ElecRoc 6

Founder ElecRoc™

An Integrated JDF/PDF Pre-press Workflow System

Version 6

Quick Start

May 2014

Beijing Founder Electronics Co., Ltd.

FOUNDER

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This manual provides a complete introduction to all the functions and features of Founder ElecRoc Workflow Management System. However, some of them are available upon additional payment, the user interface and functions may vary accordingly. For more information, contact Founder's sales personnel.

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Chapter 1 Quick Start on ElecRoc Server

1.1 Launch Server

You can choose **Start** > **Programs** > **Founder ElecRoc** > **ElecRoc 6 Server**, or double-click the desktop icon **ElecRoc 6 Server** to launch the Server.

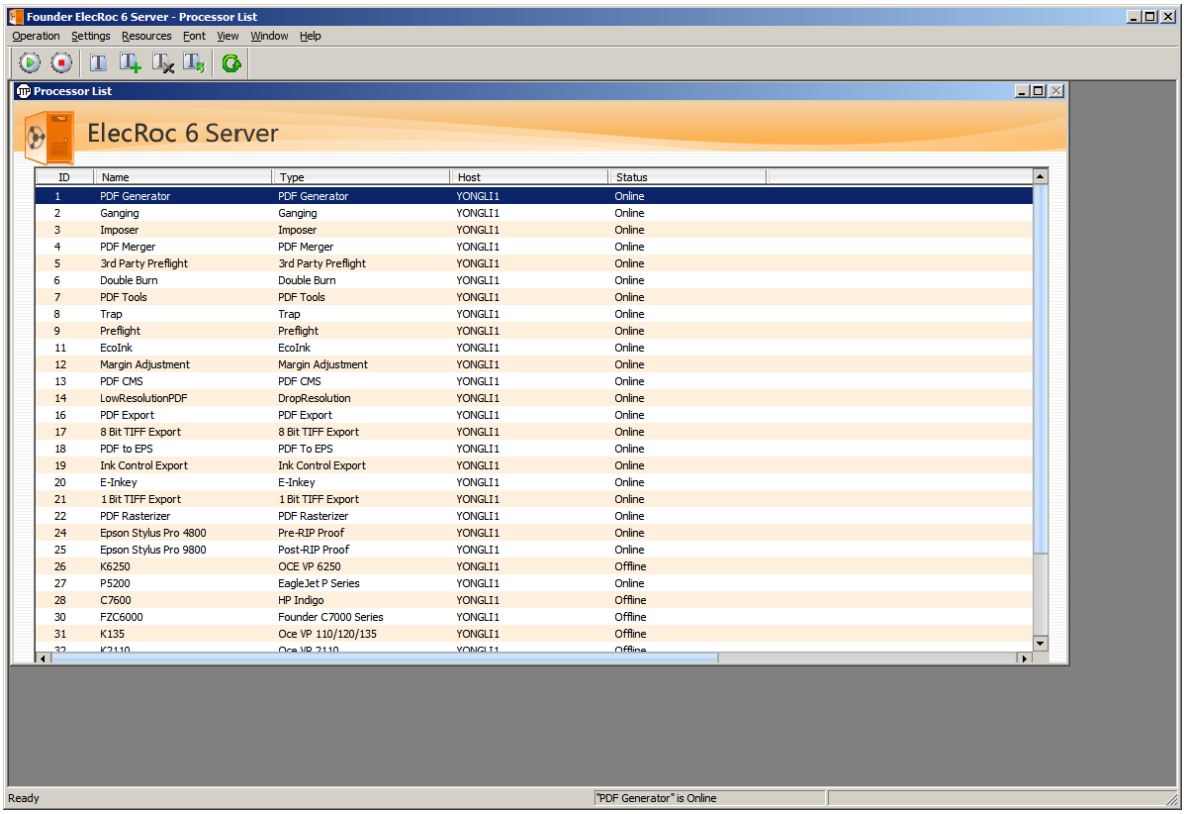

Figure 1

1.2 Start Processors

The processors must be started before it can process specific files. By default, they are all offline when the Server is launched for the first time. You can choose **Operation** > **Start Processors** from the main menu to make them all online. If you want to start only one or some of the processors, choose the processor(s) and use the right-click menu item **Start**. In case that the processor is installed on a different computer, make sure that the computer is powered on.

1.3 Authorize

Choose from the main menu **Settings** > **Authorization** to control if a client can login the Server, and to control if an ElecRoc user can access the shared folders on the server. Only clients having been authorized can login the Server. Under the **Client** tab, input the name of the computer where ElecRoc Client is installed, and then click **Add** and **Apply**. *Unlimited* (if any) in **Authorized Computer List** indicates no access limit on the clients. The setup under the **Shared Folder** tab is the same as above.

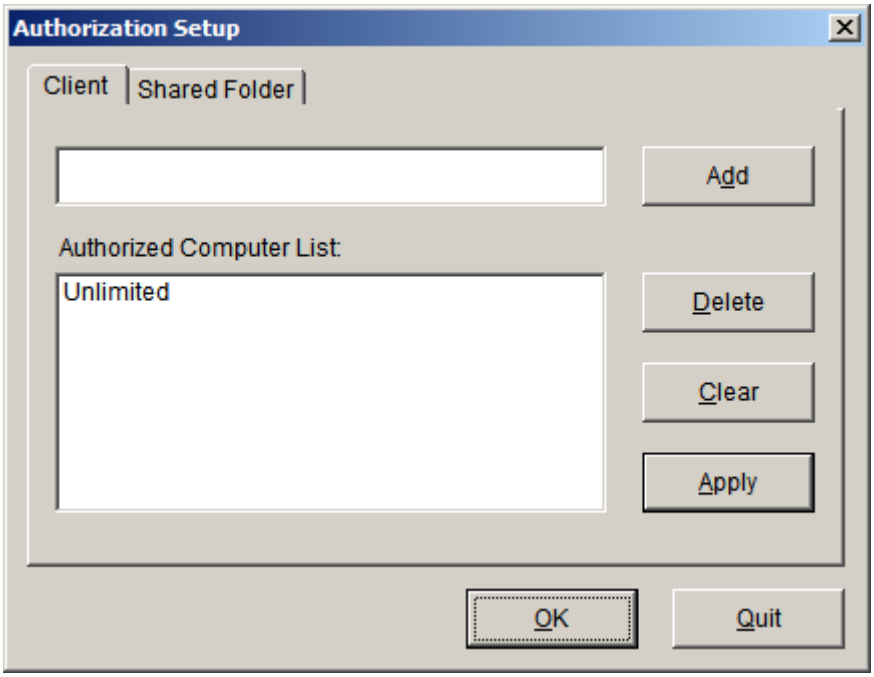

Figure 2

1.4 Path Setup

Choose **Settings** > **General**. Here you can define the system directories (including **Upload**, **Jobs** and **Ink Key** directories), the **Input Directory** and the **Image Path**.

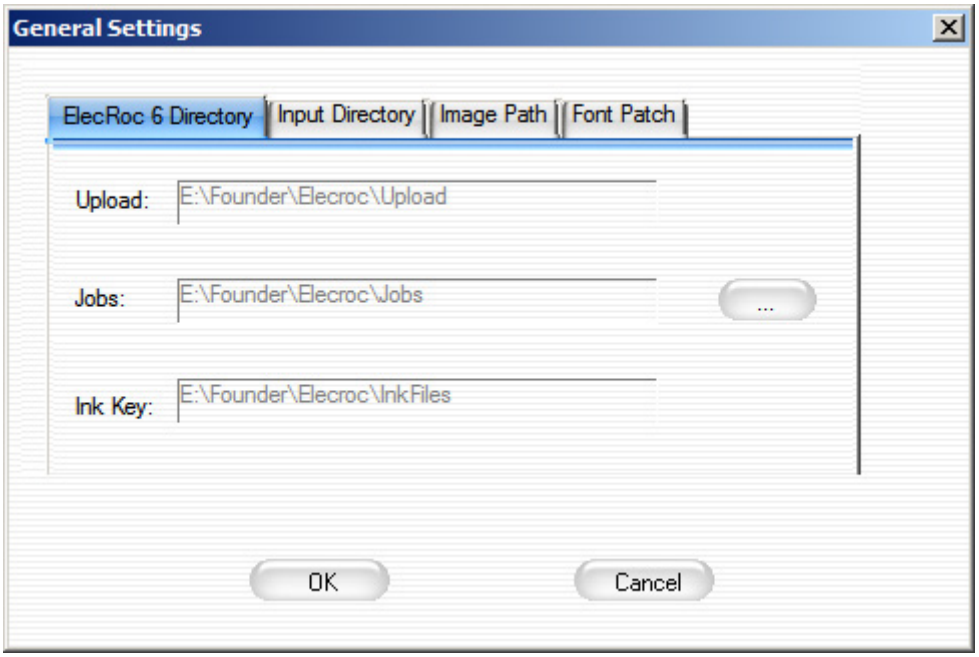

Figure 3

1.5 Font Setup

With items under the **Font** menu, you can add, delete, reset or install fonts.

Chapter 2 Quick Start on ElecRoc Client

2.1 Launch Client

After the installation of ElecRoc Client, a shortcut icon **ElecRoc 6 Client** will appear on your desktop. You can double-click this icon, or choose **Start** > **All Programs** > **Founder ElecRoc** > **ElecRoc 6 Client**, to launch the Client.

