FlexSystems™

FlexMail™ 4
Variable Data Printing

A Complete Solution for Variable Data Printing

FlexMail is a variable data design and printing solution, unmatched in its versatility and performance. FlexMail lets you connect to your data, prepare the data for your project, design your output, and print at high quality and speed on any printer.

There is no need for specialized personnel to design and/or operate the software. FlexMail is easy to use because of its intuitive user interface incorporating ribbons, tooltips, context sensitive help, and wizards that take users through more complex tasks. Because of its close similarity to the latest Microsoft Office, it is very easy to understand FlexMail's user interface and operation.

The FlexMail software is international and multilingual. It supports the (postal) standards of a growing list of countries. You can select the language version you want to use and switch between languages if necessary.

FlexMail is available in three different editions, so no matter what source files you have, what you need to design, or what your production requirements may be, there is a FlexMail solution that fits your needs:

■ FlexMail Basic

FlexMail Basic is the solution for users who need to produce designs with text, barcodes and graphics using any database which are printed on small or medium size printers.

■ FlexMail Advanced

FlexMail Advanced offers extended database features like the ability to process Pdf-files and tools for database management and duplicate detection and removal. The designer supports variable graphics, postal indicia, and duplex printing. Together with the extended print production features, this is the perfect solution for production environments.

■ FlexMail Professional

Next to all the database, design and printing features of the advanced edition, the FlexMail Professional edition offers functionality lets you to integrate FlexMail in your production environment to control the printer and production line and link FlexMail to devices like camera systems conveyors etc.

All FlexMail editions can be extended with modules supporting specific printers used in professional environments and modules to prepare mail according to the postal standards.

■ Printer Support

All editions of FlexMail work on any Windows supported printer. For a wide range of specialized printers, FlexMail printer drivers are included that offer printer specific support for maximum speed and quality. For printers that are not working through printer drivers, FlexMail offers specific printer support modules that support printers like the Inc.Jet, XiJet, LexMark, HP4000 etc.

■ Postal Modules

For some countries, postal modules are available to handle address correction and encoding. Next to this, FlexMail mail sort modules are available to sort your mail and produce all necessary output to meet mailing regulations to get maximum postage discounts and fast and accurate delivery of your mail.

Data Preparation

FlexMail has been designed to enable every PC user - from beginners to experienced - to access and prepare the data for a project simply and rapidly. Databases do not have to be imported, but can be linked directly to a project. Additional fields can be created and added to the dataset. Sorting and selecting the data for your project is a simple procedure.

Databases

- Link direct to all industry format databases like Access, dBase, Excel, HTML and XML- files and delimited and fixed length text files plus ODBC links to any other format.
- Set up text files and databases residing in spreadsheets assisted by Wizards. Built-in guess and parse functions make using these file types easier than ever before.
- The FlexMail Advanced edition can also open print files in Pdf-format. The design may be enhanced in the FlexMail designer. The Professional edition even allows you to use any data from the Pdf document for further processing.

