

Kodak alaris

Kodak Info Input Solution V6

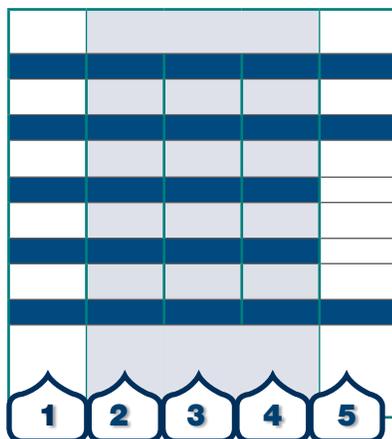
FEATURES & PRODUCTIVITY

USABILITY

IT ADMIN & SECURITY

SUPPORT & TRAINING

VALUE



scale: 1-5, where 3 = typical for this class of product and 5 = world class

OVERVIEW

Kodak Info Input Solution V6 from Kodak Alaris is an incredibly powerful, web-based distributed capture and workflow automation platform. The solution enables businesses to capture hardcopy documents from across several locations, automatically perform OCR/ICR/OMR, document classification, indexing, extraction, and route them to cloud-services, content management systems, line-of-business software, and other digital destinations.



Product Snapshot

Product: Kodak Alaris Info Input Solution

Version: 6

Web: www.alarisworld.com

For more information on Kodak Alaris and related solutions, see Keypoint Intelligence's comprehensive coverage at Keypointintelligence.com/Solutions

About Buyers Lab: Since 1961, Buyers Lab has been a leading test laboratory in the world of digital imaging equipment. Buyers Lab is completely independent in all of its testing processes and subsequent reporting. All of Buyers Lab's product evaluations are conducted by highly experienced employees in its on-site testing facilities in the United Kingdom and United States where hundreds of new copiers, printers, wide-format devices, scanners, and multi-function (MFP) products are evaluated and reported on each year.

CHIEF BENEFITS

DISTRIBUTED SCANNING – Info Input enables businesses to distribute scanning to the point of capture, so businesses don't have to send documents to a centralized location first. This allows businesses to proliferate access to paper-based information instantly, instead of hours or days later.

DYNAMIC WORKFLOW AUTOMATION – The ability to use scripting and define database actions enables businesses to automate non-capture tasks further downstream.

POWERFUL, FLEXIBLE OCR CAPABILITIES – The solution supports cloud OCR engines from Amazon, Google, and Microsoft, enabling customers to choose the engine of their preference. The OCR engines can scale to handle larger workloads, so businesses only pay for what they need, when they need it. Furthermore, the cloud OCR engines are constantly improving and updated automatically, so customers are always working with the latest and greatest features.

ADVANCED DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION AND SEPARATION – The optional classification and extraction engine classifies documents based on their content, then applies extraction rules and workflow instructions. That way, scan operators do not need to spend time separating and organizing batches or configuring job instructions. The solution is also smart enough to recognize when a field value has shifted from its normal position during capture, which eliminates problems associated with data loss.

FAST AND EASY INDEXING – Validating index information in scanned batches is super easy. The UI is simple and easy to navigate. Zoom zones make it easy for users to read information from the form, while rubber band OCR enables users to enter information without having to type.

OUR TAKE

Kodak Info Input Solution is a vast, sophisticated workflow automation and distributed capture solution that can help businesses improve document-centric business processes. The workflow automation capabilities are endless. The solution can take input from scanners and electronic sources, recognize them, automatically extract pertinent data, and then format and route them to where they are needed next. Unlike other solutions, Kodak Info Input 6 can automate non-capture related steps in a business process further downstream using database actions and scripting capabilities.

Keypoint Intelligence's lab technicians and analysts were most impressed with the solution's new document classification and extraction engine. The solution can be trained to recognize a specific document based on its content, then automatically apply specific extraction rules, and associate it with the proper workflow. As a result, scan operators do not need to spend a ton of time separating and organizing batches. They can simply load their paper, select their job settings, hit scan, and let Info Input v6 handle the rest. Also impressive is the solution's support for OCR/ICR engines from multiple providers, including Nuance, Amazon, Google, and Microsoft.

But for all its strength, Kodak Info Input is not perfect. As you would expect, the powerful workflow automation capabilities that Info Input brings to the table also will require attention from your IT department. The solution is not hosted in the cloud, so businesses may need to purchase and maintain additional servers, and allocate resources from the IT department to keep on top of it all. According to Kodak Alaris, however, customers can install Info Input V6 on Azure Virtual Machines to skirt server and maintenance costs. And while the solution offers an excellent overall user experience, some information-rich windows are drawn on the screen too small, so users need to manually resize them by dragging the edges. But these are small problems to deal with, especially when you consider the massive efficiency gains that come with automating business processes.