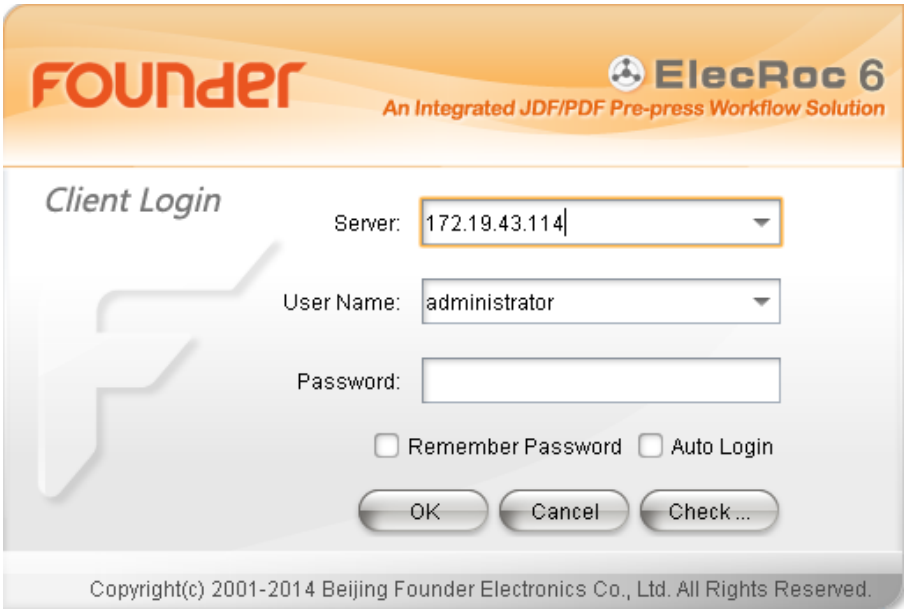

Figure 4

Note: *Only Clients that have been authorized can login the Server. Thus, before you use the Client, authorize the Client with the menu item* ***Settings*** > ***Authorization****.*

Choose the server, user, and input corresponding password. If the **Server** box doesn't contain the server you want to login, you can manually input the server's name or IP address. For the first time to login ElecRoc, choose the user **administrator** and leave **Password** blank.

Click **OK**. If successful, you see the main user interface of the Client.

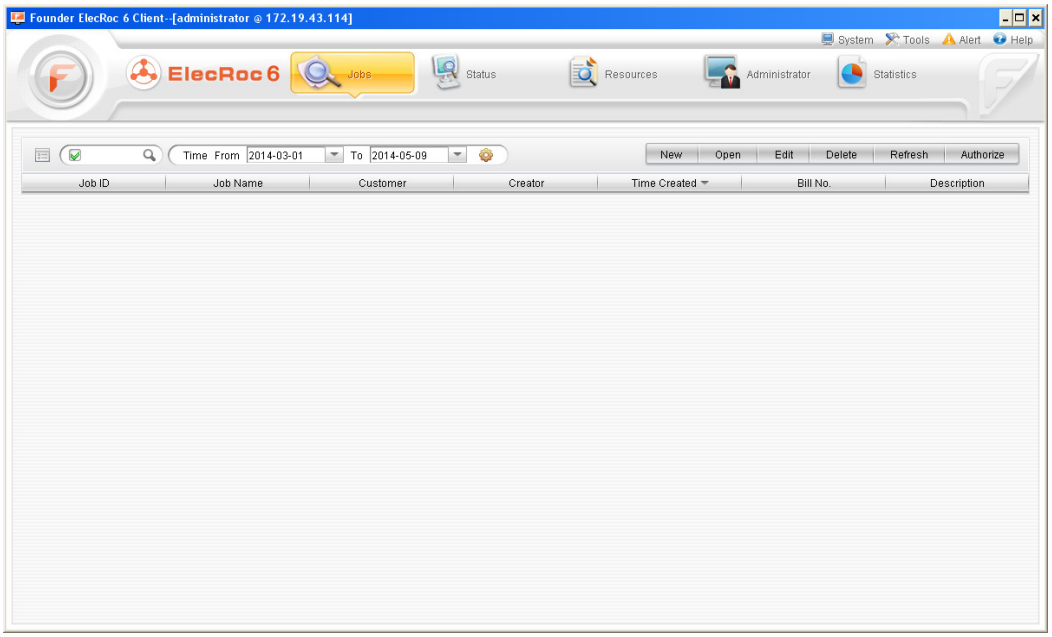

Figure 5

Note: *No password is set for administrator by default. Set a password to ensure security after the initial login.*

2.2 Using Administrative Tools

After you have launched the Client as an administrator, you can firstly set or manage some parameters and resources relating to the entire ElecRoc system, through the administrative tools. Click the **Administrator** or the **Resources** icon in the navigator to switch the interface.

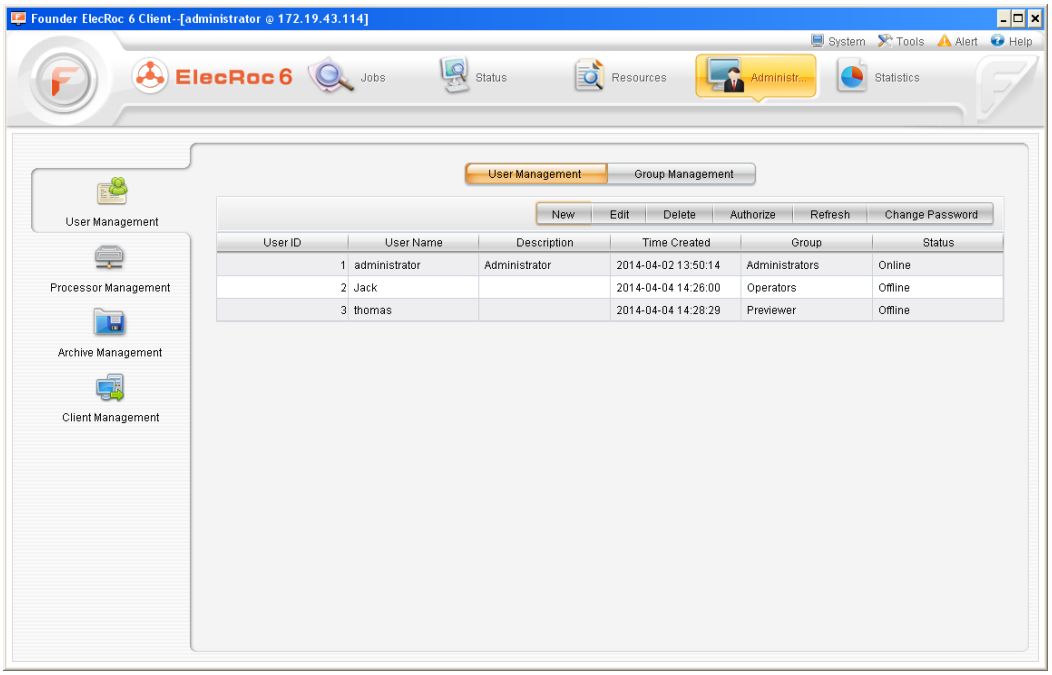

Figure 6

2.2.1 Users & Groups Management

In the module **Administrator** > **Users Management**, you can create a user or user group, and control its authorities to use the function modules in ElecRoc.

1. Create a user or group

Under the **User Management** tab, you can create a new user; and under the **Group Management** tab, you can create a new user group. Here we take how to create a new user as example: click **New** to open the **New User** dialog box. Input the user name, and if needed, the description and password, and then click **OK**.

Figure 7

2. Authorize a User

Please continue to authorize a user or group after you have created it. To authorize a user or group to use specific functions of ElecRoc, click **Authorize** to open a dialog box. Choose a user or user group in the left, and then define its authorities in the right, through the check boxes. The user or group can only use the checked functions.

Figure 8

2.2.2 Processor Management

In the module **Administrator** > **Processor Management**, you can view all the processors available in your ElecRoc system, define their default settings, and control if ElecRoc users can use them.

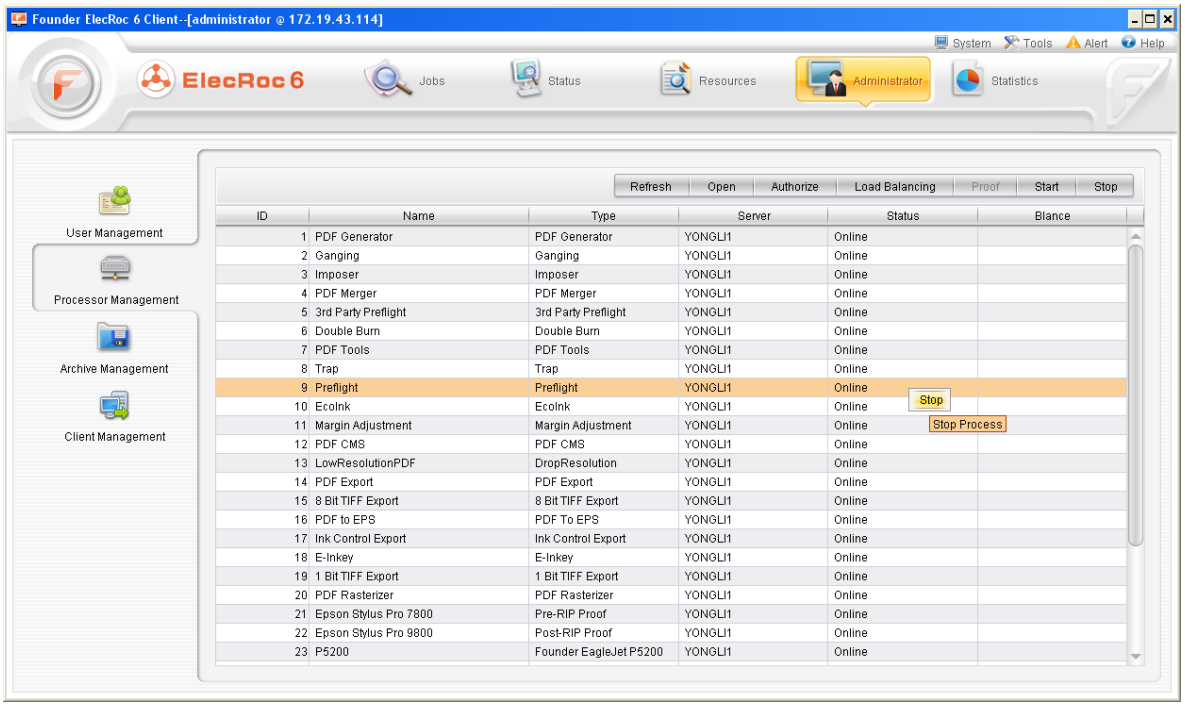

Figure 9

1. Authorize a processor

Authorization enables you to grant a user or user group's access to a specific processor.

