basICCourier 2/2013

basICColor

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basICColor and OS X Mavericks

Quick Check of basICColor Products under Mac OS X 10.9 Mavericks

The good news first: Most basICColor programs work without severe problems under OS X 10.9.

Because Apple changed the system fonts we have a few „cosmetic" issues. The text in buttons and dialogs is now topaligned, but still well readable. We are working on otimizing the layout.

Now for the different programs:

|	
basICColor display	no problems, not all instruments tested, yet
basICColor catch 4	no problems, not all instruments tested, yet
basICColor control (QC color)	Crash when starting a Job – the cause has been identified we are working at it
basICColor certify (QC print)	no problems
basICColor statistics	no problems
basICColor print	no problems
basICColor dropRGB/CMYKick	no problems
basICColor dragLINK	no problems
basICColor LINKflow	no problems
basICColor DeviL3	no problems
basICColor gHOST2.5	minor problems with the file system, we are working at it
basICColor demon	no problems
basICColor profile genie	no problems
basICColor spoTTuner2	cannot be licensed, no problem with a licensed version
basICColor MatchPatch2	no problems
basICColor input3	no problems

We will have solved all critical problems before release date of OS X Mavericks. The updates will be made available for download at www.basiccolor.de.

What Is A ColorServer?

Over 10 years ago ColorServers disappeared from the market after a short life.

Now they are back to stay!
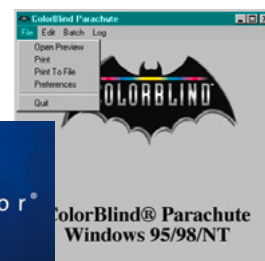
In this article we want to clarify why that is and what it´s all about that nearly every vendor of color management software has one to offer. Basically a ColorServer is a piece of software that converts color data automatically based on predefined rules – typically via hot-folders. Color data could be single images or complex PDFs with colored pictures and vector elements.

What Conditions Does a ColorServer have to meet?

• Color Data
These can exist in different color systems (Lab, RGB, CMYK, Multicolor...) and different color spaces (sRGB, eciRGB..., ISOcoated, SWOP...). When chosing a ColorServer you need to check if it supports all relevant color systems and color spaces – in both directions, e.g. from RGB to CMYK and vice versa.

• Rules
Rigid rules can handle known situations only. With color data – especially if they come from different, sometimes unknown sources – you cannot always be sure that they exist in known color spaces. Some ColorServers use defined rules for known situations and one fall-back definition for all other situations, e.g. all RGB color spaces, not covered by the rules are assumed as being sRGB. This can lead to massive errors in color conversions. That´s why a modern ColorServer must be able to at least detect embedded ICC-profiles and use those for the color transform.

• ICC
Proprietary Solutions do not honor the internationally standardized ICC technology. If you chose an ICC-based ColorServer, it can be used much more flexibly and you are independent from a specific manufacturer.

• DeviceLinks

DeviceLinks are a category of ICC-profiles, which allow for highest quality color transforms. They exceed the capabilities of „normal" ICC device profiles by far.

– In a CMYK-CMYK transform from one printing condition to another the black channel can remain unchanged or its gradation only can be adjusted to the new condition. Suited DeviceLinks can even save ink and stabilize the printing process.

– In an RGB-CMYK transform specific gamut areas can be treated individually, the separation can be influenced selectively.

– In RGB-RGB transforms from a large gamut into a smaller color space you will avoid clipping of saturated colors when using DeviceLinks.

It would go too far to mention all advantages of DeviceLinks in this article. If you should have further questions, please contact the basICColor consultants for more information.

In any case, when shopping for a ColorServer you should make sure that DeviceLinks are supported – not only within the same color model (RGB-RGB, CMYK-CMYK) but also across color models (RGB-CMYK, CMYK-RGB...)

Why A ColorServer?

Nearly all printer or platesetter RIPs come with built-in color mangement. So, why an additional ColorServer?
Even if your RIP(s) meet (nearly) all conditions mentioned above, there are still reasons for switching off the built-in color management and adding a ColorServer to your workflow.

