

Configuring

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Grouping child jobs

Hot folder input devices can generate child jobs if they are configured to use a batching method. LPD input devices can receive multiple input files on a print command. However, LPD input devices with a Linux parent server cannot create parent jobs with multiple children. As a result, one parent job and one child job are created for each input file. If the AFP Support feature is installed, Download input devices can create child jobs from multi-dataset jobs received from Download for z/OS and AFP Download Plus, or the input devices can merge the jobs into a single job.

Child jobs created by any of these methods are independent of one another and they do not process in any particular order. To treat these jobs as a group of dependent jobs, you can configure a workflow and an input device that keep child jobs together as they progress through the workflow.

RICOH ProcessDirector provides the **WaitForGroup** step template to support this function.

To group child jobs:

1. Click the **Workflow** tab.
2. Create or update a workflow to use as the child workflow.
3. If there are any processing steps where all the jobs in the group must be present, such as when the group of jobs requires manual processing, include a step that is based on the **WaitForGroup** step template. Put this step immediately before the step that requires all the jobs in the group.
For example, put this step immediately before the **PrintJobs** step. RICOH ProcessDirector does not move the jobs to the next step until all the jobs in the group have completed the previous step. You can include as many **WaitForGroup** steps as required.
4. Save and enable the workflow.
5. Click the **Main** tab.
6. In the **Input Devices** portlet, click the name of the input device that you want to use for this task.
7. In the left pane, click **Show all tabs** to fully expand the notebook.
8. Set the **Workflow** property to **ParentNoPrint**.
9. Set the **Child workflow** property to the workflow that includes the step that is based on the **WaitForGroup** step template.
10. Set the **Submit step** property to **SubmitInputFiles**.
11. If the input device is a Hot folder device, set the **Batching method** property to a value other than **None**, and set values for other properties as required.
12. Verify that the values of the pattern properties in the **Advanced** area meet the requirements of the jobs.
13. Click **OK**.

 **Note:** If the input device is enabled and connected, you see a message that asks if you want to disable and disconnect the device.

14. Select the input device and click **Enable**, then select it again and click **Connect**.

When the **SubmitInputFiles** step creates the child jobs, it assigns a process group ID and a number that represents the position of the job within the group. To see all jobs that belong to a specific process group, select one of the child jobs and click **Actions ⇒ Groups ⇒ Show Group**. RICOH ProcessDirector updates the jobs table to show all the jobs that are members of the same group as the selected job. This action is only available in the legacy user interface.

When you select an action to do on one or more jobs in a group, RICOH ProcessDirector prompts you to include the other files in the group as well.

You can also remove jobs from a group through **Actions ⇒ Groups ⇒ Remove from Group** and add jobs to a group with **Actions ⇒ Groups ⇒ Add to Group**. This action is only available in the legacy user interface.

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