



KONICA MINOLTA

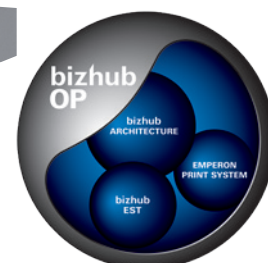
bEST

✍ bizhub Extended Solution Technology

In order to create consistency between its MFPs (multifunctional peripherals), Konica Minolta developed a common platform: bizhub OP. The platform provides standard functionality across the various systems available. bizhub OP, the bizhub Open Platform, unifies three core technologies: bizhub Architecture, Emperon print controller and bEST (bizhub Extended Solution Technology).

Of the three core technologies, bEST plays a key and central role. The concept behind bEST was to realise technologies which are able to extend the scope of functions and the fields of application offered by an MFP unit.

At a basic level, each Konica Minolta MFP offers all locations a reliable and competent device able to provide the functionalities of printing, copying, scanning and faxing within the corporate environment. These “business hubs” have since evolved to become indispensable players within business networks. By complementing MFPs with bEST it has proved possible to provide even more capabilities!



EXPANDING MFP FUNCTIONALITIES

▀ bEST covers two fundamental sectors

1. **OpenAPI is Konica Minolta's own interface for applications in the MFP. By offering the possibility of integrating MFPs into existing or explicitly created corporate applications, the MFP panel acts as a direct interface between the users and the workflows. OpenAPI opens the gateway to individual adaption of the MFP to better accommodate to and match the business- and user-specific needs.**

The individual task optimisation is seen in terms of higher productivity and improved efficiency. By full integration with existing workflows, the potential available can be much better used. This has the follow-on effects of saving time and money, while at the same time making the tasks themselves easier to perform.

In terms of office management, IT administrators can draw on various capacities to create a number of synergies, in particular in larger system landscapes: once again with the benefit of time saving complemented by greater degrees of control and with the particularly crucial benefit of enhanced security.

2. **The second key sector is that of MFP customisation: this may comprise the "straightforward" simplification of the MFP display, for example, extending up to and including total customisation options for full adaptation to either corporate or user needs, or both. These capabilities are created by the IWS (Internal Web Server) which is itself a combination of web server with web browser and interpreter, fully integrated within the MFP.**

Higher levels of user comfort create not only "happier" users, but also improved work productivity. This customisation is able to optimise user comfort, in turn leading to time savings, greater ease of use, and satisfied users.



Konica Minolta places emphasis on genuinely meeting corporate/user needs. bEST has the versatility and capacity to allow each MFP to be adjusted and adapted to satisfy the specifications of the company and meet the needs of users – and not the other way round. The end result creates a place of work which is more person-focused, more pleasant and more productive.

SOFTWARE INTEGRATION VIA OpenAPI

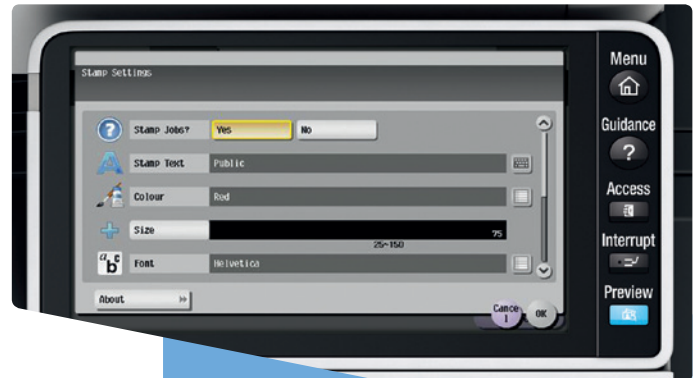
When Konica Minolta introduced its OpenAPI programming interface as an open standard, it quickly became apparent that the scope of functions of an MFP could be significantly extended.

