Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700

D size print in less than 60 sec-

Color Wide Format Printer

100% Independent Analysis
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Introduction

The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 is an extremely dynamic color wide format printer with outstanding image quality. With a high resolution of 2400dpi x 1200dpi, it is suited for a variety of technical markets including CAD, AEC, GIS, government and legal vertical sectors, as well as front office environments and more graphic intensive workflows.

The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 uses 5 colors, — Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black and Matte black with a tiny dot size of just four Pico liters that facilitates the production of high quality images and accurate sharp lines and text for precise measurements when it counts the most.

As a stand alone technical color wide format printer, the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 is unmatched in cost. With a list price of $3995, it will prove to be a great alternative to sending work down the street to the neighborhood reprographer. Small architectural and engineering firms will now be able to control costs and output more closely and have the convenience of a high quality wide format output device at their fingertips.

Unlimited capabilities

The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 comes bundled with many software packages including Canon’s feature rich printer driver 2006; PosterArtist, an all inclusive banner, poster and POP display intuitive design software (see BERTL’s iTchat article Volume 4, Issue 6); PosterArtist Quick Copy (see BERTL’s iTchat article Volume 4, Issue 6), a great tool for producing high quality enlargements directly from a CanoScan enabled Canon color MFP; PhotoPRINT Select 2.5, a true Adobe PostScript 3 RIP; a version of SA international’s PhotoPRINT line of software RIPs for photographic oriented workflows and the GARO status monitor, which is a complete device management software that enables users complete control of their Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700.

Canon also offers a Colortrac scanning solution complete with a full workstation with scan to E-mail, scan to copy, or scan to a network location all offered in a small footprint.

This extremely dynamic printer, combined with the colortrac scanning solution and Copy System, is a very powerful solution for not only technical workflows but endless other workflows including but not limited to: Graphic arts, photographic, corporate and so on.

### Print Device Features Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Printing Method</td>
<td>1 semi-permanent print head (end-user replace-able)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ink Configurations</td>
<td>CMYK (1 each dye-based) Matte Black (MBK) (2 Pigment based)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nozzle Configuration</td>
<td>5,120—Matte Black 2,560 per color 15,360 nozzles total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ink Droplet size</td>
<td>4 Pico liters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Print Resolution</td>
<td>2400 x 1200 dpi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Calibration                                  | • Auto print head adjustment  
|                                              | • Failing nozzle compensation  
|                                              | • Media feed amount adjustment |
| Color Modes                                  | B/W, Grayscale, and Color |
| Ink Tanks                                    | 130 ml per tank x 6 tanks |
| Ink Level Monitoring                         | • Remote user interface (RUI)  
|                                              | • Printer LCD screen  
|                                              | • GARO Status Monitor |
| Cutter Life Information                      | Information not available |
| Print Direction                              | Bidirectional Unidirectional (WPD option) |
| Printer Driver                               | Windows Printer Driver (WPD) HDI |
|                                             | True Adobe PostScript 3 (PhotoPRINT Select RIP) |
Media Handling: Media Input

The paper handling capabilities of a wide format device are one of its core requirements. After all, it does not matter how fast the print engine is, or how many prints it can handle in a month, if it cannot create the prints you want on the media you desire.

Media

Media comes in many different types and weights. Standard media ranges from inexpensive, plain 20 lb. bond used for check plots, to deluxe 24 lb. bond for general monochrome and color plots, to high gloss photo paper for higher quality color renderings and photographic images.

Capacity

Traditionally, color wide format printers only allowed for one roll of media to be loaded at a time. With increasing print speeds and decreasing costs, newer generations of color wide format printers have the option for more than one roll, commonly seen on monochrome wide format printer/copiers for years. This greatly improves productivity in environments that utilize multiple types of media and in workgroup environments where multiple people or departments use the same machine.

The media capacity is directly related to the maximum diameter of the media and roll combined that the device will accept. Thicker media will allow for fewer linear feet on a roll. A machine may max out its roll capacity with a 300-linear foot roll of plain bond paper, but only allow 60-linear feet on a roll of photo gloss or other thicker media.

Capacity also depends on the number of rolls that the machine is capable of holding.

Size

When media is loaded, the printer must be set for the correct media type and thickness. Wide format printers aimed at the AEC market are generally 36" in width (some manufacturers offer up to 42") and the linear footage of the roll’s length or the print driver limitations. Rolls are loaded onto a spindle that drives the media into the printer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Media Handling Input Features Summary</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standard Media Capacity</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Media Capacity</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cut Sheet Feed Capability</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Media Width</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Media Width</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Media Thickness</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Media Thickness</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Size</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Number of Rolls</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Media Handling: Media Input

Loading and Unloading Media Rolls

Loading and unloading media on the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 is not difficult and after a few times is quite easy.

The media is loaded onto a 45” spindle that handles rolls from 10” up to 36” wide. The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 will accommodate rolls not exceeding 5.9” in diameter.

To unload media on the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700, the user releases the media lock/unlock lever to the unlock setting and the media roll can then be retracted and removed from the machine.
Media Handling: Media Input

Loading and Unloading Media Rolls (continued)

Once the media is fed into the machine and the media release lever is released, the user is led by instructions on the device display panel.

User must then manually feed the paper through the feed area and access the media from the front of the machine to get the slack out of the media.

There is an orange line with arrows that the paper must line up with in order to eliminate media skew issues.

Once paper is fed into the machine, lined up and without slack, the release lever can be set.
Media Handling: Media Input

Once media is loaded and the media release lever is set, the user is prompted to select a media type. There are 25 media types to choose from and 5 more special media selections giving the user 30 total to choose from. After media type is selected, the machine goes through some media checks and then the machine is ready to print.

WHAT WE LIKED

- Media rolls can be loaded and unloaded easily, making it possible for untrained staff to change media without difficulty.

