



User Manual

AEPWorks

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Introduction

1

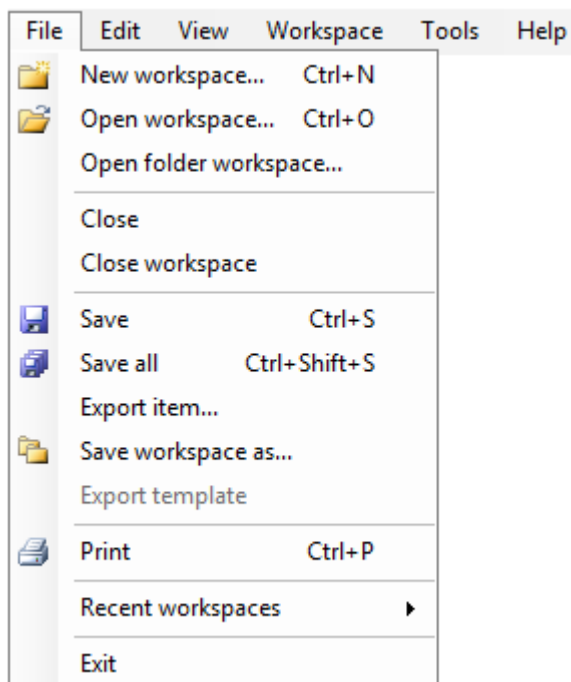
AEPWorks is a professional application development tool for creating software applications for SATO barcode printers that supports the AEP (Application Enabled Printing) platform. An application designed with AEPWorks forms a complete label printing solution that can be transferred to the printer. It offers an easy-to-use design interface and meets any label design and printing requirement needed for creating efficient label printing applications that can add value to users in various industries.

The software can be used with 32- and 64-bit Microsoft Windows operating systems:
Windows

2000, Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, Windows Vista and Windows 7, and it requires .NET Framework 2.0 to be installed.

File menu overview **2**

The **File** menu provides commands for creating, opening and saving workspaces and workspace items.



New workspace

To create a new workspace, select **File -> New workspace...**

This will open the "New Workspace" dialog where you can choose from a collection of workspace templates or create an empty workspace.

See [New workspace](#) for more details.

Open workspace...

Open an existing workspace. See [Open workspace](#) for more details.

Close

Closes the current editor. You will be asked to save any unsaved changes before the editor is closed.

Close workspace

This unloads the current workspace and will close all open editors.

Save 

Saves the active document.

Save all 

Saves all open documents which have unsaved changes.

Save workspace as... 

Create a copy of the current workspace in a new location. All changes after this will be saved to the new workspace location.

Export item...

Lets you export the current document to a file.

Print 

If a printer has been connected, this will print the active format if the printer is set to "Online" mode.

Recent workspaces

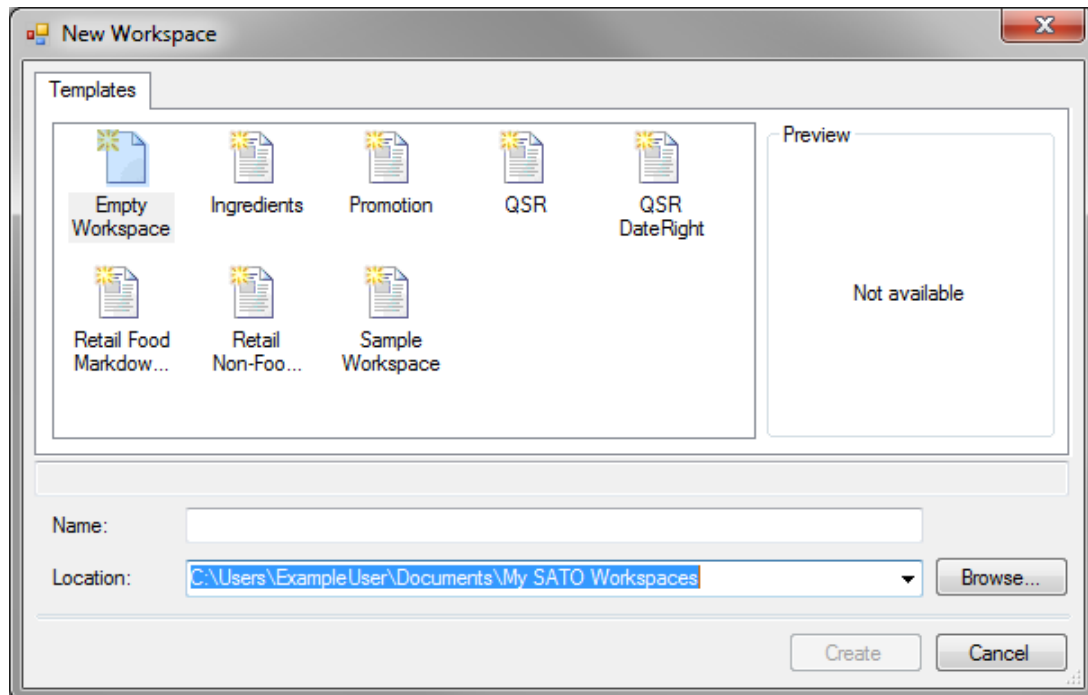
This menu allows you to quickly access the most recent workspaces you have opened with AEPWorks.

2.1 New workspace

New workspace

To create a new workspace, select **File -> New workspace...**

This will open the "New Workspace" dialog where you can choose from a collection of workspace templates or create an empty workspace.



