



Measuring Digital Press Productivity

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Submitted By Sshea@Printing.org On Tue, 08/13/2013 - 3:39pm News Blurbs



We have an atypical situation here at Printing Industries of America in regards to our print production equipment—all of it has been generously donated, and we often receive requests for feedback from vendors. One recent tool that we've been testing and providing feedback about is *SpencerMetrics* iDPA.

Introduced in February of this year, *SpencerMetrics* iDPA (the acronym stands for "increase Digital Press Availability") measures the efficiency and productivity of digital presses. Our Lead Digital Production Specialist, Bryan Llewellyn, has been

using this tool to track all internal production done on our Xerox iGen4.

Bryan uses the iPad that came with the system to monitor and record activity such as job setup, RIPping, repair time, consumable replacements, paper jams, and, of course, time spent actually producing sellable print. When the press is going through the startup sequence, Bryan taps the corresponding button on the iPad. He does the same when it's RIPping, when it's jammed, and when it's printing. According to the Bryan, the system is "easy to use because it's right there at the press and because the interface is straightforward and clear."



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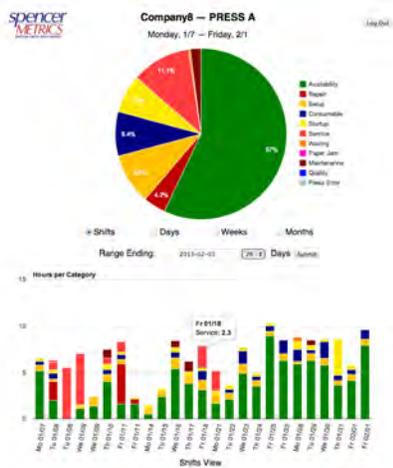
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Operator Interface for SpencerMetrics iDPA

This information captured at the press is then stored in the cloud where it can be analyzed by owners and managers. Because Bryan has responsibilities beyond production (prepress, teaching at our workshops, and day-to-day management of the digital area), he also has access to the manager/analysis portion *SpencerMetrics* iDPA. His view from both sides of the fence has given him a unique perspective on a potential advantage of this type of system: the ability to track issues that would not be evident by only looking at data stored in the press. *SpencerMetrics* iDPA does not simply measure if a press is running, it actually measures whether or not the output from the press is sellable. This is due to the unique fact that that the system gathers and analyzes operator knowledge. As an operator, Bryan finds the touch screen data entry fast and easy; as an in-plant manager he finds the analysis quantifies all press activities, providing new insights.



Sample Analytics from the SpencerMetrics iDPA Manager Portal

It's an interesting concept, and we know that *SpencerMetrics* iDPA will soon have additional features, including the ability to compare the performance of different presses. We expect more information about the new iteration of the *SpencerMetrics* iDPA to be announced at PRINT 13. You can visit [SpencerLab](#) at Booth 4741 at PRINT 13 to check it out for yourself.

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