

Configuring

[Configuring](#) / [Configuring document processing features](#) / [Working with sample AFP files](#) / [Customizing properties for AFP files](#)
/ Linking custom properties to index tags

Linking custom properties to index tags

You can use RICOH Visual Workbench to link document or job properties to index tags in a sample AFP file.

When a property is linked to an index tag, RICOH ProcessDirector steps assign the value of the index tag in a production AFP file to the property in a workflow. For example, if the value of the index tag is a ZIP code, the value of the document property is also the ZIP code.

You can link more than one property to the same index tag. For example, you might want to link one document property to one portion of an index tag value and link another document property to another portion of the same index tag value. For example, an address line might contain both a city and state or country. If the index tag contains both the city and the country, you can make separate document properties of City and Country.

You can also link several index tags to the same property. For example, if you have an index tag named "routing code" and an index tag named "postal code", you can map both index tags to the property "mail code". You can use the same Visual Workbench control file for several jobs that use different index tag names for the same property; however, the system expects that only one of the index tags will be in a particular document. If more than one index tag occurs in a document, the system assigns the property value based on the first occurrence.

You do not need to link all properties to index tags, and you do not need to link all index tags to properties. RICOH ProcessDirector displays the value of an unlinked property as **Not set**.

These symbols indicate the status of each document property and index tag:

- The **unlinked** (🔗) symbol indicates the property or index tag is unlinked.
- The **linked** (🔗) symbol indicates the property or index tag is linked.

Before you can link document properties to index tags:

- Open a sample AFP file in RICOH Visual Workbench. The sample file must contain page groups and the index tags that you want to link to document properties. Use the AFP Indexer mode of RICOH Visual Workbench to create page groups and index tags.
- As the RICOH ProcessDirector system user (**aiw1** is the default), create a directory to store the control file containing the links. We recommend the `/aiw/aiw1/control_files/workbench` (Linux) or `C:\aiw\aiw1\control_files\workbench` (Windows) directory, because files in this directory are backed up when you use the **aiwbackup** process. This directory and any files you create should be owned by the RICOH ProcessDirector system user or a member of the RICOH ProcessDirector group (**aiwgrp1** is the default), with the same permissions (775) as the `control_files` directory.

To link a property to an index tag:

1. In RICOH Visual Workbench, click **Mode ⇒ Document Property Designer**.
If the Document Property Designer mode is the only mode that is available, this mode is selected automatically.
2. Click **Tools ⇒ Link Properties**.
In the window that displays, properties are listed in a table, in alphabetical order by property name; document properties precede job properties. To sort the properties in a different order, click the column heading. Click once to sort in ascending order; click twice to sort in descending order.
3. In the Link Properties window:
 1. Select a property and select the index tag that you want to link to the property.
Optional: You can select more than one index tag to link to a single property, or select more than one property to link to a single index tag.
 2. Click **Link**.
4. Optional: In the Define Link Options window, define the link options for the property.
5. Click **OK**.
6. To link other properties to index tags, repeat steps [3](#) to [5](#).
7. Click **OK**.
You see the properties and linked index tags listed on the **Document Properties** tab and the **Job Properties** tab in the bottom pane.
8. To save the Visual Workbench control file that contains information about how the properties are linked to index tags, do one of these:
 - To save a new control file, click **File ⇒ Save control file as**. Select the directory you created above and type the name of the control file in the **File name** field, and then click **Save**. Remember where you saved the control file because you must specify the location of the control file when you configure the steps that identify documents in AFP files. The default extension for control files is `.ctl`. The file is an XML file.

- To save an updated control file, click **File ⇒ Save control file**.
- If you used AFP Indexer to define the index tags, you should use the same control file for the document and job properties.

📌 **Note:** When you add a step to the workflow, you can reference the control file name using symbol notation if the name of the control file for the job matches a value of a job property, such as the job name.

Parent topic: [Customizing properties for AFP files](#)