

Approval XML automation

Microsoft Windows 7, 8, 8.1 and Srv 2003, 2008, 2011 (32 – 64 bits)

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tFlow Approval is a web platform which streamlines the approval process between creatives, marketing departments, pre-press and printing houses, and customers. It provides a quick and efficient way to collaborate and approve projects, avoiding lengthy email and file exchanges.

Approval allows users to deliver documents electronically, store and organize revisions, add and view comments and annotations, check the incoming PDFs (preflight), and to approve final assets. Approval can also be connected to other systems such as MIS, Web2Print, RIPS, or tFlow production for a fully automated workflow.

Intro

Easy integration of Approval with existing MIS/ERP s is based on hotfolders with XML.

Each instance of Approval contains a special folder located under root here “\repository\input”, and a scheduler (PostgreSQL PGAgent) is installed and configured by default to scan the folder every minute.

Once a valid XML is found, it is processed by a script, and if the data is valid, the order/job creation is triggered.

At end of the creation an email is sent to the users associated to that job - approvers, managers, etc. depending upon their notification settings.

XML file format

Sample XML file:

```
<approval secret_key="Ah5I5DfuebGJ5KDh235g59Bf6fp2DsJHcF3Gfnn1xk">
  <command type="create_job">
    <client_name>4Pees</client_name>
    <order_name>XML Workflow</order_name>
    <order_description>This is the order description and could be empty</order_description>
    <job_name>Demo XML 1</job_name>
    <workflow_name>Approval Workflow</workflow_name>
    <description>This is the job description and could be empty</description>
    <start_date>2015-01-19</start_date>
    <ship_date>2015-01-31</ship_date>
    <user_email>user@fdomain.com</user_email>
    <artwork_size>477187</artwork_size>
    <user_name>Dmitry Bagdanov</user_name>
    <user_password>123</user_password>
    <artwork>document.pdf</artwork>

    <min_width_inches>40</min_width_inches>
    <min_height_inches>30</min_height_inches>
    <min_res_ppi>100</min_res_ppi>
    <preflight_profile>Resize_document_v2.kfp</preflight_profile>

  </command>
</approval>
```

- optional

The supported tags are:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| secret_key: | mandatory, attribute of approval root must be equal to the string SECRET_KEY defined in defines.php |
| command type: | mandatory, type attribute of command node could be one of the following strings: "create_job" |
| client_name: | mandatory, must be unique, case sensitive. Depending on system configuration this could be:
1- equals to an existing client name in Approval DB, if doesn't match command is cancelled
2- whatever name, if not existing it will be created |
| workflow_name: | mandatory, must be unique, case sensitive, equals to an existing workflow name in Approval DB (by default there is only 1 "Approval Workflow"), if doesn't match command is cancelled. |

order_name: mandatory, must be unique, case sensitive, if order_name does not exist a new order is created, if exists the job will be created in the orders

order_description: mandatory, could be empty string, useful for order creation, if order exists is ignored

job_name: mandatory, must be unique in the system, case sensitive, if job name does not exist in the DB then a new job is created, if it exists the command is cancelled

description: mandatory, could be empty string, description useful to better describe the job

start_date: mandatory, must be in the ISO format: YYYY-MM-DD (example: 2013-05-01)

ship_date: mandatory, must be in the ISO format: YYYY-MM-DD (example: 2013-12-31)

