

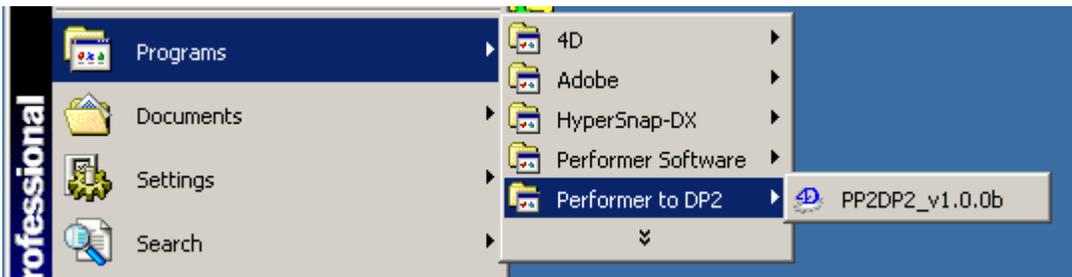
“Performer to DP2 Hot Folder”
Reference Manual
Rev. 07.11.05

Install Files:

There is only one file involved with installing the “Performer to DP2 Hot Folder”.

The installer file is named “PP2DP2_1.x.x.EXE”.

Simply double click on this executable and the application files will be installed on your computer and a new program group will be added to your Start / Programs menu.



Once the installation is complete, you should see the new program group in the Start / Programs menu, “Performer to DP2”.

To start the application, click on the “PP2DP2_v1.x.x” icon under the “Performer to DP2” group as shown above.

Create Directories that will be used with application:

There are five directories that need to be created on your hard drive before you can begin setting up Performer Pro and DP2 to work with the “Performer to DP2” hot folder.

The first two directories will be the save directories used by Performer PDP-5000 Process Controller to unzip and store the Order Data files and Order Images when the output to DP2 option is chosen. If you are already using the PDP 5000 for DP2 output these two directories will already exist and you simply need to make note of what they are for later when you setup preferences in the “Performer to DP2” hot folder application.

Depending on which version of the PDP 5000 Process Controller software you are running, will determine where you would look to determine what your current settings for the “Output Data Folder” and “Output Images Folder” are. If you have not changed the default location and names of these two directories, they will be located on the root of your System drive and will be something like the following:

“D:\Presentation\PDP_Data\” - location of all Order Data files

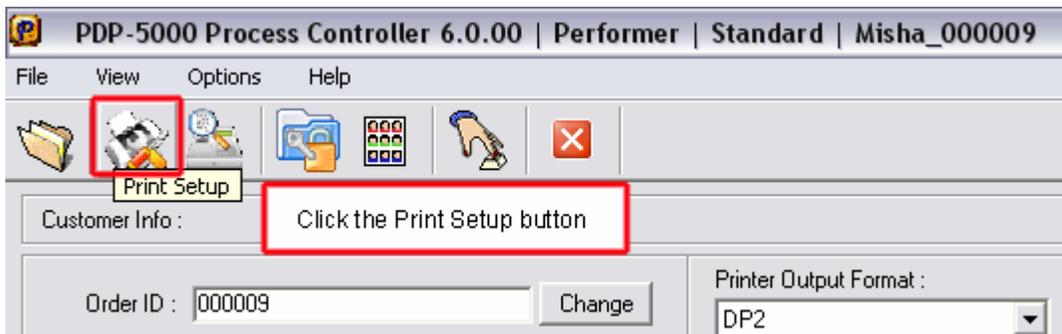
“D:\Presentation\PDP_Images\” - location of all Order Image files

If you are running version 5.0 of the PDP-5000 you will find your current Output Folder path preferences on the window shown below outlined in red.



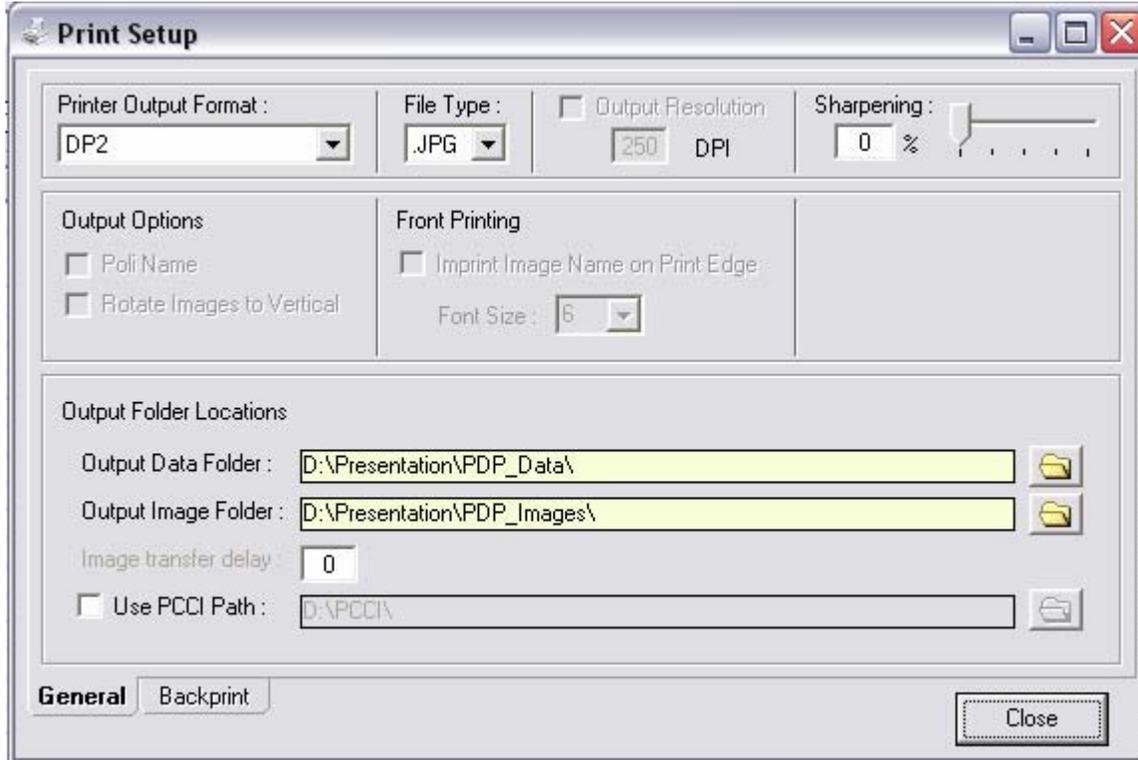
PDP-5000 version 5.0 “Output Folder preferences”

If you are running version 6.0 of the PDP-5000 you will need to click on the “Print Setup” button on the window shown below:



PDP-5000 version 6.0 “Print Setup button”

This will open the “Print Setup” preferences window shown below.



PDP-5000 version 6.0 “Print Setup window”

In the “Output Folder Locations” section of the window you will find the “Output Data Folder” and “Output Image Folder” path settings.

If neither of these has been previously set, then you can choose the locations for both that best suit your production environment. However, you will use these same locations when you get to the Performer to DP2 preferences input.

The paths we used in our example are:

“D:\Presentation\PDP_Data\” - location of all Order Data files

“D:\Presentation\PDP_Images\” - location of all Order Image files

The third directory will be the “DP2_Command_Scripts” directory and is used by the DP2 application as the directory that it monitors for Command Scripts being sent by other applications. This directory should be created on the same computer that is running DP2 that you wish to have our application send the orders to.

If you are already using the DP2 Commands Importer, then you will already have a Queue setup for this purpose. If so, you can just point to the same directory that is in the Commands Importer path in DP2.

However, for our examples that we use in this reference we created the following directory on the root level of your DP2 application directory and name it “Command_Scripts_Que”.

“C:\Kodak Beta 6072\Command_Scripts_Que\”

The path shown above just happens to be the location on our test computer, so we will use it in our example.

The fourth directory is a DP2 “RemoteJobQueue”. If you are already using a Remote Job Queue in DP2, you will already have a directory setup for this purpose. DP2, by default, names the Remote Job Queue with the name “RemoteJobQueue” when you create it, so that is the name we are using in our example.

The “RemoteJobQueue” directory is usually located in the DP2 application directory.

For the purpose of our example used in this reference manual, we created the following directory in the root level of your DP2 application directory and name it “RemoteJobQueue”.

“C:\Kodak Beta 6072\RemoteJobQueue\”

The fifth directory to create is a “Performer DP2 Products” directory. This is the location that the software will store information about the DP2 layouts that you wish to have displayed in the Performer viewer software for your photographer customers to place orders for DP2 products.

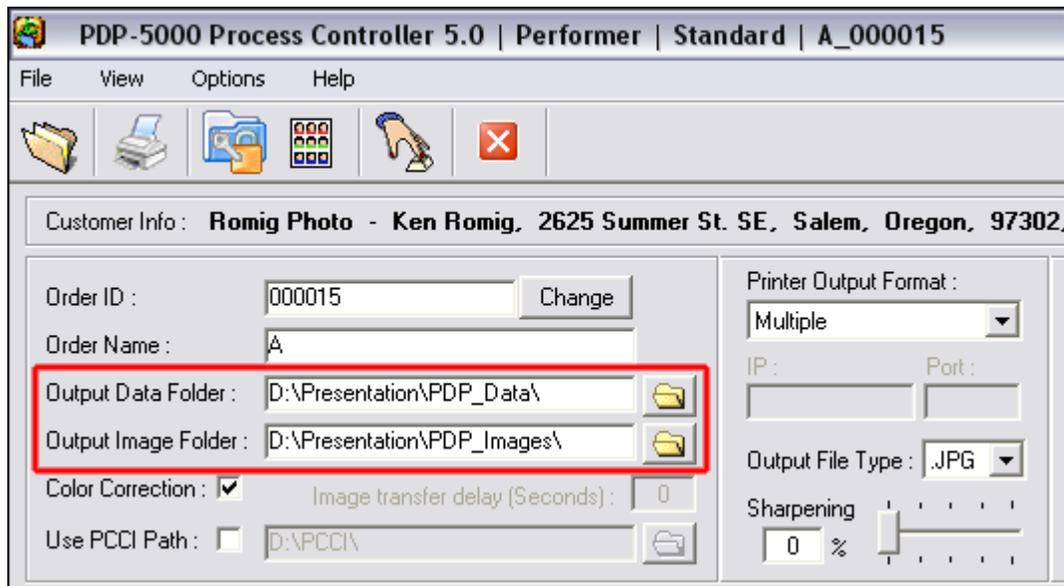
In our example, we have created a directory labeled “Performer_DP2_Products” in the following path:

“C:\Performer_DP2_Products\”

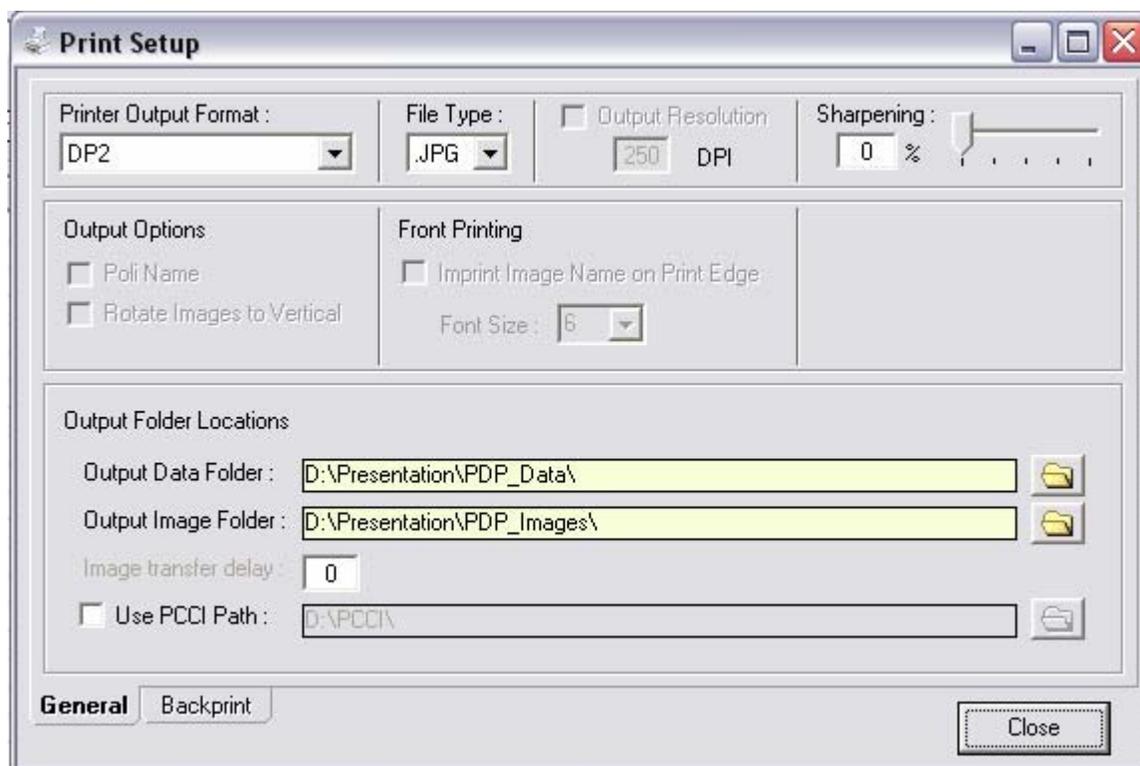
Once the five directories have been created, you are ready to configure the PDP-5000 Process Controller settings and the DP2 settings.

