Introduction

Definitions

Workflow
Device
Automation

Thomas Hoffmann-Walbeck
Example for Device/Machine Automation
This seminar covers only:

Workflow Automation

Device Automation

Workflow and device automation depend on each other. Often device automation needs (meta) data from outside; workflow messages provide this data.
Print Production Workflow Automation

- Which information are in the packages?
  - Green: Product intents, information for processes
  - Blue: Time & material consumed, quality report, status

Just a schematic sketch! In reality, the communication is much more dynamic.
Metadata, Devices and Controller

- **Device**: A device is either a software application or some machine. It initiates the execution of one or several processes. Sometimes, it refers only to the device driver for a machine.

- **Metadata**: Metadata = information/data about content data (text, images, graphics, pages) or about print production.

- **Controller**: A controller routes metadata and messages in a workflow system. 
  
  - E.g., MIS/ERP, Workflow (Management) System

- Devices and controller communicate with each other about product and production details.
Concept of Workflow Automation

- A **workflow** denotes the sequence of production and business processes, in whole or part, during which documents, information and task descriptions are passed from one participant to another for action according to a set of procedural rules.

- A **process** is an activity with a single specific objective that can be planned and executed independently.

- **Workflow Automation** means automatically supplying processes (devices) with data.

- A process can start and execute automatically, if...
  - ...the data in the “green containers” is available and relevant
  - ...the device understands the data and can execute a process automatically using the data (device automation).