The "New Workspace" dialog

Empty workspace

To create an empty workspace, select "Empty workspace" and enter a name for the new workspace. To choose a different location, click the "Browse" button and select the target directory where the new workspace will be created.

Workspace from template

AEPWorks also includes a collection of template workspaces. To create a new workspace from a template, select the template that you wish to use and enter a new name.

When you select a template, a short description will be shown below the list.

2.2 Open workspace

Open workspace

To open an existing workspace select **File -> Open workspace...**

A dialog will be displayed where you can select a workspace file to open. Supported file types are **.aepws** and **.pkg**.

Workspace file

An **.aepws** file represents a workspace that was created with AEPWorks Pro and gives unlimited access to the workspace content.



.aepws icon

Package file

A **.pkg** file represents a compiled workspace. It has some limitations, such as not being able to remove locked files or fields, not allowing functions to be opened.

For more details, see [Workspace restrictions](#).

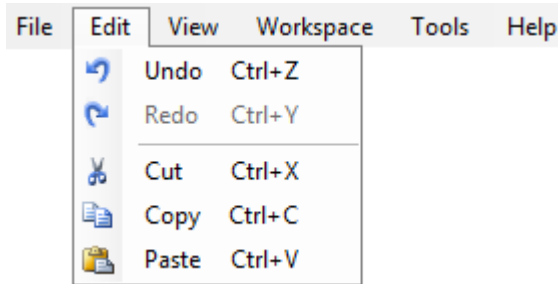


.pkg icon

Edit Menu

3

The **Edit** menu provides commands for easy manipulation in the active editor.



Undo

Undo the most recent action in the active editor.

Redo

Redo the most recent action in the active editor.

Cut

Cut the selected object in the active editor and place it on the Clipboard.

Copy

Copy the selected object in the active editor and place it on the Clipboard.

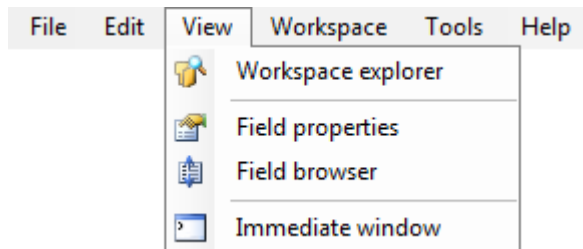
Paste

Paste an object from the Clipboard to the active editor.

View Menu

4

The **View** menu provides commands to open panels that are used in AEPWorks.



Workspace explorer

The Workspace explorer displays the items that are contained in the current workspace. It provides functions to add, rename and remove specific items. For more details, see [Workspace explorer](#).

Field properties

The Field properties window displays detailed information about fields in a format. It also gives you control of various properties of a field. For more details, see [Properties](#).

Field browser

The Field browser displays a list of all fields in an active format. It also enables you to change the order of fields. For more details, see [Fields](#).

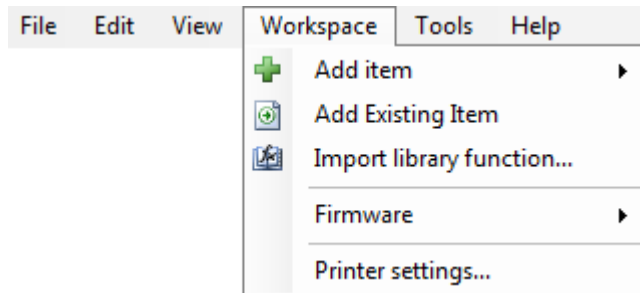
Immediate window

The Immediate window provides a Lua console which allows you to execute inline Lua scripts and see the output. This should only be used by users with knowledge in the Lua scripting language as it might lead to unexpected behavior if used incorrect.

For more details, see [Immediate window](#).

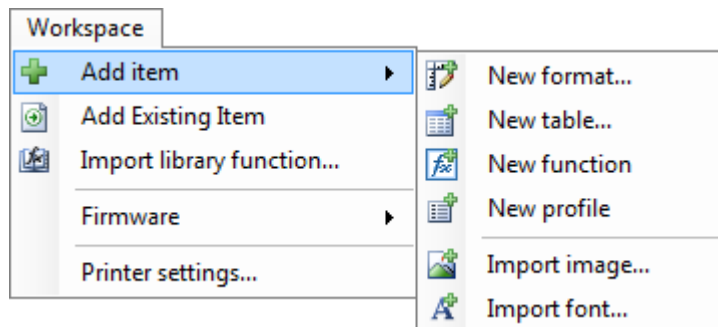
Workspace Menu 5

The **Workspace** menu provides functions to modify the current workspace. You can add new items, import files, change firmware and modify printer settings.



Add item

Use this to create a new item to add to the workspace. When expanding this menu item the sub-menu shown below will appear.



Select the item type that you wish to create and a dialog will appear to let you input all necessary properties.