PDP-5000 Configuration:

You may have to create an order in PDP-5000 to be able to get to the screen that contains the preferences for DP2 processing. You should check the reference material for PDP-5000 if you are not sure. However, you will need to navigate to one of the screen shown below.



PDP-5000 version 5.0 “Output Folder preferences”



PDP-5000 version 6.0 “Print Setup window”

You will store the path to the first directory you created, “D:\Presentation\PDP_Data\” in the path for “Output Data Folder” and the second directory you created, “D:\Presentation\PDP_Images\” in the path for “Output Image Folder”, as well as setting the “Printer Output Format” to “DP2”.

If you use other Processing Formats in your workflow, you will need to reset the format to “DP2” when processing orders from Performer Pro that are going to the “Performer to DP2” application.

Please refer to the PDP-5000 reference information for more detailed setup instructions.

DP2 Configuration:

You will need to launch DP2 on the workstation that you wish to have the “Performer to DP2” application creating the orders on.

Go to the Tasks menu and click the Categories button at the bottom to display the view shown below.



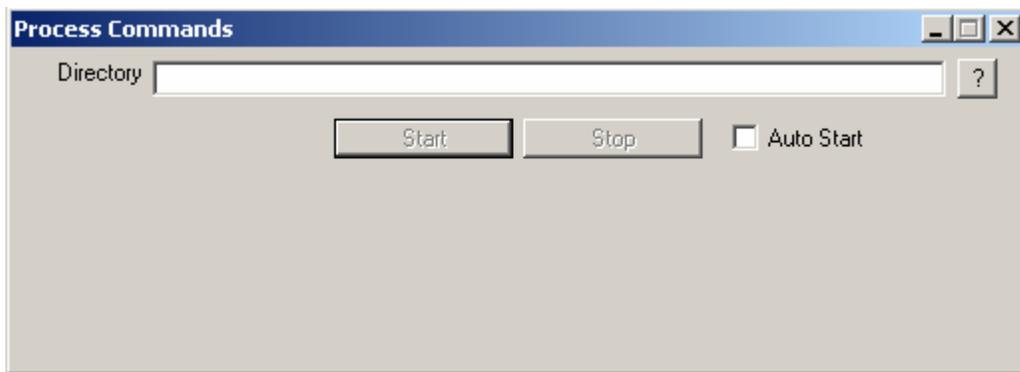
DP2 “Categories Tasks Menu”

Next, click on the “Import” button on the Categories menu, which will display the following.



DP2 “Import Tasks Menu”

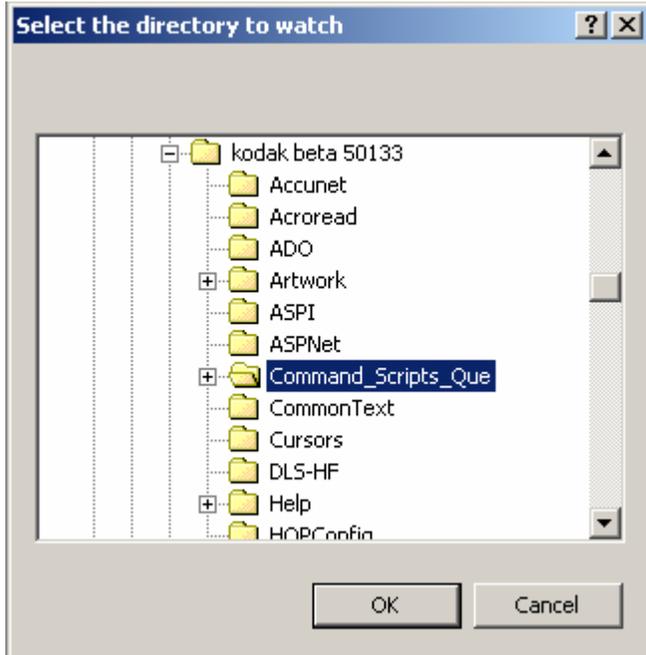
Next, click on the “Commands” button on the “Import Tasks Menu”, which will display the “Process Commands” dialog shown below.



DP2 “Process Commands” dialog

Next, click on the browse button that is the square button with a question mark in the center of the button.

This will open the Select Directory window shown below.

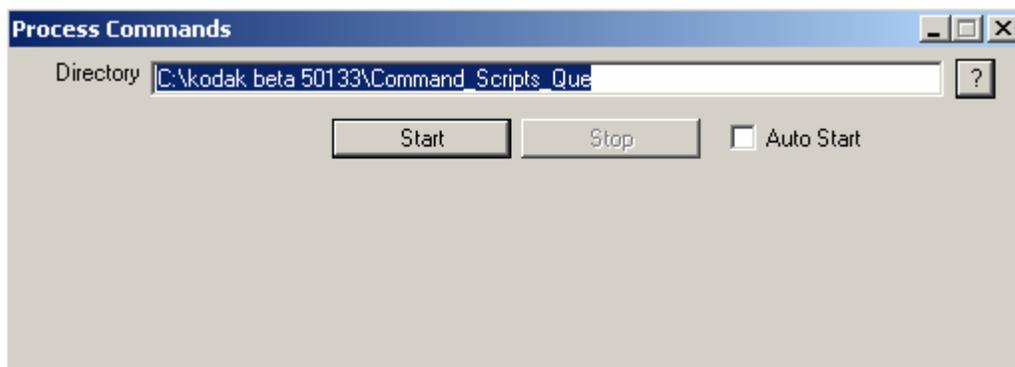


DP2 “Select the Directory to watch” dialog

You will then browse to the second directory you created, which in our example is located in the DP2 application directory in the following location:

“C:\Kodak Beta 6072\Command_Scripts_Que”

Once you locate the directory, highlight it and click the “OK” button and the path will be copied into the path on the “Process Commands” dialog window.



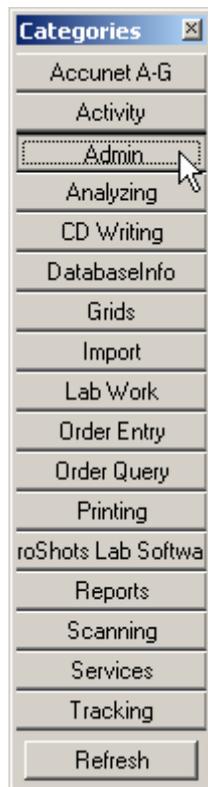
DP2 “Process Commands” dialog with selected Directory path

If you want DP2 to automatically start this Commands Queue monitoring every time DP2 starts up, you should click the “Auto Start” check box. However, if you want to manually start it each time, leave it unchecked.

Either way you will have to click the “Start” button at this time if you wish to start to Commands Queue monitoring process.

DP2 RemoteJobQueue setup:

Go to the DP2 Tasks menu and click the Categories button at the bottom to display the view shown below.



DP2 “Categories Tasks Menu” Admin button

Next, click on the “Admin” button on the Categories menu, which will display the following.



DP2 “Admin Tasks Menu” – Remote Queues button

Next, click on the “Remote Queues” button on the “Admin Tasks Menu”, which will display the “Remote Job Queue Data” table shown below.

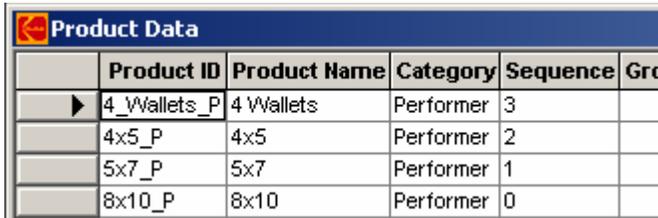
Remote Job Queue Data							
<input type="button" value="Options"/> <input type="button" value="New"/> <input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/> <input type="button" value="Refresh"/> <input type="button" value="Add Job Queue"/> <input type="button" value="Add Image Queue"/> <input type="button" value="Drop Zone"/>							
	Enabled	Computer	Directory	Search Criteria	Priority	Queue As	Accept Images
▶	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DELLLAPTOP	C:\Kodak Beta 6072\RemoteJobQueue	*.*	50	Ready	<input type="checkbox"/>

DP2 “Remote Job Queue Data” table record setup

The important field entries for our purposes are the “Enabled” field being checked, the “Directory” field containing the path to the “RemoteJobQueue” directory, and the “Queue As” field set to “Ready”.

Performer “config” File:

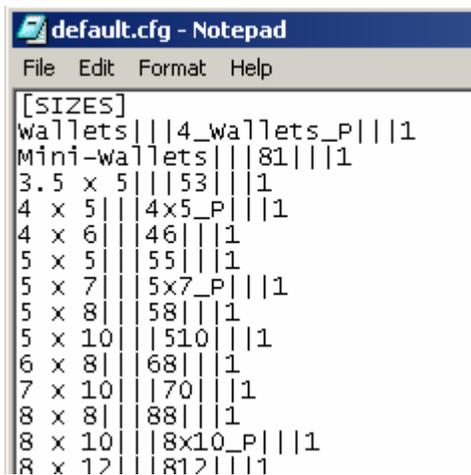
In order for the “Performer to DP2” application to correctly send orders to DP2 from Performer Pro order files, you must make sure that the Performer Lab “Config” files contain the DP2 product “Product ID” values that you wish to print.



	Product ID	Product Name	Category	Sequence	Grp
▶	4_Wallets_P	4 Wallets	Performer	3	
	4x5_P	4x5	Performer	2	
	5x7_P	5x7	Performer	1	
	8x10_P	8x10	Performer	0	

DP2 “Product Data” table showing “Product ID” field

It is the values shown in the “Product ID” column of the “Product Data” table that need to be entered in the config file in order for DP2 to recognize the information being sent to it by the “Performer to DP2” application.



```
[SIZES]
wallets|||4_wallets_P|||1
Mini-wallets|||81|||1
3.5 x 5|||53|||1
4 x 5|||4x5_P|||1
4 x 6|||46|||1
5 x 5|||55|||1
5 x 7|||5x7_P|||1
5 x 8|||58|||1
5 x 10|||510|||1
6 x 8|||68|||1
7 x 10|||70|||1
8 x 8|||88|||1
8 x 10|||8x10_P|||1
8 x 12|||812|||1
```

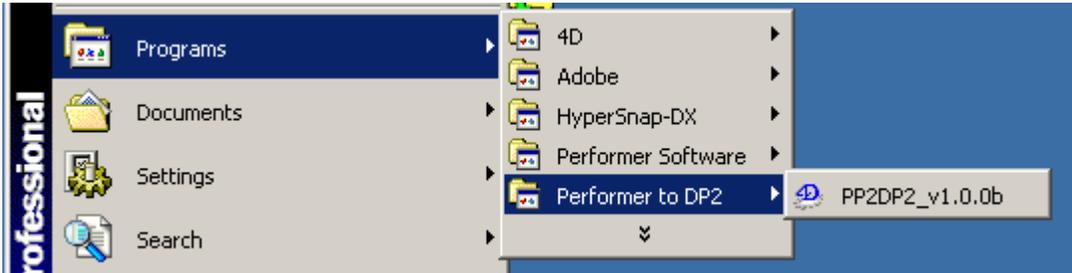
PDP “config” file open in text editor

In the example config file show above you will notice that certain sizes have been modified to match the Product ID field name from our DP2 Products. (Wallets, 4x5, 5x7, and 8x10)

Now that all of these setup configuration steps have been completed you are ready to launch the “Performer to DP2” hot folder application and complete the final setup preferences.