Features & Productivity

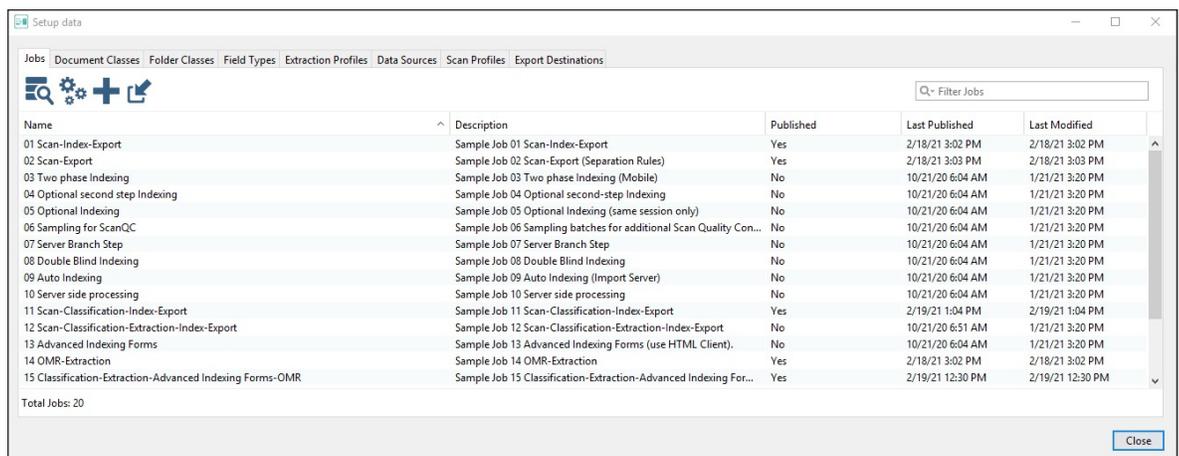
Classification and Extraction

One of the most impressive features offered by Kodak Info Input Solution v6 is its advanced document classification and extraction engine. This optional feature enables Kodak Info Input to recognize documents based on scanned “training” images, and act on them. The solution is smart enough to recognize documents based on a single training image.

The classification and extraction engine determines what kind of document is being scanned, the process it is associated with, and where the extracted data needs to be sent next. Impressively, Kodak Info Input v6 can detect when the fields of a document have shifted out of place during the scanning process (like if a page is fed askew) or if handwritten characters spill out of the index zone, and make the necessary adjustments to capture the field value in its entirety. This prevents data loss (fields that are partially or completely missing) from creating larger problems downstream.

Jobs

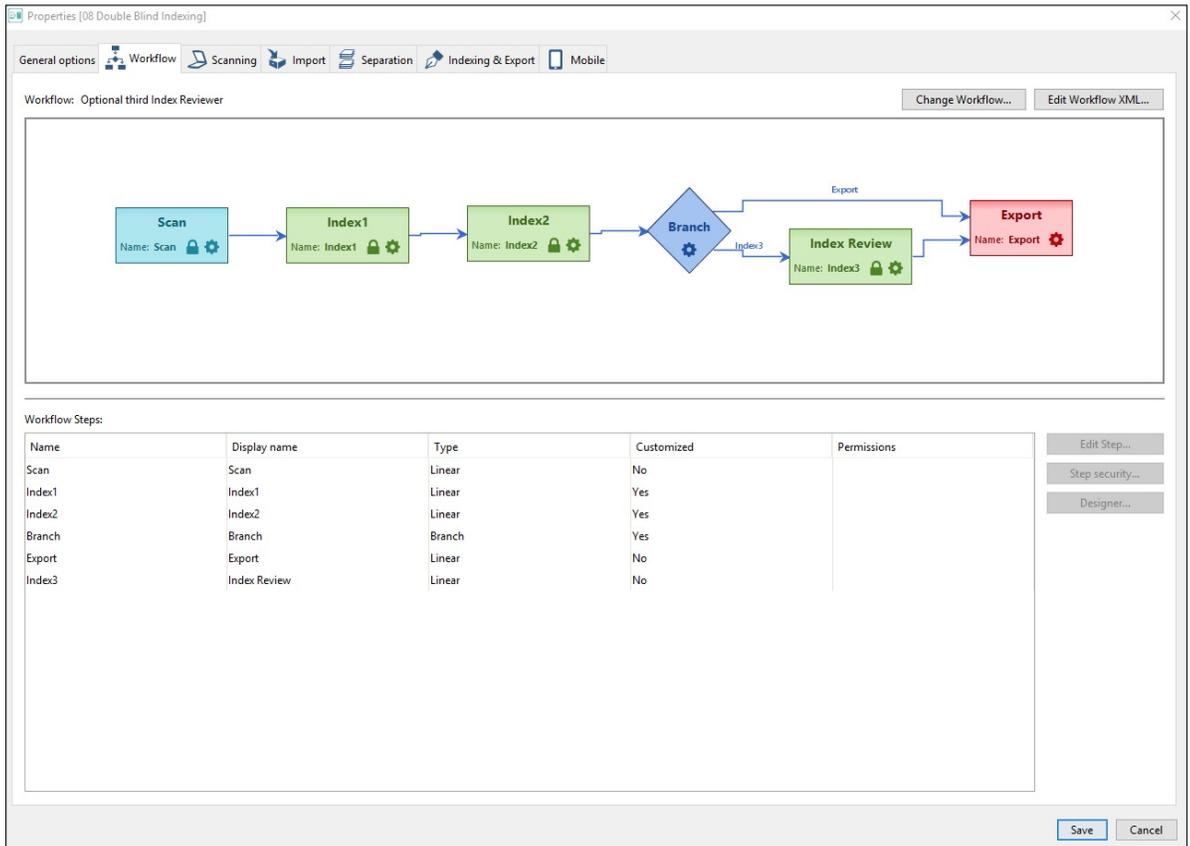
Jobs are a collection of preconfigured general, workflow, scanning/import, separation, indexing and export, and mobile settings. Jobs can be imported into Info Input v6, which can accelerate setup chores. The solution leverages a very granular automated batch naming mechanism, allowing users to select from 48 different variables ranging from the job ID to the net BIOS name. Each job can have a batch priority (1 to 2,147,483,647 are supported), so high-value batches are processed right away. Users can also define batch levels (batch/document/page or batch/folder/document/page), configure batch privacy settings (not allowed, all batches are private, or let the user choose), apply job level scripting, select a barcode extraction profile, and customize node names.



