

RIP Software



DRUPA 2012



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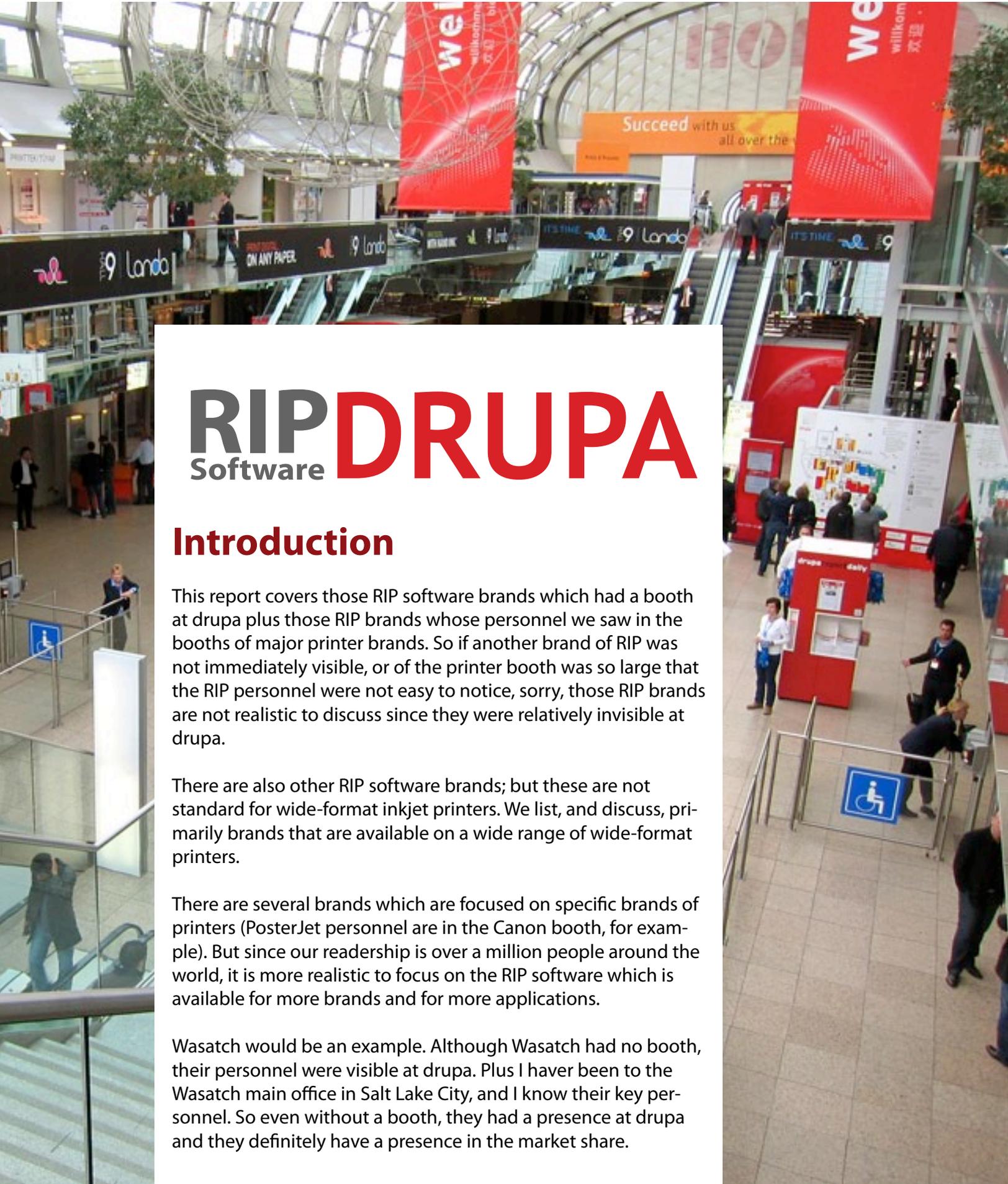
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Drupa is an event that is celebrated in all Düsseldorf. The entire city dresses in colors to welcome visitors of this great event.

