



Avanti Slingshot[®] Print MIS

Core and Add-on MIS Modules and Utilities

Table of Contents

1	Core Modules	3
	Estimating	4
	Sales Orders	5
	Job Ticketing	5
	Change Orders	6
	Inventory Management	6
	Job Costing & Tracking	7
	Shipping	7
	Reporting	8
2	System Utilities	9
3	Add-On Modules	11
	Customer Relationship Management (CRM)	12
	Direct Mail Management	12
	Fulfillment	13
	Avanti Mobile	14
	Executive Dashboards	15
	Advanced Purchasing	16
	Chargeback	16
	Triggers and Alerts	17
	Scheduling	17
	Shop Floor Data Collection	18
	File Automation	19
	Accounts Receivable	19
	Point-of-Sale	20
	Project Plans	21
	Live Proofing	21
4	Connectivity	22
	Job Definition Format (JDF)	23
	Direct Machine Interface	24
	Pre-Press Shipping Web-to-Print (W2P) BCC Mail Manager	24
		25
5	Accounting	26
	Microsoft Dynamics GP	27
	QuickBooks	27
	Sage & MAS 90	28
	Avalara	28
	Integrated Accounting	29

Core Modules

01

Efficiency. Control. Visibility.



With the Avanti business management an automated, streamlined workflow is now possible.

From order entry to invoicing—with Avanti Slingshot Print MIS you can work more efficiently, control costs and move more jobs through your print shop with ease.

Avanti's modular system is scalable and modular, growing as you grow to offer a complete end-to-end solution.

Estimating

This is where the job management plan begins. All information as to how the job will be produced most efficiently comes from a well-constructed estimate, which is then translated into the sales order and job ticket. If the estimate is not accurate and complete, neither is the job plan.

With Avanti Slingshot's Estimating module, you can quickly and easily create consistent quotes regardless of your skill level. Integration with Avanti's Sales Order and Job Manager modules lets you easily create jobs from start to finish.

Estimating benefits include:

- Prepress and finishing estimation capabilities
- Quotes for all types of printing including offset, digital, direct mail, wide format, and fulfillment
- Support for customer-specific pricing
- Contract and price list pricing
- Fast access to standard products and product kits

Sales Orders

Being fast and nimble in business can sometimes make the difference between getting the prize and being left in the dust. Print MIS order entry should be quick, easy to use and have the ability to leverage other information from within your business.

Avanti Slingshot's Sales Order module provides multiple benefits, including the ability to create new orders, copy previous jobs for re-order, or have the order populate from the Estimating Module. Along with each order, a job ticket is automatically created and can be viewed as a hard copy or electronically. You can even attach additional files that contain information/specs on the order.

Additional benefits include:

- Information is shared with other Avanti Slingshot modules means you enter data once, and it flows with the job throughout the system
- USPS Address Validation – Save time and money by reducing shipping errors due to incorrect address entry. This tool corrects errors in street addresses, including abbreviations and missing information. It also supplies a ZIP+4® Code
- Integration with industry-leading Web-to Print solutions
- A quick-to-learn and easy-to-use Graphical User Interface (GUI)
- Calculation of your costs and price as you add the job, without requiring an estimate
- The ability to save templates for future use
- Generation of both job tickets and pick lists for sales orders

Job Ticketing

Barcodes were a game-changing invention – removing the need to key in a code every time an item is bought at a store saves huge amounts of time and reduces the chance for error. Most commonly found on the Job Ticket, the barcode can be custom-designed so the job number will be where you need it and where it makes sense for your business. With the barcode in place on the ticket, retrieving the information on that job becomes quick and easy. Avanti Slingshot's Job Ticketing module gives you the opportunity to speed up data entry and reduce errors as well. As an 'alternate keyboard input,' your team members have the option to either key in a job number or scan it to receive all the information about the job.

Benefits include:

- Boosting productivity by streamlining data collection through barcoding
- Faster look-up of each job by reading the Job Number off of the Job Ticket
- Providing each operator their own barcode so that they can wand their badge to identify themselves to the system

- Collecting time and materials against Machines and Operations/Cost Centers
- Dynamically transferring all information from the Sales Order module to a number of customizable Job Ticket formats

Change Orders

Change can be small, needed, or unappreciated. When customers make a change, it can sometimes lead to big headaches, yet more and more printers are expected to be flexible and turn on a dime. Once a job has been entered into the Sales Order module, any client changes that affect the cost and/or selling price of the job will be recorded within the Change Orders module. A job change order is then printed for production along with a notice for the customer. A message is also sent to the shop floor and updates the pricing data so that the changes are highlighted prior to invoicing.