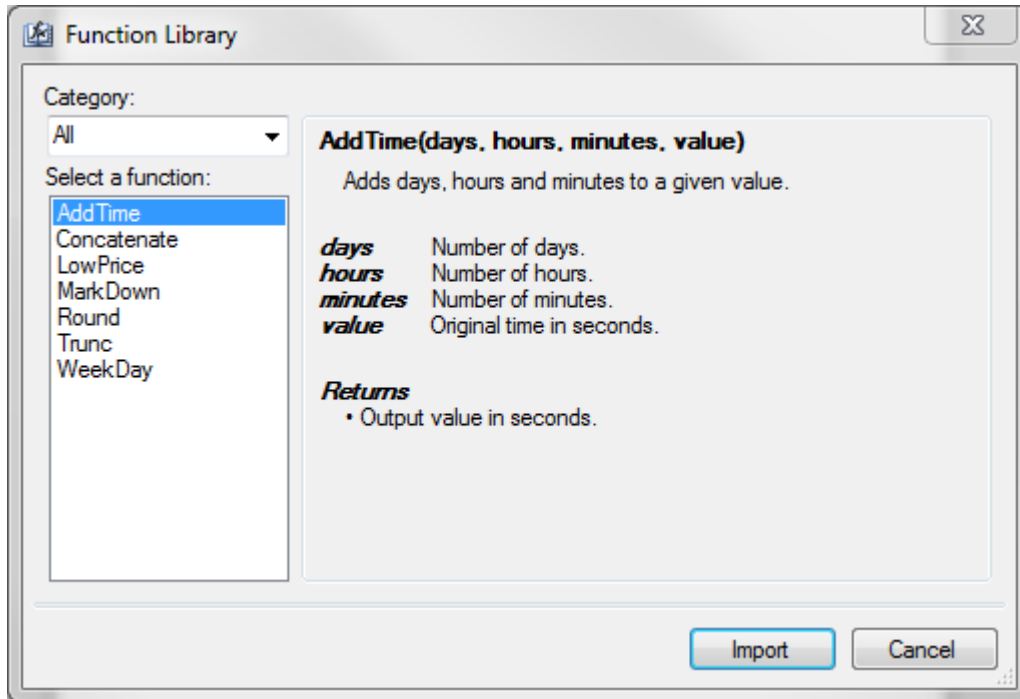
For more information, see chapter "Workspace Items".

Add existing item

Use this to import already existing Formats, Tables or Functions into the current workspace.

Import library function...

Shows the "Function Library" dialog which lets you choose from a collection of functions that are included in AEPWorks.



From here you can choose a function to import to your workspace. Select a function in the list to see more details about it.

Firmware

From here you can switch between different firmware versions.

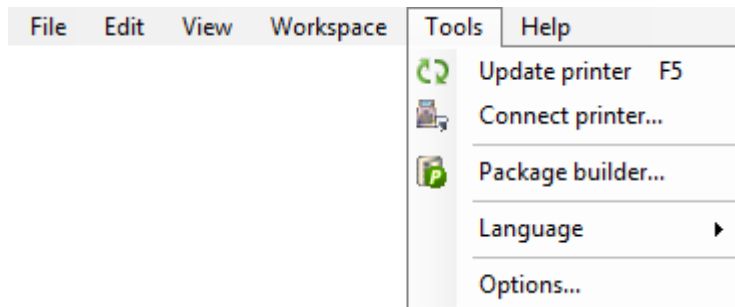
Printer settings

Opens the printer settings dialog. This contains both printer specific settings and application settings such as printer network settings, application locale settings, printer sensor type etc.

Tools Menu

6

The **Tools** menu provides functions to setup AEPWorks and interact with a connected AEP printer.



Update printer

This will update the connected printer with the current workspace.

Connect printer...

Opens the "Connect printer" dialog which will let you connect to an AEP printer via USB or LAN/WLAN.

Package builder...

Opens the "Package builder" dialog which will compile a package file from the current workspace.

Language

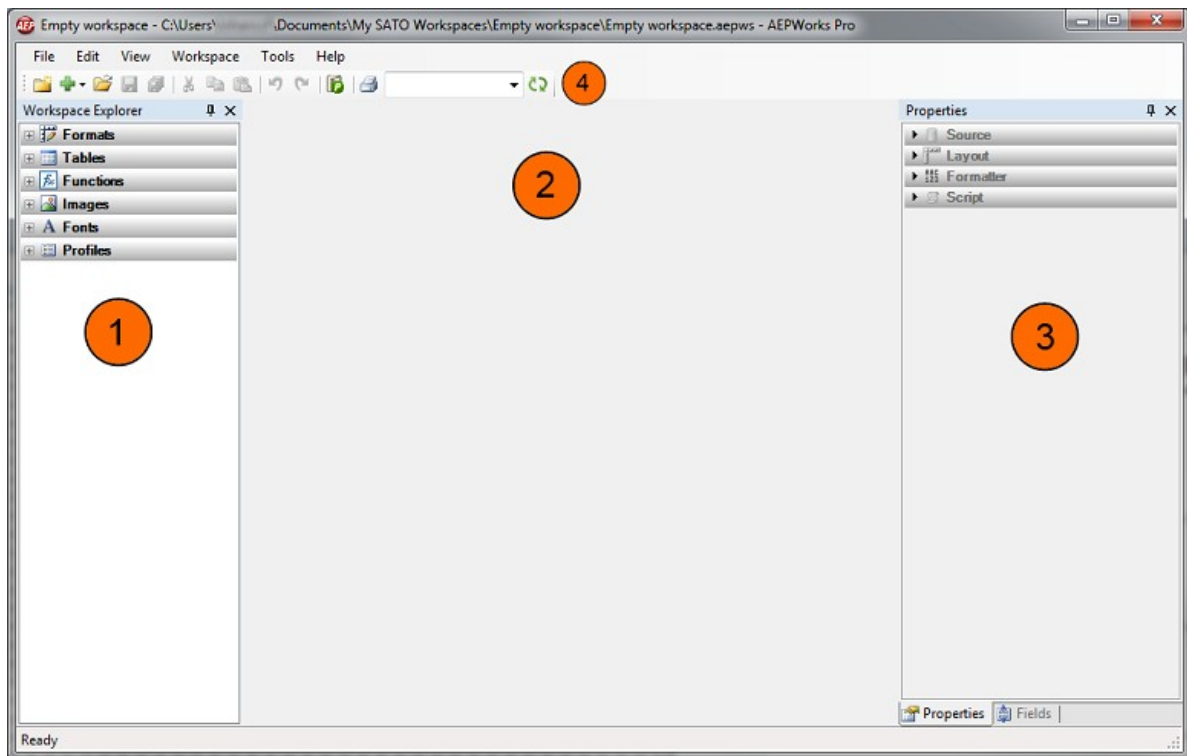
Sets the language of AEPWorks. Note that a restart of AEPWorks will be required.