Contents

Introduction	1
With your RIP software you also need color management	2
Years ago there were 70 brands of RIP software	4
RIP Software by Hall	7
Hall 4	7
Caldera	7
gmg	8
Hall 7	9
Ergosoft	9
DEV Studio	10
gmg	10



RIP Software DRUPA

Introduction

This report covers those RIP software brands which had a booth at drupa plus those RIP brands whose personnel we saw in the booths of major printer brands. So if another brand of RIP was not immediately visible, or of the printer booth was so large that the RIP personnel were not easy to notice, sorry, those RIP brands are not realistic to discuss since they were relatively invisible at drupa.

There are also other RIP software brands; but these are not standard for wide-format inkjet printers. We list, and discuss, primarily brands that are available on a wide range of wide-format printers.

There are several brands which are focused on specific brands of printers (PosterJet personnel are in the Canon booth, for example). But since our readership is over a million people around the world, it is more realistic to focus on the RIP software which is available for more brands and for more applications.

Wasatch would be an example. Although Wasatch had no booth, their personnel were visible at drupa. Plus I have been to the Wasatch main office in Salt Lake City, and I know their key personnel. So even without a booth, they had a presence at drupa and they definitely have a presence in the market share.

Along with your RIP software you also need color management

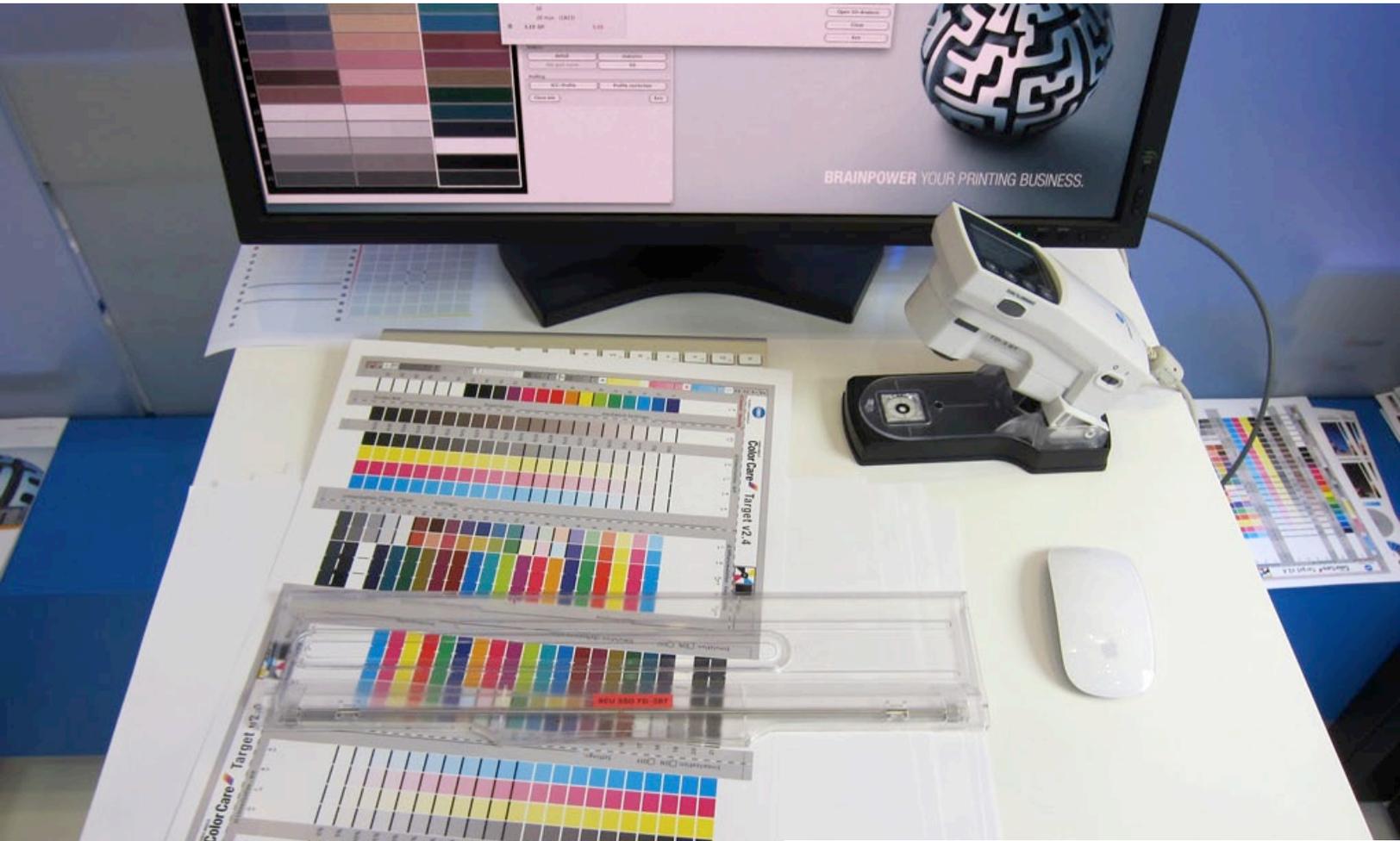
RIP software has some color management features inside, but RIP software really needs a separate color management tool (spectrophotometer) and specialized color management software.

