Adobe PLM Connect 4.1.0

Release Overview

Adobe PLM Connect Software version 4.1.0
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Adobe PLM Connect 4.1.0 New Features / Enhancements - Summary

1. Overview

The Adobe PLM Connect integration of Adobe with Centric 8 allows design-community users to perform their job functions more efficiently and ensure consistency between what is designed in Adobe Illustrator and what is managed in Centric 8.

Adobe PLM Connect allows designers to interact with Centric 8 without leaving their Adobe Illustrator application. New Illustrator documents can be saved to Centric 8 or existing documents saved in Centric 8 can be browsed easily for editing. In addition, Adobe PLM Connect can do the following:

- connect with Styles, Materials, Themes, Shapes, Print Specification, and Site Documents in Centric 8
- manage document revisions upon Check In
- generates and uploads images
- capture design intent(s) for Styles, Materials, Themes, and Shapes, Print Specifications
- leverage Centric 8 Color Libraries to assist with seasonal color management within Adobe Illustrator
- provide quick access to documents (without navigation) through Favorites and Recently Visited folders
- build a simple design BOM (CS6, and CC(Original) ONLY)

2. Feature Matrix

Adobe PLM Connect 4.1.0 provides the following features:

Feature	CS6	CC (Original)	CC (2015.3)	CC (2017)
File Check In / Check Out	✕	✕	✕	✕
Image Intents	✕	✕	✕	✕
Color Library Management	✕	✕	✕	✕
Direct Edit	✕	✕	✕	✕
Proxy Support	✕	✕	✕	✕
SSO Support	✕	✕	✕	✕
BOM Builder	✕	✕		
Print/Pattern Support	✕	✕	✕	✕

3. System Dependencies

Adobe PLM Connect 4.1.0 works with the following:

Adobe PLM Connect	Centric 8	Centric 8 Image Service	Adobe Illustrator
4.1.0*	5.4 5.5 5.6 5.6.6 6.0 6.1 * Print/Pattern support is only available on the C8 6.1 release	4.9.6 and higher	CS6 - (16.0.4 and up, 16.2.1 and up) CC - (17.1.0 and up) CC (2015.3) – (20.1.0 and up) CC (2017) – (21.0.2 and up)

Adobe PLM Connect 4.1.0 does not require Adobe Drive in order to connect with Centric 8. It is recommended to uninstall Adobe Drive (Refer Adobe PLM Connect Installation Guide for more details).

Adobe PLM Connect 4.1.0 is compatible with Windows and Mac Operating Systems.

If your Image Service version is older than 4.9.6, contact Centric Support for upgrade.

For more information on Image Management in Centric 8, see Appendix A: Image Management in Centric 8 on page 25

Configuration

1. Creating the required attribute

If you are running C8 Version 6.1, PLM Connect requires the "**DesignIntentPrintSpecColorSpecs"** attribute. Please have your Site Administrator create this attribute prior to upgrading to PLMConnect 4.0.0 or above. This step is only necessary for C8 Version 6.1 (including any service pack) and is required even if you are not currently using Print Specifications.

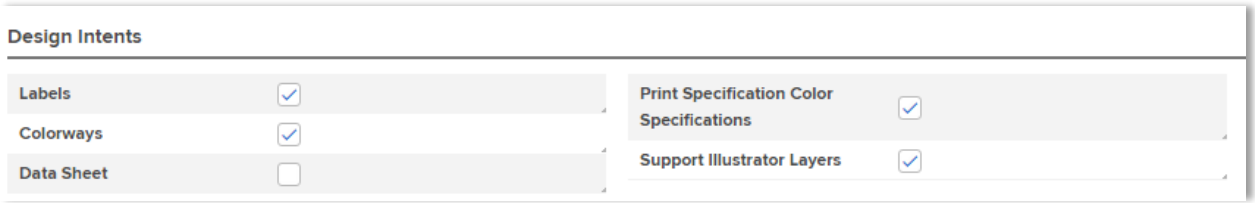
To create the attribute, execute the below script from the operations page of Centric 8.

```
<ChangeNode URL="centric://REFLECTION/INSTANCE/CompanyInfo/Global" >
     <PublishAttribute Id="DesignIntentPrintSpecColorSpecs"
Type="boolean" Value="true" />
</ChangeNode>
```

2. Enabling Print Specifications in C8

To support print specifications, enable the **Print Specification Color Specification** check box on the **Setup** ▸ **Companion Applications** tab, **Design Intents** setting in Centric 8.

Figure 1: Design Intents section on the Setup > Configuration tab in C8



Manage Print Specifications

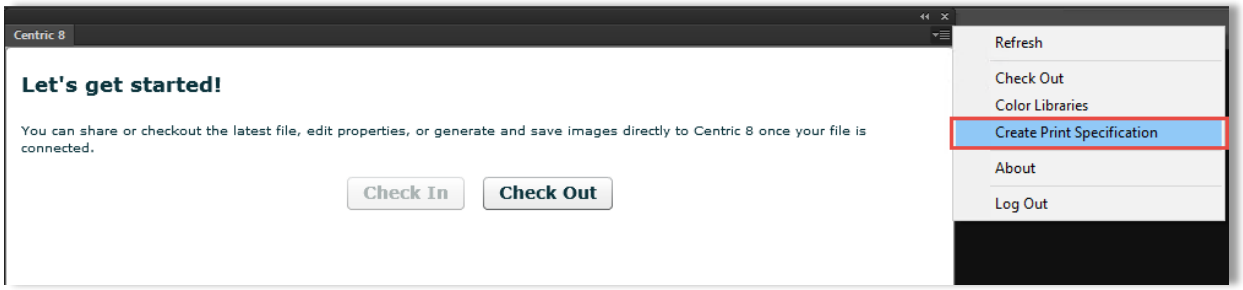
1. Creating Print Specifications

Users want to upload print specifications to Centric 8 and leverage the artwork to create color specs in the various color combinations. PLMC provides the following two ways to create a print specification.

a. Create a blank print specification (without attached artwork file)

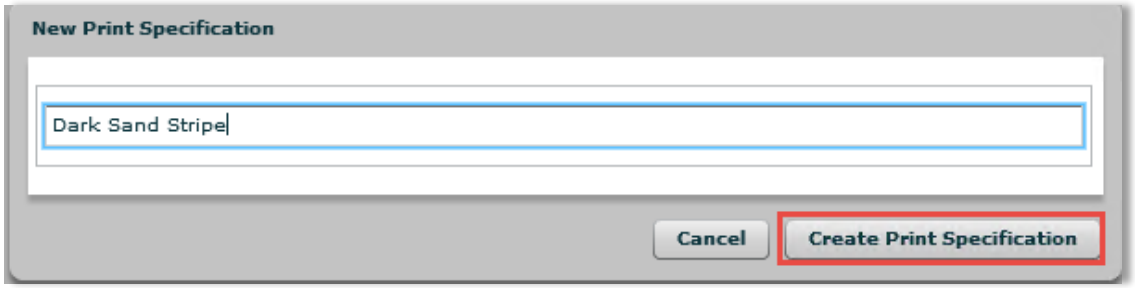
- From the Extension flyout menu, select **Create Print Specification**

Figure 2: Creating a blank Print Specification (1)



- Enter details in the New Print Specification page and click on **Create Print Specification**.