- We liked the way the machine senses the size of the paper and whether it was loaded correctly and if the media is skewed or not. This will prevent further issues with printing especially during borderless printing.

- We liked the 30 media choices that automatically come up when media is loaded. This helps ensure the right settings are being made before printing is started.

- We liked how the media vacuum fans come on when the media is fed through the media slot. This helps keep the media in place when trying to align it to the orange arrows.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- We would like to see an option for more than one roll to reduce the amount of roll changes when using more than one size or type rolls.

- We would like to see a mechanism for the media to be sensed automatically when loading media and having the media feed system automatically pull the media in once it is sensed.
Finishing for wide format printers is limited to a standard catch tray or various output receiving racks or stackers. In most cases the standard catch tray handles prints and copies face down. Face up delivery is an option on some color wide format printers, with an additional receiving rack or stacker.

Output stacking is an important part of wide format printing in AEC/CAD workflows due to the large number of copies or prints in a set. Workflows with multiple sets of mixed sizes, those comprised of only D sized or E sized prints, and online or offline finishing requirements should be considered in selecting finishing options.

Optional in-line folding units are often offered on monochrome toner-based wide format printer/copiers, but not generally available on most color wide format inkjet printers. This function is not generally used in the U.S. In Europe, folding is a big part of workflow requirements.

Handling Finished Prints

Color wide format inkjet prints tend to curl due to the paper coming from a roll and the absence of a fuser or heat being applied to the paper before delivery. To counteract this phenomenon, many color wide format manufacturers have come up with different ways of handling finished prints. As a result, most standard receiving trays have face-down delivery. If unattended printing is a big part of a company’s workflow, special consideration must be taken to secure the right finishing option.

Color wide format inkjet printers have improved in quality so much that they can often print photographic work, such as renderings that require higher quality coated paper. When using coated photo gloss paper, ink dry times vary and depend on the environment, ink type, and media types being used. The need for an operator to monitor the prints can be a factor.

Most color wide format inkjet printers have a default dry time that is automatically associated with certain media types. Some allow users to bypass the dry time and remove the print before drying is complete. Others include an integrated drying fan. However, special care must be taken not to smudge the print if the dry time is bypassed.

### Media Handling: Output/Finishing Features Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Output Capacity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Output Capacity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width Detection</td>
<td>Auto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output Face Down</td>
<td>Standard output basket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output Face Up</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Time</td>
<td>Can be adjusted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folding Options</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 receiving basket
Media Handling: Media Output/Finishing

Media Handling Output

Output capabilities for the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 are limited to a catch tray that is light and saves space but is not really meant for long unattended print runs where multiple pages need to printed and collated.

Users must manage larger print runs that need to be collated in sets. The prints tend to have a significant curl in them depending on the media that is loaded. Thicker more ridged media doesn’t curl as much but still needs a user to manage larger print runs.

WHAT WE LIKED

- We liked the option for borderless printing. This will allow for virtually no offline cutting or sizing.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- A de-curling mechanism would reduce the curl of the paper and eliminate the chance of having prints out of order for long runs and mixed-size runs.
- We would like to see an optional catch tray that would accommodate a higher number of prints to be printed in order. This would be a great advantage for technical document workflows where multiple sets will be printed at one time.
Routine Maintenance

Users can maintain color wide format printers for routine requirements such as ink, ink head, and maintenance cassette replacement, and color calibration. For more in depth maintenance, a factory-trained service technician is required. Most wide format printer dealers offer service contracts. BERTL recommends that users obtain service contract when purchasing any wide format printer.

Ink Replacement
Changing the ink tanks or ink heads is a necessary task that traditionally is avoided by some for fear of ink leaking onto clothes or hands. Advancements in ink systems make replacement easier. Most color wide format printers sold today have self-contained replaceable ink tanks that do not require a trained operator to install. However, special care must be exercised when replacing ink heads so fingers do not contact the ink jets or electronic contacts, which could make the ink heads unusable.

Maintenance Cassette
Color wide format inkjet printers have maintenance cassettes. Typically, a cassette is a docking station that houses rubber wipers that keep the ink heads clean during printing and covered from environmental conditions when the heads are docked. On some printers, the cassettes can be cleaned. This is common on dye-based ink systems, since the ink is water-soluble. For pigment-based ink systems, maintenance cassettes are often replaced rather than cleaned.

Calibration
Calibration is an important factor to achieve maximum quality output. In the past, the calibration process was a resource-consuming process that involved a trained operator to align ink heads manually. A calibration page with thin lines and grids was printed by the machine; the results interpreted by an operator could prove to be inaccurate causing print quality issues. Most manufacturers have done away with this practice and include a camera on the carriage assembly that houses the ink heads. The camera takes readings automatically, registers the heads and performs jet mapping (inkjet nozzle misfire compensation with surrounding jets).

Clearing Media Jams
The paper path for color wide format inkjet printers are generally short; jams are often directly related to media loading. If media is loaded incorrectly and the media jams the carriage, the ink heads may need to be replaced. Sometimes, ink heads are ruined due to media scraping the delicate ink nozzles on the ink heads. Removing jams can be tricky depending on where the jam occurs.

## Maintenance Features Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maintenance Feature</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Print Head Life</strong></td>
<td>Information not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maintenance Cartridge Cleaning</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Calibration</strong></td>
<td>Automatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scheduled Calibration</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>User Ink Head Replacement</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>User Ink Tank Replacement</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ink Tank Replacement on the fly</strong></td>
<td>Yes (printer will stop and resume when ink tank is replaced)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>User Replaceable Maintenance Cartridge</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unattended Printing Mode</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Routine Maintenance

Print Head Replacement Process

Print heads can be replaced at any time. Print head life can vary and it depends on the amount of ink being released through the print head.

The Operation display panel guides the user through easy to follow steps to replace or install a print head.

The ink head contains all five colors CMYK and MBK with sealed ink lines that connect to ink lines from the ink tanks.