Plus a really large or complex printing company would tend to have, or consider, MIS software. MIS software is either integrated with your RIP software (comes from same company) or is separate.

FLAAR Reports has a separate report on each: on color management and on MIS software.



X-rite i1 Publishing Pro is one of the options available at the market for the color management software.



Konica Minolta Color Care 2, color management software.



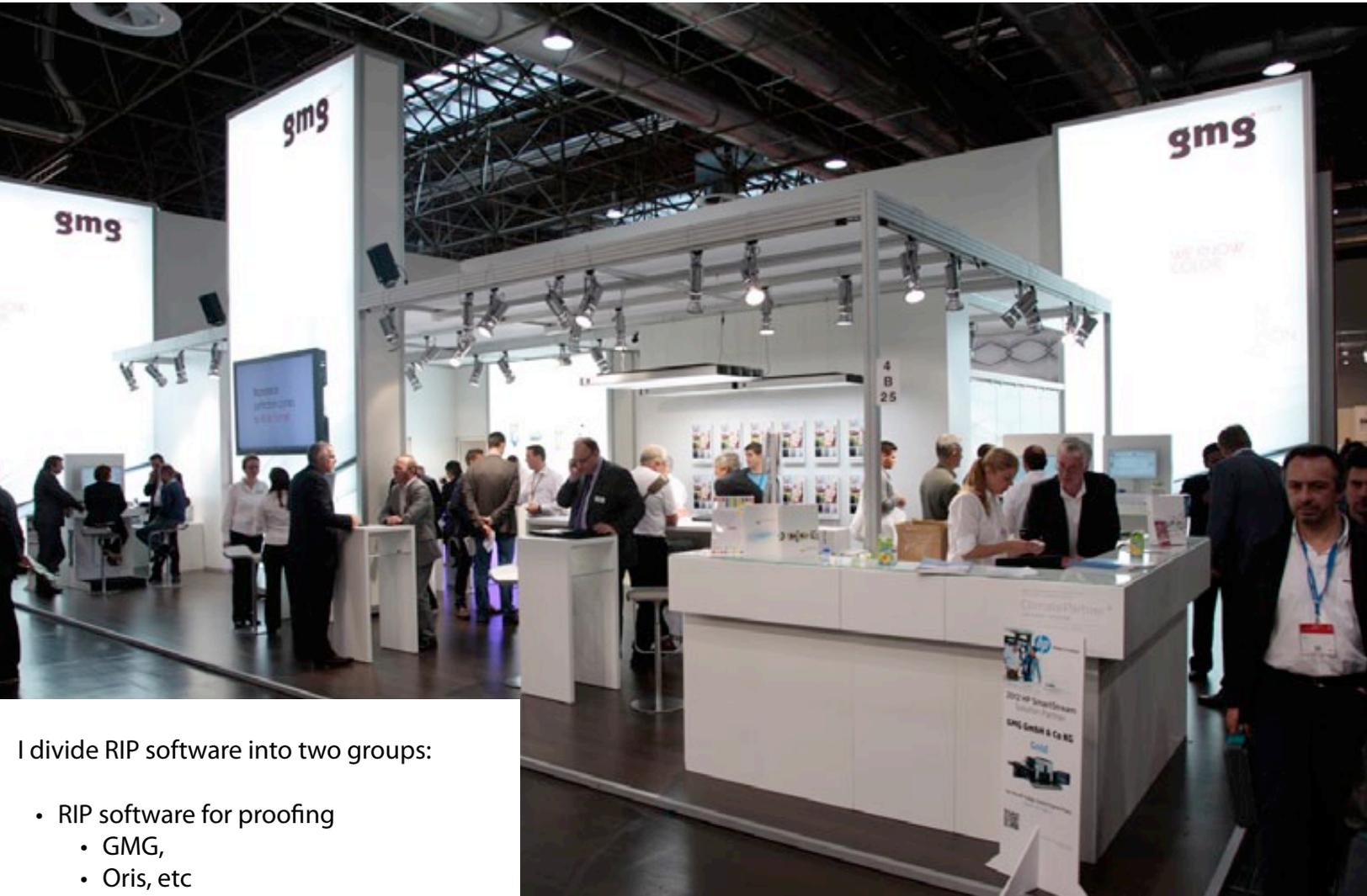
Epson exhibited at their booth the Mirage PRO-Extension, a color management software to create ICC profiles.