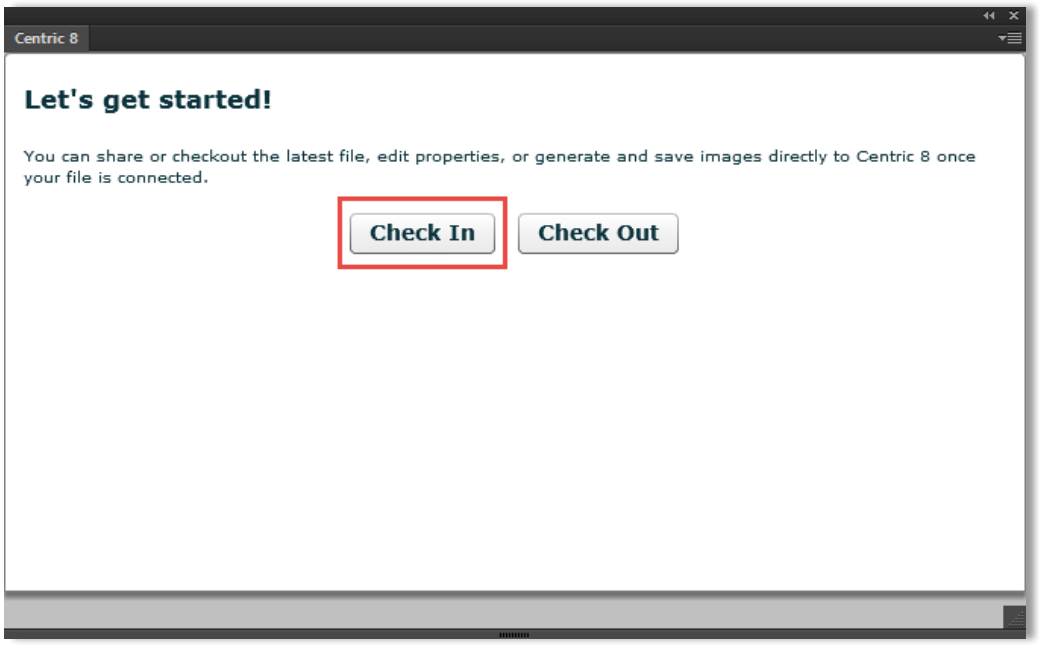
Figure 3: Create a blank Print Specification (2)



b. Create a print specification with document upload.

- Open an existing document that has been saved locally.
- Click on **Check-in**.

Figure 4: Create Print Specification with document upload (1)



- The **Print Specification** is available as an option in the **Change Location** page.

Figure 5: Create Print Specification with document upload (2)

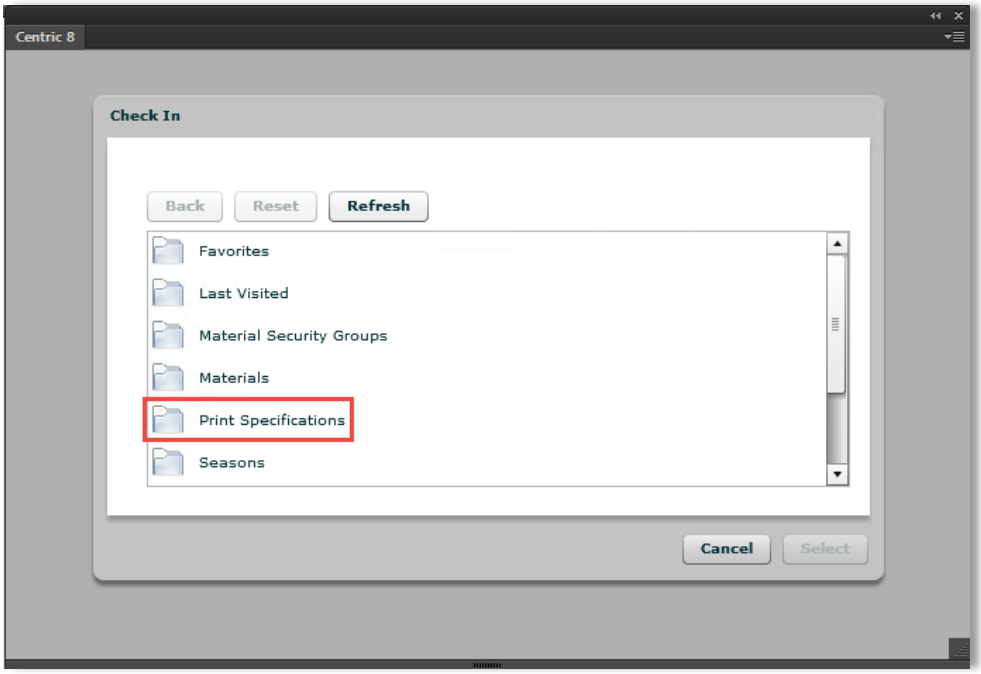


Figure 6: Create Print Specification with document upload (3)

