Apogee 11


Apogee is a comprehensive and integrated workflow solution enabling you to control every phase of the printing production process from a single user interface.
Organizations of every size and type can benefit from the Apogee Suite of workflow management products. With Apogee, Agfa offers a comprehensive and integrated prepress workflow solution, committed to offering the highest degree of reliability.

The Apogee workflow software enables commercial printers to manage all possible production output from a single user interface. As such, it perfectly aligns and fuses different software modules into one streamlined whole. But there’s more. The latest version of Apogee—Apogee 11—brings new tools such as multi-product imposition, an improved performance, and additional automation features.

The Apogee philosophy

Innovate
Innovation starts with questioning the status quo. How can I simplify my workflow? Improve productivity? Reach new markets? Apogee has the answers. With its range of innovative tools, Apogee lets you work both intelligently and efficiently, and serve your customers on a higher level than ever before. Innovation requires audacity.

Interact
The internet has made people accustomed to doing everything online. To having everything available immediately, day and night, regardless. Print buyers are no exception. Yet how you interact with customers is paramount. With Apogee, it means allowing them to view, update, and approve their projects from their mobile devices, for example. Or offering them products through an intuitive online store. In any case, Apogee enables you to interact with your clients and provide them with a rich experience that generates loyalty.

Optimize
Optimization results in higher profitability, greater efficiency, and less waste. It is the driving force behind your entire operation. Apogee optimizes every aspect of your production process, from customer collaboration, through prepress workflows, all the way to the finished product. Reducing the complexity of workflows and automating time-consuming tasks is what Apogee continuously strives for. With Apogee, optimization means increased press efficiency, added features, and more flexibility.
What’s new in Apogee 11?

**Press efficiency and order combination**
Apogee v11 offers a mechanism to combine print jobs in an intelligent way in order to optimize press time, while also keeping track of the actual order. With this new feature, it caters to the needs of printers faced with shortening run lengths who are looking for ways to keep their presses running as efficiently as possible to maintain sustainable margins. The multi-product support combines orders (or parts of different orders) on a single press sheet instead of repeating a signature or an order multiple times. The challenge at hand does not lie in the actual placement of the various orders, but in keeping track of the separate orders and allowing for proper finishing. With Apogee v11, collation marks, signature barcodes and all other marks remain in place and refer to the original order.

**A unique production hub solution**
Apogee v11 functions as the ideal production hub, guaranteeing reliable content reproduction independent of output devices. As such, it allows printers to increase their production efficiency and tackle the squeezed margins on low copy count orders. Apogee v11 handles all necessary preparations for digital commercial print, including specific production requirements like cut ‘n stack, or booklet printing. This simplifies the workflow and reduces production costs as digital press operators now only need to manage and control devices and output quality and no longer need to spend time on job preparation.

**Fully automated imposition**
To reduce the manual job preparation and increase production efficiency even more, orders can be processed in a fully automatic way using AutoImpose, a new function of the award-winning Apogee Impose.

**Connecting quality**
Apogee WebFlow is a new module to give customer service representatives, press and finishing operators or others within a printing company access to job data. It makes it easy to check the status of jobs, visualize page content and check which signatures are ready for output. On top of that, WebFlow is integrated with Agfa’s ECO³ software solution PressTune, which displays the print quality scores detailing how the actual print sheets compare to the set standard for each job and signature. This saves CSR’s time when reviewing the quality of their customers’ orders.

**Up-to-date with the latest technology**
Innovation is the driving force within Agfa. More than 20 years ago, Apogee Series 1 was the first workflow to use PDF as a production file format. The latest Apogee generation continues to take the lead in prepress workflow solutions, which is also why the latest available technology from its key partners Microsoft and Adobe are integrated. Apogee v11 includes Adobe PDF Print Engine 5.0 to prepare printers for full compatibility for the new PDF 2.0 standard and to output designs correctly.
Apogee Cloud

Apogee Cloud is all about using the existing Apogee 11 modules, yet relying on the infrastructure, know-how, and hardware security offered by Agfa. The runtime license is aligned with your production and includes hardware, software, support, and ICT-managed services. Apogee Cloud minimizes your investments, yet maximizes flexibility. Need more production capacity? This cloud-based solution is perfectly adaptable to your changing needs. In any case, your software is always up to date.

Apogee Cloud benefits:
- Enables you to run your workflow off-site, without the necessity of local configuration, software installations or hardware expertise.
- Allows you to use professional infrastructure that offers database security, redundancy, as well as system stability and business continuity.
- Provides you with an easy way to network and interact with print buyers, different production plants, and employees.
- Centralizes the control over different print sites and production facilities, which results in a more efficient production process.

Managed and hosted by Agfa

No one knows Apogee better than we do. With Apogee Cloud, Agfa experts not only relieve in-house IT personnel of day-to-day tasks, thus affording them more time to focus on strategy and innovation. They also ensure system stability. By constantly and proactively monitoring processes, they foresee and prevent system failures or downtime.

Apogee Cloud relies on the same hosting technology as we use for our customers in the healthcare industry, which means that your data is 100% secure. Agfa’s hosting service is located in two physically separate data centers in Mortsel (Belgium), which are monitored 24/7 and accessible by authorized personnel only. The infrastructure also guarantees protection against fire and water damage. The data centers are ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 certified.

