile pop-down menu will be the Profile designated as Preflight Pro's default Profile.

Note: Profiles are gathered along with other job elements when a job is "collected." These profiles can then be sent to the service provider, if necessary, when the job is ready for output. Refer to chapter 7, "Collecting Job Elements" for more details.

Sharing Profiles

You can easily share profiles, for example between clients and service providers, or between work groups, simply by copying and sending them.

Note: Preflight Pro automatically gathers all the Profiles assigned to documents in the job when you use the "Collect Job Elements" function. You can even have Preflight Pro add unused Profiles to the collection, if desired. For more information on the job collection feature, refer to chapter 7, "Collecting Job Elements."

To share a Profile with another Preflight Pro user:

To automatically gather Profiles with other job elements, refer to chapter 7, "Collecting Job Elements."

1. **Make a copy of the Profile(s) you wish to share.**

2. **Place the copied Profile(s) in one of these locations: inside the Preflight Pro Profiles folder located inside the Preflight Pro application folder —*or*— inside the ~ Job Profiles folder located in the Job Folder for each job that the Profile(s) will be used for.**

Profile
Configure Profiles…

Update Analysis Now

Configure Profiles

Profile Name	
Default Profile	
Sample Profile (default)	

Done
Edit…
New…
Duplicate…
Make Default
Delete…
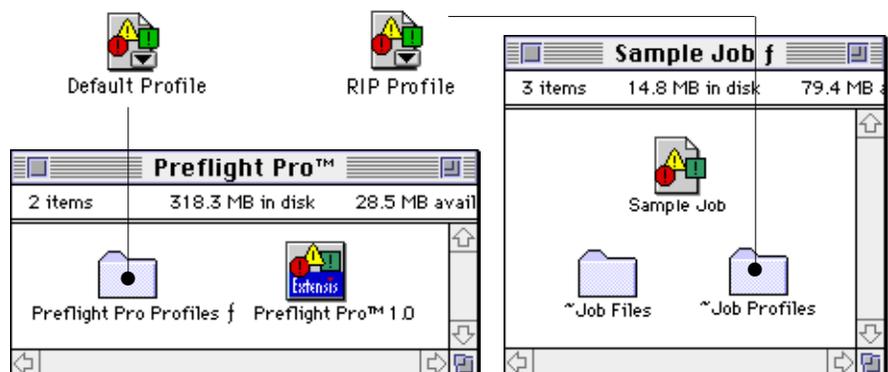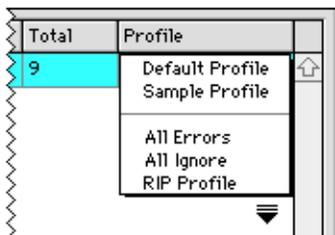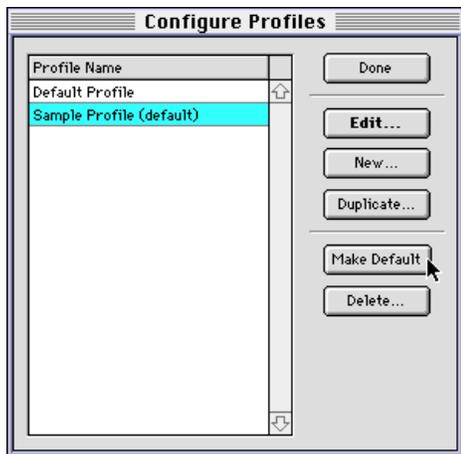
The Default Profile

Every document has a Profile assigned to it. When you add a document to the job jacket, the "default" Profile is automatically assigned to it. When a report is generated, Preflight Pro looks at and uses the Profile assigned to the document, even if you did not specify one.

To set the Default Profile:

1. **Select "Configure Profiles" from the Profile menu.**

2. **Select the Profile you wish to make the default.**

3. **Click "Make Default."**

   The word "(default)" will appear beside your new default profile. Your default profile will be attached to all new documents added to the job (including documents you add to new jobs and documents you add to this job).

4. **Click "Done."**

Profile Items

General profile items

Problem conditions in the General profile items category affect the whole document (such as page size, output set to reduce or enlarge, etc.) as opposed to problem conditions which affect a particular job element (such as Fonts, Pictures, Colors, Trapping).

Understanding items in the General profile tab

This profile item…	Tests this condition…
Incorrect number of printing inks in the document as compared to the document Output Instructions.	Calculates the total number of colors that will output on their own plate and compares it to the printing ink setup in the Output Instructions of each document.
Page size does not match trim size listed in document Output Instructions.	Compares the page size of the document to the Trim Size entered in the Output Instructions of each document.
Blank pages exist in the document.	Locates blank pages in the document. Blank pages are pages with no elements on them.
Output is set to be reduced or enlarged.	Determines if the document will be "scaled" larger or smaller than 100% on output by looking at the Print setup.
Output is set for low resolution or rough.	Determines if the document is currently set up for low resolution or rough output by looking at the Print setup.
Overflowed text box exists in document.	Finds text boxes that are overflowed on the page.