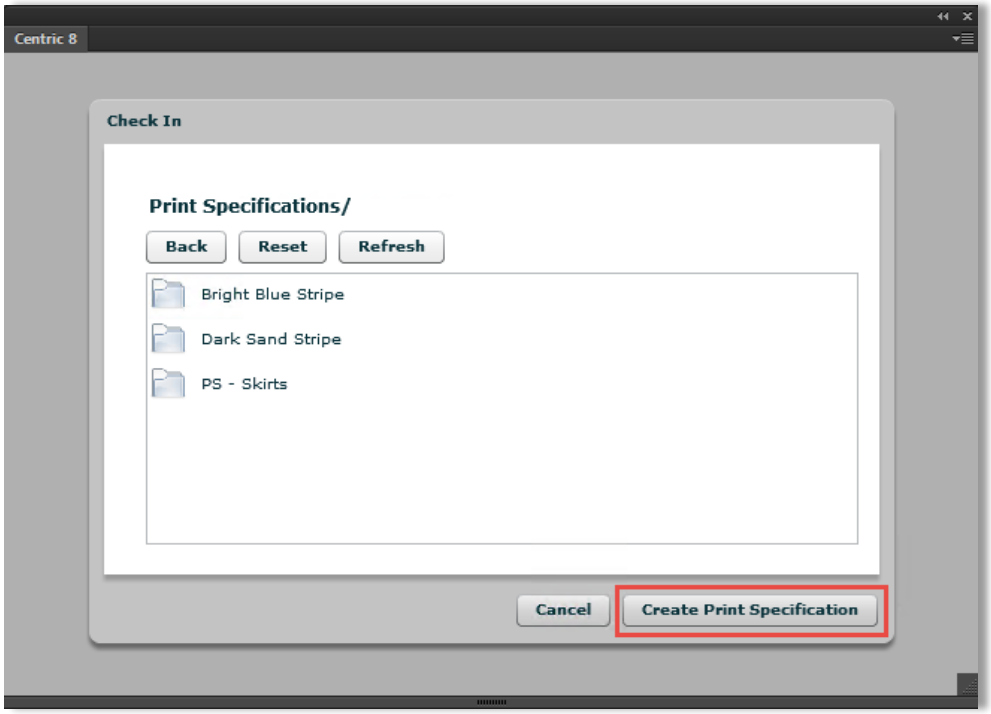
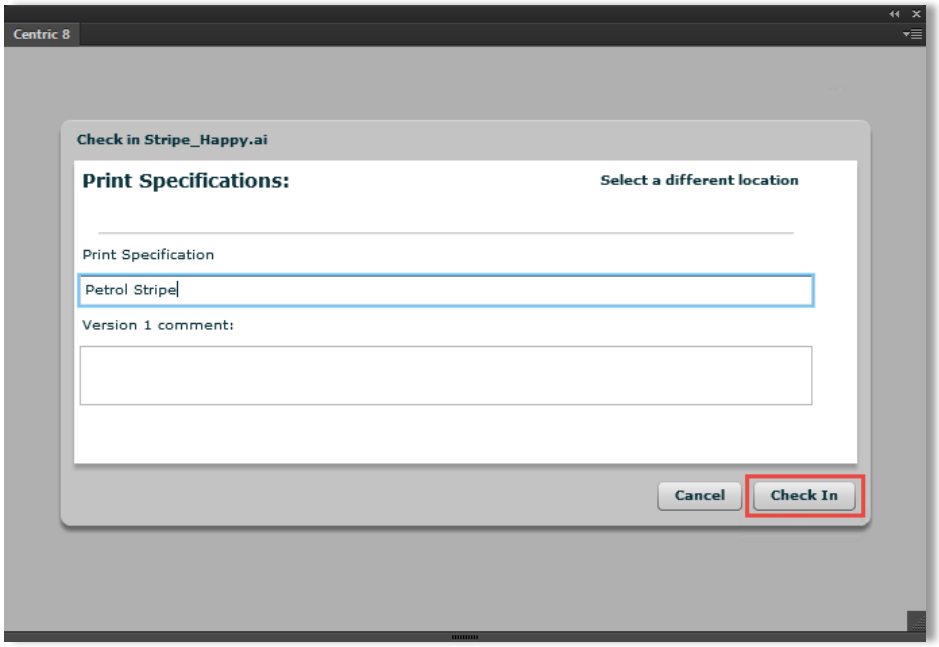
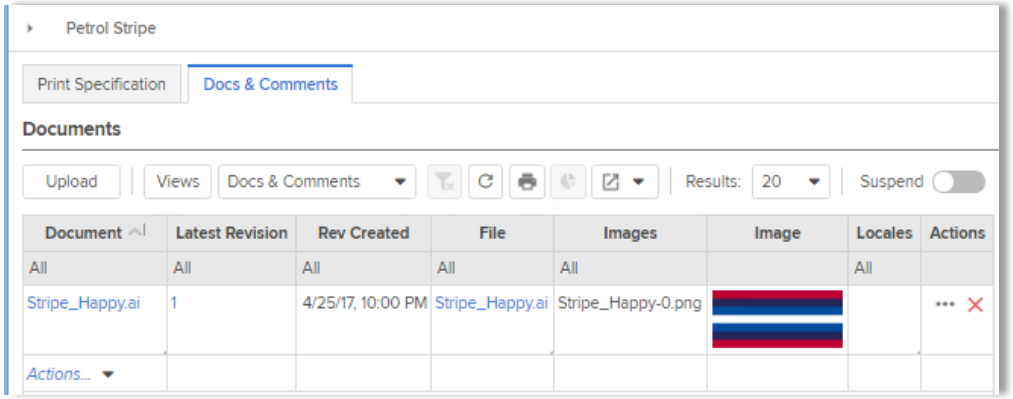


Figure 7: Create Print Specification with document upload (4)



- On **Check-in**, the Print Specification will be created in C8 and uploaded on the **Print Specification** ▸ **Docs & Comments** tab.

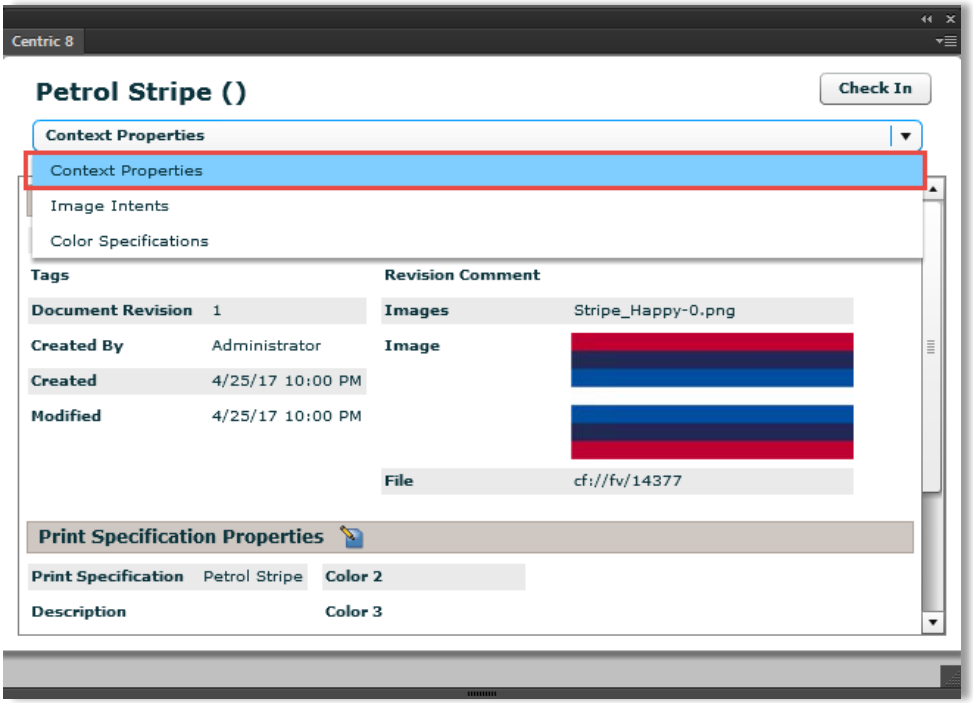
Figure 8: The Print Specification is created and displayed in the Docs&Comments tab in C8



2. Context Properties on Print Specifications

Print Specification properties can be updated from PLMC by selecting the **Context Properties** from the Illustrator Extension window menu and then using the **Edit** action.

