

Getting Started

This document provides installation, activation, training and documentation information for the DesignMerge software packages from Meadows Publishing Solutions.

Topics covered in this document:

- * Overview
- * DesignMerge Tag Display Software (FREE)!
- * Internet Requirements
- * Installation & Activation
- * Video Training, Tutorials, and Documentation
- * Technical Support
- * Software Deactivation

Overview

About DesignMerge

Thank you for your interest in DesignMerge software from Meadows Publishing Solutions. DesignMerge software consists of a suite of plug-in modules for Adobe® InDesign® that provide sophisticated variable data printing and data publishing features.

The DesignMerge family currently includes **DesignMerge Pro** for variable data and personalized printing, **DesignMerge Catalog** for updating price, descriptive copy and picture content in catalogs and other retail publications, and **DesignMerge Imposer**, an incredibly fast multi-up imposition tool.

System Requirements

Unless otherwise stated, all DesignMerge software is compatible with the hardware and operating systems currently supported by the version of Adobe InDesign where the software is being installed. Please be sure to download the DesignMerge software installer that matches the version of Adobe InDesign you are running.

For Computers that are not running DesignMerge...

When a document is prepared for use with DesignMerge software, the user applies DesignMerge “tags” to text and other items in the document. These tags serve to identify where variable data should be placed in the documents.

If you edit these DesignMerge-tagged InDesign documents on a workstation where DesignMerge software has not been installed, you will not be able to see where the DesignMerge tags have been placed. In addition, if you perform any edits, such as copy/paste of text that includes DesignMerge tags, this tag information may become lost or corrupt.

To guard against this possibility, Meadows provides a FREE plug-in called the **DesignMerge Tag Display Module**. With this module installed, all DesignMerge tags will be visible in the document, and the tags can be copy/pasted without issue. The plug-in module can be downloaded from the following web page:

www.meadowsp.com/tagdisplay

The module may be distributed freely, plus there is no activation required in order to use this module. Just run the installer and you are done!

Remember, the Tag Display module is only for those workstations that will not be running DesignMerge software. For more information, please visit the web page listed above.

Internet Requirements

License Activation

All DesignMerge software modules require Internet access in order to initially Activate and Validate the software. The activation process uses SSL, which ensures that all processes are encrypted and secure.

License Validation

After your software has been activated, your license will be validated at regular intervals to ensure that your software is current and up to date. The validation process is performed automatically when your software starts up.

In order to perform the validation, Internet access is required so the software can verify the license with our online registration system. Provided that an Internet connection is available, the license validation process happens in the background and is completely transparent to the end user.

No personal or sensitive information is transmitted during the activation or validation processes.

Software Installation

A separate DesignMerge installer is available for each version of Adobe InDesign. Please be sure that you are using the DesignMerge installer that corresponds to your version of Adobe InDesign. To install DesignMerge software, please follow the steps below:

1) **Quit Adobe InDesign and Run the Installer**

If you are running Adobe InDesign, quit the application before installing the DesignMerge software. Then double-click the installer to begin.

2) **Click Continue/Next and Agree to the EULA**

A copy of the End User Software License Agreement will be presented. You must agree to the terms of the EULA before proceeding.

3) **Confirm the Install Settings and Click the Continue button**

Installation of DesignMerge includes all Required and Optional modules. If you have licensed any Optional Modules, those will be enabled for you automatically during the software activation.

4) **Software Installation Complete!**

Once the installer finishes, your DesignMerge software has been fully installed. You now need to activate your software. Please continue to the next section to activate your DesignMerge software.

Software Activation

Once you have completed the installation, you are now ready to activate your DesignMerge software.

Internet Connection Required

All DesignMerge software modules require Internet access in order to initially Activate and Validate the software. Please follow the steps below to activate your DesignMerge software:

1) Run Adobe InDesign

Start by running your Adobe InDesign application. The first time the DesignMerge software loads, you will be prompted to activate the software.

2) Enter your Name, Company, and Order Code

Each license of DesignMerge requires an **Order Code**. You should have received your DesignMerge Order Code via email. If you do not have an Order Code for your software, please contact our technical support team. When ready, click the **Activate** button.

Trial License: If you do not have an Order Code, you may request to receive a trial license for the software by clicking the button during activation.

3) Read and Accept the Software License Agreement

Please read and agree to the terms of the software license agreement.

4) Your software should now be activated and ready to go!

When you see the DesignMerge splash screen appear, your software should be activated and ready to go. Please read the next section to verify that your installation was successful.

Verify Software Installation

If DesignMerge software has been installed and activated successfully, you should see a **DesignMerge** menu appear in the menu bar of your InDesign application. If you do not see an **DesignMerge** menu, please repeat the installation instructions described earlier in this document, or contact our technical support team for more assistance.

Start Using DesignMerge!

If you are new to DesignMerge, you may wish to start by visiting the online Video Training site using the link below:

www.meadowspublishing.com/videotraining

All you need to access the site is your software Order Code. We suggest that you first work through the **Basic Training** section to become familiar with the software.

If you prefer to read the documentation on your own and work through the provided tutorials, all DesignMerge documentation is available for download on the following web page:

www.meadowspublishing.com/documentation

Start by reading the **Introduction** document. The Introduction document describes DesignMerge in more detail, and also serves as an introduction to the Tutorials and additional documentation included with the product.

Technical Support

For more information about DesignMerge support and to submit a support ticket, go to www.meadowspublishing.com/support. You can also get to the support web page by selecting **Help > Online Support Center** from under the **DesignMerge** menu in Adobe InDesign.

When requesting support, please provide the **Order Code** for your software. You can locate your Order Code by opening the **DesignMerge** menu and selecting **Help > About DesignMerge...** An example of the *About* window is shown below:



Software Deactivation

DesignMerge software can be installed and activated on a single computer at a time. If you would like to transfer your license to a different computer, you must first deactivate the software on the computer where it is currently installed. To deactivate your software, first select **Help > About DesignMerge...** to open the **About** window. Then click the **License Info...** button and from there click the **Deactivate...** button and follow the prompts.

Software Removal

Note that deactivating the software does not uninstall or remove it from your system. To completely uninstall the software, quit Adobe InDesign, then open the **Plug-Ins** folder that is inside of your InDesign folder. Inside of the *Plug-Ins* folder you will see a folder named **Meadows**, which holds all of the DesignMerge software modules. Simply delete the entire *Meadows* folder and the DesignMerge software will be completely removed from your system.

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