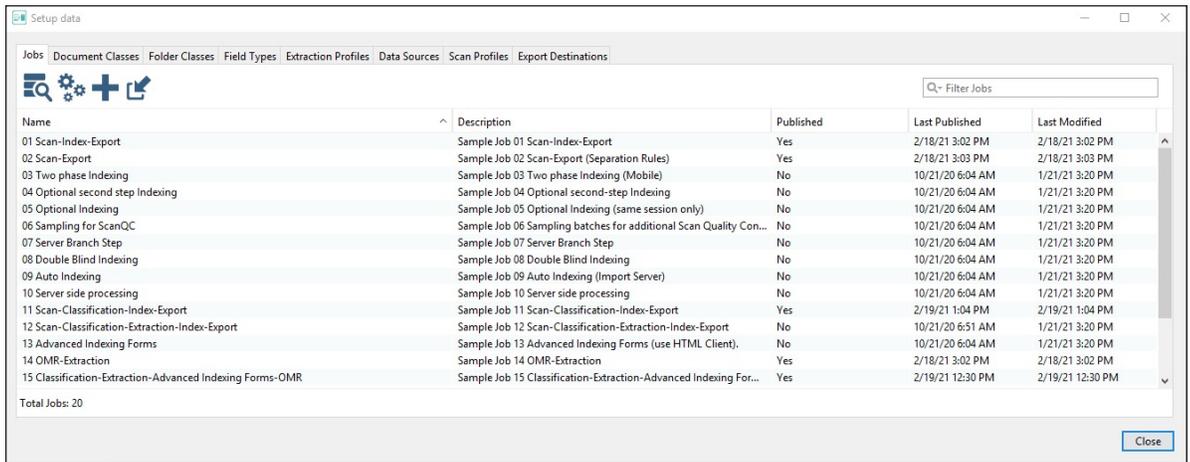
Name	Description	Published	Last Published	Last Modified
01 Scan-Index-Export	Sample Job 01 Scan-Index-Export	Yes	2/18/21 3:02 PM	2/18/21 3:02 PM
02 Scan-Export	Sample Job 02 Scan-Export (Separation Rules)	Yes	2/18/21 3:03 PM	2/18/21 3:03 PM
03 Two phase Indexing	Sample Job 03 Two phase Indexing (Mobile)	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
04 Optional second step Indexing	Sample Job 04 Optional second-step Indexing	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
05 Optional Indexing	Sample Job 05 Optional Indexing (same session only)	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
06 Sampling for ScanQC	Sample Job 06 Sampling batches for additional Scan Quality Con...	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
07 Server Branch Step	Sample Job 07 Server Branch Step	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
08 Double Blind Indexing	Sample Job 08 Double Blind Indexing	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
09 Auto Indexing	Sample Job 09 Auto Indexing (Import Server)	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
10 Server side processing	Sample Job 10 Server side processing	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
11 Scan-Classification-Index-Export	Sample Job 11 Scan-Classification-Index-Export	Yes	2/19/21 1:04 PM	2/19/21 1:04 PM
12 Scan-Classification-Extraction-Index-Export	Sample Job 12 Scan-Classification-Extraction-Index-Export	No	10/21/20 6:51 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
13 Advanced Indexing Forms	Sample Job 13 Advanced Indexing Forms (use HTML Client)	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
14 OMR-Extraction	Sample Job 14 OMR-Extraction	Yes	2/18/21 3:02 PM	2/18/21 3:02 PM
15 Classification-Extraction-Advanced Indexing Forms-OMR	Sample Job 15 Classification-Extraction-Advanced Indexing For...	Yes	2/19/21 12:30 PM	2/19/21 12:30 PM

Total Jobs: 20

The solution comes with 12 canned workflows, which can handle everything from simple scan/route jobs, to complicated two-phase indexing or automated classification and extraction workflows. The canned workflows that are provided can handle virtually any task you throw at it. Users can also define which folder or document classes should be used, and whether to assign the default values in empty indexing fields. Administrators can lock down each step in a workflow using permissions groups, so only users who work on that portion of the workflow have access to that portion of the workflow.



