

AutoFlow Pro



In-Tools

**CS3/CS4
InDesign® Plug-in**

Version 1.0

last revision: June 7, 2009

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AutoFlow Pro

Introduction

AutoFlow Pro provides an extremely advanced solution for flowing and re-flowing entire documents. With *AutoFlow Pro* you fully control the layout of both text and images, using both master frames and non-master frames. Please read this manual carefully and [see our video tutorials](#) as well, to fully understand what *AutoFlow Pro* can do for you. Once you understand the capabilities of *AutoFlow Pro*, we are confident that *AutoFlow Pro* will change how you lay out documents forever!

AutoFlow Pro Basics

When laying out text in InDesign, the user is faced with some basic problems:

1. Text edited in InDesign does not flow dynamically. To correct the resultant overset text, text frames must constantly be added and re-sized.
2. When laying out multiple columns in InDesign, text frames are flowed to fill the first column before filling the second column. The only way to balance columns is to shrink the frames to fit the text.

AutoFlow Pro allows text frames to dynamically expand and shrink. The automatic re-sizing can even be set for threaded stories. *AutoFlow Pro* does not require the use of master text frames—an important advantage over other products which offer auto-flow capabilities.

If you are familiar with PageMaker's "springy" window-shades, and InDesign CS4's Smart Text Reflow, you will understand the basic *AutoFlow Pro* settings. However, *AutoFlow Pro* goes far beyond the basic functionality of either of these two functions. It will automatically identify whether the text frame is snapped to margins, or column guides, set to a custom position, or is based on a master text frame. Depending on each of these situations,

AutoFlow Pro will flow the text in the appropriate way. Please see [page 22](#) for an in-depth explanation of Frame Types and how they behave.

Additionally, *AutoFlow Pro* can have different flow settings for different stories in your document. These settings can be set on six different levels as explained on [page 20](#). They can be set for both master text frames and regular text frames which are not connected to masters.

Advanced Features

AutoFlow Pro goes far beyond the basic text flow settings, which allow text frames and pages to be added or deleted as you type or edit text. *AutoFlow Pro* is a truly advanced pagination tool.

1. *AutoFlow Pro* can automatically determine which master pages are used as the text flows, by creating master-page-to-paragraph-style links. When *AutoFlow Pro* encounters a paragraph style which has a link defined, the master page is automatically changed to the linked one, and the text frames will be sized to fit. See [page 38](#) for more details on Master Page Links.
2. *AutoFlow Pro* can be used to automatically repaginate your file as you edit it. When used in conjunction with [Story Tools](#), which can split a story into smaller *Story Strings*, *AutoFlow Pro* can automatically add and remove pages between articles as you edit text.
3. *AutoFlow Pro* allows you to simply set your text to Full Text Flow, and your multi-column articles will always have the columns balanced at their end.
4. *AutoFlow Pro* can be used to transform master pages into *true dynamic templates* which can totally transform a live page by simply applying a new master page. Both text frames and graphic frames can be set up to be master

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content holders and the content will dynamically reposition and optionally resize themselves any time the page changes sides, or a different master page is applied. It's truly amazing to watch! Please refer to [page 41](#) for more information on *Master Threads*, and [page 46](#) for information on *Master Content Frames*.

AutoFlow Pro allows you to have complete control over how your layout will look while automatically taking care to make sure that things don't inadvertently change.

Once you use AutoFlow Pro, you will never look at master pages the same way again!

■■■■► *Please note:* Because the Smart Text Reflow feature of InDesign CS4 conflicts with *AutoFlow Pro*'s reflowing of text, setting any of the six flow settings of *AutoFlow Pro*, automatically disables Smart Text Reflow for the entire document. **There will be no warning of any kind.** *AutoFlow Pro* is much more than a replacement for Smart Text Reflow, so this should not be an issue. However, with *AutoFlow Pro*, you must set each story explicitly to flow.

Examples of Use

The uses of *AutoFlow Pro* are extremely diversified. Below are just a few examples of how *AutoFlow Pro* can be used to streamline your workflow.

Berkshire Encyclopedia of China

Brad Walrod recently headed a group of book compositors responsible for laying out an encyclopedia of China. The project was a rather large one with close to a thousand articles spread across many InDesign files. Part of the challenge of the project was the application of the correct master page at the start of each article. Additionally, the articles were to be laid out in a two-column layout. The columns were to be balanced at the end of the articles to maintain a balanced look. The articles changed sizes as the project progressed when text was edited or art was added and removed. Ensuring that the layout retained its correct formatting was not a simple goal—especially while the work changed hands among the different compositors.

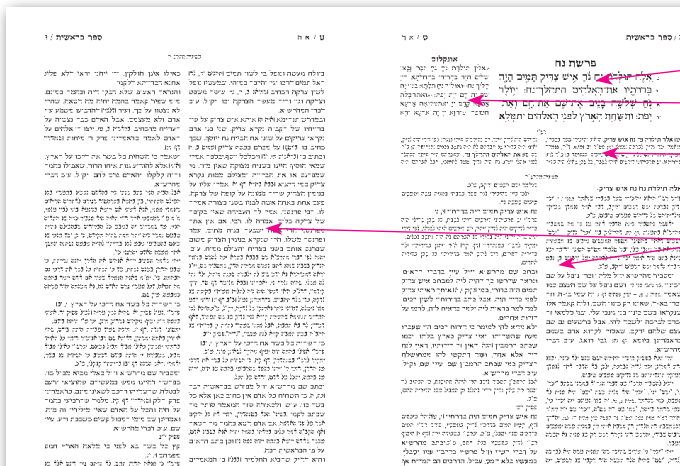
AutoFlow Pro (while still in its alpha stage) was used in this project from the start. *AutoFlow Pro* automatically applied the correct master pages when the articles were placed. *Story Tools* (part of our *Layout Tools plug-in*) was used to automatically split the articles into separate stories, and *AutoFlow Pro* automatically balanced the articles and inserted/removed pages between articles as needed.

Master Threads ([page 41](#)) and Master Page linking ([page 38](#)) were used together with the Full Text Flow setting ([page 21](#)) to achieve the objective. The use of *AutoFlow Pro* helped keep control of the project and saved countless hours of work.

Multi-Text Layout

One of the very big challenges of laying out technical Hebrew publications is the composition of multiple related texts on the same page. This type of complicated layout is commonly referred to (in the Hebrew typesetting community) as “Rav” Text or Multi-Text layout. While *AutoFlow Pro* is not intended to be a full solution for this kind of complicated layout, it can be used to successfully make this kind of layout much less tedious.

In the example below, there are four different texts all being laid out in relation to each other. Some pages will contain all four texts, while others will contain only the main commentary. All verso (left-hand) pages will contain only the commentary text; some of the recto (right-hand) pages will contain all the texts, and some only the commentary. Page sides can change as text is flowed in and edited. With the appropriate application of *AutoFlow Pro* settings, all texts will flow to the correct page placement, whether verso or recto.



Main Text

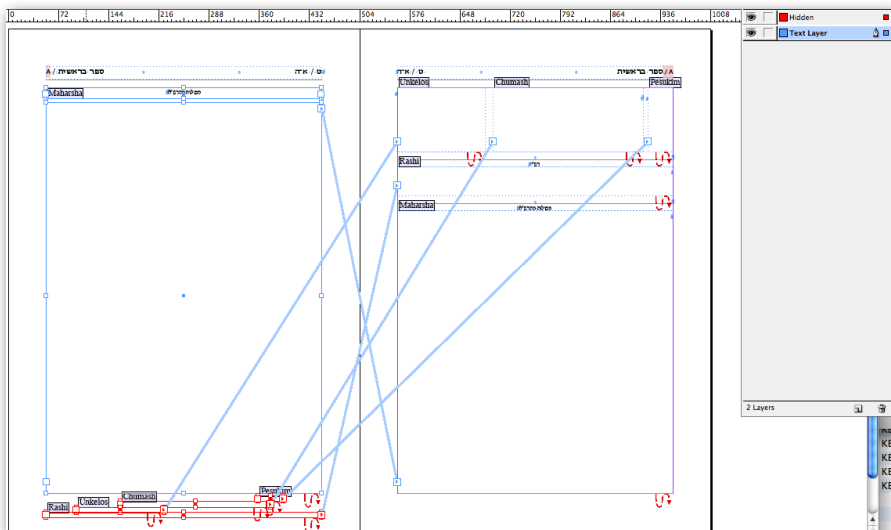
Commentary #1

Commentary #2

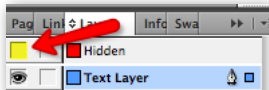
Commentary #3

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The proper use of *Master Threads* can be used to easily add and remove the different texts to individual pages as needed by simply changing master pages. Additionally, the correct texts can be made to appear and disappear automatically as sides change to keep the layout the way it was intended.

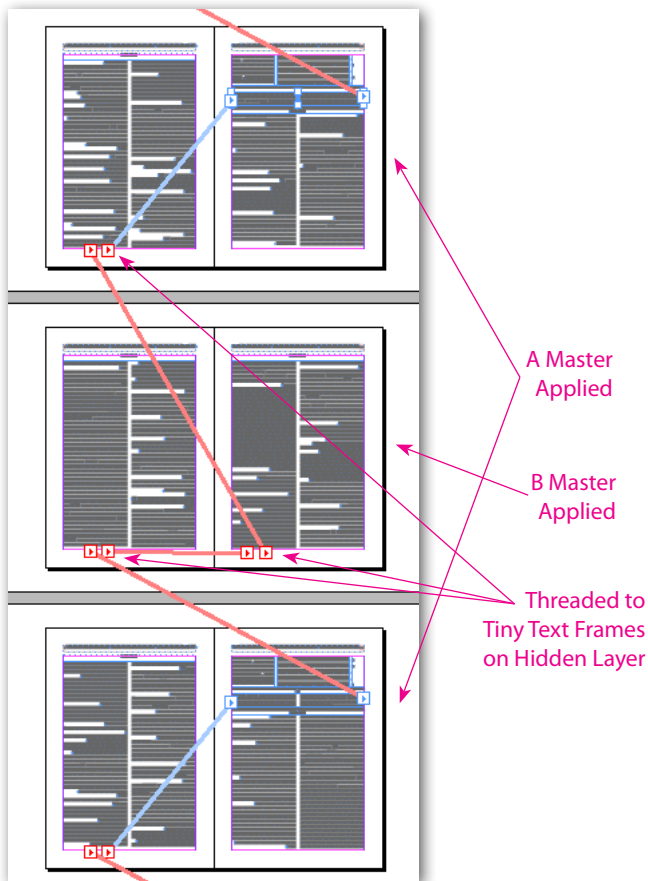


To achieve this, we need to create a few different master pages, and we will use two different layers. Shown above is a screen shot of the master page which will enable all the texts on the recto page, and disable all but the commentary on the verso page. We use InDesign's ability to thread text across layers to our advantage. Each *Master Thread* on the recto page is threaded to a corresponding text frame on the verso page. With the exception of the commentary thread, they are all threaded to text frames on the hidden layer. As soon as the text frames are properly threaded we hide the layer by clicking on the eye icon.



