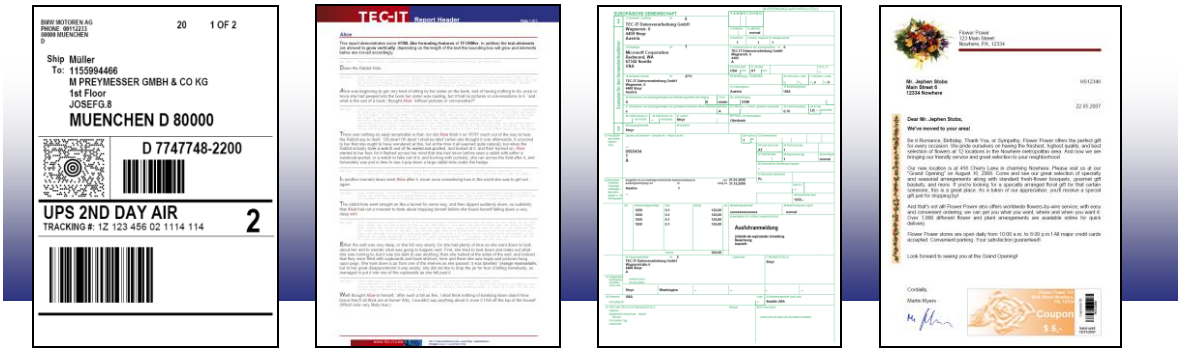
# 1 README

## 1.1 Professional Documents Created With Ease

Many thanks for evaluating **TFORMer**!

The **TFORMer** product family represents a complete, lean and powerful solution for generating arbitrary documents. It combines the features of barcode labeling tools with the characteristics of report generators into a unified printing-solution. It provides *professional layout and output* capabilities, an integrated *barcode generator,* full-featured *UNICODE* support and it supports direct *PDF generation.* It can be used on client and on server side and it is available for all major operating systems.




The functionality of **TFORMer** is available for end-users as well as for software developers:

*End-Users* benefit from the graphical layout editor with instant output capabilities: **TFORMer Designer** offers outstanding design and printing features for reports, tables, lists, serial letters, industry forms, vouchers and barcode labels. Furthermore the numerous ready-to-use label and report templates for industry and logistics (e.g. VDA-4902, Odette, GALIA, AIAG, …) will be a valuable assistance.

*Software developers* use **TFORMer Runtime** as reporting tool for direct printing, PDF generation, PostScript-, HTML, image or ZPL-II output. Layouts are designed graphically with **TFORMer Designer. TFORMer Runtime** is then used to provide dynamic data for the layouts and to generate the output. This core functionality for printing and output is available for all major operating systems.

## 1.2 What's New in Version 6.0?

**TFORMer V6.0** provides *major improvements in the user interface*. The intuitive menu structure and the instant preview with live-data from the current datasource simplify form design and production use.

The absolute highlight of **TFORMer V6.0** is the *flexible datasource concept*. It is a matter of seconds to retrieve data from external datasources like databases or files, to associate this data with the layout and to print the resulting document on any printer. Data can also be entered manually in a very convenient way. **TFORMer** allows you to create multiple datasources for a single layout, thus further increasing your productivity.

Software developers benefit from an *enhanced API* (which is now also available for JAVA) and which provides programmatic access to layout parameters, output creation and datasource manipulation.

## 1.3 Highlights

### 1.3.1 One Layout – Multiple Output Formats

**TFORMer** unifies output tasks. A specific form layout produces identical output across printer models, operating systems and output formats. Supported output formats are:

- **Direct Printing**
  Print layouts directly on all printers supported by Microsoft® Windows®.
- **PDF Document Creation (PDF Library)**
  PDF export with full-featured barcode support, Unicode and font embedding.
- **PostScript®**
  Used for printing under Linux/UNIX and for pre-press applications.
- **HTML**[1]
  The built-in HTML generator is ideal for previewing and for web-based applications.
- **Images**
  The built-in image output supports BMP, GIF, JPG, PCX, TGA, PNG and TIF formats (including multipage TIF).
- **ZEBRA®**
  Print to ZEBRA® printers without any additional driver. ZPL-II output is generated directly.
- **ASCII Output**
  Pure ASCII output without any graphics for special purpose requirements.

### 1.3.2 UNICODE Support

The integrated UNICODE support allows you to use **TFORMer** with almost any established language.

### 1.3.3 Layout Templates for Industry, Logistics and Medical Use

**TFORMer** accelerates your work through ready-to-use industry compliant layout templates (VDA, VDA BeloM, GM, GALIA, AIAG, ODETTE, DHL®, FedEx®, TNT®, …).

### 1.3.4 Barcode Support

**TFORMer** provides integrated, printer-independent barcode support for all linear, 2D and composite symbologies in common use.

