

DesignMerge® Pro

Developed by Meadows Publishing Solutions (www.meadowsp.com)

Description

The DesignMerge Pro app integrates the DesignMerge Pro variable data software from Meadows Publishing Solutions (www.designmerge.com) with Enfocus Switch. This integration allows variable data templates prepared with DesignMerge Pro and Adobe InDesign to be processed for variable data output within a Switch flow.

The DesignMerge Pro app itself is available for free, however, in order to enable the functionality a full license of DesignMerge Pro software (along with a corresponding license of Adobe InDesign) must be installed on the same system as the Switch software. In this respect, DesignMerge and Adobe InDesign provide the *merge engine* for variable data processing, whilst the DesignMerge Pro app for Enfocus Switch is used to control the process flow and automation.

Compatibility

The DesignMerge Pro app is compatible with Enfocus Switch version 2023 Fall and newer. For older versions of Switch, a DesignMerge Pro **Configurator** is also available from Meadows.

Compatibility with third-party applications

As mentioned, a full license of DesignMerge Pro software for Adobe InDesign (version 2023 or newer) is required in order to use the DesignMerge Pro app for Enfocus Switch. Please visit www.designmerge.com to download the software installer for DesignMerge Pro, or to request a trial license for the software.

Application discovery details

If you are using an earlier version of Adobe InDesign, you may right-click on the DesignMerge Pro app and choose *Set Path to Application*. Navigate to and select the Adobe InDesign application that you wish to use.

Connections

Input: The input connection to the DesignMerge Pro app expects to receive either a single file (typically, a CSV data file), or a **Job Folder**. A Job Folder contains all of the files required for the VDP workflow, including the Adobe InDesign document (previously prepared with DesignMerge software), the data file, and all associated graphics and other required assets. These assets are very easily gathered by either using the **VDP Packager™** feature available with DesignMerge Pro software for Adobe InDesign, or by specifying the **Create VDP Package** action, which is one of the supported services for the DesignMerge Pro app.

Output: The output from the DesignMerge Pro app will either be a Job Folder (for example, once the job has been Preflighted, if there are no errors then the Job Folder is forwarded to the next step in the flow for additional processing), or some type of VDP output. For VDP output, PDF/VT and PPML are both supported, and these output files can be printed, or forwarded for further processed if necessary (for example, for processing by the **DesignMerge PDF Imposer** app, or by another 3rd party imposition application).

For every outgoing connection, the *Output Level* will be set to *Success*, *Warning*, or *Error*. In the case of Warnings or Errors, the Switch log will contain a detailed explanation of what went wrong. The output (which in the case of Error or Warning is typically the original input Job Folder) can then be routed to a holding area for later examination.

Properties detailed info

The first set of properties are known as the **Common Properties**, and these serve to define common elements such as the InDesign Document to process, the Data File to process, as well as a number of different search paths for variable assets.

Following the Common Properties is a property called **Action**. The DesignMerge Pro app supports a number of different Actions, each performing a different service related to the VDP process. Actions are selected by using the dropdown menu. When a particular Action is selected, the properties for that action will be displayed below the dropdown menu.

The set of Actions currently supported by DesignMerge Pro have been outlined below:

Perform Preflight

Checks for common VDP errors, such as missing fixed or variable graphics, missing fonts and invalid data layouts. If the job fails the preflight, the user has the option to archive the entire Job Folder, and can also send a notification via email.

Build Multi-up Document

Automatically builds a multi-up version of the one-up VDP document being processed using a set of user-defined InDesign imposition templates. Imposition templates can be created in advance using the built-in DesignMerge multi-up imposition features.

Variable Data Merge

Merges and prints the document in PDF, PDF/VT, or PPML output formats, and routes the output files to a printer hot folder, or directly to any digital press or print queue. For larger jobs, the DesignMerge Pro Job Splitter feature is fully supported.

Create VDP Package (VDP Packager™)

This action will pull together a set of assets (data file from one location; InDesign document from another; graphic files from the server, etc.) into a single *Job Folder* that then contains all of the assets for the variable data job. The entire Job Folder can then be further processed by the Switch flow elements. Job Packages can also be created automatically from any version of DesignMerge Pro using the built-in *VDP Packager™* feature.

Impose PDF Files

If you prefer to impose your 1-up output as a post-process, the **DesignMerge PDF Imposer** software is fully supported. In this scenario, 1-up PDF job output can be imposed quickly using a set of pre-defined PDF imposition templates. The user can design templates to accommodate almost any VDP imposition, including specialty sorting modes such as *Cut & Stack* and *Label Sort*, plus complicated multi-up layouts such as *Dutch Cut*.

Run Custom Script

For workflows that require customization, the DesignMerge Pro app supports the execution of custom JavaScript code. Custom scripts are valuable for pre-processing and/or sorting input data, or for initial document preparation.

A detailed list of all properties is available on the Meadows web site. For interested clients, we provide a complete evaluation kit. This kit includes the full property list with detailed descriptions, a trial license for DesignMerge Pro software, plus several example Switch flows that include sample variable data jobs to use for testing. There is also a comprehensive set of training videos available to help you get going quickly.

Please initiate a request for the DesignMerge Pro for Enfocus Switch Evaluation Kit by visiting the [Request Info](#) form on our web site at www.meadowsp.com.