Since the hidden text frames were created too small to actually hold any text, the text will not be composed on verso pages.

Once we set up master pages for the different scenarios with small text frames on hidden layers for all the “non-active” text, we only need to change the master page to add or remove text from a page.



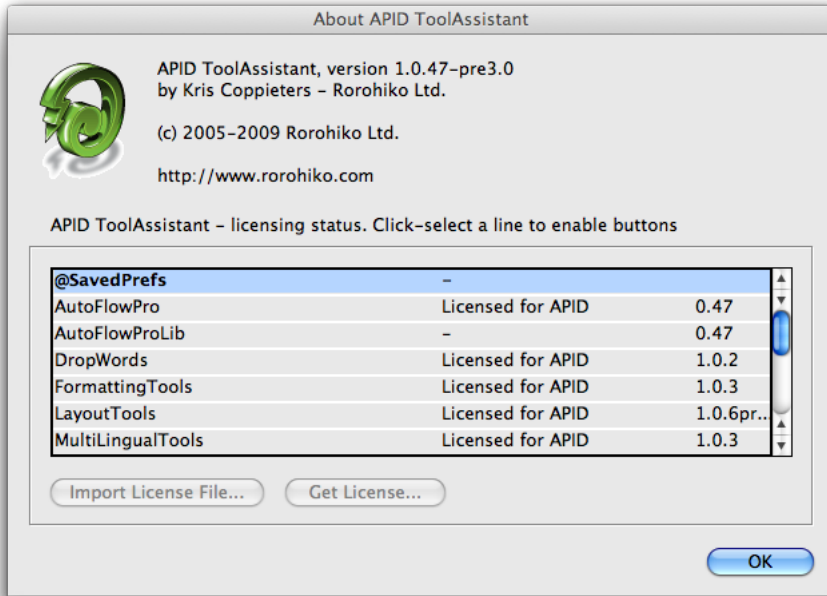
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Magazine Layout

One of the big challenges of magazine layout is dealing with typesetting of articles—very often under tight deadlines. Small changes to copy can drastically affect the layout of the whole page. To keep the proper appearance of the page after copy is added or removed, it is often necessary to alter many aspects of the layout structure. This is a time consuming process as well as being very error prone—especially when working under pressure.

AutoFlow Pro can be an incredible timesaver, and is indispensable in keeping control of design quality and avoiding mistakes. To use *AutoFlow Pro* in this, way, master page templates should be set up in advance with different variations on the page design. These different master pages can be applied on the fly to quickly see variations on the current layout or improve the copy-fitting of article copy.

Installation

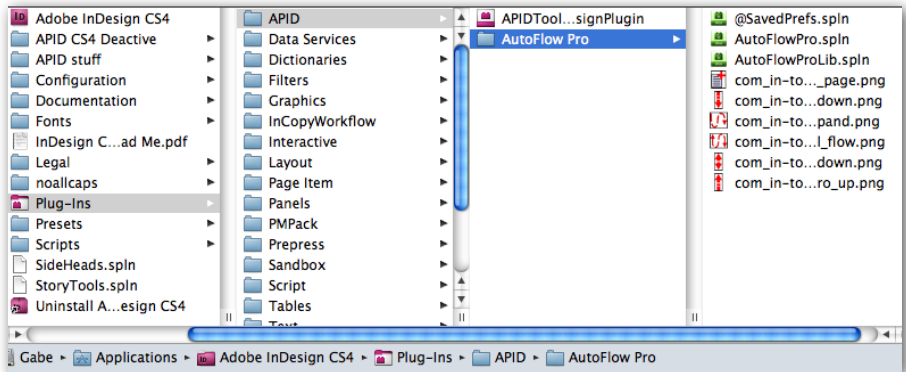


AutoFlow Pro is different than most plug-ins. It was developed using a product called “APID ToolAssistant” created by Rorohiko. There is a central controller provided by Rorohiko which does much of the low-level processing. *If you are interested in the technology behind the development, you can read the addendum on page 59.*

There are four different files which must be installed for *Auto-Flow* to function properly: 1. APIDToolAssistantCSx.xxx (the exact name depends on your version) 2. @SavedPrefs.spln 3. AutoFlowPro.spln 4. AutoFlowProLib.spln. Additionally, for the icons to show up properly the six png files must also be installed.

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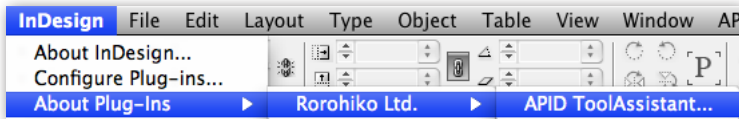
All of these files need to be copied to InDesign's plug-ins folder. To ensure that everything is properly installed, we suggest that the *AutoFlow Pro* folder included in the download be copied in its entirety to your plugins folder. The APIDToolAssistant file must also be installed in the plugins folder. It does not need to be in the same folder as *AutoFlow Pro*. You can organize your folders as you desire.



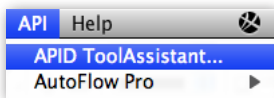
Shown above is a screen shot of how your folder structure should look after installation. We have created a folder named APID inside the Plug-ins folder to help keep things organized.

Please note: APID ToolAssistant replaces an older version of the plug-in. In the past, there were two versions of the API plug-in distributed by Rorohiko. Active Page Items Developer (APID), was the version developed to work with externally developed plug-ins. The free Active Page Items Runtime (APIR), was for plug-ins developed internally at Rorohiko. If you have either of these two plug-ins installed, you must remove them and install the APID ToolAssistant instead. The older APIR or APID plug-ins will not work. You must have the most current version of the APID ToolAssistant installed (version 1.0.47).

Shown above on [page 13](#) is the “About” window of API. This window can be brought up in two ways: 1. Select: InDesign → About Plug-Ins → Rorohiko Ltd. → APID ToolAssistant...



2. Select: API → APID ToolAssistant...



In-Tools plug-ins do not show up separately in the “About Plug-Ins” menu. Information on installed In-Tools plug-ins are only displayed in the “About” window of API. If the plug-ins are properly installed you should see the displayed window (or the equivalent Windows version).

Please note the API version number near the top of the window. Your version number must say 1.0.47 or higher. Additionally it must say “APID ToolAssistant”. If it says “Active Page Item Developer” or “Active Page Item Runtime”, you have the wrong version installed. As mentioned above, both of these versions have been replaced with APID ToolAssistant.

When in doubt: search your plug-in folder for a file whose name contains “ActivePageItem”, and replace it with the new one.

In the “About APID ToolAssistant” window, there is a list of all installed plug-ins and their status. The first column lists the plug-ins. The second column shows the license status. If the plug-in is licensed, “Licensed For APID” will be displayed. If the plug-in is in demo mode, the word “Demo” will be displayed along with the number of days remaining until the plug-in expires.

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The third column shows the plug-in's version number. When trying to determine that you have the most current version of a plug-in, please refer to the version number listed in this column.

Enabling and Disabling Plug-ins.

To enable or disable any individual plug-in, simply move the file into or out of the folder which contains the APID ToolAssistant plug-in. One simple solution would be to create two folders within your plug-in folder. Name one "API", and the other "API disabled". You can then easily move files back and forth.

The APID ToolAssistant is like any other plug-in, and InDesign must be restarted when it is installed or removed. However, the rest of the plug-ins do not require a restart of InDesign when they are installed or removed. Newly installed plug-ins are available in documents when they are opened. If there are open documents when you install any of the *.spln files, those documents should be closed and reopened.

I installed Autoflow Pro, but I can't find its menu!

In-Tools plug-ins are unique, in that menu items will not appear until a document is opened. The plug-ins will appear in the plug-in list in the "About APID ToolAssistant" window, but menu items only appear after a document is opened or created.

Purchasing Licenses and Activation

There are two ways to purchase In-Tools plug-ins: They can be purchased from the In-Tools web site prior to activation, or they can be purchased directly from within InDesign. If the plug-ins are purchased from the web

site, you will establish a login and password for activation at the time of purchase. If you purchase the plug-ins from within InDesign, the payment and activation both occur simultaneously. If you plan to purchase a plug-in package, or would like to purchase a number of plug-ins in one transaction, you should purchase them from the In-Tools web site before you initiate the activation process.

No matter how you purchase the plug-ins, the process from within InDesign is the same:

1. Select the plug-in you would like to activate.
2. Click “Get License”. This will take you to the log-in page of the In-Tools web site (shown on the following page).

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Customer Login". It is divided into two main sections. The top section, "Customer Login", has a light blue background and contains the text "Please login using your email address and password to continue." Below this are two input fields: "Email Address:" and "Password:". A "Login" button is positioned below the password field. The bottom section, "If you do not yet have an In-Tools account, create one below.", has a white background and contains the text "Please enter your email address and choose a password. You will use this password to login to your account in order to install a license from within InDesign." Below this are four input fields: "Name/Company:", "Email Address:", "Choose a Password:", and "Confirm Password:". A "Submit" button is located at the bottom of this section.