This goal is achieved by creating the ability to link the MFP with software applications, which can create individualised customer and corporate workflows, for example, or be themselves integrated within existing workflows. The processes can comprise such functions as scanning, archiving or device management. The gamut of possible applications is still being extended, whereby each individual application has the ability to deliver more functions and more flexible adaptation and personalisation; it represents a level of fine tuning and optimisation which actually makes a difference in office workaday life.

The touchscreen panel of Konica Minolta's MFPs is perfectly suitable for the quick and straightforward utilisation even of complex workflows. It is of sufficient size, resolution and quality to viably display application screens and thumbnails and impressively speed up and simplify previously complex tasks.

An important point in understanding this is that the applications used via OpenAPI are actually hosted on an external server and do not run directly on the MFP. What this means is that when an application is running, the MFP does not sacrifice any of its processing power or RAM resources, and is therefore still fully able to deliver its well-known benefits. This is perhaps most important and best seen when handling resource-intensive processes such as OCR (optical character recognition). The OCR application can run on the external server without blocking the MFP, and therefore ultimately helps users gain time, since waiting times are cut. Working with the MFP is much easier, less complex and at the same time provides enhanced productivity.

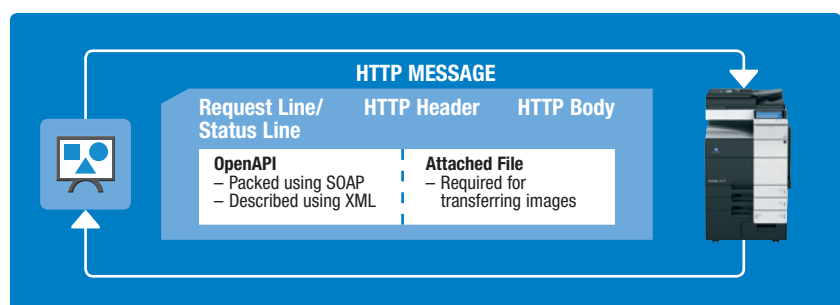
Further advantages in terms of IT administration derive from the applications being located on external servers: it means the application can be simply installed on a single server (and not on each MFP) and servicing is therefore also a central task. Within an enterprise IT environment this allows easier deployment, management, updating and also removal.



Visual example on the panel of an integrated application via OpenAPI

OpenAPI key facts

- Provides customers with seamless integration of Konica Minolta MFPs and existing software and network structures
- Platform-independent development architecture (based on XML and SOAP)
- Web service: applications are hosted on a server and do not run inside the MFP
- Uses international standards like HTML, XML, WSDL, AJAX, SOAP
- Full compatibility with all standard environments
- Bidirectional communication between the MFP and server
- Central setup and installation of the applications (not on every MFP)
- Programmatic control over 6 major areas: authentication, scan-to-application (e.g. archiving), pull print (e.g. follow-me), job log, counter and setup.



OpenAPI is operated via the HTTP 1.1 protocol and embedded in the HTTP body

MFP CUSTOMISATION VIA IWS

In today's IT environment, the customisation of MFPs is becoming an increasingly interesting and significant topic.

Konica Minolta's IWS technology (internal web server) means it is now possible for the MFP control panel to be fully reconfigured according to the wishes and needs of users. Furthermore, because the tool is web-based, many simple web standards can be implemented, like one-touch icons in the bizhub control panel: all of which add up to a new level of customisation.



This is complemented by being able to quickly and simply develop both simple and "lightweight" applications and also connectors (for example to Microsoft SharePoint, Google Apps or Evernote). IWS applications are quickly accessed from the bizhub touchscreen control panel and run on an embedded web browser.



➤ IWS key facts

- Combination of web server, web browser and script interpreter running inside the MFP (serverless solution platform)
- Can be utilised for simplified MFP user interfaces, connectors or widget-style applications
- Full program control over MFP functions, with the possibility of a new class of simple, small and script-based web applications that do not need an external server to run.