• Harmonize color transforms
Each RIP has its own „philosophy" of how to use color management. This results in different color appearances of the same data processed through different RIPs and printed on the same printer and stock. This can be caused by different CMMs or different handling of the internal color management.

• Unify the handling
Even more important is to reduce the time and effort in operating your RIPs. If you use RIPs from different vendors or just different versions of the same RIP, you know how tedious and time consuming it is to learn to know the characteristics and the handling of each one.

A ColorServer that provides color data for ALL your printing systems in the same way will save a lot of time and effort in operation and touble-shooting if something should not work as expected.

Who Needs A ColorServer?

If you use one (or more) Printer(s) with one and the same RIP and you are happy with the results, don´t even think about a ColorServer.

If you operate several printers with different color managed RIPs and you get different results, you should consider the use of a ColorServer.

If you receive and process color data from different sources and/or you prepare data for customers or external print service providers, a ColorServer is indispensible for economically efficient high quality results.
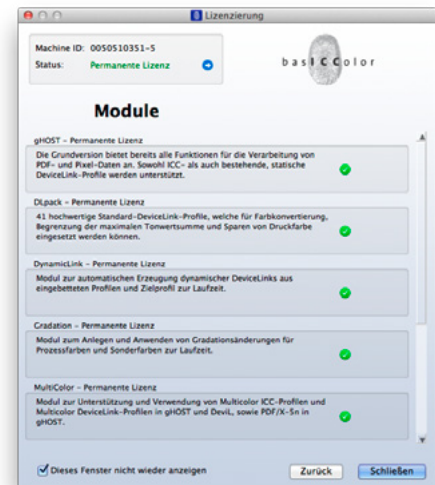
basICColor gHOST 2.5

**The First-Class ColorServer is even better
and even more scalable now!**

The first and most obvious change: *basICColor gHOST* now uses the same licensing mechanism as *basIC-Color display5*. The new licensing scheme has been described in basICCourier 1/2013 at length.

General

• *basICColor gHOST* is an ICC-based ColorServer, that converts images (TIFF, JPEG, PSD in 8bit or 16bit) and PDF files (PDFx 1a, PDFx 3, PDFx4 und PDFx 5n) via hot-folders.

• Pictures and vector elements can be handled individually.

• Multi-level conversions allow for separation, process conversion and ink-saving in one and the same process.

• Spot colors can be converted to process colors or passed through.

• Interactive PDFs (forms) will be preserved.

• Advanced Rendering Intents ensure optimal adaptation to individual needs. „Absolute Compression" matches cover and inside pages perfectly to each other for example. This cannot be achieved with any of the standard Rendering Intents.

• Installation and commissioning is a breeze, the handling is very simple and the processing speed is extremely fast. *basICColor gHOST* optimizes quality, reduces costs and therefor pays for itself in no time.