Options...

Shows the "Options" dialog where you can set AEPWorks application options. For more details, see **Options**.

Main Window

7



The AEPWorks main window and its panels/areas.

1. Workspace explorer

The Workspace explorer displays the items that are contained in the current workspace. It provides functions to add, rename and remove specific items. For more details, see [Workspace explorer](#).

2. Editor area

This is the area where all editors will open.

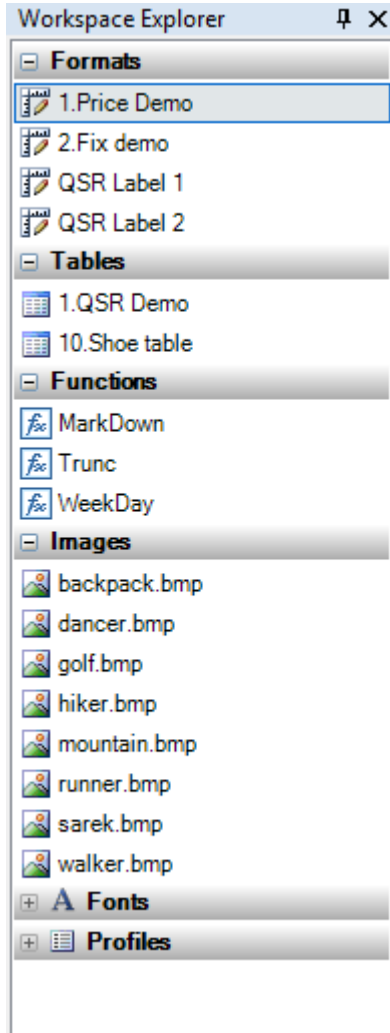
3. Properties

The Field properties window displays detailed information about fields in a format. It also gives you control of various properties of a field. For more details, see [Properties](#).

4. Toolbar

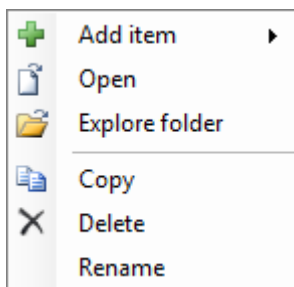
The toolbar contains several buttons and controls for executing various commands. When opening some editors the toolbar will be populated with additional controls that are specific for the editor. For more details, see the [Toolbar](#) topic.

7.1 Workspace explorer



The workspace explorer displays all workspace items in a list, ordered by type.

To add, open, copy, delete or rename an item, right-click on it to display the menu as shown below.



Add item

Lets you create a new item to add to the workspace, or import existing items.

Open 

Opens up the selected item in an editor window to let you modify its content.

Open 

Opens up the folder where the selected item is stored.

Copy 

Creates a copy of the selected item and adds it to the workspace.

Delete 

Removes the selected item from the workspace and from the file system.

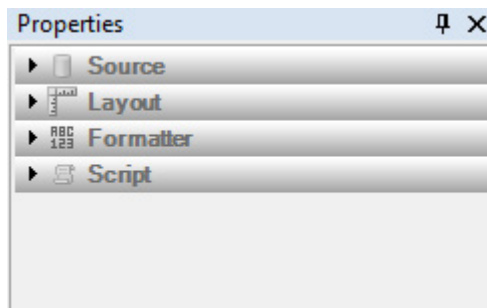
Rename

Lets you rename the selected item.

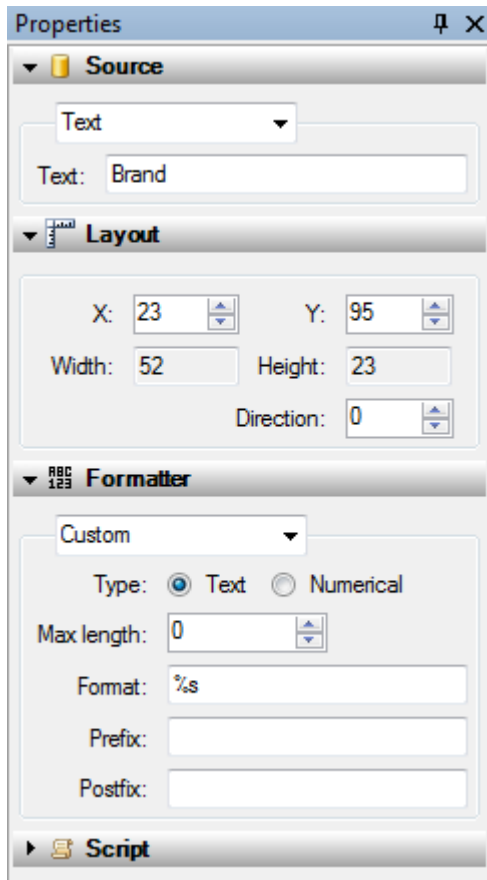
7.2 Properties

Properties

The properties panel displays field properties when a format is open and one field is selected. It will display all available properties of the selected field and lets you edit them.