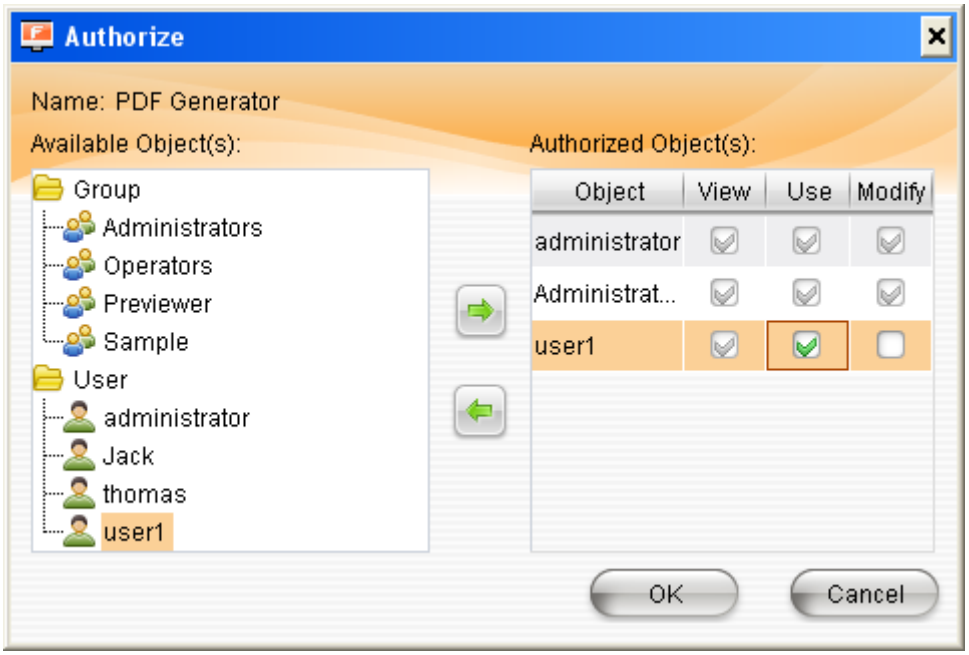

Figure 10

To authorize, choose the processor in the list and click **Authorize**. In the pop-up dialog box, choose one or more users or user groups in the left, and then click the button to add them into the right. And after that, you can control the specific authorities of an authorized user by way of the **View**, **Use** and **Modify** boxes, i.e. whether the user can view its parameter setup in the job, use it in the job, and modify the parameter setup.

To cancel the authority, choose the users or groups at the right, and click the button.

2. Modify default parameter setup

ElecRoc pre-defines built-in parameter setup for each processor. To modify the default setup for a specific processor, double-click it to open the setup window. Re-define each parameter as needed, and then click **Apply**.

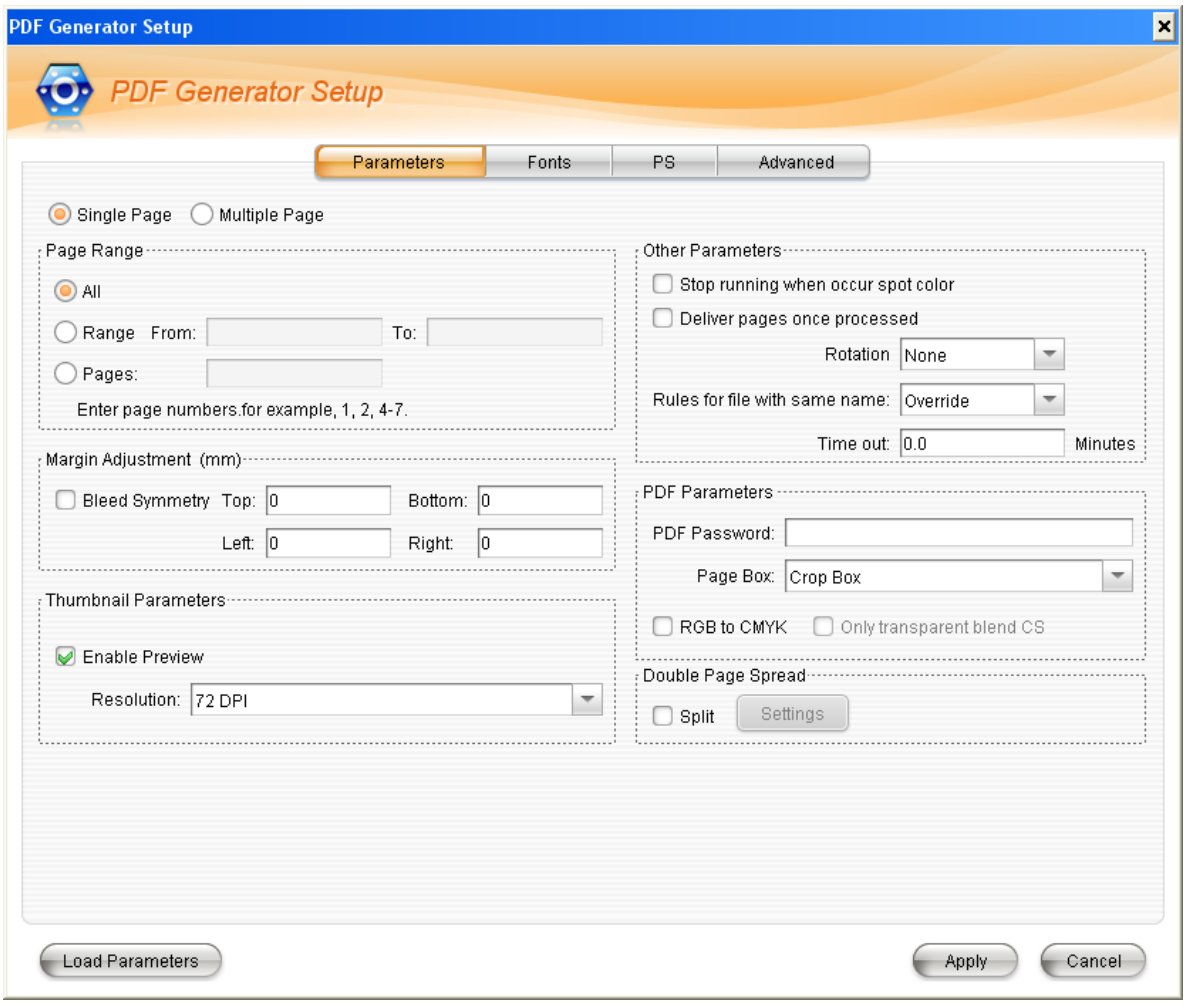

Figure 11

In addition, you can click the **Load Parameters** button at the lower-left, and choose **Save as** to save your setup as a parameter template. By way of the template, you can quickly load a set of parameter settings in your workflow operation.

2.2.3 Profile Resource Management

In the module **Resources** > **Profile Resource**, you can manage the resource applied in PDF process, including preflight profiles, trap profiles, ICC profiles, spot color tables, and EcoInk solutions, for use by processor nodes like 3rd Party Preflight, Trap, PDF CMS, PDF

Rasterizer, and EcoInk in your job.

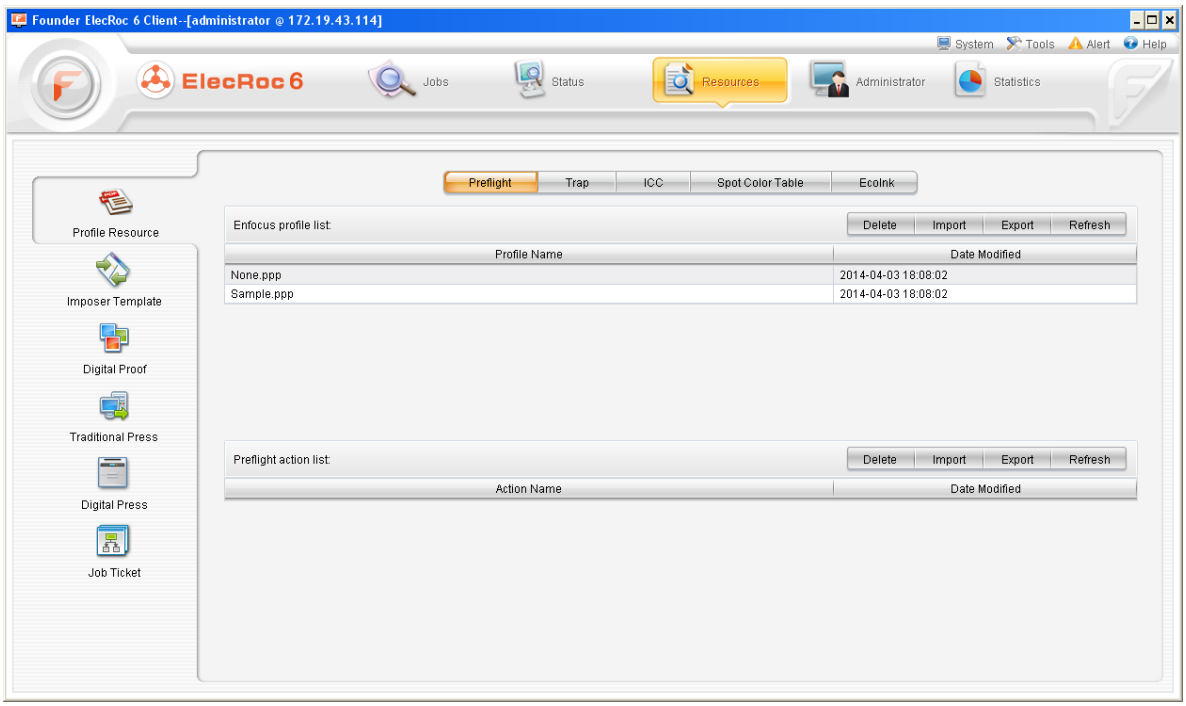

Figure 12

If you are going to use the above resources in your job, please make them ready here in advance. ElecRoc supports you to import, export these resource. And as to the trap profiles, spot color tables, and EcoInk solutions, it enables you to create and edit as well.

