Shiraz Software

Load Sharing Manual

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What is “Load Sharing”?

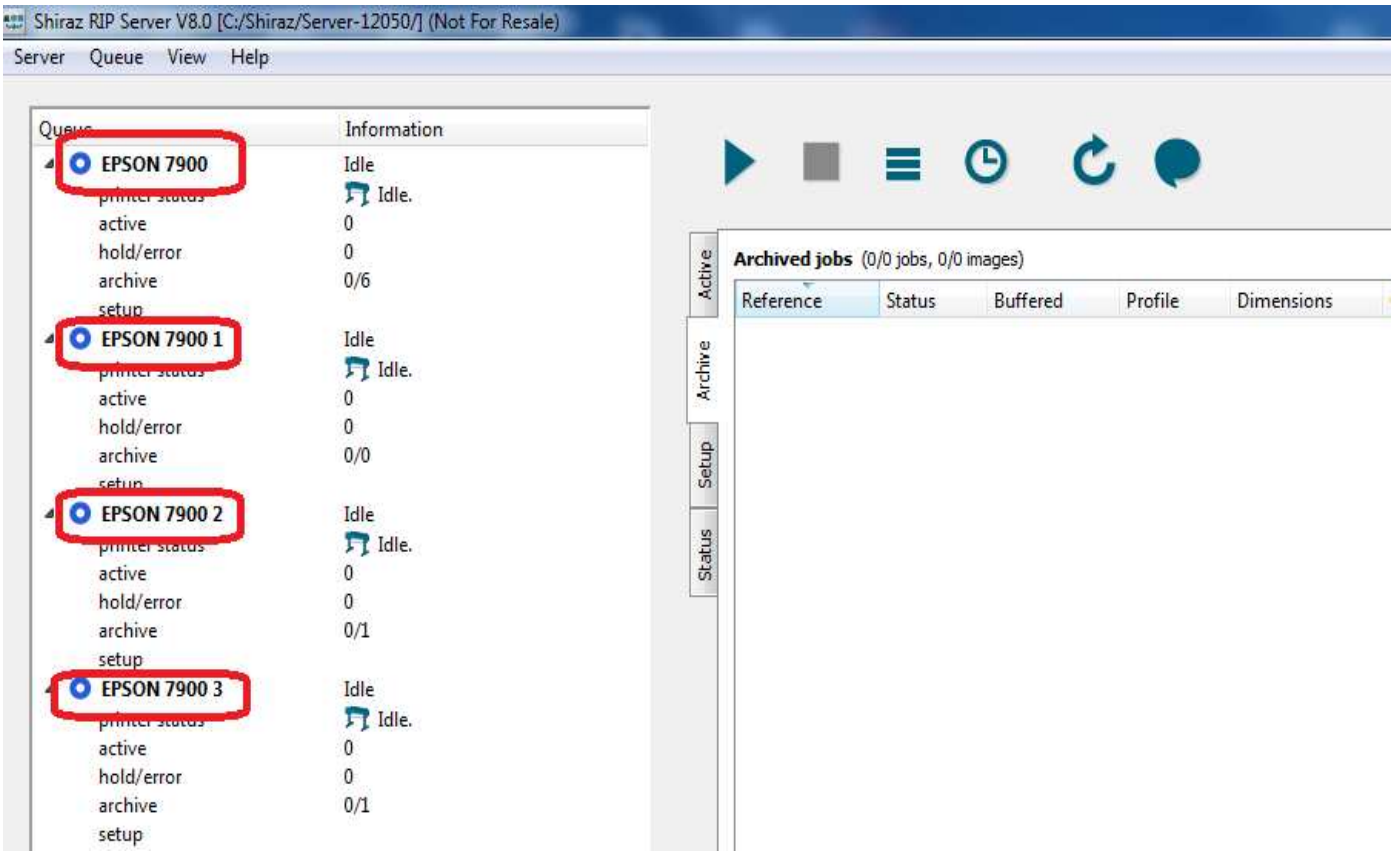
As the name suggests, load sharing provides the ability to share a print job across several printers. This is especially useful when you have a high quantity print job and want to distribute it between multiple printers for quicker printing. For example, if you have a 1000 quantity print job and you have four Canons iPF6350 printers, you can prepare the print job once, decide the quantity for each printer and submit the job. Each printer would receive a copy of the job and prints it at the specified quantity.

Please remember that since job tickets produced in Shiraz are entirely printer-model dependant, load sharing can only be used between printers of the same make and model.

