

# Adobe® InDesign® Server CS2

## Frequently Asked Questions

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A professional platform  
for automated design  
and publishing

### Technology Basics

#### Q. What is Adobe InDesign Server CS2?

A. Adobe InDesign Server CS2 is a new technology platform upon which third-party systems integrators and developers can build design-driven automated publishing solutions. It is the Adobe InDesign CS2 engine, with its innovative composition and design features, adapted for server usage. This server technology will enable Adobe partners to provide new levels of automation, efficiency, and design quality in high-end editorial workflows, collateral creation, variable data publishing, and web-based design solutions.

#### Q. How does Adobe InDesign Server CS2 differ from InDesign CS2?

A. InDesign Server CS2 and InDesign CS2 share the same codebase and almost all of the same features with a few specific exceptions: InDesign Server does not support the Clipboard, integrate with Version Cue® CS2, or include the ALAP InBooklet SE plug-in for basic imposition. InDesign Server and InDesign have the same output capabilities, built-in language support, scripting DOM (document object model), and software development kit (SDK). With InDesign Server CS2, the InDesign codebase has been adapted to server usage and differs from the desktop version in the following ways:

- **Model UI separation** InDesign Server CS2 runs “headless” (without a user interface) and is controlled programmatically through scripting, C++, or SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol).
- **SOAP interface for distributed services** InDesign Server CS2 supports a single SOAP API called RunScript, which is used to execute scripts written in JavaScript, AppleScript, or VBScript.
- **Error capturing** By default, InDesign Server CS2 logs errors, such as missing fonts, and then continues to process the job. Developers can use the error capturing API to build more extensive error handling into their solutions.
- **Multiple instances** InDesign Server CS2 increases performance by supporting multiple, concurrent instances on one-, two-, and four-processor machines.
- **Server platform support** InDesign Server CS2 is certified to run on server-class operating systems and hardware, including Microsoft® Windows® Server 2000 and 2003 and Mac OS X Server, vers. 10.3.x and 10.4.x.

#### Q. Should I choose InDesign Server CS2 as the platform for my automated publishing solutions?

A. As the platform for your automated publishing solutions, InDesign Server CS2 offers these key benefits:

**Cutting-edge design capability** To design automated publishing systems, developers and their customers have often been forced to compromise on copyfitting, typography, and overall design quality. InDesign Server CS2 shares the same codebase—and therefore the same high-quality composition and graphics support—as InDesign CS2, enabling it to bring a new level of creative control to highly automated, scalable systems.

**Complete compatibility with InDesign CS2 based workflows** InDesign Server CS2 is fully compatible with the InDesign CS2 file format, as well as all InDesign CS2 import/export and output formats. For example, their common composition engine ensures consistent hyphenation and justification for 100% accurate copyfitting between the desktop and server versions. InDesign Server CS2 also offers the same rich support for multi-lingual publishing as InDesign CS2.

**Server-class performance and stability** InDesign Server CS2 was designed and certified to run on server-class operating systems, meeting a 30-day continuous uptime requirement and supporting multiple instances on multi-processor hardware.

**Rich development environment** The shared InDesign codebase is completely scriptable using standard languages such as JavaScript, AppleScript, and VBScript, as well as highly extensible through its rich API. Built on open standards, InDesign Server CS2 provides a flexible environment for building custom solutions.

**Adobe leadership in graphics software** Adobe has invested deeply in researching, building, and refining Adobe InDesign to meet the needs of creative and print professionals worldwide. This investment has paid off in an industry-leading feature set and in the strong momentum behind customer adoption of InDesign. However, no single company can address the specialized publishing needs of all customers. Instead, Adobe is committed to developing a compelling platform for third party developers and systems integrators to build sophisticated solutions that address these needs.

#### **Q. What can a developer or systems integrator build with Adobe InDesign Server CS2?**

**A.** InDesign Server offers a platform for building these types of automated publishing solutions:

- **Workgroup automation in high-end editorial workflows** InDesign Server CS2 can be incorporated into editorial systems to handle background tasks, such as saving metadata, file check-in and check-out, workflow status, thumbnail generation, production of PDF proofs, and other tasks that may otherwise slow down desktop productivity.
- **Publishing engine within dynamic publishing solution** A growing number of companies are interested in data-driven automated publishing, such as automated ad layout systems or variable data publishing systems that enable higher levels of personalization and customization to improve marketing effectiveness. Other dynamic publishing examples include web-based, on-demand (24x7) publishing services that allow non-designers to produce high-quality customized documents without having design or graphics software knowledge. Brand management, collateral creation, and catalog production can all benefit from the emergence of more dynamic publishing solutions.