2.2.4 Imposer Template Management

In the module **Resources** > **Imposer Template**, you can create, edit or modify the imposer templates and composer templates that can be used by all ElecRoc clients.

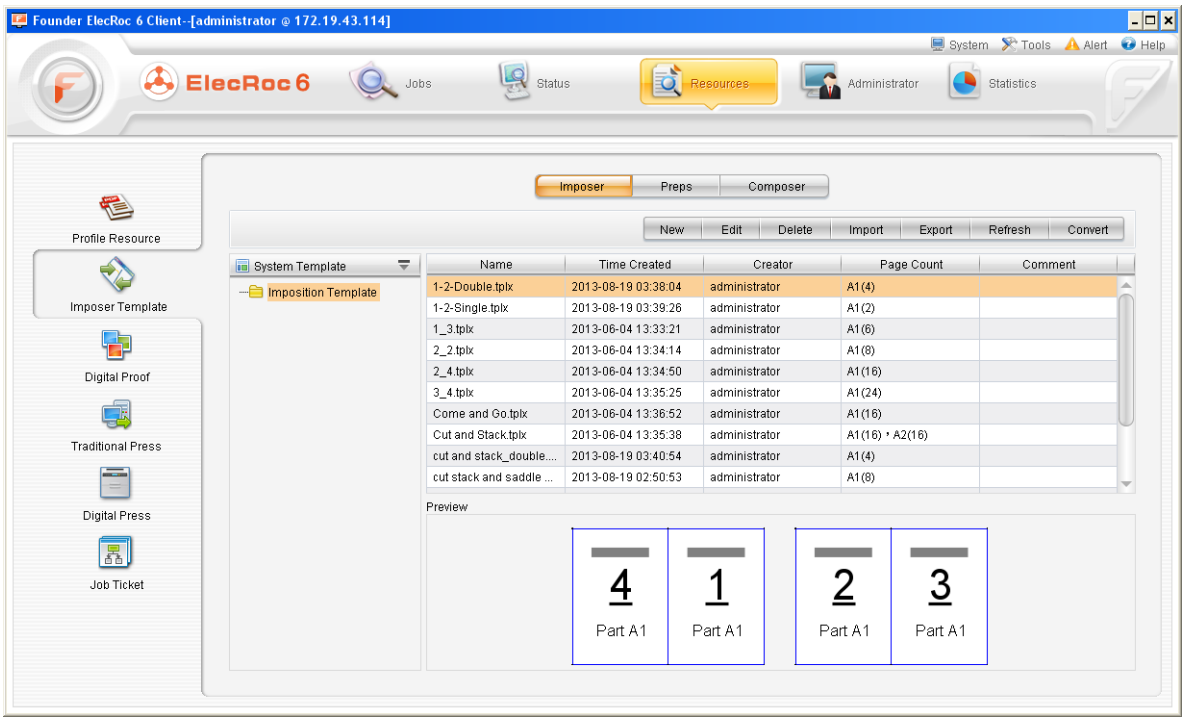

Figure 13

Here you can start up Founder's or 3rd-party's imposer template editing program, to create or edit a template that can be used in imposing process. And you can also start up the composer module, to create a composing template.

Importing and exporting of the imposer and composer templates are also supported. Moreover, you can convert the imposer templates created by earlier ElecRoc versions, so that they can be used in current version.

2.2.5 Digital Proof Management

In the module **Resources** > **Digital Proof**, you can manage two types of resource involved in pre/post-RIP proof: CMF calibration files and color tune curves.

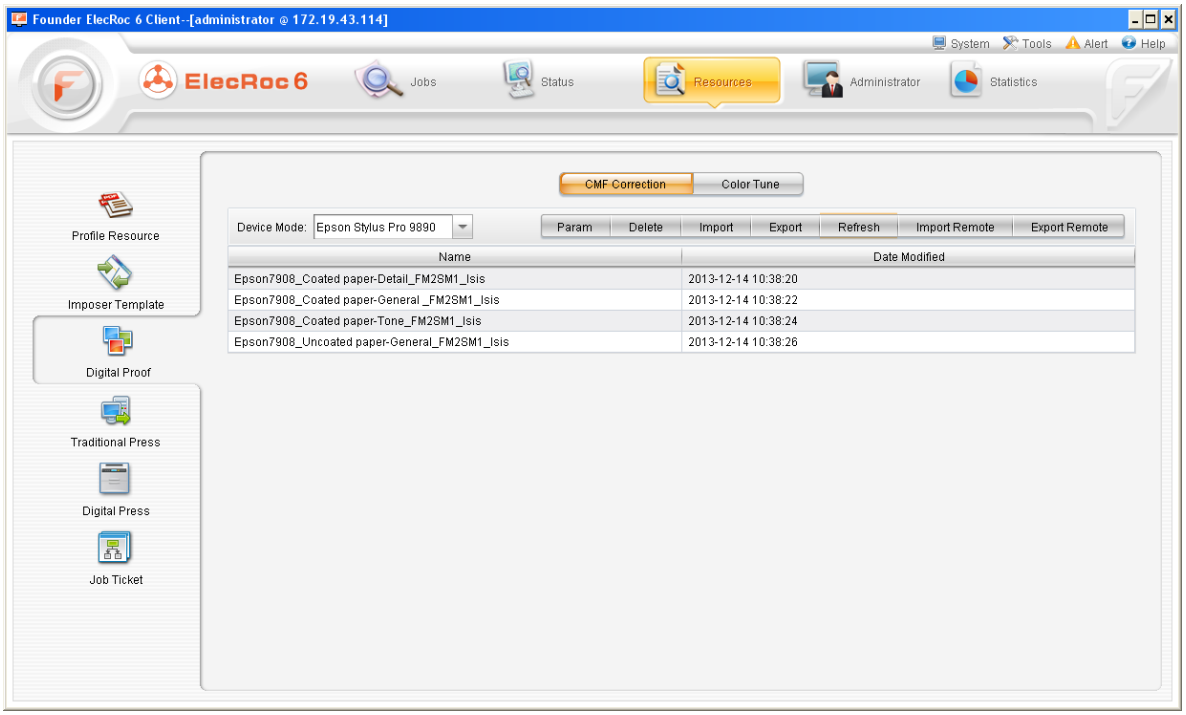

Figure 14

Among them, the CMF files can be made with the Color Tools, and then imported into ElecRoc, while the color tune curves can be created here.

2.2.6 Traditional Press Management

With the tool **Resources** > **Traditional Press**, you can manage resource related to the traditional printing, such as the linear curves, color tune curves, intended and actual press curves, all of which can be used in PDF rasterizing. Managing operations include create, save as, edit, import, export, delete, and recalibration.

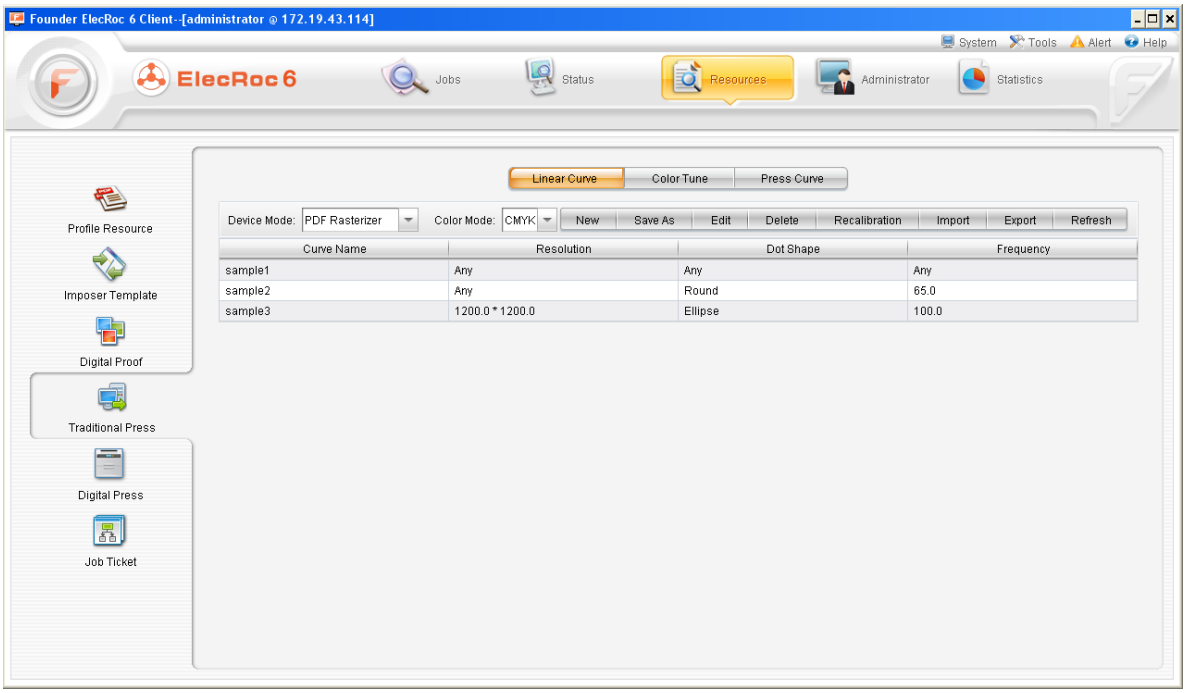

Figure 15

2.2.7 Digital Press Management

In the module **Resources** > **Digital Press**, you can manage the resource applied in digital printing, such as the CMF color solution files, the color tune curves, and the linear curves.