If you already have an In-Tools account, fill in your login and password. Otherwise create an account now. If you already paid for your plug-ins, make sure you fill in the login information you provided at the time of purchase. You *must* provide a valid e-mail address or you might not receive your license file.

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3. If you have not yet paid for the plug-in you will be taken to a PayPal payment page. On successful completion of the payment, you will be returned to the log-in page. To ensure that you are credited with your license, please don't close your browser window until PayPal returns you to our web site
4. After successfully completing the log-in procedure, verify that you are on your login page and you should see a link to download your license file.

If you do not download the file initially, you can do so at any time. On your account page there are two tables. The top table lists licenses which were already activated. The bottom table lists licenses which were paid for but not yet activated. To the right of each license on the top table is a link which says "Show License". After clicking on it, it will change to "Download License". You can then simply download the license file and save it where you like on your hard drive.

Please note: If you are using Safari, you will need to right-click (or control-click) on the download link to save it. Otherwise, Safari will open a window with gibberish.

The license file is specific to the installation from within which you have activated the license. It will not work on a different installation, even with the same serial number. If you need to use In-Tools plug-ins with more than one installation of InDesign, you will need to purchase an additional license for each installation.

5. Once you have your license file, go back to the "About" window in InDesign, select the plug-in you are activating and click on "Import License File". Locate the file on your hard drive and click "Open". The status next to your plug-in will change to "Licensed".

Purchasing Licenses and Activation

Please note: Under certain circumstances while trying out our plug-ins, you might see the APID ToolAssistant listed as unlicensed. There is no need to purchase a license for the APID ToolAssistant if you plan on purchasing any In-Tools plug-ins. The licensing of APID ToolAssistant is handled completely transparently when you purchase an In-Tools plug-in. An In-Tools license will properly license APID ToolAssistant as well. The end result will be a licensed copy of APID ToolAssistant, but you will not see (or need) any license file for it.

For further questions and issues regarding licensing and activation, please refer to the [FAQ web page](#); or for specific problems, please contact [technical support](#).

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Getting Started

AutoFlow Pro has six basic settings: **1. Add Pages** **2. Expand Frames and Pages** **3. Full Text Flow** **4. Resize Down** **5. Resize Up** **6. Resize From Center**. These settings are divided into two basic groups. The first three settings will add pages, while the last three will only fit a story's last text frame, but will not add pages. Setting #1 is similar to "Smart Text Flow" in InDesign CS4, and setting #4 is similar to the "springy window-shades" in PageMaker.

The exact behavior of each of these settings depends heavily on how your text frame is positioned. *AutoFlow Pro* automatically identifies four different types of text frames and behaves differently for each kind. The four different kinds of text frames are: **1. Margin Frames**, **2. Column Frames**, **3. Custom Frames**, and **4. Master Frames**. Each of these kinds of frames and how they are identified will be explained in detail on [page 22](#), but for the sake of simplicity while explaining the difference between the six different settings, we will assume that your text frames fit the margins of your page.

1. "Add Pages" does just that. It adds as many pages as needed to fit your text when the last frame in your story is over-set. If there is a blank page following your story with the same master page applied, a text frame will be created on this existing page. Otherwise, pages will always be added at the end of the current story, and new text frames will be created as necessary to fit the page margins. A blank page is defined as a page with no text frames which fall within the margin area. If you have text frames which fall *entirely* outside the margins of your page, the page will still be considered to be "blank".

2. “Expand Frames and Pages” expands the last frame in your story to the bottom margin as you add text. It will only add as much space as needed to fit your text. If the frame is over-set after it is expanded to the bottom margin, *AutoFlow Pro* will add pages as needed. It will not shrink frames—only expand them. If your computer has a slower processor, you might want to use this setting rather than “Full Text Flow” when you only need to expand (and not shrink) frames. “Full Text Flow” has more overhead and may slow editing more than “Expand Frames”.
3. “Full Text Flow” offers the same functionality as “Expand Frames and Pages”, *plus* it shrinks frames and removes empty pages when text is deleted. There is a slight delay (about a second) between editing and shrinking to prevent constant processing while editing text. If you are using multi-column frames, “Full Text Flow” will ensure that your columns are always balanced.
4. “Resize Down” will make the last text frame in a story “springy” so that it will expand downwards to fit the contained text. It will fit itself to the text as text is added and removed. New text frames will not be added. When the text frame reaches the bottom margin, and the text remains overset, the text frame will stop resizing and the text will remain overset.
5. “Resize Up” is similar to “Resize Down”, but instead of the text frame expanding down, it will expand upwards. This is especially useful for manually positioned footnote frames.
6. “Resize From Center” is similar to the last two options, but the text frame is expanded equally upwards and downwards. The frame expands until it reaches either the top or bottom margins.

Regardless of which settings you choose, *AutoFlow Pro* will only adjust the last text frame in your story. It will not adjust frames in the middle of your

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story flow (for example, even if it might be able to be shrunk to balance columns, or expanded to fit more text). If you would like to fit intermediate text frames (for example to balance columns better), you can do so manually by selecting either “Shrink Selected Frame(s)” or “Fit Selected Frame(s)”. The difference between these two options is that “Fit Selected Frame(s)” will either shrink, or expand to fit as much text as possible while remaining within the margins, while “Shrink Selected Frame(s)” will only shrink to fit the text currently contained by the text frame.

■■■➡ *Please note:* Because the Smart Text Reflow feature of InDesign CS4 conflicts with *AutoFlow Pro*’s reflowing of text, setting any of the six flow settings of *AutoFlow Pro*, automatically disables Smart Text Reflow for the entire document. There will be no warning of any kind. *AutoFlow Pro* is much more than a replacement for Smart Text Reflow, so this should not be an issue. However, with *AutoFlow Pro*, you must set each story explicitly to flow.

Frame Types

As mentioned earlier, *AutoFlow Pro* identifies four different frame types while flowing text, and will flow the text accordingly. Below is an explanation of these different frame types and the differences between them.

Margin Frames

Margin Frames are frames which fit exactly within the page margins. *Margin Frames* do not need to fit to the top or bottom margins. If they fit exactly between the inner and outer page margins, *AutoFlow Pro* will identify them as being *Margin Frames*. The flowing of *Margin Frames* is very simple: text

frames will always expand downwards until they reach the bottom margin if the flow setting is set to Expand Frames or Full Text Flow. If the flow settings are set to add pages, new text frames will be added to fill the margins of the following page. New text frames which are created while flowing text will always fill the margins on the sides as well as on top and bottom. This is true even if the previous text frame does not snap to the top or bottom margin.

Column Frames

Column Frames are identified as frames which are snapped on their sides to column guides. Like *Margin Frames*, *Column Frames* do not need to be snapped to the top or bottom margins. The main difference between *Margin Frames* and *Column Frames*, is that *Column Frames* will be created and flow to fill each column of the page in turn, while *Margin Frames* will fit the entire page margins. It is important to note that when there is only one column defined on the page, text frames will always be defined as *Column Frames*—not *Margin Frames*. In situations where there is only one margin there is no practical difference between them, but this can have an effect when there are paragraph style-to-master page links as explained later. In right-to-left documents, the column direction on column frames is inferred from the *Story Direction* of the story—not the *Binding Direction* of the document.

Custom Frames

Custom Frames are text frames which do not fit the definition of either *Margin Frames*, or *Column Frames*. Basically any frame which is not snapped to either the page margins or column guides on both sides and not based on master text frames will be considered *Custom Frames*. The behavior of *Custom Frames* depends on which flow settings are chosen as well as some

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preference settings. For all settings, the position of the *Custom Frames* on documents with facing pages will depend on the preference settings. There are two possible positions: “Static Position” and “Spine Relative Position”. Static Position will place the new frames on the exact same coordinates, while Spine-Relative Position will place them the same distance from the spine. Usually “Spine Relative Position” will be the desirable setting for documents with facing pages.

If “Add Pages” is selected, new text frames will be created as needed on new pages in exactly the same location and size as the original.

If the “Expand” or “Full Text Flow” settings are selected, new frames will be added with the same right and left positions (subject to the “Static” or “Spine Relative” setting). The top of the frame will be the same as the original, but the bottom will expand down to the bottom margin.

Master Frames

Master Frames are text frames which originated on master pages and were overridden (partially detached from the master page) to flow the text into them. When *Master Frames* are used, the text frames that are added by *AutoFlow Pro* are always added as overridden master text frames, and they are overridden and filled with text only as needed. If the text frames are threaded on the master page/master thread, each text frame in the thread is added to the local page as needed. *If multiple master pages are being used in the layout, it is very important to read about Master Threads on [page 41](#).*

When Master Frames are used, and the “Add Pages” setting is selected, master frames will be overridden as needed and be correctly threaded. Only text frames which are needed to flow the text will be overridden.

When “Expand Frames and Add Pages” is selected, Master text frames, when initially overridden will be sized to fit the text and will then expand up to the size of the master text frame. When the size of the overridden frame reaches that of the original master text frame, a new frame will be overridden in turn.

When “Full Text Flow” is selected, The text frames will be overridden as described above, but the text frames will shrink and be returned to the master page as they become empty as well.

➡ Setting up *Master Frames* with the “Full Text Flow” setting is a very good way of creating a document which will balance multiple columns while constraining the text frame size.

