Configuring

Defining workflows to process XML

To process XML jobs, you define one or more workflows that manipulate the XML.

Before you define XML workflows:

‣ Read the usage scenario for processing orders in an XML file. That scenario uses four workflows to process XML.
‣ Evaluate the XML files that provide input to the process and decide how many workflows are required to process the XML. See the related topic about preparing to receive XML.

If your company uses a proxy server and your workflow has a **DownloadFile** step, set up RICOH ProcessDirector to use the proxy server.

To define workflows to process XML:

1. On the Workflow page, add the first workflow.

2. After the **SetJobPropsFromTextFile** step, add a step based on the **DetectInputDataStream** step template.

3. If the workflow creates jobs from XML, add one or more steps based on the **CreateJobsFromXML** step template.
   Set these properties:
   ○ For the **XML input file** property:
     ▪ Use the default value if the XML file is in the spool directory for the job.
     ▪ Specify the directory path and file name if the XML file is at another location.
   ○ For the **XPath expression to create jobs** property, specify the XPath expression that you defined for the step.
   ○ For the **Workflow for new jobs** property, select the workflow that the **CreateJobsFromXML** step submits the new jobs to.
   ○ For the **Create as child job** property:
     ▪ To create child jobs, select **Yes**.
       For example, create child jobs for items in an order.
     ▪ To create independent jobs, select **No**.
       For example, do not create child jobs for independent orders.
   ○ For **Stop when no matching elements**:
     ▪ Select **Yes** if every XML input file has one or more elements that match the XPath expression. You want the job to go into error when the step does not find any elements that match.
       For example, a **CreateJobsFromXML** step creates an XML job for each order in an XML input file. Every XML input file has one or more orders. You want the job to go into error when the step does not find any order elements.
     ▪ Select **No** if some XML input files have no elements that match the XPath expression. You want the job to continue to the next step in the workflow when the step does not find any elements that match.
       For example, a **CreateJobsFromXML** step creates an XML job for each print item in an order. Orders can have print items, promotional items, or both. You want the job to continue to the next step in the workflow when the step does not find any matching elements for print items.
   ○ For the **Name for new job** property, specify the value to use for the **Name** property of the jobs that the step creates.

4. If the workflow converts XML data to another format, add one or more steps based on the **ApplyXSLTransform** step template.
   As a guideline, add an **ApplyXSLTransform** step to the workflow that a **CreateJobsFromXML** step submits jobs to.
   The **ApplyXSLTransform** step can convert XML elements into RICOH ProcessDirector job or document properties that other steps in the workflow use.

5. To use a URL to download files for processing, add a step based on the **DownloadFile** step template.

6. Add the steps required for your process.

   For example, add the steps required to process PDF files.

7. Save the workflow.

8. To add the next workflow, repeat the steps for adding the first workflow.

9. When you finish adding workflows, test them.

Parent topic: Preparing to use workflows