

AutomaTech™

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AutomaTech Solution Brief

iFIX Picture Development Tips

October 2016 – SB-TWP-001A



Background and Challenges:

- There can be a number of challenges when developing or troubleshooting pictures.
- Pictures that look great in configure mode in the Workspace can unexplainably look very different when viewed in run mode.
- Scrollbars can show up on the sides of pictures for seemingly no reason.
- Configuring a picture for deployment in multiple resolutions can be a chore.
- The picture window needs to be resized but the objects need to stay the same size.

This Solution Brief will provide you with some tips to address and prevent these types of challenges.

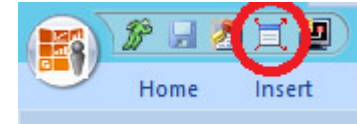


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The two most important tips to remember:



1. Whenever you need to develop or troubleshoot a picture, develop or troubleshoot in full screen mode.
 - Full screen developing and troubleshooting will give you the best idea about how the pictures will look and where they will be placed when in run mode.
 - Use toolbars to aid in developing in full screen mode.
 - If you need the system tree, make sure the system tree is floating by right-clicking the title bar.
2. Strive to always develop in the same resolution in which you will be deploying.
 - If this is not possible, then develop the pictures in a lower resolution than you will be deploying as it is generally easier to scale pictures and objects to be larger rather than smaller.
 - Developing pictures in the lowest resolution to be deployed is also useful for deploying in multiple resolutions, except for mobile applications which should be developed independently.



Enhanced Coordinates (iFIX 5.8) Tips:

Picture and Object Resizing

- If a picture and the objects inside the picture need to be resized together, resize the entire picture by holding down the shift key and left-clicking the edge of the picture and dragging to the desired size. The “Resizable” property of the picture properties must be enabled to do this.
- This is a good general way to resize both the objects and the picture at the same time. For dealing with text within objects, refer to the “Resizing Objects Only” section in this Solution Brief. If greater precision is required for picture sizing, refer to the “Sizing Pictures Only” section in this Solution Brief.
- Refer to the full instructions found here: https://ge-ip.force.com/communities/en_US/Article/Sizing-a-Picture-in-Workspace-to-The-Desired-Size-and-Position



Enhanced Coordinates (iFIX 5.8) Tips Continued:

Resizing and Moving Objects in a Picture

- If you need to adjust the sizing of all of the objects in a picture, one suggestion is to select all of the objects on the picture by pressing CTRL-A, right-clicking, and selecting “Group”.
- Once the objects are in one group, increasing or decreasing the size of the group by clicking and dragging on the edges of the group increases or decreases the size of all of the objects in the group proportionally.
- You may choose to leave the objects in one group or ungroup the objects when resizing has been completed; it will not interfere with the operation of the picture in runtime.
- Note that while text objects will shrink and grow using this method, text that is a property of an object, like button captions, will remain the same size. The text in these objects can be altered in the property window of the object by selecting the “Font” property.



Enhanced Coordinates (iFIX 5.8) Tips Continued:

Resizing the Picture Only

DocumentHeight	75
DocumentHeightEx	800
DocumentWidth	100
DocumentWidthEx	1440

- In the picture property window, there are two configurable properties that affect the physical dimensions of the picture: DocumentHeightEx and DocumentWidthEx.
- Increasing these numbers increases the window size of the picture and vice-versa.
- The objects in the picture will not change size or position by changing these properties. Objects (both visible and invisible) may even be accidentally placed outside of the confines of the picture which can lead to scrollbar issues.
- Most scrollbar issues on pictures can be resolved by slightly increasing or decreasing these two properties depending on the exact issue.
 - For example, if a full screen picture has scroll bars, try decreasing the DocumentHeightEx or DocumentWidthEx until you can see the background of the Workspace, then increase the changed property until the background is just barely covered. This is mostly just trial and error, and even one unit can make a difference!



Enhanced Coordinates (iFIX 5.8) Tips Continued:

WindowHeightPercentage	79.9074074074074
WindowLeftPercentage	0
WindowTopPercentage	20
WindowWidthPercentage	100

Picture and Window Positioning

- While the best method of making sure every picture is placed properly is to use a predefined configuration in the New Picture Wizard, there may be times where you need to manually position a picture.
- If precision is required on already developed pictures, there are four picture properties displayed above that make changes to the position of the picture. In the example above, the WindowTopPercentage is set to 20 to make room for a navigation window at the top of the screen.
- For window positioning, it is recommended that you only use the WindowLeftPercentage and WindowTopPercentage properties and use the DocumentWidthEx and DocumentHeightEx properties for other window position adjustments.
- ***These properties WILL change based on how the Workspace is being displayed and other window changes. The same picture displayed in a normal Workspace mode versus being displayed in full screen will display different percentages. Always develop and troubleshoot in full screen mode, and remember that these properties only update after a click event in Workspace!***



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Supporting Materials:

- https://ge-ip.force.com/communities/en_US/Article/Sizing-a-Picture-in-Workspace-to-The-Desired-Size-and-Position
- Picture Conversion Info for iFIX 5.8 Enhanced Coordinates.pdf
<https://automatech.box.com/s/ly3ak6pc3sgqg7hic3qi7crkhjgt3s19>
- iFIX 5.8 Creating_Pictures E-Book
<https://automatech.box.com/s/7b84uz8m22fufh7kdt1uq2o7qe5uig>
- For questions contact AutomaTech Technical Support @ 508-830-0088 X3 or support@automatech.com



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Thank you! Please contact AutomaTech or visit www2.automatech.com/solution-briefs for additional information on future Solution Briefs and technology