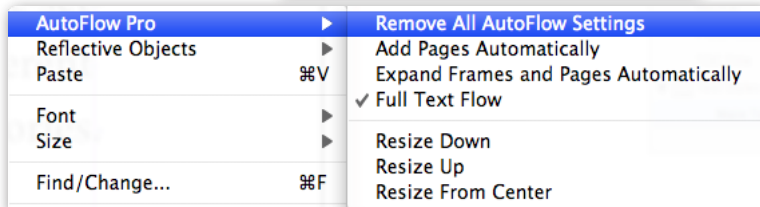
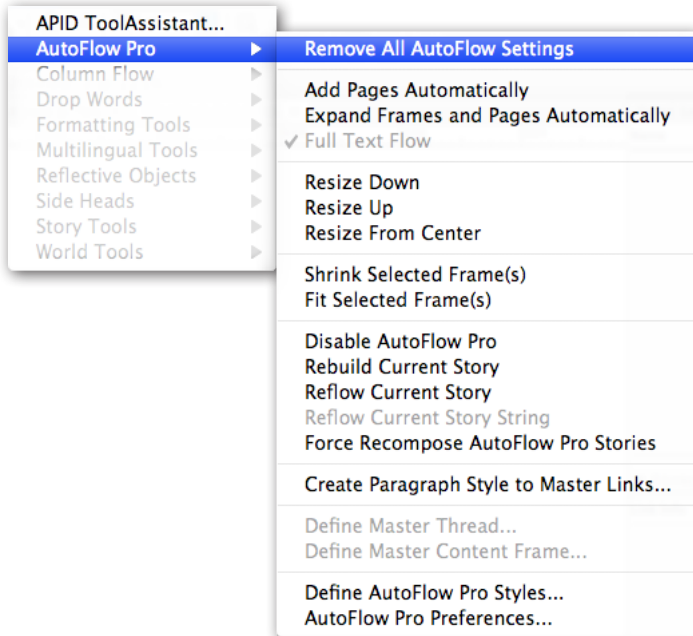
Table of Frame Types and Behaviors

	Margin Frames	Column Frames	Custom Frames	Master Frames
Special Notes	None	The direction of column frame flow for right to left documents is determined by the <i>story direction</i> (not the document direction)	New pages will only be added if the option is selected in preferences. If it's not selected, new text frames will be added to existing pages which have the same master page applied. If Spine Reflective positioning is set in preferences, the position will be the same distance from the spine.	New pages will only be added if the option is selected in preferences. If it's not selected, text frames will be overridden on existing pages which have the same master thread.

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	Margin Frames	Column Frames	Custom Frames	Master Frames
Add Pages	Fits new frames to page margins	Fits new frames to column guides	Creates new frames to original size and position.	New frames are overridden as needed. Each text frame in the thread on the master page will be overridden in turn.
Expand Text Frames/ Full Text Flow	Fits new frames to page margins, and shrinks the frame to fit the text.	Fits new frames to the next column guides, and shrinks the frame to fit the text.	Fits new frames to the top and side bounds of the original text frame, and shrinks the frame to fit the text.	Overridden text frames will fit the top and side bounds of the master text frame and will expand down to a maximum size of the master text frame.
Resize Down	Frame will expand down to the bottom page margin.	Frame will expand down to the bottom page margins.	Frame will expand down to the bottom page margins.	Frame will expand down to the bottom position of the master text frame.
Resize Up	Frame will expand up to the top page margin.	Frame will expand up to the top page margin.	Frame will expand up to the top page margin.	Frame will expand up to the top position of the master text frame.
Resize From Center	Frame will expand both up and down equally. It will stop expanding when it reaches either the top or bottom margin.	Frame will expand both up and down equally. It will stop expanding when it reaches either the top or bottom margin.	Frame will expand both up and down equally. It will stop expanding when it reaches either the top or bottom margin.	Frame will size from the center of the the master text frame. It will stop expanding when it reaches either the top or bottom of the master text frame.

Applying Settings









One important difference between *AutoFlow Pro* and Smart Text Reflow in InDesign CS4 is: Smart Text Reflow is a *document-wide* property. You can't fine-tune it—it's either on or off for a whole document. *AutoFlow Pro's* properties work *story-by-story*—you turn it on for each story you want to reflow intelligently. *AutoFlow Pro* does *nothing* unless you set it to work on your

AutoFlow Pro

story. You cannot set different settings on different frames in one story, but you can have different settings on different stories. Above are screen-shots of the *AutoFlow Pro* menus.

Settings are applied via a contextual menu. Right-click (or control-click) on a text frame, or in the text, to bring up the contextual menu. Under the API the are seven auto-flow options : “No Setting” , “Add Pages”, “Expand Frames and Pages” and “Full Text Flow” as well as “Resize Down”, “Resize Up”, and “Resize From Center”. Each of these settings are described above. The current setting will have a check mark next to it.

Alternatively, you can access the settings via menu items. Select API → AutoFlow Pro → [Preferred Setting]. If you apply the settings on a regular basis, you can assign a keyboard shortcut (see [page 51](#)).

When you apply *AutoFlow Pro* settings to a story, an icon will appear on the bottom right corner of each text frame in the story to indicate the *AutoFlow Pro* status. The six icons are as follows: Add Pages:  Expand Frames: 
Full Text Flow:  Resize Down:  Resize Up:  and Resize From Center: 

You can turn the visibility of the icons on and off by selecting View → In-Tools → Hide/Show AutoFlow Settings

- ➡ The icons are customizable. All you need to do is to change the png files in the *AutoFlow Pro* folder to icons more to your liking. Make sure to create and include an alpha channel in the file to ensure that the transparency is preserved. If you do create a custom icon set, we'd love to see them and share!

Globally Disabling AutoFlow Pro

There are times that you might be doing editing on a document and you don't want pages added and removed while working. While it is possible to remove *AutoFlow Pro* settings for specific stories, very often that's not a good option. For instance, you might want to disable *AutoFlow Pro* only temporarily, or for many stories at once.

Whatever the reason, you have the option to temporarily disable *AutoFlow Pro*. It is important to note that disabling *AutoFlow Pro* only disables the expanding (and shrinking) of text frames and the adding (and removing) of pages.

■➡ Even with *AutoFlow Pro* “disabled”, *Master Threads* (page 41) will reflow when master pages are changed.

To disable *AutoFlow Pro*, just select API ➤ AutoFlow Pro ➤ Disable AutoFlow Pro. While *AutoFlow Pro* is disabled, there will be a check mark next to the menu item to indicate the status. The disabled status is temporary and will revert to being enabled when a document is closed and reopened. When reenabling *AutoFlow Pro* manually, all AutoFlow stories will be automatically recomposed.

Reflowing Stories

As pictured above, two of the options of *AutoFlow Pro* are “Reflow Current Story” and “Reflow Current Story String”. These options do two things:

1. These options enable intelligent flowing of stories which do not have *AutoFlow Pro* settings applied, or if *AutoFlow Pro* is temporarily disabled.
2. These options enable the reflowing of stories to ensure the proper master pages and text fitting without deleting pages—even once the text is set.

AutoFlow Pro

The difference between the two commands is: “Reflow Current Story” will reflow just the currently selected story. “Reflow Current Story String” will reflow the entire *String* of stories related to the currently selected story. The “Reflow Current Story String” command will only be available if the selected story is already defined as being part of a *Story String*. This is very useful for ensuring that an entire document has the correct master pages applied. *Story Strings* are set up using the [Story Tools](#) plug-in. Please refer to the [Story Tools documentation](#) for details.

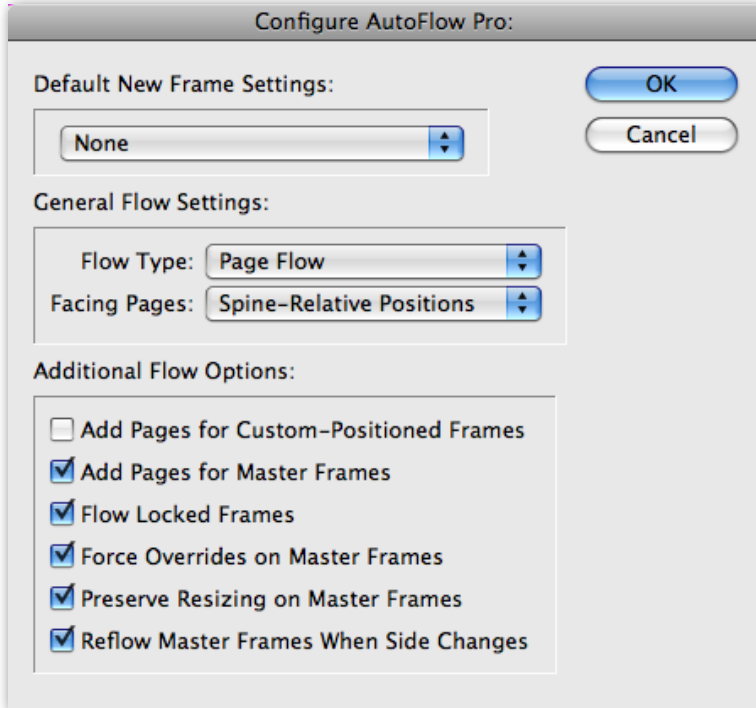
Rebuilding Story Threading

There are times when the text frames in a story might not sit in the correct positions. For instance, text frames might have been removed in the middle of the text frame threading, or master pages might have been changed without Master Threads being set up. Simply reflowing the story will not help in these instances. Reflowing the story will not remove existing text frames or pages unless it is required to do so to flow through new master text frames. To totally reflow the text again requires much more drastic measures.

To totally reconstruct the threading of the current story, select API → AutoFlow Pro → Rebuild Current Story. This will remove all textframes except the first one, as well as all pages rendered empty, by removing the text frames; and will recreate all the text frames and pages based on the current AutoFlow settings. This option is only available if one of the settings which creates text frames is selected (i.e: “Add Pages”, “Expand Frames and Pages”, or “Full Text Flow”). **Please be aware that the effects of this command are quite drastic and use it with care!** If it is used unintentionally, it can be undone.

AutoFlow Pro Preferences

To access the preferences dialog, select: API → AutoFlow Pro → AutoFlow Pro Preferences...



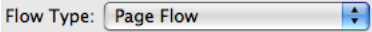
The Preference dialog offers the ability to configure preferences for many of *AutoFlow Pro*'s functions.

1.  This option defines the default for new text frames. If a new text frame is created and the story does not already

AutoFlow Pro

have an *AutoFlow Pro* setting applied and the object style is not linked to an *AutoFlow Pro* setting, the selected Default Setting will be used.

Please note: These settings will only apply to new text frames. Existing frames will not be affected.

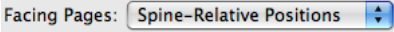
2.  *AutoFlow Pro* can be assigned to flow text on both pages of a spread, or only on the recto (right-hand) or verso (left-hand) pages. This takes place by assigning “Flow Type” as either “Page Flow” or “Spread Flow”.

