Tips for Printing Engineering Documents in PDF Format

Engineering documents produced by RH2 Engineering utilize color and 3D models which can result in slightly larger and more resource intensive PDF documents. As a result, some users may experience abnormally long print times or other difficulties. Most of these issues can easily be remedied by the end users by the following directions.

1. Use different PDF reader software.
    a. We have found that most users who experience problems use Adobe Acrobat software. In our experience, Adobe Acrobat is particularly poorly suited to print complex engineering documents. RH2 recommends that users try PDF-XChange Viewer as an alternative. A free version of this software is available here (http://www.tracker-software.com/product/pdf-xchange-viewer). PDF-XChange is the software most commonly used by RH2 for most production printing.
2. Print as Image.
    a. Most printing problems are a result of "flattening" which occurs when the PDF software tries to print transparency information contained within the engineering document. A good explanation of the flattening problem is described here (http://www.cadzation.com/help/printasimage.htm). The workaround for this problem is to adjust the Advanced setting in the PDF software and enable the "Print as Image" setting.
3. Try printing to a Postscript (PS) printer.
    a. The PDF file format is optimized to print to postscript enabled printers. PDF files will generally print faster and at a high quality if printed to a postscript printer.
    b. Note: When printing a PDF drawing to a PS printer using PDF-XChange is not typically necessary to enable the "print as image" setting.