Performer to DP2 Hot Folder Setup:

To launch the “Performer to DP2” application, click on the “Start” button in the bottom left corner of the Window OS desktop, and drag to “Start / Programs / Performer to DP2 / PP2DP2_v1.x.x” icon and release the mouse. This will start the application.



“Start / Programs / Performer to DP2 / PP2DP2_v1.x.x” launches the application

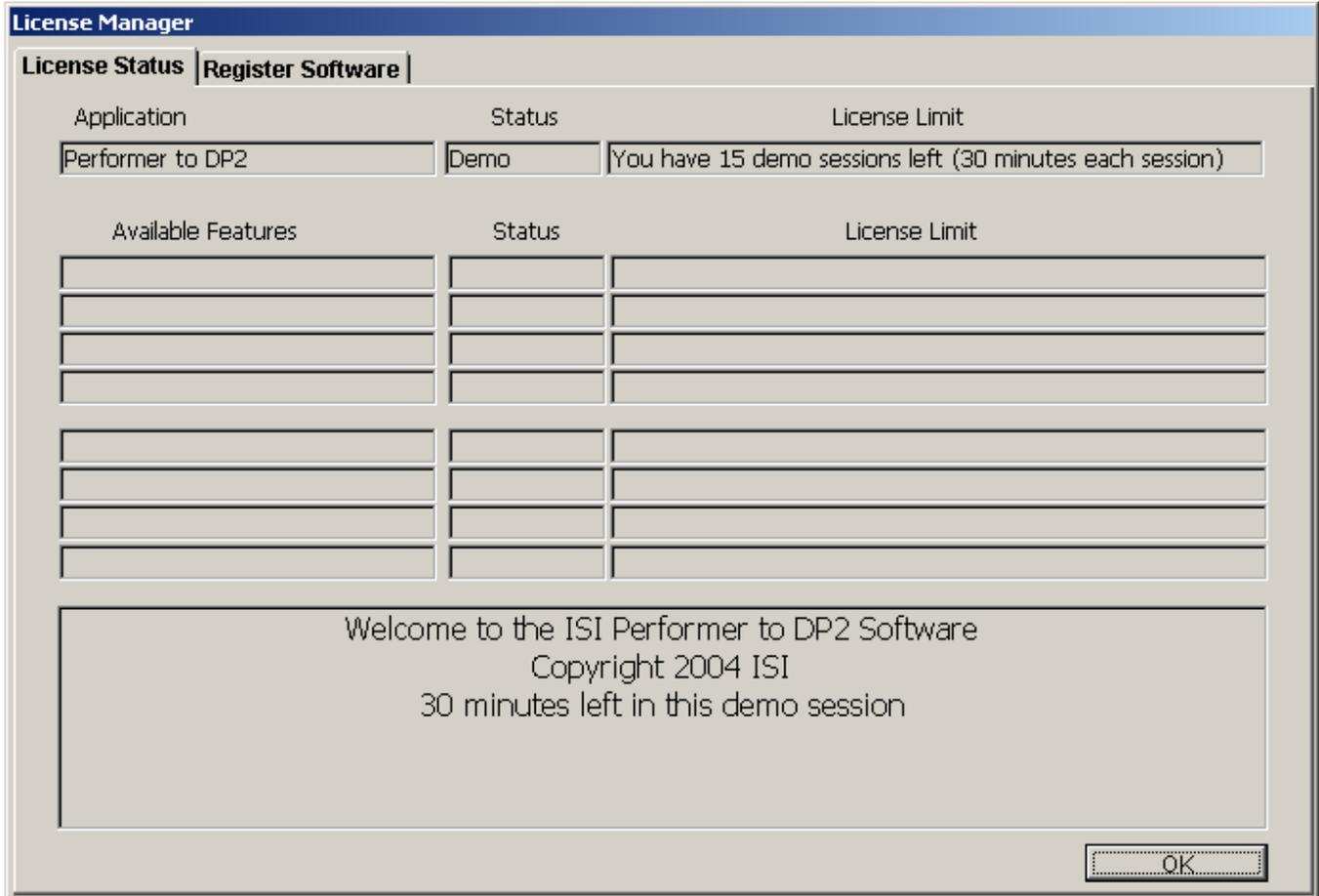
The first time “Performer to DP2” launches after installation, it may take a few seconds before the main window is displayed, as certain default files are created.

If this is a demo or trial version of the software one of the first screens you will see is the alert that tells you how long you have remaining on the trial before the software expires.

Demo Version Startup

If this version of “Performer to DP2” is a Demo version, it will launch 15 times and run for 30 minutes each time it is launched. At the end of each 30 minute session the application will shut down automatically. After 15 launches you will no longer be able to run the software until it is registered to a specific computer for a specific trial period, or is purchased and registered with an unlimited license key.

When the application starts up in **Demo** mode you will see the following screen:



“Demo License Manager screen, License Status tab”

The License Status tab will show the Application name, Status, and License Limit information. The screen above shows the information that will be displayed the first time you launch in Demo mode.

Click the OK button and “Performer to DP2” application startup will continue.

Registering the Software

(You can skip this section for now, but it is here for your future reference, once the Demo period expires.)

If you decide to purchase the software or register it for a specific trial period, the license manager allows you to register the software on a specific workstation. To do so, click the “Register Software” tab and you will see the following screen.

The screenshot shows a software window titled "License Manager" with two tabs: "License Status" and "Register Software". The "Register Software" tab is selected. The form contains the following fields and controls:

- Contact Name:** Administrator
- Company Name:** (empty text box)
- Email Address:** (empty text box)
- Customer Identifier:** B57-1790A-00150-20100-03687-0700A-790F0-36562-7D61
- Buttons:** "Copy Information To Clipboard" and "Send Request to ISI Via Internet"
- Instructions:** "Modify the information above, Click on 'Send Request to ISI Via Internet' If not connected to internet copy information to clipboard and paste into email to: Register@ImpoSol.com"
- OK Button:** Located in the bottom right corner.

“Register Software” tab of license manager

IMPORTANT: Please make sure that you are running the application on the workstation that you wish to register it for before you proceed with the information on the Register Software tab, as the Customer Identifier field data includes information related to the computer workstation.

Contact Name is the first field, and should contain the main contact person’s name from your company.

Company Name field is for entering the name of your company.

Email Address field is where you enter the email address that you wish to have the license key information sent to.

Once all the fields are completed, you have two options for sending the registration information to Impossible Solutions.

1. If you are connected to the internet and have outgoing access to the Web, you can click the “**Send Request to ISI Via Internet**” button. This will send an email to ISI with your registration information.
2. If you do not have internet access from this workstation, you can click the “Copy Information to Clipboard” button and then paste the information into a text document. Then move the text document to a workstation that does have internet access, copy the text into the body of an email, and send the email to Register@ImpoSol.com.

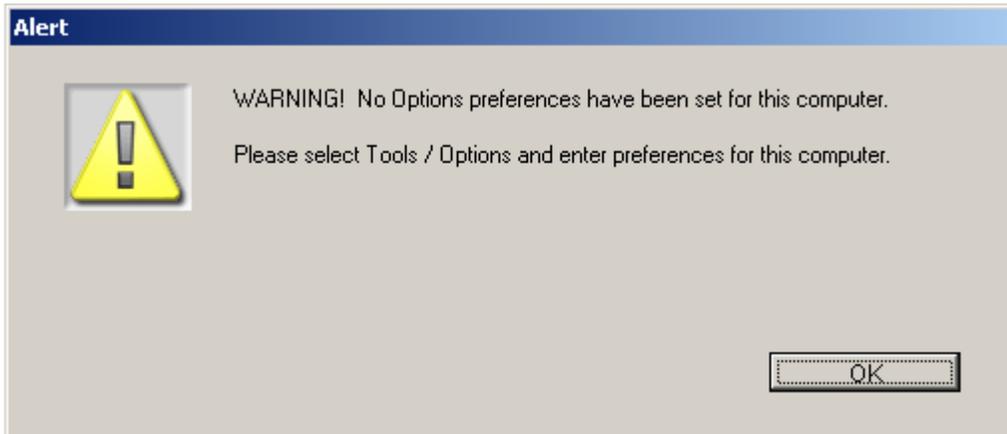
ISI will process the registration information and send you an email with an attached license key file and instructions as to where it should be placed in the application directory structure to activate your license.

This is a manual process at this time, so don't be surprised if it takes some time for the license file to be returned.

Starting the Application

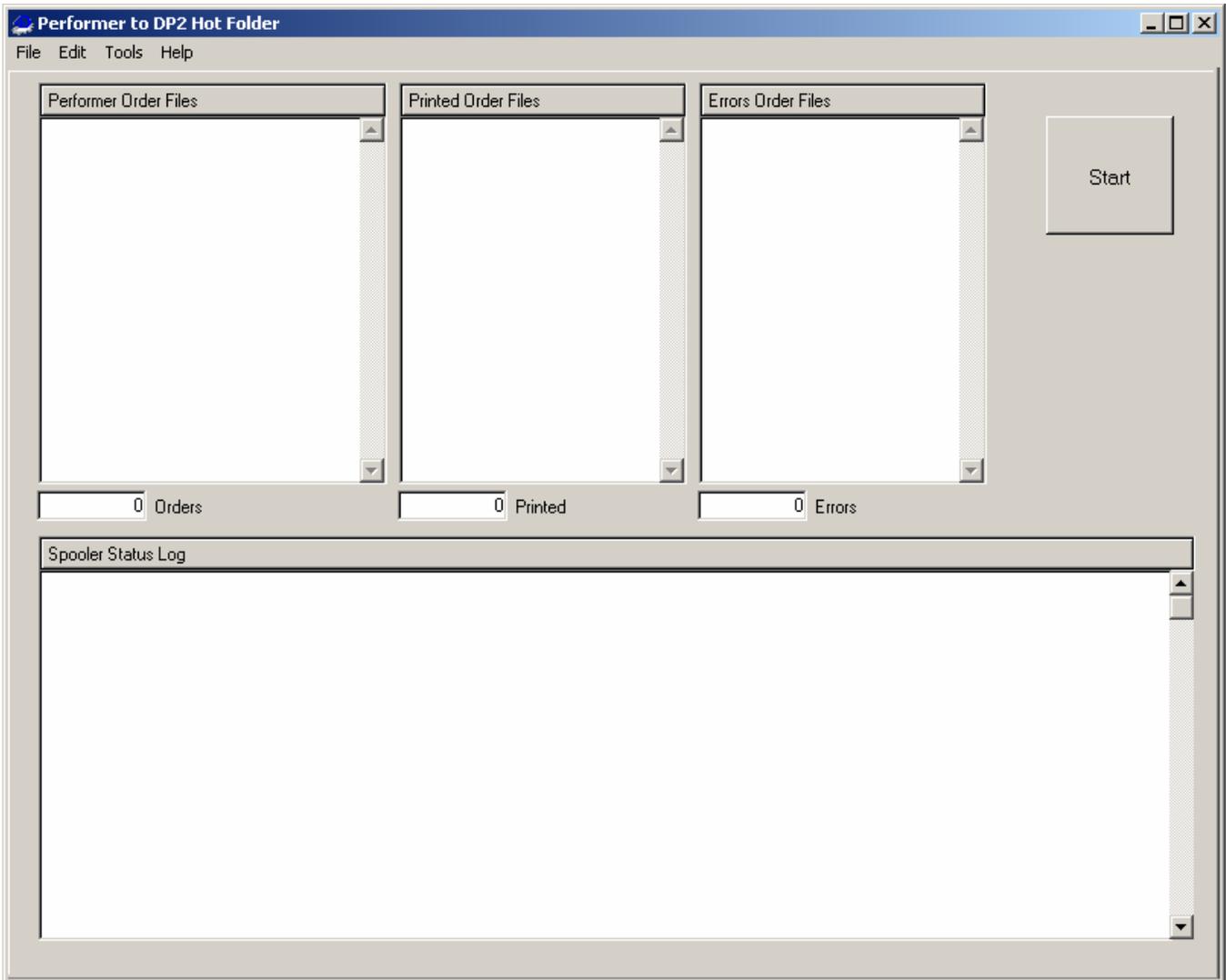
Once the License Manager window is closed, the application will continue the startup process.

