PuzzleFlow™

WebToPrint

Quick Start

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Introduction

Thank you for choosing PuzzleFlow™ software. We hope you will enjoy the product. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us through the website http://www.puzzleflow.com or e-mail addres support@puzzleflow.com.

About PuzzleFlow™

PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint is an adaptation of PuzzleFlow™ system, designed and customized to satisfy all needs of every prepress studio regarding job acquisition, preflight and correction, imposition, proof and output. Imagine a system equipped with an early preflight filter made on a customer site, even before any job reaches the production. Imagine a direct on-line job supply, customized with your own layout design and logo. Think of a reasonable orders storage and customers database, fully automated job correction and optimization, JDF-based imposition, web approval support, quick output generation. All this is in one consistent system – PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint.

Features and benefits

- **Job supply**
  - On-line job supply
  - Direct PDF supply from from any application
  - Integrated webshop
  - ISO compliant preflight on customer side
  - Win and Mac clients
  - Visible, layered preflight reports
- **Job preparation**
  - Centralized orders processing management
  - Web interface with unlimited number of users
  - Remote access for operators and customers
  - Automated job correction and optmization
  - High-quality colour management adjusted to product paper
  - Spot colors handling
  - Transparency flattening
  - Overprint fixing
  - Font to curves conversion
  - Images adjustment
  - PDF/X compliant output
- **Imposition**
  - JDF standard in use
  - Automated page geometry adjustment

- Automated montage on the base of printing devices definitions
- Last minute modifications
- Paper surface optimization
- Markers and colorbars auto-adjustment

- **Approval**
  - Hierarchical acceptance
  - Product page versioning
  - Product proof for customers
  - Imposition proof for operators
  - Clean responsibility rules
  - E-mail notifications
- **Integration and connectivity**
  - JDF/JMF channel
  - Open standards in use
  - Extensible, modular architecture
  - Customizable layout and functionality

How PuzzleFlow™ PrinOnDemand works

Before entering technical details of PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint, let us first outline how the system works. Order processing can be divided into several functional steps related to three integrated parts of the system.

- PuzzleFlow™ Server
- PuzzleFlow™ Express Client
- PuzzleFlow™ Organizer Client (not obligatory)

Let us start with the order creation process. First, a registered customer or backoffice worker creates a new order using the PuzzleFlow™ Express Client application. The application communicates with PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint Server, displaying an order acquisition wizard. The job submitter follows Express Client instructions specifying the product type (ie. brochure, flyer, bussiness cards etc.), the paper type for the final product (ie. coated or uncoated, matte or gloss, with a given grammage) as well as basic document properties, such as the number of pages, the page format, the desired coloristics (ie. cmyk or cmyk plus spot). Then the user selects a PDF (or Postscript) document. Express Client application performs a document normalization and preflight, checking if the document matches the order specification. Assuming no critical drawbacks has been found while preflighting, Express Client uploads the document to PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint Server, initializing a new order.

Once the document is uploaded, PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint Server automatically runs an initial workflow process that optimizes the document and tries to corrects all the issues spotted at the preflight stage. The workflow may adjust a page geometry, crop a page to a specified net size, generate bleeds, change images resolution, flatten transparencies, adjust overprint, convert fonts to curves, apply trapping and much more. The correction workflow also performs an advanced color-management, automatically applying the proper color profiles, according to the paper type selection. The result of this process is a pretty correct PDF/X document, that can be easily interpretted on every RIP device. Among the document for further production, PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint also generates low resolution preview to let the customer approve the document after all changes. Depending on privileges, the customer may also have rights to see the production document in full quality.

Once the production document is approved, the system operator sends the document to print by selecting the output device (printing machine). PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint automatically generates an imposition layout, on the base of order properties (ie. job format), final product specification (folding vs. cutting) and the output device definition (paper format, plate format etc.). On user request, PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint may also generate and print the imposition proof. The operator can modify the imposition layout using interactive imposition utility – PuzzleFlow™ Organizer Client.

All the steps described above may obviously happen asynchronously for the subsequent orders. For instance, while one order is being outputed, another order may be preflighted or corrected, some other prepared for imposition, and yet another suspended, waiting for a customer acceptance and so on. The user does not need to bother about the optimal resource management since this is done by PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint itself.

The production process can be enhanced with instant messaging system. For example, once the document has been processed, the customer may be informed via mail that it awaits for the final acceptance. Once approved, the backoffice may get a notification, that the document is ready and can be printed etc.

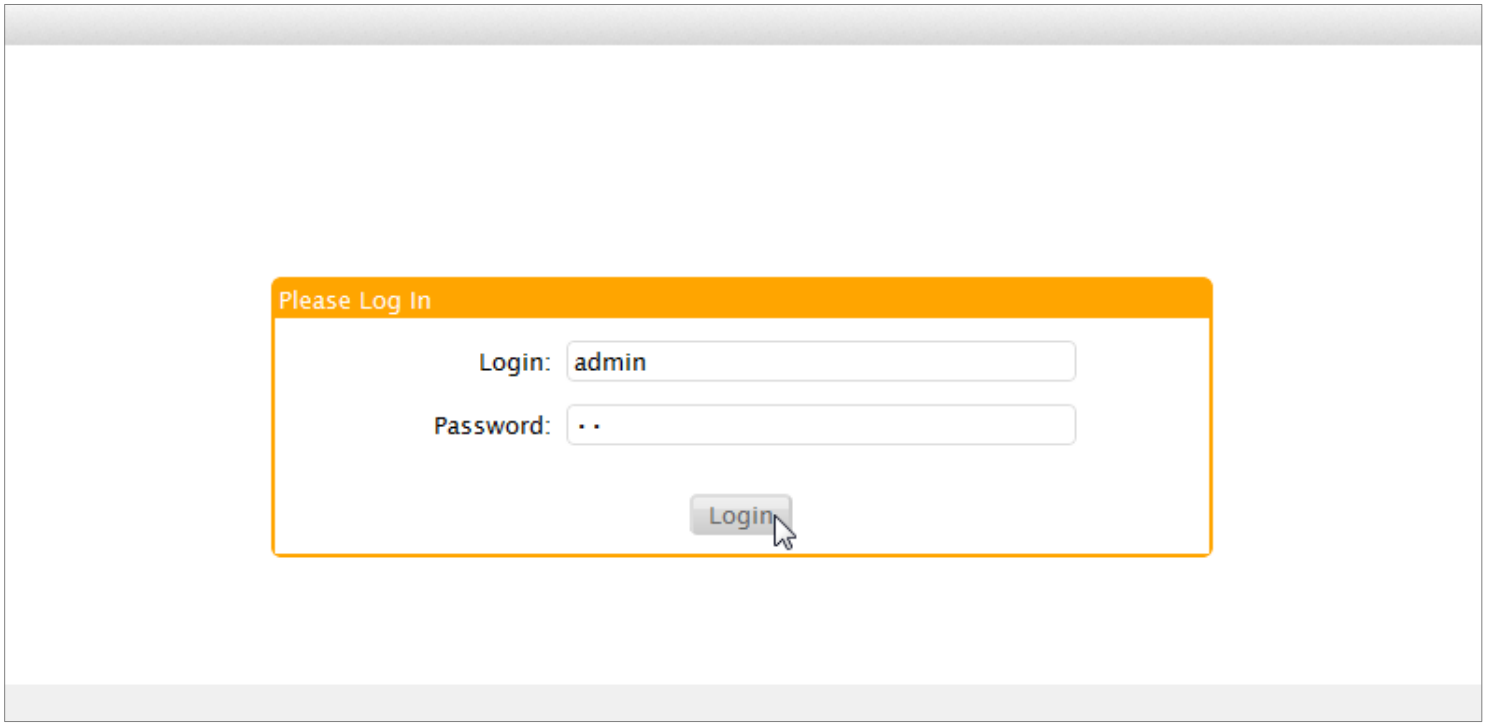
All this makes PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint a fully automated end-to-end prepress production system.

First run

Once the system is installed, you can access it with a generic internet browser. We recommend Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome. The default address under which the PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint interface responds is `http://localhost:82`. If connecting remotely, `localhost` need to be replaced with the proper IP address of the target machine. The default port is `82` but may differ depending on what settings has been specified during the initial configuration. If you encounter any problems with the connection, go please to Start menu -> PuzzleFlow™ -> PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint and simply run the `Restart` command to launch PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint configuration wizard.

Connecting to a given address for a first time just after (re)installation may take some time. If you encounter timeout error while waiting for the page, just give it another try by typing the address again or refresh the page (F5).