If “Page Flow” is selected, text will flow to the next page regardless of whether it’s a recto or verso page. “Page Flow” adds pages one at a time.

If “Spread Flow” is selected, pages are always added in pairs. This keeps subsequent pages from switching from recto to verso and vice versa.

When “Spread Flow” is selected, *non-master* text frames will always flow from recto page to recto page and verso to verso. This is useful in situations where the content on one side is different from the content on the other side, as is often the case with texts that have translations or commentaries. If the master pages applied to the recto and verso pages are different, the correct master pages on each side will be preserved as pages are added.

Please note: If master text frames are used, *AutoFlow Pro* will intelligently determine whether the text should be flowed across the entire spread, or just on individual pages. This is not effected by the “Page Flow” or “Spread Flow” settings.

3.  This option only affects *Custom Frames*. All other frame types are positioned based on margins, columns, or master page positions. This option has two settings: “Spine-Relative

Positions” and “Static Positions”. “Spine-Relative Positions” will position the *Custom Frames* relative to the spine on documents with facing pages. “Static Positions” will always position new *Custom Frames* at exactly the same coordinates as the original.

4. ☐ **Add Pages for Custom-Positioned Frames** This option determines whether pages are *added* when custom frames become overset. If the custom frames are set to add pages, new frames will be added on pages which already exist regardless of whether this option is set or not. If this option is not selected, new pages will not be created if none already exist.
5. ☒ **Add Pages for Master Frames** This is similar to the last option, but it applies to master text frames.
6. ☒ **Flow Locked Frames** If this option is selected, *AutoFlow Pro* will flow and resize frames regardless of their locked state. This is very useful if you want to prevent accidental manual movement of the text frames, but would like them to automatically resize and the text to reflow.
7. ☒ **Force Overrides on Master Frames** If this option is *checked* and the master text frames were set to not allow overrides, those settings will be ignored. If it is not checked, the settings for not allowing overrides will be honored.
8. ☒ **Preserve Resizing on Master Frames** This option determines the behavior when relinking master text frames which have been defined as part of a *Master Thread* (see [page 41](#)). When master pages change (as when a new master has been manually applied, or the page side changes) the text reflows into new master text frames. When this happens, all local overrides on the text frame are lost. Very often, text frames are resized to accommodate the text they hold. For example, frames might be made a line longer or shorter to

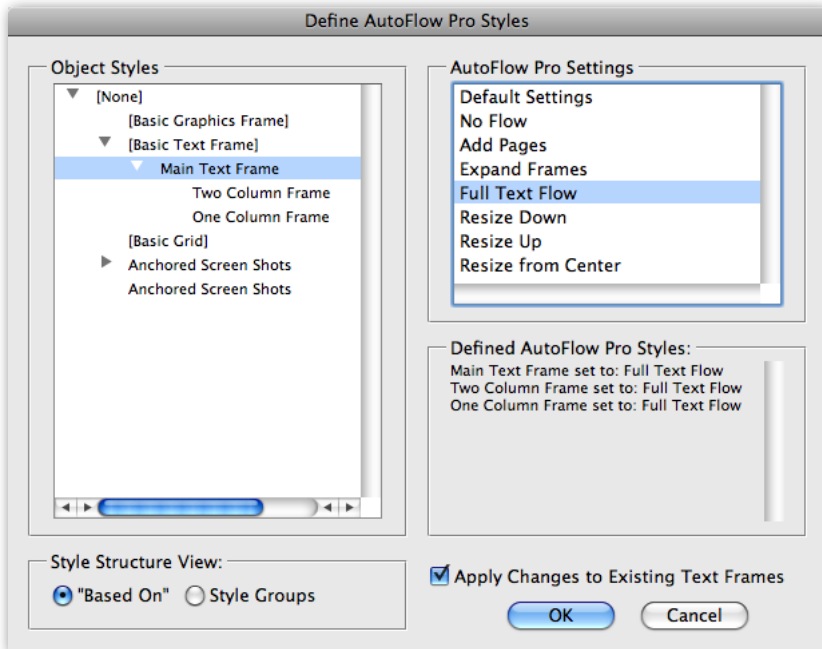
AutoFlow Pro

better balance text. If you do not want to lose the manual sizing adjustments to the master text frames, you should check this option.

9. ☒ **Reflow Master Frames When Side Changes** This option enables text to reflow into new master text frames when the page side changes. InDesign still keeps the master text frames connected to the local ones even when the text frame is located on the opposite side of the spread. This can cause text frames to become doubled up. If this option is checked, *AutoFlow Pro* will remove the original text frame and flow the text into new master text frames as necessary.

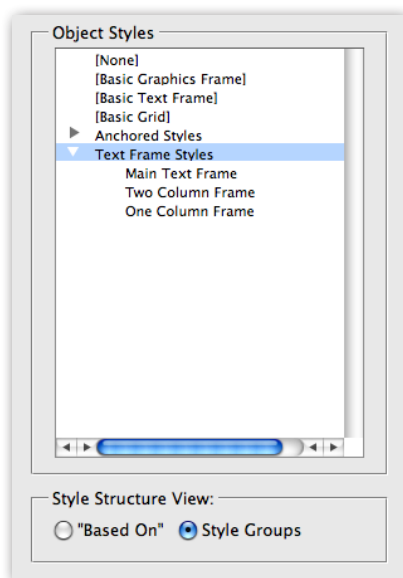
AutoFlow Pro and Object Styles

To access *AutoFlow Pro*'s object styles, select: API → AutoFlow Pro → Define AutoFlow Pro Styles...



AutoFlow Pro offers an advanced dialog for associating object styles with AutoFlow settings. The dialog presents the object styles of the current document in a tree format. There are two distinct tree structure views available. There is the “Based On” view and the “Style Groups” view. You can switch between the two views at any time by clicking on the appropriate radio button.

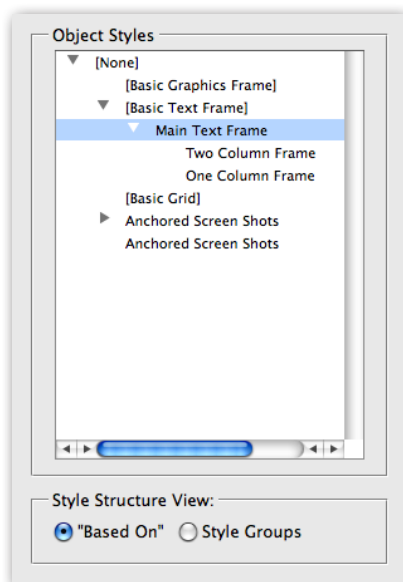
AutoFlow Pro



Style Groups View

The “Style Groups” view presents the styles in an expandable tree, with a folder structure similar to the folder structure of InDesign’s Object Style panel. If you organize your object styles in style groups, you can use this view to select either individual styles or entire style groups.

When a style group is selected, all the styles (and sub-group styles) in the selected style group will be associated with the AutoFlow setting you choose.

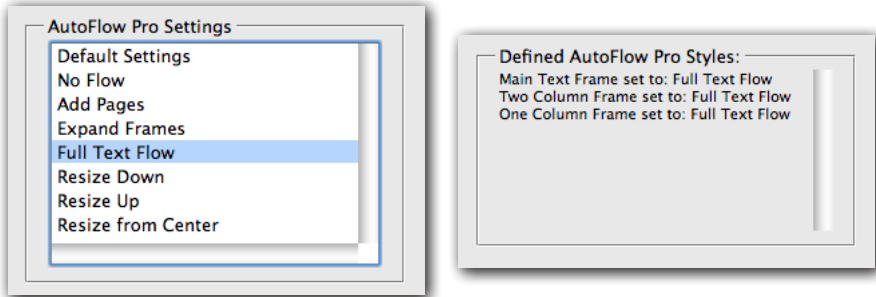


Based On View

The “Based On” view presents a tree structure of all the styles, in which each style can be seen in its relation to the style upon which it is based. The root of the style tree will always be the [None] style as all styles are ultimately based on [None].

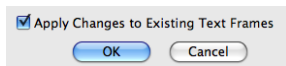
When the styles are viewed in the “Based-On” structure, all styles which are based on the selected style will be associated with the AutoFlow setting you choose.

Associating AutoFlow Pro Settings



Once the object style or style group is selected in the tree view, all that is needed to associate an *AutoFlow Pro* setting with an object style is to select the desired setting from the item list. This will apply the selected setting to all sub-styles of the selected tree item as well. The settings are immediately reflected in the list of defined *AutoFlow Pro* styles below the list of settings.

Please note: Besides the six available *AutoFlow Pro* settings, there are another two selectable options in the settings list: “Default Settings”, and “No Flow”. There is a distinct difference between the two. “Default Settings” means that the *AutoFlow Pro* settings will default to the setting which is set in the *AutoFlow Pro* preferences dialog. If, for instance, the defaults in the preferences dialog (see [page 31](#)) are set to “Full Text Flow”, new text frames created with a style set to “Default Settings” will have “Full Text Flow” applied to it. The “No Flow” setting however, will ensure that your text frame with the selected style will not have any *AutoFlow Pro* settings applied regardless of the defaults settings.



When you finish defining the settings for the object styles, click OK to apply the changes. If you want your changes to be applied to all existing text frames make sure that “Apply Changes to Existing Text Frames” is checked.