Once the head is inserted and the covers are put back in place, the machine does its adjustments and then it is ready to print.
Routine Maintenance

Ink Tank replacement process

If a print job has been sent to the printer and the printer does not have enough ink to complete the job, the print job will be held until the problem is resolved. In addition to the warning on the printer display, the person sending the print will be notified of the problem by the GARO Status Monitor.

The Canon ImagePROGRAF iPF700 is shipped with starter ink tanks (90ml) that are less than the standard 130ml ink tanks that are purchased when needed as a supply item.

Ink tanks are very easy to replace. Users are led through a short series of on-screen illustrations and directions, making it an easy task for even the most novice users.
Routine Maintenance

Calibration Process

Calibration through GARO Status Monitor:
The “Maintenance tab” in the GARO Status Monitor utility is comprised of printhead cleaning, printhead adjustment and media feed amount adjustment. Below are test prints that can be printed from the “Maintenance tab” on the GARO Status monitor utility. If there is a print quality problem, users can print a nozzle check print from the GARO status monitor to see if all nozzles are firing properly. If there are missing lines in the nozzle check test pattern, a nozzle might be clogged. Users can then go through the maintenance procedures like Printhead cleaning, Printhead adjustment and Media feed amount adjustment available from the GARO Status Monitor to remedy the problem.

Advanced automatic printhead adjustment test page

Standard automatic media feed adjustment test page
Routine Maintenance

Calibration Process

Calibration through the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 Operation Panel:

While the tests and adjustments accessed through the GARO Status Monitor resolve most printing problems, calibration is also possible from the printer operation panel with a little more control.

In addition, there are some tests and adjustments that can be accessed on the printer operation panel that are not available from the GARO Status Monitor mentioned previously on page 14. These tests are more in-depth, use more ink and take a little longer to perform so are therefore more suited for Key Operators and System administrators to conduct. These settings are found by pressing the menu key to display the menu options and scrolling down to the “Adjust Printer” selection with the arrow key. The Adjust Printer menu is where the more in-depth tests and adjustments are found. Key Operators will be happy to know that these tests and adjustments are available if needed and are easily accessed from the printer operation panel. These adjustments are generally reserved for when users are still not satisfied with the output after the tests have been performed through the GARO Status Monitor. Although anyone can access these tests and adjustments, performance of these tests and adjustments are reserved for trained operators or a Key Operator of the device.
Routine Maintenance

Maintenance Cartridge

The maintenance cartridge is where ink is released into during Printhead nozzle clearing both during printing and also during maintenance procedures like printhead replacement and other ink releasing procedures not related to printing.

When the maintenance cartridge is full and needs to be replaced, the operation panel, as well as the GARO Status Monitor, will display a warning message that the maintenance cartridge needs to be replaced.

The maintenance cartridge is conveniently located in the front of the printer for easy access.

To replace the maintenance cartridge, the user must press the Menu key and scroll down to the second screen of the main menu. Here they will find the maintenance option. The user selects the maintenance option and the Maintenance menu appears. The user must then select "replace maintenance cartridge". Once this is selected the user is now led through instructions on illustrations that appear on the operation display panel.

There are five different screens that re-circulate giving the user instructions on what to do next. Although special attention needs to be paid when carrying the full maintenance cartridge to prevent spilling ink, this is a very simple process that anyone can perform.

Once the maintenance cartridge is replaced, the user closes the cover and the machine is set to start printing again. Maintenance cartridge replacement should take no longer than five minutes.
Routine Maintenance

WHAT WE LIKED

- We liked that users have control over basic maintenance issues via the remote GARO Status monitor maintenance tab and can resolve print issues without having to call in a service organization or require the user to physically go to the printer itself and try to resolve the issue.

- We liked the option of performing the same maintenance routines from the control panel that are available through the GARO Status Monitor such as: Printhead cleaning, Printhead adjustment, and Media feed adjustments, and the option to perform more in-depth maintenance procedures from the printer operation panel when necessary.

- We liked the illustrations that are provided on the operation panel display to give users better instructions on how to complete a maintenance procedure without having to use a manual or service professional.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- We would like to see the printer have the ability to allow users to change ink on the fly, allowing the machine to keep printing and not interrupt the print job.
Device Management

An efficient device management backbone is needed to take full advantage of the feature set within a device, be it a printer, scanner, copier, or multi-functional product. Device management is commonly supported through a Web server on the device controller that can be accessed using any desktop Internet browser. The user simply enters the IP address of the device into the URL address line.

Users can also access device management at the print/copy/scan controller if the controller has a keyboard, monitor, and mouse. Administrators and users have different management and monitoring needs.

Users

End users want to know if a device is capable of handling a job. Supply levels and a list of jobs already committed to print are important.

For MFPs with document storage and communication capabilities, end users also need desktop management of print on demand, stored document viewing (to check print on demand files or scanned files) and, for the more advanced, the creation of scan-to-email or scan-to-file destination templates.

Administrators

An office or network manager looks for greater control over the device functionality and setup without leaving their desk. They may be looking to manage network setup, establish security, apply cost control measures, check supply levels, and set up automated email alerts to different staff members when problems occur.

Due to the nature of the Web server, this capability is usually limited to an individual device. Many manufacturers also include a network device management fleet tool which allows for the monitoring and management of multiple devices around the network concurrently. Many also provide plug-ins to the most popular IT device management utilities to ensure that the maximum amount of information can be relayed from their device to the third-party application.
Device Management

Printer Status Monitoring

Printer Status monitoring is available from multiple locations such as the GARO Status monitor a separate software package that's included with the imagePROGRAF iPF700; the Remote User Interface (RUI) which is a web interface, and the printer operation panel display on the printer itself.

The GARO Status Monitor “Printer status tab” and the RUI status page displays similar information such as printer status, monitor ink level indication, media status for manual feed tray and media rolls and error information.

