

## Overview

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# Understanding page counts in PDF jobs

When a PDF job with a JDF job ticket that specifies a mixture of duplex and simplex pages is processed by the **CountPages** step, the blank sides of the simplex sheets are not counted in the **Total pages** property. Some printer controllers cannot process job tickets with these **Sides page exceptions**.

For those controllers, you can use either the **IdentifyPDFDocuments** or the **BuildPDFFromDocuments** step to insert blank pages in the PDF file instead, through the **Page exceptions for sides** property. Both of those step templates are included in the PDF Document Support feature.

The **Page exceptions for sides** property has these values:

- **Replace with job value**  
All **Sides** are processed using the **Duplex** job property. All existing **Sides page exceptions** in the JDF are removed. If a simplex page is included in a duplex job, a blank PDF page is inserted in the output PDF. The blank page is counted in the **Total pages** property and could result in a click charge by the printer vendor for that page.
- **Keep values from JDF:**  
All the **Sides page exceptions** in the JDF are included in the JDF produced by the step. The job-level **Sides** value in the JDF is also used. The blank sides are not included in the **Total pages** property.

If an AFP or PostScript job is transformed to PDF using the **TransformToPDFWithMediaInfo** step that is provided with the Advanced Transform feature, any sides settings in the AFP or PostScript are preserved as **Sides page exceptions** in the JDF output by the transform. Blank sides produced by these page exceptions are not included in the **Total pages** property.

The JDF job ticket produced by the step includes a **Sides page exception** for every page in the job. To improve processing speed, add an **OptimizeJDF** step in the workflow after the **TransformToPDFWithMediaInfo** step.

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