AutoFlow Pro

- ➡ *AutoFlow Pro* settings are applied to stories—not text frames. Setting a text frame to auto-flow will affect the whole story—even frames with a different style. The last style applied to *any* text frame in a story will define the *AutoFlow Pro* settings for the *entire story*. **Please take care in which order you apply styles which have *AutoFlow Pro* settings!**

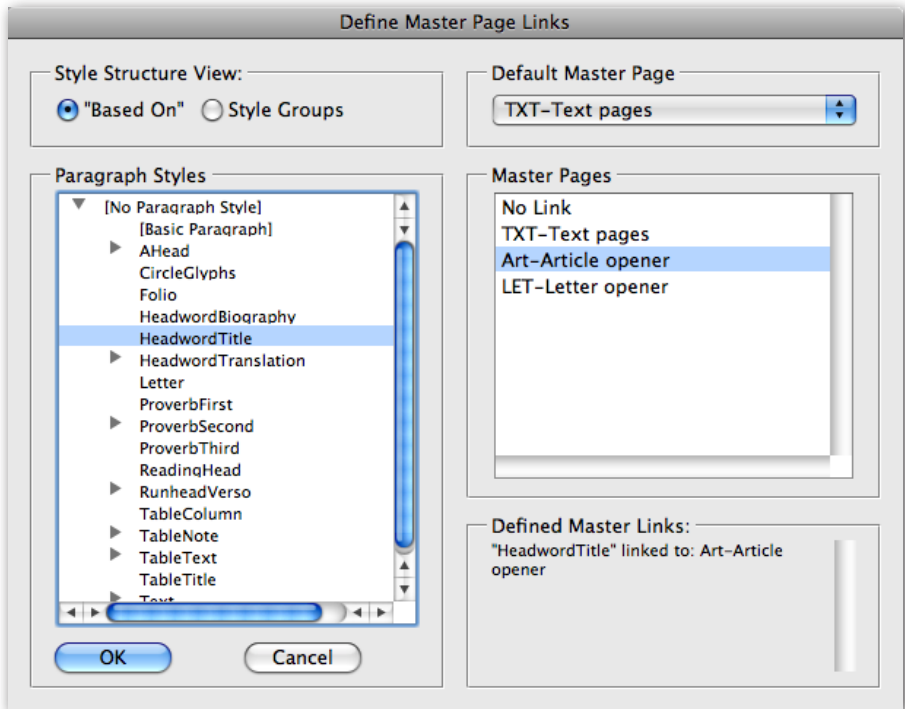
Default settings and styles are saved within the document, and will be preserved when transferring the document to a different computer. If the file is exported to the InDesign Exchange format (inx) or the InDesign Markup Language (idml), all defaults including the defaults for styles will be lost, but existing settings on frames will be preserved.

Linking Paragraph Styles to Master Pages

AutoFlow Pro has the ability to associate specific paragraph styles with specific master pages. This “style linking” gives the ability to have master pages automatically applied while flowing text. When a linked paragraph style is encountered *at the start of a page*, the master page linked to that style will be automatically applied to the page.

- ➡ *Please note:* Style linking only works when *AutoFlow Pro* does the flowing of the text. If you use InDesign’s built in auto-flow or add text frames manually, the master pages will not be applied. Additionally, it only works when text is initially flowed and the text frames are created. It will not work on text which reflows through existing text frames unless the *Reflow Current Story* or *Reflow Current Story String* commands are selected. For details on how *AutoFlow Pro* reflows text please see [page 29](#).

Creating Master Page Links



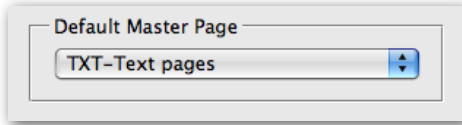
Creating Master Page Links is very simple. First create your paragraph styles and master pages. Then select API → AutoFlow Pro → Create Paragraph Style to Master Page Links... and the above dialog will appear. Select the desired paragraph style from the style tree on the left, and the corresponding master page the right.

As with the *AutoFlow Pro* style dialog, the style tree is viewable in two different structure views: “Based On” and “Style Group”. In either view, all the sub-styles of the paragraph style selection will be linked to the selected master page. In the “Based On” view, all styles which are based on the

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selected style will be included. In the “Style Group” view, any sub-styles of the selected style group will be included.

Default Master Page



It is not necessary to create links for every paragraph style used. If almost all your styles should start a specific master page, there is an easier way. You have the option of selecting a default master page. If a default master page is selected, all new pages will have the selected master page applied regardless of which style is applied to the text. In this way, you can avoid defining links for many paragraph styles unnecessarily.

In the dialog shown on the previous page, there are two master pages with style links set up: the *Article Opener* master page, and the *Text pages* master page. The *Article Opener* master page is linked to the *HeadwordTitle* paragraph style. The *Text pages* master page is set as the default. With this configuration, the *Article Opener* master page will be applied when the *HeadwordTitle* paragraph style starts a new page. When *any other* paragraph style starts a page, the *Text pages* master page will be applied.

Using Master Page Links

Once set up, Master Links work automatically. Any time *AutoFlow Pro* flows or reflows text, the master page will be changed to match the correct master based on the style links or the default master. This is true for the Reflow Current Story and Reflow Current Story String Commands as well.

If Master Text Frames are used, it is *critical* that *Master Threads* are set up. If *Master Threads* are not set up, *AutoFlow Pro* will not change the master page because it will not be able to flow the text into new text frames.

Master Threads

Conceptual Introduction

Master Threads are a novel concept, so it might take a bit of time to “get it”, but the potential of using *Master Threads* is enormous, so it’s well worth the time spent learning what *Master Threads* are, and how they can be used.

Simply put, *Master Threads* are Master Text Frames which are assigned to a specific *thread* of text frames.

Normally, Master Text Frames can be threaded, but only with other text frames on the same master spread. It is not possible to thread master text frames from Master A to Master B. Therefore if flowing text, and the master page applied changes from page to page, there is no way of dictating which text frames, the text will occupy. Additionally, when a master page is changed and a new one is applied, any Master Text Frames will be detached from the master page. Master Text Frames in InDesign can be described as static objects, that once overridden from the master page have very little to do with the original object they started out being.

Master Threads were created to overcome these shortcomings. When Master Text Frames are designated as being *Master Thread Frames*, they have the ability of being virtually threaded across master pages, so a text frame (or thread of frames) on Master A can be associated with a text frame (or thread of frames) on Master B. Additionally, *Master Thread Frames* can be

AutoFlow Pro

described as *dynamic* as opposed to the standard *static* Master Text Frames. These two properties of *Master Threads* open up exciting new possibilities.

Let's explain some more. *Master Threads* are created by naming a master text frame or thread of master text frames. The name can be anything, but once you name the text frames, they are defined as belonging to a *Master Thread* of the name you chose. It is only possible to use a specific name once per master spread. Text frames which have the same *Master Thread* name on *different* spreads will be defined as belonging to the same *Master Thread*. In this way, it is possible to create virtual threading between different master pages. You can create an infinite number of *Master Threads* in each document, which enables parallel flowing of stories (i.e. you can have two separate stories which flow side by side, or top and bottom, etc.).

But What do They do?

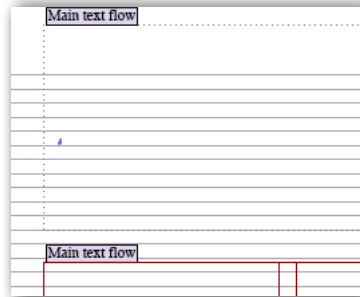
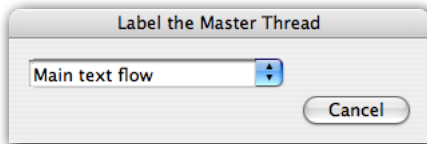
Once *Master Threads* are properly set up, they can be used to intelligently flow text. When used in conjunction with *Master Page Links* (page 38), *Master Threads* can change the positioning and flow of text as the applied master page automatically changes. When the text is flowed and master pages are switched to match the linked paragraph styles, the text will flow into the text frames on the new master page which correspond to the text frames on the previous master page. This correlation is created by naming both sets of text frames with the same *Master Thread* name.

This combination of master page linking and *Master Threads* enables the complete automatic flowing of entire books, even when master pages must change to reflect the text, and even when chapter openers must be placed in different locations than body text. This is true even if chapter openers are set up as single column text, while the body text is set up as two columns.

In addition to the automatic layout made possible while initially flowing text, *Master Threads* can transform master pages from a simple starting point for layout, into true *dynamic* page templates. When text frames are defined as *Master Threads*, the text contained by them will *automatically* reflow into new text frames any time the master page changes or the page side changes. This means, you can drastically change the layout of your text by simply applying a different master page. With one click of the mouse, or by dragging a master page onto a local page in your pages panel, you can rearrange your layout! No more manually reflowing text when you see a need to change the master page—even if your text does not fit the page margins!

Defining Master Threads

Defining master text frames as a *Master Thread* could not be easier. Just select a text frame on a master page and select API → AutoFlow Pro → Define Master Thread..., which will bring up the following dialog:



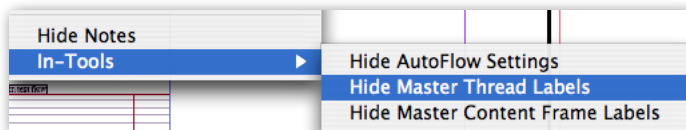
Type in the *Master Thread* name or select a previously named one from the drop-down menu. Repeat this procedure on all master pages on which text of the same thread will be located. Once a master text frame is labeled with a *Master Thread* label, the label name will appear attached to the top left of every text frame in the thread. This is true both for the text frames on the master page as well as the overridden text frames on local pages.

AutoFlow Pro

Please note: There is a bug on some installations of Windows where it is not possible to type a label name into the dialog. We have not yet been able to identify what exact system configurations cause this problem. If you see this problem, [please download this script](#) and run the script once. This should solve the problem by reversing the structure of the combo-box in the dialog when it is re-opened. The effects of the script should hold indefinitely.

Take care to run the script *only* once. Each subsequent run of the script will cause the structure of the combo-box to be reversed. This reversal will either fix, or break the functionality of the combo-box, depending on its previous state.

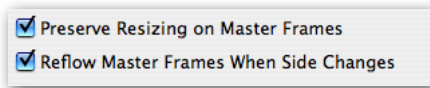
The *Master Thread* labels can be hidden. To toggle the visibility of the labels, select View → In-Tools → Hide Master Thread Labels



Using Master Threads

Once *Master Threads* are set up, you can lay out your book as usual. You don't need to do anything differently to ensure that your *Master Threads* flow correctly. If the story which uses your *Master Thread Frames* is set to AutoFlow (see [page 27](#) and [page 35](#)), the *Master Thread Frames* will be overridden (i.e. transferred to the local page) automatically as needed. Manually overridden text frames will keep their *Master Thread* status as well. The status of the *Master Thread Frames* become apparent when page sides change, or the applied master page changes. In either of these scenarios, the text which flows through the *Master Thread Frames* will automatically reflow into new *Master Thread Frames* taken from the current master page.