An Overview of the modules

basICColor gHOST 2.5

The basic module of *basICColor gHOST* is already a powerful color server that converts images and PDFs either hotfolder-based or with drag and drop via ICC-device profiles and/or ICC-DeviceLinks in high quality and high speed. The **Smart Queue...** function allows easy configuration of the queues.
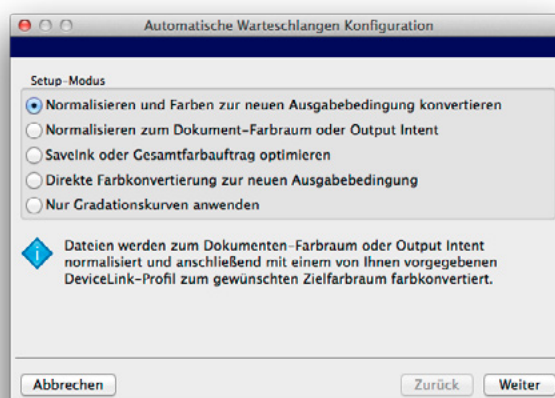
This is where you define the task. Depending on whether your documents are already in the target color space or not, you have five choices of recommended default settings to color convert and optimize your data
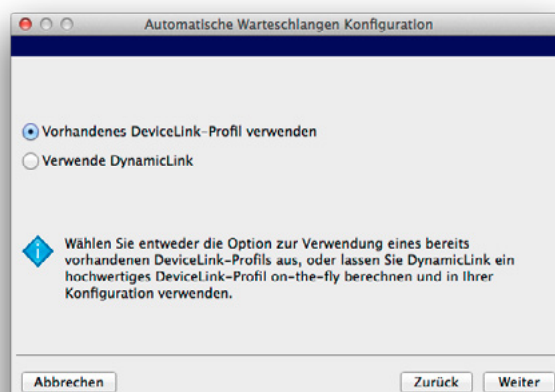
In the 2nd step you define the processing method. If you have purchased the DynamicLink-Module, you can leave the calculation of the optimal DeviceLink-Profile to *basICColor gHOST*. If you wish to use an existing DeviceLink-Profile, you can choose from all existing profiles on the machine that best suits the task.
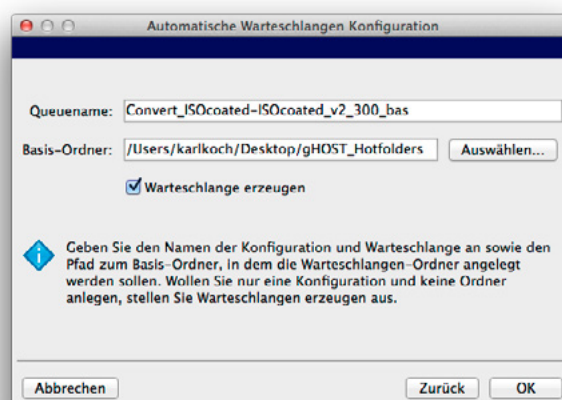
In the last step you only need to name your hotfolder and specify where it is to be saved - you're done!
All configuration settings and hotfolder paths can be changed at a later stage if needed. Smart Queue is just the fastest way to archieve your goal!

DynamicLink

The optional DynamicLink-Option detects the imbedded source profiles for PDF and image data and calculates the relevant DeviceLink profile for each object and applies it. This way DynamicLink is perfectly suited for optimal and color correct conversion of external data from various sources via DeviceLinks. For certain combinations of input- and output-profiles, you can define exceptions and thus perform the conversion via a pre-baked DeviceLink. So you can convert vector objects with colorimetric rendering intent for example - and photos, that are in the same color space, with „Standard Compression", the optimized perceptual rendering intent available in *basICColor gHOST*.

Gradiations

With the optional Gradiations module you can create gradiation curves and use external tone value correction data in *basICColor gHOST* and apply these in the workflow. In the window „Create Gradiations" curves can be created and edited. These curves can then be applied to CMYK or spot color channels.
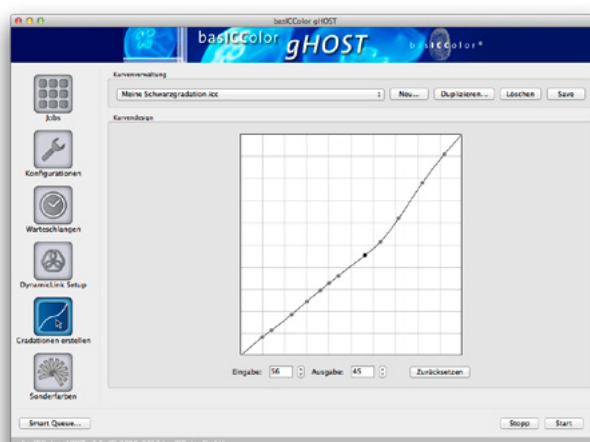