Kodak Info Input v6 offers very granular document separation capabilities and provides users with more control over when and how to separate documents compared to other solutions that Keypoint Intelligence has tested in the past. The solution can automatically separate documents as part of the classification process or be defined to separate documents after a specified amount of pages or images (several page or image values can be used, so you can separate documents of varying sizes, like splitting it after one document, then once again after the next two documents, then once again after the next 5 documents) or when a blank page, patch code, or barcode is detected. Users also define whether to create a new document or a new folder each time a document is separated.



Name	Description	Published	Last Published	Last Modified
01 Scan-Index-Export	Sample Job 01 Scan-Index-Export	Yes	2/18/21 3:02 PM	2/18/21 3:02 PM
02 Scan-Export	Sample Job 02 Scan-Export (Separation Rules)	Yes	2/18/21 3:03 PM	2/18/21 3:03 PM
03 Two phase Indexing	Sample Job 03 Two phase Indexing (Mobile)	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
04 Optional second step Indexing	Sample Job 04 Optional second-step Indexing	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
05 Optional Indexing	Sample Job 05 Optional Indexing (same session only)	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
06 Sampling for ScanQC	Sample Job 06 Sampling batches for additional Scan Quality Con...	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
07 Server Branch Step	Sample Job 07 Server Branch Step	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
08 Double Blind Indexing	Sample Job 08 Double Blind Indexing	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
09 Auto Indexing	Sample Job 09 Auto Indexing (Import Server)	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
10 Server side processing	Sample Job 10 Server side processing	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
11 Scan-Classification-Index-Export	Sample Job 11 Scan-Classification-Index-Export	Yes	2/19/21 1:04 PM	2/19/21 1:04 PM
12 Scan-Classification-Extraction-Index-Export	Sample Job 12 Scan-Classification-Extraction-Index-Export	No	10/21/20 6:51 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
13 Advanced Indexing Forms	Sample Job 13 Advanced Indexing Forms (use HTML Client)	No	10/21/20 6:04 AM	1/21/21 3:20 PM
14 OMR-Extraction	Sample Job 14 OMR-Extraction	Yes	2/18/21 3:02 PM	2/18/21 3:02 PM
15 Classification-Extraction-Advanced Indexing Forms-OMR	Sample Job 15 Classification-Extraction-Advanced Indexing For...	Yes	2/19/21 12:30 PM	2/19/21 12:30 PM

Total Jobs: 20

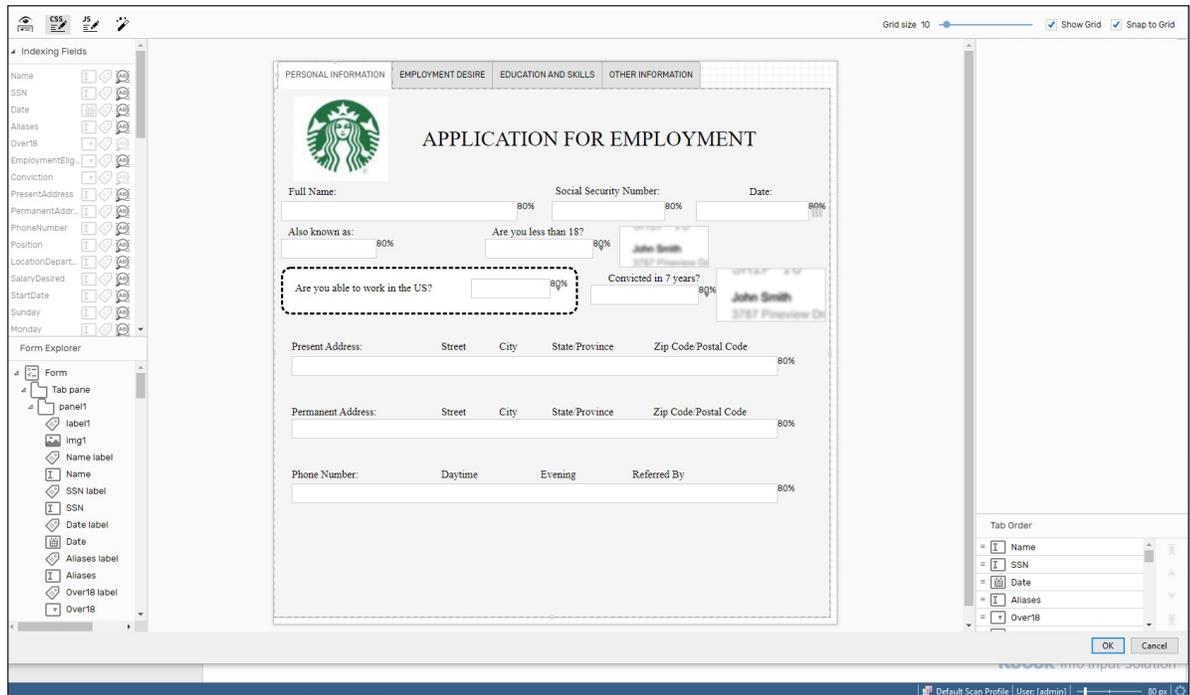
Document Classes and Form Types

Document classes associates specific index fields, database actions, export settings, scripting, advanced index forms settings, and form types to a specific type of document, like an invoice or a job application, for example. Form types are data extraction profiles for a specific type of document in a document class. Form types can be recognized visually (by evaluating the entire document) or with features (be evaluating a specific portion of the document, like a logo or an insignia).

