



## News

For Immediate Release

### **Apago Launches Innovative Cluster Workflow To Automate and Streamline Complex Production Workflows**

Chicago, IL—September 9, 2005— Apago Inc., a software developer for the graphic arts and document management industries, today announced Cluster Workflow, an innovative solution for creating reliable and highly scalable workflows for prepress, magazine and newspaper publishers, and printers. The Apago Cluster Workflow is fully compatible with Mac OS X Server version 10.4 “Tiger”, and other widely used operating systems. By efficiently managing the computing power of an entire network of servers, the Apago Cluster Workflow helps users remove real-world production bottlenecks and avoid the complexity of solutions using multi-tiered hot-folders or simplistic load-balancing and provides a foundation for building highly customized workflows.

“Tiger Server’s Unix foundation, support for SMP multiprocessing, built-in Apache and MySQL software combined with the Xserve G5 make an excellent platform for Cluster Workflow,” said Dwight Kelly, President of Apago Inc. “For high-volume or complex production processes, Cluster Workflow maximizes the performance of each networked computer, which means that our customers can produce, publish and repurpose their content faster and easier.”

“Ease of use, robust Unix stability and full support for open standards are some of the major reasons behind the strength of Tiger Server in the publishing industry,” said Ron Okamoto, Apple’s vice president of Worldwide Developer Relations. “We’re excited to see Apago’s Cluster Workflow take full advantage of the innovation in Tiger Server, and Xserve G5, to develop a powerful workflow application.”

The server-based Apago Cluster Workflow features a sophisticated scheduling and fault-tolerant, queuing system that maximizes the computing resources within the cluster. A cluster allows users to manage multiple computers as a single virtual machine, thus sharing resources on a large scale. Rather than assigning specific tasks to individual servers, the Workflow allows any available server to perform any task. Adding computers to the cluster increases the throughput of the entire cluster. Apago Cluster Workflow includes application modules that perform common prepress tasks such as PDF distilling, ripping, file conversion, preflighting and correction, document assembly, ICC color management, cropping and repurposing. The application modules

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are based on Apago's award-winning products, including PDF Enhancer, Piktor and PSServices. Job status is tracked throughout the production process and can be monitored via an easy-to-use web interface. Apago Cluster Workflow supports both JDF and JMF. Apago's Cluster Workflow is also available for other leading operating systems, including Sun Solaris and Linux.

The first two installations of Apago Cluster Workflow are The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC) newspaper and Time Inc. AJC uses Cluster Workflow on Apple Xserve G5 to create PDF files for archiving and for repurposing content for use in electronic editions of its newspaper and by its business partners and licensees. Time Inc. is working with Cluster Workflow to automate the creation and assembly of electronic versions of its magazine titles for use in editorial planning.

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