Figure 9: Context Properties in the Extension window



Manage Color Specifications

1. Creating Color Specs on Print Specifications

To designate the color combinations for the print specifications, users can create color specs on print specifications by selecting the **New** action in PLMC and providing the required details.

Figure 10: New action in PLMC

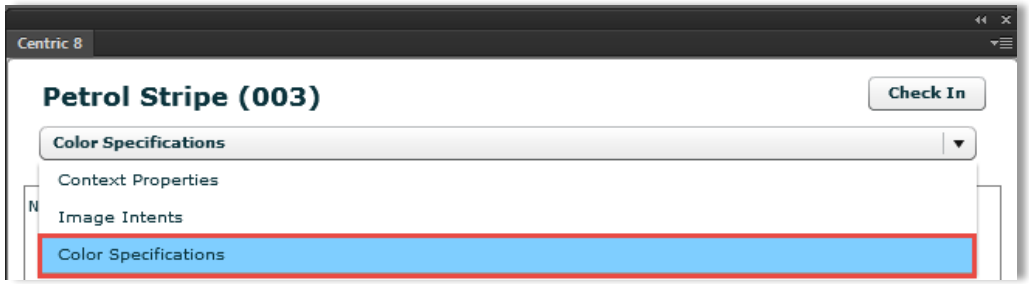
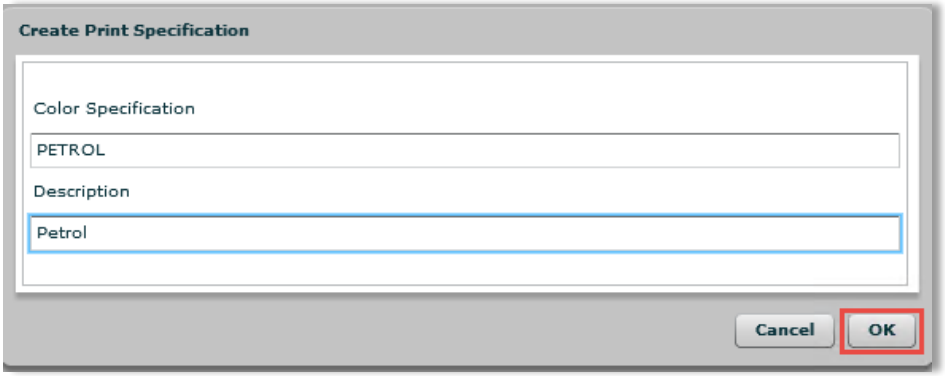


Figure 11: New Color Specification window



As the color specs are added/created, the extension will update the list of available color specs on the print specifications.

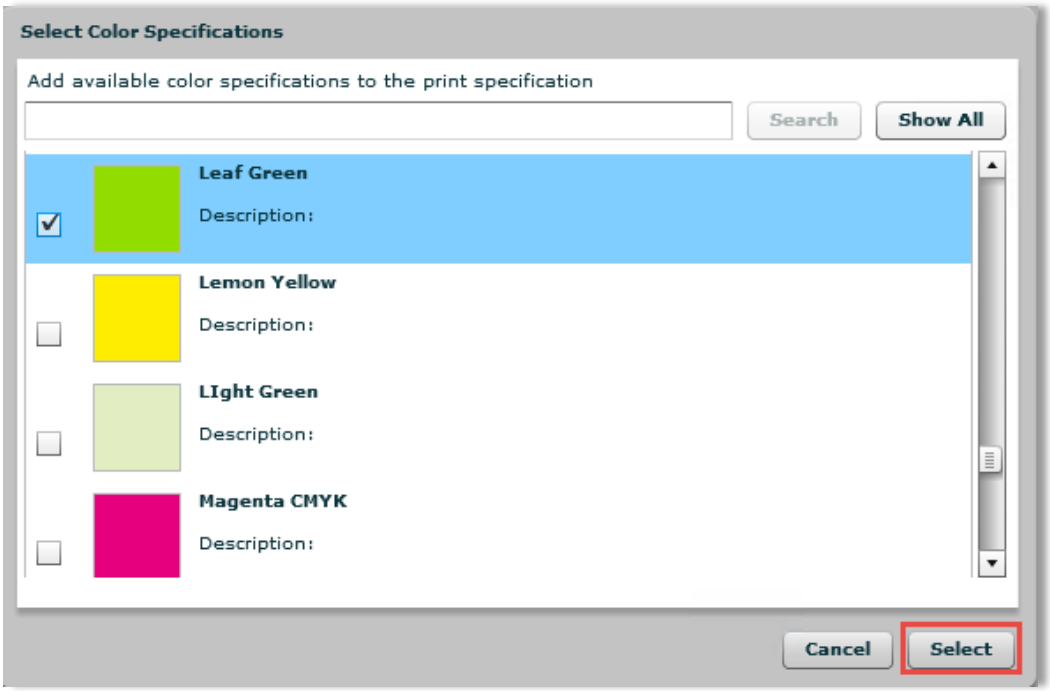
Figure 12: List of available Color Specs

2. Selecting one or more Color Specs for Print Specifications

Users can select a color specification from the existing site level color spec library and add it to the Print Specification.

