

Print Production Project Improvement

Steering Committee Presentation

April 4, 2001

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Department mission

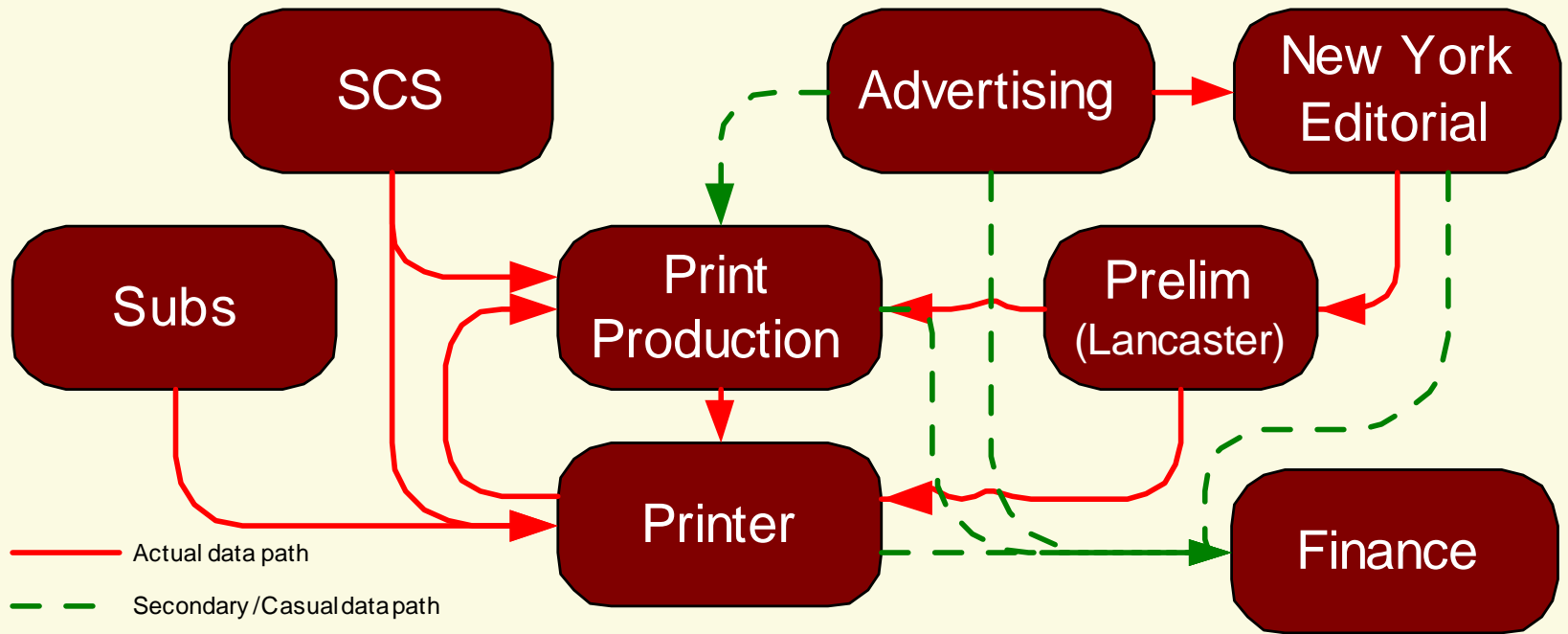
The mission of the Operations unit is to oversee and manage the production of the print products for the company.

Print Production must provide *time-critical*, complete and accurate manufacturing instructions by coordinating the processes of several TV Guide departments and external vendors.