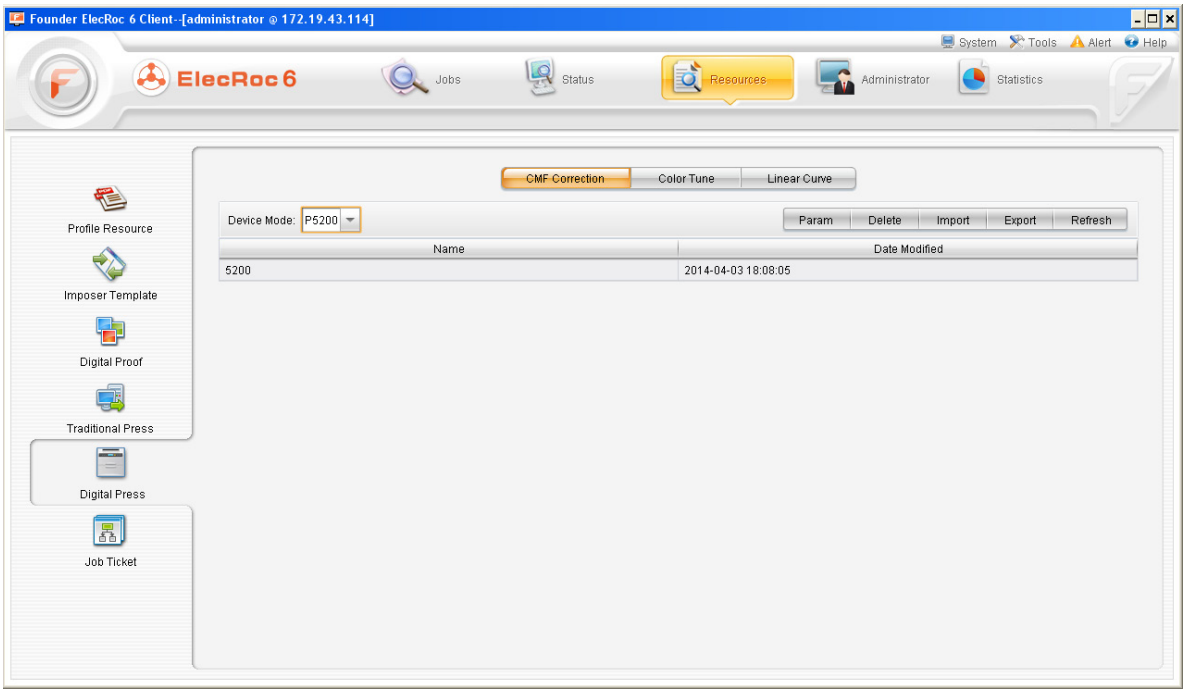

Figure 16

2.3 Operating Workflow

ElecRoc workflow links various press processes or procedures together and streamlines their collaboration, enabling them to work smoothly and efficiently.

Job, also called job ticket, is the platform for building a workflow. It defines the processes the workflow contains, their sequence, their processing manners, and enables the user to submit, process, monitor and output files, manage the input/output files under each process. The processes herein are completed by a family of ElecRoc processors, like PDF Generator, Imposer, Composer, Preflight, Trap, Rasterizer, Proof, and etc. These processors, referred as job ticket processor (JTP, or node) in job, can produce flexible combinations and connections, and thus form diverse workflows to meet the user's multiple business demands.

2.3.1 Create a Job

Click **Jobs** in the navigator to switch the user interface, and then click **New** to open the **New Job** dialog box.

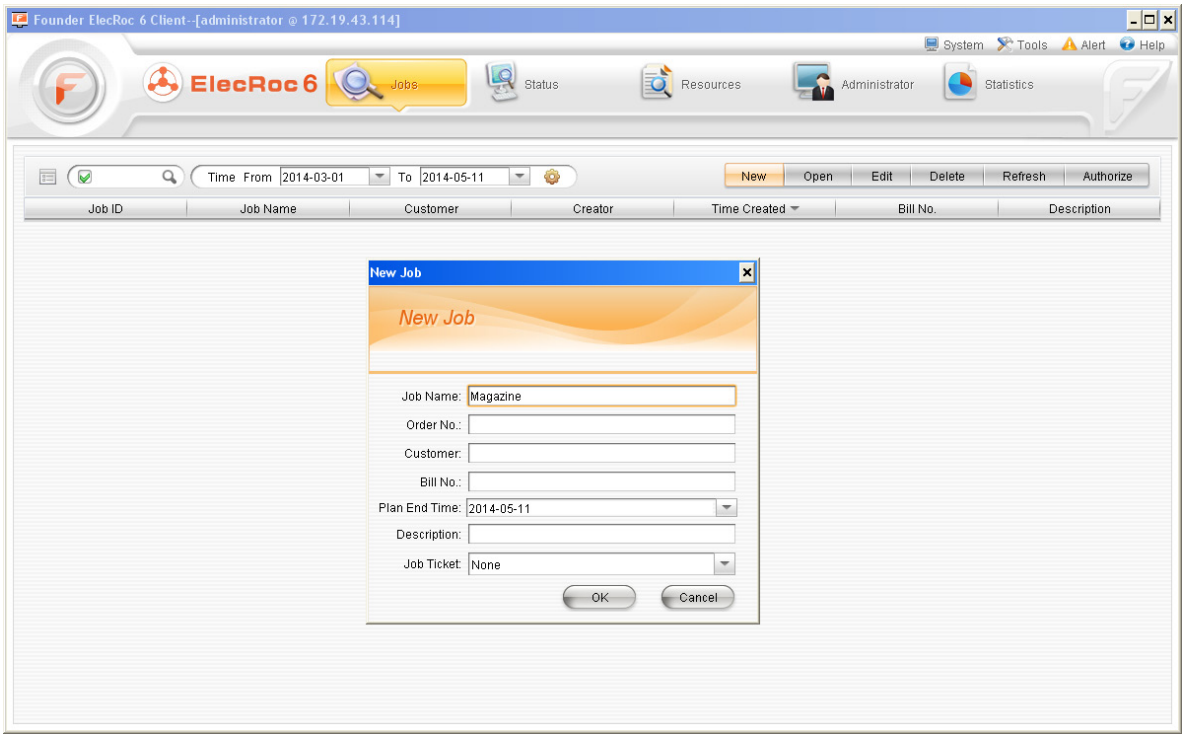

Figure 17

Input the job name, and if needed, bill number, customer, description, and then click **OK**. ElecRoc then displays automatically the job's operating window.

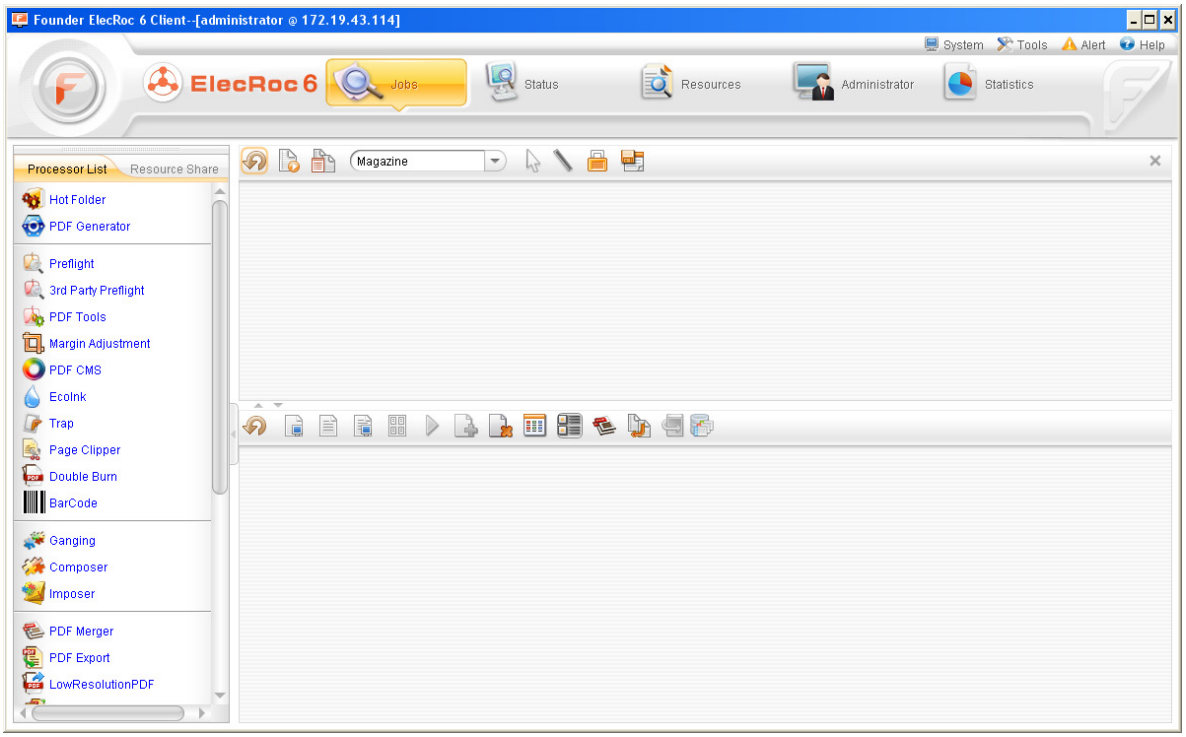

Figure 18

2.3.2 Create a Workflow

Now you can create a workflow in job window.

1. Add nodes

A node represents a process or procedure. Choose a processor from the left processor list, and then drag into the upper-right area to make it a node of the workflow. Repeat this operation to add other nodes needed into the job.