In other words, document classes enable businesses to define a document process at a high level, and form types enable them to augment it based on the specific type of document used within that process. Take purchase orders, for example. While all purchase orders have the same kind of information (like prices, dates, vendors, and so on), each vendor uses a different style or format, which means the same kind of information is not going to be located on the same part of any two purchase orders.

Advanced Indexing Forms

The advanced indexing forms tool makes it very easy for users to recreate interactive, digital forms based on their paper-based counterpart. Users can arrange the associated index fields and arrange components (labels, text boxes, radio button, check boxes, text fields, and images) on a grid, define OCR confidence levels for that field, and configure the zoom zone (displays a blown-up version of the captured field, so users can quickly validate index information). Users can apply CSS and JavaScript to make aesthetically pleasing, interactive forms.



OCR/ICR Engines

By default, the solution uses the Tesseract OCR engine for OCR. However, customers can also purchase OCR engines from Amazon, Google, Microsoft, and Nuance. Take note that, unlike with the other supported OCR engines, the Tesseract OCR engine does not support ICR, which means it cannot be used to process workflows that rely on handwritten forms.

Folder Classes

Like a document class, a folder class associates specific index fields, database actions, export settings, scripting, and advanced indexing forms with a specific folder. So, rather than applying specific workflow rules based on the contents of a document, you can apply specific workflow rules based on where the document is scanned to.

Field Types

The solution maintains a catalogue of all the field types used for indexing. Users can define different field type properties, like its name, description, field type (string, integer, double, date, time, date & time, and timestamp), character length, format, and ranges. Users can also import or create a list of values for the user to select from when indexing. Field types enable administrators to configure a field once and use it many times across different document class.

Extraction Profiles

There are 10 extraction profile templates: a pair of barcode readers and patch code readers (one each for Windows and Linux), default OCR (Tesseract), Default OMR, Microsoft OCR, Amazon OCR, Google OCR, and Amazon Textract. Users can also create extraction profile groups, which are a collection of extraction profiles of the same type.

Data Sources

Data sources can be configured once and used many times, which accelerates workflow creation processes. A neat feature, users can select from six “Connection URL Templates” for SQL Server, Oracle, DB2, MySQL, Microsoft Access, and Snowflake. When a user selects one of these templates, a properly formatted URL with placeholders for required information is created, so administrators only have to enter a few details to create a data source. Administrators can also test the connection from this screen, so they can identify and rectify issues right away.

Scan Profiles

Scan profiles can be created to streamline and standardize capture tasks at the scanner. Administrators select a scan source (scanner, folder, or system clipboard) and define which driver versions will work with the profile. Image enhancement settings like blank page detection, page deskew, and border removal can also be defined here.

Export Destinations

There are four export destinations templates: disk export (exporting images and metadata to disk files), scripting export (run an export destination via Javascript), Database export (exporting to a database), and CMIS Export (export to CMIS-supported solution). This is very useful, as it enables administrators to configure routing instructions once, and reuse them many times.