Some additional benefits include:

- Smooth integration with other Avanti Slingshot modules
- No need to re-enter data as the changes are now part of the record in the Sales Order
- Integration with industry-leading web-to-print solutions
- A quick-to-learn and easy-to-use Graphical User Interface (GUI)

Inventory Management

Staying on top of when to re-order inventory and tracking all of the costs that go along with it is a never-ending and often thankless job. How much time are you spending? How many resources are being allocated? Because while you focus on counts, the creative, sales and customer connections are sidelined. What if you could instead focus on what you care about most, like growing your business?

Avanti Slingshot's Inventory module gives you the ability to manage both raw and finished goods in real-time. Automated re-ordering, low inventory reporting, and tracking various materials, all included with the module, can make your job much easier, freeing you up to focus on other business-building projects.

Some additional highlights include:

- Information on re-order points, optimum stocking levels, and economic order quantities
- Cost tracking by the last cost, average, or First In, First Out (FIFO)
- Tracking material usage, including a full history of transactions: commitments, orders, receipts, adjustments, moves, and issues

- Materials usage that can be entered from timesheets or from the Shop Floor Data Collection module
- Avanti Slingshot's Roll Inventory module includes many of the benefits of the above, but with enhanced abilities for complete control of individual rolls, while accepting input from portable barcode readers for the receipt or movement of rolls

Avanti Slingshot's Roll Inventory module offers you the ability to:

- Track receipt dates to ensure rolls used in a First In, First Out (FIFO) fashion
- Track and store roll inventory specifics like stock and weight
- Automatically commit inventory stock to job orders
- Store detailed inventory location information

Job Costing & Tracking

Tracking jobs and their costs are challenging when you're managing hundreds of jobs. Margin is a top concern amongst owners, presidents and finance executives so how do you know where you're making money? Avanti Slingshot's Job Manager module is a one-stop source for information on your jobs, past, and present. Full integration with other Avanti Slingshot modules gives your employees real-time insight into job costing/tracking, job profitability, invoicing, and more. It gives your employees the ability to answer customer questions and requests instantly. It also gives executives the information they need, when they need it.

Additional benefits include:

- Real-time updates on where your job exists in the overall production workflow
- Advanced searches so that you can easily locate jobs, monitor equipment use and improve employee efficiency
- Reporting of equipment usage and estimate-to-job summary over different time periods

Shipping

For some customers, getting a shipment of freshly printed material is like Christmas morning, and no one likes when a gift is delivered late. With Avanti Slingshot's Shipping module, you are not only able to easily integrate with United States Postal Service, UPS, Purolator, and FedEx, but you are able to track shipments after simply transferring the shipping and billing information to them, ensuring that your customers receive their gifts on time just got a lot easier.

Additional highlights include:

- Integration with all other Avanti Slingshot modules
- Eliminate errors due to re-keying as all shipping information is automatically transferred for packing slips and carton/skid labels, detailing what is being shipped and to where
- Customer ship-to data seamlessly passed from Avanti Slingshot directly to your shipping provider of choice
- Automatic transfer of carrier tracking numbers and all costing information back to Avanti Slingshot
- Ability to handle unlimited “Ship To” locations on an item-by-item basis, or for the entire job. Entering multiple shipments at one time? You are able to enter a unique quantity and ship date for each shipment or import a distribution list to automate the process
- Customizable labels for personalized packaging

Reporting

When buying a new car, all of the available options and features can be tempting. Have you ever walked out of the dealership with something more than you intended, then suffered from buyer's remorse? Maybe if there had been a chart telling you how it would affect you, you would have made a better decision. After all, they say that data-based decision support through reporting is the key to making the right choices in your business.

With numerous standard reports and filtering options, Avanti Slingshot’s Reporting module can help you make sense of all your Print MIS data. From extensive costing, job tracking, and efficiency analytics, you can gain valuable insight into your business’ past, present, and close future. Learning how to save money and time just got easier.