#### **Q. Who is interested in solutions based on Adobe InDesign Server CS2?**

**A.** The leading customers for solutions based on InDesign Server CS2 are newspapers and magazines with intensive editorial workflows, catalog producers, and customers interested in data-driven publishing. There is also an emerging market for more automated approaches to collateral production, particularly among Fortune 500 companies who are interested in controlling costs and speeding up global distribution of collateral. In addition, many leading advertising agencies have expressed a strong interest in building automated solutions that will enable them to deliver better service to their clients.

## **Developer Support and Requirements**

#### **Q. Is Adobe InDesign Server CS2 available for me to develop on today?**

**A.** Adobe InDesign Server CS2 is available starting in late Fall 2005 for qualified developers to use in designing and deploying automated publishing solutions.

#### **Q. What do I need to know to develop for Adobe InDesign Server CS2?**

**A.** Ideally you or your team would have experience developing plug-ins or scripts for the desktop version of InDesign. Through this experience, you would be acquainted with the extensive API that's published for InDesign, as well as with the InDesign SDK. Experience with SOAP, web services, scripting with JavaScript, AppleScript, or VBScript, and C++ programming are all highly recommended.

#### **Q. What requirements must a developer meet to develop on InDesign Server CS2?**

**A.** We require that you have practical knowledge of C++ programming and/or scripting, a demonstrable record of developing solutions, and membership in the Adobe Solutions Network (ASN) Premium program. The ASN Premium program gives you unlimited access to developer-level technical support, as well as to numerous other benefits such as full single-user copies of the Adobe Creative Suite 2 Premium Edition for Mac OS and Windows, upgrades to the suite, SDKs, general technical information, and co-marketing opportunities. The cost is \$995 (U.S.) per year. For more information, visit [partners.adobe.com/public/asn/developer/detail.html](http://partners.adobe.com/public/asn/developer/detail.html).

#### **Q. What is the pricing and licensing for Adobe InDesign Server CS2?**

**A.** Adobe InDesign Server CS2 is priced comparably to other server technologies in the publishing market. A number of variables affect specific pricing, all of which you can discuss with our business team as part of evaluating your interest in developing on InDesign Server CS2. Adobe does not charge for developer

licenses, which cover your research and development processes. Instead, you purchase licenses at the time that you deploy solutions to customers.

**Q. Do you need separate licenses for backup or disaster recovery?**

A. No, additional licenses for backup or disaster recovery are not required. Backup and recovery use is covered by the production license, providing that the software on backup servers is used only when the production servers have failed.

**Q. I'm part of an in-house development group, not an independent solutions developer. As a direct Adobe customer, can we license InDesign Server CS2 from Adobe to build internal solutions?**

A. No. At this time, you cannot license InDesign Server CS2 directly from Adobe. Instead, we will refer you to a third-party partner to either license the technology so you can build your own solution or to license their solution. You can receive developer support from Adobe by joining the ASN Premium Program described earlier in this FAQ.

## Technical Details

**Q. What operating systems does InDesign Server CS2 support? Do these include Linux? Unix? Solaris?**

A. Supported operating systems include Microsoft Windows 2000 Server, Windows 2003 Server, and Mac OS X version 10.3.x and 10.4.x. InDesign Server CS2 does not support Unix, Linux, or Solaris at this time.

**Q. What programming languages can I use to develop on InDesign Server CS2?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 has a C++ SDK, and is fully scriptable using popular scripting languages such as JavaScript, AppleScript, and VBScript.

**Q. What language versions does InDesign Server CS2 support?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 supports all 16 languages in which the desktop version of InDesign CS2 ships, including Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Spanish, and Swedish. During installation, you specify the language to use. InDesign Server CS2 then displays all error messages and sets default behaviors, such as the primary language dictionary used for hyphenation and justification, in that language. Additionally, InDesign Server CS2 ships with the 28 Proximity language dictionaries included with InDesign CS2, which include all of the languages listed above (including several flavors of English dictionaries) plus Czech, Greek, Hungarian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, and Turkish. Please note that every language version of InDesign and InDesign Server can open and edit files created in other language versions, even Chinese, Japanese, or Korean (though there are some limits to what a Roman-language version can edit in a Chinese, Japanese, or Korean file because these versions support features specific to Chinese, Japanese, and Korean typography).