The Properties panel when no field is selected.

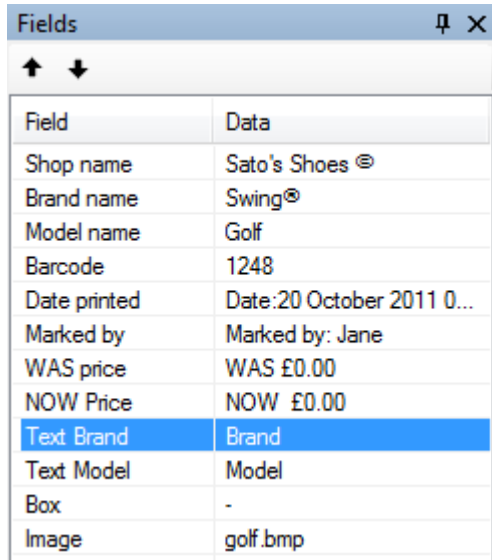


The Properties panel when a text field is selected.

For more details, see [Editing a format](#).

7.3 Fields

The fields panel displays the field order within the currently open format and it also allows you to re-order them.



The screenshot shows a window titled "Fields" with a table of field names and their corresponding data. The table has two columns: "Field" and "Data". The "Text Brand" row is highlighted in blue.

Field	Data
Shop name	Sato's Shoes ☺
Brand name	Swing☺
Model name	Golf
Barcode	1248
Date printed	Date:20 October 2011 0...
Marked by	Marked by: Jane
WAS price	WAS £0.00
NOW Price	NOW £0.00
Text Brand	Brand
Text Model	Model
Box	-
Image	golf.bmp

For more details, see [Editing a format](#).

7.4 Immediate window

The Immediate window provides a Lua console which allows you to execute inline Lua scripts and see the output. This should only be used by users with knowledge in the Lua scripting language as it might lead to unexpected behavior if used incorrect.



The screenshot shows a window titled "Immediate Window" with a Lua console. The code entered is:

```
print( "Hello world." )  
Hello world.  
  
a = 1  
b = 2  
print( a + b )  
3
```

7.5 Toolbar

The toolbar contains several buttons and controls for executing various commands. Some editors will populate the toolbar with additional controls that are specific for the editor.



The toolbar with a set of common controls

New workspace

Open the "New workspace" dialog.

Add item

Add a new item to the workspace.

Open workspace

Shows the "Open workspace..." dialog.

Save

Saves the item in the currently active editor.

Save all

Saves all open items.

Cut

Cut the selected object and place it in the Clipboard.

Copy

Copy the selected object and place it in the Clipboard.

Paste

Paste an item from the Clipboard.

Undo

Undo the last action in the active editor.

Redo

Redo the last undo action in the active editor.

Package builder

Open the "Package builder" dialog that lets you compile a package from the current workspace.

Direct print

This will print the active format if the printer is set to "Online" mode.

Update printer

This will update the connected printer with the current workspace.

Format Overview

8

8.1 Formats

A **Format** represents a label that can be printed on an AEP printer. It contains various fields such as text, images and barcodes. The AEPWorks format editor provides a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) tool that lets you create fields, edit their properties, and at the same time see the actual result during the design time.



A sample format as shown in the format editor.

See [Editing a format](#) for more details.

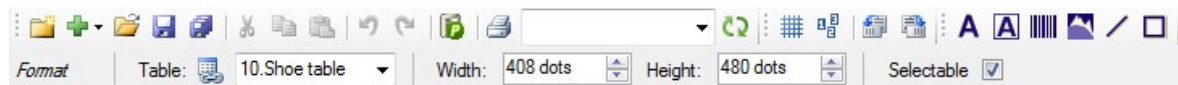
8.2 Editing a format

To open a format for editing, double click on it in the workspace explorer or right click on it and select "Open".

The format will be opened, as shown below:

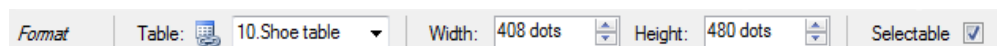


When the format editor is active, the toolbar will contain the format specific controls as shown below:



Format properties

When the format editor is active and no fields are selected, the following toolstrip is shown:



This shows the format properties and allows you to edit them.

Table

If the format is connected to a table, click this button to open the table editor. Use the drop-down to select which table to use together with the format. For more details see [Connecting to a table](#).

Width / Height

Displays the format size and allows you to edit the width and height.

Selectable

If checked, the format will be available for selection in the printer. If unchecked, the format will not appear in the Format list in the printer.

Designer controls

There are some controls that provide visual aids to the format editor:



Show grid lines

If this is enabled the format designer will display a grid on the format and all fields will snap to this when they are moved. When this is disabled, fields can be aligned to other existing fields.

Show annotations

If this is enabled, every field will have annotation icons that show what kind of source the selected field have, and also in which order the fields are placed within the format.

Rotate left

Rotate right

Rotate left and rotate right will rotate the entire format in the designer. This makes it easy to design labels no matter of which direction it is printed in.

The grey arrows next to the format shows in which direction the format will be printed, depending on the current printer configuration.

Adding new fields




 Create a new **Text** field

 Create a new **Textbox** field

 Create a new **Barcode** field

 Create a new **Image** field

 Create a new **Line** field

 Create a new **Box** field




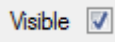
Select field type to create and click on the format to place it.