Database Layout for Self-Generated Reports

Avanti provides customers with a completely open database and all data definition tables to create your own reports. This ensures that you are able to design ad hoc custom reports and export data to other systems, providing additional opportunities for enhanced management reporting and information specific to your needs.

Avanti’s standard reports can be modified and customized and Avanti provides database structure training and Jaspersoft Studio training. Jaspersoft Studio is the free, open source report designer for JasperReports and JasperReports Server.

System Utilities

02

System Utilities is the central maintenance module for the Avanti system allowing the ability to update, add, delete or change equipment and product information, customers, employees, users and system profiles while featuring:

Security

Avanti provides extensive security features throughout the system. Access can be granted or prohibited based on the individual or functional groups. During the setup phase, the Avanti System Administrator will create users, groups and passwords, then define which functions and programs they are permitted to access.

Avanti controls access to both individual fields and individual records. For instance, the system will allow multiple estimators to use the system simultaneously, but will ensure that they are not changing the same estimate. In addition, the system will allow estimators to view your shop standards, but ensures that only authorized personnel can change those standards.

Avanti Slingshot Manager (ASM) – On-Premise Only

The Avanti Slingshot Manager (ASM) a module allows one or more administrators to keep your Avanti Slingshot system up to date. This module is only required for customers who deploy the solution on premise as customers who deploy in Avanti's Cloud infrastructure have their environment managed and updated automatically.

For on-premise customers, when a new version of Avanti Slingshot is released it will be available in ASM. An administrator can then select the Avanti Slingshot instance to upgrade, select the latest available version, and then start the update. The update process is automated and includes downloading the files directly to the server, unpacking them, applying the updates and restarting the application.

Data Import/Export

Avanti Slingshot acts as the information hub of the print shop – automatically sending and receiving data from the different software applications and equipment throughout the print shop.



Add-On Modules

03

Customer Relationship Module (CRM)

In today's competitive world, knowledge is power. With Avanti Slingshot's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) module, everything you know about your customer is at everyone's fingertips. This customer-centric view can help your sales and marketing efforts by:

- Ensuring the sales team is always in sync with the most current information about their customers' jobs
- Identifying your most profitable customers for targeted sales and marketing campaigns
- Managing and tracking your lead generation efforts
- Driving your sales effectiveness through accurate sales forecasting

Visibility into real-time information can help you enhance customer experience across the board. This leads to better sales and marketing effectiveness, better customer service, and ultimately, better profitability.

Direct Mail Management

These days, we can never have enough time, which is why 'one-stop-shops' tend to do so well. Many print shops are adopting this model by expanding their offerings to include Direct Mail services. While this can enhance customer convenience, it may raise concerns about the associated costs, particularly with the complexities of Direct Mail Management differing from traditional print estimating.

Avanti Slingshot's Direct Mail Management module makes planning and managing the many facets of the direct mail process that much easier. Estimating all aspects of a direct mail project, a shipping plan, and even billing capabilities make this module invaluable to managing direct mail.

Some of the key benefits include:

- Track the actual postage used for each job with Postage Accounting – deposit management and reconciliation of each client's postage activity, capturing and reporting actual usage, including mail.dat file imports
- Postage Inventory Management for all types of postage
- Full online access for customers including postage summaries, replenishing of customer's postage account, credit card processing, file and job submissions
- The ability to plan, manage and track multiple drops including items to be part of the drop, quantities within each drop, drop locations and the mandatory drop completion dates
- Manage refunds, overages, and available funds for timely accurate Invoicing

- Management Reporting including open/closed drop shipments, client-level postage deposits vs. usage summaries, and postage inventory

The Direct Mail Management Module can provide your print shop with a complete end-to-end business management solution. Managing all lines of your business from creative and marketing services, print production, finishing, and fulfillment can be a simple, streamlined process.

Fulfillment

Fulfillment has many benefits in terms of the bottom line, but it may also present new challenges. Various departments have their own concerns. The finance team worries about the high cost of unshipped inventory, the operations team has the challenge of tracking goods from receiving to the delivery, and the order processing team worries about the sheer volume of orders that comes along with the fulfillment business.

Avanti Slingshot's Fulfillment module gives you the ability to manage the process of customer orders and shipments efficiently. Inventory management tools then allow the business to increase control of finished goods.