One of the main differences between the GARO Status Monitor and the RUI is the GARO Status Monitor is a software package that has to be loaded on every computer that is allowed usage of its functionality while the RUI doesn’t require any software to be loaded and can be accessed by entering the IP address of the printer in a web browser on any workstation on the same network. Some other differences are: the RUI doesn’t give real time information and has to be refreshed to get current printer status. It only displays error messages, and doesn’t give the user a solution to remedy an error like the GARO Status Monitor does.

GARO Status Monitor is where users, key operators and network administrators can get real time information quickly and easily to manage all their Canon iPF series printers.

The GARO Status Monitor is also conveniently accessed from the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 Windows Printer Driver main tab. The GARO Status Monitor utility automatically opens up to the printer status tab where printer status is displayed.
Device Management

Status Monitoring

The GARO Status Monitor is composed of two screens; a Printer List screen which displays a list of printers, and a Status Monitor screen which displays the details of each printer.

The following are merits of using the GARO Status Monitor:

Check printer status
Printer status is displayed in real time on screen.

Error information and remedies are displayed
Immediately verify what measures need to be taken when an error occurs.

Monitor ink levels at a glance
Ink tank graphics are displayed by type. When the ink level runs low the user is notified with an icon and message.

Manage print jobs
Verify, pause and delete print jobs.

Check media status
Media sizes and types are displayed from each media source. You can also check with or without media in place.

Job Queue Management

The GARO Status Monitor utility “Job tab”

The “Job tab” in the GARO Status Monitor utility enables users to view status of jobs in the queue and gives users the ability to prioritize, cancel, pause, and resume jobs.
Device Management

Printer Information Management

The GARO Status Monitor utility “Information tab”

From the information tab, users, key operators, and system administrators are able to view, print or save valuable information from the printer. This is a very valuable tool for system administrators and key operators to be able to have any piece of information they may need at their finger tips at anytime.

Status Print
Prints a complete list of all printer settings.

Status Display
Displays the printer information and setting values.

Print Job Log
Prints print job logs.

Print Job Log Display
Displays print job logs.

Print Media Detailed Settings
Prints information and setting values for each media type.

Print Menu Map
Prints a route map for the menus displayed on the printer operation panel.

Status Saving
Saves the printer information and setting values in a file.
Device Management

Maintenance management

The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 Maintenance tab, as discussed previously in the Routine Maintenance section, enables users, key operators, and system administrators the opportunity to print a nozzle check print if a clogged nozzle is suspected. If there are clogged nozzles, appropriate action can be taken from this tab, such as a print head cleaning, print head adjustment or media feed adjustment.

Printer Operation Panel

While not as convenient as a remote interface, device management can also be performed from the printer itself with the LCD display using the corresponding hard keys and arrow navigation pad.

By pressing the Menu key on the left side of the panel brings you to the Main Menu where everything is accessed. Below are the first and second screens of the main menu viewed on the LCD display.
Device Management

Remote User Interface

The RUI is much more than just a status monitor as mentioned earlier in the report on page 19. It is a scaled down version of the GARO Status Monitor when logged in as an administrator. Users are able to view the status of the device by simply entering the IP address of the device in a web browser from any workstation on the same network as the device and the RUI is available, while administrators need to enter a password to log into the device as an administrator. This is a very good tool for remote printer management for administrators when further control is needed at a workstation that doesn’t have the GARO Status Monitor installed on it.

Cost Control Reporting

The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 doesn’t have cost control reporting as a standard feature. However, it can be added by utilizing the latest third party software for cost control and analysis that is available.

Security Settings

Due to the absence of a hard disk drive on the printer, the security risk is minimized for unauthorized reprinting of post-processed jobs. Spooling takes place on the users workstation before it is released to the printer.

Network security on the imagePROGRAF iPF700 is controlled by limiting access to the device through the RUI and by limiting the installation of the GARO Status Monitor to only those computers that should have full access to the device.
Device Management

WHAT WE LIKED

• We liked that users have many options to choose from to not only view the status of the device but also perform some additional functions like print checks, job logs and other pertinent information.

• We liked how users get real time information from the printer through GARO status monitor. This would be a hard tool to live without and a great tool that keeps users informed at all times to keep work flowing.

• We liked that even though a workstation may not have access to the GARO Status Monitor, they are still able to see basic printer status through the RUI.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

• We would like to see the ability for users to be able to view the progress of a multi-page document that has been sent to print.
Security

High-tech security is never out of the news, with reports of information theft and hacking making headlines. By the very nature of their development, network printers and MFPs are security risks if not managed correctly. This also holds true for Wide format MFPs, if not more so, with building plans, maps, and electrical drawings running through these machines, security may even play a bigger role in some cases.

Advanced network connectivity options open ports to hackers. Industry-standard Java and Web browser design elements are vulnerable to virus attack. Large hard drives store a latent copy of every document flowing through the device for years. Devices link directly to core network components such as the LDAP address list or the central file server. Plus, fast communication options let insiders send information to the outside with no method of being traced.

Security and data compliance buzzwords and regulations such as Common Criteria certification, HIPAA, Sarbanes-Oxley, Gramm Leach Bliley, FERPA, SEC, FSMA, and the Patriot Act look to safeguard information and force companies to conform to best practices in document and data security management.

Safeguarding Data

Most MFPs now offer a standard or optional hard drive. Any company dealing in critical, sensitive information should determine if they need a data overwrite capability that has passed Common Criteria (CC) certification. Data overwrite deletes information on the hard drive by writing a series of random ones and zeros over the sectors storing data, usually multiple times. The CC test relates to how data is deleted from a device’s hard drive after being used. CC certification is carried out by a government-approved test facility. Many manufacturers get CC certification to satisfy government security requirements and it is a requisite for many government agencies and contractors. Most MFP devices pass evaluation assurance level (EAL) 2, with some aiming higher at EAL 3. The higher the level, the more extensive the testing, and the more secure the hard drive is deemed.