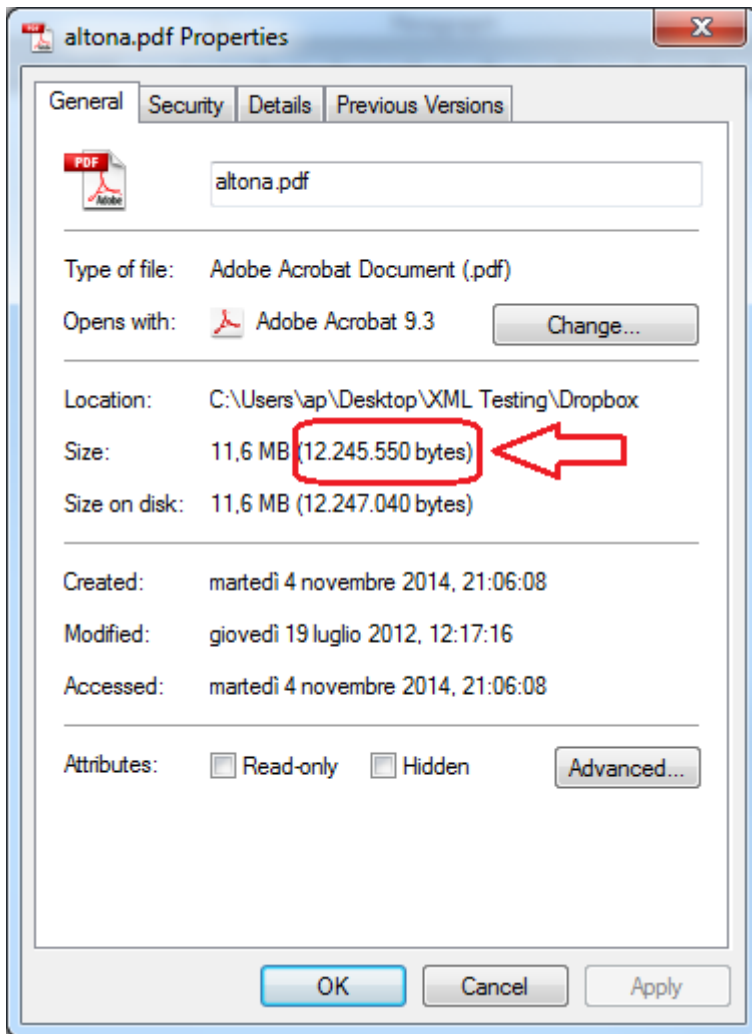
user_email: mandatory, case sensitive. Equals to an existing and enabled user in Approval DB, if doesn't match with the user name then the command is cancelled. If both user_name and user_email aren't present in the DB then they are created

user_name: mandatory, case sensitive. Depending on system configuration this could be:
1- equals to an existing user in Approval DB
2- if not existing it will be created

user_password: not mandatory, case sensitive == assigned to new user in the case is not existing and then the system assign a default "123"

artwork: optional, enter the document filename. If a filename is provided then Approval will import also the artwork PDF

artwork_size: optional, enter the file size in bytes of the document to upload



Optional tags:

- min_width_inches: optional, the final document width in inches, the artwork will be resized
- min_height_inches: optional, the final document height in inches, the artwork will be resized
- min_res_inches: optional, the desired wanted resolution in ppi, if the resized document will have lower res then an error will be triggered and the job status will be changed to "On Hold"
- preflight_profile: optional, the name of the preflight profile to use. If empty then the default kfp is used.

How it works

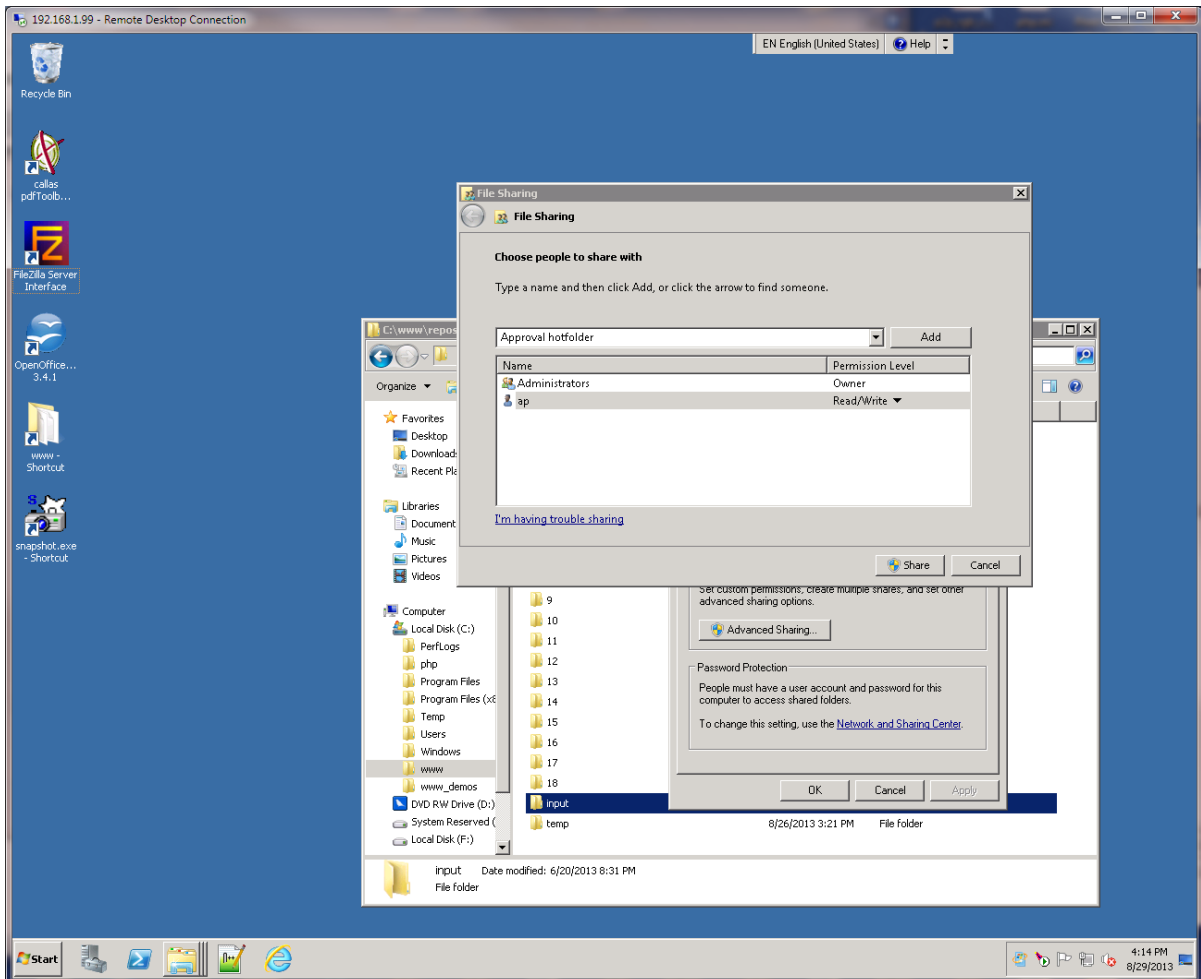
By default each instance of Approval contains all elements (connector and hotfolder) and all the needed settings, so there is nothing to configure.