Apogee Impose

Do not let your prepress department be limited by templates. Feed Apogee Impose with data such as sheet size, number of pages and available equipment and it will calculate smart impositions. Thanks to the full integration with Apogee, the imposition schemes get updated automatically when you change parameters as the job progresses. This minimizes errors, speeds up your prepress and reduces paper waste or the number of printing plates.

Apogee Impose comes in two flavors: one tuned to sheetfed printing, the other to web offset, taking all kinds of finishing parameters into account as well.
Expanding your Apogee workflow system with a web portal for online collaboration, Apogee WebApproval enables both your clients and your colleagues to access jobs from their desktop computer or mobile device. They can cooperate with each other, upload files, review pages, and approve jobs. Thanks to WebApproval, you can facilitate file exchange and shorten approval cycles, which results in fewer errors and more satisfied customers.

**24/7 portal for reliable soft proofing**

Apogee WebApproval is available 24/7 and from any place that offers internet access. Users can access the secure, password-protected portal from any HTML5-based browser to view their own jobs, exchange data, and soft proof files. Customers, approvers, and managers can view and approve print-ready pages that show the exact print output, thus minimizing the risk of mistakes or costly reprints.

**WebApproval 11: even better than before**

This latest release of WebApproval allows you to increase the efficiency of prepress operators as specific tasks are now handled by the print buyer. For example, printers can allow their customers to create new jobs directly, limiting the workload for repeat jobs. The new ‘Guest’ function in version 11 also makes it easier for print service providers to offer the easy-to-use WebApproval tool to one-time print brokers. Users can now also view foldouts and measure the size of layout elements or their distance from the page edge. To ensure that print buyers receive the right messages and access levels, different print buyers can be granted particular access and actions rights, such as “Approve only”. Another major change is that the print buyer no longer needs to be contacted when an order gets modified due to production changes; he can approve content and has limited access to the actual press his job gets printed on. As such, a press change no longer triggers a re-approval process with WebApproval v11.
PrintSphere

Tired of exchanging data through a variety of tools? Meet PrintSphere, a cloud-based service that makes it easy to store and access data online. It provides a standardized way for print service providers to share files, automate their workflows, and facilitate data exchange with other Agfa service solutions.

StoreFront

StoreFront is a cloud-based, web-to-print solution that enables printers and print service providers to efficiently market their services. It helps you generate revenue by creating online stores—both public or private (B2B)—from which you can offer print and non-print products.

Apogee as a unique production hub

Apogee driving digital commercial presses

Integration between Apogee Prepress and a digital front-end/digital offset press is accomplished through CIP4’s Digital Print ICS compliant JDF/JMF. Once integrated, Apogee Prepress becomes the facilitator and single point of workflow control in this “hybrid” workflow setup. It will manage the creation of proofs, plates and the digital print-ready files. Depending on the requirements, the digital print-ready file can be either a “vector PDF” or a “raster PDF”. The type of digital press and its configuration will also determine what digital press specific parameters Apogee Prepress can set, such as the paper type and size, screening and finishing parameters, and more. The status of the print job is reported back to Apogee Prepress and can be tracked through its graphically rich user interface.

Apogee managing output on large-format inkjet devices

Apogee is a more advanced production hub than all other workflow solutions. Dedicated application tools, e.g. for tiling, image manipulation allow printers to prepare and create print-ready files for Sign & Display output to both Agfa and non-Agfa inkjet devices. The result is one single workflow, managed by one prepress department, to preflight, prepare and manage production independent of substrate or output device.
CristalRaster III introduces the 3rd generation of FM screen technology, combining the best aspects of the 1st and 2nd generation as well as Agfa’s Sublima software. The result is the best FM screen on the market, guaranteeing longer run lengths, astounding image quality and excellent printing stability. With CristalRaster III, your prints will be more beautiful, quicker to produce and more consistent than ever before.

The key benefits
CristalRaster III comes with several quality benefits, including:

- Picture-perfect reproduction thanks to finely rendered details and support for 4+ color printing
- Crystal-clear quality: no moiré, no unwanted angles, no rosette structures
- Better printing stability compared to alternative FM screening technologies
- Improved run lengths
Agfa is committed to sustainable innovation that focuses on ecology, economy, and extra convenience—or ECO³. Our hardware, software and consumables make your prepress and printing operations cleaner, more cost-effective and easier to operate and maintain. Thanks to ECO³, you can save up to 30% on ink and paper, 90% on water, and reduce waste by 50%. In sum, they bring more value to your entire printing business.

Apogee Color Quality Manager

Color is critical. Print producers who believe in perfection want advanced color control. That is why Agfa created Apogee Color Quality Manager, intelligent color automation. It gives you a palette of tools for optimizing and fingerprinting output quality to meet your exact specifications. You can set quality adjustments for switching from one press or paper to another, or to correct output of a PDF file that has already been separated in an undefined color space. Apogee Color Quality Manager ensures consistent color quality under any conditions, even for your most complex projects. It provides the means to adjust, manipulate and perfect color output at every stage of the workflow. And it does so in a fully automated and flawlessly repeatable way. It is absolute color control. Simplified.