

K4 Publishing System 5.6 – New Features

K4 Publishing System is one of the most widely used editorial solutions for professional publishing workflows built around Adobe InDesign and InCopy. It is being used by publishers, corporations and creative agencies around the world to increase overall productivity, shorten time to market and create higher quality publications. With its multi-level security controls and robust customization options, K4 supports a transparent and secure production workflow for individual workgroups or entire publishing enterprises, reducing the workload in the final stages of production and ensuring a trouble-free printing process.

K4 Publishing System version 5.6 offers many new features and enhancements that help editors and designers work more efficiently, as well as new tools that ease integration with other software components. Major areas of improvement and new add-ons include:

- Support for **Adobe InDesign Server CS2** for rendering previews and PDFs
- **Customized User Interfaces** within Adobe InDesign and InCopy
- New **K4 Revision Manager** to directly compare article versions and to restore text from older versions
- **K4 DropFolders** to easily connect to third-party asset-management software
- New **K4 Caption&Credit** for automated placement and tracking of captions and credits
- Improved **K4 XML-Exporter** for automated re-use of content

In addition, we have added many major and minor improvements to help publishers meet the ever-growing demands on speed and security in editorial production.

Support for Adobe InDesign Server CS2

K4 Publishing System version 5.6 bundles Adobe InDesign Server CS2 to help publishers stay current with technological advancements. The high-performance layout rendering engine that InDesign Server provides significantly speeds up the check-in process for layouts and enables K4 to offer PDF previews, complementing the JPEG previews introduced in a prior release.

With InDesign Server, it is now possible to generate layout previews for each language or regional variant directly in InDesign, InCopy or K4 Overview for better control over publishing content. The addition of these previews makes K4's variant functionality even more powerful. In addition, PDFs are created for every layout version. The PDF files

are available in the browser-based K4 Overview for production control and other purposes. These files can be used within an optional integration with DALiM TWiST and DALiM MiSTRAL for softproofing throughout the creation process to help you identify potential production-threatening issues in the earlier stages of page design.

SoftCare now ships every standard K4 Publishing System with a limited license of Adobe InDesign Server CS2, designed specifically to enable tasks like background generation of page proofs for viewing over the Web. ↑

Customized User Interfaces within Adobe InDesign and InCopy

Until now, K4 users have had full access to all features offered by Adobe InDesign and InCopy, making it a perfect fit for design-intensive publications. Especially in daily newspaper production, however, it is helpful to be able to disable specific features or feature sets in order to avoid user errors and reduce time needed for proofreading.

K4 version 5.6 allows administrators to selectively disable text-editing features in InDesign and InCopy by type of user. For example, authors can be prevented from manually formatting text, or can be restricted to apply only pre-defined character and paragraph styles. Depending on their role in the organisation, other users may still be allowed to style text manually.

With this powerful feature, K4 leaves no room for accidental modifications and user errors, and editors can rest assured that they cannot make any serious formatting mistakes. ↑

K4 Revision Manager

Versioning is an important part of an editorial system, allowing users and management to track the progress of files from the first draft to the print-ready file. With the new optional plug-in K4 Revision Manager, SoftCare now offers a higher level of control over changes made to different article versions and allows easy rollback of unwanted changes.

During the correction phase, it is often necessary to check which changes have been made by the previous user. K4 Revision Manager compares the checked-out version of an article with any older version. Differences in the text between the two versions are highlighted. Each change can then be revoked directly from within the K4 Revision Manager window.

In addition, K4 Revision Manager can compare any given two versions without forcing users to check out the article. Again, the actual texts stored in the K4 database are being compared with one another. Thus, K4 Revision Manager nicely complements the Track Changes feature included in Adobe InCopy. ↑

K4 DropFolders

Today, achieving greater efficiency and reducing overall production costs is more important than ever. Therefore, SoftCare provides K4 users with a growing number of standard connections to other production systems. SoftCare has developed a standard integration framework for sending files to K4, helping K4 sites to connect almost any asset management system to their editorial system. With K4 DropFolders, publishers can accomplish a closer and easier cooperation between picture editors and layout designers.

K4 DropFolders makes it easy to asynchronously check files – images, ads, text files or any other type of content – into K4 from predefined directories that are being fed from an asset management system. K4 DropFolders periodically checks these directories and imports the information into the K4 database. Images and ads will be automatically moved to predefined folders on the server, making sure the material can be easily found later and will be accessible for output. Ready-made connections to FotoWare FotoStation, Visono MAM, and picturesafe myCONTENT are already available today. ↑

K4 Caption&Credit

Once images have been checked in to the system with K4 DropFolders, K4 re-uses the caption and credit information to further streamline the design workflow. K4 Caption&Credit will automatically make sure that every placed image is accompanied by the correct credit information, and that the information is made available after production for commercial and statistical purposes.

In addition to the file itself, images sent to K4 via K4 DropFolders can be accompanied by information about image caption and credits that will be displayed as metadata information in K4. Layout designers can then easily search and filter captions and credits. When placing images onto the layout, caption and credit are automatically imported into text frames based on templates within K4. These text frames are logically linked to the image frames so that they move along with them when the images are moved on the page. Size and position are automatically adjusted to help save time when the layout designer creates or redesigns a page.

After an issue is closed out, a list of placed images can be exported for use in a commercial system, in the asset management system or for other statistical purposes. ↑

Improved K4 XML-Exporter

The optional add-on K4 XML-Exporter can be used for a multitude of purposes. It can automatically provide data needed to feed solutions for archiving, Web publishing or ePaper, or it can generate information on images, texts and other objects used in an issue that can be fed into commercial systems. By automating the export of content and metadata, K4 reduces errors and saves significant time compared to more manual methods.

In version 5.6, K4 XML-Exporter comes with new ways to trigger XML export, and new features for sending exported data to its destination point. A status trigger can now be used to start K4 XML-Exporter. After it has output the files, K4 XML-Exporter will change their object status in the system. Different status steps can be selected for successful and failed exports. This way, for instance, the error status can be routed to the administrator, so that he can quickly deal with any issues.

A new plug-in copies the exported objects to a pre-defined FTP server so that the objects reach their destination as quickly as possible. After FTP transfer, K4 XML-Exporter can send an email to notify the recipient, or the exported files themselves can be delivered by email. ↑

Other Improvements

In addition to the improvements described in this document, K4 version 5.6 comes with new features and enhancements in other areas, helping you improve and streamline your workflow to keep up with ever-increasing demands on your productivity. Here is a small selection of additional enhanced and new features:

- Viewing previews is now a separate access right and can be used to make sensitive content invisible to unauthorized users based on their individual and group access privileges.
- Improved handling of variants: A new checkbox system enables users to quickly create several variants at once, e.g. for multi-language publications.
- Enhanced version management: Users can now mark specific versions that are to be kept in the system for reference. These marked versions are not deleted when the configured number of last versions to be saved is exceeded. For example, thanks to this feature, design agencies now always have direct access to the version that was sent to a customer for review.
- Alternatively to the email notification, users now receive alerts for new assignments even if query windows are hidden
- Images and ads that still reside on a client machine when they are checked-in from within InDesign or via K4 File Manager will be moved to the predefined folder structure on the server upon check-in. ↑

If you want to learn more about K4, please don't hesitate to contact us or one of our K4 System Integrators. You can find testimonials and a list of K4 Integrators on our Web site at www.SoftCare.de.