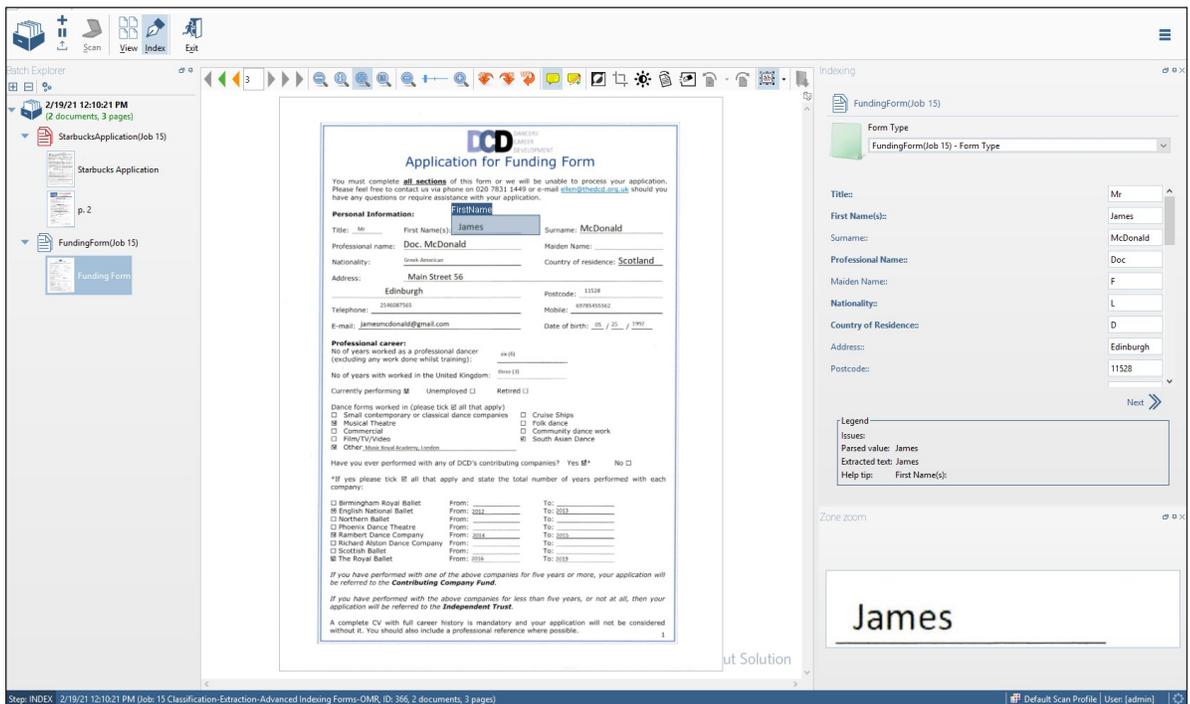
Batch Manager

The Batch Manager is home of scanned batches in Info Input v6. Users can view a host of information, the job name, size in pages, which step the batch is in, and more. Here, users can open batches and complete indexing tasks before sending.

USABILITY

Kodak Info Input v6 client and HTML-client is accessible from popular browsers like Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Apple Safari. Take note that not all capabilities of Info Input are available on both the client (Java-based) and the HTML client. For instance, the Java-based client is required to perform Job Setup and other administrative functions, whereas the HTML client can display Advanced Forms and perform driverless scanning. Administrators can adjust the color scheme of the solution to conform to a customer's corporate color-scheme.

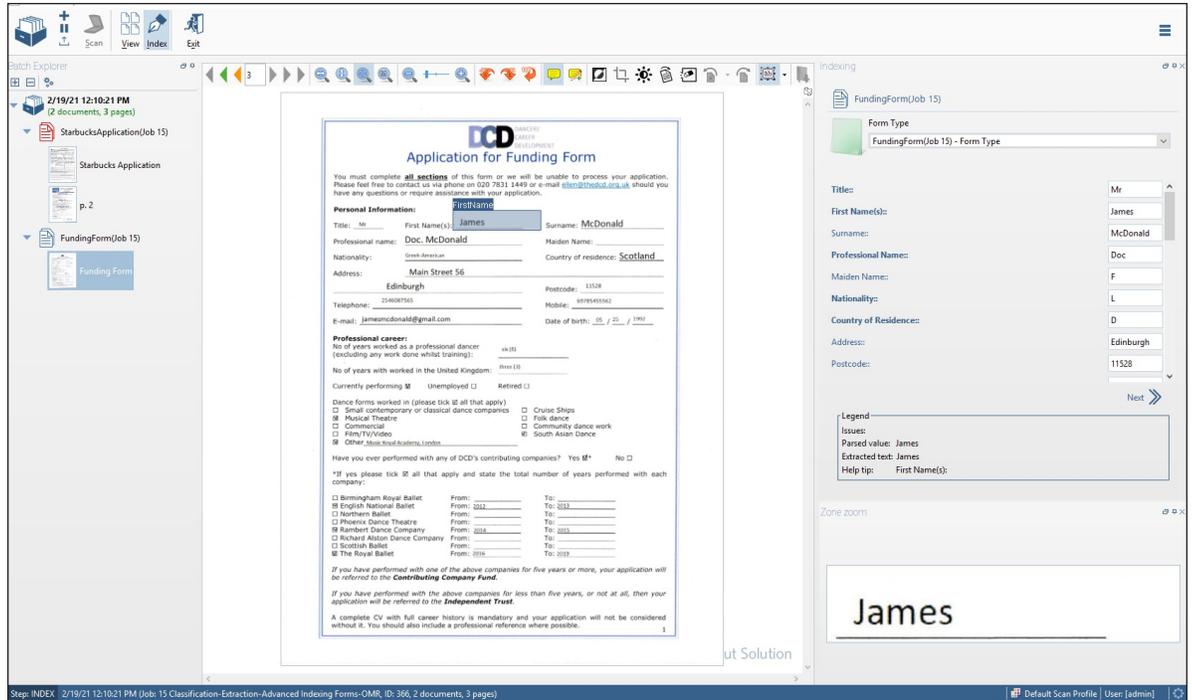
Kodak Info Input v6 makes it very easy for end-users to scan and process batches, especially when used in conjunction with Kodak S2085f, Kodak S3000 or S2000w series scanners. The solution supports driverless scanning, so end users do not have to worry about having the right drivers installed on their workstation. Administrators can push preconfigured driver settings to the device, so users don't even have to configure job settings; they can simply select their scan profiles and hit scan and let Info Input handle the rest.