2. Connect nodes

To connect the added nodes with each other in a sequence, so as to form a workflow, choose the **Connect** tool in the toolbar. And then place the cursor over the beginning node, click and drag to the next node you want to connect. If the two nodes can be connected logically, an arrow will appear between them, indicating the process sequence.

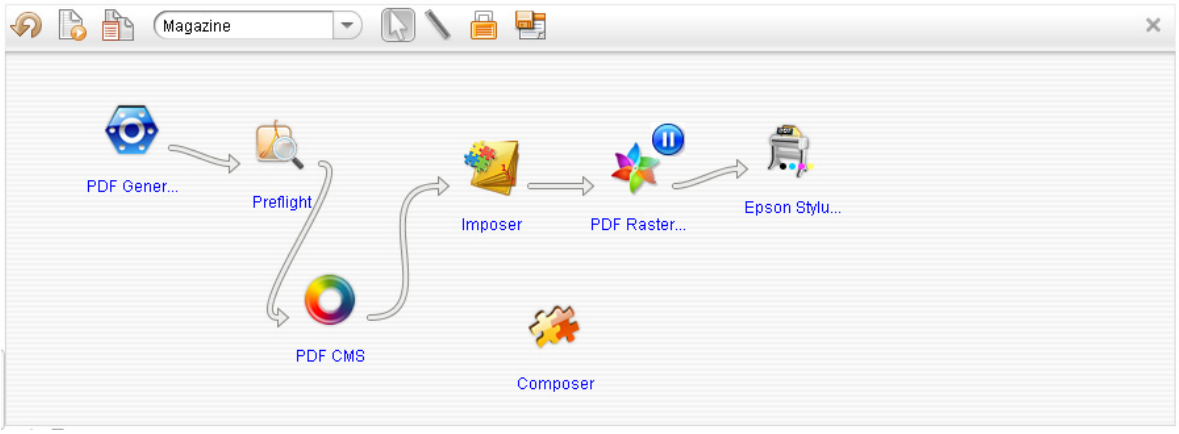

Figure 19

In a workflow, each node plays a particular role. When it completes its specific task, it will automatically send the processed files to the next node, till the end of the workflow. In this way, the workflow realizes fully-automated processes, improving the production efficiency.

Note: *In order to check and confirm the processed results of some node, you may need to temporarily suspend it. If needed, you can right-click it and choose* ***Hold****.*

2.3.3 Node Parameter Setup

It refers to a set of parameters that control how the node process files. Before the process starts, you should define each node's parameters as needed in advance, so that they can correctly deal with the files as expected. For most of the nodes, such as PDF Generator, Imposer, Composer, Preflight, Trap, CMS, Rasterizer, Printer, Proof, you can double-click to open their parameter setup window.

PDF Generator is the required node in a workflow, and usually located at the beginning. It converts PS, EPS, PDF, TIFF, PRN files to into PDF page files, a standard file type employed inside ElecRoc. **Imposer** can fit the pages of one or more signature together and output as a big sheet of surface. This surface then can be folded to signature. Before you set its parameters, you may need to create a template by choosing the Client navigator Resources > Imposer Template. **Composer** is a stand-alone node in job. Manually submit multiple pages to this node, and it can arrange and output them on a big sheet of surface, saving your media cost. **Preflight** is designed for you to perform a pre-press document check as per your predefined checklist, so as to avoid print accidents.

It generates a check report to inform the result. **Trap** can effectively mask registration problems between abutting colors on the printing press. **PDF CMS** (PDF color management system) provides color manageability to the PDF pages, ensuring and improving the color quality in printing press. **Rasterizer** can convert PDF pages to bitmap files. And **Proof** can use color printer to simulate what your file looks like when printed.

For details, refer to the user guide.

2.3.4 Choose Source Files

Choose PDF Generator node in the job to activate the **Select Files** icon in the toolbar below. Click this icon to open the **Select Files** dialog box.

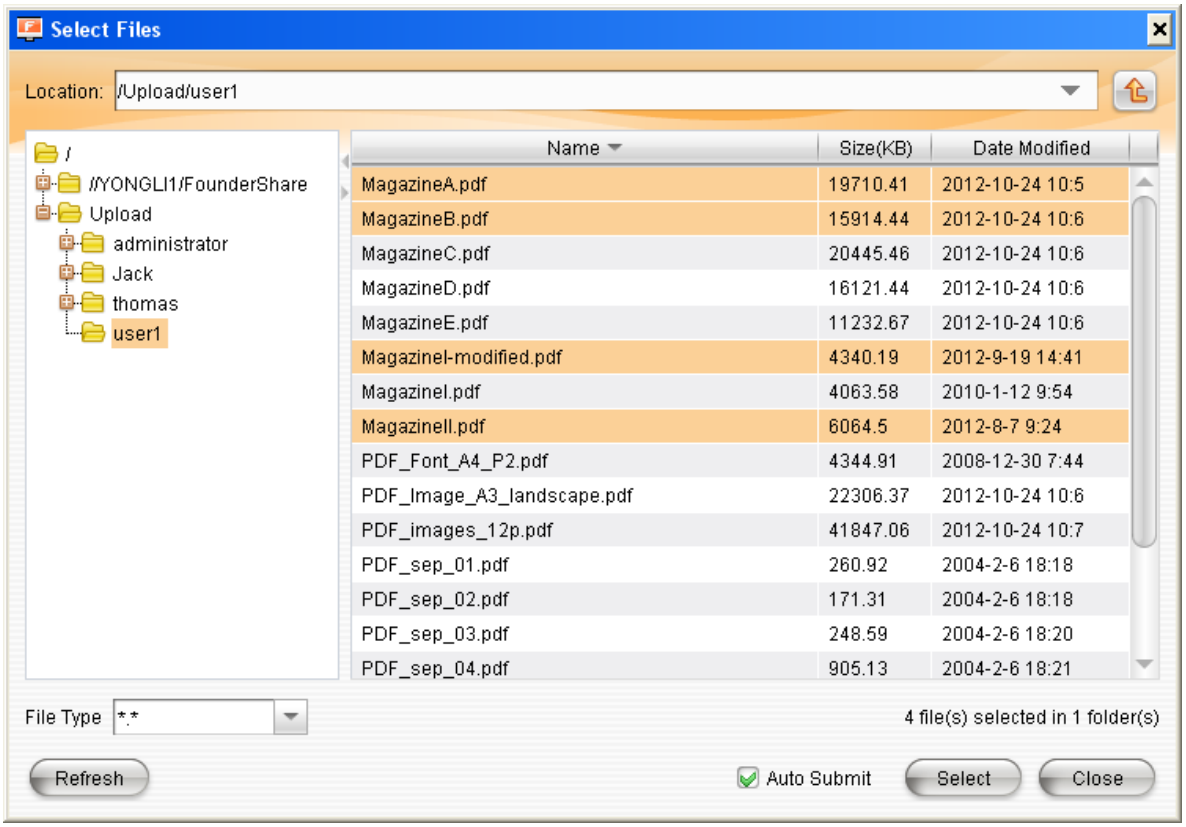

Figure 20

Under the target directory, double-click the files, or choose the files and then click **Select**, to send the files into ElecRoc workflow. These files are referred as source files. Directories available herein need to be pre-defined on the Server. The **Upload** is the default folder shared on the server for the user to upload the source files.

The selected files will then appear as input files under the PDF Generator node.

Note: *If you check **Auto Submit**, after you close the dialog box, ElecRoc will automatically submit the files you select to PDF Generator for process. If not, the files only emerge under the PDF Generator node, not automatically be submitted. By default, it is checked.*

2.3.5 Submit Files

If you check **Auto Submit** when you choose source files, after the choosing, the source

files will be automatically submitted to PDF Generator for process. In the workflow, if no node is held, after having completed its own task, each node will automatically submit the processed files to the next connected node.

If you don't check **Auto Submit**, after the choosing, you need to manually submit the source files to the workflow.

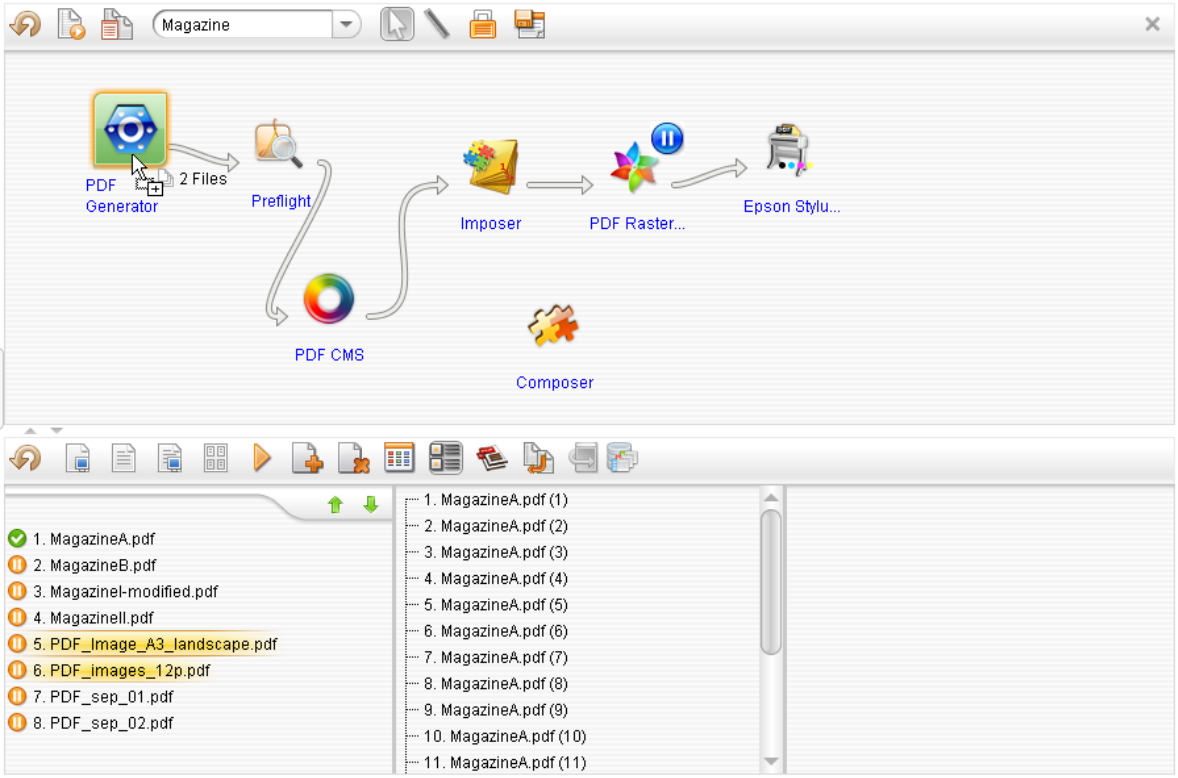

Figure 21

1) Under PDF Generator node, click the toolbar icon to submit all the source files under the node.