When you start the “Performer to DP2” application the first time you will see this alert message, which is letting you know there are some preferences that must be setup before running the application.



“Warning message” concerning missing preferences

Click the OK button and the main “Performer to DP2” application window will open as shown below.



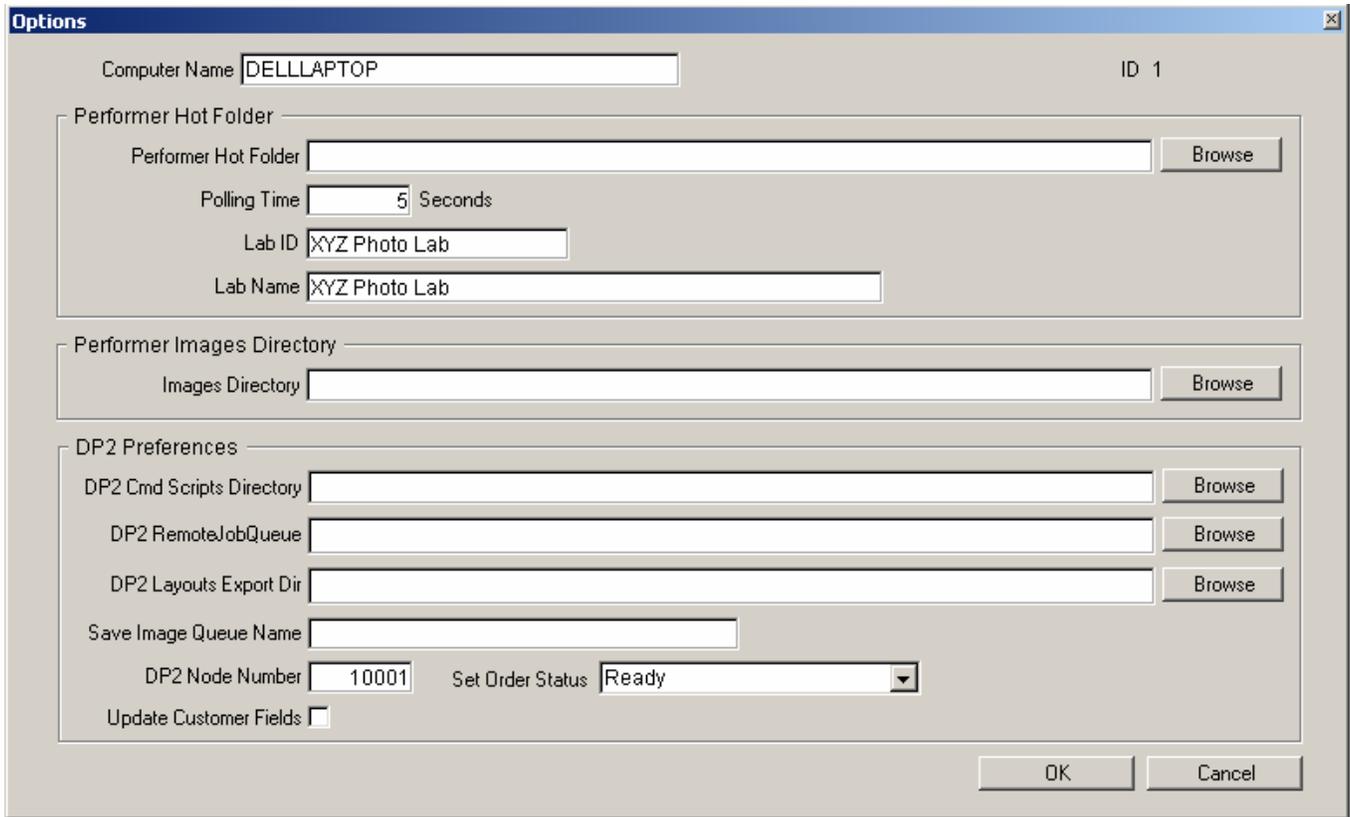
“Performer to DP2 main application window”

Before you can begin processing any orders, you must first enter a few preferences.



“Tools / Options” menu bar item

Click on the “Tools” menu bar item shown above, and pull down to “Options” and release. This will open the Options dialog screen shown below.



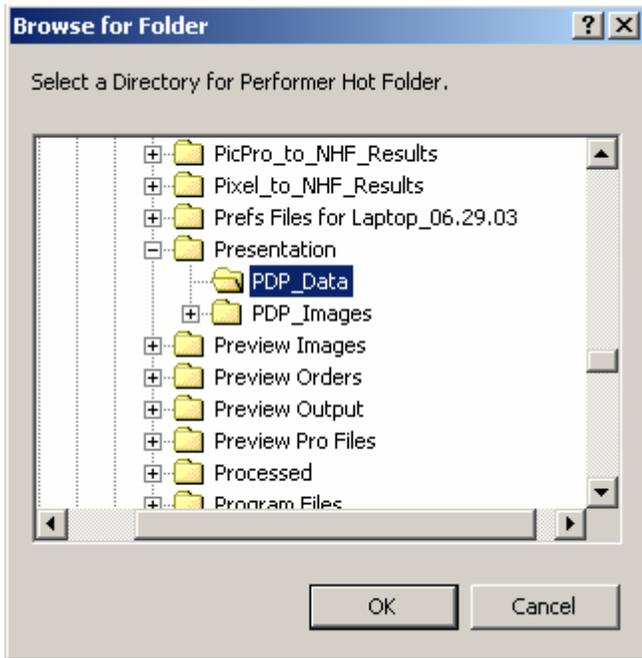
“Options” dialog window

The first preference to enter is the “Performer Hot Folder”. This is the first directory you created in the directory creation setup, and is the same directory that you stored the path to in the PDP-5000 settings that was labeled “Output Data Folder”. It is the directory that “Performer to DP2” will be monitoring for the Order.txt files that are extracted by the Process Controller from the orders received in the lab from photographers.

Click the Browse button to the right of this field, and explore to the directory.

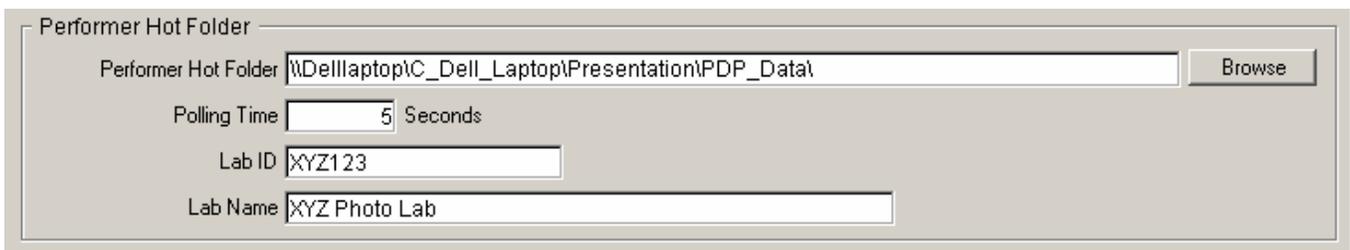
This will open the “Browse to Folder” window.

VERY IMPORTANT: You must explore through the Entire Network to select directory paths for all paths entered on the Options screen so that the complete UNC path is retrieved. This is critical for successful operation of the software and it’s connectivity with DP2 and Performer.



“Browse for Folder” window

Select the “PDP_Data” directory that you created earlier and click the “OK” button, which will return you to the “Options” dialog window and pull the path that you selected into the “Performer Hot Folder” path field.



“Performer Hot Folder” fields section of “Options” window.

The “Polling Time Seconds” field is set to a default delay time of 5 seconds, but you can adjust this from 1 to 999 seconds. This is the amount of delay that the application will pause between looking for Order.txt files in the Performer Hot Folder directory.

If you wish to change the setting from the default of 5 seconds, you can do this at any time.

The “Lab ID” field is a required field and cannot be left blank. Enter your Performer Lab ID in this field. If you are unsure about this, enter a dummy value for now, as the software will not allow you to save your preferences without an entry in this field.

The “Lab Name” field is a required field and cannot be left blank. Enter your Lab Name in this field to identify the lab that is associated with the Lab ID field. The software will not allow you to save your preferences without an entry in this field.

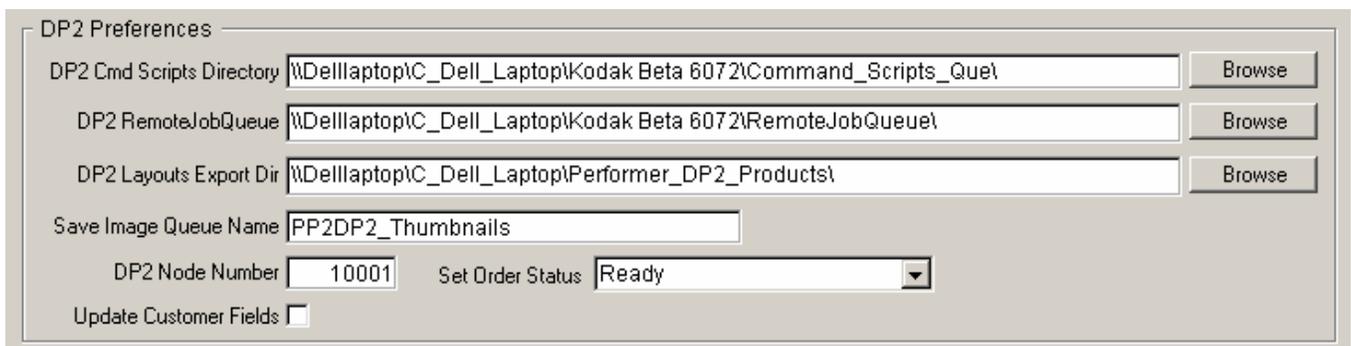
Next you will point to “Images Directory” which should be the same as the PDP-5000 “Output Image Folder”.

NOTE: This must be a UNC path or DP2 will not be able to resolve the path to the images.



“Images Directory” field section of “Options” window.

The last settings to enter are for the “DP2 Preferences” fields.



“DP2 Preferences” fields section of “Options” window.

The first field is the “**DP2 Command Scripts Directory**”.

You will point to the directory you created earlier, the “Command_Scripts_Queue” directory that is in the DP2 Application directory if you followed our example.

Click the Browse button next to the path field and explore out through the Entire Network, locate the directory in the “Browse for Folder” window, then select the directory, click the “OK” button, and the path will be pulled into this field.

The next field is the “**DP2 RemoteJobQueue**” directory.

You will point to the third directory you created earlier, the “RemoteJobQueue” directory that is in the DP2 Application directory if you followed our example.

Click the Browse button next to the path field and explore out through the Entire Network, locate the directory in the “Browse for Folder” window, then select the directory, click the “OK” button, and the path will be pulled into this field.

The next field is the “**DP2 Layouts Export Directory**”.

You will point to the directory you created earlier, the “Performer_DP2_Products” directory that is in the root of your “C:” drive if you followed our example. However, remember that our preferences must have complete UNC paths in them as apposed to drive letter or mapped drive paths.

Click the Browse button next to the path field and explore out through the Entire Network, locate the directory in the “Browse for Folder” window, then select the directory, click the “OK” button, and the path will be pulled into this field.

The next field is the “**Save Image Queue Name**” field.

This field is required for the process of exporting DP2 layouts. We currently use a “Disk” type printer queue that you have running in DP2 for rendering the thumbnails of your layouts for exporting to Presentation.

Since your layouts will most likely have a different “QueueName:” keyword and value than what you want us to use for this process, by supplying the Queue Name in our preference field, we can then override what is in the layout for the Job Script that will have DP2 perform our task for us temporarily.

This will not affect your layout.

So you must have a Printer setup for “Disk” output and the associated Queue on the machine that you wish to use for exporting the DP2 templates. This should be the same DP2 workstation that you have entered the path for the “DP2 Commands Script Directory”.

The Disk Printer has to be running at the time you ask us to Export DP2 Templates. And you must have the Queue Name entered correctly in the “Save Image Queue Name” field.

The next field is the “**DP2 Node Number**” field.

This field tells the application the Node Number that you are using for the first Image Node in your DP2 layouts. This must be the same node number for all layouts that are going to be used to support orders coming from the “Performer to DP2” hot folder application. The default setting is “10001” but can be modified at this time.