In order to trigger the Order/Job creation, simply copy a valid formatted XML file into the hotfolder.

We have 2 typical scenarios:

1-Approval is inside a LAN

In this case it is sufficient to share the hotfolder with necessary permissions so that the XML file can be written inside the folder.

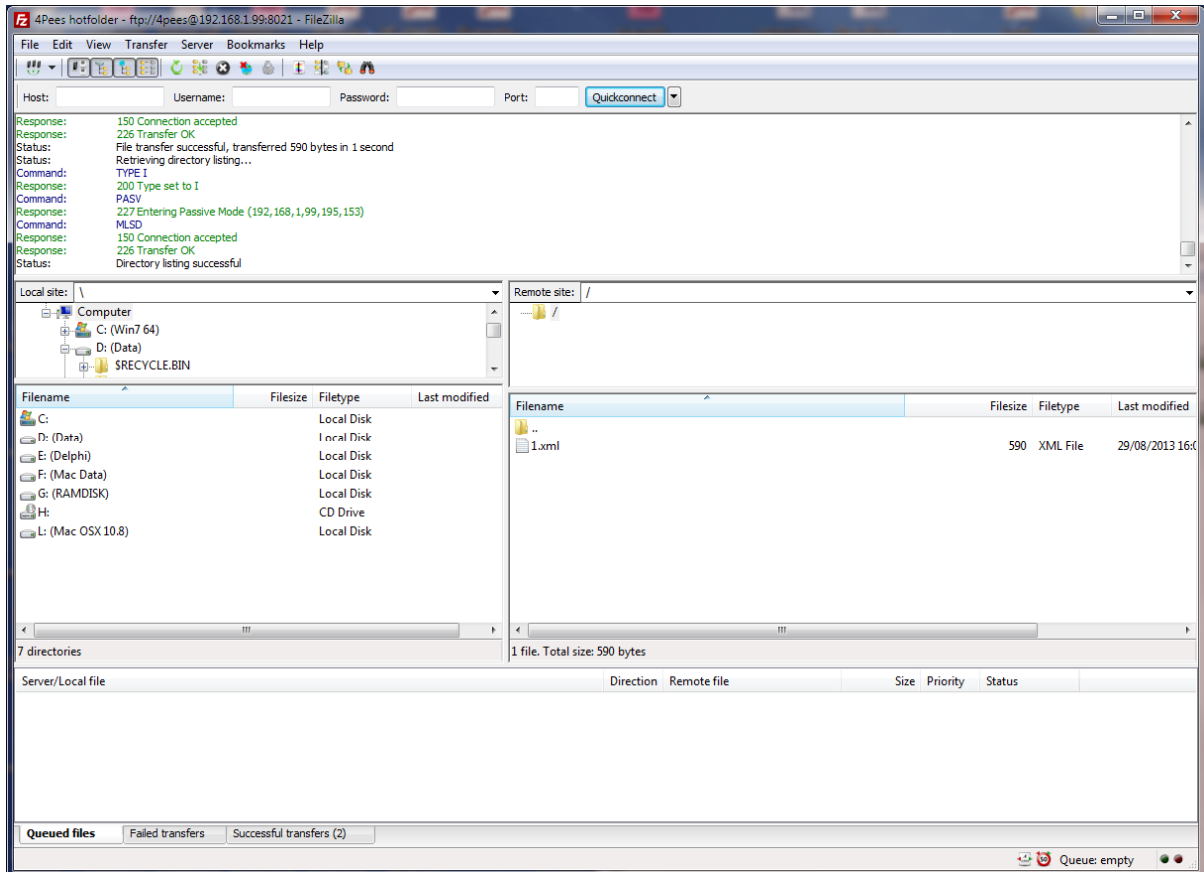


2-Approval is in WAN (internet)

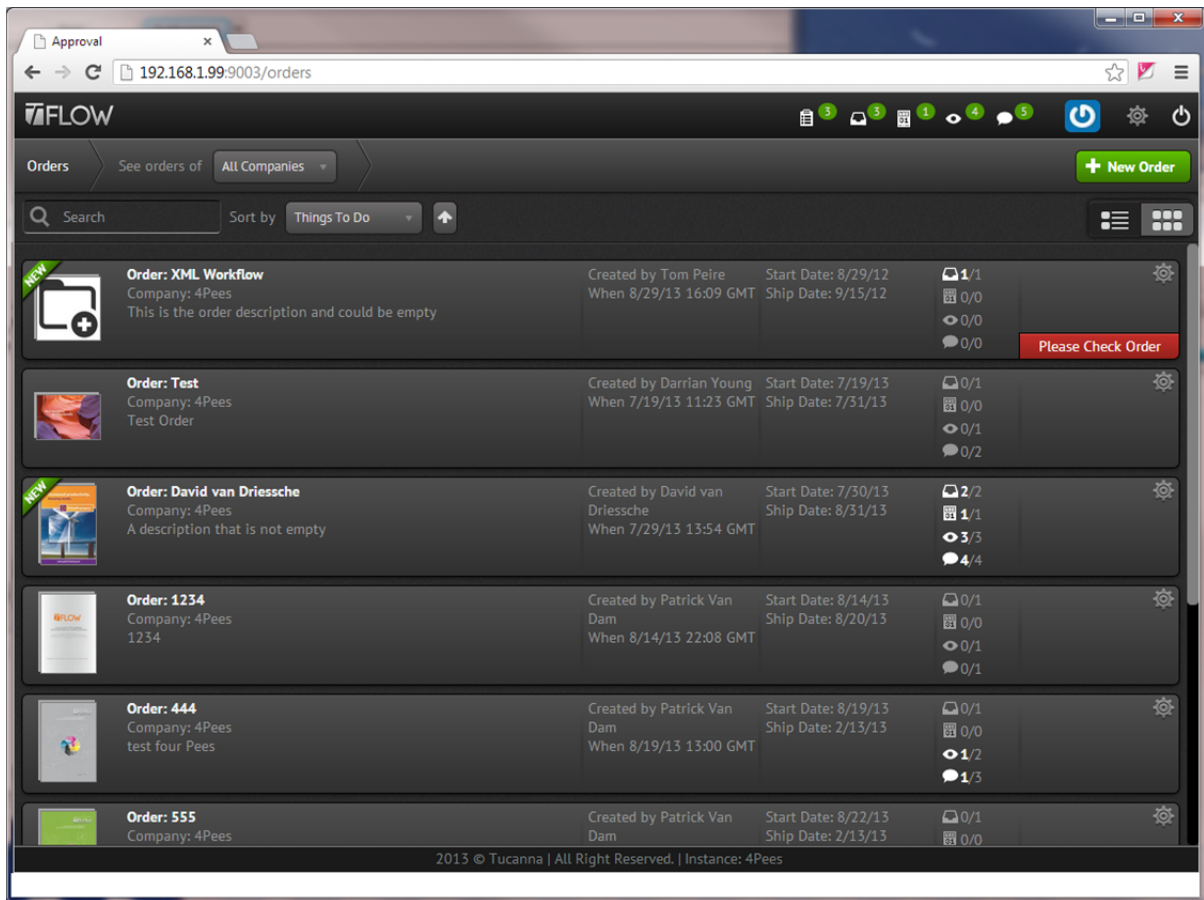
If the Approval machine is located outside the LAN and is reachable only via Internet, then the best way is to set up an FTP server with access to the XML hotfolder.