Controlling Access

One of the keys to security is limiting the initial access to the device both remotely and at the device itself. TCP/IP and MAC filtering allow the administrator to limit remote access to the device. MAC filtering is more secure; the TCP/IP address can be copied but the MAC address is a fixed specification that can not be changed.

IPv6 is now becoming commonplace on network devices. IPv6 makes it harder to crack or hack into a PC address range by making the address more complex.

Network authentication is now available on nearly every MFP and printer, forcing users to enter a user name and password before access to the device is granted. Most devices can verify a user by linking to Windows Exchange user lists, Novell network user lists, and LDAP server lists.

There should also be password encryption at the point of the login process through SSL or other encryption or other security technology (such as Kerberos) preventing hackers from watching and capturing user names and IDs as they travel over the network.

Security Features Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hard Drive Overwrite</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removable Hard Drive</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Print</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encrypted Print</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encrypted PDF Send</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Authentication</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDAP Authentication</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerberos Authentication</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNMP v3.0</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPv6</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSL</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP Filtering</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAC Filtering</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPP Authentication</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Security

Security Options

The imagePROGRAF iPF700 has IP and Mac filtering for securing access through the network to the device. The device is compatible with SNMP and access privileges can be administered within the RUI in administrator mode. These settings can only be accessed by entering an administrator's password. Due to the absence of a hard disk drive on the printer, the chance of secure documents getting into the wrong hands is less likely. For a more secure method of utilizing the device, the device could be monitored by authorized personnel and also connected directly through a USB cable, thus cutting out the risk of a network all together.

WHAT WE LIKED

• We liked that the GARO Status monitor needs to be loaded on every workstation that is authorized to have more control over the device, making sure that only authorized personnel can cancel jobs or change network settings.

• We liked that the device doesn’t house an onboard hard disk drive that may expose sensitive documents to malicious intent if not properly managed. This reduces the risk of a sensitive documents being compromised.

• We liked the IP and Mac filtering capabilities which restrict access to IP ranges and Mac addresses.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

• We would like to see some sort of RAM clear or overwrite process that happens after jobs are completed to further secure any latent image or data that can remain in the printer’s memory after a print job is completed.
Accessibility

In the U.S., Section 508 legislation prohibits government agencies from purchasing devices that are not accessible to those with physical impairments. For this reason—and the corporate world’s increased focus on delivering a better work environment for all—user-friendly features for physically-impaired users are considered more and more.

Common design features include tilting control panels which give wheelchair-bound users a better view of the screen and larger display options for those with impaired vision.

Voice navigation and Braille also are becoming increasingly popular. Easy access to the paper path for jam removal or front access to toner supplies make a device more user-friendly to all.

User Accessibility to Device Controls

The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 is lower that most wide format devices making it more accessible to wheelchair bound users. The operation panel is also lower to the ground than most and has large concave operation keys for those with limited dexterity.

User Accessibility for Media loading and unloading

Media loading and unloading can be difficult for the physically disabled just because of the weight of some of the media rolls. If the user can lift the paper rolls without difficulty, media loading and unloading is quite easy. Access to the media roll is gained from behind the machine which is easily done by unlocking the wheels and wheeling the machine aside.

User Accessibility for Media Jam Removal

While media jams are uncommon on color wide format printers, they do happen and on the imagePROGRAF iPF700 access to jams are at the front and back of the device. The maneuverability and low profile of the device make user accessibility for media jam removal an easier task than some competitive models.

User Accessibility for Routine Maintenance

Routine maintenance can be carried out with little encumbrances. Ink tanks, print heads can all be replaced from the front of the machine these tasks easy for most disabled users.
Accessibility

WHAT WE LIKED

- We liked the low 43” height of the printer making it very user friendly to wheelchair bound users.

- We liked the light weight design matched with the un-lockable wheels that make the printer easy to maneuver to gain access to media for loading and unloading.

- The low height of the operation panel provides easy access for wheelchair bound users.

- We also liked the large clear text and illustrations on the control panel providing easier recognition for the sight impaired.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- While we liked the ease of maneuvering the device to gain access to media, a media feed key in the back of the machine would be helpful.
Print

The Print function is where wide format color documents originate, most commonly using thermal inkjet print technology. Due to the physical size of the documents being printed, file sizes can be very large. A file size of 100 MB is common and some could easily reach 1GB and above. For this reason, most color wide format printers have an optional controller or RIP—generally from a third-party software company—to process these large files efficiently.

Some printers come with a standard processor on board. While this processor may be adequate for simple line drawings, it may not handle larger file sizes. As a result, the large jobs could delay the printer from performing other tasks, which could be detrimental to productivity in workgroup environments.

Connectivity

Most devices include Fast Ethernet (10/100 Mbps) and USB connectivity out of the box; some include parallel connections. In addition, some devices include a FireWire connection.

PDLs

HP-GL/2, HP-RTL, and WPD are the de facto printer description languages (PDLs) of choice provided by all suppliers. Most offer a PostScript driver as an upgrade. A few manufacturers also include their own PDL that is based loosely on the Windows/GDI printing technology of old. These Windows or GDI drivers often offer significantly more printer options than traditional HP-GL/2, WPD, and PostScript drivers.

Productivity

Judging print productivity is an inexact science at best or misleading at worst. Factors such as processor power, memory capabilities, spool and RIPping efficiency, engine throughput speed, RIPping while printing capabilities, and more play a major part. Most devices fair better in some factors than others. Different workflows may benefit from one factor more than others.

It is easy to play judge and pronounce what determines productivity. But this has little merit when evaluating print performance for an end-user environment. Device A may print Document 1 faster than Device B. But Device B may print Document 2 faster. You cannot determine which document is the best measure of productivity.

The same is true of network traffic tests where multiple jobs are submitted at once. By rearranging the order of the jobs, the productivity of Device A and Device B could easily be reversed.