Figure 13: Site Level Color Spec Library

Figure 14: Select Color Specifications window

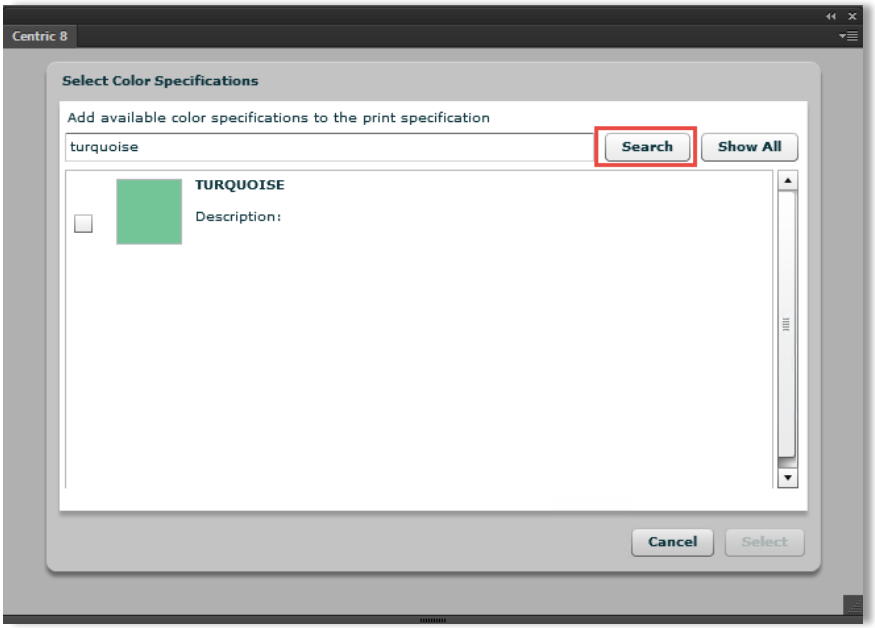


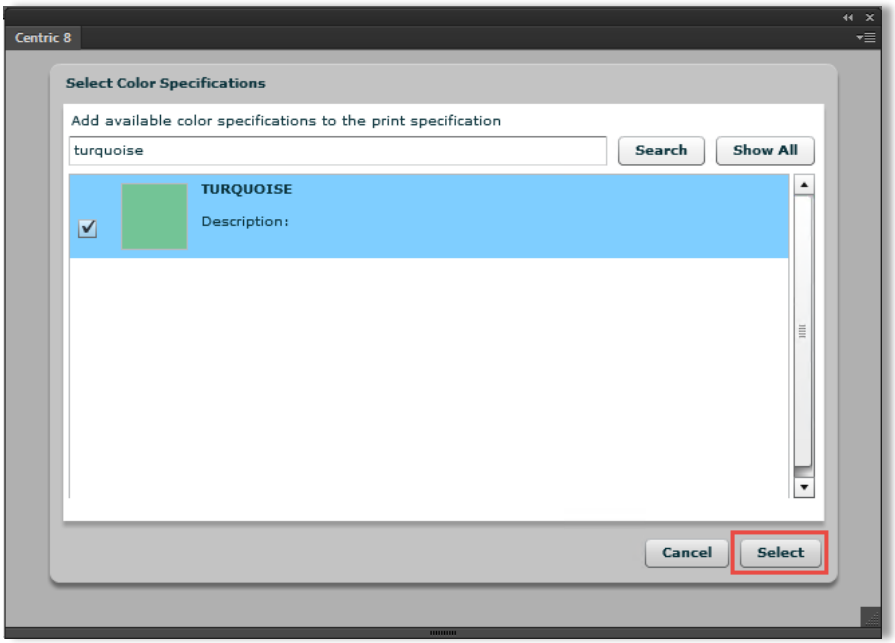
Searching for a Color Specification

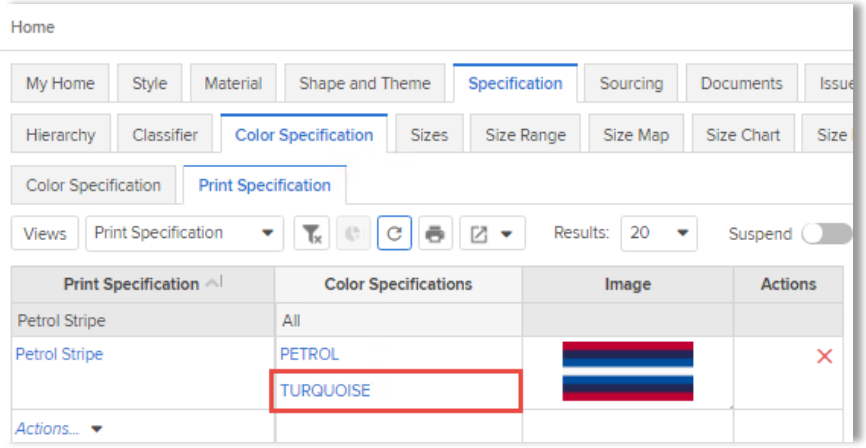
The **Select Color Specifications** window now provides a **Search** Option. Users can either:

- search for a particular Color Specification using the **Search** button OR
- view all the available Color Specifications using the **Show All** button

Figure 15: Search Option



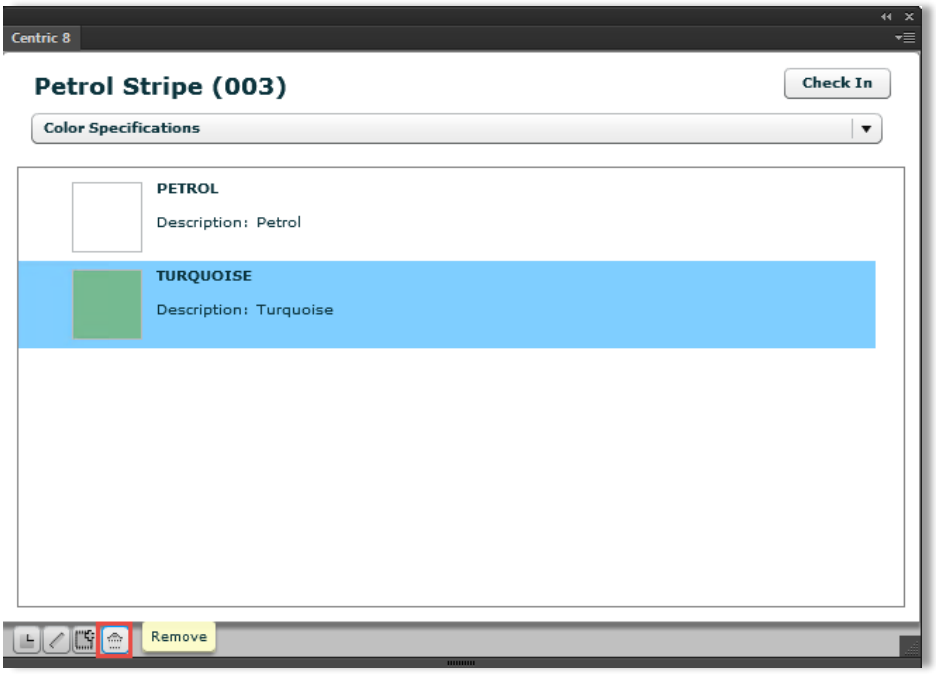




3. Removing one or more Color Specs from Print Specifications

If a Color Spec is no longer required, then it can be removed from the Print Specification by selecting the Color Spec and using the **Remove** action.

