

EFI Metrix Release Notes

Version 21.1.0.470

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EFI Metrix 2020.2 | *EFI Metrix Release Notes*

June 2021 / EFI Metrix 2020.2

Document Version 1

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Welcome to Metrix 21.1

EFI Metrix is an industry-leading job planning engine that transforms big data into actionable data in the most proven end-to-end integrated solution with a holistic view into manufacturing. With over 1,200 Metrix users in 25 countries and 13 years of continuous, aggressive development, Metrix is recognized as the de facto industry standard for dynamic, intelligent production planning, and automated imposition. Metrix 2020.1 introduces new features and enhancements and addresses issues found in previous releases.

Contact Information

EFI Support

Web Site:	communities.efi.com
US Phone:	1.855.EFI.4HLP (1.855.334.4457)
UK Phone:	+44 (0) 800.783.2737
EU Phone:	+49.2102.745.4500

E-Mail: metrix.support@efi.com

Metrix Support hours are 8AM CET to 5pm ET Monday – Friday. You may contact support at the above numbers or via our customer portal at communities.efi.com.

Note For problems involving infrastructure (e.g., computers, networks, operating systems, backup software, printers, third-party software, etc.), contact the appropriate vendor. EFI cannot support these types of issues.

EFI Professional Services

US Phone:	(651) 365-5321
US Fax:	(651) 365-5334
E-Mail:	ProfessionalServicesOperations@efi.com

Notes EFI Professional Services can help you perform EFI software installations, upgrades, and updates. This group can also help you implement, customize, and optimize your EFI software plus offer a range of training options.

System Requirements

Please ensure your system is running one of the supported operating systems listed below before beginning the installation process.

Metrix 21.1 system requirements:

- Metrix 21.1 requires 64-bit systems. It will **not** run on 32-bit systems.
- Metrix now supports Mac OS 11* and OS X 10.15 (Catalina)

Note *While Metrix runs on **Mac OS 11**, we are aware of an issue with a component provided by one of our software technology partners. This problem causes significant performance issues when previewing. Our technology partner is aware of the issue and as soon as a fix is available we will release a Metrix hot fix. We recommend postponing upgrading to **Mac OS 11** at this time, but if you decide to run Metrix on this platform, we recommend disabling previews.

To disable previews:

1. Using a text editor, open **metrix.properties** (C:\ProgramData\EFI\Metrix on Windows or /Applications/EFI/Metrix on Mac).
2. Add the line:
showPreviews=false

Notes Microsoft has ended support for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 effective January 14, 2020, so Metrix 21.1 does not support these platforms. We recommend you upgrade your system to Metrix current minimum system requirements.

For more information on the installation process, please see the *EFI Metrix 2020.2 Installation Guide*.

Windows Minimum System Requirements for Metrix 21.1

<i>Processor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intel compatible • Minimum 2-core and 4-thread processor for rectangular products • Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Irregular Shape products • Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Super Wide Format • Recommended: 8-core and 16-thread
<i>Processor Speed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.8 GHz minimum
<i>Windows Operating System</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Windows 10.x (64-bit) • Microsoft Windows 8.x (64-bit) • Microsoft Windows Server 2019 (64-bit) • Microsoft Windows Server 2017 (64-bit) • Microsoft Windows Server 2016 (64-bit) • Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 (64-bit) • Microsoft SQL Server 2014 SP3 and SP4 (64-bit) • Microsoft SQL Server 2016, 2017, and 2019 <p>Note Metrix no longer supports Microsoft Windows 7.x or Windows Server 2008.</p>
<i>Memory</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrix Client – 4 GB RAM • Metrix Data Server – 2 GB RAM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automation Server Pro – 16 GB RAM (Minimum) to 4 GB RAM per CPU Core (64 GB RAM Maximum) Automation Server Enterprise – 64 GB RAM (Minimum) to 4 GB RAM per CPU Core (256 GB RAM Maximum) Automation Server with Non-Rectangular module – 8 GB RAM (Minimum) and 1 Dual-core Processor (Minimum) Automation Server with Display Graphics/Media Optimization/Super Wide Format – 16 GB RAM (Minimum) (32 GB RAM and 16-core, 32-thread processor or better recommended) eFlow License Manager – 256 MB RAM <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px;"> <p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you use the Content Previews module, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 6 GB with 8 GB or more recommended. The Content Previews module is processor intensive, so a fast multi-core processor is recommended. If PDF content is being accessed across a LAN, gigabit network speeds are recommended when accessing large content files. If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 16 GB. If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization with a Super Wide Format, a 16-core processor is recommended. </div>
<i>Monitor Resolution</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1280 x 1024 or higher
<i>Network (multi-user)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Static IP address for the Data Server, eFlow License Manager, and Automation Server. Automation Server runs as a service and needs a local administration account.