Highlights include:

- Tracking both cost and quantity of all finished goods either as an inventory item, product or a kit
- Extension of the Sales Order module to include ordering finished goods
- Automatic generation of back orders and assignment of back order items to a specific job
- Generation of pick lists, routing employees through the warehouse to pull finished goods as efficiently as possible
- Shipping of single orders to multiple locations

Advanced Fulfillment

Avanti Slingshot's Advanced Fulfillment module automates the complete fulfillment workflow, from replenishment planning to receipts and warehousing, to contract billing for customer-owned inventory. High-volume fulfillment operations will benefit greatly from the elimination of manual calculations and touch points at each stage, streamlining the process and allowing employees to focus on the customer.

Highlights include all the functionality of the Fulfillment module, plus the following added benefits:

- Elimination of annual data collection and order entry elimination to replenish finished goods that are produced in-house
- Collect production costs and automatically assign the costs to the finished goods items
- Automatically calculate replenishment transfers of fast moving items from the "bulk" warehouse to the fast moving items pick area, based on backorders and minimum quantity requirements

- Management of customer contracts: Billing frequencies, automatically calculate and apply item activity and storage charges, and create consolidated invoices

Avanti Mobile

With Avanti Slingshot's Wireless Warehouse Management system, the data entry processes for warehouse management are no longer confined to a desktop. Instead, they are implemented in the warehouse location with the addition of wireless scanners, which serve as data entry points to report back to the Avanti Slingshot Inventory modules.

Avanti's Mobile application installed on a device with a built-in barcode scanner works seamlessly with Avanti Slingshot. Users can then track purchase order receipts, inventory counts, receipts from production, transfers, and adjustments. In the warehouse, users can easily log inventory receipts, counts, transfers and adjustments. All those with access to Avanti Slingshot will see the result of the functions performed by all users in the Avanti Mobile application in the form of inventory transactions.

Highlights include:

- Automation of warehouse tracking through the use of handheld scanners which takes away the guesswork and extra labor from your warehouse management processes. The elimination of manual entry improves accuracy, accountability and helps to reduce administration costs
- Control and management of day-to-day operations by fulfilling orders more rapidly and instantaneously tracing ordered products within the warehouse. Working in conjunction with Avanti Slingshot's inventory system, it can be used for receiving, fulfillment, inventory receipts, counts, and moves
- Scan barcodes on incoming packages, skids, rolls, and more with a hand-held barcode scanner with integrated screen and keyboard plus a portable label printer. Enter additional information, if needed, on a hand-held scanner to put products into inventory and print new labels on the portable printer directly from the hand-held scanner



The new labels, when scanned for a physical count or other purposes, will automatically link to the proper inventory item in Avanti Slingshot

- Viewing a list of all jobs that are ready to be picked, and directed around the warehouse in a logical walking order. Scan, enter, or double-click on an item to be picked to view the description, quantity required and location. Enter the picked quantity, confirm the picked location and receipt number. Once all the items for a job have been picked, the records will be updated in Avanti Slingshot as partially picked, or fully picked
- Automatically reconcile and track any overs or unders from the physical count
- Increased business accountability through traceability, reducing manual errors, optimizing resources and improving customer service. Reduction of fulfillment time, increase inventory accuracy, improve customer service, increase warehouse productivity and ultimately, reduce labor costs

Note: Equipment required to run the Wireless Warehouse Management Software (ex. scanners and printers) is not included and must be purchased separately.

Executive Dashboards

Avanti Slingshot's Executive Dashboards provide you with analysis tools and real-time notification functionality to help you understand and manage your business better.

Get answers to the key questions asked across departments such as:

- Are we achieving our target profit margins?
- Which jobs were not profitable?
- Are we reaching our sales targets?
- Which customers were most/least profitable?
- Are we using our inventory?
- Are we tracking your inventory levels?

The best way to 'listen' to your business is through the tracking of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). With powerful filtering and online analytic abilities, the Executive Dashboard's graphical view of KPIs can provide you with insight into what's impacting your customer service, financials, sales, marketing and more.

Some additional benefits include:

- Availability of standard dashboards for different roles within the company, from the President/ Owner to a Customer Service Representative (CSR)
- Ability to start at a high level of critical indicators and drill down with the click of the mouse – right to the document level if necessary

- Customizable Graphical User Interface (GUI) so you can track what is important to you
- “Push” technologies that send you real-time information
- Compilation of information, from multiple areas of the company, for the whole picture

Advanced Purchasing

Accounting that is organized and professional can make a big difference in how you are viewed by your suppliers. With Advanced Purchasing, you can keep your finance team on track. You possess the ability to manage your purchases effectively and, in turn, manage your costs and inventory.