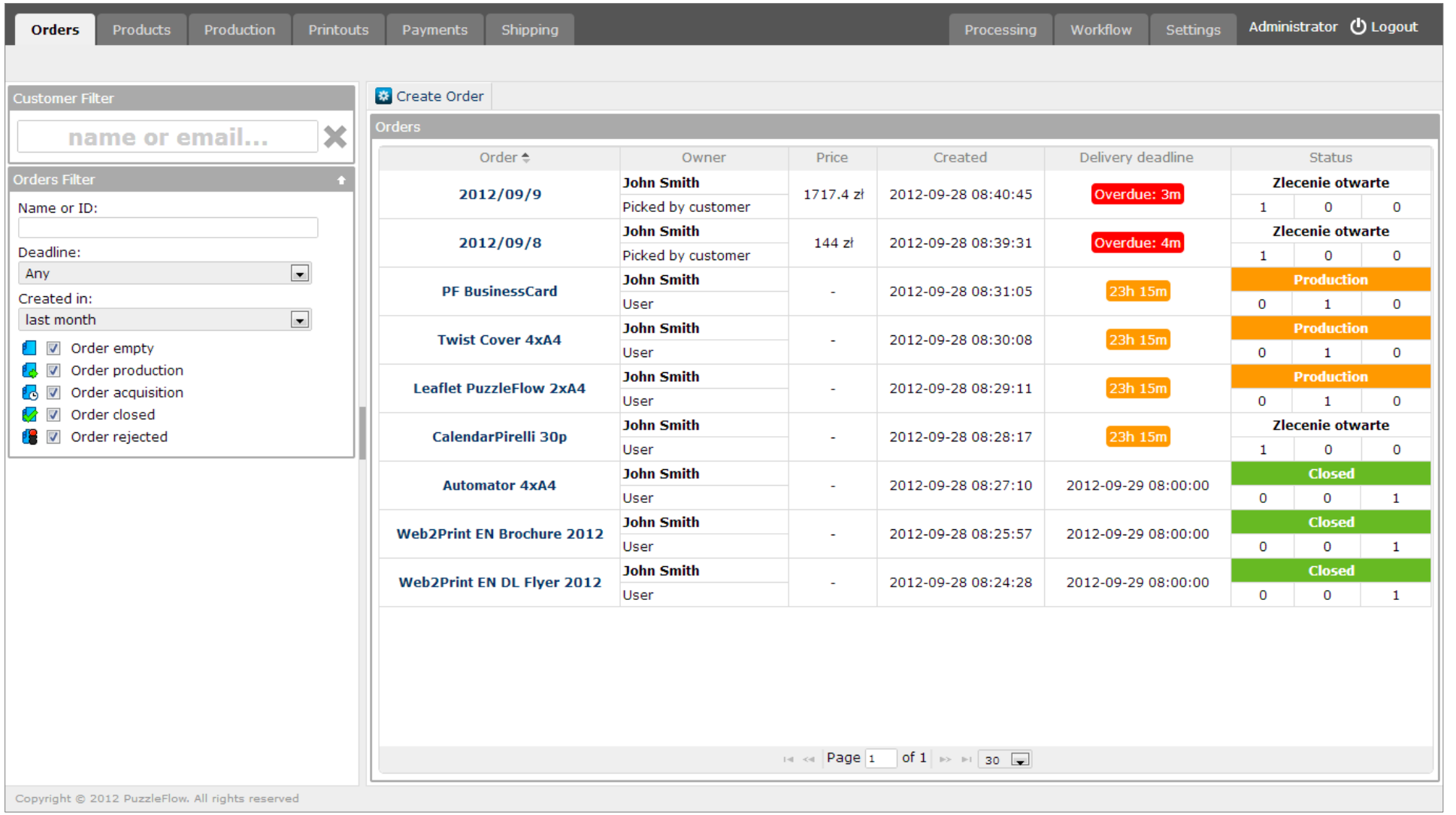
At the very beginning a login page is displayed. Only the registered users can access the production management interface. Use default login **admin** and password **pf**.



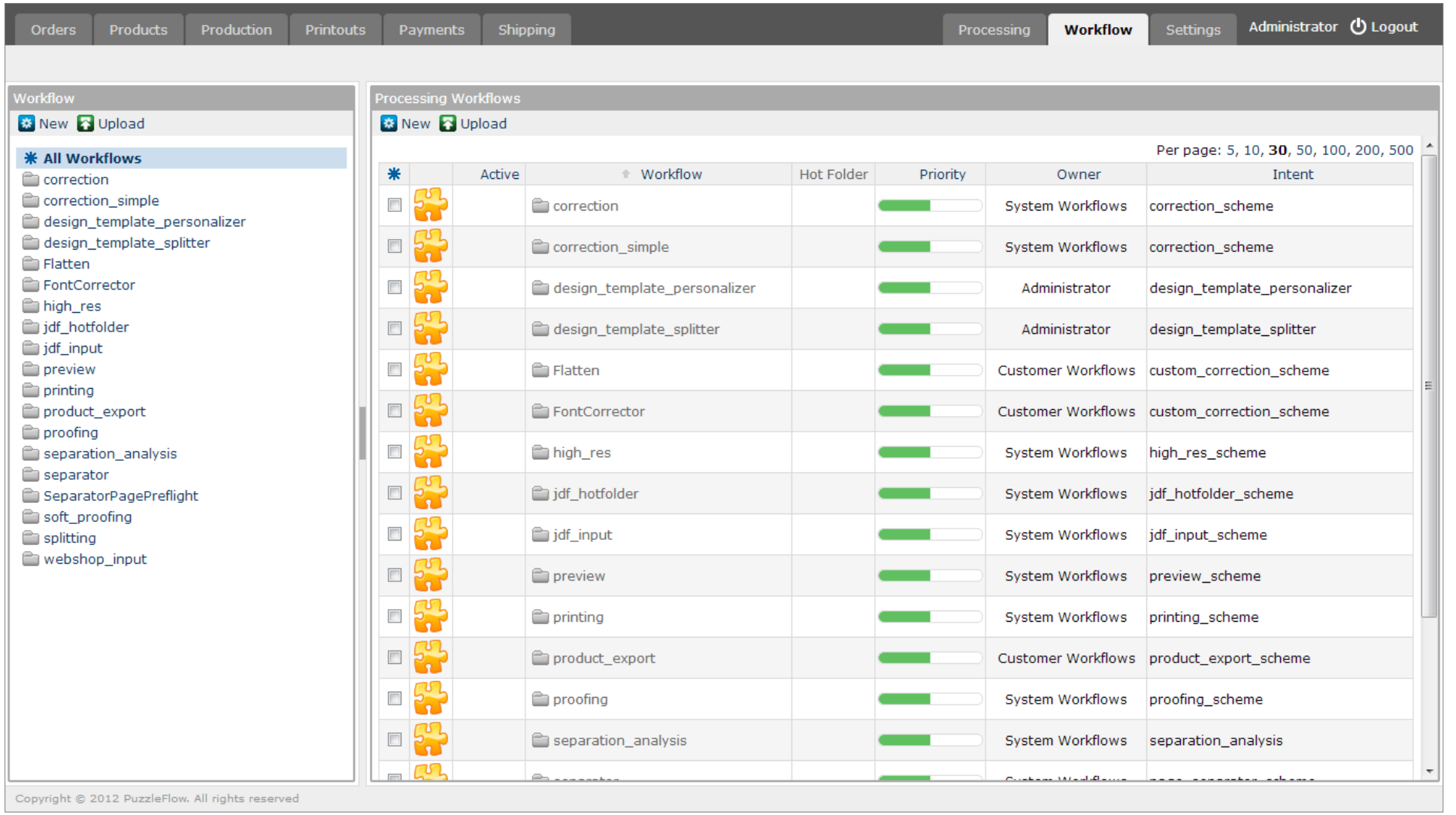
The main PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint interface consists of the following views:

- **Orders / Jobs** tab contains a list of all pending orders (jobs) with their status.
- **Workflow** tab controls workflow processing schemes that determines what actually happens with the the jobs spotted by the system.
- **Settings** tab contains administrative configuration, including users management, file locations, database maintenance and others.