Mac OS X Minimum System Requirements for Metrix 21.1

<i>Processor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel Core 2 Duo Minimum 2-core and 4-thread processor for rectangular products Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Irregular Shape products Minimum 4-core and 8-thread processor for Super Wide Format Recommended: 8-core and 16-thread processor
<i>Processor Speed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.8 GHz minimum
<i>Macintosh Operating System</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OS 11 (Big Sur) (*see Note above) OS X 10.15 (Catalina) OS X 10.14 (Mojave) OS X 10.13 (High Sierra) OS X 10.12 (Sierra) OS X 10.11.x (El Capitan) OS X 10.10.x (Yosemite) OS X 10.9.x (Mavericks) Microsoft SQL Server 2014 SP3 and SP4 (64-bit) Microsoft SQL Server 2016, 2017, and 2019

	<p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eFlow LIM v. 8.1.81051.20 and later is supported on Mac OS X 10.15 (Catalina) and OS 11 (Big Sur). Earlier versions of eFlow LIM will run only on Mac OS X 10.12 (Sierra) through OS X 10.14 (Mojave). • Metrix requires Java 11. Metrix installs and uses this version internally, regardless of the Java version that is installed on the computer. • If you use the Content Previews module, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 6 GB with 8 GB or more recommended. • The Content Previews module is processor intensive, so a fast multi-core processor is recommended. If PDF content is being accessed across a LAN, gigabit network speeds are recommended when accessing large content files. • If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization, the minimum RAM requirement for Metrix is 16 GB. • If you use Display Graphics/Media Optimization with a Super Wide Format, a 16-core processor is recommended.
<i>Memory</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrix Client – 4 GB RAM • Metrix Data Server – 2 GB RAM • eFlow License Manager – 256 MB RAM
<i>Monitor Resolution</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1280 x 1024 or higher
<i>Network (multi-user)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Static IP address for the Data Server and eFlow License Manager.

Licensing

Upgrade your eFlow License Manager to the latest version to ensure optimum performance and security. The installers can be found on <https://www.efi.com/marketing/productivity-software/downloads/metrix-installers/>.

Notes eFlow LIM v. 8.1.81051.20 and later is now supported on Mac OSX 10.15 (Catalina) and Mac OS 11 (Big Sur).

If you are installing eFlow LIM on any version of Mac OS X, see the *EFI Metrix 21.1 Installation Guide* for instructions and important information.

New Features

For detailed information and usage instructions on the new features and enhancements introduced in Metrix 21.1, see *EFI Metrix 21.1 What's New* and the *EFI Metrix 21.1 User Guide*.

New in 21.1

- **New algorithms: Media Optimization and Display Graphics**

Metrix 21.1 introduces two new algorithms for calculating Metrix layouts: Media Optimization and Display Graphics.

- **Digital presses**

There is a new press property that allows you to designate a press as “digital.”

- **Changes to Auto Plan dialog and “Automatic” algorithm**

With the introduction of Display Graphics and Media Optimization algorithms in Metrix 21.1, the layout of the Auto Plan dialog and the behavior of Metrix when the selected Algorithm is “Automatic” have changed.

- **Support for Mac OS 11 (Big Sur)**

Metrix 21.1 runs on Mac OS 11; however, there are significant issues with previewing so we do not recommend installing Metrix on OS 11 at this time (*see **Note** in [System Requirements](#)).

- **Ganging Style layout and component view**

When viewing layouts and components as “ganging style,” the Product ID now appears on the component.

- **Copying components from one layout to another**

It is now possible to copy components from one layout to another in the Project Explorer.

- **Irregular Shape products using Media Box or Trim Box**

Metrix 21.1 supports creating Irregular Shape products that use the Media Box or Trim Box as the Cutting contour line, allowing you to make rectangular products that can be planned on the same layout as non-rectangular products.

- **Auto Plan Sort Order**

There is the new **Sheet Area Use** option for sorting layouts.

- **No Ink is Blank Page**

There is the new **No ink is Blank Page** option for handling pages that are “Unassigned” and have no Planned Colors that allows Metrix to treat them the same as “Blank” pages. (Issue Reference: 15345)

- **Layout Tooltips**

You can now view tooltips on layouts to see the product component information when it is otherwise not readable.