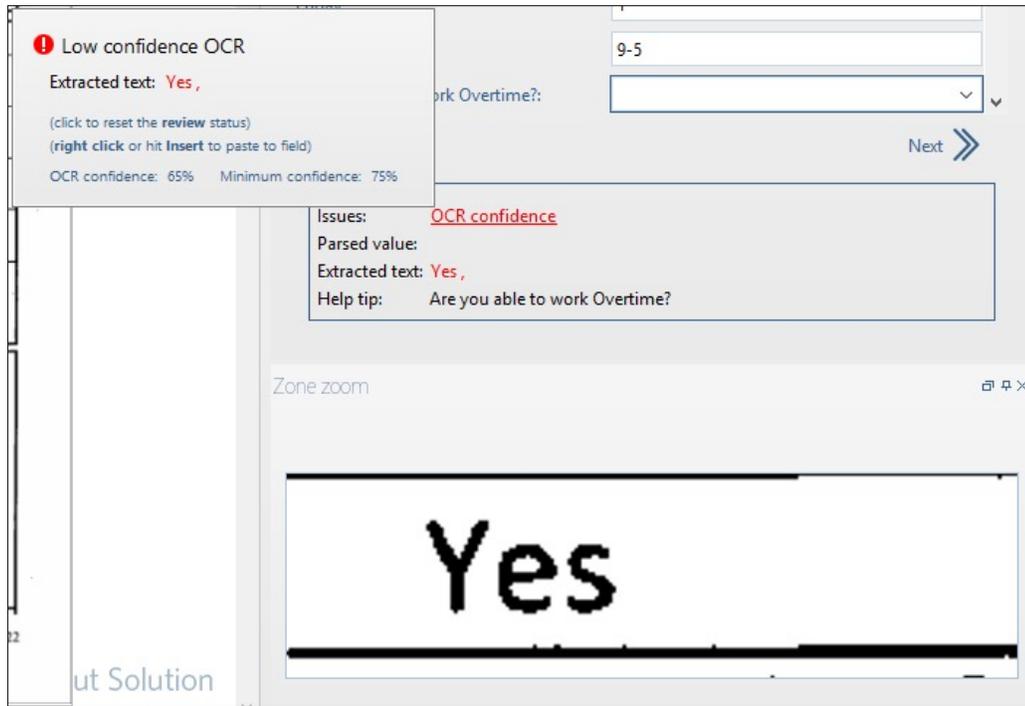
The screenshot displays the Kodak Info Input v6 software interface. The main window shows a scanned document titled "Application for Funding Form" with the DCD logo. The document contains personal and professional information for James McDonald, including his address in Edinburgh, Scotland, and his profession as a professional dancer. The software interface includes a "Batch Explorer" on the left, a toolbar at the top, and a "Form Type" dropdown menu on the right. The extracted data is displayed in a structured format on the right side of the interface, showing fields like Title, First Name(s), Surname, Professional Name, Maiden Name, Nationality, Country of Residence, Address, and Postcode. A "Legend" section at the bottom right shows the extracted text for the name "James".

Once the solution has completed extracting index information, users can edit, markup, annotate, crop documents, and review the results to ensure that all the required information was captured properly. Users can zoom in on certain portions of a document to get a better look (zoom zones can be configured into form types to show a blown-up version of the field that was captured). When a field value is missing or Info Input has a low confidence score for the value it extracted, it is displayed

in red to catch the user's eye. When the mouse hovers on the red, underlined text, users can right click to use the extracted value. Drag-and-drop OCR ("rubber band OCR" in Kodak Alaris's parlance) is also supported, so users can select field values rather than keying them manually.



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Keypoint Intelligence did have one gripe with the solutions UI. When some windows spawn, they are much too small for all the information contained therein. However, since there is not any maximize button on these windows, users have to resize them manually by dragging the edges, which can be annoying and time consuming.

IT Admin/Security

Kodak Info Input v6 is a complex solution that will require skilled IT professionals to standup and administer. There is a bit of a learning curve, but Keypoint Intelligence’s analysts and lab technicians agree that a competent IT professional should not have too much trouble getting acclimated to Info Input. While not required, it would be useful and help customers get the most out of the application if they have a developer familiar with JavaScript on staff.

While customers are responsible for setup/deployment, Kodak Alaris does offer professional services to help install the solution and set up a few initial jobs. That aside, administrators have a lot of responsibilities for deploying and managing Info Input v6, including setting up and managing the server, database, licenses, users/user groups, jobs, export destinations, scan profiles, batches, and workflows, on top of defining processes flow and settings for the system. Most of the work will be handled around deployment time, with minor upkeep as workers come and go, or as business

processes or other IT infrastructure that is integral to a business process are retired/replaced/overhauled. But that added burden on an IT department pays large dividends in the form of increased productivity from scan operators and knowledge workers.

The solution supports Active Directory integration, so administrators do not have to maintain user and user groups in two separate places. The solution enables administrators to create different permissions groups, so they can limit what each user can see and do to what is relevant to their job. For example, workers in the shipping/receiving department can be restricted to the scan segment of the workflow, while workers in the accounting department are restricted to the indexing steps. Not only does eliminating the noise help workers be more productive, but it also limits the damage that one stolen credential can do.