Figure 16: The Remove action



NOTE

The **Remove** action only removes the Color Specification from the Print Specification. The Color Specification will not be deleted from Centric 8.

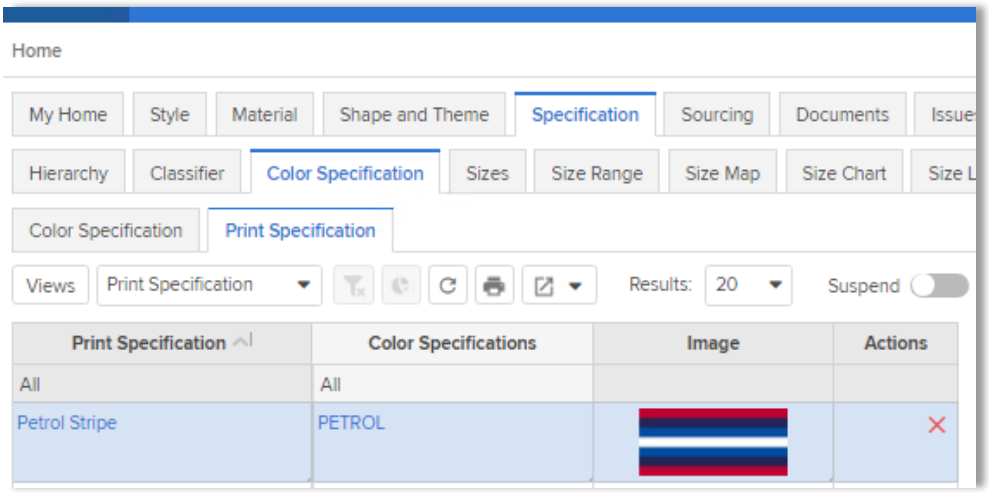
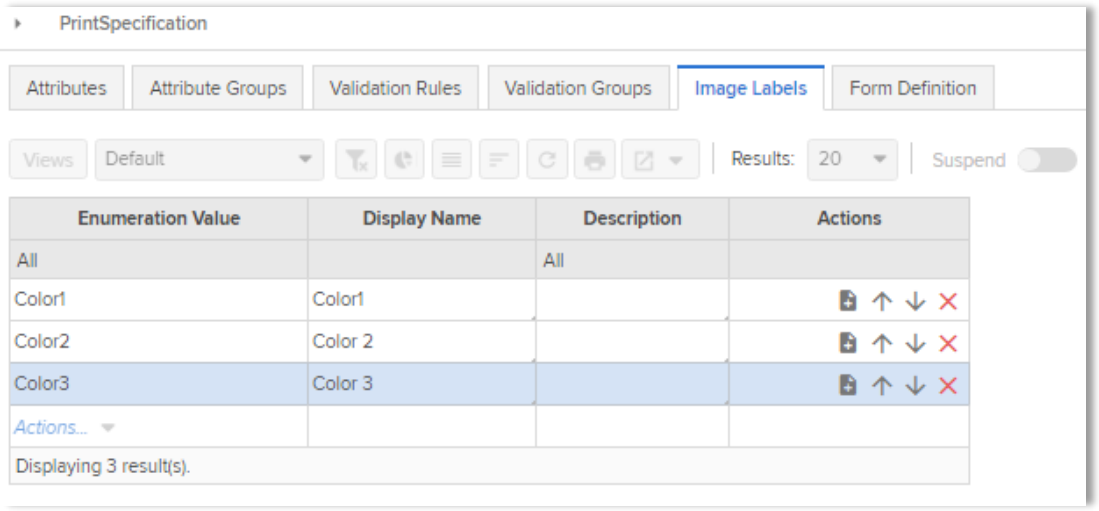

Home
My Home
Style
Material
Shape and Theme
Specification
Sourcing
Documents
Hierarchy
Classifier
Color Specification
Sizes
Size Range
Size Map
Size Chart
Color Specification
Print Specification
Views
Print Specification
Results:
20
Suspend
Print Specification
Color Specifications
Image
Actions
All
All
Petrol Stripe
PETROL

Image Intents on Print and Color Specifications

1. Assign Image Intents on Print Specifications

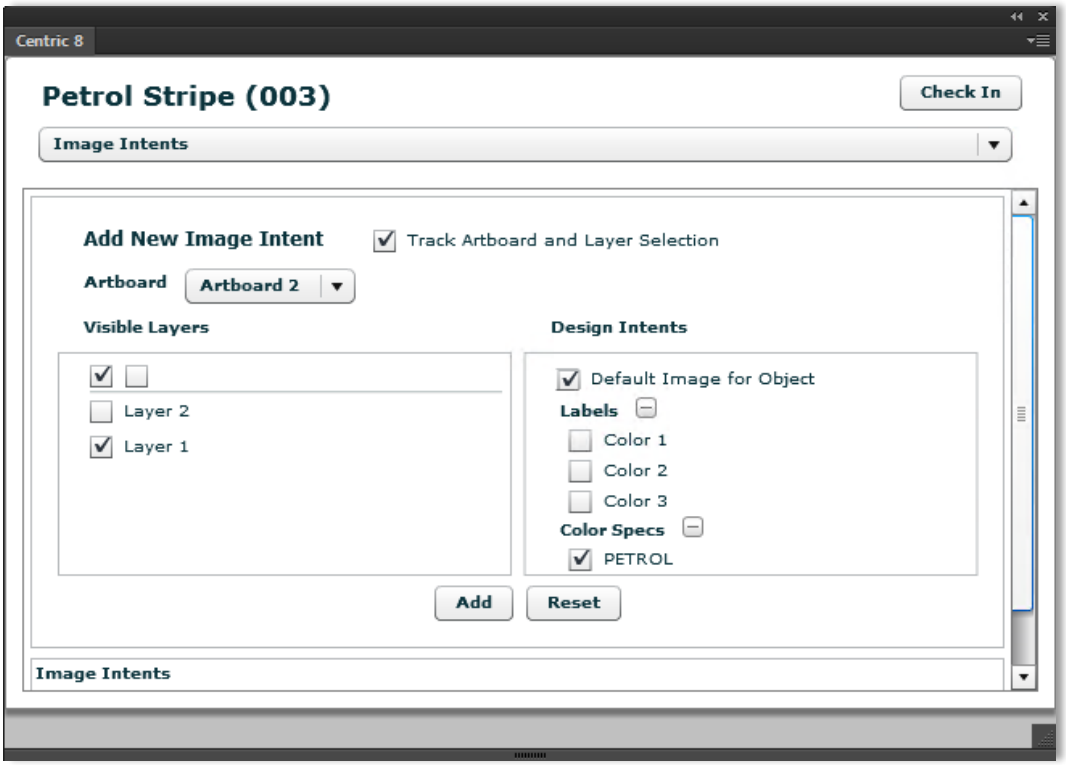
Image Intents allows users generate images from selected artboards and layers for use in Centric8. To set image intents on print specifications, first define labels in Centric8, on the **Setup ▸ Configuration ▸ Business Objects ▸ Image Labels** tab for the **Print Specification** business object. Run **Update Configuration**.