2) Choose the source files to be processed, and then right-click, select **Submit**. This way submits only those files selected.

3) Choose those files to be processed, drag and drop on the PDF Generator node.

Note: *The above methods are also applied when the node is held, or exists stand-alone, or files need to be processed cross nodes, or be re-processed.*

2.3.6 Process Files

Once the files are submitted, the node starts its process. A process information window now appears. You can see the progress from the color changes on the node icons, or from the message shown below. During the process, if some exception or error occurs, ElecRoc will change the node icon to red and corresponding message to red or pink, and perhaps display an additional alert window, or even stop the process. With the **Stop** button, you can break off the process at any time.

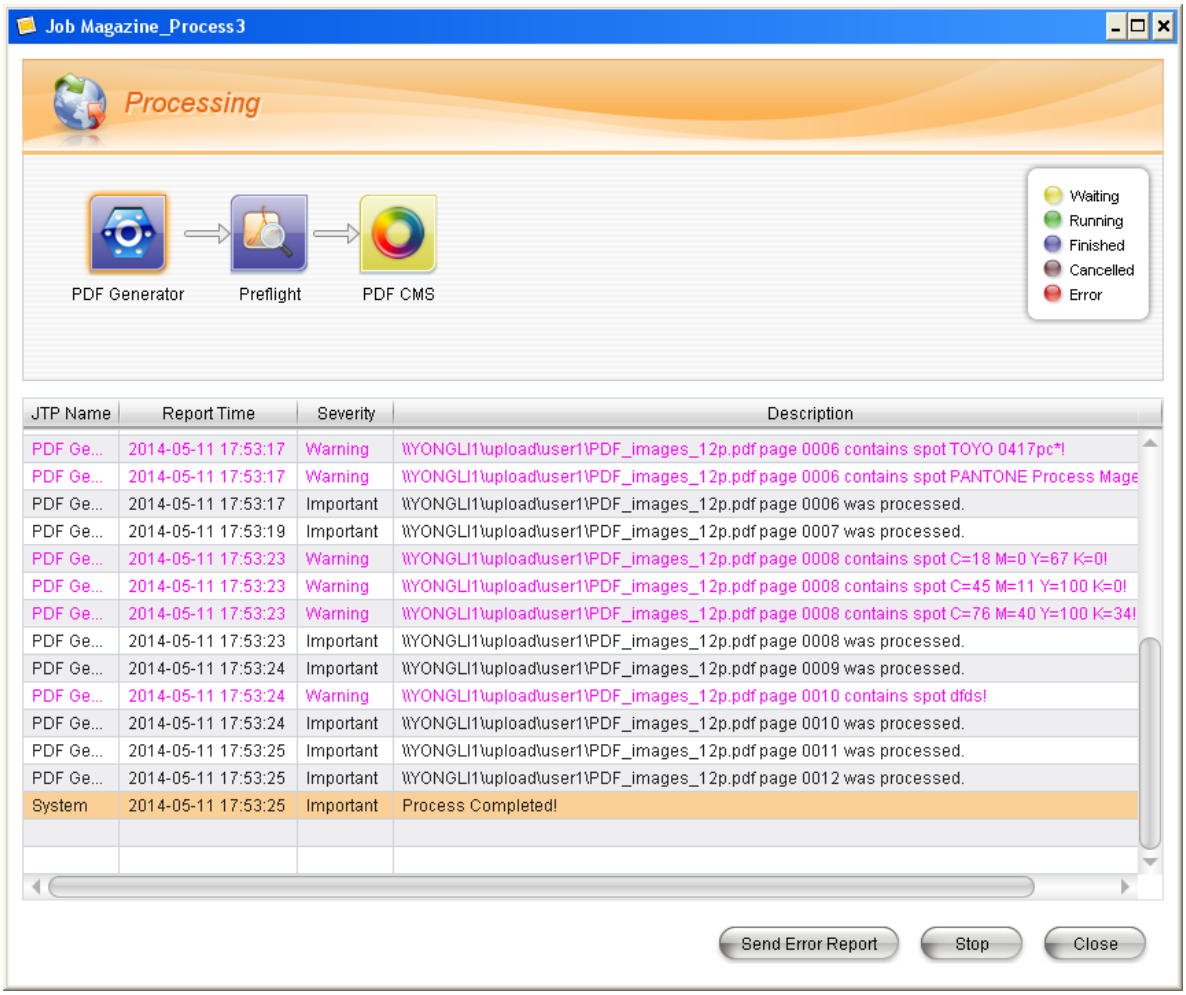

Figure 22

2.3.7 File Operations

With right-click menu items, you can perform some operations on the PDF page files produced by PDF Generator, Preflight, Trap, CMS, the surfaces generated by Imposer, Composer, and the bitmaps from the Rasterizer node. The operations include viewing info, previewing, downloading, copying, pasting, deleting, sorting, and some other advanced operations.

1. Page preview

You can open an independent window to view the generated or processed PDF pages.

Figure 23

Note: *You can quickly preview a PDF page if you hold the mouse on the preview at the lower-right of the job window. Under the imposer node, choose one or more PDF page in the left input queue, use right-click menu item, you can preview the pages in a manner like you are flipping book pages.*

2. Signature preview

You can preview signatures like you preview PDF pages. In addition, choose a front and a back signature, and use right-click menu item, you can view the combined effect of the front and back sides, such as if the registration marks are aligned or not.

Figure 24

3. PDF comparing

ElecRoc supports you to compare two PDF files, each may contains more than one pages, so as to find out their differences. Usually used for finding the difference for a same file before and after a modification. We recommend the user to use Adobe Acrobat 9.0 or higher for the comparing. After the comparison, ElecRoc will generate a report to show the difference, with annotations, symbols and marks for you to view with ease.

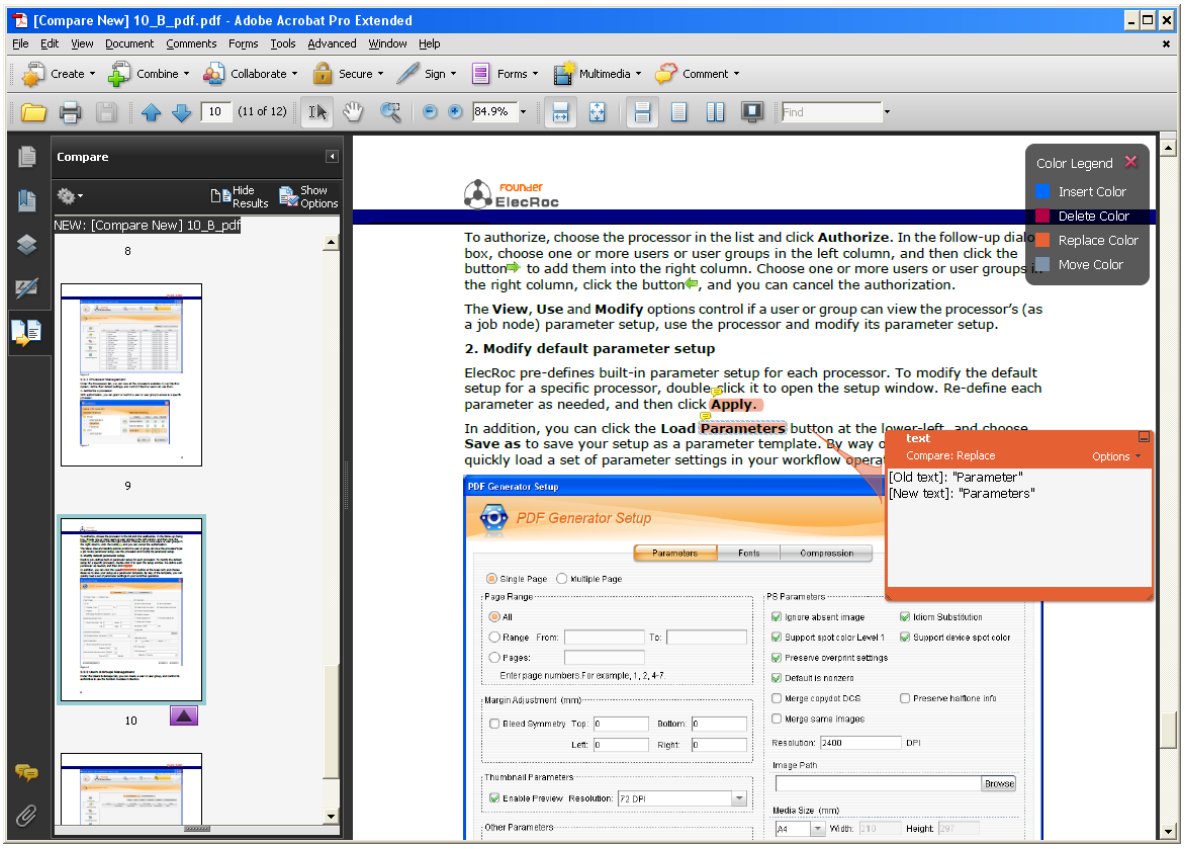

Figure 25

4. PDF compare/substitution

This feature consists of two components, comparison and substitution. You can make a precise comparison before the substitution, so as to clarify the difference between pages, avoiding any mistake.