Selecting and Sorting

- Select the data you need and sort the data in the required order with easy to use filter and sort functions. Simply build filters and sorts by selecting fields on screen or by filling out dialogs.
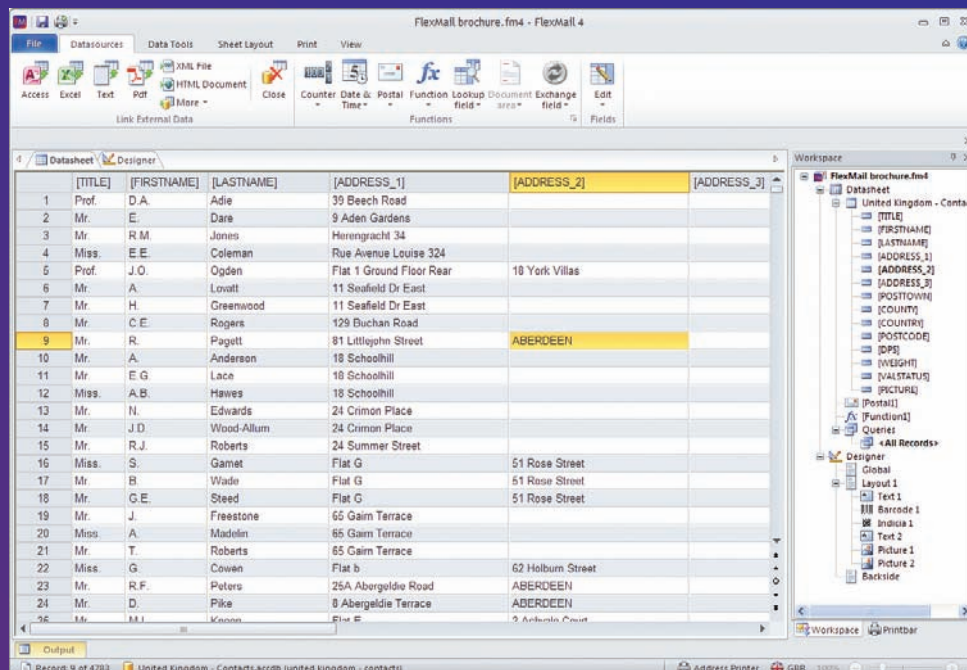- Save selections and sort order as queries that can be recalled at any time.

Additional Data Fields

A wide range of functions allow you to create additional data fields like:

- Counters for (sequential) numbering.
- Date/time fields in any format.
- Calculated fields based on Visual Basic procedures.
- Look-up fields to link to other data or translate codes to text or filenames.
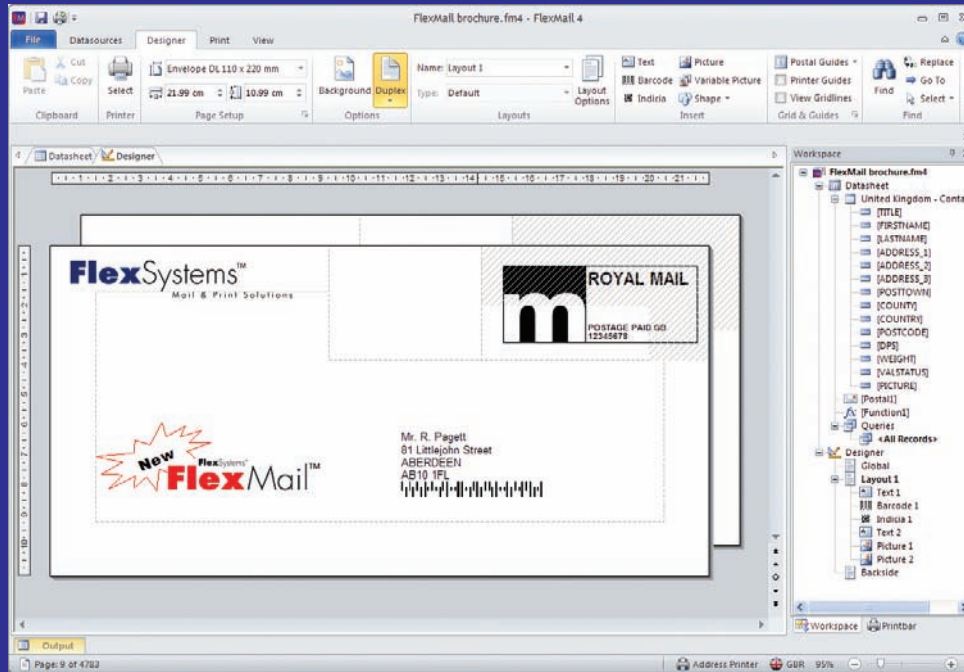- Postal functions to generate contents of indicia and postal barcodes.

Data tools

- Define, locate and process duplicate records according to your specifications within a single file or across multiple files.
- Combine records from different input files into a single output file or process suppression lists to remove records from a file.
- Add and modify records.
- List conversion utilities allow you to change database formats and/or record layouts.

Design Tool

Use FlexMail to design variable-data documents, labels, and envelopes. FlexMail offers total freedom in the definition of the layout. Layouts may include variable and static text, any kind of barcode, variable and static graphics, postal indicia, and more. All without limitation!