When using *Master Threads*, there are two preference settings (see [page 31](#)) which are important to note:



1. “Preserve Resizing on Master Frames” is an option which will keep the dimensions of the text frame when reflowing the text into the new master frames. This is important because the old frames are actually discarded when the text content is reflowed. Very often text frames are resized to accommodate the text and you don’t want to lose those dimensions. It is important to note that the sizing is only preserved if the two frames are considered to be congruous. This is determined by examining the size and location of the two original master frames. If the original Master Frame and the new one into which the text is flowing are within one point of each other, they are considered congruous, and the size will be transferred. Master Frames are measured relative to the spine of the document, to preserve the layout design of facing pages.
2. “Reflow Master Frames When Side Changes”: When the side of a page changes in CS3 and later, an overridden master frame is not actually detached from the master page. It is attached to a master item which doesn’t really exist. When master pages are applied to a document page, *the entire master spread* is applied to each page *individually*. You can look at it as if every page has all the items of an entire master spread on it, but only the items which corresponds to the current page side are actually visible. When the page side changes, even overridden master items (even though they are now within the visible bounds of the page) are still attached to the invisible master page items which are outside the bounds of the page. This can result in doubling of master items. If, for example, a recto page with overridden

AutoFlow Pro

recto master items becomes a verso page, the overridden recto items will be visible as well as the non-overridden verso ones.

AutoFlow Pro will eliminate these doubled frames by removing the overridden one which is on the wrong page side, and overriding the corresponding one on the current page side. If (for whatever reason) you want to preserve these doubled up frames, you have the option of canceling this reflow.

- ▶ If you have a document which has text which should only appear on either a recto or verso page, but there's a chance for page sides to change, it is advisable to create a master thread which spans both pages. On the side which should not contain the text, you should create the text frame too small to actually hold any text. This will cause the text to “appear” and “disappear” automatically as page sides change. You can place the “blank” text frames in the page margins or on a hidden layer so they will be out of the way.

Master Content Frames

AutoFlow Pro completes the concept of using master pages as dynamic templates by offering *Master Content Frames*. Just as *Master Threads* transform the way text frames are automatically overridden and threaded as work progresses, so too, *Master Content Frames* transform the way graphics frames hold content.

Master Content Frames set the size and position of graphic objects prior to their placement on the page. As in *Master Thread Frames*, when master pages are changed, the content of *Master Content Frames* will be transferred to the new corresponding *Master Content Frames*. If the size or location of

the graphic frames changes, the new size and location will be used. The new frame fitting options will be honored as well.

The combination of *Master Threads* and *Master Content Frames* allows highly structured layout to be set up in advance with multiple alternatives. Existing layouts can be completely altered, with the text reflowing and the graphics rearranging themselves to fit the new layout—totally automatically, by simply applying a new master page. The application of *Master Threads* and *Master Content Frames* to create *dynamic* master page templates will dramatically increase your productivity!

Defining Master Content Frames

The process of defining *Master Content Frames* is very similar to the process of defining *Master Threads*. Simply select a Frame or any object which can contain graphics on a master page and select API → AutoFlow Pro → Define Master Content Frame.... The labels are applied in the same way that *Master Thread* labels are applied (see [page 43](#)), and the label will appear on the top of the graphic frame as with master threads. The visibility is toggled by selecting View → In-Tools → Hide/Show Master Content Frame Labels.

Using Master Content Frames

For *Master Content Frames* to be effectively used, each master page which could possibly be used should have corresponding *Master Content Frames*. The *Master Content Frames* on each master can have unique placement and fitting options. Fitting options can be predefined using InDesign's Frame Fitting Options. If the fitting options do not match, the content will be refitted to the new fitting options. If no fitting options are set, the content will be positioned and scaled proportionally to the existing positioning and scaling. *AutoFlow Pro* uses a sophisticated algorithm to determine how the content

AutoFlow Pro

should be positioned within the frame. If no Frame Fitting Options are defined, *AutoFlow Pro* will determine whether the content is fit to the frame, centered, or placed at a custom position and magnification.

Content of *Master Content Frames* can be any object type which can exist in frames. This includes native InDesign objects such as rectangles, polygons, text frames, lines, groups, etc. It can include linked graphics as well.

If the master page is switched to a master page which does not contain a corresponding Master Content Frame, the frame will be disconnected from the master and remain in its current position.

■ If you are designing a layout which has a variable number of graphics, you can have the graphics “appear” and “disappear” when master pages are changed. To accomplish this, create a hidden layer and place the Master Content Frames on this hidden layer, for any page where you do not want a particular graphic content to show. The graphic content will then “pop in and out” automatically when master pages change.

Other Commands



- Shrink Selected Frame(s)
- Fit Selected Frame(s)
- Disable AutoFlow Pro
- Rebuild Current Story
- Reflow Current Story
- Reflow Current Story String
- Force Recompose AutoFlow Pro Stories

Shrink Selected Frame(s)

“Shrink Selected Frame(s)” will simply fit the selected frame or frames to the smallest size which will not cause the text to be overset. This is similar to the Fit Frame to Content command, but it works with threaded frames—even frames in the middle of a story. “Shrink Selected Frame(s)” is useful for balancing multi-column text frames. The command honors AutoFlow settings. If the story is set to Resize Up or Resize from Center, those settings will be honored when resizing the frame. Otherwise the text frame will be resized at the bottom.

Fit Selected Frame(s)

This option is very similar to the Shrink Selected Frame(s). The only difference between the two commands, is that Fit Selected Frame(s) will either shrink *or* expand the text frame as necessary to fit the maximum amount of text without going beyond the page margins.

Disable AutoFlow Pro

This command gives the option to temporarily disable flowing on stories set to AutoFlow. For detailed information please see [page 29](#).

AutoFlow Pro

Rebuild Current Story

This command is a very drastic way of getting *AutoFlow Pro* to recompose a story. It will remove all text frames except the first one, and if possible, will remove pages as well. After the text frames are removed, it will re-create them using the settings applied to the story. This command only works if a story is set to add text frames.

We recommend only using this command if it's truly necessary. It can sometimes cause major changes to your document. Please refer to [page 30](#) for further details.

Reflow Current Story / Reflow Current Story String.

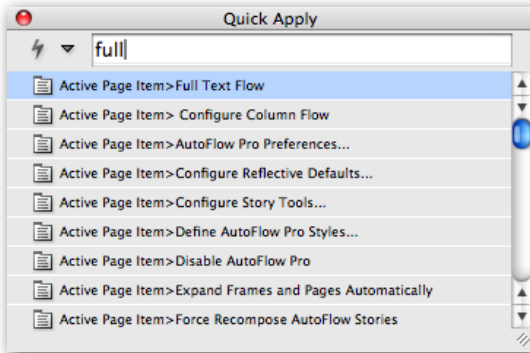
This command forces the currently selected story to be reflowed. The text frames will be fit as they would be when flowed for the first time, and any Master page links will be used to correct the applied master pages. For full information, please see [page 29](#).

Force Recompose AutoFlow Stories

This command is used to force *AutoFlow Pro* to “wake up”. Under normal circumstances this command should not be needed. However sometimes stories might not be properly fitted because *AutoFlow Pro* was disabled, or the document was edited on a computer without *AutoFlow Pro* installed. Selecting this command when the file comes back to a computer with *AutoFlow Pro* installed will get things back in order. The “Recompose All Stories” command which is standard to InDesign should also work, but this command is more direct.

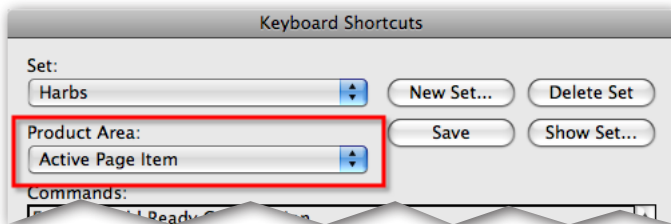
Shortcuts

All *AutoFlow Pro* commands can be applied using keyboard shortcuts or with *Quick Apply*.



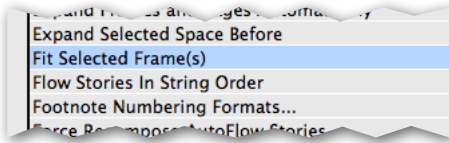
To use quick apply, simply invoke the Quick Apply shortcut (Command/Control Return) and start typing the name of the command. For example: to set the current story to “Full Text Flow”, invoke Quick Apply and start typing “Full...”. When Full Text Flow is highlighted, simply hit return to apply it.

To create a keyboard shortcut for application of *AutoFlow Pro* commands, open the Keyboard Shortcuts dialog (Edit → Keyboard Shortcuts...). Once the dialog is opened, make sure “Active Page Item” is selected in the Product Area drop-down. If you use a custom keyboard shortcut set, make sure your set is selected.

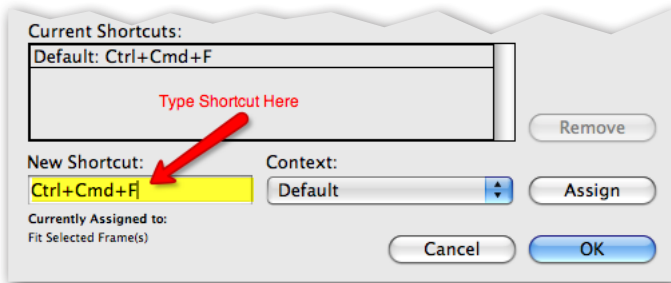


AutoFlow Pro

Now we're going to create a keyboard shortcut for the Fit Selected Frame(s) command which will make it very easy to shrink and expand specific text frames at need.



In the “Commands” list, we selected the Fit Selected Frame(s) command.



We then type Control+Command+F (which is otherwise unused) into the New Shortcut field and click “Assign”. Now we can use the shortcut to resize the currently selected text frame or range of text frames.

