Building blocks of an Impose configuration

In the following sections we will explain how the individual configuration ranges and all the parameters work. After that we will show how to proceed with setting up a new imposition using one of the examples supplied.

Sheet definition (Sheet Setup)

A sheet definition (Sheet Setup) comprises a PDF file with optional templates (Sheet Template) and a template definition (Sheet Template Con-figuration), which determines all the slots available on each individual template.

The command line modules search for these sheet definitions in your installation directory in the folder "`[cli/]var/Actions/Impose/`".

Name of a template layout

The configuration files file extension has to be ".sheetconfig" and the content has to start with the reserved word "NAME" followed by a <Tab> and a Name. In this file the sheet definition name is in UTF-8 code. (As long as only standard letters from A to Z and a to z without umlauts or accents, and numbers and simple signs such as period, comma, hyphen or under-score are used in names, ASCII corresponds to UTF-8 code: if you wish to use names with umlauts or signs from non-Western languages – such as Russian or Japanese – these will have to be saved in UTF-8. Some text edi-tors – e.g. BBEdit 7 in Mac – have special save options for this).

- Note: UTF-8 encoding ensures that even names containing special characters (ä, ö, u, ß, …) or non-Western languages can be processed.

Under this name the sheet definition can be selected in the Desktop ver-sion of pdfToolbox in the "Impose" action dialog.

⚠ The configuration files file extension has to be ".sheetconfig" and the content has to start with the reserved word "NAME" followed by a <TAB> and a Name. Many customers miss this TAB and use SPACE instead which will never work.

Template sheet

The SheetTemplate PDF file is an optional PDF file whose file-name has to be the same as the filename of the sheetconfig (e.g. "880x630, 8up A4.sheetconfig.pdf"). During the imposi-tion process the PDF pages from this file are inserted as a background in the PDF document to be imposed. The pages to be imposed are then positioned against this background. In the process the complete page contents of the template are transferred. In this way all static elements like crop marks and print control strips are per-fectly positioned on the final imposition sheet.

At the same time, care should be taken with this file that the page size – as MediaBox (and if explicitly defined: CropBox) – corresponds to the sheet format.

The geometry of the individual slots on the template is deter-mined in the sheetconfig file independently from this PDF file.

The template file can contain one or more templates (each PDF page in a template file constitutes a separate template). During the imposition pro-cess, the sheets are inserted se-quentially into the target document accord-ing to the instruc-tions in the imposition runlist.

If there are no more template pages in the template file, each page will be used in sequence during the imposition process, starting again from the first page if no pages are left but a new template is needed. Optionally, each page of the tem-plate can be used directly. If the template file only contains one template (i.e. a PDF page), the same template will be used over and over again.

If a SheetTemplate PDF exists, no SHEET entries are allowed in the ".sheetconfig"-file.

If no template PDF is available, the sheet size has to be defined using the following syntax:

```
SHEET        <left_bottom_x>        <left_bottom_y>        <right_top_x>
<right_top_y>
```

TotalPagesMultipleOf is optional and used for rounding up the number of pages to the next value which can be devided by TotalPagesMultipleOf. See the .runlist-section of this manual for a detailed example.

Further information about using template pages is explained during the definition of a runlist.

Template configuration (*.sheetconfig)

The details regarding the placing of the pages to be imposed on the tem-plate are in the SheetTemplateConfig.dat file. Here the individual slots are defined together with further information about their desired positioning. Every slot definition has to start with the reserved word "SLOT" followed by the following parameter:

Slot Name

Allows to define a name for this slot for easier understanding and read-ability.

Slot ID

Clear and unmistakable ID of a slot on a sheetpage (integer); valid values: 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. It is not necessary to number all of the slots although we recommend doing so for reasons of clarity.

Sheet ID

Page number of the templates in the template file, for which the slot is intended (integer): valid values: 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., whereby only the number 1 is valid in a one page template, and only 1 and 2, etc. in a two-page template file.

Trim Box left

Margin (Offset) of the left edge of the slot relative to the left edge of the MediaBox of the template (value and unit of measurement; acceptable units of measurement: mm, pt, cm, '); valid values e.g.: 12cm, 20.5pt, 3cm, 7.5'.

Trim Box bottom

Margin (Offset) of the bottom edge of the slot relative to the bottom edge (of the MediaBox) of the sheet (value and unit of measurement; accept-able units of measurement: mm, pt, cm, '); valid values: 12cm, 20.5pt, 3cm, 7.5'.

Trim Box width

Slot width (value and unit of measurement; acceptable units of measure-ment: mm, pt, cm, '); valid values: 12cm, 20.5pt, 3cm, 7.5' etc.

Trim Box height

Slot height (value and unit of measurement; acceptable units of measure-ment: mm, pt, cm, '); valid values: 12cm, 20.5pt, 3cm, 7.5' etc.

Bleed Offset left

Allowance (Offset) to the left edge of the page position for additional bleed (value and unit of measurement; acceptable units of measurement: mm, pt, cm, '); valid values: 12cm, 20.5pt, 3cm, 7.5', etc.

Bleed Offset bottom

Allowance (Offset) to the lower edge of the page position for additional bleed (value and unit of measurement; acceptable units of measurement: mm, pt, cm, '); valid values: 12cm, 20.5pt, 3cm, 7.5', etc.