Figure 17: Defining Print Spec Labels on the Image Labels tab in C8



Create image intents by selecting **+** icon in the **Image Intents** menu.

Figure 18: Adding New Image Intents to Print Specifications

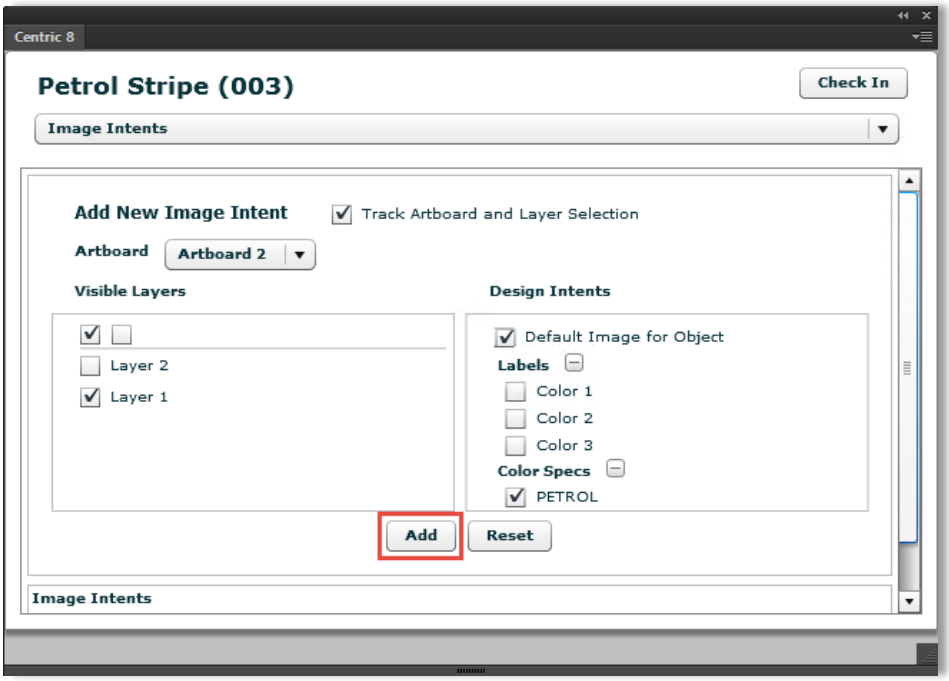


On the **Visible Layers** pane, select the combination of applicable layers and artboards, assign print specification labels. Use **Add** to complete definition to continue defining image intents.

2. Assign Image Intents to Color Specifications

To add Color Specification images, select **Color Specs** tab and define intents accordingly. Select the combination of applicable layers and artboards, designate the color specification it applies to. Use **Add** to complete definition, use **Add and New** to continue defining image intents.

Figure 19: Generate a new image

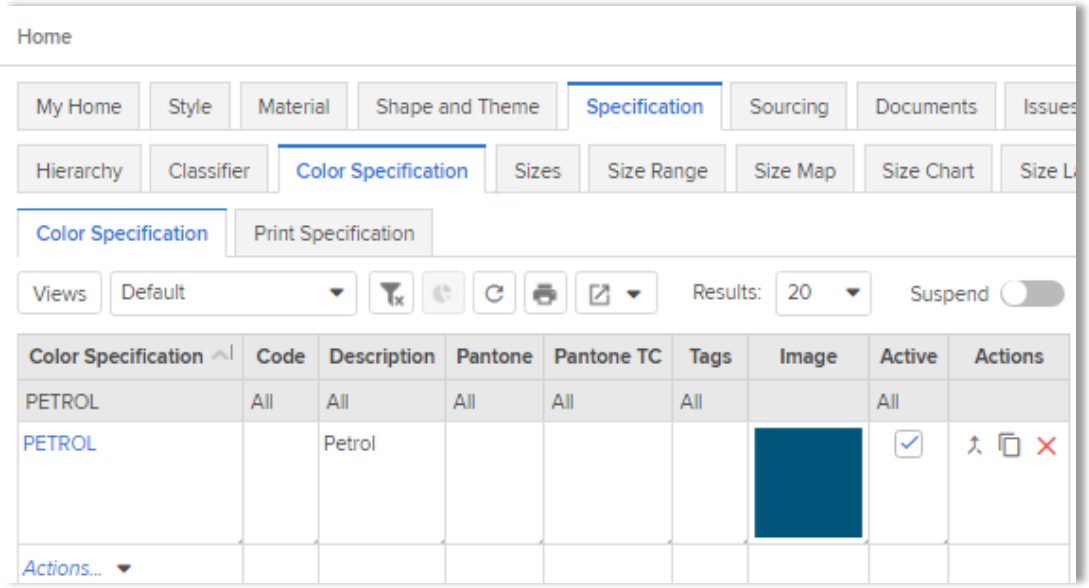


As image intents are assigned, the extension will update the list of image intents.

Figure 20: The Extension is updated with list of image intents

When complete, **Check In** document to generate image intents in Centric 8.

Figure 21: Image Intents are generated in C8



General Enhancements

1. Localization

Adobe PLM Connect labels and messages can be localized in Centric 8 using the standard Centric 8 configuration pages. However, the current PLM Connect localization update tool will update all PLM Connect messages with their default localized values, which may overwrite any customized values. This will only impact labels and messages exclusively used by PLM Connect.