The next field is the “**Update Customers Fields**” checkbox.

This was added at the request of a customer because the photographers were using Customer data fields in the Presentation software for things that changed from order to order and it was overwriting and changing the data in the Customers table in DP2.

So this field, if UNCHECKED, will cause PP2DP2 to only add the Customer ID field to your DP2 database when creating a new Customer record, if we find that an order we have received does not have an existing Customer record in DP2.

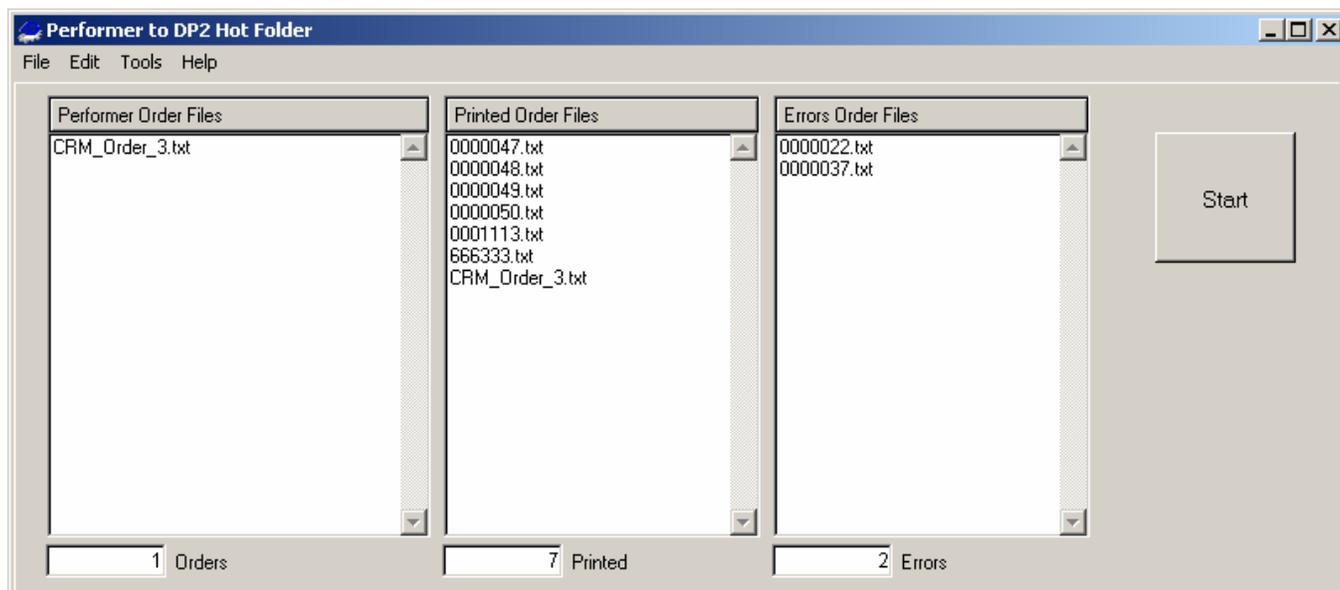
If CHECKED, then we update all the Customer data fields that we receive from Performer when it creates the Order.txt file that we receive in the Performer Hot Folder directory from the PDP.

Once all the Options fields have been completed, click the “OK” button at the bottom right corner of the screen to save your settings and return to the main application window.

The last field on the Options window is the “Set Order Status” drop down list.

This was added in version 1.1.2 to allow you to choose the Status setting that you wish to have the DP2 Order record set to for the Order being created or modified by the “Performer to DP2” application. The default value is “Ready” but you can select the Status option that works best for your lab.

Once all the Options fields have been completed, click the “OK” button at the bottom right corner of the Options window to save your settings and return to the main application window.



Top section of main application window.

The top section of the main application window now shows one order file in the “Performer Order Files” scrolling window, which means that this order file is ready to be loaded. After you process some actual order files, if they are successfully parsed and sent to DP2, they will be moved to the “Printer Order Files” window. If an error occurs at any time while working with an order file, it gets sent to the “Error Order Files” window.

Both of these scrolling windows are linked to directories that get automatically created inside the “Performer_Hot_Folder” directory along with a “Result_Logs” directory that contains a Result Log for every order that we process. In that Result Log are details about the processing of that order, in case an error occurs, you can then look at the Result log for that order to see what went wrong.

The filename of the Result Log is always the same as the Order.txt file but with the extension “.log”. This makes it easy to find the result log that goes with the Order.txt file in case an error does occur.

Exporting DP2 layouts for use in Performer:

A major new feature that has been added to the Performer software when used in conjunction with our “Performer to DP2” application is the ability to display DP2 layouts in the Performer “Presentation” software in a WYSIWYG format so that the photographer can drag images into image nodes and enter text for text nodes, etc. Then the Performer PDP software in the lab passes the order information back to our “Performer to DP2” software, so that the orders can then be populated into the DP2 database for color correction, etc. before printing the products.

You must determine which products you wish to have included in the “Presentation” software, and where they are located on your DP2 application computer, as you will have to select them using this new feature, in order for them to be exported.

Don’t be concerned if you do not get them all at one time, since you can add to the exported files. However, you will need to make sure you have added them all to the “DP2 Layouts Export Directory” before you zip the files up to send to your photographers.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Every DP2 layout that you wish to export **MUST** have a **QueueName: key word and value in the Saveimage: output spec section of the layout.**

In the example below we use the “Default” queue that is created during the installation of DP2 if you have the installer create sample data.

QueueName: ~Default~

This Queue must be associated with a printer of type “Disk”, and it must be running before you attempt to export the layouts.

The reason for this is that we give DP2 instructions to render a thumbnail of the layout to disk that can be used by the “Presentation” software, so we have to have a Disk printer to do the rendering.

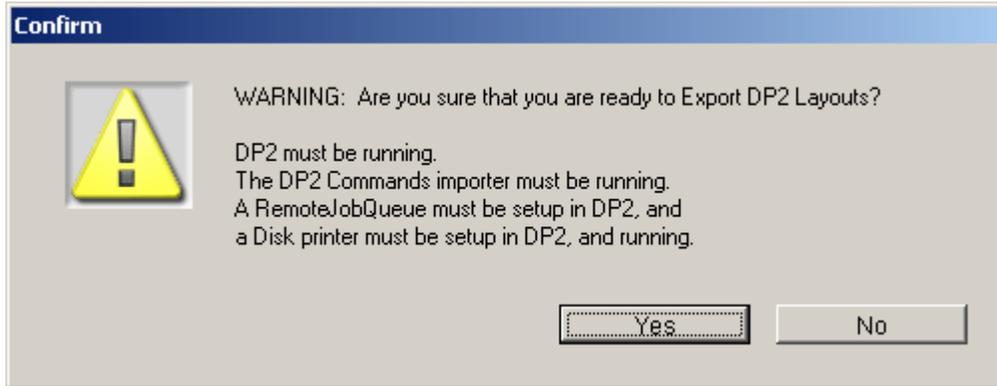
Start the DP2 Layouts exporter:

To start the DP2 layouts export, click on the “Tools” menu and pull down to the “Export DP2 Layouts” menu item as shown below:



“Tools / Export DP2 Layouts” menu bar item

This will open a Confirm dialog that will look like the following:



“Confirm Export DP2 Layouts” dialog window

This warns you that you must have several DP2 processes running before proceeding or the export will not work.

They are as follows:

1. DP2 must be running.
2. The DP2 Commands Importer must be running.
3. The DP2 RemoteJobQueue must be setup and enabled.
4. A DP2 printer of type “Disk” must be running.

These are all critical for the export process to work, so if you are unsure as to whether or not all the criteria are met, this gives you the opportunity to cancel by clicking the “No” button.

If you are sure that everything in DP2 is setup and running, then click the “Yes” button to proceed with the export process.

This will open the following dialog window which is used to display status messages to you during the export process.

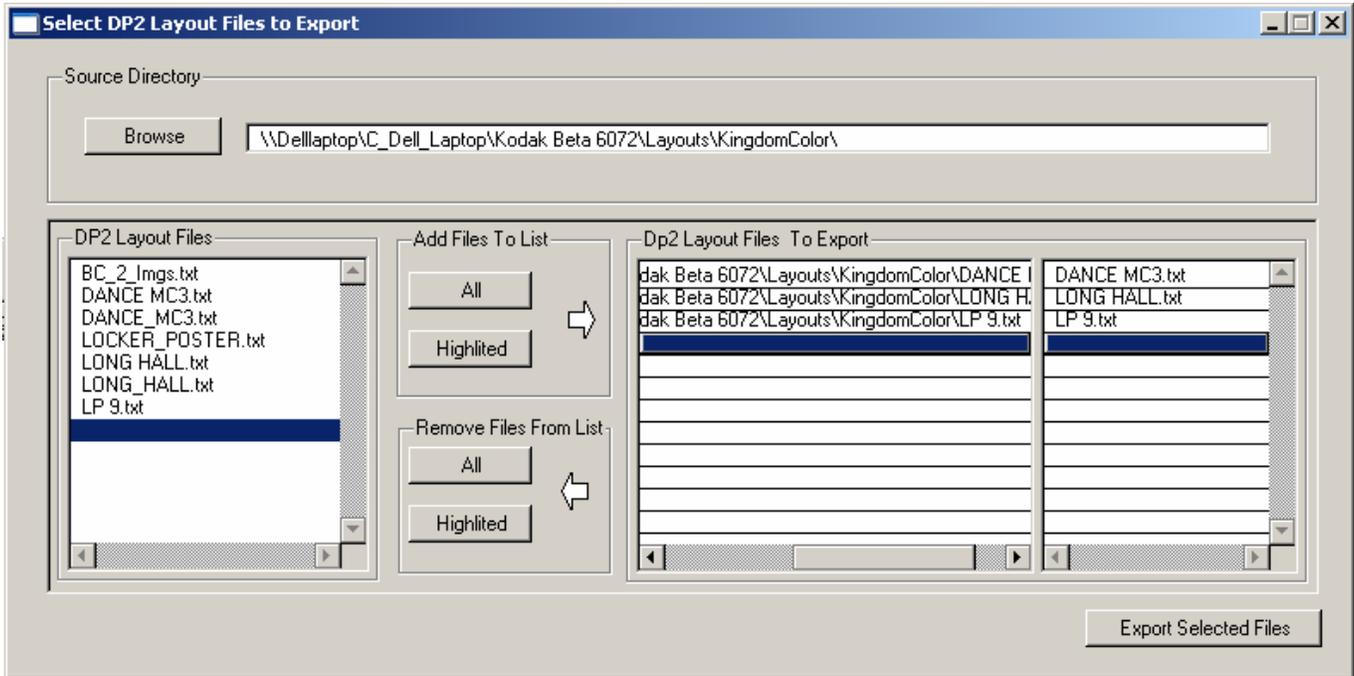


“DP2 Layouts Export Information” status window

This window will stay open during the entire Layouts export process and the “Info”, “Status”, and “State” fields will change as the different stages of the process change in order to keep you informed as to what is

happening.

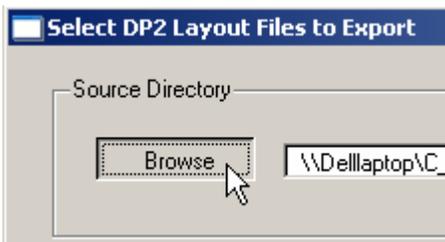
Immediately after this window opens, another dialog window will open that allows you to browse to different directories and choose layouts to be added to a list of layouts to be exported. This window is shown below.



“Select DP2 Layout Files to Export” dialog window

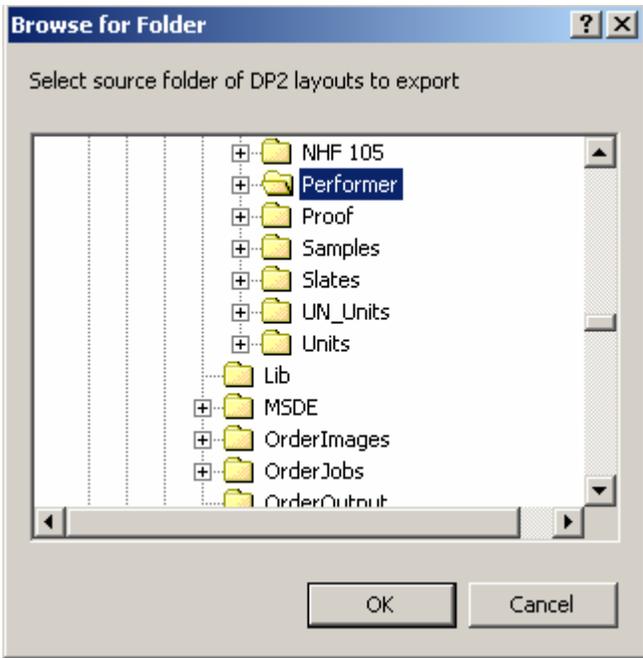
This dialog window allows you to browse to different directories on your hard drive that contain your DP2 layouts, and select the ones that you choose to export for the “Presentation” software. As you select layouts from the list on the left and add them to the list on the right, they will accumulate until you have selected all the layouts from all the different directories.