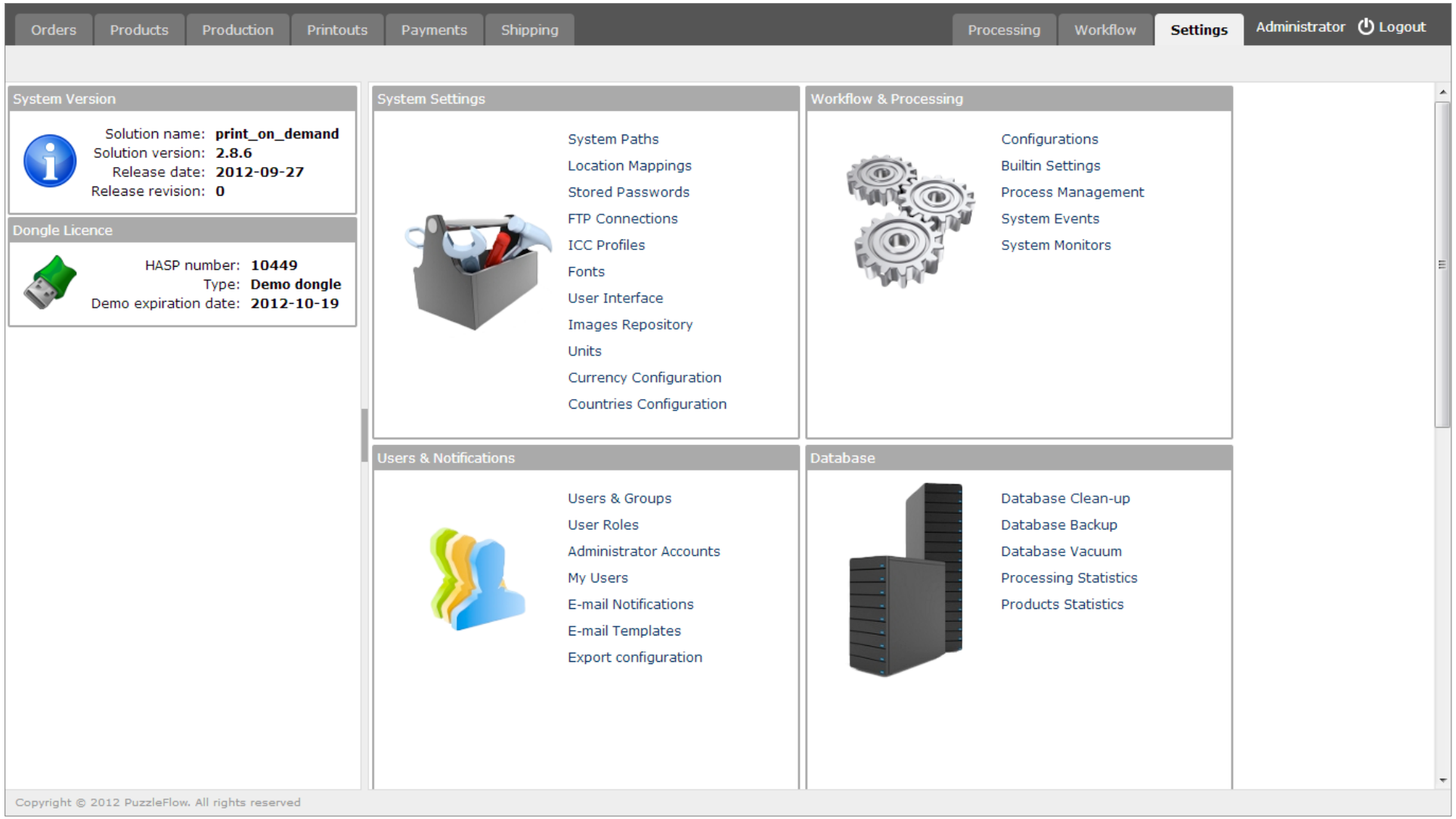
Initially, the list of orders is empty. Once there are some pending orders already submitted, the list is populated with newest orders staying on top.



The list of schemes contains default workflow chains used by PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint, possibly complemented by custom user schemes.



Settings tab is a general configuration panel, available for system administrators and technical operators.


Orders
Products
Production
Printouts
Payments
Shipping
Processing
Workflow
Settings
Administrator
Logout
System Version
Solution name: print_on_demand
Solution version: 2.8.6
Release date: 2012-09-27
Release revision: 0
Dongle Licence
HASP number: 10449
Type: Demo dongle
Demo expiration date: 2012-10-19
System Settings
System Paths
Location Mappings
Stored Passwords
FTP Connections
ICC Profiles
Fonts
User Interface
Images Repository
Units
Currency Configuration
Countries Configuration
Workflow & Processing
Configurations
Builtin Settings
Process Management
System Events
System Monitors
Users & Notifications
Users & Groups
User Roles
Administrator Accounts
My Users
E-mail Notifications
E-mail Templates
Export configuration
Database
Database Clean-up
Database Backup
Database Vacuum
Processing Statistics
Products Statistics
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The number of displayed tabs and their names may depend on PuzzleFlow™ system type you use and privileges grated for currently logged user.

PuzzleFlow™ Express

PuzzleFlow™ Express is a part of the y job acquisition system. It can be used by a prepress studio or a printing house staff for sending data to print, as well as by customers making orders on-line. It is also called PuzzleFlow™ Express Client or simply Client.

PuzzleFlow™ Express is a pretty flexible utility. Its functionality, as well as graphic designs, may be easily accommodated to any printing house layout and logo, making customers and end-users feel that they just use custom printhouse ordering and acquisition system.

Key features of PuzzleFlow™ Express:

- GWG compliant preflight made on a client side
- dynamic preflight configuration loaded from a server
- layered PDF reports with suspected graphic objects placed on layers
- HTML logs with a precise technical document analysis
- Postscript to PDF normalization
- installable as a printer, available from any editorial application
- available for Windows and Mac
- built-in data transmission to server
- remote tracking of submitted orders

Once lanunched, PuzzleFlow™ Express connects to PuzzleFlow™ Server. The communication must be established, client application is unseless without the server. Once the user selects files to be processed, PuzzleFlow™ Express Client initializes a preflight. Worthy of note that even if connecting to a remote system, the verification is performed **locally** on the client machine (on the machine from which the job will be sent). Thanks to that, we avoid redundancy, multiple data transfer to the printing house and back in the case of the errors spotted during the preflight. So, if something goes wrong, the file will not be sent to the production at all

remaining at the customer site for verification and correction. In the case of errors PuzzleFlow™ Express Client refuses to submit the file. In the case of warnings, the file can still be accepted by the system, but the person submitting the job must be aware of the danger. Therefore, PuzzleFlow™ Express provides a detailed report of the preflight process, extended with a layered PDF copy of the source document, with all incorrect objects moved to the separate layers.

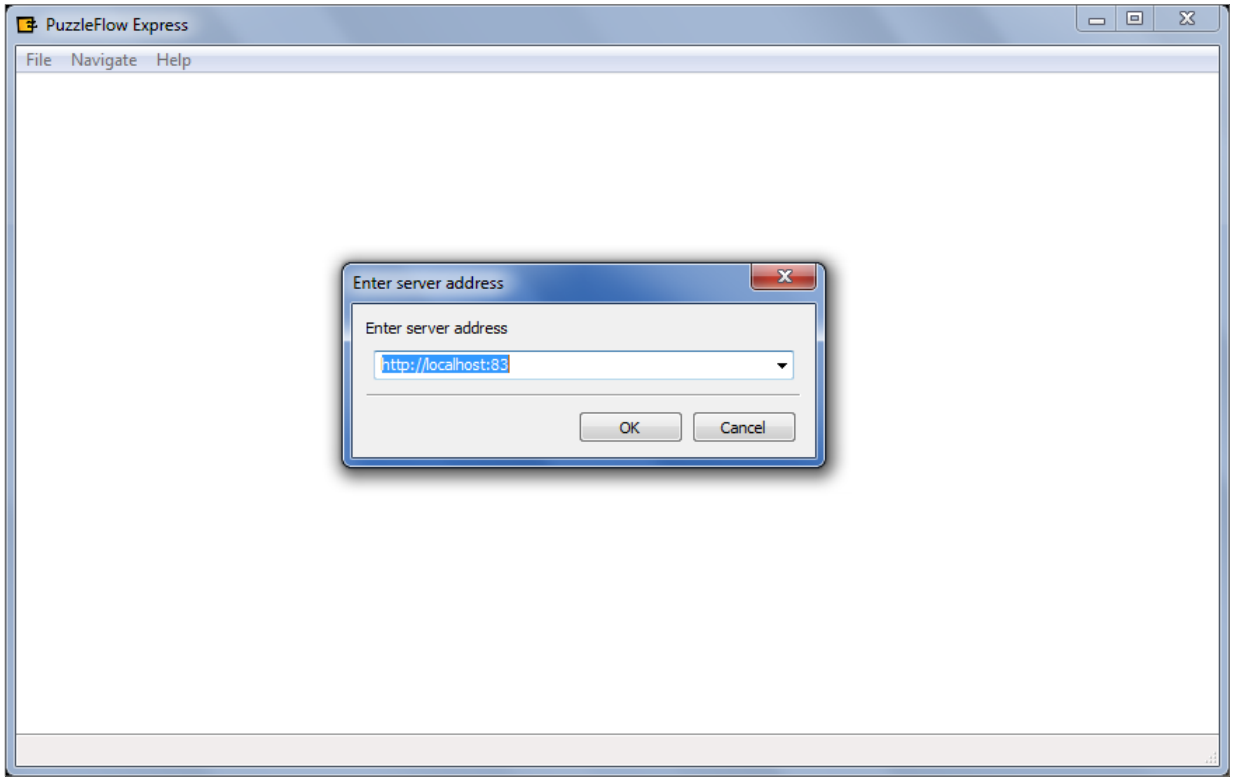
It is important to say that the number of the spotted issues and their severity strictly depends on the preflight profile used. Usually this is a service provider decision how strict the profile should be. Also note that different production schemes may use different preflight profiles.

In the previous versions of the system, PuzzleFlow™ operator was bound to provide the certified preflight profile to all PuzzleFlow™ Express users (job suppliers). Users were responsible for using the proper profile and certifying files accordingly. The new generation of the PuzzleFlow™ Solutions serves preflight profiles dynamically, on every request. This is not only more convenient for end-users who do not need to take care about profiles anymore. This allows building solutions serving different profiles for different kinds of productions, which is a crucial element of every *web to print* solution built on the PuzzleFlow™ technology.