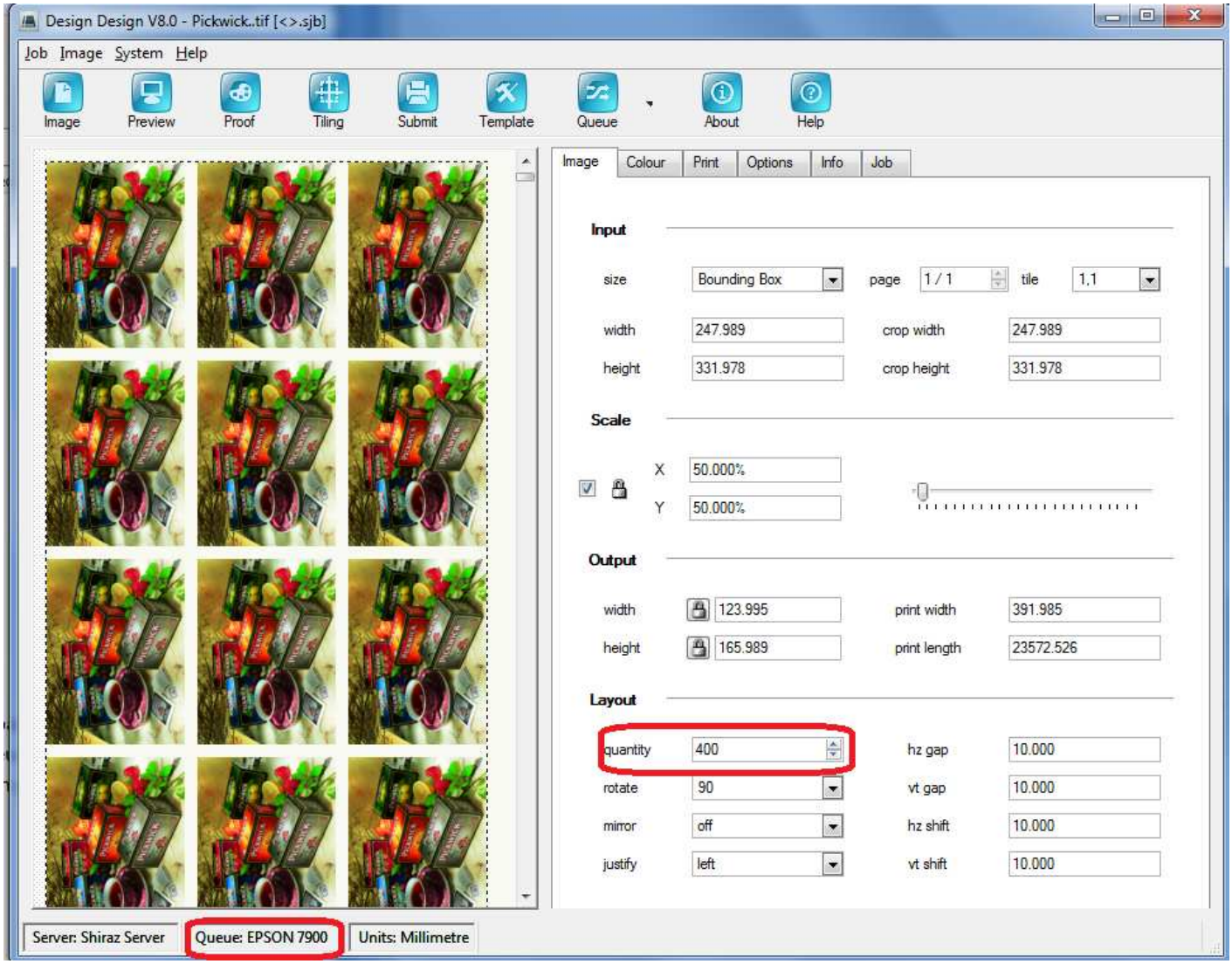
How to start?

The first step is to setup multiple queues. You need at least two queues to be able to share jobs between them. Remember that the queues must be of the same printer make and model. In this example I have created four queues to *Epson Stylus Pro 7900* printers.