To locate the first directory of layouts, click the “Browse” button in the Source Directory section of the window as shown below.



“Source Directory” Browse button

This will open the “Browse for DP2 Layouts directory” explorer window shown below.



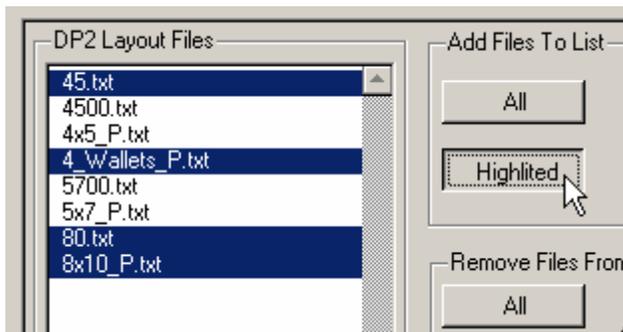
“Select DP2 layouts directory” Browse window

VERY IMPORTANT: You must explore through the Entire Network to select the layouts directory so that the complete UNC path is retrieved or DP2 will not be able to find the path to the layout, which will cause an “Unknown Product” error to occur in the Layouts Export process.

Select a directory that contains layouts you wish to select from, and click the OK button.

This will return you to the export dialog window.

In the example below you see eight different layouts that were included in the “Performer” layouts directory we selected from the Browse window.



“Highlighted layouts chosen from layouts in directory”

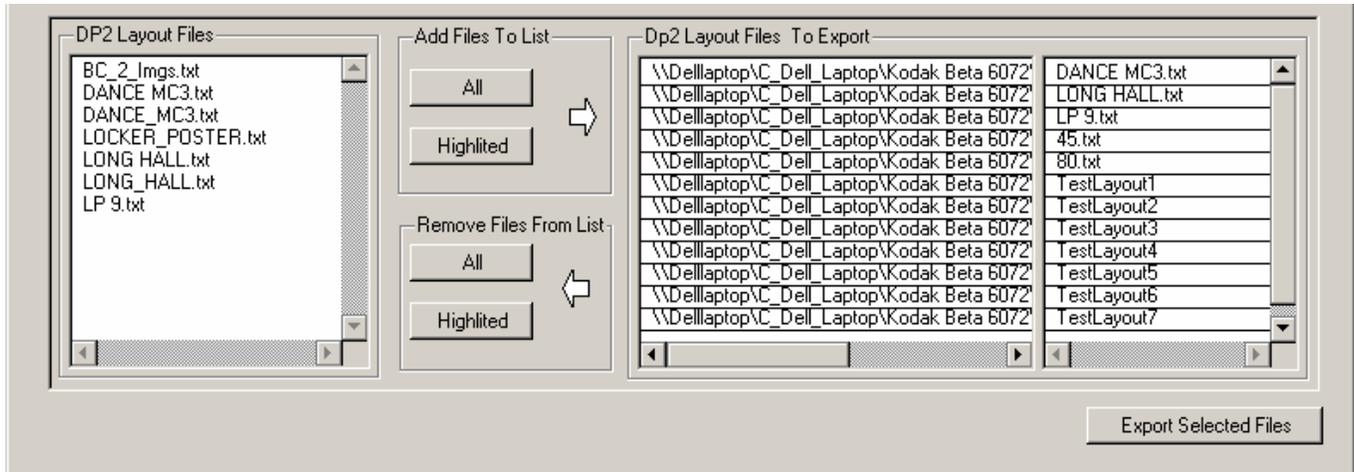
If you wish to add all the layouts in the directory to the list on the right, simply click the “All” button in the “Add Files to List” group box section.

If you only wish to select certain layouts from the directory, then do as the example shows, and highlight the

layouts you want by using the Ctrl key or Shift key combined with a mouse click to select records. Then click the “Highlighted” button to move just those layouts to the list of layouts on the right.

Once you have selected all the layouts from that directory, you can move on to other directories of layouts and repeat the same process until you have selected all the layouts from all the directories that you wish to use in the “Presentation” software.

You will then end up with a very long list of layouts in the “DP2 Layout Files to Export” list on the right side of the dialog window as shown below.

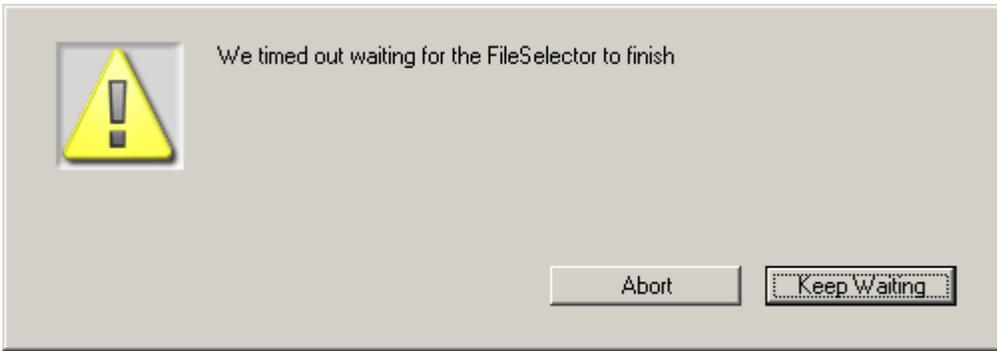


“Combined list of DP2 Layout Files to Export”

At this point, if you change your mind and wish to remove any layouts from the list on the right, simply highlight the layout and click the “Highlighted” button in the “Remove Files From List” group box area of the window. This will remove it from the list on the right.

Once you have selected all the layouts and refined your list by removing any unwanted layouts, you are ready to click the “Export Selected Files” button in the bottom right corner of the dialog window.

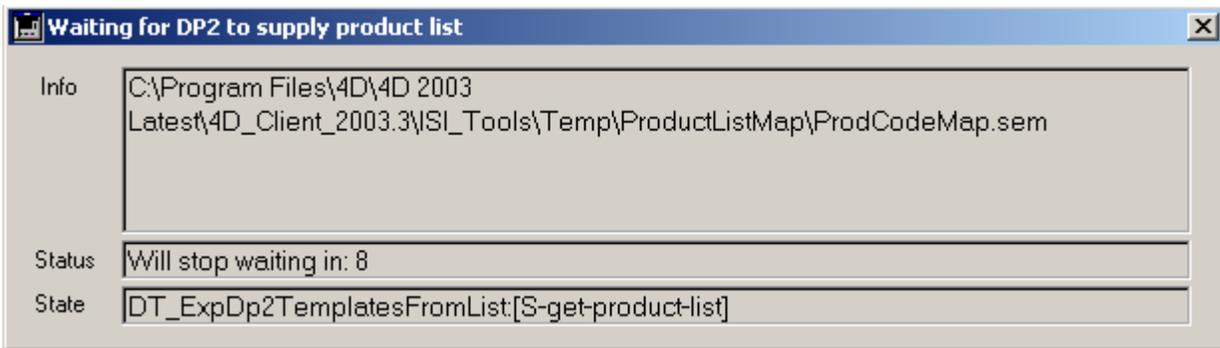
This will start the export process and close the “Select DP2 Layout Files to Export” window and you may see the dialog window shown below. This is because the Layout selector window runs in a separate process from the main application, and to keep you from getting locked into an endless loop if something goes wrong, we prompt you after a certain period of time to see if you wish to continue waiting or abort the process. That is what this message dialog is for.



“Keep Waiting or Abort the process” alert dialog

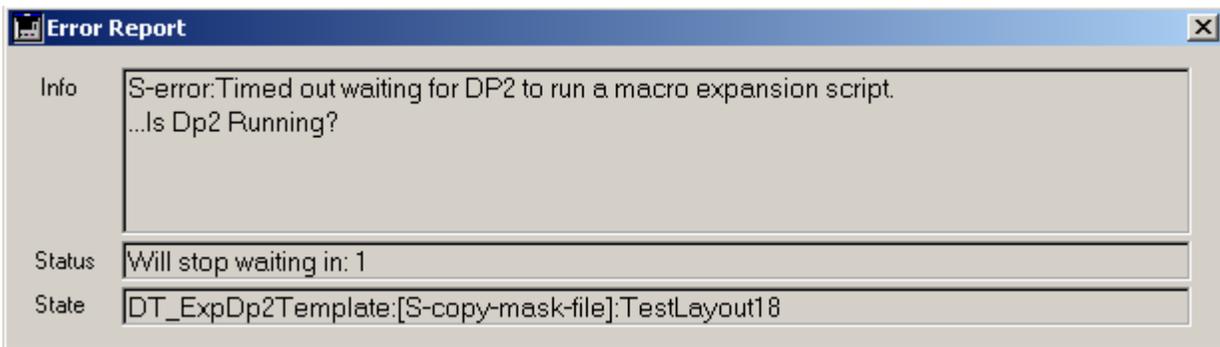
If you wish to continue with the Export DP2 Layouts process simply click the “Keep Waiting” button, but if you wish to stop, then click the “Abort” button.

If you click the “Keep Waiting” button you will see that our “Info / Status” message window is showing you information on what is taking place in the Export process.

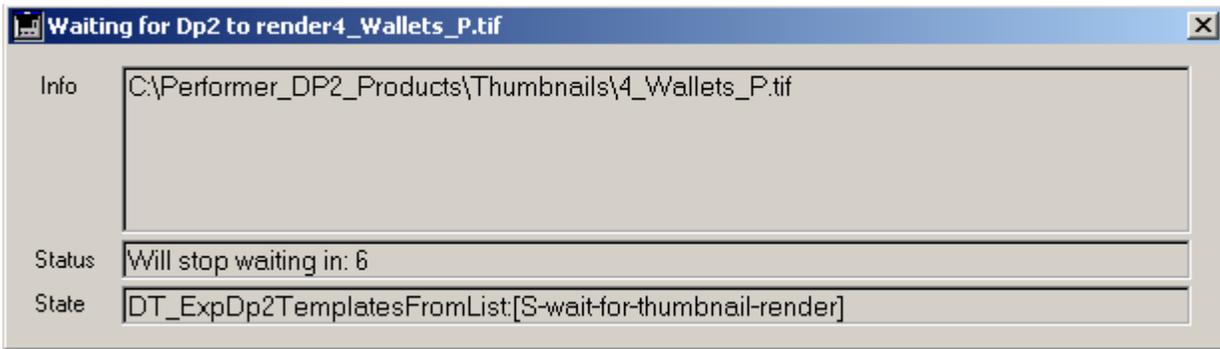


In the screen shot above you can see by the window title that we are “Waiting for DP2 to supply product list”.

In the one below you see that we timed out waiting for DP2 to run a macro expansion script.

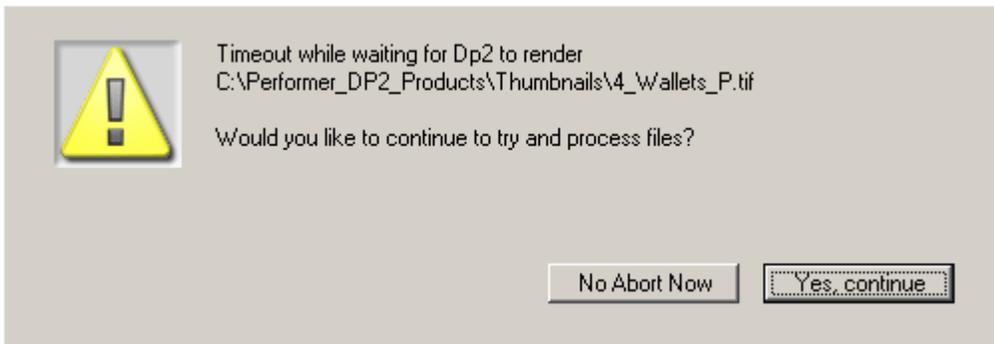


This message above would be caused by not having a DP2 printer of type Disk running, since it is the Disk printer that we use to run job scripts that we drop in the RemoteJobQueue.