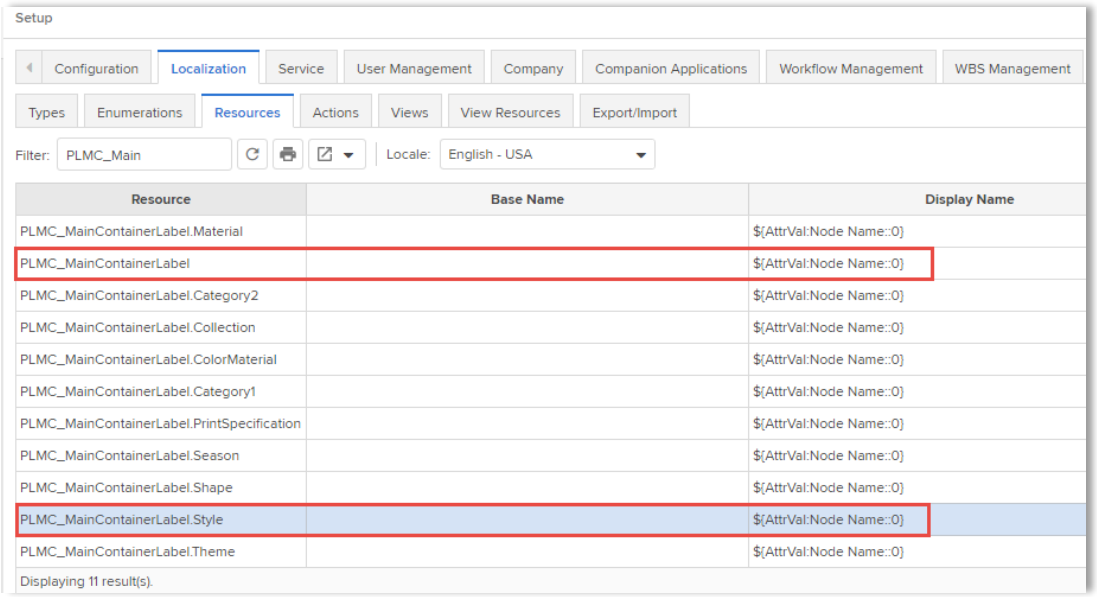
2. Title Label Configuration

The title of the "Container" Label displayed in the Extension Header when a document is checked out from a Style or any other "Container" is the name of the Style.

The new Title Label Configuration is based on certain Localization keys. Customizing the localized values of these keys in C8 on the **Setup** ▸ **Localization** ▸ **Resources** tab, allows customers to customize the **Title Labels** for the different PLMC-supported container types.

The default **Message Label Key** is:

`PLMC_MainContainerLabel`



However, **Label Keys** are available for each Container type. For example, the following Label Key is available for a Style:

PLMC_Main.ContainerLabel.Style

The “Value” or “Display Name” that is configured for each of these Message Keys is a pattern that can include literal characters and one or more “Attribute Value” variables. The default “Message Value” for each Container Type is display of the Node Name of the Container. For example:

```
PLMC MainContainerLabel.Style=${AttrVal:Node Name::0}
```

To include the Style Code (in parentheses) as part of the Label, change the “Message Value” (i.e. the “Display Name” in the C8 **Setup > Localization** tab) as follows:

```
${AttrVal:Node Name::0} (${AttrVal:Code::0})
```

After updating the localization configuration, select **Actions ▸ Update Configuration** in C8.

The PLMC User will have to log out and log back in before viewing the changes within Illustrator.

In order for an attribute value to be included in the Title Label, that attribute MUST be included in the “Properties” view used by PLMC for that Container. Else, the attribute value will be blank.

Features to be provided in future releases of PLM Connect

We are working on providing all features previously available with the 2.4.0 version of Centric 8 PLM Connect.

The following features have been identified as important and we are working on adding them to upcoming releases of the Centric 8 Extension.

- Deletion of the Document from the Centric 8 Extension
- Adding Favorite from the Centric 8 Extension
- Managing Document Revisions from the Centric 8 Extension
- Control Cache Settings
- Search Support
- Support for duplicate style names
- BOM Builder for HTML

Known Issues

The following are known issues that we are actively looking to fix/improve in the future releases:

1. Whether opening a file from your computer or from Centric 8 using the extension to check out a file, opening the initial file from some versions of Adobe Illustrator can take time. Once the initial file has been loaded subsequent files are opened quickly. This is a limitation of Adobe Illustrator that unfortunately we cannot control.
2. The Adobe Illustrator What's New window that appears when opening Adobe Illustrator prevents the Centric 8 Extension from loading correctly. If the 'What's New' window appears upon opening Illustrator, the user should do the following:
    - Select check box to disable What's New dialog from displaying upon login
    - Restart Illustrator
    - Login to Centric 8 extension
3. Upon upgrading Adobe PLM Connect (users upgrading from 2.4.0), loading the Centric 8 extension may take a long time the first time illustrator is opened. Due to the delay, it may appear as though the extension is not loading however it is. Please be patient when initially opening Adobe Illustrator for the first time after an upgrade.
4. Direct Edit currently does not support all special characters. If the hierarchy path includes special characters, direct edit will fail. We will be looking into supporting all special characters in a future release.
5. Currently there is a limitation on the file path exceeding 260 characters. What this means is if you are opening a style in Centric 8 and the entire hierarchy path including the file name exceeds 260 characters the file may not open. This is something we are looking into and will address in a future release.

Appendix A: Image Management in Centric 8

Images can be used in many ways within Centric 8. The most common uses are as Properties images (with or without image labels) and as images embedded on a canvas in a Data Sheet. Images can be uploaded directly, or they can be generated from a .ai file.

Centric 8 users can upload a **.ai** file in any of the following two ways:

- **Directly uploading the file in a web browser**
  - In this case, images are generated using a server program, the Image Service
- **Checking in the file using Adobe PLM Connect**
  - In this case, images are generated by Adobe Illustrator

Users are free to start with either method (direct upload or PLM Connect check-in) and to go back and forth between the two to create revisions.

When a new .ai file is uploaded to the same Centric 8 document, and new images are generated, Properties images in C8 are updated provided the image names are identical. (Through Centric 8 release 5.6, images on a Canvas are not updated.) The following are some of the reasons that names might not be identical, causing a Properties image to not update:

- The user changed the filename of the .ai file before uploading it.
- The same filename is uploaded but to a different Centric 8 document.
- Images are generated by an obsolete version of the Image Service
- Remaining differences (defects) in Image Service naming

Adobe PLM Connect uses Illustrator's Save For Web action to generate images. The Image Service must create image names in exactly the same way as Illustrator's Save For Web in order for the names to match. The following defects in older versions of the Image Service have been fixed in release 4.9.6 and up.

- Spaces in filenames are replaced with dashes in Illustrator's Save For Web action, but not in older versions of Image Service
- For .ai files with a single artboard, Illustrator's Save For Web adds a "-0" artboard indication. The "-0" is not added in older versions of Image Service

If your customer is experiencing problems due to images created with an older version of Image Service, contact support. Scripts to correct (rename) the image names are available and can be run after the Image Service is upgraded to the current release.

The following problems still exist with naming in the Image Service and will be corrected in a future release:

- The Macintosh OS allows filenames to have a leading space. A leading space is replaced with a dash in Illustrator's Save For Web action, but not in the current (4.9.6 and up) release of Image Service
- Full support for legal filename characters is missing from the current (4.9.6 and higher) release of Image Service. This causes problems with some common European language characters (tildes like ñ Ñ for example) and with Unicode characters for Asian languages.

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