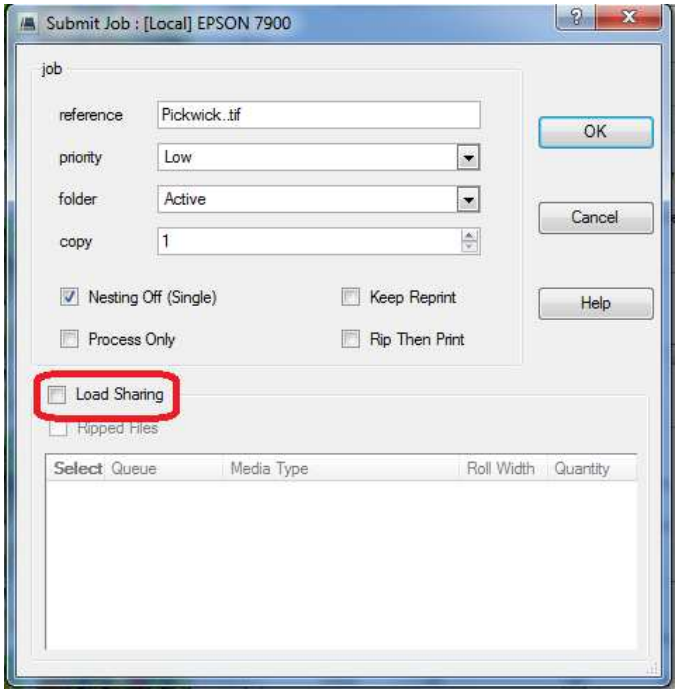
Note: Your queues could point to different printers or they can all point to the same printer. Regardless of what printer they are connected to, load sharing will divided the job between them and it is up to the user how they want to print their jobs.

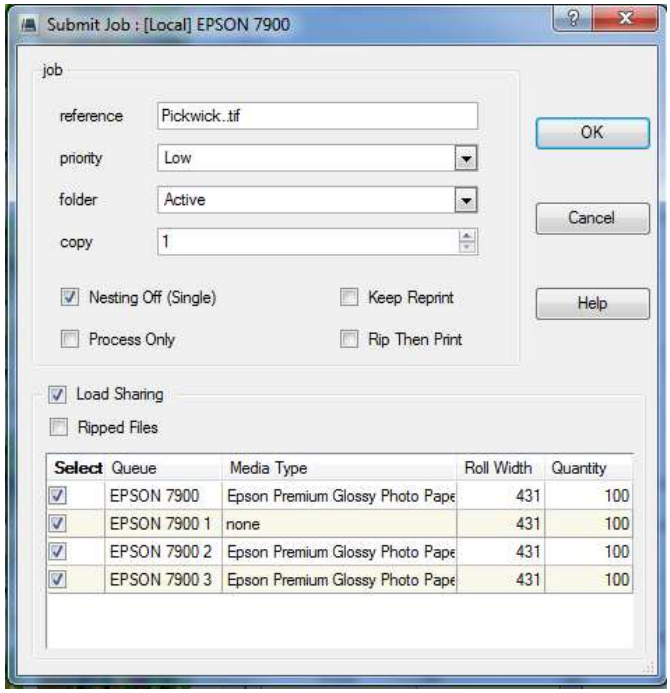


Load sharing feature is exclusive to the Server Rip product. From the Dashboard utility run the Design client and prepare your print job. Make sure you select one of the queues you are going to submit the job to. In our example I am connected to the *Epson 7900 queue.* I am going to do a quantity of 400 for my print job.


Design Design V8.0 - Pickwick.tif [<>.sjb]
Job Image System Help
Image
Preview
Proof
Tiling
Submit
Template
Queue
About
Help
Image
Colour
Print
Options
Info
Job
Input
size
Bounding Box
page
1 / 1
tile
1,1
width
247.989
crop width
247.989
height
331.978
crop height
331.978
Scale
X
50.000%
Y
50.000%
Output
width
123.995
print width
391.985
height
165.989
print length
23572.526
Layout
quantity
400
hz gap
10.000
rotate
90
vt gap
10.000
mirror
off
hz shift
10.000
justify
left
vt shift
10.000
Server: Shiraz Server
Queue: EPSON 7900
Units: Millimetre

Once you are ready to submit your job, click on the Submit button at the top. Submit job dialog will open. At the bottom, there is a checkbox with a label *Load Sharing*. Tick that checkbox to activate load sharing.





Once load sharing is activated, you will see a table like this:

This is a list of all your queues that have the same printer make and model as your currently selected queue. The table shows the currently selected media, current roll width and the print quantity for each queue. Queue media type and roll width information come from the Server module and must be modified there if you want to change them. Print quantity for each queue is automatically calculated from the original quantity entered. You can manually change these numbers according to your requirements. In our example, we entered a quantity of 400, and each one of our four queues received a quantity of 100 by default.