BERTL does not restrict its evaluation of print performance to such tests. It provides information on how jobs are treated across the various PDLs offered, thus allowing users to get the best out of the device.

Printer Drivers

Driver design varies enormously from manufacturer to manufacturer. Most try to keep a common style throughout their range to reduce learning curves. However, many have significant design differences between PDLs, which can raise issues. While many features are common throughout drivers from all manufacturers, there are some differentiators, which while niche benefits in many instances, can be valuable in the right hands. We highlight the strengths and
Print Modes

Print speeds are directly related to the mode that is selected in the print driver. BERTL printed various file types with various content, from AutoCAD color technical line drawings, to complex colorful architectural renderings, to high quality images with overlays. The imagePROGRAF iPF700 has 14 predefined print quality modes called Print Targets for easy settings selection—Default, Draft, Office Document, Poster (Graphic Image), POP Ad, CAD (Line Drawing), CAD (Fast), CAD (Monochrome Line Drawing), CAD (High Accuracy), Photo (from digital camera), Poster (Notice Announcement), 3D/GIS Map, Scanned Image, and Highest Quality.

Draft mode produces quick prints where quality is not the main factor, on inexpensive paper. It is used to check work before final prints are made.

As previously mentioned, there are many choices that can be made easily to accomplish virtually every application. If one of the Print targets doesn’t seem to fulfill a certain document’s requirements, users have the option to choose the advanced settings mode to select print priority, print quality and other image enhancing features independently.

Print Preview

Print preview can be accomplished by checking the “Open Preview When Print Job Starts” box shown in the illustration to the right. If this box is checked, users can stack up jobs here, preview, rearrange, and or delete them. Many different workflows will be able to take advantage of this very handy preview tool.
Print Productivity Timed Test by Mode

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File Description</th>
<th>Default</th>
<th>Draft</th>
<th>CAD (Line Drawings)</th>
<th>CAD (Fast)</th>
<th>CAD (Monochrome)</th>
<th>CAD (High Accuracy)</th>
<th>3D/GIS Map</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1: 1-page 18”x45” rendered color TIFF</td>
<td>114 sec.</td>
<td>68 sec.</td>
<td>106 sec.</td>
<td>94 sec.</td>
<td>78 sec.</td>
<td>170 sec.</td>
<td>112 sec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2: 2-page 11”x18” PDF renderings in color</td>
<td>120 sec.</td>
<td>99 sec.</td>
<td>108 sec.</td>
<td>96 sec.</td>
<td>110 sec.</td>
<td>143 sec.</td>
<td>121 sec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3: 2-page 11”x18” PDF renderings: 1 black, 1 color</td>
<td>110 sec.</td>
<td>92 sec.</td>
<td>102 sec.</td>
<td>98 sec.</td>
<td>100 sec.</td>
<td>143 sec.</td>
<td>112 sec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 4: 1-page 11”x18” rendering in color</td>
<td>65 sec.</td>
<td>55 sec.</td>
<td>63 sec.</td>
<td>71 sec.</td>
<td>58 sec.</td>
<td>80 sec.</td>
<td>62 sec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 5: 1-page BERTL Test page 24”x36” PDF color</td>
<td>182 sec.</td>
<td>100 sec.</td>
<td>142 sec.</td>
<td>107 sec.</td>
<td>130 sec.</td>
<td>310 sec.</td>
<td>182 sec.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Print Productivity

Printing time was measured for an accurate report of how print modes affected print times for various documents. BERTL analysts tested seven of the 14 easy settings modes (Print Targets) that are available from within the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 WPD.

While the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 certainly has its place within multiple verticals including photographic and graphic arts, our testing was aimed more towards the technical printing capabilities of the device for CAD, AEC and GIS workflows.

While conducting this test with multiple files, there was a noticeable difference in print times between modes tested. For quick check plots, draft mode and CAD (Fast) are the modes of choice. In draft and CAD (Fast) modes, an E size 36” x 48” full color document was produced in a little over a minute and a half; 100 sec and 107 sec, respectively.

For civil or mechanical engineering workflows where precise measurements are required, the CAD (High Accuracy) mode is the mode of choice. With this mode, the printer prints at 1200 x 1200 dpi enabling extra fine lines to be produced accurately.
Print Driver Functionality

The Windows Print Driver (WPD) for the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 is a feature rich printer driver and a powerful tool that is very intuitive and easy to use for novice users yet gives advanced users the control they desire.

The main tab has many print quality options to choose from and users have two ways of selecting these options: Easy settings (predefined settings) or Advanced settings (allow users to select print priority, print quality, color mode and color settings, unidirectional printing, sharpen text, and thicken fine lines).

When using the “Easy settings” way of selecting print quality options (Print target), the user has the ability to view the settings to see what comprises a particular Print target. This gives the user enough information to make an informed decision on which mode to use without printing multiple costly trial prints. See the illustration to the right for a sample details list. There is also a short explanation in the text box just below the print target list in illustration #1.

Also from the main tab, users can choose from over 30 media types. When certain media types are selected, some “easy settings” Print targets are grayed out and unavailable for use. This keeps users from selecting the wrong media type by mistake. The grayed out Print targets are not capable of printing onto these media types with optimum results and are, therefore, unavailable for selection.
Print

Print Driver Functionality

The Page setup tab is where page sizes are selected. Most page size standards are represented here. If you don’t see a particular page size that is needed, there is also a custom page size facility to create a custom page size to use.

Borderless printing is one of the many great features of the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 and can be selected here in the page setup tab. When Borderless printing is selected the printing will print edge-to-edge posters, banners, POP displays and any other documents that need to be full bleed. This reduces offline finishing greatly.

The Layout tab not only offers the most common layout features such as centering and rotation, it also increases layout capabilities by allowing users to print to a layout software called imagePROGRAF free layout. Also from within the layout tab, users are able to choose multiple-up copies from 2-16 pages. If that doesn’t satisfy their creative appetite, they can also choose to edit any document with the power of PosterArtist.