### 1.3.5 Smart Form Layouts

The output is dynamically controlled by means of layout properties, conditional printing, tray control and individual computations.

### 1.3.6 Flexible Datasources, Serial Numbers

**TFORMer** supports multiple datasources for a single layout. Data can be imported from an external datasource or it can be entered manually in a data grid. When importing data from an external datasource (ODBC, XML, CSV, …), external datafields are mapped to the datafields in the layout without any renaming.– Serial numbers are available without programming!

[1] Due to the nature of HTML some features may be limited or not available.

### 1.3.7 Independent

**TFORMer** separates layouts completely from the underlying data. It does not bind layouts to certain printer models or databases.

### 1.3.8 Cross-Platform Reporting Engine

The report generator SDK **TFORMer Runtime** is available for all common operating systems (Microsoft® Windows®, Linux®, UNIX®). It is used by developers for custom applications, as PDF-generator on client or server side, as web-based form printing service or as output engine for enterprise printing systems.

# 2 Installed Components

This chapter describes the components installed by the setup application of **TFORMer**.

## 2.1 TFORMer Designer – Form Layout and Form Printing

With **TFORMer Designer**, the heart of the **TFORMer** product family, you can…

- Design your own layouts for reports, labels, forms, serial letters, …
- Use pre-defined industry compliant labels (e.g. VDA4902, Odette, AIAG, …)
- Print or preview these layouts in an instant
- Input data manually or import data from external data sources (CSV File, XML, ODBC, …)
- Print barcodes (linear, 2D and composite) on all printers (e.g. laser and inkjet printers)
- Generate PDF, PostScript®, HTML, Image or ZPL-II documents without any additional 3rd party software.

Start **TFORMer Designer** by clicking

*All Programs ► TEC-IT TFORMer 6.0 ► TFORMer Designer 6.0*

## 2.2 Reporting Engine TFORMer Runtime

**TFORMer Runtime** is the output engine of **TFORMer Designer**. The core components of the runtime are installed automatically as part of **TFORMer Designer**. Software developers or advanced users can use the output functionality via the following APIs:

- DLL
  A 32-bit Windows DLL. A 64-bit version is available on request.
- COM Component
  This component can be used with most development environments, Microsoft Office applications, Visual Basic for Applications, HTML pages (via JavaScript or VBScript), …
- .NET Assembly
  This component can be used with all .NET programming languages (.NET 2.0 or higher).
- JAVA JNI (Java Native Interface)
  The JNI interface allows you to **embed TFORMer Runtime** easily in all JAVA applications.
- Command-line Application (TFPrint.exe).
  **TFPrint** offers the functionality of **TFORMer Runtime** via a command-line interface. It can be embedded into batch-jobs or used as out-of-process report generator.

Various sample applications demonstrate the usage of **TFORMer Runtime** as part of your own applications. For details see below.

## 2.3 TFORMer Documentation

*All Programs ► TEC-IT TFORMer 6.0 ► Documentation* provides links to the available manuals.

## 2.4 TFORMer Examples

### 2.4.1 Command Line Printing

**TFORMer** offers you the possibility to print full-featured reports and labels from the command line.

Check out the following ready-to-run batch jobs:

*All Programs ► TEC-IT TFORMer 6.0 ► Examples ► Command Line Printing*

### 2.4.2 Demo Repository

A repository is a place in which to store form layouts in a structured way. The demo repository can be opened by selecting:

*All Programs ► TEC-IT TFORMer 6.0 ► Examples ► Demo Repository*

With **TFORMer Designer** you can browse through the sample layouts in the repository and you can also modify them. However, please consider that most of the layouts are used by sample applications.

### 2.4.3 Microsoft Office Examples

These examples demonstrate the use of the COM-based **TFORMer Runtime** as part of Microsoft Office documents, databases or spreadsheets:

*All Programs ► TEC-IT TFORMer 6.0 ► Examples ► Microsoft Office*

### 2.4.4 Software Developer Examples

The API of **TFORMer Runtime** is available as DLL, as COM component, as .NET assembly and as JAVA JNI wrapper. The examples are provided with full source code for various programming languages, development environments and technologies:

*All Programs ► TEC-IT TFORMer 6.0 ► Examples ► Programming*

- **TFORMer Runtime** is also available for Linux® or UNIX® platforms. More details on http://www.tec-it.com.

### 2.4.5 Labels for Industry and Logistics

Print pre-defined industry and transport labels within seconds.

**TFORMer** comes with numerous pre-defined industry compliant labels. Besides the labels for the automotive industry (AIAG, GM, VDA, VDA BeloM, GALIA, Odette) **TFORMer** includes common transport labels used by various parcel services (DHL®, FedEx®, TNT®, ...).