Ten years ago there were 70 brands of RIP software: today only seven are significant

FLAAR has been studying RIP software for about fifteen years. We have publications on RIP software especially between 1998 and 2006. Today in 2012 only about 10% of the original RIP software products are viable internationally. We prefer to focus on RIP software for wide-format inkjet printers and for RIP companies that interact with wide-format inkjet printer companies. So there were several booths of RIP software at drupa which do not meet even this criteria. If a company exhibits only at drupa, and is absent from all the pertinent printer expos around the world, we do not focus on them. There are too many really good RIP companies who do interact with the wide-format inkjet printer industry, so it is best to concentrate on these (and skip secondary or peripheral RIP software that is more for printing technologies other than wide-format inkjet).



Gmg color RIP software booth at drupa 2008.



Gmg color RIP software booth at drupa 2012.

I divide RIP software into two groups:

- RIP software for proofing
 - GMG,
 - Oris, etc

- RIP software for wide-format inkjet
 - Caldera
 - Ergosoft
 - Wasatch
 - Onyx
 - Etc.

- We list RIP software companies by their
 - Market share.
 - By whether their market share is rising in recent years.
 - By how often they exhibit or have a presence at a trade show (and by "presence" I mean more than one person).
 - How many printer brands are covered by their software.
 - Whether they are innovative (or just resting on their laurels).



Caldera booth at drupa 2012.



Canon IPF8300 waterbased printer, printing some samples at Canon booth.

So a RIP company that is primarily for Canon printers (and a bit for HP) is not in our list because in today's world "printers" means primarily eco-solvent, UV-cured, and textile printers. Water-based printers still hold meaningful market share, but if you are buying your first RIP, best to consider a brand that can expand past your Canon, Epson, or HP water-based printer.

If a RIP company once was #1, and today that position has been taken by another brand, as long as the former #1 is still present in the Top 10, we still list them.

RIP Software by Hall

This list is of those RIP software companies who had a physical booth

Hall 4

Caldera



Caldera booth. The company exhibited their new Version 9 (V9) RIP software; they also showed their Copy RIP for small-volume solution, Visual RIP+ workflow solution for large format print and Grand RIP+ workflow solution for large scale and superwide format prints.

gmg



The booth of GMG was in Hall 4, B-25 but there was also a GMG mentioned for Hall 7.0, A-25

Hall 7

Ergosoft



gmg



GMG, RIP, B-11, but if this is same GMG they have regular booth at Hall 4

DEV Studio



The PowerPlotter RIP from DEV Studio is not a wide format printer software, but we include it in the list because it vis used for printing on ceramic, a new area that FLAAR Report would cover.