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▶▶FAST RIP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What is FAST RIP?**
  - FAST (Fiery Accelerated System Technology) RIP is EFI's acceleration technology, improving both the Adobe PDF Print Engine (APPE) as well as the Adobe PostScript 3 Engine (also known as Configurable PostScript Interpreter or CPSI). It processes PDF files up to seven times faster, making a clear difference in production environments.
  - FAST RIP is exclusively available on Fiery proServer 6.0 for VUTEk; it is not available for software-only Fiery XF configurations.
  - Upgrading Fiery proServer for VUTEk to version 6.0 unlocks FAST RIP.

- **Is FAST RIP a replacement for the Adobe PostScript 3 or PDF Print Engine?**
  - Not at all. FAST RIP is a technology that has been implemented independent of the Adobe PostScript 3 and PDF Print Engines and does not affect these engines at all.
  - FAST RIP does not interpret PDFs – this is still done by the Adobe PostScript or PDF Print Engine depending on the user's choice.
  - The benefit of FAST RIP starts with the application of color management and the job rendering, i.e. after the PDF has been interpreted.

- **What do I need to set up in Fiery XF to use FAST RIP?**
  - Nothing. FAST RIP is activated by default. You can turn it on/off in System Manager's "*System Information*". You should leave the FAST RIP check box on as shown below:
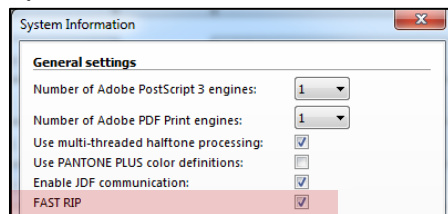
- **Why do I not see any FAST RIP setting in my System Information?**
  - You may be working on a non-proServer system, e.g. "Fiery XF for VUTEk" or "Fiery XF for EFI Wide Format".
  - You may be working on a Fiery proServer version below 6.0.
  - FAST RIP is only available on "Fiery proServer for VUTEk" version 6.0 or higher.

- Should I use FAST RIP in conjunction with the Adobe PostScript 3 or the PDF Print engine?
  - Both the Adobe PostScript 3 and PDF Print Engine are valid choices.
  - EFI recommends the Adobe PDF Print Engine by default due to its native interpretation of PDF files (no conversion to PostScript) and its better handling of transparencies.

- I have chosen to use FAST RIP with the Adobe PDF Print Engine, but Fiery XF is using the Adobe PostScript 3 Engine on some jobs instead – why?
  - Fiery XF will automatically revert to using the Adobe PostScript 3 Engine if:
    - A job is wider than 1,000 inches (with or without scaling within Fiery XF) at a resolution of 1,000 dpi due to an Adobe PDF Print Engine restriction (the maximum allowed width is 1 million pixels). This will not switch off FAST RIP, however, so you still benefit from the improved performance.
    - The file format of a job is EPS or PS.
    - The working color space is set to "RGB".

- Does FAST RIP work with all file formats?
  - FAST RIP works with PDF, EPS and PS file formats.

- If I am printing TIFF files, will they process faster if I place them in a PDF so I can use FAST RIP?
  - Absolutely, but ensure that the *"Image EPS/PDF print engine"* is set to *"Adobe PostScript 3 Engine"*, as shown below:

    Print engine

    PDF print engine:

    Adobe PDF Print Engine ▼

    Image EPS/PDF print engine:

    Adobe PostScript 3 Engine ▼
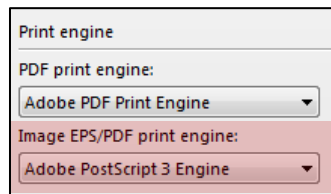
- How can I tell if FAST RIP is being used on a job?
  - Go to "Job Explorer", click on the job you are interested in, go to the "File" tab and open the "Source File Information" pane.
  - If the job was processed with FAST RIP, you will see the following *"File type"*:
    - File type: PDF (accelerated by FAST RIP), CMYK
  - If the job was not processed with FAST RIP, you will see the following *"File type"*:
    - File type: PDF, CMYK

- Are there any circumstances where FAST RIP is not used?
  - FAST RIP (in proServer version 6.0) will **not** be used in the circumstances listed below. Note that this will automatically (without user interaction) cause Fiery XF to revert to a non-FAST RIP configuration, which will ensure the successful processing of the job at the expense of some processing performance.
    - The job includes cut contours. This restriction will be removed in a future update of Fiery proServer.
    - The job contains more than 28 spot colors. This restriction will be removed in a future update of Fiery proServer.
    - The job is a pre-separated one.

- Why is "in-RIP separation" activated but not available when FAST RIP is used?
  - FAST RIP will always detect spot colors – even in EPS and PS files. There is never any need to ever set in-RIP separation to "Force", which is why this option is not available.
  - FAST RIP will always overprint composite jobs and in-RIP separated jobs without spot colors. For this reason the option "Simulate overprinting in composite jobs" does not apply and is disabled for FAST RIP.
  - If you prefer to use the CMYK definition of a named spot colors in a PDF file instead of the L*a*b* definition that Fiery XF would find in its internal libraries, then you can assign a higher "search priority" for "CMYK source" on the Spot Colors pane – there is no need to turn off in-RIP separation when FAST RIP is used.

- How many files can be processed at one time with FAST RIP?
  - FAST RIP is technically a "single instance" feature, but it pipelines tasks. So, effectively it will process and render jobs in parallel.

- How many instances of the Adobe PostScript 3 or PDF Print Engine do I need to have enabled for FAST RIP?
  - FAST RIP will use the print engine (Adobe PostScript 3 or PDF Print Engine) that has been selected by the user, but the number of instances does not matter.
  - The number of print engines only matters in non-FAST RIP configurations.
  - Note that Fiery proServer will analyze the amount of RAM that is installed on your system and pre-configure the number of engines accordingly.
    - Fiery proServer will activate up to one instance per 4 GB of RAM. If you have 8 GB of RAM installed, 1 PostScript 3 and 1 PDF Print Engine will be activated by default, a total of 2 engines. If you have 16 GB of RAM installed, 2 PostScript 3 and 2 PDF Print Engines will be activated by default, a total of 4 engines. If you have 32 GB of RAM installed, 4 PostScript 3 and 4 PDF Print Engines will be activated by default, a total of 8 engines.
    - We highly recommend that you do not manually increase the number of instances. You can review the current setting in System Manager's "*System Information*".

- Will the processing time be faster if I have more RAM?
  - This highly depends on the kind of jobs you process with Fiery proServer. Very complex and large jobs, e.g. a tiling or nesting of 30 x 10 meters, will consume a lot of memory. If you are only working with 8 GB then quite a lot of data will have to be written to the hard drive. If you are working with 32 GB of RAM, the chances are considerably higher that proServer will be able to handle the job in the RAM without extensively using the hard drive for temporary file writing. Since RAM is much faster than any hard drive, this can greatly accelerate the processing time and make the system much more responsive while it is processing such jobs.