The Print job is sent directly to the Free Layout Software that opens up immediately after the job is sent. Once the print job is received by the software, users are able to auto nest, rearrange, align, set media type, print quality and many other useful settings to help simplify page composition and allow users to take full control over preventing media waste.
Print

Image Quality: Text and Lines

BERTL analysts were very impressed with the print quality on the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700. The images proved to be both crisp and clear and the lines and text reproduced accurately and sharp without breaks in the lines. Lines and text were printed in seven different modes to see the affect Print targets has on the print quality of lines and text.

In all modes tested (default, draft, CAD lines, CAD Fast, CAD monochrome, CAD accurate lines and 3D/GIS Map), text was crisp down to 4 point for black, blue, and red with the text clearly legible. Amazingly, even with plain paper, Black reverse print white text was crisp down to 4 point text. Also, in all modes tested, line borders were crisp down to 0.25 point in black, red and blue.

To get an idea of how the quality of photos printed within a document that is printed in a CAD focused print mode such as CAD (lines), BERTL used it’s test pattern that has digital photos included in it. The imagePROGRAF iPF700 was able to produce the photos with great results keeping the lines and text sharp and the photo detailed for pleasing results.

Image Quality: Text Print Analysis

Text sizes for each set range from top to bottom: 4 point, 6 point, 8 point, 10 point, 12 point, and 14 point. Text was printed in Release mode.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Black Type</th>
<th>Blue Type</th>
<th>Red Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy sleeping dog</td>
<td>A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy sleeping dog</td>
<td>A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy sleeping dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy sleeping dog</td>
<td>A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy sleeping dog</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy sleeping dog</td>
<td>A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy sleeping dog</td>
<td>A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy sleeping dog</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black line printed in CAD lines (print)

Blue line printed in CAD lines (print)

Red line printed in CAD lines (print)

Digital Photo in CAD lines (print)

Image Quality: Fine Line Print Analysis

Fine lines were printed in all modes mentioned above, in black, blue, and red.
Print

Image Quality: Color

The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 was impressive with the Adobe Illustrator vector-based image at the right. The solids were very solid without banding and the colors were very close in color to the original file. This architectural rendering was printed through the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 WPD with the print target mode of 3D/GIS Map which has a Print Priority of “Image” Print Quality of (Standard 600dpi) with sharpen text also being selected.

The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700’s versatility is demonstrated in its ability to produce eye-catching color without loss of fine lines and details. All three files were printed from high resolution PDF files with the 3D/GIS Map print target selected in the WPD.
Print

Image Quality: Color

This 195MB TIFF file was printed through Adobe Photoshop on the imagePROGRAF iPF700 with the Print Target Set to “Highest quality” mode.

WHAT WE LIKED

• We liked the overall functionality of the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 Printer Driver.

• Canon has covered almost all workflows by presenting users with up to 14 different predefined print quality modes for a very intuitive user interface from within the imagePROGRAF iPF700’s WPD. Users can get a short explanation of the predefined settings just to make sure resolution and color settings are correct before sending the job to print.

• We liked the technology behind printing monochrome documents. Monochrome and full color workflows can be accomplished with speed and accuracy. With the double swath print heads for matte black pigment ink, print time is reduced and the longevity of the prints is increased for archival purposes.

• We liked the ability that is available to users to print to the Free Layout tool to lay out documents before printing. We liked that the tool is very interactive and how rearranging documents is so easy. We also liked the print to PosterArtist option that is also available from within the Windows Printer Driver.

• We liked the print quality over all. Fine lines and details were produced very accurately. This will make the device very desirable to many technical workflows that require precision measurements down to the dot in cases such as Civil and Mechanical engineering.

• We liked how the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 has a maximum resolution of 2400 x 1200 dpi and is capable of creating photographic results while also producing superb lines and text.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

• We would like to see the ability to be able to select all print modes with all media types.

• A guidance system in the print preview screen to give the user a better idea of what the orientation of the document will be coming in. This would further reduce media waste.
Job Submission Tools

Job submission tools enable users to submit various raw file types through software or a Web browser on any workstation on the network to be printed to a wide format printer.

Increasingly, these job submission tools are bundled with the printers and some offer these tools as an option. Whether the job submission tool is Web-based or client-based, it should be considered as a vital tool, especially in reprographic and CRD environments that handle complex jobs that are built from different file types into a finished set.

Web Submission
Web submission tools enable users to gain access to a wide format MFP or controller individually through a Web browser simply by typing in the IP address of the device. The Web interface resides on the device and gives the user the convenience of viewing documents before printing, changing print settings, and sending files to print without loading software or drivers.

Sending a job that includes multiple file types and needs to become a set can be aggravating at times. Web submission tools give users the ability to create sets in a more streamlined way.

Job Submission Software
Job submission software has similar functionality as Web submission with some exceptions. Job submission software needs to be loaded and licensed for each individual workstation. Job submission software usually can access more that one device simultaneously without the need to log in and out of each device independently, which makes it a favorable option for companies with multiple devices. Connection to the devices are, more times than not, by the IP address of the device and use the drivers of the particular device.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Submission Tools</th>
<th>PhotoPRINT Select 2.5 for ImagePROGRAF iPF700</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job submission tool software</td>
<td>Microsoft windows: 2000, XP, Server 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web submission tool</td>
<td>Mac OSX 10.2.8 or later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color Management</td>
<td>Linearization and ICC profiling capabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported Languages</td>
<td>AI, EPS, psd, dwp, cmx, dcs, dxf, HPGL, HPGL/2, jpg, fp, pcd, pct, wmf, plt, job, pdf, png, ps, tif, tga, Bmp, and pcx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Client workstation requirements</td>
<td>Pentium II, 350 MHz, 256 MB of RAM.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 also comes with a fully functional PostScript RIP. This software RIP can either be installed on client workstations or on a dedicated server. With the testing we performed using the PhotoPRINT RIP, we were very impressed with the functionality of the RIP but we experienced some reduced system performance issues while processing files in the background and using other applications at the same time. For this reason, we suggest installing the PhotoPRINT RIP on a dedicated computer or server.