Note: *More operations on PDF pages include viewing page information (can export spot color), downloading PDF, adjusting separation, adding a mark, copying, pasting, and etc.*

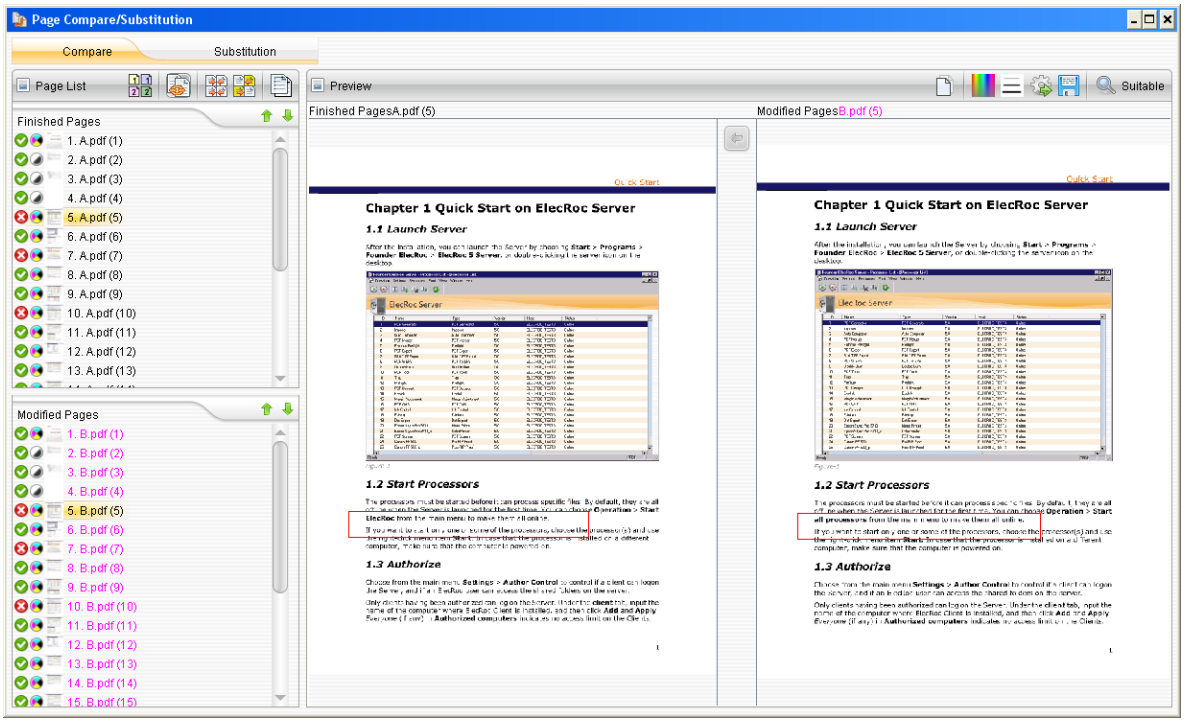

Figure 26

5. Tiff preview

You can open a window to preview the tiff bitmap. You can separately view any, or part, or all of its separations.

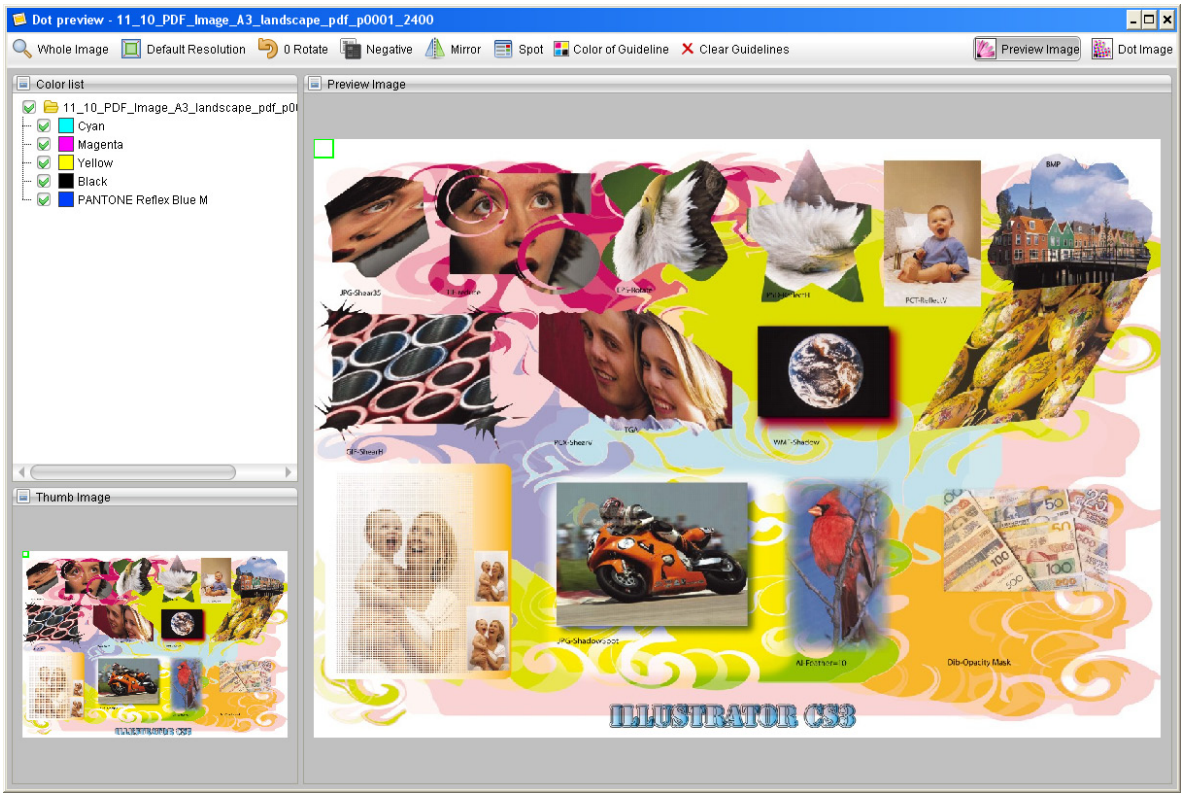

Figure 27

Click the **Dot Image** icon at the upper-right of the window to view the screened dots.

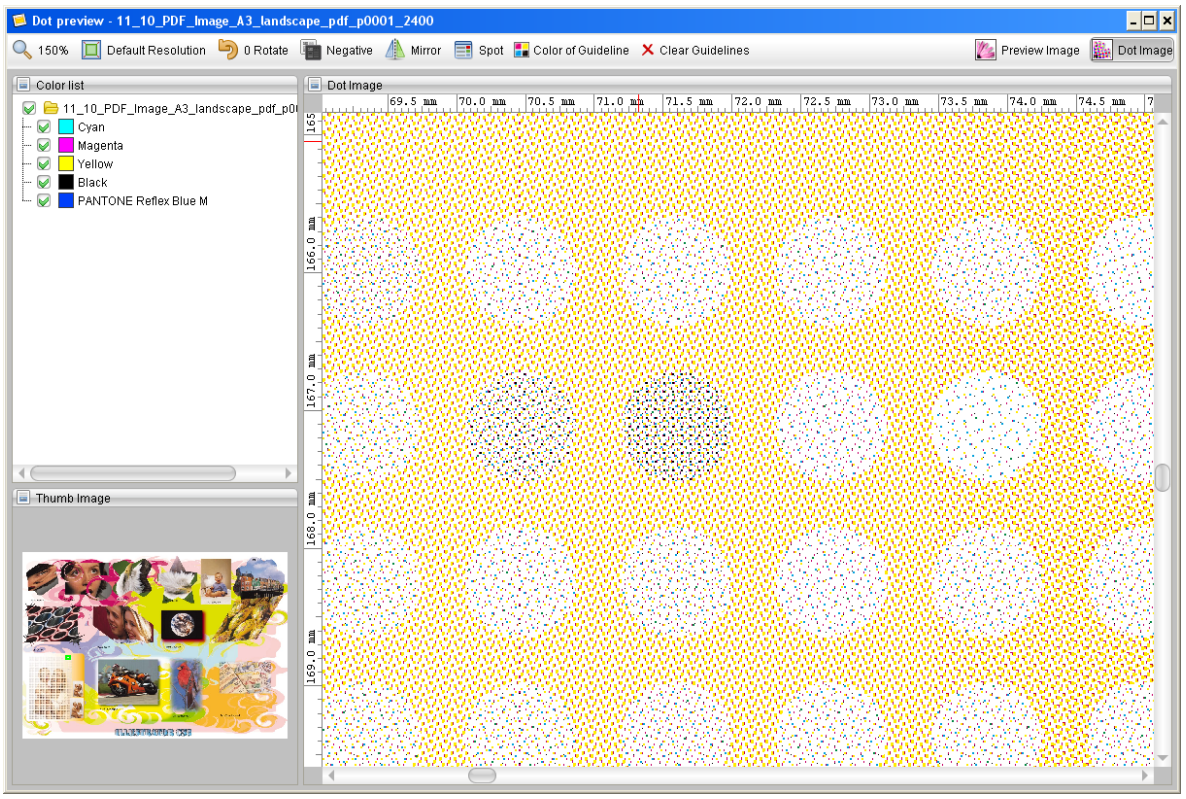

Figure 28

For more information, refer to *Founder ElecRoc 6 User Guide*.