Field properties

All fields have properties such as position, data source, formatter etc. Some properties are field specific and will only be shown when such field is selected.

Some properties are available in the tooltip that is displayed when selecting a field.

















































- *Text* displays the field type of the selected field.
- *Field name* displays the name of the selected field, this can be edited.
- To set the anchor point of a field to left, center or right, use the    buttons.
- To toggle a field between visible/not visible, check or uncheck the  property.







For more details about field properties, see [Field properties](#).

8.3 Field properties

Depending on the type of the selected field, different properties will be shown. Below is a list of properties for each field type.

A list of properties and which fields that use them:

Property name	Description	Used by types
Field name	Sets the field name	     
Anchor point	Sets the anchor point of a field	     
Formatter	Sets the formatter of a field	     
Visible	Sets whether the field will be printed or not	     
Source	Sets the data source of a field	  
Location	Sets the x;y coordinates of a field	    
Script	Sets a pre-, round or post-script on a field	   
Font	Sets the font of a field	 
Font size	Sets the font size of a field	 
Direction	Sets the direction (angle) of a field	  
Symbology	Sets the barcode symbology for a barcode field	
Line thickness	Sets the line thickness of a line or box field	 

-  Text field
-  Textbox field
-  Barcode field
-  Image field
-  Line field
-  Box field

Select a field in the format to display its properties.



8.3.1 Source

The source property is used to set the source from which the field will get its data.

The default value is **Text**, which sets the field data to the specified text value.

Other source types are:

Script

A lua script is used to set the value.

List

A list of values is used to set the value. When printing the format, a prompt will appear and let the user select one item from the list.

Table

If the format is connected to a table (see [Connecting to a table](#) for more details) this lets you specify from which column in the table that the field should retrieve its value.

Input

The field value will be set from user input when the format is printed. This lets you specify the prompt text and the input mode (text or numeric).

Copy

The field value is set to copy another field's value.

Time

The field value is set to the current time. Use a Date & Time formatter to format the data.

Counter

The field value will be set to the starting number and is increased by 'step' after each label print in a batch job. When the print job is done, counter will be reset.

8.3.2 Formatter

The formatter is used to format the field value. It also allows you to add a prefix or postfix to the field.

The available formatters are:

Custom

Can be used to specify if the value should be formatted as text or a number and also set a max length and decimal count.

Currency (sign)

Adds a currency sign to the field. The currency sign is depending on the current regional settings. For example, if the current locale setting is "English US" the currency text will be "\$".

Currency (text)

Adds currency text to the field. The currency text is depending on the current regional settings. For example, if the current locale setting is "English US" the currency text will be "USD".

Date & Time

Lets you format the field value as a date or time. This can be useful for fields with a *Time* source for example. A number of predefined date & time formats are available to choose from.

Number

Formats the field value as a number. This formatter uses the current locale setting to determine which comma sign, thousand separator etc should be used.

Script

Lets you define a script to use for formatting the field's value.

8.3.3 Script

Lets you choose from a set of functions to perform operations on the field's value.

8.4 Connecting to a table

To connect a format to a table, choose an existing table from the drop-down or select "(New table...)" to open the "Create new table" dialog.




When a table is connected to the format, click the table link button () to open the table editor. See [Table editor overview](#) for more details on how to use the table editor.

Table Editor Overview

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9.1 Table overview

In the table editor you can edit data, change column properties and import and export table data.

The screenshot shows the Table Editor interface. On the left is a 'Workspace Explorer' sidebar with categories: Formats (1.Price Demo, 2.Fix demo, QSR Label 1, QSR Label 2), Tables (1.QSR Demo, 10.Shoe table), Functions (Markdown, Trunc, WeekDay), Images (backpack.bmp, dancer.bmp, golf.bmp, hiker.bmp, mountain.bmp, runner.bmp, sarek.bmp, walker.bmp), Fonts, and Profiles. The main area displays a table with the following data:

ID	Brand	Model	Color	Price	Discount
1248	Swing	Golf	Black & White	19.90	0.8
1234	Adventure	Hiker	Brown	89.90	0.9
1236	Stride	Walker	Black	79.90	0.8
1238	Speed	Runner	Red	69.90	0.8
1240	Tango	Dancer	Mocka	59.90	0.8
1242	Climber	Mountain	Nobuck	49.90	0.8
1244	Nature	Sarek	Rubber	39.90	0.8
1246	Explorer	Backpack	Textile	29.90	0.8

To edit rows, right click on the row header to display the menu as shown below, which lets you perform various row operations.


ID	Brand	Model	Color	Price	Discount
1248	Swing	Golf	Black & White	19,90	0,8
1234	A...	Hiker	Brown	89,90	0,9
		Walker	Black	79,90	0,8
		Runner	Red	69,90	0,8
		Dancer	Mocka	59,90	0,8
		Mountain	Nobuck	49,90	0,8
1244	Nature	Sarek	Rubber	39,90	0,8
1246	Explorer	Backpack	Textile	29,90	0,8
*					


To edit columns, right click on a column header to display the column menu, as shown below.

ID	Brand	Model	Color	Price	Discount
1248		Golf	Black & White	19,90	0,8
1234		Hiker	Brown	89,90	0,9
1236		Walker	Black	79,90	0,8
1238	Speed	Runner	Red	69,90	0,8
1240	Tango	Dancer	Mocka	59,90	0,8
1242	Climber	Mountain	Nobuck	49,90	0,8
1244	Nature	Sarek	Rubber	39,90	0,8
1246	Explorer	Backpack	Textile	29,90	0,8
*					

Import / Export table data

The table editor lets you import or export data from/to Microsoft Excel files and Microsoft Access Databases. To import data the column names in your table must exactly match those in the file you are importing from.

