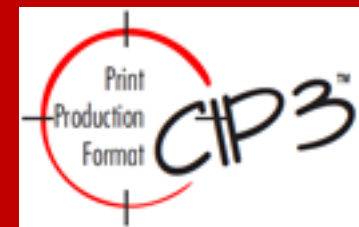


CIP4 Technologies II

Print Production Format (PPF)

Overview

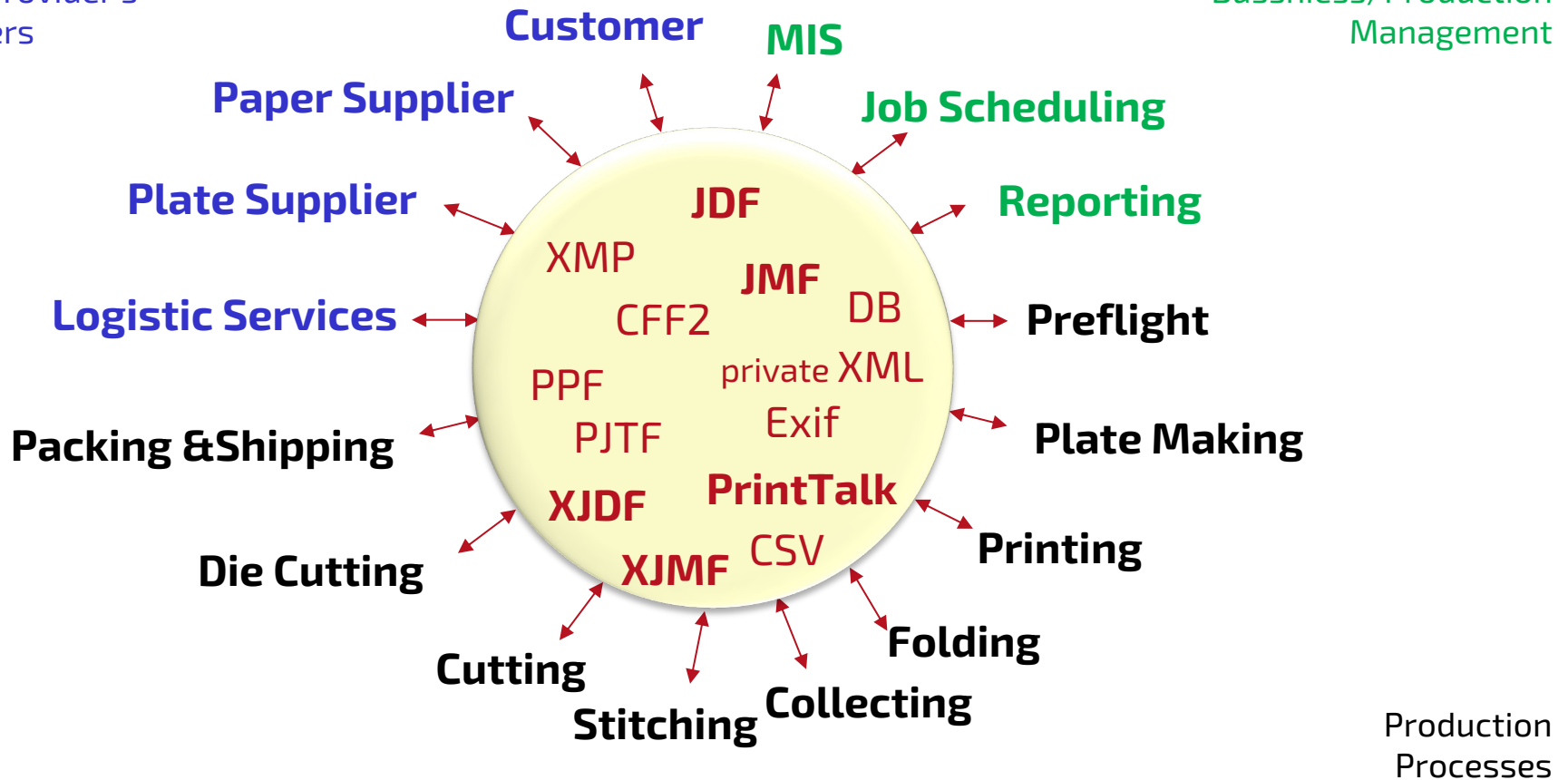
Thomas Hoffmann-Walbeck



Metadata Communication Hub

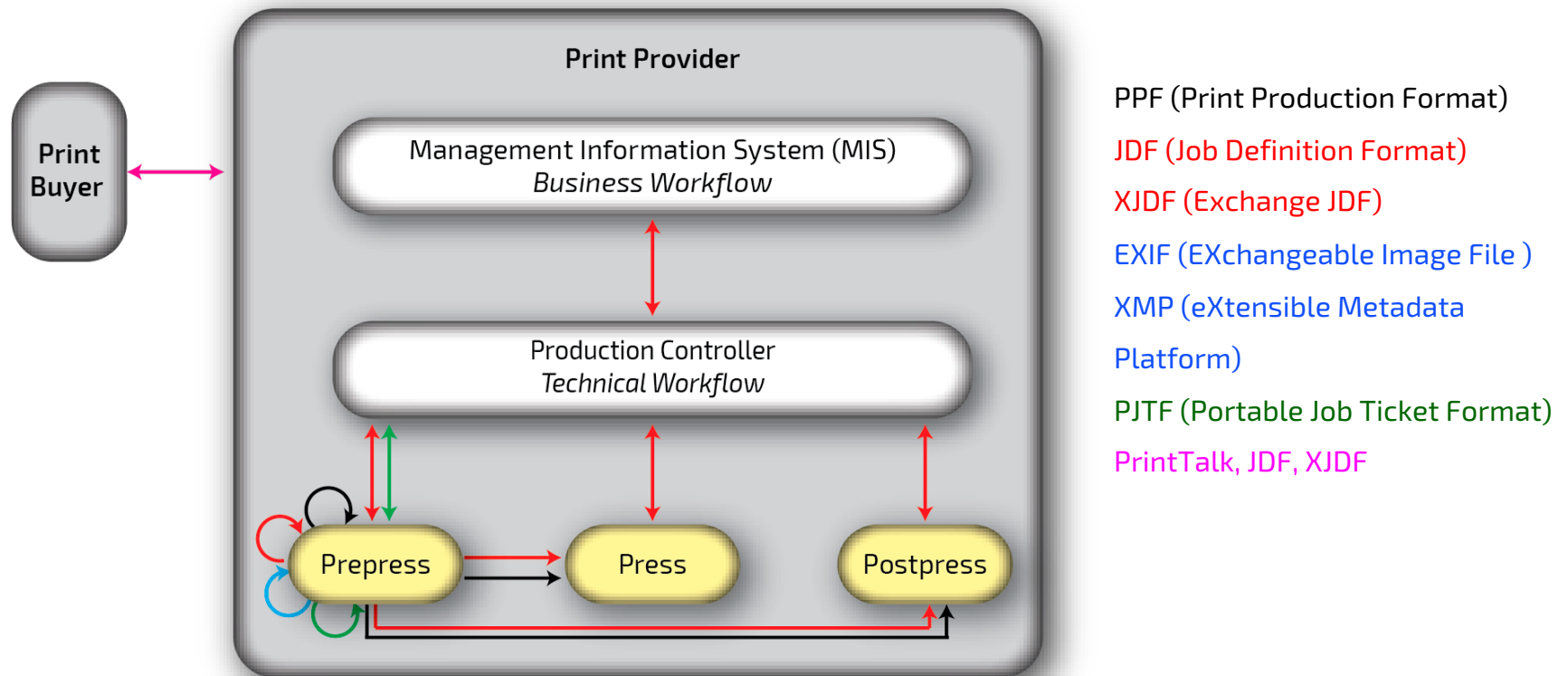
Print Provider's
Partners

Business/Production
Management



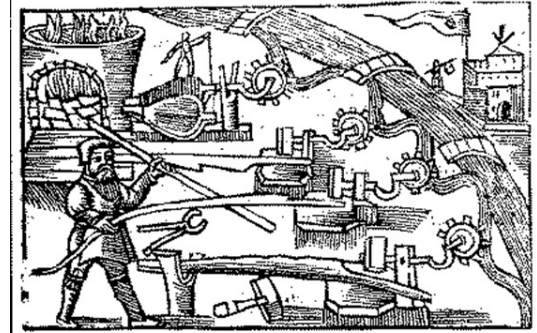
Metadata and Their Ecosystems

- ▶ Often, not just a single metadata format in a production
 - »Format conversions during production (in the background)



Print Production Format (PPF)

- ▶ The Print Production Format is the predecessor format of JDF. The latter has been published in 2000.
- ▶ PPF was published by CIP3 in 1995, the predecessor organization of CIP4.
 - » Therefore, the PPF is often referred to as the CIP3 format.
- ▶ It is still a commonly used file format in Graphic Arts Industry, mainly in order to transfer ink key preset data from prepress to offset presses
- ▶ It is encoded in the PostScript computer language.



Ink Zone Preset Data with PPF

- ▶ The RIP generates separated low-res preview images (1 Bit) of each sheet sides as well as transfer curves.
- ▶ From this, an application can calculate the zone presets.
 - » The transfer curve specifies the position of the preview on the plate.
 - » Next, the percentages of color pixels of each ink zone and each separation is calculated. The software needs to know number and width of ink the zones.
 - » These percentages are transferred to the press controller. With these values the positions of the servo-motors for the ink-feed can be set, depending on the paper.

Shortcomings of PPF

- ▶ A major shortcoming of the Print Production Format is its lack of support for order processing (MIS/ERP).
 - » PPF is used almost exclusively for technical production control.
- ▶ The PPF does not support shop floor data collection.
- ▶ There is no message format for dynamic interaction.
- ▶ The PPF is coded in PostScript and thus relatively difficult to interpret and edit.
- ▶ There is no mechanism for spawning and merging parts of a PPF. This makes central PPF storage for different workflow components cumbersome.