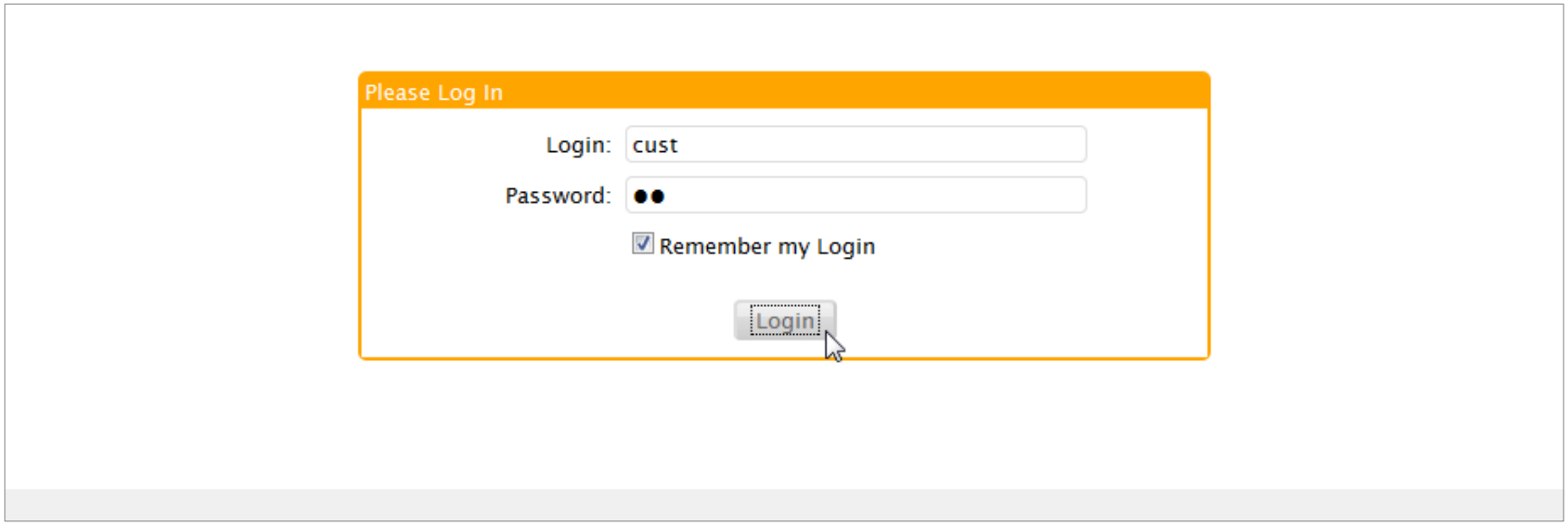
Order Submission

Once launched, PuzzleFlow™ Express connects with the URL address of PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint Server. The target server address can be specified in Settings -> Server URL menu. It may vary depending on which PuzzleFlow™ Solution (and version) you use. Typically, the address template is `http://<server_address>/<id>/express`. Every PuzzleFlow™ Solution uses a different identifier (short alias or abbreviation) that should replace `<id>` part in the template. On local installations where both client and server are installed on the same machine, the server address is `localhost`. So it the simplest case, the URL address one need to type is `http://localhost:83/pod/express`.

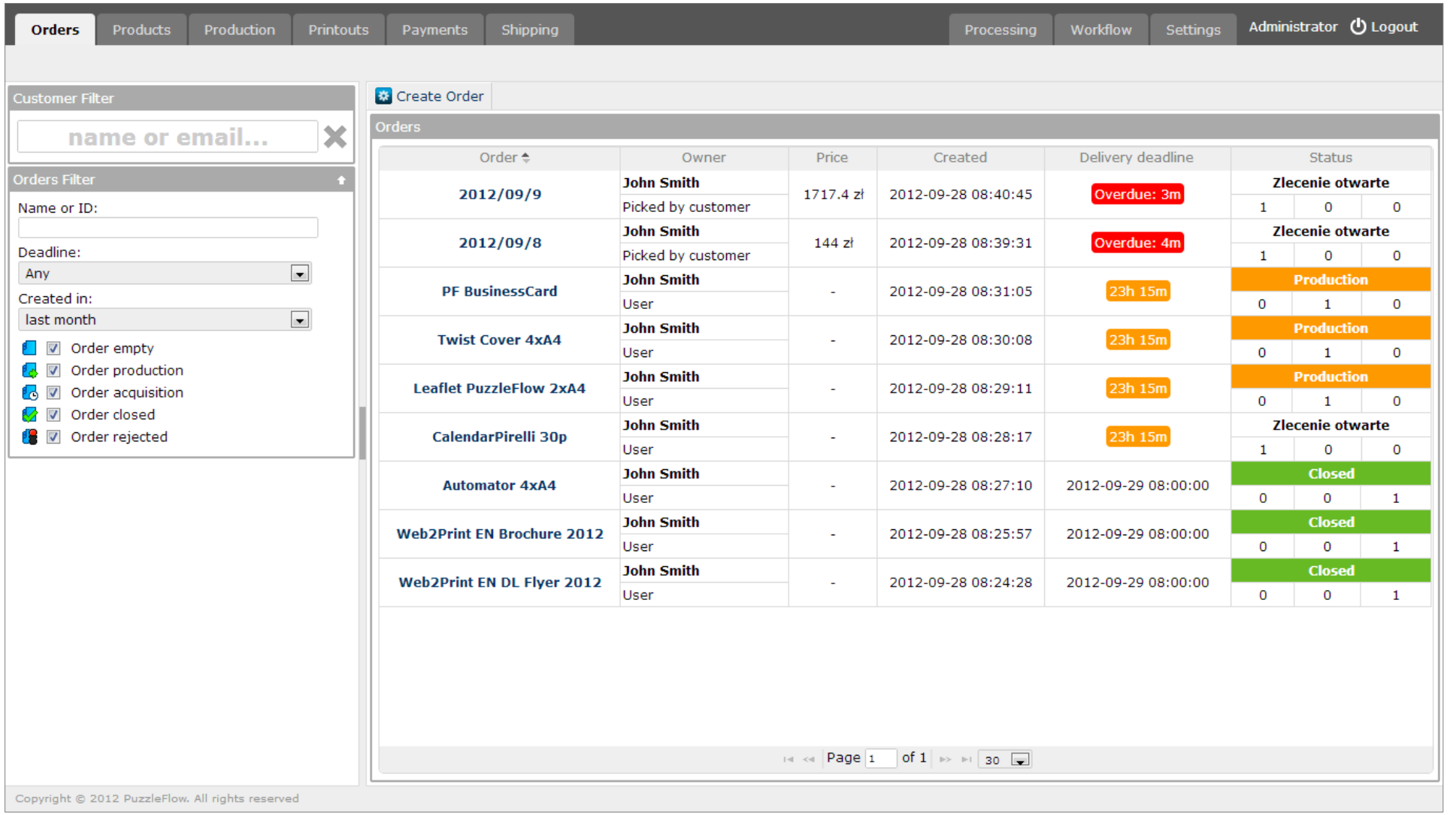
Starting from PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint version 2.2 you should skip `/<id>/express` part of the address and type only server URL into PuzzleFlow™ Express configuration.



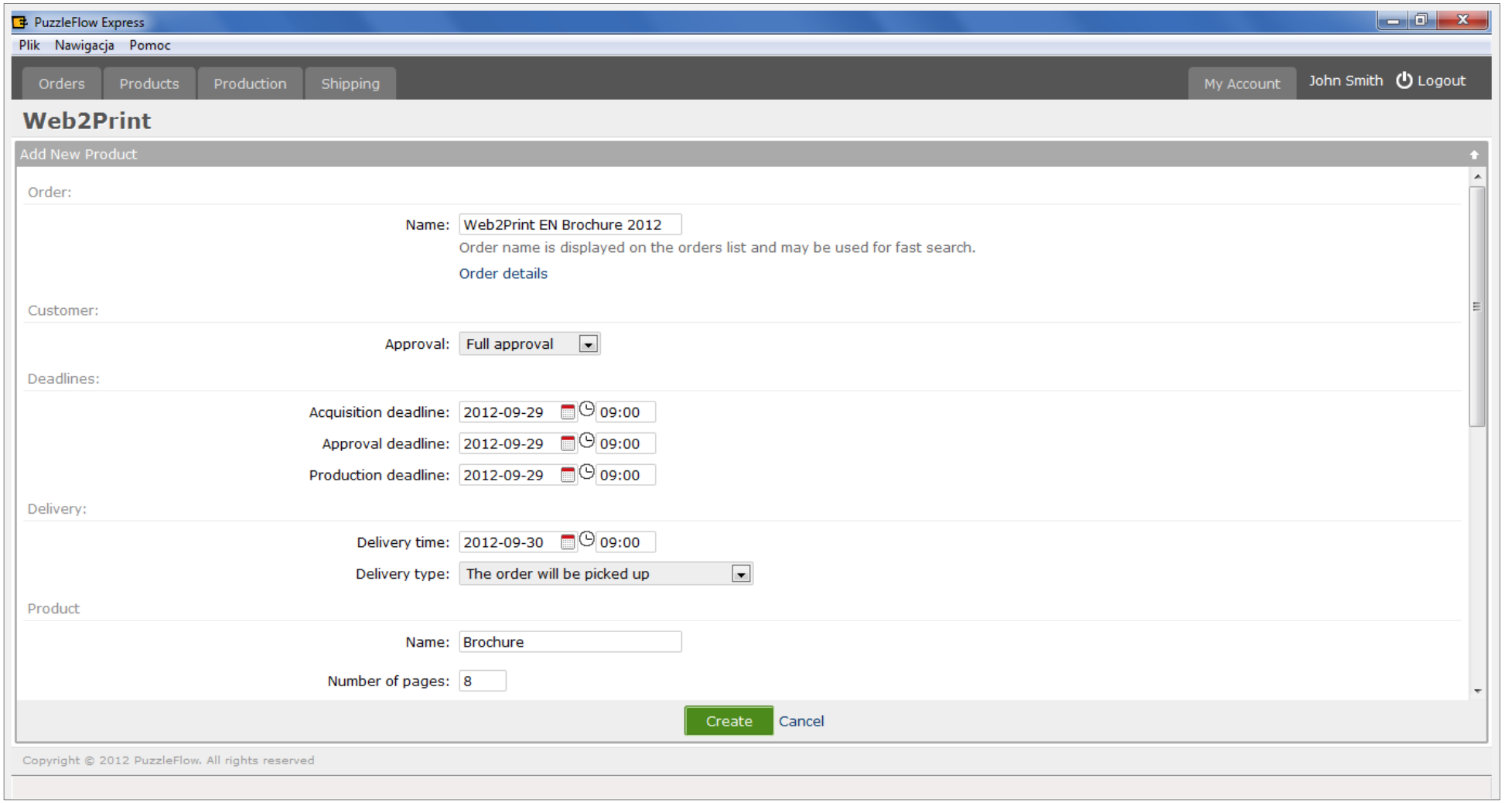
Only the registered users can access PuzzleFlow™ Express, so the first step is to log in. For tests you can use **cust** as a login and **pf** as a password.