To **export** data, click the "Export data..." button () which will open the "Export data" dialog.

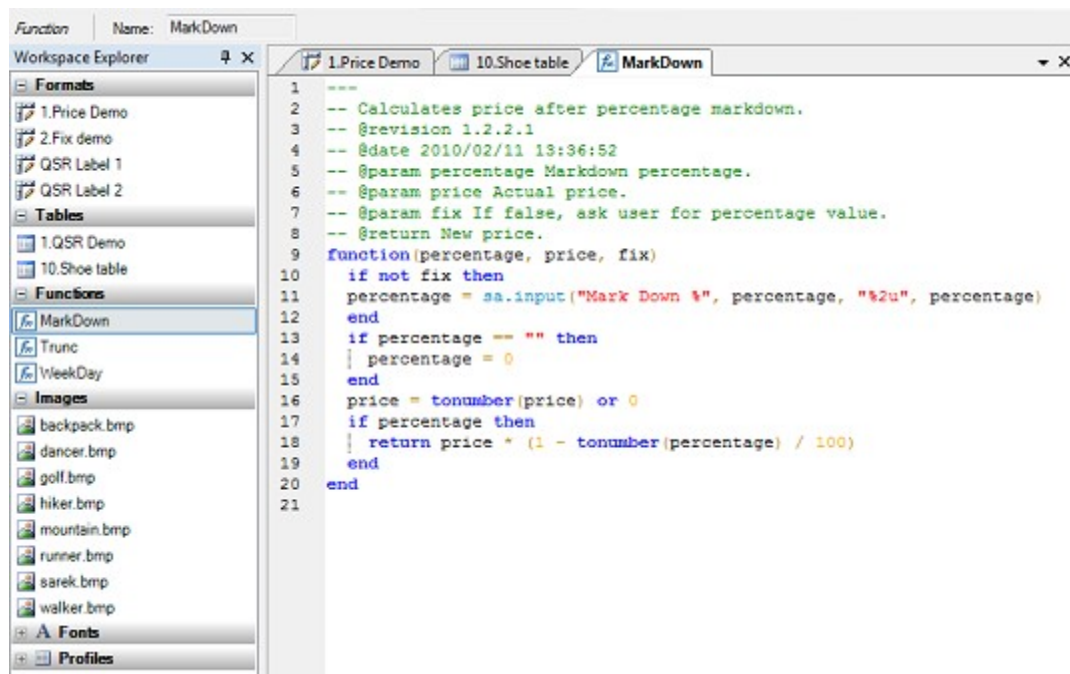
To **import** data, click the "Import data..." button () which will open the "Import data" dialog.

Function Editor Overview 10

10.1 Function editor

To open a function for editing, double click on it in the workspace explorer or right click on it and select "Open".

The function editor will be opened, as shown below:

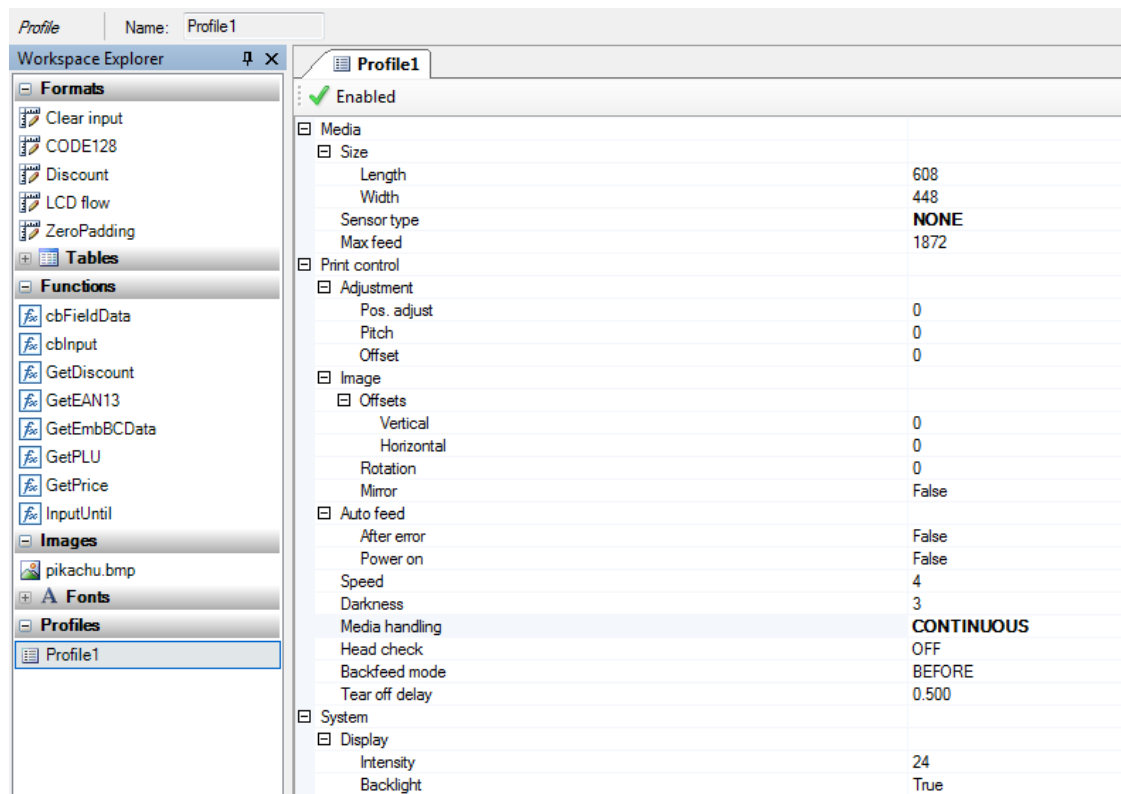


Profile Overview 11

11.1 Profile editor

To open a profile for editing, double click on it in the workspace explorer or right click on it and select "Open".