Tracking requisitions, Purchase Orders (POs), and receipts are just some of the many tasks this module can help you with.

This system has the ability to combine requisitions for the same supplier into one PO in order to save you money through volume discounts.

Some additional benefits include:

- Producing regular or blanket orders for raw materials, for either a specific job or for inventory
- Allowing for “non-purchase order” receipts or receipts based on POs
- Matching payables against the receipt quantity and the purchase order cost
- Managing outside services

Chargeback

Accurately allocating and reconciling job costs is critical for the management of departments budgets in any print operation. With Avanti Slingshot’s Chargeback module, you have access to detailed job costing information, both electronically and as a hard copy, to simplify reporting and when exporting to your accounting system.

Additional highlights include:

- Customizable reports can be tailored to departmental needs
- Create exports for third-party accounting/ERP systems including SAP®, PeopleSoft®, Lawson®, Microsoft® DynamicsTM, GP® and Oracle®
- An easy-to-use Chargeback Posting wizard that ensures accurate, timely month-end posting

Triggers and Alerts

Relaxing after hours is not easy when you are in the print business because anything can happen at a moment's notice. Avanti Slingshot's Triggers and Alerts module makes it a little bit easier, knowing that you will be automatically, and immediately, notified of important events, from confirming an order shipped to a job being late. Imagine having the ability to set up automated emails (i.e. a quote or invoice) and eliminate manual tasks. Now you can relax, knowing that Avanti Slingshot saves time, money, and possible errors.

Some additional benefits include:

- Choosing from pre-defined emails and then tailoring them to your specific needs using system variables
- A one-stop source for information on all current and historical tasks enabling you to make quicker, better-informed decisions through timely information
- Avoiding information overload by customizing your alerts and only receiving ones that are important to you
- Increased productivity by eliminating manual collection and distribution of information
- Saving time and money with access to business-critical information at your fingertips

Being aware of potential customer surprises, and resolving them before the customer is even mindful of the fact that there was an issue, has never been easier. And the best part is no technical expertise is required for administration.

Scheduling

Being on time is one of the most important promises your business delivers. Improving your ability to deliver on time, every time with Avanti Slingshot's Print Scheduling modules is possible. Paired with other modules, setting up and tracking planned completion dates and times becomes simpler. It is a quick and simple way to load your departments and/or machines.

Organizing your jobs efficiently, maximizing equipment use, and planning your production workflow in advance are also benefits to the Scheduling module. The system has the ability to automatically generate the estimated time needed for each job making scheduling just one step easier.

With Avanti Slingshot's Scheduling Reservation System, In-Plant and Commercial printers can now reserve press time before the receipt of a confirmed sales order. Whether it's at the estimating or order entry stage, you can now meet the time requirements of the job and communicate the earliest possible date of completion to the customer before customer commitment, giving you a higher chance of securing the project.

Quick Scheduling

- Extensive loading and reporting, by job, or by due date and time
- Automatic scheduling of all operations based on priorities and dependencies of previous tasks
- Sequence scheduled jobs on a device by one or more production parameters such as priority, size or paper to increase efficiency

Advanced Scheduling

Includes everything in Quick Scheduling, plus:

- Reserve time on the schedule for un-released estimates, projects, and sales orders
- Full integration with shop floor data collection means tasks are automatically date and time stamped when completed and moved on to the next department
- Management of “what if” scenarios to optimize the schedule before locking and “publishing” the schedule for everyone to see
- Manually override schedules and change job priorities in order to meet deadlines

Shop Floor Data Collection

As a print management professional, you know how critical it is for your shop floor team to have the most current, accurate information available. Avanti Slingshot’s Shop Floor Data Collection module gives your team that access. Now your employees can easily, and confidently, answer questions such as, “where’s my job?”

Not only does the Shop Floor Data Collection module help your team, but it can also help you by tracking labor, materials, productivity, equipment utilization, spoils, and production rates. With this information at your fingertips, you can take steps to reduce waste and increase profits. Accurate costing will roll up into key metrics such as profitability at the customer, sales rep and product line level – know your cost down to the penny!