Support/Maintenance and Training

Support/maintenance and training is provided by Kodak Alaris' Professional Services team, and it is not free. The price for support is included in the cost of the license, and spans for one or three years, depending on the customer's contract, while maintenance costs account for 20 percent of the cost per license. The first call for help is fielded by Kodak Alaris' regional service and support team. Training sessions can be hosted online or in-person, and cost \$300/hour.

VALUE

Customers can purchase perpetual license or pay an annual subscription (one- and three-year bundles are available) for Kodak Info Input v6. Customers pay a one-time fee of \$2,400 for the Info Input Server license, plus \$1,300 and \$13,320 per concurrent user, depending on the package and term of the subscription purchased. There is a 20 percent maintenance fee, which is built into the price of each license (for example, a license that costs \$2,400 costs \$2,000 for the license, and \$400 for the maintenance). But if customers want to take advantage of the optional classification and extraction engine or advanced, third-party OCR/ICR technology supported by Kodak Info Input v6, then they will have to pay extra.

According to officials from Kodak Alaris, it is typical for customers to purchase a few hours of professional service time (normally priced at \$300/hour) as part of their initial order, as they will require some assistance to get the system up and running properly.

Classification and Extraction Engine

The classification and extraction engine is licensed based on volume, 100,000 pages per license. If customers need more than 100,000 pages, they must buy additional licenses. However, if a customer does not use their allotted volume in one year, it is rolled over, so they do not need to purchase an additional license. New customers or customers that are upgrading from an older version to version 6 get a free, 10,000-page starter license.

OCR/ICR

Tesseract: Kodak Info Input v6 comes with the Tesseract OCR engine by default and with no added cost to the customer. Keep in mind that the Tesseract OCR engine does not support ICR, so it cannot be used in workflows that rely on handwritten forms as a vessel to capture information.

Amazon: There are two cloud OCR licenses available from Amazon, Rekognition and Textract. They both support OCR and ICR and are sold on a monthly, volume-based license. For Rekognition, customers pay one dollar per 1,000 images for the first million images; 80 cents per 1,000 images for the next nine million; 60 cents per 1,000 images for the next 90 million images; and 40 cents per 1,000 images once 100 million images have been exceeded. For Textract, customers pay one dollar and 50 cents per 1,000 images for the first million images and 60 cents per 1,000 images once 1 million images have been exceeded. With Textract however, pricing does vary by region

Microsoft: There are two cloud OCR licenses available from Microsoft: Microsoft Vision Printed (OCR only) and Microsoft Vision Printed and Handwritten (OCR and ICR). Rather than charging per image like Amazon and Google, Microsoft charges per "transaction", which is the application of a feature to a given image (there are several features available, which enable you to do anything from OCR a document, to detecting a celebrity's face or retrieving a thumbnail). As it relates to Kodak Info Input v6, customers who use Microsoft Vision Printed will pay \$1.50 per 1,000 transactions for the first one million transaction; one dollar per 1,000 transactions between one and five million transactions; 65 cents per 1,000 transactions for all transactions once 10 million transactions has been exceeded. All Microsoft Vision Printed and Handwritten transactions cost \$2.50 per 1,000 transactions, regardless of volume.

Nuance: Customers must purchase the PDF Export module to use the Nuance OCR engine, and the ICR module if they require ICR.

Google: Google Cloud Vision supports OCR and ICR and more languages than the other supported engines. Google Cloud Vision customers get their first 1,000 images for free, then pay \$1.50 per 1,000 images for images 1,001 to 5,000,000 and 60 cents for every 1,000 images for image 5,000,001 onwards.

STRENGTHS

- **Outstanding portfolio of workflow automation and distributed capture capabilities**
- **Extended workflow automation through database actions and scripting**
- **Document classification and extraction engine**
- **Visual and feature-based classification**
- **Driverless scanning**
- **Integration with cloud-OCR solutions**
- **Super simple end-user experience**
- **Fast and easy indexing and validation**
- **Robust web-forms creation tool**
- **Captures index field values that shift during scanning**
- **Rasterizes Word and Excel files, so they can be combined with other images and redacted**

WEAKNESSES

- **Information-rich windows and dialogs cannot be maximized with one click, so users need to make them larger by dragging the edges**

PRODUCT PROFILE

Versions: Kodak Alaris Info Input V6

Pricing: Varies by client.

System Requirements: Windows 8.1 (64 bit), Windows 10 (64 bit) – clients can operate with 32-bit versions of this OS.

Server: Microsoft Windows Server 2008/2012, or Red Hat 5/6/7. For demo (non-production) installations, Windows 7, 7 SP1, and Windows 8 WINDOWS 8.1 and WINDOWS 10 are also supported.

Client: All versions of Windows 7, 8, 8.1, 10, Server 2003, 2008 and 2012 operating systems

Mobility Options: Compatible with iOS and Android.

Software Integration: Dropbox, EMC AppXtender, EMC Documentum, IBM Content Manager, IBM Filenet, MS Sharepoint 2013, MS Sharepoint Online, Kofax, CMIS.

Availability: Worldwide

Languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Japanese, Polish, Turkish