After authentication PuzzleFlow™ Express displays a list of pending orders belonging to the person just logged.



Initially the list is empty. The order can be created by a printhouse staff or by a customer himself. If the order has been prepared already, then click it. Other wise click **Create Order** button.



In the first step of order creation you have to provide a descriptive order name. Here you can also select a preferred approval mode for that order.

- **Soft proof** (default) – low resolution previews and final product visualisation will be prepared
- **Hard proof** – final product proof will be printed
- **No proof** – the order will not be prepared for acceptance

For printhouse operators information you can also specify preferred time deadlines. PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint will send e-mail notifications about delayed production steps.

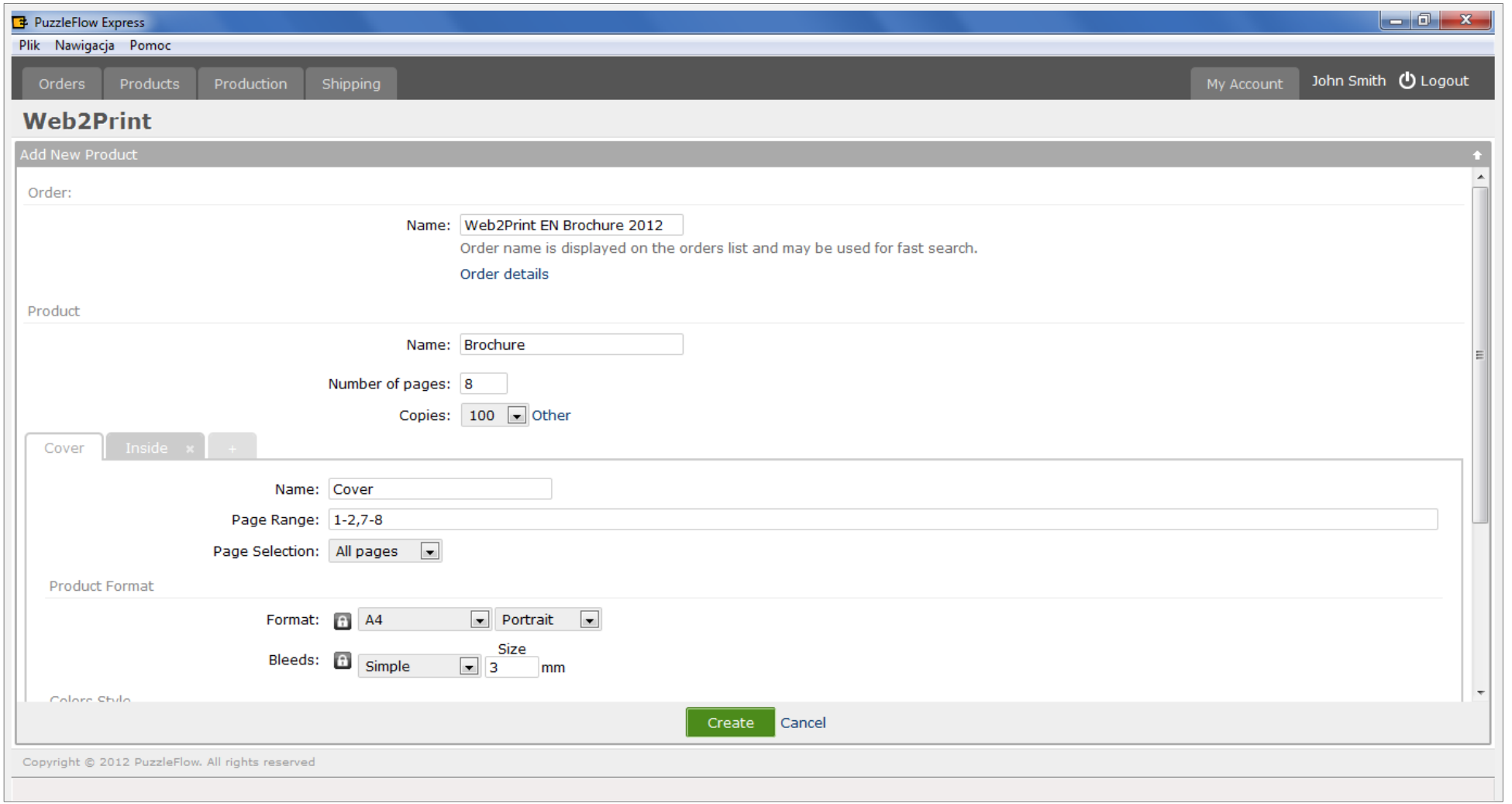
- **Acquisition deadline** – time to which all documents should be uploaded to the server
- **Approval deadline** – time to which the order should be approved
- **Production deadline** – time to which the order should be sent to printing
- **Delivery deadline** – time to which the order should be delivered

Additionally you can specify preferred delivery type.

- Delivery to the order's owner (default)
- Delivery to the specified address
- No delivery, the order will be picked up

Once you click **Create** button your order is initialized in PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint database.

Now it's time to specify what products the order will contain. In exmaple, one may request printing three products: brochure, flyer and bussiness cards. Click **Add Product** button.



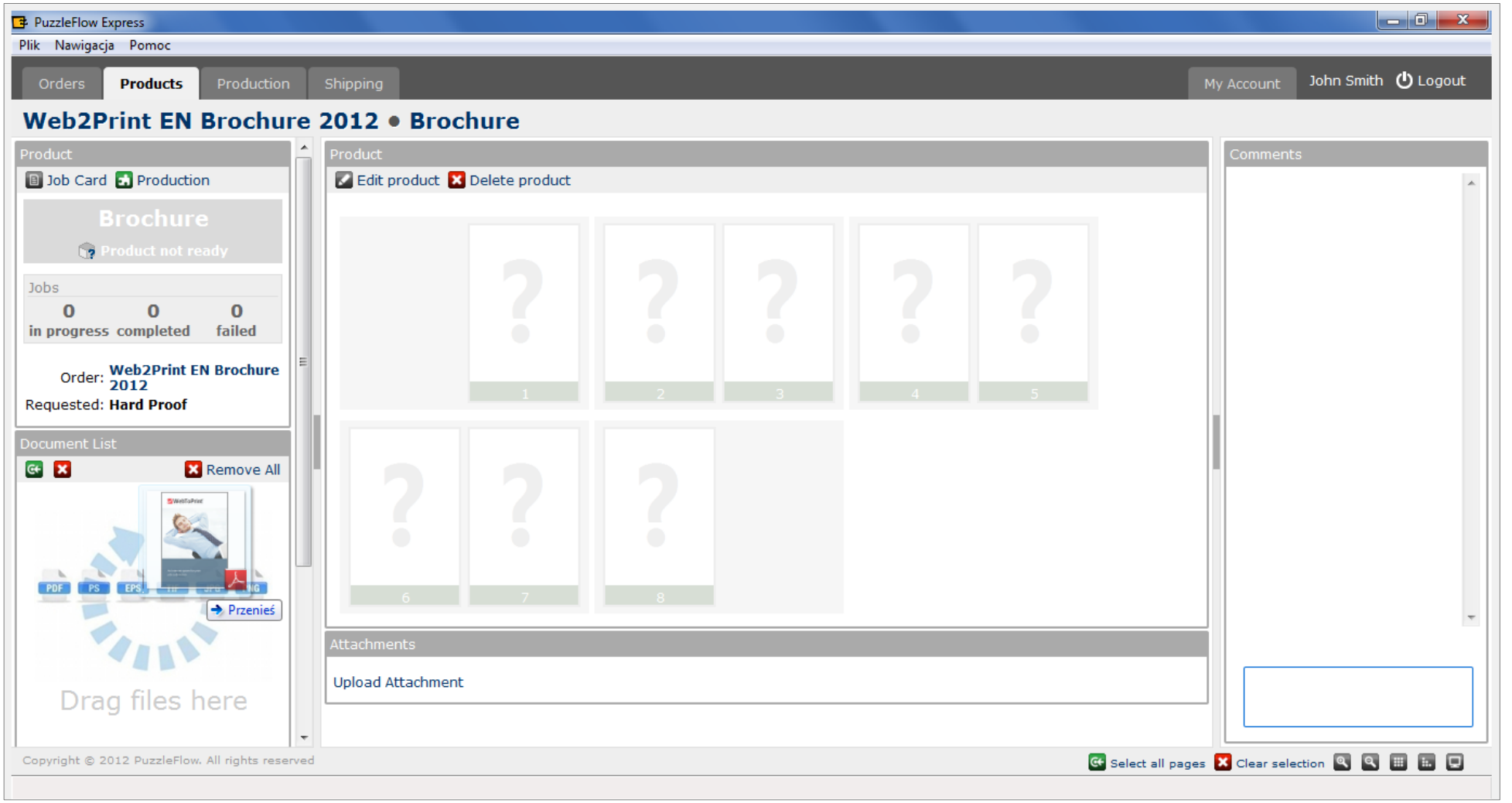
Select the product type from the list and specify its basic parameters. By default, the product is defined by the following properties.