The Shop Floor module also keeps track of employee shifts, logging clock-in and out times and total hours. The shift information, combined with the employee’s exceptions like vacation and overtime, gives the accounting department the data it needs so that your employees can be paid.

Highlights include:

- Easy, real-time data input using a variety of entry devices such as barcode scanner, mouse, and keyboard, touchscreen, or a mobile device
- Quick access to all job information, including production details, scheduling, digital assets, and an electronic view of the job ticket by the shop floor team
- Powerful, built-in messaging system that allows for easy communication between shop floor staff and your front office staff

- Visual cues of the production workflow to help the operators understand the “big picture”
- Real-time view of employee shifts for supervisors to see exactly what an employee has completed and what they are working on
- Customizable payroll report of employee regular hours and overtime, vacation, holidays, leave, unpaid and sick days

File Automation

Attach any type of document to your job workflow and have it be available to your employees with Avanti Slingshot’s document management capabilities. Documents are easily accessible and ensure continuity from creation to delivery of your print jobs. You can assign categories to each file to help search for specific information, or purge documents by age and/or category when no longer required.

Highlights include:

- Attaching documents to customers, contacts, estimates, sales orders, jobs, products and work templates
- Utilizing the Avanti Slingshot server, FTP, or link to files on your local network folder (in the case of on-premise installations) acts as the central storage location of all files
- The ability to review and search for documents, by assigning categories in CRM based on attach date, who attached the document, what the document is attached to, document category, file type, and file name
- Downloading attached documents anywhere in the workflow, including documents used for production in Shop Floor
- Routing content files automatically through W2P and JDF integrations

Accounts Receivable

Avanti Slingshot’s Accounts Receivables functionality allows you to leverage cost-based reporting; linking your revenues to their related costs in order to provide you with analysis data to ensure your business is operating with the margins you desire. Avanti Slingshot offers robust features for cash receipts allowing you to accept deposits against orders, as well as for freight and postage to sales orders, full or partial payments against outstanding customer balances plus you can generate invoices for the job or partial portions of the job (if shipped in partial batches).

Additional benefits include:

- Storing funds on the customer accounts as unapplied amounts that you can later allocate to pay invoices, deposits, postage deposits or transfer between the two accounts
- Reviewing the cash receipt transactions since the last register, then update them to your accounting software
- Presenting the associated posted deposit cash receipts on the Invoice Register Report which provides information so that deposits can be matched to invoices in your accounting platform (if integrated)
- Cost Center Based sales reports: Posting Summary of Sales Report and Sales Department Report
- Provides a Customer A/R Aging view and reports (Summary and Detail) for fast access to see how old their outstanding invoices are and what you should be expecting from your customers
- The ability to apply a partial credit to an invoice to reduce the overall balance owing and restrict your customer from ordering more than the allowable credit extended to them

Point-of-Sale

Patience is learned, but in today's fast-paced world people expect to be served quickly and on-demand. With Avanti Slingshot's Point-of-Sale module, you can cater to your customer's need for speed while increasing accuracy, managing multiple registers, and have real-time visibility into all transactions. As the industry's first cloud-based Print MIS Point-of-Sale system you can easily manage 'over-the-counter' jobs for everything from retail to satellite locations.

Additional benefits include:

- User-definable payment methods, end-of-day balancing reconciliation, and payment options
- Fast order entry, invoice generation, and specific Point-of-Sale reporting
- Ability to enter and invoice customer orders with seamless reconciliation, reporting and payment processing



Project Plans

Release sales orders that represent long term projects in stages by line item with different due dates. This will reduce overhead and alleviate the burden on production planning and scheduling teams, who would otherwise need to continuously monitor shipping dates to determine when to schedule jobs.

With the Avanti Slingshot Project Plans module, project planners and schedulers of companies that produce long-term multi-stage projects will ensure clear communication of delivery intent and timeline.

Additional benefits:

- Allow for a clear staging plan for each line of the sales order based upon the desired completion and ship date of the line
- Plan the replenishment of fulfillment items prior to scheduled shipments
- Bill the Project Plan in advance of any production or shipment
- Consolidate and invoice orders for the entire project

Live Proofing

Avanti has integrated proofing into our Print MIS to create a seamless workflow and reduce risk of miscommunication or error. Avanti's Live Proofing module enables direct, automated transfer of soft proofs, standardized client review through a consistent platform, and secure tracking of documents throughout the approval process.

