Introduction. Printers at the JDF User Group were recently discussing why many printers they know of haven’t implemented process automation. For JDF users, the results they’ve experienced lead them to believe that it should be a no-brainer, (especially in the current fiscal environment), yet over 50% of printers in North America have not yet begun to implement process automation. Perhaps it’s because those printers mistakenly believe that it is a vendor issue, or perhaps too technical or too expensive to implement. What all the printers of the JDF User Group agreed on is that it’s up to the printer to take charge of their own implementation plan, and printers that have not implement automation need to hear directly from, and learn from, the printers that have implemented process automation. So the JDF User Group decided to put on a free morning program and discussion group just for printers, printer to printer, during PRINT09.

Who Should Attend. Other than the folks assisting with this program, this program is just for printers; not for vendors, press, consultants, integrators … only printers may register for this program. If you are involved in the management of a printing company, and you have only considered automation but aren’t sure what to do and where to begin, then this program is specifically for you.

Registration. Registration is free, but must be done in advance, not later than September 7th. To register, go online at [http://www.cip4.org/activities/2009/print/registration.php](http://www.cip4.org/activities/2009/print/registration.php) and complete your registration today.

Agenda

7:00 – 7:30 AM Registration check-in/Coffee & Danishes

7:30 – 7:45 AM Welcome. A short introduction to the JDF User Group as well as where to find JDF-enabled automation tools at PRINT09 with Mark Bohan of Printing Industries of America and Jim Harvey of CIP4.

7:45 – 8:15 AM Automation at Democrat Printing. Presented by Christy Miners, Director of Prepress & Technology for Democrat Printing & Lithographing Company (DPL) in Little Rock, Arkansas, will discuss their migration from a 135-year-old printing company with equipment as old as 37 years to a modern and automated catalog and magazine printing facility. DPL has had to create an implementation plan that involved multiple phases and continues today, but even with about 50% of automation complete, the ROI and results are already impressive. DPL specializes in short to medium 4C work, including a range of services from prepress through mailing. After starting in 2001 with only conventional frames and plates, digital prepress at Democrat Printing now benefits from full automation utilizing a suite of Agfa products, including Agfa’s Portal web-based project management system and Apogee workflow. “Portal and Apogee are proving to be a very robust system, helping us advance our automation efforts.” With the prepress department automated and more than 90% online submissions and approvals, Christy’s current endeavors are in the areas of JDF/JMF integration, CIM, MIS and other exciting industry acronyms in automation—her new passion.
8:15 – 8:45 AM  **Case study, Roadmap for setting up JDF workflow.** Presented by Marcia Bonsell, Vice President of Production at Communicorp, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of AFLAC (American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus). In 2001, Marcia joined Communicorp as Plant Operations Manager and has been instrumental in the reorganization and streamlining of processes involved in the prepress, press, finishing and shipping area. She has also overseen equipment purchases that have created numerous operational efficiencies. Marcia has created a training program to aid talented craftspeople in reaching their full potential and has spent many hours working with Aflac in the development and implementation of vendor compliance for their launch of a bar-coded WMS system. Marcia further evaluates and recommends equipment upgrades that generate throughput efficiencies to better service Communicorp’s customer needs.

8:45 – 9:15 AM  **Automation at Japs Olson.** Presented by Josh Schiro, Prepress Manager at Japs-Olson Company for the last year and a half. Japs-Olson Company was founded in 1907 and has been at the forefront of the commercial printing and direct mail production industry for over 100 years and is committed to investing in the latest technology and equipment. Japs-Olson started its prepress automation process about five years ago, and today they have over 100 rules-based automation rules in Prinergy and are exchanging JDF and job planning in Metrix. “Our Prepress department is always looking for new and innovative ways to automate our process to better serve our customers needs, and plans for extending automation further throughout the plant are in progress.”

9:15 – 9:45 AM  **Panel of Experts/Open Discussion.** A panel of automation knowledgeable professionals from supporting vendors will each give a two-minute introduction to how they fit into the process automation jigsaw, and then joined by printers from the JDF User Group, they will discuss your issues and answer your questions.

10:00 AM  **Seminar Adjourns**

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