- **Type** – general type of the product (brochure, flyer, bussiness card etc.)
- **Page count** – number of pages

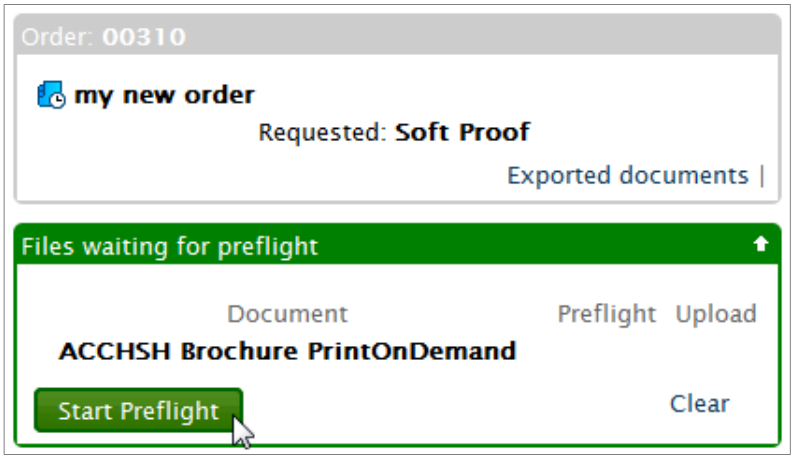
- **Quantity** – requested number of copies
- **Parts** – product parts (ie. cover and inner of the brochure)
- **Format** – final page net format, without bleeds and margins
- **Paper** – paper type and gramage
- **Coloristic** – expected color space, number of spot colors

The variety of available form fields strictly depends on product configuration on server side. In example, a printhouse may decide to offer a brochure or flyer on fixed paper type and fixed format, which simplifies product specification. In such a case the new product form would contain only page count and quantity fields.

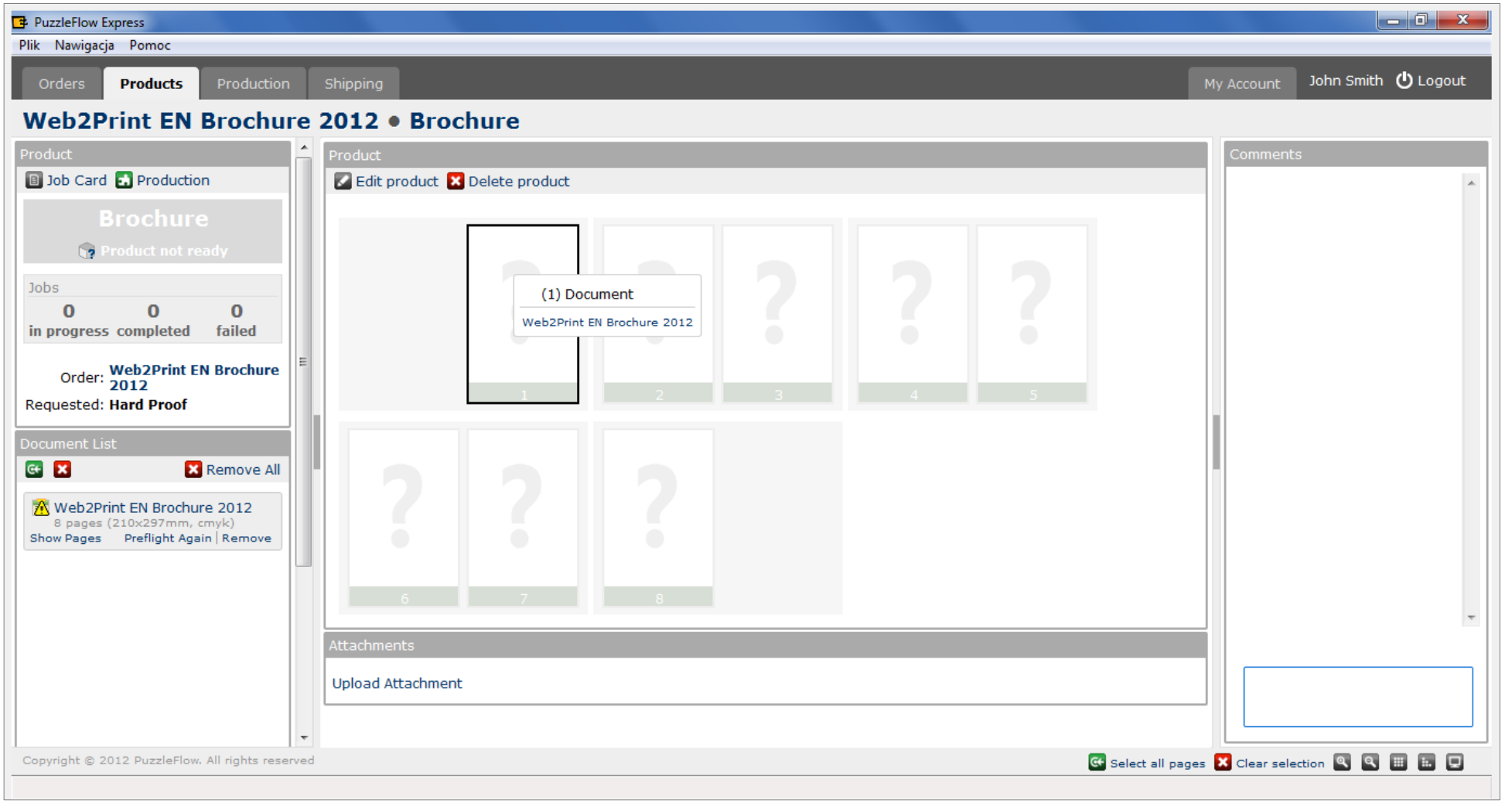
When the product is specified, a customer may get an e-mail notification that documents can now be uploaded. Select documents from disk and drag them on the green field at the left side.



Now select one of newly created products on the right to inform the system to which product the files should be assigned. Once you do that, a green button **Start Preflight** becomes active. Click it to verify selected documents, according to specification (called *preflight profile*) dynamically loaded from server.