All proofing information, including status and the documents themselves, is managed in Avanti Slingshot. The system provides real-time notifications when the document is ready for next steps, freeing staff from having to micromanage projects and allowing them to remain fully focused on higher value work.

The Avanti Slingshot sales order interacts directly with the Enfocus Review API in the cloud to send a PDF document to the Review platform and a link to the customer via email to approve or reject the proof. The proof approval status is then automatically updated in real-time on the Avanti Slingshot job.

Additional benefits include:

- Automatically sending proofs for approval through File Automation
- Automatically sending email notifications of approval requests, approvals, and rejections through Triggers & Alerts
- Allowing the use of the proofing functionality in the Enfocus PDF Review module without the additional purchase of Enfocus Switch

Connectivity

04

Reducing errors, increasing cost transparency and saving time are all key benefits to using the Job Definition Format (JDF). Crafted so that seamless integration between your Print MIS software, prepress, production, and bindery is possible, Avanti Slingshot enables your equipment and software to ‘talk’ to each other.

Job Definition Format (JDF)

Avanti Slingshot’s Advanced JDF Framework ensures that JDF is no longer the exclusive domain of large corporations by doing “the heavy lifting” to make that handshake a much less costly and time-consuming project. It creates a seamless information and data-transfer link between your MIS software, prepress, production, and bindery equipment. In short, it provides an environment where all the software and equipment in your shop can speak the same language. It gives any shop the ability to connect their “islands of automation” and send automated job instructions to a machine using JDF, and the machine can then send production information back to Avanti using JDF and/or the Job Messaging Format (JMF) in order to update job status, collect costs, and adjust inventory... all in real-time.

When a job created in Avanti Slingshot is released to production, the JDF module will send as much information as the system receiving the job can understand.

Some of the leading brands that the JDF integration works with include:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| ▪ Xerox FreeFlow Core | Kodak Prinergy |
| ▪ Agfa Apogee | Konica Minolta Printgroove |
| ▪ Ricoh TotalFlow | Enfocus Switch |
| ▪ HP SmartStream | Fiery® |

Information exchanged between systems may include:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Job ticket numbers | ▪ Media information |
| ▪ Job descriptions | ▪ Quantities |
| ▪ Size | ▪ Content files |
| ▪ Colors | ▪ Binding |
| ▪ Layout | |

With Avanti Slingshot’s JDF Framework, new integrations are now able to be achieved within days, not months. And with lower integration costs, your ROI improves.

Direct Machine Interface (DMI)

Manually collecting machine data takes time and results can be questionable due to human error. Avanti's Direct Machine Interface (DMI) has the ability to simply capture the data automatically through a link to the machine's controls.

Shipping

With the Avanti Slingshot's Shipping module, you are not only able to easily integrate with major shippers, but you are able to track shipments after simply transferring the shipping and billing information to them. Integrating with carriers also adds the ability to "rate shop" to find the best price for shipments using available carrier service types within estimates, sales orders, and shipments. Integrations include:

- United States Postal Service
- UPS
- FedEx
- Purolator
- Canada Post
- DHL
- DPD
- Descartes

Web-to-Print (W2P)

Avanti Slingshot minimizes W2P complications with a third-party W2P application programming integration (API). Avanti Slingshot becomes the hub of the wheel, collecting all order information no matter where or how that order is placed. Tight integration with several third-party solutions enables automatic data transfer between Avanti Slingshot and your order entry system through XML or JDF file formats. Re-keying information is no longer needed.

Improving turnaround time and the ability to eliminate errors are just some of the benefits of Avanti Slingshot's API.

Benefits include:

- Easy-to-use graphic user interface for field mapping of the information
- Automatic sales order creation by the API, with information you define, into Avanti Slingshot's production system
- Ability to set up independent mappings and import orders from multiple sources/systems
- Ability to map inventory items, products, kits and dynamic/custom items into sales orders
- File transfer through your own secure FTP folders including digital assets
- Ability to automatically schedule based on the promise date, production details, and resource availability
- Capability to send information back to the third-party system related to order/shipping status and tracking numbers

BCC Mail Manager

A bi-directional "punch-out" to BCC Mail Manager Full Service to calculate postage costs based on type, method, and sort automatically for estimates and sales orders without the need to maintain postage rate tables within the Avanti Slingshot database.