Fonts profile items

Most font problems occur when the document is moved to a system with a different set of screen and printer fonts.

Some font types, such as TrueType and Multiple Master fonts, and some style attributes, such as Outline and Shadow, while printing properly to low and medium resolution Laser Printers, will occasionally not output correctly to high resolution imagesetters and other imaging equipment.

Understanding items in the Fonts profile tab

This profile item…	Tests this condition…
Screen font is missing.	Builds a list of screen fonts used in the document and pictures, and checks the system to see which are not available.
Printer font is missing.	Calculates the needed printer font by looking at the screen font and menu style, and checks the status of the printer font on disk. Looks for fonts in the System Folder Font folder and looks for fonts that have been opened by a font utility.
TrueType font has been used.	If the font is available to the system, its type is determined by looking at the screen font on disk.
Multiple Master font has been used.	If the font is available to the system, its type is determined by looking at the screen font on disk.
Font has been menu styled as "outline."	Finds text in text boxes that has been menu styled as "outline."
Font has been menu styled as "shadow."	Finds text in text boxes that has been menu styled as "shadow."
Font has been menu styled and the corresponding printer font is missing.	If text has been menu styled, determines if the needed printer font is available to the system, and lists the font.
Font is sized below [x] points *(specify point size)*.	Compares font sizes in the document to the minimum tolerance set in the Profile assigned to the document.
Font color problem exists. Font is sized below [x] points *(specify point size)*, colored with [#] color plates above zero percent *(specify number of color plates)*.	Finds fonts in the document that are smaller than the minimum size set in the Profile assigned to the document. Determines if the font is colored with one or more screen tints, as specified in the assigned Profile.
Font used only in an unused style sheet.	Determines if a font is only used in an unused Style Sheet—not any printable part of the document.
Font only used on a master page.	Determines if a font is only used on a Master page—not any printable part of the document.

Picture Box profile items

Picture Box profile items check for possible problem conditions from QuarkXPress picture boxes and pictures modified from within QuarkXPress (using QuarkXPress picture and picture box options and functions). For picture problems that would not result from being manipulated inside a QuarkXPress document, refer to the Picture File profile.

Understanding items in the Picture Box profile tab

This profile item…	Tests this condition…
Picture located on the pasteboard.	Finds pictures that are located entirely on the pasteboard, which will not print.
Picture only used on an unused master page.	Finds pictures which are only located on a Master page, which will not print.
Picture is set to suppress on output.	Finds picture boxes that are set for "Suppress on Output" in the Modify dialog box.
Effective resolution of a color or grayscale picture is less than [x] times the line screen *(specify line screen multiplier)*.	Determines the effective resolution of a picture by looking at how it has been scaled on the page, and it's actual file resolution, then looks at the Profile to determine if the effective resolution is too low.
Effective resolution of a color or grayscale picture is more than [x] times the line screen *(specify line screen multiplier).*	Determines the effective resolution of a picture by looking at how it has been scaled on the page and its actual file resolution, then looks at the Profile to determine if the effective resolution is too high.
Effective resolution of a bitmap picture is below [x] ppi *(specify lower limit)* or over [y] ppi *(specify upper limit)*.	Determines the effective resolution of a picture by looking at how it has been scaled on the page and its actual file resolution, then looks at the Profile to determine if the resolution is too high or too low.
Style or contrast has been applied to picture.	Finds pictures that have been styled in QuarkXPress. Styles are: Negative, Contrast, or Screen.
Picture box or picture rotated or skewed.	Finds pictures that have been rotated or skewed on the page.
Picture flipped horizontally or vertically.	Finds pictures that have been flipped in the picture box.
X&Y scaling of a picture differs by more than [x] % *(specify percent)*.	Finds the X and Y scaling of each image and determines if it has been disproportionately scaled. If it has, the amount of scaling difference is compared to the setting in the assigned Profile.
An EPS picture is cropped more than [x] % *(specify percent)*.	Determines the size of the picture bounding box, calculates its size after scaling in the picture box, and compares this size to to the size of the picture to determine how much it is cropped. This value is compared to the value set in the Profile.
Picture box with background "none" contains a color/grayscale TIFF, or EPS without a clipping path.	Finds picture boxes with a background of "none," and looks at the picture in the picture box to find color or grayscale TIFFs, or EPS files without clipping paths.
Picture box with background "none" contains a bitmap EPS picture saved w/out a transparent background.	Finds picture boxes with a background of "none," which contain bitmap EPS pictures, then looks at the EPS picture to determine if it has been saved with "transparent whites."

Picture File profile items

The Picture File profile checks for possible problems with pictures created in another application, typically before being placed in a QuarkXPress document. Other Picture File problems relate to missing disk files associated with placed pictures. For problems associated with pictures being manipulated in QuarkXPress, or problems relating to a QuarkXPress picture box, refer to the Picture Box profile.