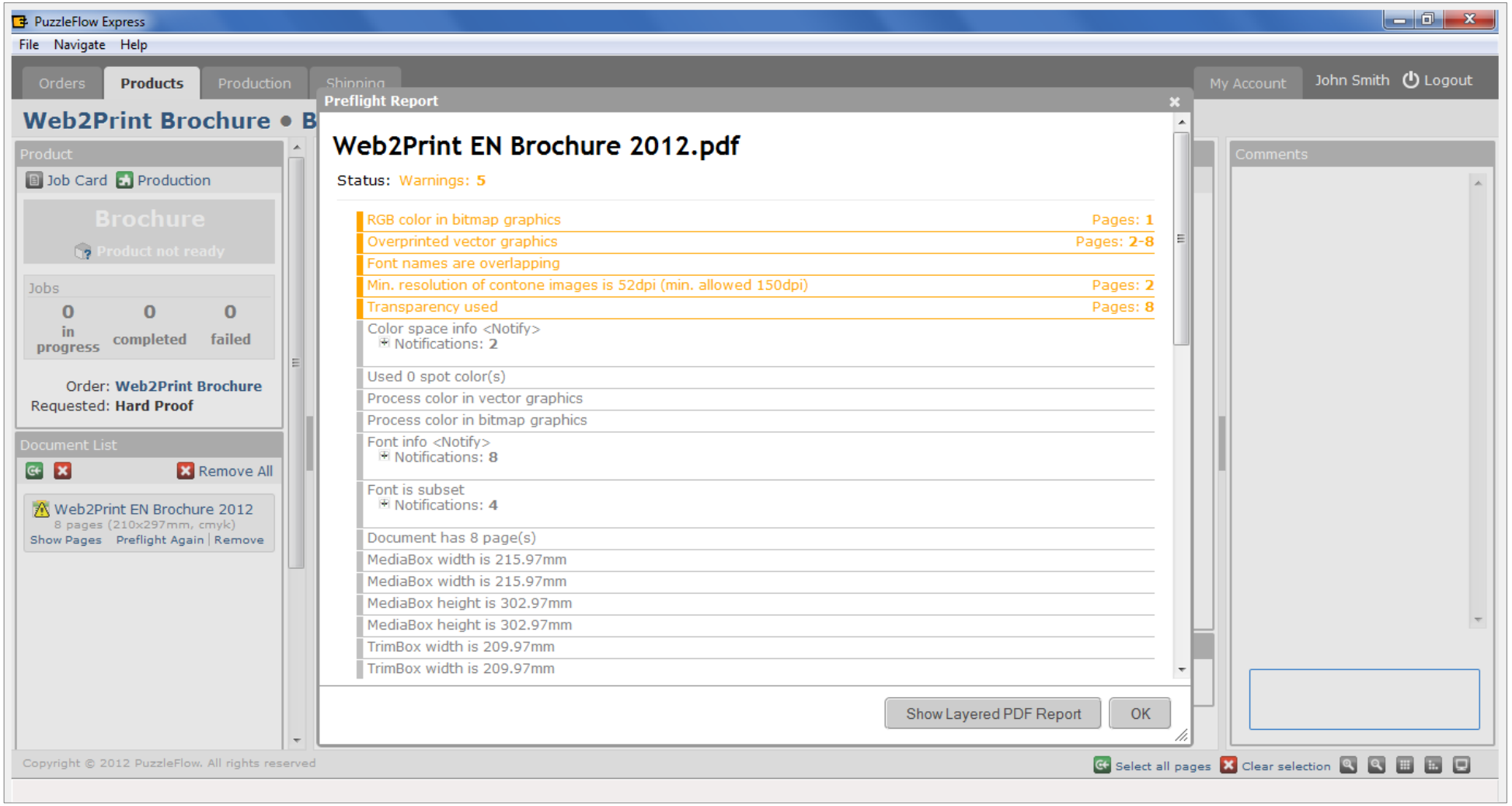


After preflight you will be asked to assign document pages to product pages. Every gray bar on the left side of the window represents a single document selected for preflight. Every rectangular thumbnail on the right is a page of the product. Initially, page thumbnails are marked with a question mark. Once files are loaded to server, actual page previews will be shown. Document pages to product pages assignment is done either by dragging items from left to right, or simply by selecting an item on the left, then clicking an appropriate page thumbnauil on the right.

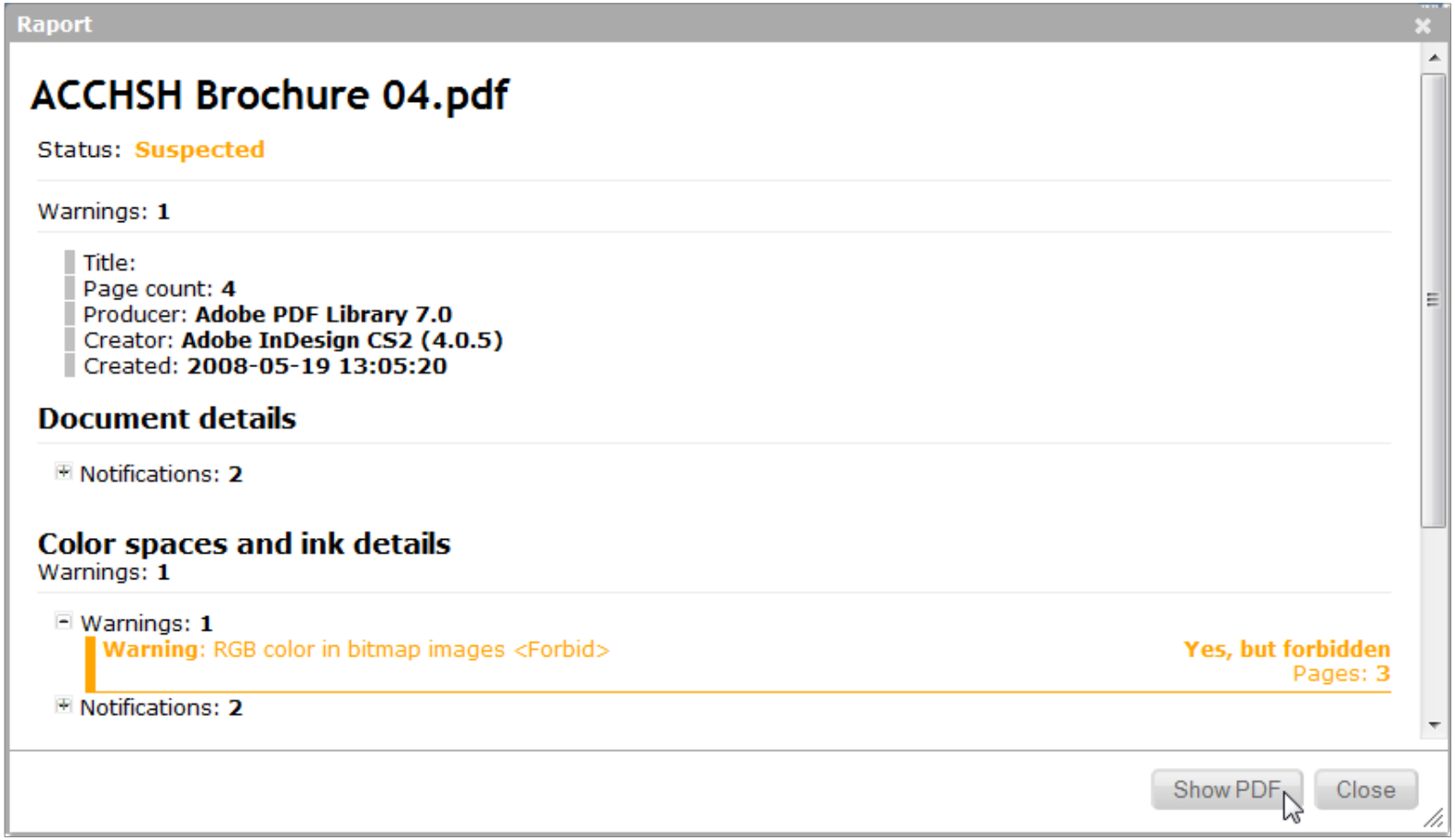


If the document is correct and satisfies production requirements, the frame around assigned product page is green. If there are some warnings or errors, page frame after assignment becomes orange or red respectively. In that case you also get a brief note of what is wrong just below the name of the assigned document.

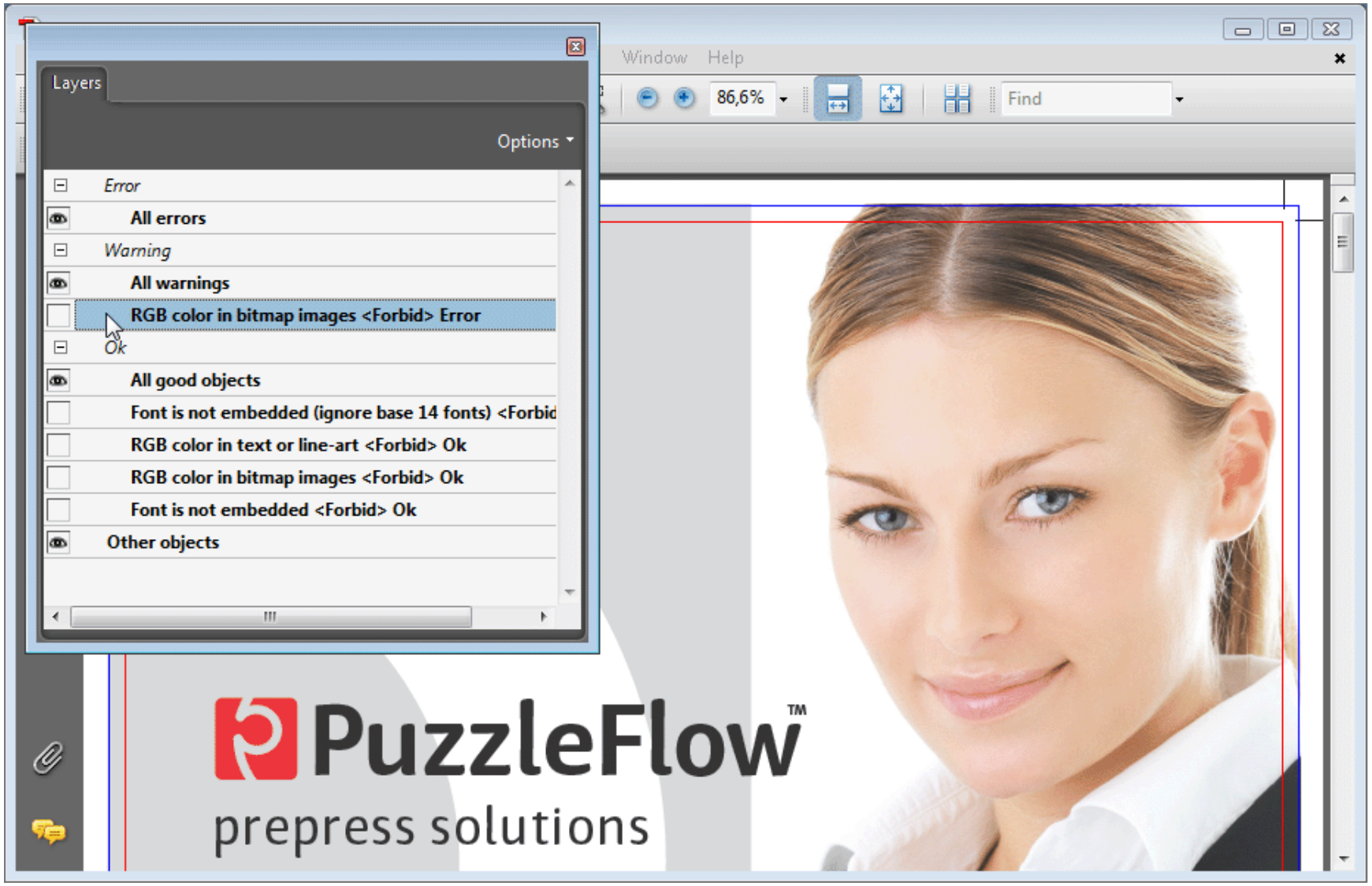
PuzzleFlow™ Express generates a detailed preflight report to help you eliminate potential problems. You may see it by clicking preflight report icon.