Check out a selection of pre-defined labels:

*All Programs ► TEC-IT TFORMer 6.0 ► Examples ► Industry and Logistics*

### 2.4.6 Overview Reports

These reports demonstrate some of the features supported by **TFORMer.** To get an impression try:

*All Programs ► TEC-IT TFORMer 6.0 ► Examples ► Overview Reports*

## 2.5 TFORMer Tools

### 2.5.1 TFORMer Command Line

This is a shortcut to the command-line based application **TFPrint**. From this start-menu entry **TFprint** is run without any parameters. Therefore the short help is displayed.

*All Programs ► TEC-IT TFORMer 6.0 ► Tools ► Command Line*

### 2.5.2 TFORMer QuickPrint

This application enables the user to select an arbitrary layout and to print it after the used datafields are manually completed with suitable values.

Data entry is possible in two ways: list based (for each completed record one layout is printed) and table based (multiple records utilizing different data-field values are printed at once). The user settings of **QuickPrint** are saved automatically, so the next time **QuickPrint** is started the user can immediately enter data and print the required layout.

*All Programs ► TEC-IT TFORMer 6.0 ► TFORMer QuickPrint*

# 3 Product History

## 3.1 Current Version 6.0

### 3.1.1 New Features

- **User Interface**
  Layout design and testing was simplified with the optimized graphical user interface. Switch between layout view, data view and preview with a single mouse-click.
- **Unified Datasources**
  **TFORMer** introduces a unified datasource concept. A wizard will help you to quickly and easily create ODBC datasources and file based datasources (XML, CSV, ...). You can also create multiple datasources for one single layout and then switch between them as required.
- **Field Bindings**
  The field names used in external datasources (like in a database table) can now be mapped easily to datafields in the layout. No renaming is required!
- **Computed Fields**
  A datasource may be extended with computed fields. Computed fields allow you to do custom computations in a central location (like creating serial numbers, etc.).
- **Datasource Parameters**
  With the use of source parameters you can create generic datasource definitions: In an ODBC datasource you can parameterize the connect string and the SQL-statement, in a file datasource you can dynamically adjust the file name with parameters.
- **Manual Data Entry**
  **TFORMer** per default offers a manual datasource for each layout. This datasource allows the user to enter data directly in a grid. Entering data is as easy as in Microsoft Excel.
- **Rounded Rectangles**
  **TFORMer** now supports rounded rectangles. The radius of the rounded corners is adjustable.

### 3.1.2 General Improvements

- **Preview**
  The preview is no longer shown in a pop-up window. You can now directly switch between layout and preview.
- **Filtered Data**
  The data provided by a datasource can be filtered. This filter can be enabled or disabled in the data view as well as in the preview.
- **Vertical and Horizontal Alignment**
  The elements in a layout can now be aligned vertically and horizontally with a few mouse clicks.
- **PDF Output**
  Various problems with fonts, font-embedding (creation of subsets to reduce the resulting file size), watermarks (image background of a layout) and with the scaling of images were fixed.
- **HTML Output**
  The HTML output now supports human readable text for barcodes, circles, ellipses and diagonal lines.
- **Microsoft Windows Vista and Windows 7 Compatibility**
  **TFORMer** can be used on the upcoming Windows 7 without any restrictions (checked with Windows 7 Beta).

### 3.1.3 Barcode Support

- **New Barcode Kernel**
  **TFORMer** now supports the 2D barcode Micro QR-Code.

- **HEX Input**
  Barcode data may now be provided in hexadecimal format.
- **Binary Encoding**
  Usually **TFORMer** generates barcodes always in the best possible internal encoding. To meet special requirements, this release allows you to enforce binary encoding (e.g. for PDF417).

#### 3.1.4 TFORMer Designer Server Edition

- **Printer Properties**
  In Server Mode all printer properties can now be set via the repository.

#### 3.1.5 Samples

- **New Dynamics NAV (Navision) Sample**
  A new sample application which demonstrates the use of **TFORMer Runtime** with Microsoft® Dynamics NAV® was introduced.
- **Business Cards with QR-Code (vCard)**
  New examples for business cards with an imprinted QR-Code symbol were added.

#### 3.1.6 Improvements for Developers

- **DLL, .NET and COM API**
  The API was extended so that you can select the datasource and set the source-parameters via code now.
- **JAVA JNI (Java Native Interface)**
  A JAVA JNI API is now available for **TFORMer Runtime**. A source-code example showing you the use of this interface is included. The example mimics **TFPrint** (TFORMer Runtime on command line).
- **Security**
  The size and the download-time for images can be restricted via HTTP (see TFORMer.XML).
- **Extended Search Paths**
  The search paths for TFORMer.INI (license) and TFORMer.XML (configuration) was extended. The use with .NET and IIS is now possible without problems.
- **API Usability**
  The calling order of some API functions is now irrelevant. This simplifies programmatic printing.