Print Production challenges

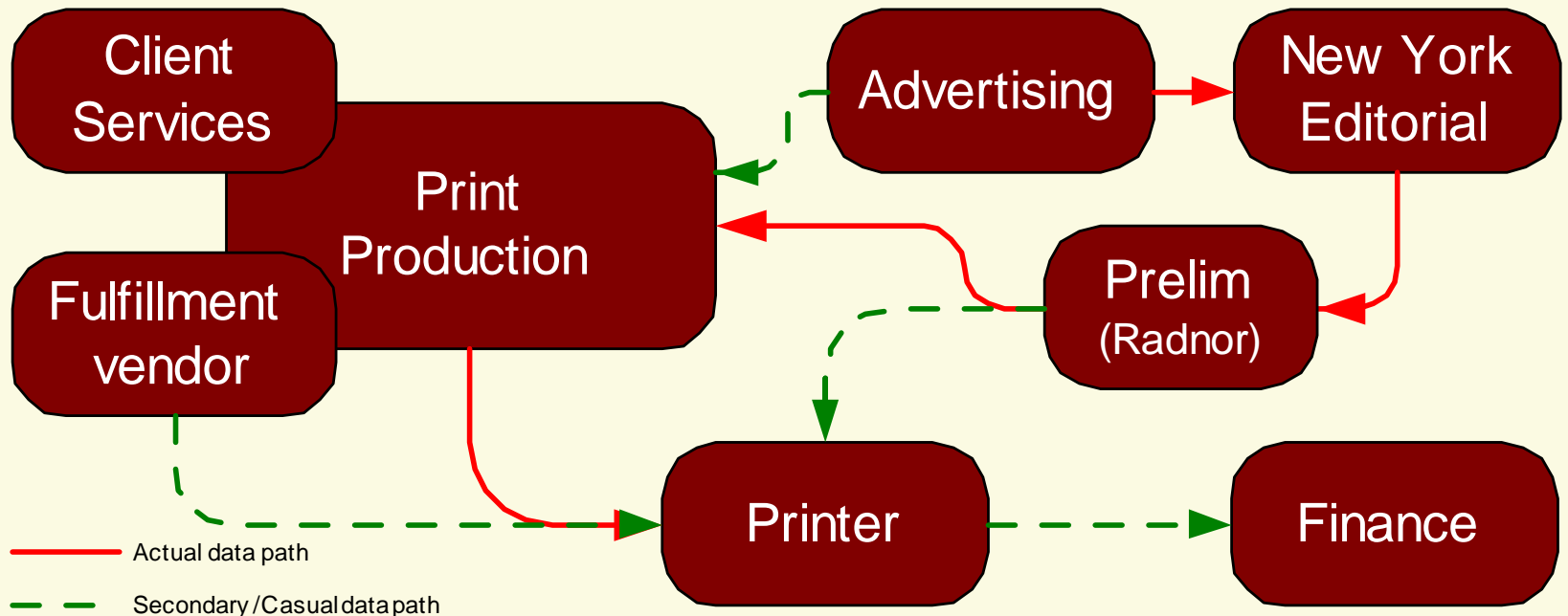
- ✓ Coordinating two print management systems.
- ✓ Increasing complexity of products.
- ✓ Aging and obsolete technologies.
- ✓ No complete single source of manufacturing information.
- ✓ Labor-intensive data exchange.
- ✓ Time-intensive processes.
- ✓ Communication of information is subject to interpretation and error.
- ✓ Difficult to verify production costs.