With the use of external files gradiation correction curves can be applied dynamically also. *basICColor calibrate* generates correction curves from a measured print sheet. These can be imported into *basICColor gHOST* and are immediately active in the data conversion. This way last minute changes can be accomplished via gradiations without having to change the calibration curves of a platesetter. In digital printing you can react to short-term deviations in real time.
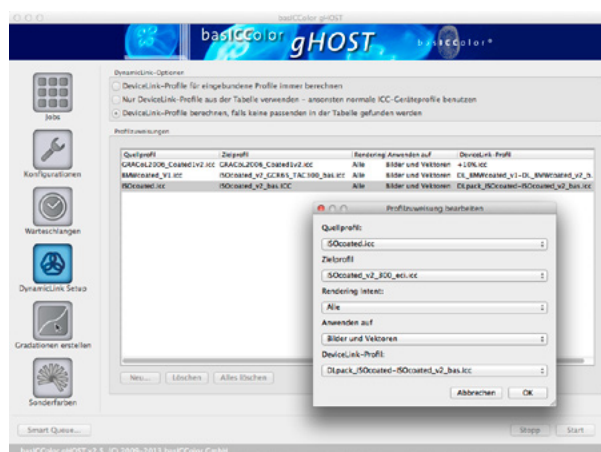
NEW! SpotColor

The new SpotColor module converts spot colors to process colors with a precision unknown so far – for any printing condition, be it offset or digital printing.
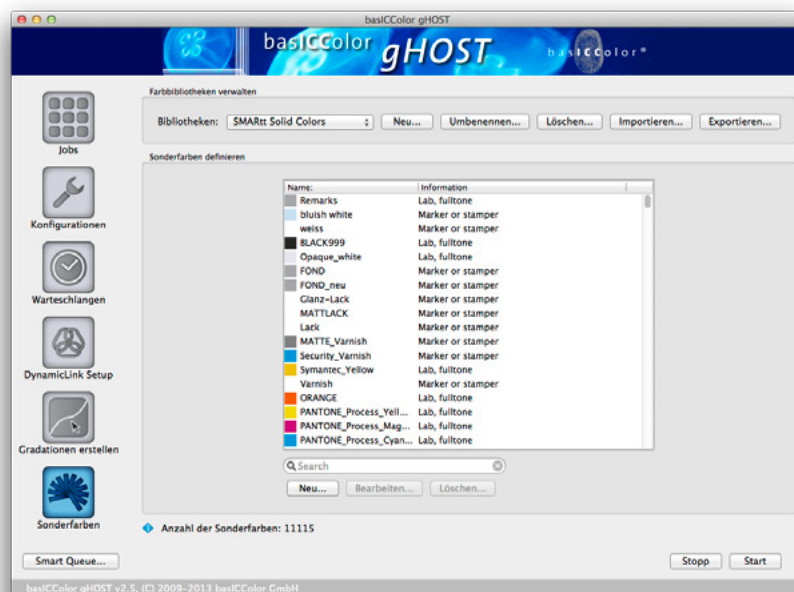
The conversion is independent of the PDF Alternate Color Space, which, in many cases is only defined in CMYK. Spot colors are converted automatically and individually into any destination space – with the precision of the stand-alone program *basICColor spoTTuner*. For perfect calculation of overprints, spot colors can be defined in 3 or 11 percentage steps.
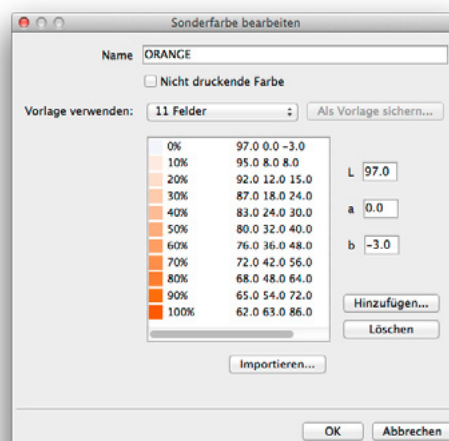
Price And Availability

basICColor gHOST 2.5 with all modules is available as of 1. July 2013.

Module	Price
basICColor gHOST 2.5	2.500 EUR
Upgrade from 1.x	1.000 EUR
Upgrade from 2.x	free
DynamicLink	1.500 EUR
Gradationen	500 EUR
Sonderfarben	2.000 EUR
MultiColor	2.990 EUR

All modules require *basICColor gHOST* 2.5 and cannot be used with older versions!

All Prices net, without taxes and tariffs and without transpot costs (no additional costs for download version).

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the basICCs of colormanagement
impressum

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