Configuring

Workflow to split AFP jobs by size

The AFP Support feature includes step templates that you can use to split a job into smaller jobs so that, for example, they can be printed on separate printers.

To split a job without fragmenting any of its documents across two jobs, you must identify the boundaries of the documents in the job. To do that, you must define page groups in the AFP file, either when you create the job, or by using a step based on the **IndexAFP** step template, provided with the AFP Support feature.

The **IdentifyDocuments** step applies the rules that you defined in Document Property Designer to create the document property file for the original job. The **SplitDocuments** step determines which documents are placed into each child job, and updates the document properties file with that information.

Now you can choose a method for building the new AFP files for the child jobs:

- You can use a **CreateJobsFromDocuments** step, which makes document properties files for the child jobs but does not create AFP files. In this implementation, you must include a **BuildAFPFromDocuments** step in the workflow assigned to the child jobs. **BuildAFPFromDocuments** creates the AFP file with all the documents in the correct order. We recommend this method. Because **BuildAFPFromDocuments** is defined in the child workflow, the step runs in parallel for all the child jobs. This parallel processing can cause the overall job to complete faster, although the existence of several parallel processes might lead to database contention issues in rare cases.
- You can add a **CreateAFPJobsFromDocuments** step in the Assemble phase of this workflow. If you choose this method, all the AFP files for all the child jobs are built sequentially.
  We do not recommend this method if you have the Inserter feature and the inserter controller specifies the open-loop reprint method. You must add the **BuildAFPFromDocuments** step in the child workflow for the open-loop reprint method; so, adding the **CreateAFPJobsFromDocuments** step in the original workflow causes duplicate processing, and degrades system performance.

The original workflow does not have any steps in the Print phase because the child workflow controls printing. After all the child jobs complete, the parent job goes to the next step in the original workflow.

The child workflow should begin with steps based on these two step templates: **SetJobPropsFromTextFile** and **SetJobPropsFromOriginal**. **SetJobPropsFromTextFile** sets values for job properties from the steps of the child workflow. **SetJobPropsFromOriginal** copies the values that were set in the original workflow to become the values for those properties in the child workflow. Then if you chose to run the building of the child AFP files in parallel by including a **CreateJobsFromDocuments** step in the original workflow, you need to use a **BuildAFPFromDocuments** step in the child workflow.

> ⬇ Note:
> - If you have customized phase names in your system, the phase names in the tables might not match the names in your system.

Splitting jobs by size, using CreateJobsFromDocuments

Parent/child	Phase	Step
Parent	Receive	SetJobPropsFromTextFile In the Input data stream field, select **AFP**.
	Prepare	UseInlineFormDefinition
		IndexAFP
		EnableRepositioning
		IdentifyDocuments
	Assemble	SplitDocuments
		CreateJobsFromDocuments
	Complete	RetainCompletedJobs
		RemoveJobs

Parent/child	Phase	Step
Child	Receive	SetJobPropsFromTextFile
		SetJobPropsFromOriginal
	Assemble	BuildAFPFromDocuments
	Print	EnableRepositioning
		CreatePageRanges
		PrintJobs
	Complete	RetainCompletedJobs
		RemoveJobs

Splitting jobs by size, using CreateAFPJobsFromDocuments

Parent/child	Phase	Step
Parent	Receive	SetJobPropsFromTextFile In the Input data stream field, select **AFP**.
	Prepare	UseInlineFormDefinition
		IndexAFP
		EnableRepositioning
		IdentifyDocuments
	Assemble	SplitDocuments
		CreateAFPJobsFromDocuments
	Complete	RetainCompletedJobs
		RemoveJobs
Child	Receive	SetJobPropsFromTextFile
		SetJobPropsFromOriginal
	Print	EnableRepositioning
		CreatePageRanges
		PrintJobs
	Complete	RetainCompletedJobs
		RemoveJobs

Parent topic: Configuring AFP Support for documents