Current weekly workflow



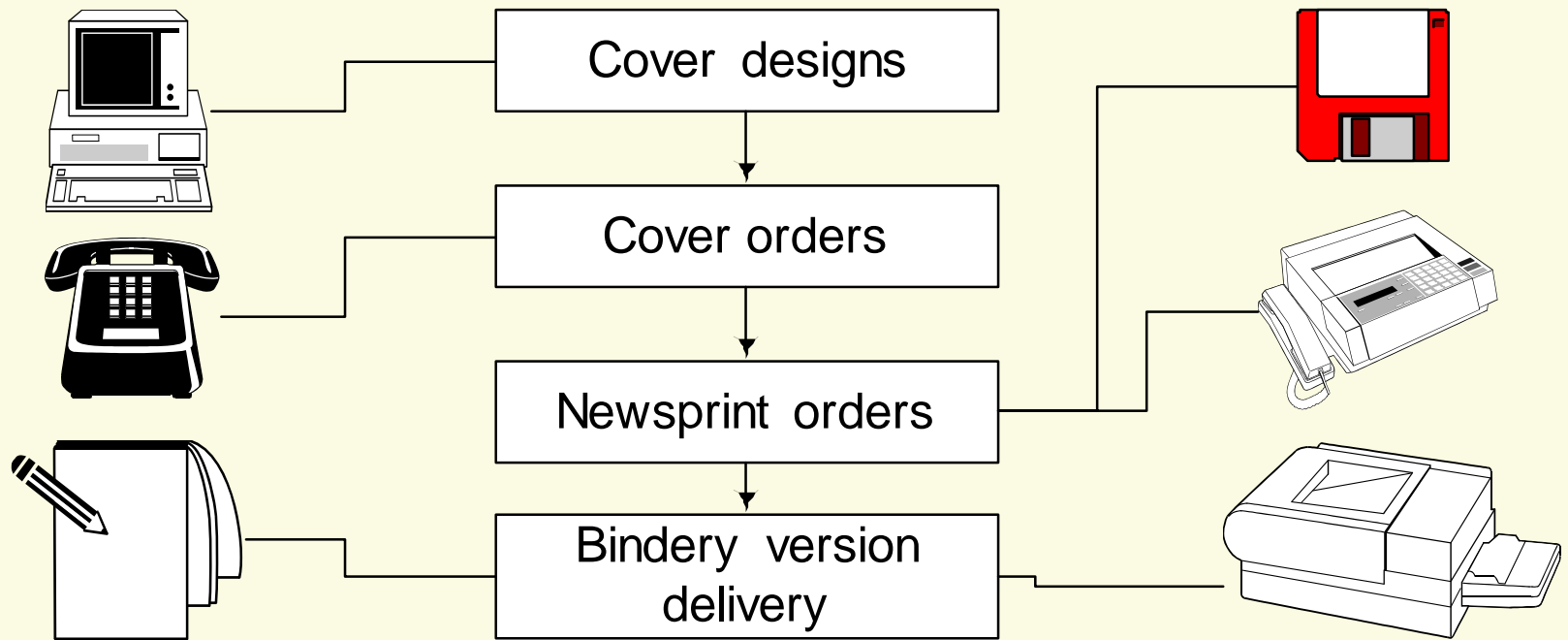
At a high level, many aspects of weekly production bypass Print Production and significant work is managed by the printer.

Current monthly workflow



The accessibility of the system data is the greatest risk. Many departments can manipulate key production data without the knowledge of Print Production.