### 3.2 Version 5.1

#### 3.2.1 General

- On demand **TFORMer** now generates ZPL-II compliant output. This feature is available on Microsoft Windows®, Linux® and UNIX®.
- In combination with Microsoft Internet Explorer the security of the COM version of **TFORMer Runtime** was significantly improved: **TFORMer Runtime** is now "site locked" as well as marked as "safe for scripting". Please refer to the documentation for more information.

#### 3.2.2 Design Features

- **TFORMer** now supports UNICODE and therefore covers almost all languages in current use today.
- Expressions and datafields can now be inserted into text elements much easier.
- The expression editor now supports syntax highlighting, auto-completion and call tips.
- **TFORMer** now supports the following barcode types: Aztec Code, DPD Code, Italian Postal Code 2of5 and DAFT Code.
- Stand-alone form layouts may be saved as ZIP-file from within **TFORMer Designer**.

### 3.2.3 Output Features

- **TFORMer** can now directly print image formats like BMP, GIF, JPG, PCX, PNG, TGA, TIF and multi page TIF.
- Embedded fonts in exported PDF files produce less overhead.

### 3.2.4 Software Developers

- The performance for retrieving form information with the .NET API of **TFORMer Runtime** was improved.

### 3.2.5 Additional Tools

- **TFORMer QuickPrint,** the tool for fast and easy on-demand printing, offers a better user interface.
- **TFORMer QuickPrint** now supports printing of unique serial numbers. This also works in a multi-user or networked environment.

## 3.3 Version 5.0

- Added Windows® Vista® support.
- Added support for EAN.UCC composite symbologies and RSS codes.
- Text elements support now HTML syntax.
- The error-handling of **TFORMer Runtime** was improved.
- Application Programming Interface (API) revised.
- Added .NET support for **TFORMer Runtime**.
- **TFPrint** now supports ODBC connections.
- Removed ImageMagick dependency.
- Introduced **TFORMer QuickPrint**, a tool for instant printing of arbitrary forms.

## 3.4 Version 4.5.1

- **TFORMer Runtime** sample applications redesigned.
- Revised product documentation.
- More ready-to-use templates added (e.g. UPS, TNT, FedEx, …).
- **TFPrint** command line parameters redesigned.
- Several bug fixes and enhancements (tab key bug, DDE printing, organizing templates was activated, external data editor, import from stand-alone forms into repositories, …).
- A licensed **TFORMer Designer** allows the use of **TFORMer Runtime** on the same machine.
- **TFORMer Runtime** is now available under HP-UX and AIX.
- **TFORMer** now uses the latest edition of **TBarCode** (Barcode Generator).

## 3.5 Version 4.5.0

- Integrated native PDF output.
- ODBC support.
- Grouping support.
- Experimental HTML and ASCII output.
- Native PostScript® output.
- Tabbed property window.
- Watermarking (bitmap).

## 3.6 Version 4.1.0

- The repository consists of a new XML based file structure and uses the extension *.tfr.
- For deployment of layout definitions you don't need the "labeldb.mdb" database anymore. Also the DAO DLLs are no longer needed. All files are now XML based.
- A form or label layout can be exported from the repository to a “stand-alone" layout file (*.tff), which can be used apart from the repository. Forms can be stored either in the repository or as tff format.
- The templates now contain various automotive label standards like AIAG, VDA, GM, GTL and many more.
- New system variables for better layout control.

# 4 Known Issues

## 4.1 PDF Output

- Non TrueType fonts like *Script* are printed as *Arial.*

## 4.2 PostScript Output

- Non TrueType fonts like *Script* are printed as *Arial.*

## 4.3 HTML Output

- The use of rotated text is not possible (will not be implemented because there is no cross-browser solution available).

## 4.4 Issues for Big-Endian (Non-Intel) Operating Systems like HP-UX and AIX

- The EURO-sign (€) can't be used on AIX.
- The image format TIF is not supported.

# 5 Contact and Support Information

## 5.1 Free Support

If you have questions, need help or simply want to tell us about your application, please contact us:

Email: support@tec-it.com
Web: http://www.tec-it.com/support/

Don't hesitate to contact us! Let us hear your feedback! If the product does not fulfill your requirements, please tell us why. We are highly interested in meeting the requirements of our customers.

## 5.2 How to Unlock the Demo Version

You can unlock the demo version with a license key. License keys can be obtained from TEC-IT by Email, Online Order Form or FAX.

Email: sales@tec-it.com
Online: http://www.tec-it.com/order/
Fax: +43 / (0)7252 / 72 72 0 – 77

## 5.3 Company Contact Information

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