Layouts

- Work on any paper size. Support for all standard envelopes, paper, label sheets and continuous label sizes, plus user defined sizes.
- Create multiple layouts in a single project. Conditionally select the layout to be printed or print multiple layouts per record in the database. Duplex printing is also supported.
- Add a background image that can serve as background for design purposes, but may also be printed.

Design Elements

- Add any fixed or variable text. Combine fields into a single line without unnecessary spaces and remove blank lines or change text to upper, lower, or perfect case. Choose font styles, types and sizes. Format the text for alignment, character and line spacing and indentation. Text may be rotated at any angle.
- Supports over 80 different barcode, including 2-D barcodes and postal barcodes. Barcode formatting options include resizing, setting fore- and background color, display of the code text and rotation.
- Include fixed and variable graphics in a wide variety of formats anywhere in your layout. WMF, JPEG, BMP, GIF, PCX, PNG, TIF, TGA and Pdf formats are supported. Graphics can be scaled to any size, rotated at any angle and colors can be modified.
- Add postal indicia for many countries like Premiumadress for Germany and postage paid imprints.

Guides

- Printer guides help to design a layout that can be printed at high quality and the highest possible speed by your printer.
- For many countries postal guides are available to help you to design mail pieces that conform to the postal specifications.

Print Engine

The FlexMail print engine gives you full control over the printer: from set-up to production and maintenance tasks. It is designed to help you to get the best possible quality at the highest possible speed. FlexMail can be fully integrated in the production line for maximum control.

Print Production Control

- Easy to use and flexible queueing mechanism to select the records to be printed.
- Records marked on the datasheet indicating their print status. Synchronized view of designer and/or datasheet with records actually being printed.
- Print bar displaying all available feed-back from the printer, including print speed, estimated completion time and more. When available, ink levels are displayed with the possibility to stop at low ink level.
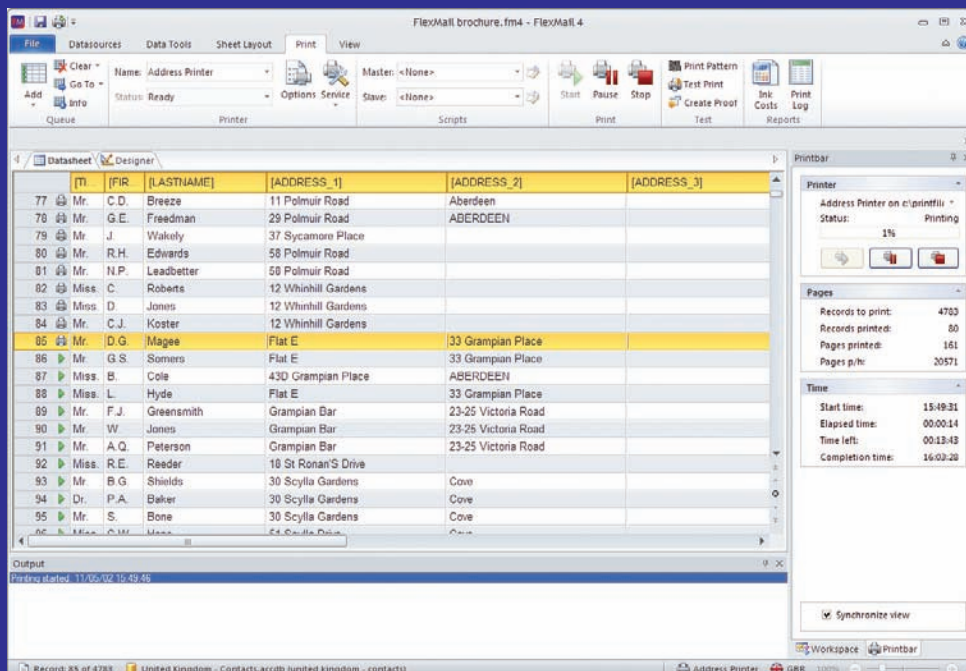- Support for printing on multiple printers simultaneously.