Postage costs will always be correct and up-to-date based on the estimate, and there will be no manual setup or ongoing maintenance of postage items and postage rates. The built-in integration may save countless hours of manual entry of the mailing data and setup of the templates required to determine the type/method/sort and rate for the postage. Final counts and costs for the sales order are updated, and any subsequent updates or changes, including the ACH reference number, are automatically populated onto the postage task to enable seamless reconciliation.

RICOH Predictive Insight

In today's ever-evolving print marketplace, success hinges on data-driven decisions. Leveraging a vendor-agnostic approach, RICOH Predictive Insight uses automated data collection, to provide real-time organization-wide visibility to print production, empowering you to make strategic business decisions that drive success.

- Track consumable usage, device uptime and other operational trends impacting your production
- Empower your business with automated data tracking and optimized operational metrics via real-time dashboards
- Cloud-based subscription eliminates the need for significant, upfront IT investment

Accounting

05

Exporting information from your main system to a sub-system can sometimes result in hours of work ensuring data remains accurate, and nothing is missed. Avanti's Accounting module provides integrations and file transfers to a variety of accounting packages, giving you the choice of whom you want to work with. Because of the differences between packages, each integration is different. However the results are the same: reduction of manual, and often costly, data entry time and errors.

Microsoft Dynamics GP

- Supported bi-directional integration with the most current and previous version
- The strongest breadth of integration available with a full interface between Avanti Slingshot Invoicing, Avanti Slingshot Payables, and the Dynamics GP A/R, A/P and GL modules
- Avanti Slingshot Order Entry module reads each customer's credit status, in real time, within Dynamics GP to determine if the order should be processed or put on hold
- Allows a two-way transfer of customer information
- Customer invoicing takes place in Avanti Slingshot. Once approved, information is then exported to Dynamics GP
- A/P invoices are reconciled in Avanti Slingshot through a three-way matching process after which, when the payable has been approved, the information is exported to Dynamics GP



QuickBooks

- Includes a standard export routine allowing information from Avanti Slingshot to be transferred easily to QuickBooks
- Customer invoicing takes place in Avanti Slingshot. Once approved, information is then exported to QuickBooks
- A/P invoices are reconciled in Avanti Slingshot through a three-way matching process



Sage 50/100/200* & MAS 90

- Includes a standard export routine allowing information from Avanti Slingshot to be transferred easily to your accounting system
- All customer invoicing takes place in Avanti Slingshot. Once the invoice has been approved, basic information is exported to your accounting system

**Sage 200 is currently available in the UK only*



Avalara

- Avalara AvaTax automatically calculates sales and use tax for transactions, invoices, and other activity powered by Avanti Slingshot
- 24/7 access to AvaTax transaction history



Integrated Accounting

Avanti Slingshot supports bi-directional integration with accounting systems including NetSuite and QuickBooks Online.

Integrated Accounting components include:

- ☐ Synchronization of customer and supplier data
- ☐ Synchronization of General Ledger (GL) accounts
- ☐ Integration of individual or grouped invoices
- ☐ Distribution of revenue across various accounts
- ☐ Bi-directional management of deposits and payments
- ☐ Accounting for inventory purchases
- ☐ Verification of Accounts Payable (A/P) invoices and creation of vendor payments within the accounting software

Cost accounting, including the generation of Work-In-Progress (WIP) reports and inventory release in the general ledger based on shop floor data collection



About **Avanti**

At Avanti, a Print ePS Company, our goal is to help you deliver more jobs, in less time, with the confidence in knowing that every aspect of your shop is integrated into one powerful platform.

Award-winning, JDF-certified Avanti Slingshot allows for the sophistication required by today's Print and Marketing Services Providers. The platform is able to manage multiple lines of business, handle large/grand format, digital and offset print, as well as mail and fulfillment workflows.

Connect islands of automation, eliminate breakpoints in your workflow, and get the information you want - when you want it, and where you want it - easily, with Avanti Slingshot.

From order entry through to production and billing, Avanti Slingshot enables you to work more efficiently, control your costs and move more jobs through the shop with ease.

Learn more at:

www.avantisystems.com