The status message window above shows that we are “Waiting for DP2 to render 4_Wallets_P.tif” which means we are having DP2 render a thumbnail of the layout “4_Wallets_P”.

Because of the fact that we only allow certain amounts of time to pass before asking you if you want to Abort or Continue with the export process, you may see several Alert dialog window like the following to give you that choice.



If you check DP2 and you see that the Render engine is running for the Disk printer that you have running, then you will most likely want to click the “Yes, continue” button.

Only if you suspect that there is a problem and the application seems to be in an endless loop of errors would you want to click the “No Abort Now” button.

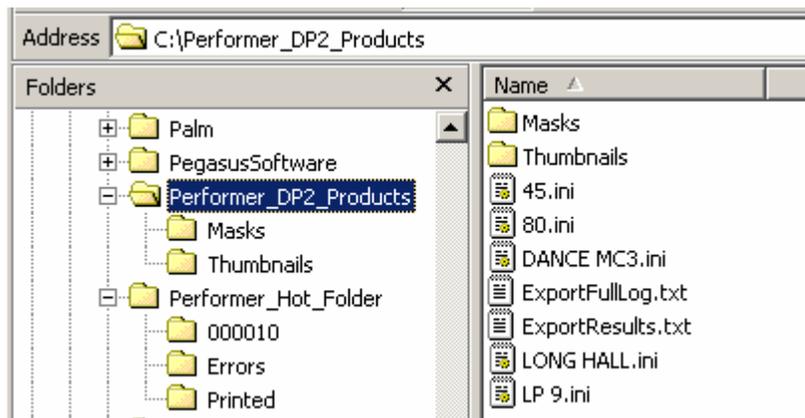
However, do not fear, if you do click the “No Abort Now” button, you do not lose the list of all the layouts you selected. We store the last list of selected layouts in a text file that we reload the next time you launch the “Export DP2 Layouts” process. This applies as long as you clicked the “Export Selected Files” button on the “Select DP2 Layout Files to Export” dialog window before you closed it.

Once all the layouts have been exported, you will be returned to the application main window.

Viewing the Export Results:

In order to see the results of the Layouts Export process, browse to the location of the directory that you entered in the Options dialog as “DP2 Layouts Export Directory”.

In our example it is: “C:\Performer_DP2_Products\”



As you can see there are two directories and some “.ini” and “.txt” files in our “Performer_DP2_Products” directory.

The “Thumbnails” directory contains a thumbnail of each layout that you selected, as long as that layout contains graphics or background files. Layouts such as 8x10’s with no graphics will not have a thumbnail rendered.

The “Masks” directory will contain copies of any mask files that are used in your layouts. They have been renamed with a filename that includes the layout name plus the node number the mask is called from in the layout. We have to do this, since you may use masks with the same name but stored in different directories on your hard drive. DP2 allows you to do this, but since the Presentation software needs all the masks in one directory, we had to make a copy for every node that uses a mask, and give it a unique name.

The “.ini” files that are in the root of the “Performer_DP2_Products” directory are files that tell the “Presentation” software about the locations of image and text nodes in your layouts so that the products can be displayed properly in the “Presentation” viewer for the photographers to order from.

You will see two other text files in the root of the “Performer_DP2_Products” directory. They are as follows:

“ExportResults.txt”

“ExportFullLog.txt”

These are log files that we use for debugging purposes in case something goes wrong in the process of exporting your DP2 layouts.

“ExportResults.txt” is more of a summary report.

“ExportFullLog.txt” is a more detailed log of what took place.

You can delete these two files before you send the directory of products to your photographers.

Send Products to Photographers:

Once you are satisfied with having exported all the layouts you want to send to the photographers, then this entire directory, “Performer_DP2_Products”, is what you will zip up and send to the photographers. It would be a good idea to rename the directory with a name that is not easily confused such as some name that identifies it as coming from your lab.

Example:

“XYZ_Lab_DP2_Products”

Whether you zip the directory or burn it to a CD and send to your photographers is totally up to you. But when the photographers get the directory, they will place it in the “Presentation Templates” directory on their hard drive and then point to it when they want to order products that are included in the directory.

Presentation Templates Support in DP2: (New feature in version 1.1.2 and above)

A new feature in “Performer to DP2” version 1.1.2 is support for creating Order Items in DP2 from templates created by photographers in the Presentation software without the lab having DP2 Products records for those Presentation templates.

System Requirements:

IMPORTANT NOTE 1: This feature is only supported by DP2 version 6.1 or later.

You should not attempt to submit orders that contain Presentation templates to “Performer to DP2” unless you have DP2 version 6.1 or later installed and operational. If you do, DP2 will reject the entire order because of the fact that this new feature depends on changes to the DP2 Commands importer that allows for creation of Order Item records without a Product record and associated layout existing in DP2.

IMPORTANT NOTE 2: This feature also requires installation of a new “Cmds.txt” file.

Prior to the release of DP2 version 7.0, it is required that you install the custom “Cmds.txt” file that is included as a WinZip self extracting file in the files installed by the “Performer to DP2” installer executable.

The custom “Cmds.txt” file needs to be installed on the DP2 workstation that you will be using to process the “Performer to DP2” command scripts.

Install Files:

Unzip the “Cmds.exe” file to a temporary location.

It is suggested that you copy your existing “Cmds.txt” file to a backup location in case you need to reinstall it.

Next, copy the new “Cmds.txt” file that you extracted, from its temporary location into the DP2 “Scripts” directory, which is inside the DP2 application directory.

Finally, you will need to restart the DP2 application on the workstation that you installed the new “Cmds.txt” script in order for it to take affect.

Setup DP2 Template Sizes for Presentation Templates:

In order to process templates that have been created using the Presentation Gold template creation tool, you must first create at least one record in the “DP2 Template Sizes” database which is accessed from the Tools menu. Each record you create must have an associated “Dummy Product” in the DP2 Products table. Each “Dummy Product” will be an actual DP2 layout with a valid ProductID in the DP2 Products table. The product layout will only have a Background or Main, no other image or text nodes, and the Output Specs that direct the output of the product to the appropriate output device.

The “Dummy Product” serves two purposes in the printing of Presentation templates within DP2:

1. Provide Output specifications for the product print size range being printed.
2. Provide a valid Product ID so that DP2 will build the Order Item thumbnails for the Presentation products.

Output Specifications:

Since the photographer that creates the Presentation template has no idea of what output device will be used in the photo lab, there is no way for the photographer to provide that information for the creation of the Order Item in DP2. Also, the lab may wish to have different size products routed to different output devices, as well as use macros for back printing if the output device supports it.

Example:

All products 0 to 8 inches wide will be output to an RP30 printer.
All products 8.01 to 11 inches wide will be output to a Noritsu printer
All products 11.01 to 20 inches wide will be output to an LED printer.

If you only have one output device that you will be sending Presentation template order items to, then you will only need to create one “Dummy Product” setup.

Valid Product ID:

DP2 will not create a thumbnail view for an Order Item unless the Product ID for that Order Item is a valid ProductID in the database. It is not required to create the Order Item records, but without it you would not be able to preview the Order Items as thumbnails when you Maintain Order Items from the Order Items grid view in DP2. Since the photographer has created his own Product ID when creating the Presentation template, it will not be a valid Product ID in the DP2 database.

To prevent having to populate your DP2 database with a Products record for every template a photographer creates in the Presentation software, we have to map template size ranges to DP2 “Dummy Template” Product ID’s.

Create Dummy Products:

The product can be anything, in fact you may just want to duplicate a simple 8x10 layout that contains the Output specifications that you will be using and rename it to something like “PER10”. The Performer to DP2 software will modify the size of the layout as it creates the Order Items in DP2 to match the size of the Presentation template product.

VERY IMPORTANT: You will need to delete any layout nodes except the Background or Main from the Dummy Layouts.

In our example we created a product with the Product ID of “PER10” and enabled the “Save to Disk” output specification which looks like the following when viewed as text.

```
Saveimage:
  Annotation1:      ~This is Backprint Line One~
  Annotation2:      ~This is Backprint Line Two~
  Copies:           1
  Enabled:          1
  Oemprintersurface: 9
  Paperwidth:       10
  Printerresize:    1
  QueueName:        ~10_Inch~
  Rp30:             0
  Savefiletype:     ~JPEG~
  Savename:         ~\\De11laptop\C_De11_Laptop\DP2_Rendered_Images\[~].jpg~
  Xres:             250
```

“Saveimage: Output spec section of “PER10” Dummy Template”

You can see that the QueueName: is specified, which will determine the Printer Queue, Savename: determines the output path, and the Annotation1: and 2 keywords provide the back printing strings. You will most likely use macros for back printing as apposed to fixed text.

This Dummy Template will be used for all Presentation products from 0 to 10 inches in width, with a maximum print length of up to 18 inches.

We created another dummy template with the Product ID of “PER20” and enabled the “Save to Disk” output specification which looks like the following when viewed as text.

```
Saveimage:
  Annotation1:      ~This is Backprint Line One~
  Annotation2:      ~This is Backprint Line Two~
  Copies:           1
  Enabled:          1
  Oemprintersurface: 9
  Paperwidth:       20
  Printerresize:    1
  QueueName:        ~20_Inch~
  Savefiletype:     ~JPEG~
  Savename:         ~\\De11laptop\C_De11_Laptop\DP2_Rendered_Images\[~].jpg~
  Xres:             350
```

“Saveimage: Output spec section of “PER20” Dummy Template”

This Dummy Template will be used for all Presentation products from 10.01 to 20 inches in width, with a maximum print length of up to 120 inches.

You will need a separate “Dummy Template” for each print size range that you wish to have a different output specification. However, for testing purposes we recommend that you start off with one or two that cover the most common sizes of prints so that you reduce the number of variables to troubleshoot.

Mixing DP2 Layouts and Presentation Templates:

One of the important features of this new Presentation Template support is that you do not have to create separate orders for DP2 Layouts and Presentation created templates.

“Performer to DP2” can process orders with a mixture of DP2 created layouts as well as Presentation created templates. The only noticeable difference will be that the Order Items created from DP2 products will have the actual DP2 Product ID as the caption under the thumbnail view, whereas the Presentation templates will all have the Dummy Template Product ID designated for its size range as the caption.

All Order Items created from Presentation templates will look something like the following when viewed in the DP2 Order Items table:



“DP2 Order Items from Presentation templates mixed with DP2 layouts”

As you can see in the thumbnail views of the Order Items created from Presentation templates as well as DP2 layouts, the two Order Items from Presentation templates have the same Product ID, “PER10”, and the one Order Item from a DP2 layout has the Product ID, “810”.

You may be concerned that you will not know what Presentation product code was actually ordered. However, we have created a dummy node in each order item job script that contains the Presentation product code for tracking purposes.

If you right click on one of the Order Items and select “View as Text” from the contextual menu, when it opens in the text editor you will see a node number “99999”. In that node we used a keyword that is no longer used by DP2, “Rendertext:”, and the string following it will have the words “Performer ProductID:” followed by the actual Product Code chosen by the photographer that created the Presentation template.

```

Ic:      99999
Ilocation:      0 0 0.1 0.1
Nodename:      ~Node99999~
Rendertext:      ~Performer ProductID: 5_086437~

```

“Node 99999 created to keep track of the Presentation template Product ID”

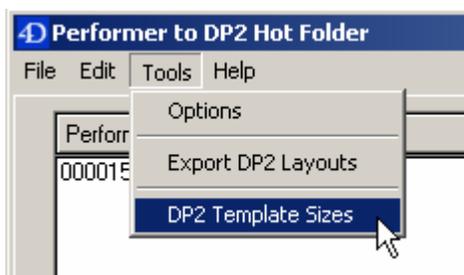
In a later release we might change the Node Number used for storing this Product ID to a preference setting, but since the node numbering is not controlled by the photographer but instead by the Presentation software, there should not be any problems with conflicting node numbers.

Also, we have made the node so small that it will not show up on any output.

