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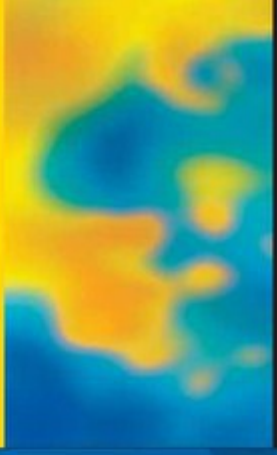

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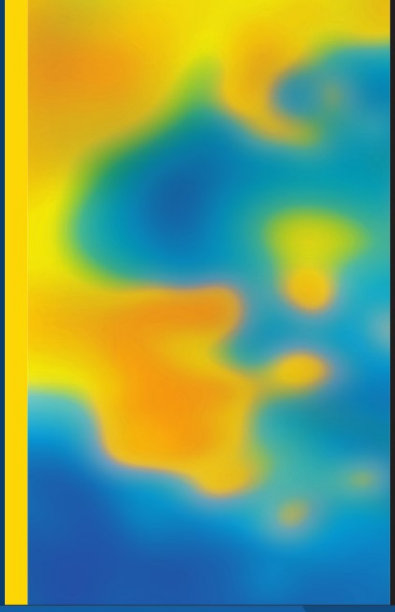

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With 20 Figures and 8 Tables

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1 Introduction

... JDF may not be as headline-grabbing as a new press but it's potentially the most important development in the printing industry since postscript.

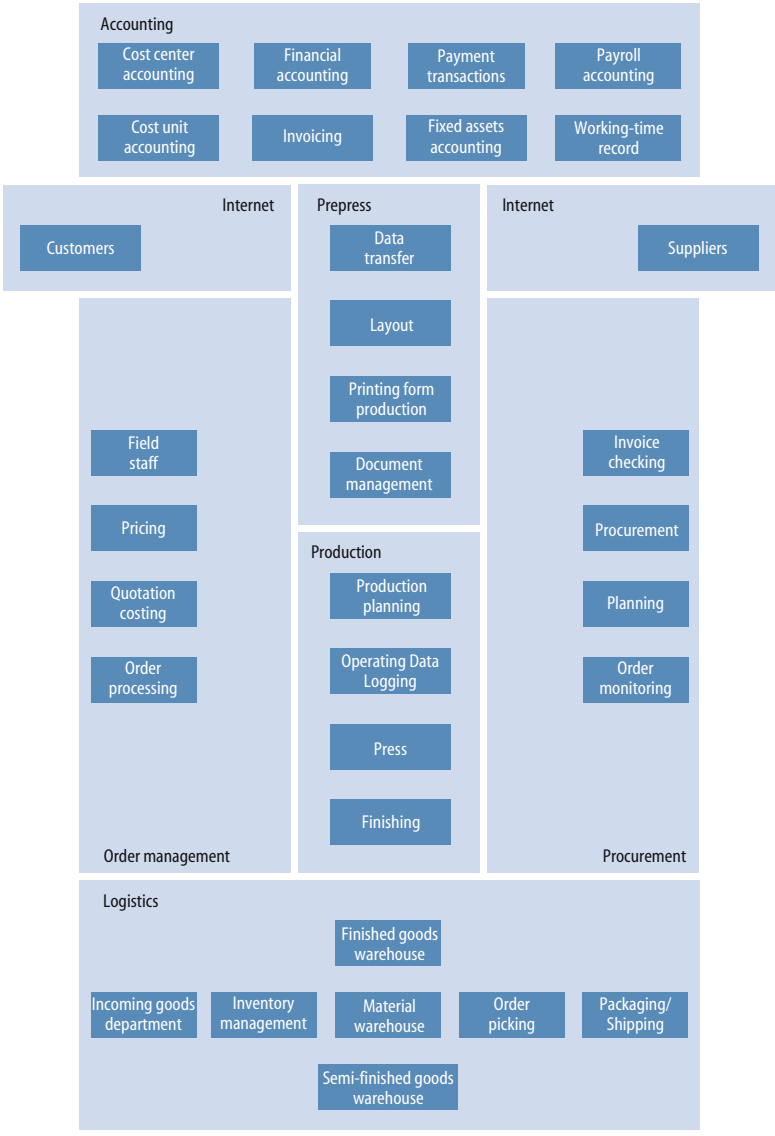
Simon Eccles, Electronic Imaging Magazine

The print media industry is facing tough competition. Overcapacity and sluggish demand are cutting margins. At the same time, customers' expectations as regards flexibility, quality, speed and reliability have never been higher. This situation calls for processes to be reviewed and manufacturing costs to be cut even further.

The various machines and processes have already been widely optimized in the past. The next challenge facing the print media industry is to resolve the problem of software "pockets" that exist in isolation. Process integration is the goal, and the technology to achieve this is provided by the newly-developed Job Definition Format (JDF).

Supported by the PDF document format and vendor-independent JDF, a new generation of fully integrated workflow solutions is currently being developed that enable process integration along the entire value added chain. Print service providers who network their systems have opportunities to cut process costs, but also lay themselves open to the risks associated with deploying new technologies. In order to safeguard their investment, therefore, companies are seeing an increasing need to source comprehensive technical and business background information.

This book is aimed at everyone who is facing decisions on process integration and networking in the print media industry or who is involved in such decisions either directly or indirectly. Readers are provided with focussed information supporting investment decisions and successful implementation of networking projects.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Planning
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Procurement
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Incoming goods department
Inventory management
Material warehouse
Order picking
Packaging/ Shipping
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