**Q. What fonts does InDesign Server CS2 support?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 supports OpenType®, Type 1, and TrueType fonts, and it includes all of the OpenType fonts that ship with the desktop version of InDesign CS2. This set includes more than 75 fonts in multiple fonts families, such as Caslon Pro, Garamond Pro, and Myriad Pro. Anyone developing solutions on InDesign Server CS2 is licensed to distribute these fonts as part of their customer solutions.

**Q. How scalable is InDesign Server CS2?**

A. You can scale InDesign Server CS2 through multiple instances or server clustering. As a solutions developer for InDesign Server, you would be responsible for spawning and managing multiple instances or building and managing the server farm.

**Q. Is InDesign Server CS2 multi-threaded?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 is not multi-threaded. However, it supports multiple instances for scaling throughput in your solutions.

**Q. Does InDesign Server CS2 support SOAP?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 supports SOAP and provides one SOAP API, RunScript, which you can use to direct the server through SOAP to execute scripts in JavaScript, AppleScript, or VBScript.

**Q. Will my InDesign CS2 plug-ins work with InDesign Server CS2?**

A. InDesign CS2 plug-ins can work with InDesign Server CS2 with some incremental work on your part. For example, you must separate the model/UI in your plug-ins, so you're not linking to the UI shared libraries. When you recompile your plug-ins, you must also specify that they load for InDesign Server in the class resource.

**Q. Will my scripts work with InDesign Server CS2?**

A. Providing that they do not use UI functionality, the scripts you've written for InDesign CS2 should work directly with InDesign Server CS2.

**Q. How does InDesign Server CS2 handle errors, such as missing graphics or fonts?**

A. By default, InDesign Server logs the error and continues with the job. Developing error handling and management is at the discretion of the developer.

**Q. How do jobs get queued in an InDesign Server CS2 workflow? Can a server administrator manage or monitor the job queue?**

A. This first release of InDesign Server does not provide any specific APIs or functionality to support job queuing. Instead, queuing jobs and managing the job queue is at the discretion of the developer.

**Q. Does InDesign Server CS2 come with a built-in user interface?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 provides a command-line interface but no graphical user interface (it runs "headless"). You can design your solutions to communicate with the server through the command-line interface, or, if that's not appropriate for your customers, you can design and build your own graphical interface.

**Q. Does InDesign Server CS2 include a database? How does it fit into a DAM or ECM?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 does not include a database. However, you can integrate it with standard databases, DAMs, and ECMs to support your solution.

**Q. Does InDesign Server CS2 require an application server?**

A. No, it does not require an application server.

**Output Basics****Q. What kinds of output does InDesign Server CS2 support?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 provides the same export capabilities (and supports all of the same file formats) as the desktop version of InDesign CS2. You can output INDD, Adobe PDF, EPS, PostScript®, XML, INX (InDesign Interchange Format), InDesign Snippet, SVG, and JPEG files. In addition, you can use SDK APIs, such as SnapShotUtils, to output page items, pages, and documents in alternative file formats.

**Q. Does InDesign Server CS2 work with any prepress workflow, and does it support OPI servers?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 fits into prepress and OPI workflows, just as InDesign does. However, developers would need to do any required integration as part of building their solution.

**Q. Can you create prepress quality CMYK files from InDesign Server CS2?**

A. Yes. InDesign Server CS2 generates prepress quality files just as InDesign does.

**Q. Can InDesign Server CS2 print directly to a network printer or RIP?**

A. Yes, InDesign Server CS2 can be programmatically directed to print to a network printer or RIP, just as you can do with InDesign.

**Q. Can InDesign Server CS2 fit into a color-managed workflow?**

A. Yes, InDesign Server CS2 provides all of the color management functionality available in the desktop version of InDesign CS2.

**Q. Does InDesign Server CS2 perform automatic preflighting on InDesign files?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 does not automatically preflight files. However, it provides the same preflighting capabilities as the desktop version and can be programmatically directed to preflight InDesign files.

## Integration with other technology

### **Q. What file formats can InDesign Server CS2 import?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 imports all of the same graphics and text file formats as InDesign CS2 does, including native Adobe Photoshop® and Illustrator® files, PDF files, and Microsoft Word and Excel files. In addition, it can open and convert QuarkXPress 3.x–4.x files and PageMaker 6.x–7.x files.

### **Q. Can InDesign Server CS2 import or export HTML content?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 does not import or export HTML content. However, it provides rich support for XML, which is often a preferred format for repurposing print and Web content.

### **Q. Does InDesign Server CS2 work with Version Cue CS2 in Adobe Creative Suite 2? How about Adobe Bridge?**

A. InDesign Server CS2 does not currently work with Version Cue CS2 or Adobe Bridge.