By default all the queues are selected for printing. However if you do not wish to submit jobs to a queue just un-tick the first column and no jobs will be sent to that queue. Remember you might have to modify the quantity on other queues to redistribute the original quantity between the remaining queues. In our example I have modified the quantities for the remaining queues to match the original 400 quantity.

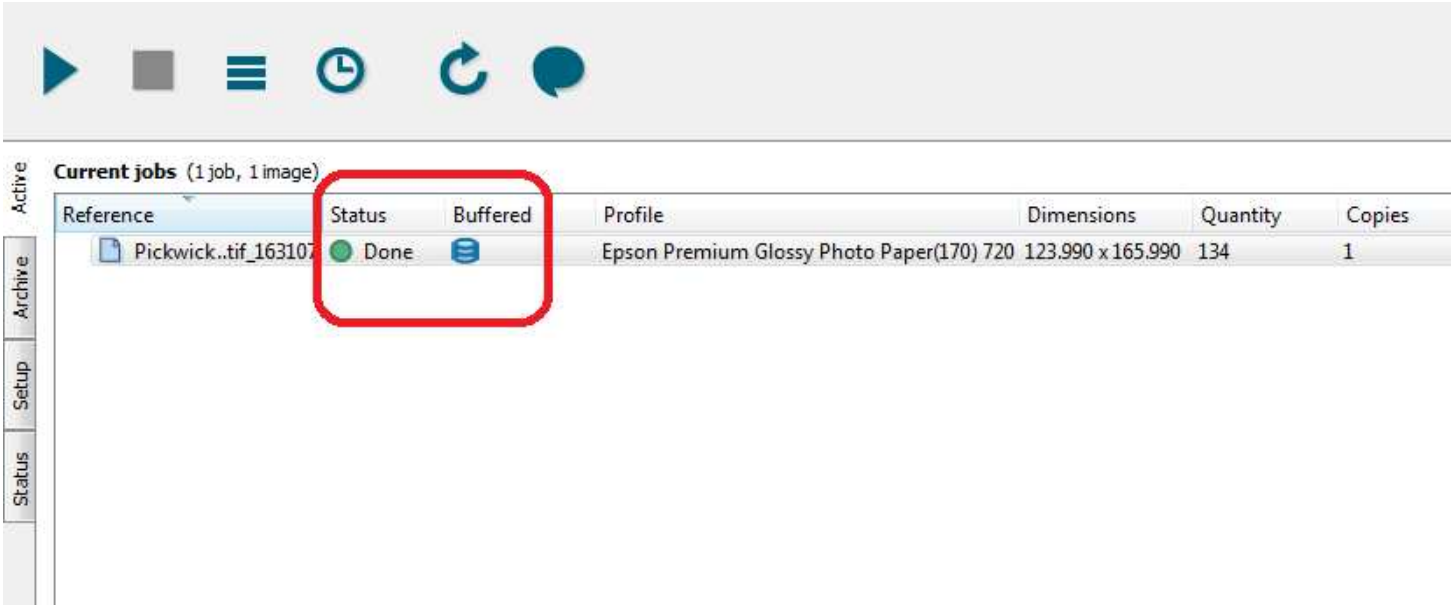
Select	Queue	Media Type	Roll Width	Quantity
☑	EPSON 7900	Epson Premium Glossy Photo Pape	431	134
☐	EPSON 7900 1	none	431	0
☑	EPSON 7900 2	Epson Premium Glossy Photo Pape	431	133
☑	EPSON 7900 3	Epson Premium Glossy Photo Pape	431	133

Once you are happy with your job distribution setup, click on OK button and all jobs will be submitted to the relevant queues. Once on the Server all jobs will be handled and printed the same as any normal job.

Can you make my workflow even faster?

The answer is yes. You might have noticed a checkbox just underneath the *Load Sharing* checkbox labelled *Ripped Files.* If you tick this and then submit the job, your job will be processed and prepared for printing and then distributed between all queues. This means that once the job arrives on the server, on all your queues, it is immediately ready for printing, so no more waiting time to process and prepare the job.

A print ready job looks like this on the Server:



Important Points to remember

1. The profile that you select for the job must match the queue media selected on the server. Otherwise you will get a media mis-match error.
2. The roll width of your queues must be bigger than your job width otherwise you will get a roll size mis-match error.
3. Maximum quantity you can select for each queue is the original quantity entered when creating the job. Minimum quantity is zero which means no job will be sent to that queue.