Create “DP2 Template Size” records for each Dummy Template

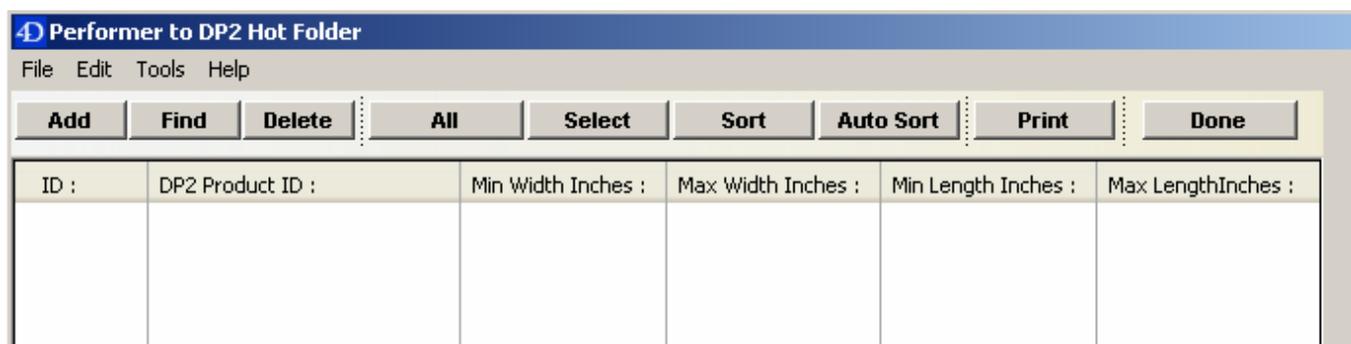
The final step in setting up the Presentation templates for printing in DP2 is to create a new record in the “DP2 Template Sizes” database table which is accessible from the “Tools” menu of the “Performer to DP2” application.

Click on the “Tools” menu and select the “DP2 Template Sizes” menu item as shown below:



“Tools / DP2 Template Sizes” menu item

This will open the DP2 Template Sizes list view.



“DP2 Template Sizes” list view with no records

Click on the “Add” button at the top of the window to create a new record.

This will open the DP2 Template Size input form shown below.

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Performer to DP2 Hot Folder" with a menu bar containing "File", "Edit", "Tools", and "Help". The main content area displays "ID 1" and "0 of 0". Below this, there are five input fields for template dimensions: "DP2 Product ID" (containing "PER10"), "Min Width Inches" (1.00), "Max Width Inches" (10.00), "Min Length Inches" (1.00), and "Max Length Inches" (18.00). At the bottom of the window, there are six buttons: "First", "Prev", "Next", "Last", "Cancel", and "Save".

“DP2 Template Sizes” input form

Enter the “DP2 Product ID” of one of the Dummy Templates that you created in DP2.

Enter the “Min Width Inches” for the low end of the print width range that this Product ID is to be used for.

Enter the “Max Width Inches” for the high end of the print width range that this Product ID is to be used for.

Enter the “Min Length Inches” for the low end of the print length range that this Product ID is to be used for.

Enter the “Max Length Inches” for the high end of the print length range that this Product ID is to be used for.

Click the Save button to save the new record and the fields will be cleared so that you can Add another new record.

Continue creating new records for each of your Dummy Templates until you have an associated record for each one.

To exit the Input form, click the Cancel button and you will be returned to the List View and your newly added records will be listed.

The screenshot shows the 'Performer to DP2 Hot Folder' application window. The title bar reads 'Performer to DP2 Hot Folder'. Below the title bar is a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'Tools', and 'Help'. A toolbar contains buttons for 'Add', 'Find', 'Delete', 'All', 'Select', 'Sort', 'Auto Sort', 'Print', and 'Done'. The main area displays a table with the following data:

ID :	DP2 Product ID :	Min Width Inches :	Max Width Inches :	Min Length Inches :	Max LengthInches :
1	PER10	1.00	10.00	1.00	18.00
2	PER20	10.01	20.00	1.00	120.00

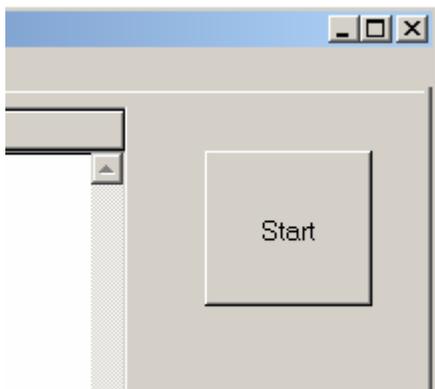
“DP2 Template Sizes” list view with new records

Click the “Done” button to return the application main window.

Now you are ready to Start the Hot Folder spooler and begin testing the new application.

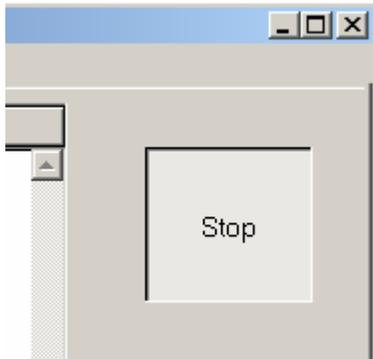
Start the Hot Folder Spooler:

To launch the “Performer to DP2” automatic spooler that monitors the hot folder for Order.txt files coming from the Process Controller, simply click the big square “Start” button in the top right corner of the main application window.



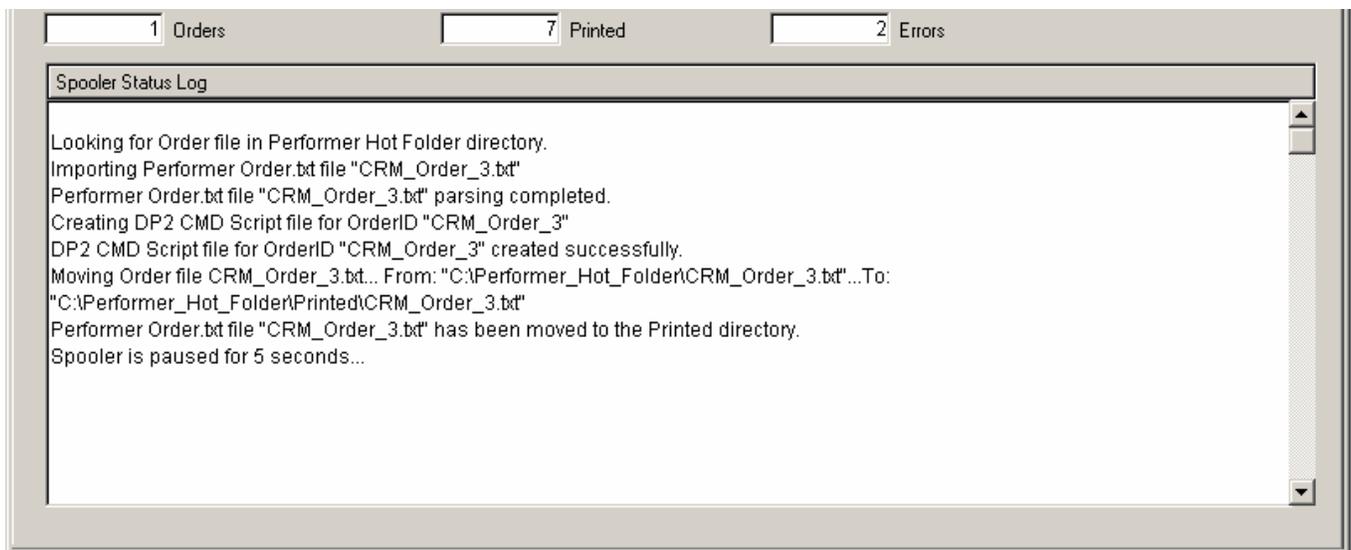
“Spooler Start button”

When you click the Start button, the button will be depressed and the name will change to “Stop”



“Spooler Stop button”

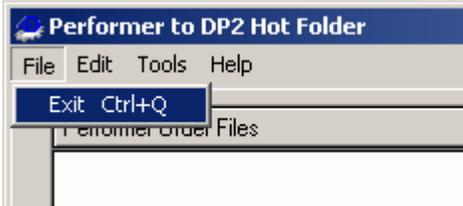
When you click the Start button, the spooler will start parsing the first order that is in the Performer Hot Folder directory, and the status lines will be shown in the “Spooler Status Log” window at the bottom of the main application window as shown below.



“Spooler Status Log” section of the main application window

The application will continue to spool orders from this directory and send them to DP2 until the “Stop” button is clicked.

Whenever you wish to exit the application, simply click on the File menu bar item and pull down to “Exit”, or click the “Close Box” in the top right corner of the application window.



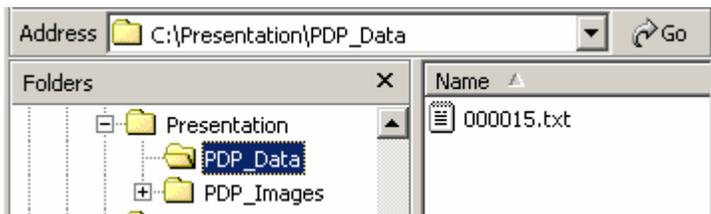
“File / Exit” menu bar item

Presentation Template Support Files:

Orders that include Presentation created templates will store additional files in the “Performer Images” directory.

The PDP-5000 software extracts information from incoming orders into two locations as we have discussed earlier in this document.

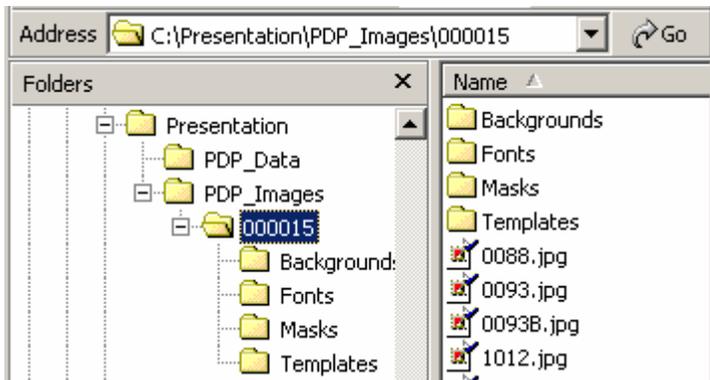
1. “PDP_Data” directory
2. “PDP_Images” directory



Order file in “PDP_Data” directory

A text file containing all the information about the Order, Customer, Images, and Order Items is created in the “PDP_Data” directory and it will have a filename consisting of the Order ID plus the “.txt” extension. In our example above it is “000015.txt”

Then the associated Images for the same order will be extracted into the “PDP_Images” directory and installed inside a directory that is labeled with the same Order ID as the Order Text file in the “PDP_Data” directory.



Order Image files in “PDP_Images” directory

As you can see in the example above, a directory labeled “000015” was created inside the “PDP_Images” directory and inside of it are the images that were used for ordering products. However, there are also three other sub-directories that contain files associated with the Presentation created templates.

1. “Backgrounds” - contains graphic files used in the Presentation templates included with this order.
2. “Masks” - contains mask files used in the Presentation templates included with this order.
3. “Templates” - contains detailed information about the Presentation templates included with this order.
4. “Fonts” - an optional Fonts directory will be included also if there are fonts that need to be installed on your workstation to support the templates included in the order.

All of these support files are required in order to create the Order Item records in DP2 successfully, and they may represent a considerable amount of hard drive space. However, once the order has been successfully printed from within DP2 and the Order is complete, the files can all be deleted as long as you understand that this will invalidate the Order Item records and Order Images records in DP2.

It is up to you to determine what the best housekeeping rules are for your lab, but an advantage to the approach we have taken is that you will not have all the photographers’ templates cluttering up your DP2 Products table since we are only using the Presentation templates to create Order Items records in DP2.

Troubleshooting:

1. Cropping: If you are having problems with cropping not functioning as you expect in order items created from your DP2 layouts, check to make sure that any node Auto Rotation that may be applied in your layout is set to “Best Fit Auto Rotate on Crop Size” as apposed to “Best Fit Auto Rotate on Image Size”.

Support Contact Information:

If you have any questions about this application or need assistance during installation or configuration, please call or email Chuck Morris at Impossible Solutions, Inc.

Chuck Morris – President
Impossible Solutions, Inc.
Wk: 407-884-9666
Cell: 407-342-1300
Fax: 407-884-7352
support@ImpoSol.com