All the instances provided and managed by Tucanna have by default an FTP server, please contact us at support@tucanna.com for login details.

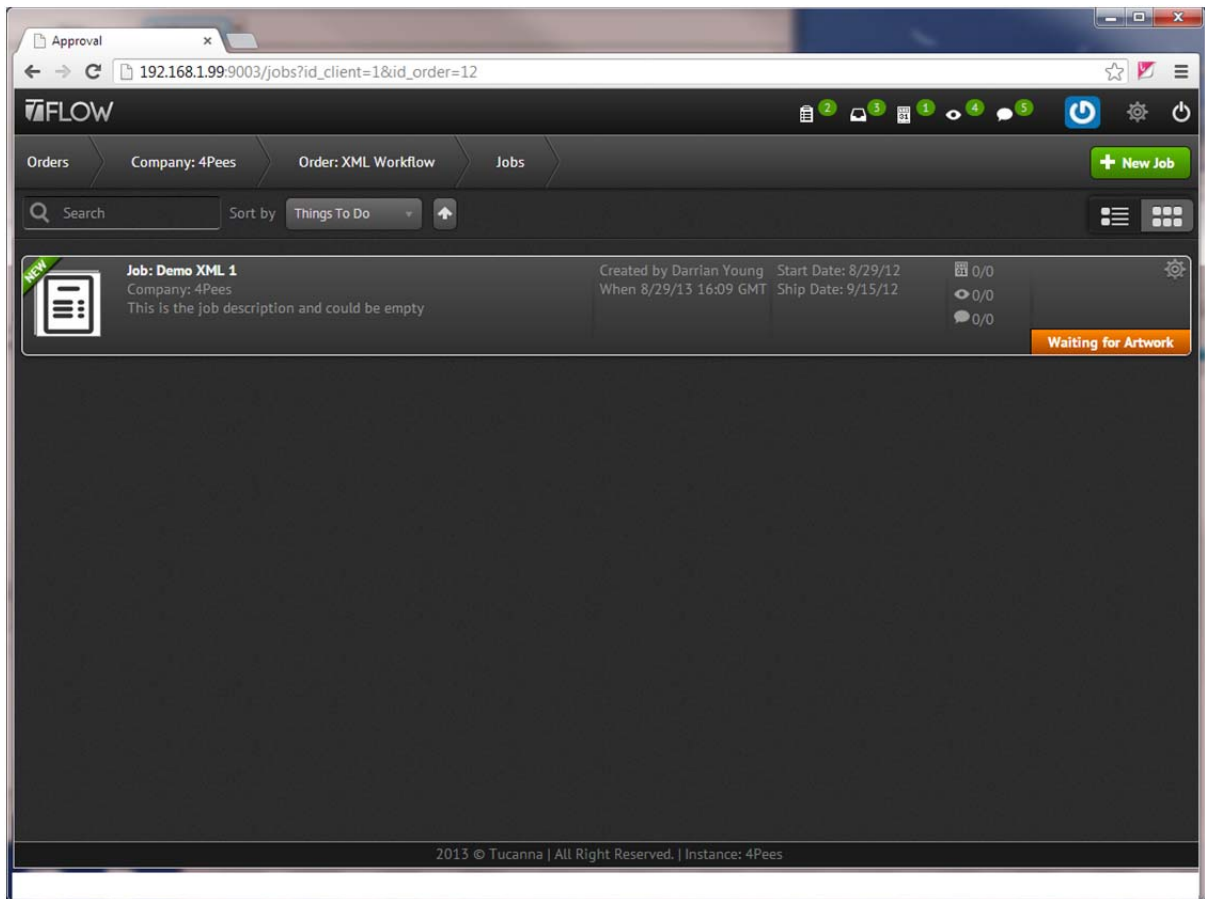
Note: FTP is also possible in a LAN environment.



When the connector detects a valid XML file, the Order is created:



If an Order with same name already exists, then a Job is created inside that Order.



At the end of the process, an Order and a new Job will be created and will be ready for the Artwork upload.