- **UV Inks**

Support for UV inks and coatings was added in a Metrix 2020.2 hot fix. If there are incompatibilities in the project regarding ink types, relevant messages will appear in the Auto Plan dialog.

- **Snap to Sheet for Irregular Shape products**

Irregular shape and die-cut products planned without die-tool geometry now snap to the edges of the sheet. Snapping trim-to-trim is not supported for Irregular Shape products.

Key Fixes

- **Snap-to issues when moving items on a layout**

Several issues with items snapping to the layout or to other items have been fixed. (Issue References: 15460, 15441, 15023)

- **Unable to open some projects that can be seen in the SQL database**

If the stock was changed for a layout and a matching sheet size did not exist for the new stock, a temporary sheet was created but Metrix attached that sheet to the wrong stock. This problem has been fixed. (Issue Reference: 15087)

- **Wrong properties shown when selecting layout after other items were selected**
After selecting a mark or other item on a layout, and then selecting the layout, the properties for the mark or other item were still shown instead of the layout properties. That issue has been corrected. (Issue Reference: 14943)
- **Smaller dimensions sometimes appeared as “0”**
When measuring smaller dimensions on a layout, they sometimes appeared as “0” instead of the correct value. (Issue Reference: 14495)
- **Dragging components between layouts**
Restored the ability to drag a component from one layout to another and dropping it anywhere in the list of components. (Issue Reference: 15332)
- **Die-cut and Irregular Shape Products respect no-page and no-image areas**
Die-cut and Irregular Shape products are now aware of the no-page and no-image areas for the press. (Issue Reference: 15090)
- **Moving items in increments of 1/16” or 1mm**
- Dragging or nudging items on a layout now moves them in increments of 1/16” or 1mm. (Issue Reference: 15489, 15614)

Known Issues for the Metrix 21.1 Release

- When upgrading from Metrix 2016.1 or earlier, you are required to back up your database, install 2019.2, and then upgrade the database for 2019.2 before you can install 2020.1 and upgrade the database again. (Issue Reference: 14185)
- The JDF files that are exported when you select the Digital Cutting File type **iCutJDF** are currently not readable by Kongsberg systems. The iCut files can be read. (Issue Reference 15279)
- When dragging Irregular Shape products on Side 2 of a layout, the rules are not applied for snapping to other items and preventing the overlapping of instances. (Issue Reference: 15717, 15718)
- Blocks algorithm does not create optimal gangs when press has Press Guide Allowances defined. (Issue Reference: 14892)
- There may be some performance issues when working with large marks (over 1MB) in Metrix over VPN connections. (Issue Reference: 15370)
- Auto Production does not reset bound product components to minimum trim values. (Issue Reference: 14168)
- **Page To Bleed Gap** does not work with **Irregular Shape** and **Die-cut** products. This will be addressed in an upcoming release. (Issue Reference: 13482)
- Metrix will not save the default printer in the Export window. (Issue Reference: 8441, 13310)
- Japanese fonts may print as indecipherable text when there are multiple PDFs in a project that contain fonts with the same name but different glyphs. (Issue Reference: 13452)
- The **Auto Expand Trims** option does not work with **Auto Layout**. (Issue Reference: 12858)
- Unable to scroll beyond the right or top edges of a sheet when a layout is magnified. (Issue Reference: 13782)
- The **Allowed Bleed Intrusions** setting for die-cutting tools works in most cases, but there are a few situations in which it does not work per expectations. (Issue Reference: 13208)

- **Help** menu on Mac OS sometimes disappears after selecting other menu items. You can still select the **Help** menu by clicking on the menu bar directly to the right of the Settings menu. (Issue Reference: 13411)
- Die-cutting tools and standards created in 2018.1 show errors when opened in 2020.2 if the multi-up file used to create a die-cutting tool had horizontal and/or vertical offsets defined. Metrix ignored horizontal and/or vertical offsets in 2018.1, but in 2020.2 the offsets are applied. This results in misalignment of the die-cutting tool on the sheet and/or errors in standards and projects that use the die-cutting tool (for example, "Sheet must be large enough for Die-cut Tool").

Workaround: Edit the die-cutting tool and change the Anchor Horizontal Offset, Anchor Vertical Offset, Minimum Sheet Width, and Minimum Sheet Height values. (Issue Reference: 14296)

- If content is not found when importing a CSV product while running Metrix using millimeters, when you relink the content, the initial view may be zoomed out to 2%. Selecting Fit to Page may not cause Metrix to correctly redraw the product view.

Workaround: Select a specific magnification value from the popup menu. (Issue Reference: 15742)