Notifications are marked gray. Warnings are marked orange. Serious problems are marked red. If there are neither warnings nor errors, the job is automatically assigned to declared product just after preflight process. Jobs with orange items in the preflight report can still be sent, but needs a special attention. If the job report contains red items, PuzzleFlow™ Express won't allow to send the job. In such case, correct the job first and repeat the procedure.



In addition to textual report, PuzzleFlow™ Express generates a layered copy of the original document in PDF format. When preflight warning or error refers to some graphic object (RGB graphic, text typed with not embedded font, low resulution image etc.), those objects are placed on layers to distinguish them easily from others.

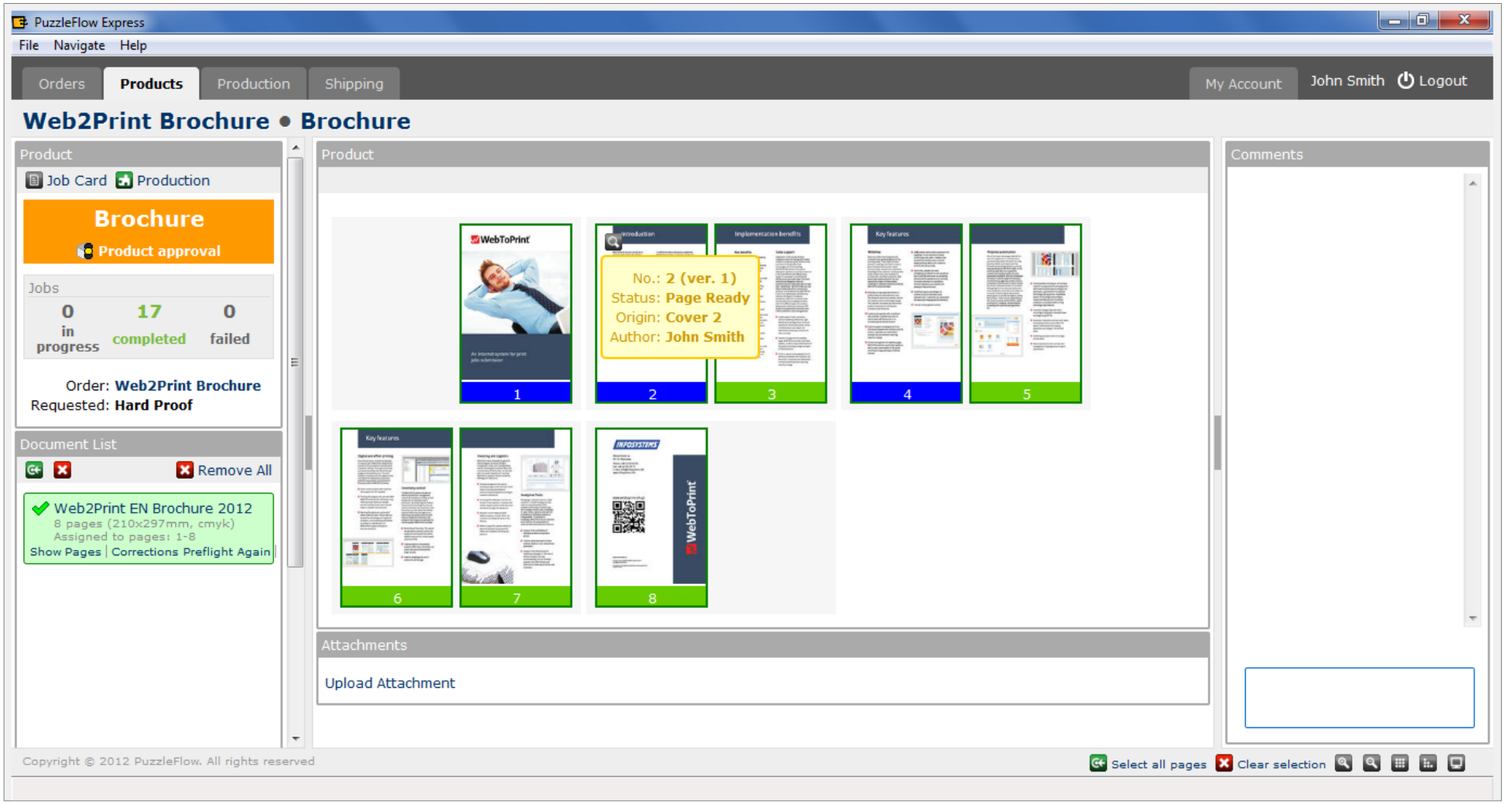

Layers
Options
Error
All errors
Warning
All warnings
RGB color in bitmap images <Forbid> Error
Ok
All good objects
Font is not embedded (ignore base 14 fonts) <Forbid
RGB color in text or line-art <Forbid> Ok
RGB color in bitmap images <Forbid> Ok
Font is not embedded <Forbid> Ok
Other objects
Window
Help
86,6%
Find
PuzzleFlow™
prepress solutions

To see only those objects that were considered dangerous, switch off layers named **Correct Objects** and **Other Objects**, leave only **Warnings** or **Errors** layers active.

Once you click **Upload**, PuzzleFlow™ Express sends all product pages to PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint server.

Just after uploading, files are processed on server. Once processing is finished, subsequent product pages previews are shown. When it happens, pages are ready for acceptance. You can review the product using interactive book-alike\ preview.

Detailed information about every product page, its version, acceptance history, reports etc. can be accessed by clicking on the page preview.


PuzzleFlow Express
File Navigate Help
Orders Products Production Shipping
My Account John Smith Logout
Web2Print Brochure • Brochure
Product
Job Card Production
Brochure
Product approval
Jobs
0 in progress
17 completed
0 failed
Order: Web2Print Brochure
Requested: Hard Proof
Document List
Remove All
Web2Print EN Brochure 2012
8 pages (210x297mm, cmyk)
Assigned to pages: 1-8
Show Pages | Corrections Preflight Again
Product
No.: 2 (ver. 1)
Status: Page Ready
Origin: Cover 2
Author: John Smith
Attachments
Upload Attachment
Comments
Copyright © 2012 PuzzleFlow. All rights reserved
Select all pages
Clear selection

Order processing

In opposite to a classical workflow system, PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint operates on orders rather then on files. The order in PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint is a single commission from a given customer, no matter by how many related files it is represented. Every order may consist of several products. In example, the customer may request to print a flyer, a brochure and some bussiness cards at once. The product may in turn consist of some distinct parts, like in the case of books or magazines, where usually the cover page and the inner part are printed separately. Finally, every product (or a part of the product if distinguished) requires a file submitted by the customer with Express Client application.

Every order is always at one of the following states:

- empty order
- order during acquisition
- order in production
- order during proofing
- closed order

Empty order

Empty order is a very initial order status. It means that the order has been created but no files has been uploaded yet. Roughly, the customer is currently running PuzzleFlow™ Express Client and will upload files soon.

Order during acquisition

If the order changes its status from empty to acquisition, it means that the customer has already finished filling-in Express Client wizard but the order is still not ready for processing. Usually we see this status when the files are currently being uploaded to PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint repository.

Order in production

If the order changes its status from acquisition to production, it means that order is currently being processed or the processing has been finished already and awaits for acceptance. If there is a need to resend some parts of the order, one can **resubmit** the order, after which it changes its status back to acquisition.

Order during proofing

If hard proofing has been requested, the order may also have an additional status indicating that it is just being proofed (this status is not always present).

Closed order

Once we are done with the order, the system operator marks the order as closed. Nothing more can happen with this order except if it will be reopened, then it gets the production state, or resubmitted then it is reverted to the acquisition state.

Job processing

A job is the elementary processing unit in PuzzleFlow™ WebToPrint. Roughly, a job is every single PDF document processed by a given workflow queue. Several PDF documents processed by the same workflow queue at once are all separate jobs. The same document processed subsequently by several workflow queues also become a separate job at each queue.

Every job is always at one of the following states:

the job has just been spotted by hotfolder

the job is waiting for processing

the job is not yet ready to be processed

the job is ready to be processed

the job is currently being tested by hotfolder

the job is currently being processed

the job has been completed successfully

the job has been completed with some warnings

the job has been intentionally held and awaits for user action (ie. approval)

the job has been manually aborted by the user

the job failed to process

Contact

Please visit http://www.puzzleflow.com to know more about us and our products. If you want to download a demo version of the software, documentation or other materials, please register using a contact form available on the webstie. The registration is is free and requires just some basic information about you. After the registration we send you a password code to the customer zone at http://support.puzzleflow.com/.

Feel free to send technical issues to support@puzzleflow.com, sales and marketing questions to office@puzzleflow.com.