Print Tools

- Depending on the printer, FlexMail supports maintenance tasks like cleaning and aligning printheads and replacement of print cartridges.
- A tool is available to calculate ink usage and costs based on the design and resolution.
- Fully customizable print logging can be set up to monitor machine usage up to producing proof of print per page.

Custom Printer Support

- FlexMail supports a wide range of industry specific printers – from the smaller desktop address printers to larger high speed mail tables or in-line printers. FlexMail automatically makes optimal use of the build-in features of these printers like overlays, macro's, built-in barcodes, fonts etc. ensuring maximum control, throughput and quality.
- Control of printer specific functions like inputs and outputs, sort signals and more.

Production Line Integration

- FlexMail scripting allows you to integrate FlexMail in more complicated production environments by supporting applications like printing-on-demand, synchronized document inserting and printing, and print verification. Connect FlexMail to external input devices like camera systems and barcode readers and process their input. FlexMail can look-up information in a database, update databases, save information to files, print complete designs, and send control signals to other devices.

FlexMail Feature Comparison

	Basic	Advanced	Professional
Input files			
Open Database files of any size in Access, Excel (Office 2007 and 2010), Text (csv, tab), Xml, Html, Txt, dBase format and any other over an ODBC connection	■	■	■
Open multi-page pdf-files "as database"		■	■
Data			
Generate counters/(sequential) numbering	■	■	■
Generate dates and times in any format	■	■	■
Generate contents for postal barcodes and indicia	■	■	■
Define functions in Visual Basic		■	■
Use/add look-up tables for translations and file look-up		■	■
Get data from pdf documents			■
Data manipulation			
Sort and filter records on any data field. Define re-usable queries.	■	■	■
Define and create new databases		■	■
Modify data in the linked database		■	■
Convert databases from and to any supported format		■	■
Find and remove duplicate records on any combination of fields		■	■
Merge multiple databases into one single database		■	■
Purge records from a database that exist in another		■	■
Design			
Page size up to 100 inch/250 cm.	■	■	■
Design labels for use on labelsheets	■	■	■
Import page background		■	■
Duplex layouts (designing & printing 2 layouts per record)		■	■
Define and print multiple (conditional) layouts			■
Text in any font, size, color, rotation	■	■	■
Over 80 different barcodes (1-D, 2-D and postal)	■	■	■
Postal indicia (e.g. Premium address and PPI's for many countries)		■	■
Import pictures in bmp, tiff, gif, jpeg, pcx, png,, tga, wmp, and pdf format	■	■	■
Variable pictures based on other (conditional) data		■	■
Printing			
Print to any windows supported printer	■	■	■
Professional print dashboard		■	■
Print simultaniously on multiple printers		■	■
Define print pauses based on any data field	■	■	■
Purge printheads before printing	■	■	■
Keep-alive function to avoid drying out of nozzles	■	■	■
Create print proof in pdf-format		■	■
Calculate print costs (estimate and real)		■	■
Print job logging			■
Scripting			
Create read-and-print and print-and-verify scripts			■
Create scripts that control the print process			■
Create scripts that are linked to the printer to control the mail table			■
Add custom controls to the print bar			■
Add-on modules			
Print Pro I: Lexmark, XiJet, Inc.Jet support	■	■	■
Print Pro II: HP4000, Meteor support	■	■	■
Royal Mail Address Verification UK	■	■	■
Royal Mail Mailsort UK (70/120/700/1400/Walksort)	■	■	■

Licensing and Maintenance

Licensing – Buy Only What You Need

FlexMail consists of a main program in different editions and a set of optional modules that plug seamless into the main program, offering one completely integrated environment. This allows you full flexibility in choosing the functionality you need. FlexMail is licensed per PC. Discounts are available for multiple installations.

You can upgrade and add modules at any moment you want. Just call your supplier. Within minutes you will be able to use the modules you need.

FlexMail Maintenance – For On-going Value

To be sure that you always have the latest versions of FlexMail, Flex Systems offers FlexMail Maintenance. Subscribers will receive any upgrade or new version of the FlexMail software completely for free during the maintenance period. On top of this, maintenance entitles you to direct support from Flex Systems, the developers of FlexMail.

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