The profile editor will be opened, as shown below:



Connect Printer 12

To select which printer to use from AEPWorks, select the "Connect printer" from the Tools menu. The following dialog will be shown:

Find Printer
Specify and select printer.

The printer is connected to a local port
Port name:

The printer is connected to a network
IP address:

Description	IP address	MAC

Make sure that the AEP printer is connected and powered on, the printer will then be listed either in the "Port name" list or in the list of network printers depending on the interface type on the printer (USB or LAN/WLAN).

It is also possible to manually enter an IP address.

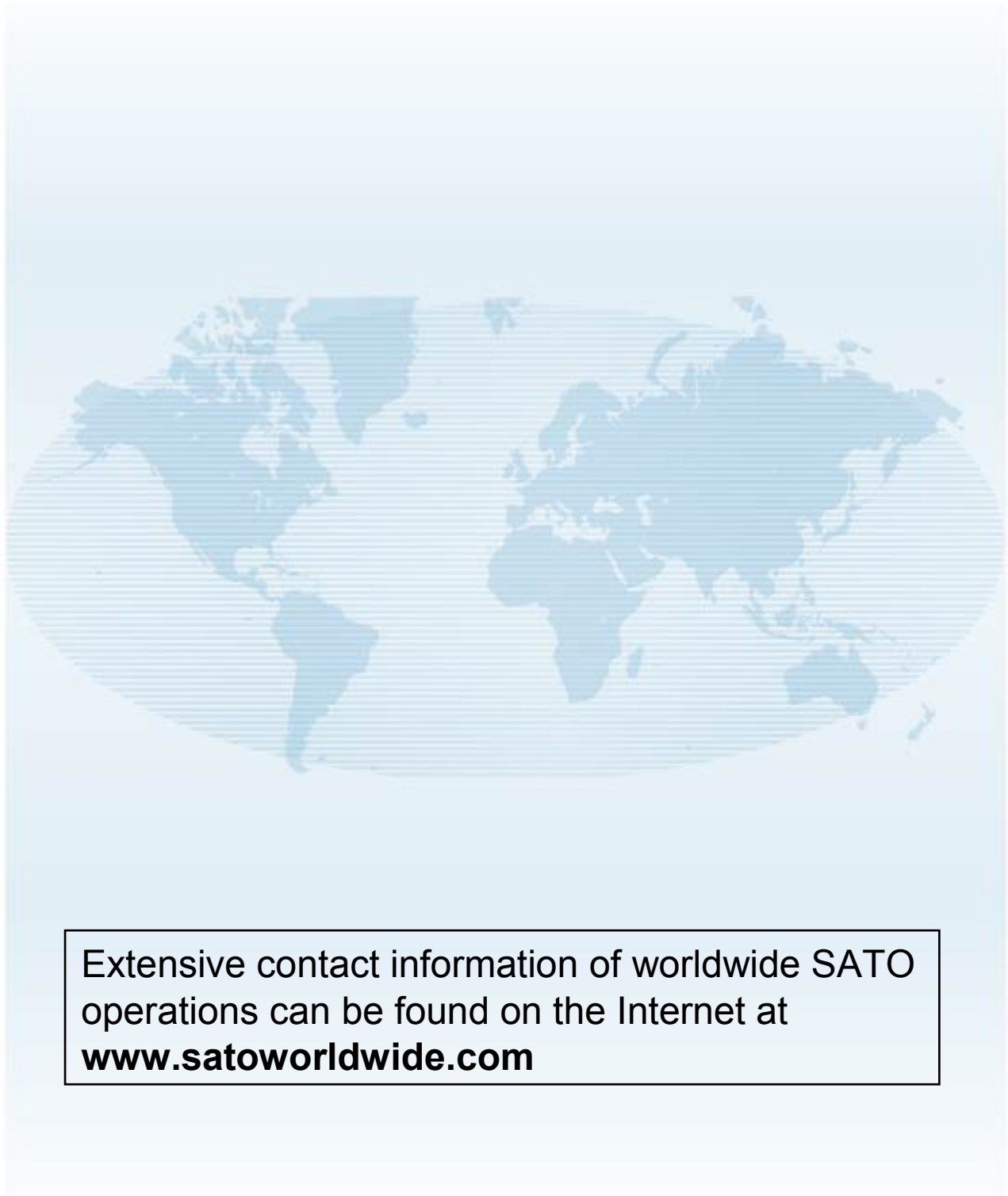
NOTE

AEPWorks can only find network printers on the same subnet. To connect to a printer on another subnet, the IP address needs to be manually entered.

Package Builder **13**

To build a package from the current workspace, select the "Package builder" from the Tools menu.

This lets you choose which files to include in the package.



Extensive contact information of worldwide SATO operations can be found on the Internet at www.satoworldwide.com