Current data exchanges

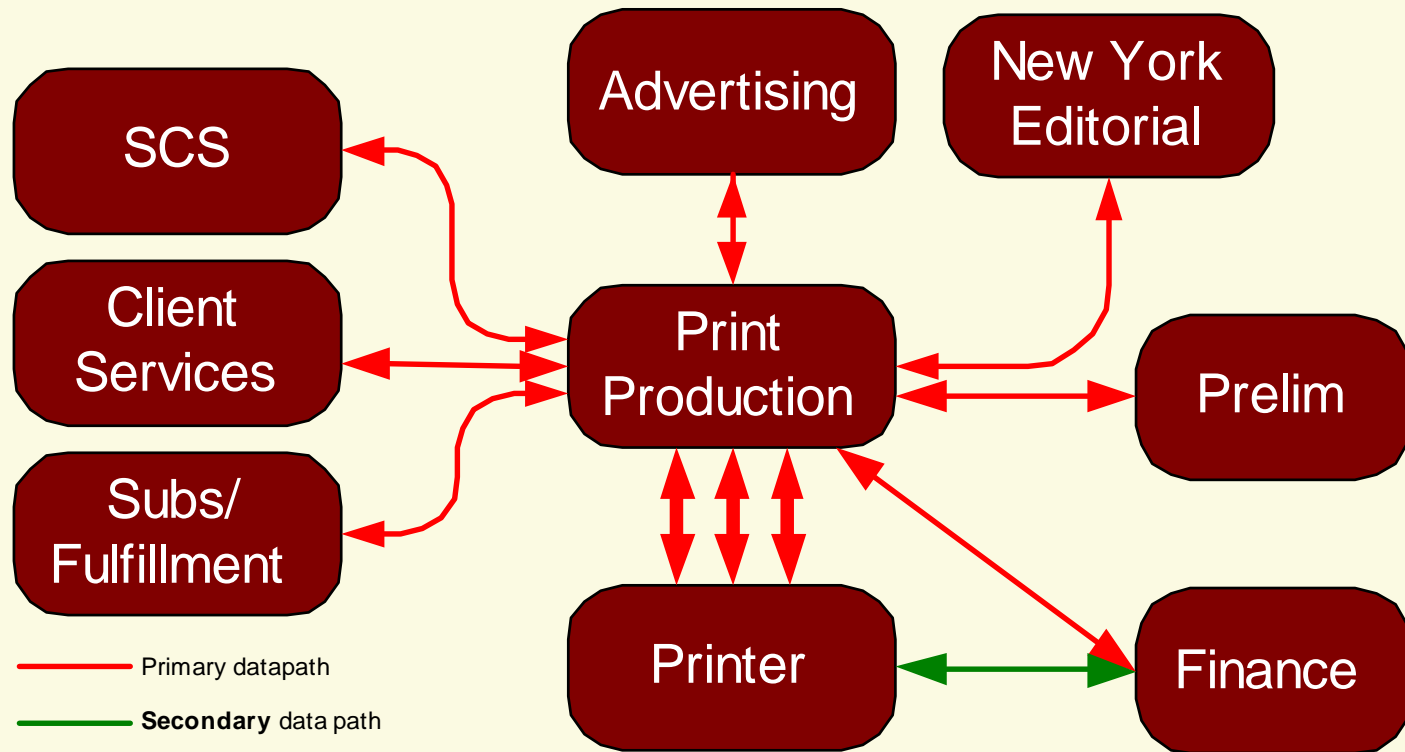


Through the limitations of the current systems, other casual means of communicating manufacturing instructions are used.

PPIP objectives

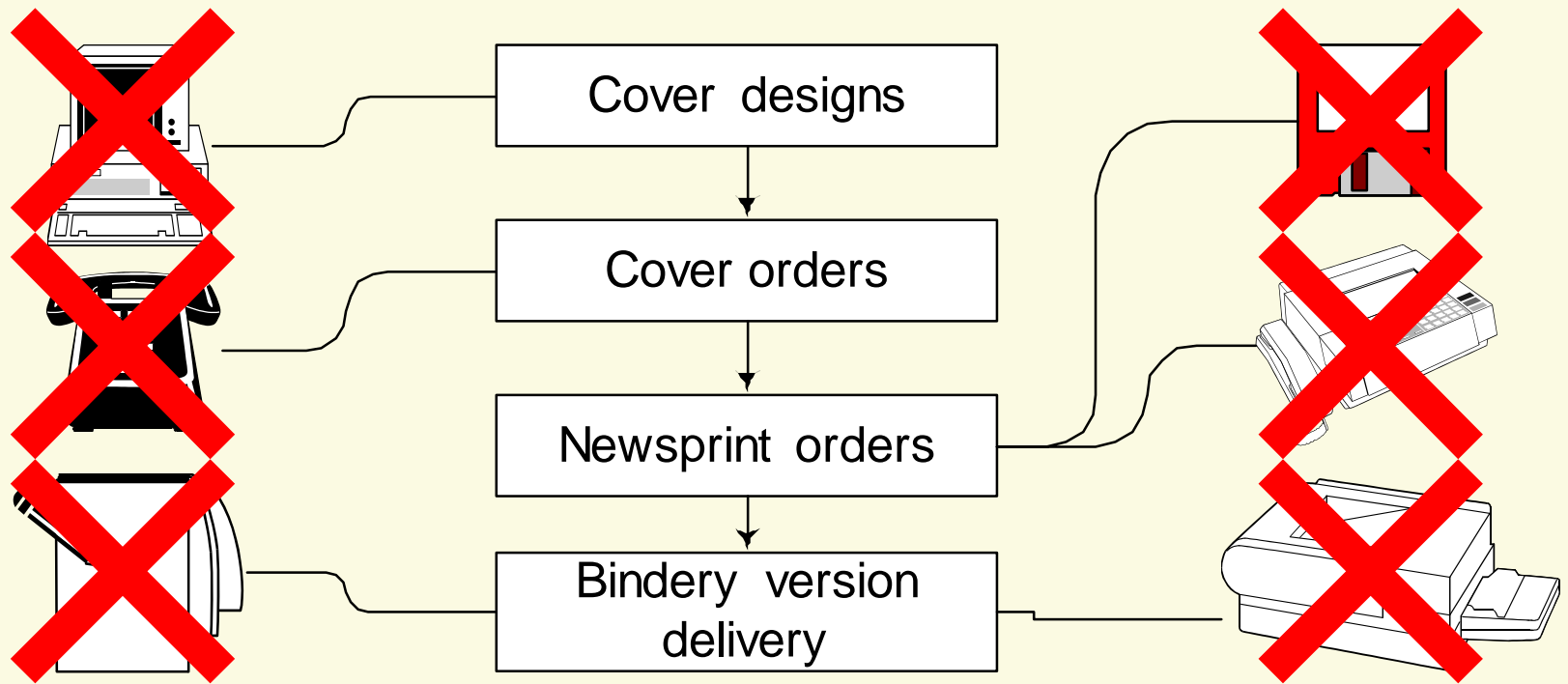
- ✓ Create a single print management system.
- ✓ Operate on current technologies.
- ✓ Provide a single source of information.
- ✓ Automate data exchange, where possible.
- ✓ Save time.
- ✓ Increase accuracy of information.
- ✓ Support current and new business.
- ✓ Determine production costs (estimate and actual).