The PhotoPRINT RIP not only acts as a Raster Image Processor, it also acts as:

- Another, more powerful page layout tool with increased functionality
- A color management tool for creating custom ICC Profiles and linearization of the printer
- A Job Submission tool to submit up to 24 different raw file formats including the most popular AEC file formats such as dwg, tif, jpg, dxf, HPGL and HPGL/2, plt and many more.

For more information please visit our website at www.bertl.com to find an in-depth review of PhotoPRINT Select 2.5 in an upcoming issue of our iTchat publication.
Job Submission Tools

WHAT WE LIKED

- We liked that the PhotoPRINT Select 2.5 RIP is offered free with the imagePROGRAF iPF700. This RIP, with all of its functionality, could easily be valued at over $2000 if purchased separately.

- Color management tools are included with the software and they integrate very easily with the most common spectrophotometers available on the market today.

- We liked how easy it was to do step and repeat with the PhotoPRINT 2.5 RIP. This will be a useful tool for many workflows where different sizes will be printed at the same time. It will also help to conserve paper.

- Another plus is that this RIP is a true Adobe PostScript level 3 RIP. Most competitive products offer PostScript as an option for an additional fee and most of them are not true Adobe PostScript.

- We also liked how users can place the PhotoPRINT RIP on hold and drag and drop files into the queue and perform simple pre process file manipulation, such as sizing, nesting and step and repeat to name a few.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- We would like to see a better explanation somewhere, in a manual or brochure, what the recommended system guidelines are and how many programs can be running while the RIP is processing without causing the system to crash.
Summary

Canon has outdone itself once again, this time in the wide format arena.

The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 comes to the market as Canon’s highly versatile, high resolution, very productive 36” full color printer fit for many workflows.

From BERTL’s perspective it was apparent right from the first print that the introduction of this product is sure to raise some eyebrows especially from CAD and AEC vertical sectors who have been using other brand devices or sending their jobs out for years, not to mention all the graphic intensive verticals like sign companies, ad agencies, print for pay, corporate, and the list goes on that will benefit from this device.

The imagePROGRAF iPF700 is packed with functionality. It is powered by Canon’s highly productive L-COA (Large-format printer COmmon Architecture) controller that is specifically designed to produce extremely fine detail. It accomplishes this by capitalizing on the specially designed print head technology that produces one of the smallest ink droplet sizes—4 Pico liter—in its class.

The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 is not just a flashy bells and whistles type device, it actually backs up the hype and has the tools to do it. Yes, it does have many bells and whistles like its double swath MBK pigment ink heads for increased speed and longevity and it’s highly intuitive 2006 imagePROGRAF iPF700 print drivers—the difference is it actually lives up to the hype.

The tool bag is overflowing with software that comes “in the box”. Some of these great tools that are included free are: PosterArtist 2006 with quick copy; GARO Status Monitor for device management; PhotoPRINT Select 2.5 for imagePROGRAF true PostScript 3 RIP for graphic and technical workflows; 2006 HDI Print Driver for quicker and more accurate printing from AutoCAD; 2006 Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 print driver with an intuitive interface that serves both novice and advanced users alike; the Remote User Interface for quick, down and dirty status monitoring and device management, all of this and more for the low list price of $3995.

Canon is now leveraging world class technologies to gain market share within the Architectural, Engineering, Construction and other technical print markets, a space that Canon hasn’t had a large market share in. Now they have a color wide format product—namely the imagePROGRAF iPF700—to go after this market and truly drive it’s growth in this new untapped area in ways they might not even expect.

The imagePROGRAF iPF700 is the first color wide format device to earn our highly coveted five star rating under the expanded, real world workflow test procedures. It has earned this prestigious award by being put through BERTL’s rigorous testing and by going beyond what is considered, by BERTL analysts, what is commonly expected of a device in the CAD, AEC technical print arena.
About BERTL

The success of an organization depends on its ability to manage its information and assets. An effective workflow process requires the complex integration of information, devices, software, and people.

IT managers, office managers, and other knowledge management professionals need to know which digital imaging devices would best serve their specialized workflow processes.

BERTL’s services are designed around this real-world framework, delivering business consumers the independent analysis and insight they need to make critical decisions about digital imaging’s role in their organization.

Independent Analysis and Insight

BERTL’s reports, comparative data, and strategic guides look and digital imaging through the eyes of the business user. The research examines not only the technical features, but also vertical market applications, and business benefits. The impact on worker productivity is a primary concern.

BERTL is 100 percent independent. It receives no funding from manufacturers and all product evaluations and reports are published at BERTL’s own expense for its subscribers. Business users worldwide trust BERTL for objective, unbiased analysis of digital imaging systems.

BERTL Services

Reports and Star Ratings
BERTL analysts provide detailed reports of the technical and practical benefits of thousands color and monochrome workgroup, departmental, office, graphic arts, wide format, and digital print production devices.

Product Specifications
DataCheck Gen II provides the most current competitive data on printers, copiers, MFPs, fax devices, wide format printers, scanners and more.

News, Interviews, and Analysis
The ITchat online magazine provides insight into the dynamics and trends of the digital imaging marketplace through interviews, feature articles, and software reviews.

Vertical Sector Research
BERTL’s research paper library provides detailed, objective analysis of document-related productivity issues in vertical market segments, examining document workflow issues, usability, return on investment considerations, and more.

BERTL Awards
BERTL analysts recognize the leading devices and software solutions in the annual BERTL’s Best awards. BERTL also honors the performance of manufacturers in the annual Readers’ Choice selections.

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