Bleed Offset right

Allowance (Offset) to the right edge of the page position for additional bleed (value and unit of measurement; acceptable units of measurement: mm, pt, cm, '); valid values: 12cm, 20.5pt, 3cm, 7.5', etc.

Bleed Offset top

Allowance (Offset) to the upper edge of the page position for additional bleed (value and unit of measurement; acceptable units of measurement: mm, pt, cm, '); valid values: 12cm, 20.5pt, 3cm, 7.5', etc.

Scale X

Horizontal scaling factor; values greater than zero affect the correspond-ing scaling of the page to be positioned on the sheet in a horizontal direc-tion; a zero value ensures that the page to be positioned is fitted onto the sheet horizontally; a value of minus one ensures that the same scaling fac-tor is used as for the vertical scaling.

Valid values (each applicable to horizontal scaling):

100	equals 100%, or unscaled positioning
25	equals 25%, or reduce to one quarter of size
270	equals 270%, or enlarge by 2.7
etc.	

0	scale so that the page fits horizontally into the slot's Trim Box, i.e. scale to the Trim Box width
-1	use the same scaling factor as for the vertical scaling if -1 has been entered as a value for Scale Y, the page will be scaled proportionally so that it fits horizontally and vertically into the slot's TrimBox

Scale Y

Vertical scaling factor; values greater than zero affect the corresponding scaling of the page to be positioned on the sheet in a vertical direction; a zero value ensures that the page to be positioned is fitted onto the sheet vertically; a value of minus one ensures that the same scaling factor is used as for the horizontal scaling.

Valid values (each applicable to vertical scaling):

100	equals 100%, or unscaled positioning
25	equals 25%, or reduce to one quarter of size
270	equals 270%, or enlarge by 2.7
etc.	

0	scale so that the page fits vertically into the slot's TrimBox, i.e. scale to Trim Box height
-1	use the same scaling factor as for the horizontal scaling if the value -1 has also been entered for Scale X, the page is scaled pro-- portionally in a horizontal and verti-cal direction so that it fits the slot's TrimBox

Rotation

Page rotates anti-clockwise (value, basic unit of measurement: degrees). The only approved values are: 0, 90, 180, 270.

Placement

The only approved values are:

LB	align left bottom
LC	align left center
LT	align left top
CT	align center top
RT	align right top
RC	align right center
RB	align right bottom
CB	align center bottom
CC	align center, i.e. both vertically and horizontally

- Note: The entry for the placing of the page to be positioned is relative to the slot, which in turn is defined by the TrimBox specifications.
- Note: If a slot is used for PlaceText, this text cannot be set to be right aligned by using Placement due to technical restrictions. Text will always start at the point defined by Placement, respecting orientation given by Rotation.

Binding Margin

Binding Margin defines the edge on which the creep should be equalized. Possible values are:

N	none
L	left
R	right
T	top
B	bottom
L0	left, without increase of the BleedBox
R0	right, without increase of the BleedBox
T0	top, without increase of the BleedBox
B0	bottom, without increase of the BleedBox

- Note: Additionally you need to set ShinglingOffset in the runlist for defining the paper thickness ("0mm" by default which means no binding margin).

Cropmark Style Left Bottom

Define the style of the cropmark placed in the lower left corner.

Possible values:

N	none (default)
L	left
R	right
T	top
B	bottom
LT	left top
RT	right top
LB	left bottom
RB	right bottom

Cropmark Style Right Bottom

Define the style of the cropmark placed in the lower right corner.

Possible values:

see " Cropmark Style Left Bottom ".

Cropmark Style Right Top

Define the style of the cropmark placed in the upper right corner.

Possible values:

see " Cropmark Style Left Bottom ".

Cropmark Style Left Top

Define the style of the cropmark placed in the upper left corner.

Possible values:

see " Cropmark Style Left Bottom ".

Clip mode

Usually imposed pages are cropped according to their Trim-Box plus bleed as set up in the slot.
Sometimes it is needed that the imposed page is clipped at the slot boundaries instead.

P	Positioned page (default)
S	Slot

Slot as isolated transparency group

This option allow to create a slot as a non-isolated transparency group.

I	Isolated (Default)
N	Not isolated

Comment (# sign)

After the # sign, it is possible to enter a comment.

Pagesize Filter

The `PAGESSIZE_FILTER` entry is used for filtering the display of sheet con-figurations in the callas pdfToolbox GUI. It has no effect on the imposition process. A sheet configuration is only displayed in the "Sheet configuration" pop-up menu if the `PAGESIZE_FILTER` matches the selected "Page size" pop-up in the 'Impose' single action window. If `IGNORE_ORIENTATION` is either one of " `YES` ", " `ANY` ", " `TRUE` ", " `*` " the page orientation is ignored, otherwise the page size orientation is regarded.

```
PAGESIZE_FILTER        <width of n-ups>        <height of n-ups>        <allowed
widht-tolerance of n-up>        <allowed height-tolerance of n-up>        <ig-
nore_orientation>
```

The file format of a template configuration file

The file is saved and read in ASCII format. Columns are separated from each other using the <TAB> (Tabulator) key.

Empty lines are ignored. Lines which start with a # sign are interpreted as comments and as such are similarly disregarded.