Proposed consolidated workflow



The proposed workflow will funnel all manufacturing communication with the printer through Print Production.

Target data exchange



Removing the casual means of communicating instructions and storing them in the system will place them in context and save them for future reference.

Scope of initial release

- ✓ **Profiles** to set default values for product attributes, vendor metrics, bindery editions and timelines.
- ✓ **Component planner** to manage ad positioning, versions, imposition and distribution.
- ✓ **Bindery planner** to manage pockets for proper assembly of magazines.
- ✓ **Integration** of newsstand, fulfillment and cable quantities into a centralized delivery point.
- ✓ **Electronic generation** of manufacturing instructions from previously mentioned planners.

Deliverables of initial release

- ✓ Complete **print orders** for all components.
- ✓ Complete **bindery instructions**.
- ✓ Priority-driven **manufacturing plans** for all components.
- ✓ **Production reports**.

The initial release will set the foundation for the new system to provide enhanced functionalities in future releases.

Goals of subsequent releases

✓ Increase Automation

- interfaces to other production databases
- payment based on orders
- feedback loop from printers
- deploy workflow automation

✓ Enhance functionality of initial release

- continue to eliminate unstructured exchange of production information
- integrate all products into a single production control system
- refine Paper inventory reporting
- generate cost models for current or future products
- generate default production schedules

Project Risks

- ✓ Instituting a common reference or definition of editions across departments.
- ✓ Enlisting and maintaining the cooperation of other departments.
- ✓ Interfacing with multiple platforms will be complex.
- ✓ Ensuring printers are capable of and cooperate in the data exchange.

Phase IV Summary

A new Production Manufacturing System would become the vehicle to allow Print Production to fulfill its mission more effectively. The new system, PRINTS (**P**rinting **R**equirements **I**Nformation **T**racking **S**ystem), would establish an infrastructure for managing greater press, bindery and shipping efficiencies.

While an ERP system was envisioned as a solution to the automated data management challenges company-wide, it is not a current business initiative. Therefore, the scope of the project is targeted to the precise needs of Print Production.

PPIP current status

- ✓ Developed high-level system requirements.
- ✓ Outlined profiles definitions.
- ✓ Discussed “edition” definition.
- ✓ Reviewed connectivity issues.
- ✓ Determined accuracy/flow of quantities.
- ✓ Defined core and enhanced functionality.
- ✓ Evaluated printer feedback.
- ✓ Created glossary of print production terms.

PPIP Phase V

- ✓ Vendor selection
 - complete RFI
 - define qualification criteria
 - design presentation scripts
- ✓ In-house solution analysis
 - determine platform solution
 - identify skill sets
 - estimate costs and level of effort
 - create high-level project plan