Understanding items in the Picture File profile tab

This profile item…	Tests this condition…
Incorrect picture file format. Incorrect formats are: [x] PICT, [x] TIFF, [x] EPS, [x] DCS, [x] Scitex CT, [x] Other *(indicate format(s) to report).*	Determines the format of each picture that is used in the document and compares it to the formats specified as incorrect in the Profile assigned to the document.
Picture is missing.	Reports picture status as missing if the picture has been moved or renamed since the document was last saved.
Picture is modified.	Reports picture status as modified if the picture has been modified since the document was last saved.
Picture is compressed. Report: [x] LZW compressed TIFF, [x] EPS with internal JPEG compression *(indicate compression) type(s) to report).*	Determines if a TIFF or EPS picture was saved with compression.
Picture saved with custom transfer curve.	Determines if an EPS picture was saved with a custom transfer function.
Picture saved with custom line screen.	Determines if a picture was saved with a custom line screen.
Disk file for an embedded picture is missing.	Checks the path to the original disk file for pictures that have been embedded in EPS files. If the picture is no longer in that location it is reported as missing.
A TIFF picture has extra channels.	Locates and reports TIFF files meeting the following criteria: Grayscale TIFF with more than one channel; RGB TIFF with more than three channels; CMYK TIFF with more than four channels.
Picture with clipping path has a flatness less than [x] *(specify lower limit)* or more than [y] *(specify upper limit).*	Locates pictures with clipping paths and compares the flatness value to the setting in the assigned Profile.
Vector picture contains a linked (not embedded) picture.	Determines if a picture was linked instead of embedded into the EPS picture when it was saved/placed.
Five-file DCS picture is missing a plate file.	Determines if a five-file DCS picture is missing any plate files (C, M, Y, or K) on disk.

Color profile items

The Color profile checks for possible problems with colors applied to pictures or text within QuarkXPress, or with the color mode of a picture—or text imbedded in a picture—that was created in another application.

Understanding items in the Color profile tab

This profile item…	Tests this condition…
The color palette contains unused colors.	Locates and reports colors that are not used in the document, or in pictures placed in the document.
Color is only used on a master page.	Determines and reports colors that are only used on a Master page. Reports color name and Master page.
The color "registration" is used in a printing element.	Locates and reports elements on a page with the color "registration" applied. *Note: This color is not included as a printing ink when the total number of printing inks is determined.*
Mismatched colors exist.	Compares the color value of each color in a placed EPS picture with the same color's color value in QuarkXPress, and reports if the difference is greater than 1%. Reports the color name.
RGB mode picture is used in the document.	Determines if a picture was saved in RGB color mode.
Indexed mode picture is used in the document.	Determines if a picture was saved in the Index color mode.
Monotone, duotone, tritone, or quadtone picture is used in this document.	Determines if an EPS picture was saved as a Monotone, Duotone, Tritone, or Quadtone.
TIFF picture is colorized in the document.	Locates and reports TIFF pictures that have been colorized in QuarkXPress.
Picture box with colored background contains a TIFF picture.	Locates and reports TIFF pictures placed in a picture box with a background color applied.
Total ink coverage of a color is greater than [x]% *(specify upper limit percentage).*	Determines and reports if the C, M, Y, K values for each color total more than the minimum tolerance specified. *Note: Applies only to process colors applied in QuarkXPress. Does not include Spot colors.*

Trapping profile items

Trapping is the process of overlapping colors slightly, to solve the problem of unsightly white areas in the printed piece when the paper shifts on the press between printing one color and the next.

Preflight Pro's Trapping profile allows you to check and report some of the common potential errors created when trapping is done within a QuarkXPress document. Refer to the documentation provided with your QuarkXPress program for detailed information about automated trapping.

Understanding items in the Trapping profile tab

This profile item…	Tests this condition…
Auto Method preference is not set to: Absolute / Proportional *(specify method to check for).*	Checks and reports if the Auto Method preference selected in the document does not match the method specified in the Profile.
Auto Amount preference is not [x] points *(specify points).*	Checks and reports if the Auto Amount preference selected in the document does not match the value specified in the Profile.
Indeterminate preference is not [x] points *(specify points).*	Checks and reports if the Indeterminate preference selected in the document does not match the value specified in the Profile.
Overprint Limit preference is not [x]% *(specify percent).*	Checks and reports if the Overprint Limit preference is not selected in the document.
Ignore White preference is not checked.	Checks and reports if the Ignore White preference is not selected in the document.
Process Trap preference is not checked.	Checks and reports if the Process Trap preference is not selected in the document.
A color is saved with a custom trap pair.	Checks and reports if a color has had a custom trap pair set using the Edit: Color menu in QuarkXPress. An example might be stated as: "In Blue, Red has been set to overprint."
A page element has one of the following traps applied to it: [x] Overprint, [x] Knockout, [x] Auto Amount (+), [x] Auto Amount (-), [x] Custom *(specify applied trap(s) to report).*	Locates and reports any manual trap(s) applied, if trap is specified to be reported. Reports the color, the page the color is on, and the element: Text, Picture box background, Picture box frame, or Rule.