Compatibility and Known Issues

AutoFlow Pro fully supports InDesign CS3 and InDesign CS4. *AutoFlow Pro* will work under InDesign CS2, but it is not recommended. *AutoFlow Pro* has been highly optimized for performance in CS3 and CS4. These optimizations do not work well with CS2 and the performance under CS2 will be drastically degraded. InDesign CS is not supported at all.

Compatibility and Known Issues

We recommend a minimum of 2 GB of RAM when *AutoFlow Pro* will be used extensively, although it will work with InDesign's minimum system requirements.

Rotated text frames will not expand correctly and new ones will not be created correctly when flowed to a new page.

Text frames on rotated spread views (in CS4) will expand correctly if the text frame is vertical when viewed. New frames created if text is flowed to the next page will *not* be created correctly.

Whether or not we will give high priority to working around these limitations will depend upon the feedback we receive. So, if flowing rotated text frames or rotated spread views are important in your workflow, please let us know!

AutoFlow Pro Dependencies

AutoFlow Pro does not create plugin dependencies. This means there should be no issues sharing documents created while using *AutoFlow Pro* with other users who do not have *AutoFlow Pro* installed. All *AutoFlow Pro* settings will be preserved within the document as well.

The only issue to watch out for, is when documents come back to an installation with *AutoFlow Pro* installed. If there are overset text frames, or text frames which require reflow, there might be some layout changes when text is recomposed (edited or reformatted).

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Scripting

Most of *AutoFlow Pro*'s commands can be accessed via scripting. Scripting access to *AutoFlow Pro* is provided by sending custom events to the plugin. To do this you must first get a reference to the *AutoFlow Pro* plugin. This is done using the `loadedScriptedPlugins` document method. The `loadedScriptedPlugins` method returns an Array. Therefore, to create a variable which references *AutoFlow Pro* you'd write:

ExtendScript Code:

```
var autoFlowProPlugin = myDoc.loadedScriptedPlugins("autoflowpro")[0]
```

AppleScript Code:

```
tell myDoc
    set autoFlowProPlugin to item 1 of (loaded scripted plugins label "autoflowpro")
end tell
```

Visual Basic Code:

```
Set autoFlowProPlugin = myDoc.LoadedScriptedPlugins("autoflowpro")[1]
```

Once you have a valid reference to *AutoFlow Pro*, you simply tell *AutoFlow Pro* to handle a custom event:

ExtendScript Code:

```
autoFlowPro.handleScriptEvent (eventCode:String,[eventData:String],[delay:integer]);
```

AppleScript Code:

```
tell autoFlowProPlugin
    handle script event event code (String) [event data (String)] [delay (Integer)]
end tell
```

Visual Basic Code:

```
autoFlowPro.HandleScriptEvent (eventCode:String,[eventData:String],[delay:integer])
```

In the above code, the event code is the custom event which you tell *AutoFlow Pro* to handle. The event data is the data sent to the event handler, although not all events require event data. The delay in milliseconds is when the event is sent. This argument is totally optional. If left out, the event will be sent immediately. If it's 0, it will be sent when InDesign becomes idle. Otherwise it will be sent after the specified delay.

Event Codes

Below is a list of acceptable event codes along with the description of what they do and the required event data (if any):

Please Note: The event codes and event data are case sensitive.

Event Code	Description	Event Data
externalSetAutoFlow	Applies AutoFlow Pro settings to the specified story or array of stories	String of two comma separated items. The first item is the story id, while the second item is the desired setting. Acceptable settings are: "None", "Add", "Expand", "Full", "Down", "Up", and "Out". To set multiple stories, the event data for each story should be separated by a colon.
<p>Examples in ExtendScript:</p> <p>To set story with id 291 to Full Text Flow:</p> <pre>autoFlowPro.handleScriptEvent ("externalSetAutoFlow", "291,Full");</pre> <p>To set story with id 291 to Full Text Flow, and story 264 to Add Pages:</p> <pre>autoFlowPro.handleScriptEvent ("externalSetAutoFlow", "291,Full:264,Add");</pre>		

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Event Code	Description	Event Data
externalTriggerFlow	Forces AutoFlow Pro to compose a story with AutFlow Pro settings applied. This command is useful if you need the text to be flowed before proceeding in your script	It accepts a single story id as a String
Example: autoFlowPro.handleScriptEvent ("externalTriggerFlow","291");		
externalShrinkFrame	Vertically shrinks the text frame to the smallest size possible without causing the text frame to become overset	Accepts the id of the text frame as a String. It can accept ids of more than one frame separated by a comma.
Example: (given a text frame with an id of 487) autoFlowPro.handleScriptEvent ("externalShrinkFrame","487"); To shrink multiple text frames: (with ids 487 and 562) autoFlowPro.handleScriptEvent ("externalShrinkFrame","487,562");		
externalFitFrame	Fits the text frame to the text. It will either shrink the frame or expand it down to the bottom page margin as necessary.	Accepts the id of the text frame as a String. It can accept ids of more than one frame separated by a comma. Syntax is the same as externalShrinkFrame

Event Code	Description	Event Data
externalFlowStory	Will AutoFlow a story or list of stories. If there is an AutoFlow setting set, it will flow the text based on the current setting. Otherwise it will add/fit the text frames as needed	Accepts the id of the story as a String. It can accept ids of more than one story separated by a comma. Syntax is the same as externalShrinkFrame with the exception that the id must be a story id—not a text frame id
externalDisable	Temporarily disables Autoflowing for the whole document	None
externalEnable	Re-enables the autoflowing after it has been disabled	None
externalRecompose	Forces all AutoFlow Pro stories to recompose	None
externalLabelMasterThread	Sets a label for a Master Thread	Comma separated string of two items: the story id and the Master Thread Label
Example: (given a story on a master page with an id of 291) autoFlowPro.handleScriptEvent ("externalLabelMasterThread", "291,Main Text");		
externalLabelMasterContent	Sets a label for a Master Content Frame	Comma separated string of two items: the page item id and the Master Content Label
Example: (given a graphic frame on a master page with an id of 723) autoFlowPro.handleScriptEvent ("externalLabelMasterContent", "723,Picture 1");		

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Sample Script

Below is a sample script which will set the current story to Full Text Flow:

```
var doc = app.documents[0];
var story = app.selection[0].parentStory;
var id_as_string = String(story.id);
var autoFlowPro = doc.loadedScriptedPlugins ("autoflowpro")[0];
if(autoFlowPro){// if AutoFlow Pro is not loaded, the item will be undefined
    autoFlowPro.handleScriptEvent ("externalSetAutoFlow",id_as_string+",Full");
} else {
    alert("AutoFlow Pro not loaded!");
}
```

Here's the same script in AppleScript:

```
tell application "Adobe InDesign CS4"
    set myStory to parent story of item 1 of selection
    set theDocument to active document
    tell theDocument
        set myStoryID to id of myStory as string
        set myEventString to myStoryID & ",Full"
        set autoFlowProPluginList to loaded scripted plugins label "autoflowpro"
        if length of items of autoFlowProPluginList is greater than 0 then
            set autoFlowProPlugin to item 1 of autoFlowProPluginList
            tell autoFlowProPlugin
                handle script event code "externalSetAutoFlow" data (myEventString as
string)
            end tell
        end if
    end tell
end tell
```

Script Labels

APID, (and in turn *AutoFlow Pro*) makes extensive use of script labels for tracking objects. If there is a script label applied to story, it will have the *AutoFlow Pro* label added to the existing string when you use *AutoFlow Pro* commands. If you must use script labels on stories, ideally you should use private labels (used with the insert label and extract label methods). If you must use the public labels you should *append* the existing labels instead of simply replacing the existing ones. Otherwise you stand the risk of trampling *AutoFlow Pro* settings specific to stories and/or frames.

In other words, always use:

```
myStoryOrPageItem.insertLabel("myCustomLabel")
```

or if absolutely necessary:

```
myStoryOrPageItem.label = myStoryOrPageItem.label+"myCustomLabel"
```

instead of:

```
myStoryOrPageItem.label = "myCustomLabel"
```

Addendum

What is “APID ToolAssistant”?

Classically, there are only two ways to automate InDesign. One way is by scripting. Scripts are a series of commands written in one of the three supported scripting languages — AppleScript for the Macintosh, Visual Basic for Windows, or ExtendScript for both platforms. ExtendScript is Adobe’s version of javascript. For scripts to run, they must be placed in the application script folder and explicitly run. For automation to be truly automatic, it requires “event processing”. This means that certain events trigger specific

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processes to take place. There is limited event-triggered scripting available in CS3.

To achieve true integration, plug-ins must be programmed using C++. Developing C++ plug-ins is a very involved, and lengthy process. APID ToolAssistant is a plug-in which allows very fine-grained event processing using ExtendScript. It allows for creation of advanced plug-ins in a fraction of the time required when programming using C++. It also aids in the creation of hybrid plug-ins which mix ExtendScript and C++ for maximum efficiency.

Without the APID ToolAssistant, it would not have been possible to create the collection of plug-ins we offer in the same amount of development time. This increased programming efficiency means more functionality for the end user and lower prices.

Additionally, APID ToolAssistant offers the ability to attach scripts to specific objects. These attached scripts can be run automatically when triggered by specific events. Anyone who has a licensed version of the APID ToolAssistant plug-in installed can create and use these attached scripts. There are also additional scripting properties and methods which are usable by scripters. For more information see [Rorohiko's web site](#).

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the many people who have helped make In-Tools plug-ins possible.

To those who give graciously of their time and expertise on the InDesign scripting forum: thank you for introducing us to automating InDesign. Most specifically, Dave Saunders, Olav Kvern, and Peter Kahrel.

To Kris Coppieters, thank you for your incredible support throughout the entire development process. Your help with product improvements and with coding tips and techniques has been incredible. Your support has been above and beyond what we could have reasonably expected. It has really been a pleasure working together. Thank you.

To all our beta testers, thank you for the valuable input which helped shaped our plug-ins. To Brad Walrod: a special thank you for your unrelenting comments and suggestions. To Peter Gold and Raphael Freeman: thank you for your many useful suggestions.

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