



## Measured Progress adds color — cuts costs

### SITUATION

Measured Progress needed to replace its bitonal scanning system with a full-color scanner that would allow them to create images in a variety of formats. The company also wanted to free itself from the limitations of its current scanning system, which only recognized documents printed with proprietary printing specifications and TIFF-formatted images (that require a licensed viewer to preview).

### OBJECTIVE

Capture full-color JPEG images at the highest speed possible without losing image quality, reduce printing costs associated with previous scanner solution, and have the ability to use multiple print vendors for print jobs.

### SOLUTION

24 **Kodak i840 Scanners**, **Measured Progress ScanQuest Custom Capture and Extraction Software**.

### COMMENT

"Our **Kodak** Scanner solution is outstanding. We've gone from running small-scale contracts on two machines to running 95 percent of all answer documents on 24 machines up to 24 hours a day, with the capacity to scan 1,000,000 sheets per day."

-Eric Gilbert,  
Imaging Manager, Measured Progress

### Old scanners cramped style, added costs

As the nation's leading provider of alternate assessments for students with moderate-to-severe disabilities, Measured Progress holds contracts in 24 states and two large-city school districts. The not-for-profit based in Dover, NH and its staff of 375 is dedicated to improving instruction and student learning in standards-based classrooms.

The company scores tests and conducts extensive psychometrics — research and analysis — on the results and data to help school districts improve student learning.

Until recently, Measured Progress relied on its previous scanners to capture images of test-answer documents. But its old scanners only produced TIFF-formatted images. As Measured Progress improved its processes and systems, it would soon need a licensed image viewer to use the TIFF images.

"We wanted to reduce our costs and that meant finding innovative ways to display images," notes Chris Picou, Director of Product and Project Development, Measured Progress.

"Our old scanners only recognized documents printed on the manufacturer's proprietary printers. We were tied into specific printers and image viewers, and unable to shop for the most competitive solutions," says Eric Gilbert, Imaging Manager, Measured Progress.

### Full-color JPEGs eliminate the blank page

Each day, following test administration periods, Measured Progress receives hundreds of boxes of test answer documents from school districts around the country. Measured Progress cuts each booklet into individual sheets of paper. Then scanning operators scan each sheet with bar code and batch numbers, helping to keep individual tests and entire bundles in proper order. After scanning, the original documents

are sent to Measured Progress' warehouses for storage.

Once the images are on the network, Measured Progress uses its **Measured Progress ScanQuest** Extraction Software to retrieve all open-response item (short- and long-answer and essay) data and sends it to its proprietary **iScore** system for image scoring by human readers, and then to the Research & Analysis department for analysis and evaluation. The extraction process also pulls out all optical mark recognition data from multiple-choice items and sends them directly to Research & Analysis.

With Measured Progress' old black-and-white scanning system, if a student didn't press his or her pencil hard enough on the answer document, or didn't use a #2 pencil, the image would drop out. The readers and researchers received blank pages to analyze. When this happened, they had to initiate a time-consuming, labor-intensive search mission to locate the original test booklet and find out whether it was really blank ... or merely the result of a student with "light" handwriting.

### Problem solved via greater speed and higher quality

When planning the upgrade from a bitonal to a color scanner, Measured Progress tested numerous scanners from other manufacturers.

**"But only the Kodak i840 Scanner provided the combination of high speed and exceptional, full-color image quality," says Gilbert, "along with ease of use and responsive customer service."**

"There were a few other scanners that came close to the speed of the **Kodak i840 Scanner**, but they were difficult and cumbersome to operate. This scanner is the easiest, quietest, and most intuitive machine we've found. Our working environment has improved dramatically because of the reduced noise level."

"Now, with our **Kodak i840 Scanners**, if we need to resolve an issue with a test booklet, we use our JPEG image viewer; type in a 10-digit code that includes the contract, batch, and serial number; and we instantly see the color document. We no longer have to dig in boxes to find original booklets," notes Gilbert.

## **Kodak resolves a sticky situation**

Soon after implementing its **Kodak Scanner Solution**, Measured Progress noticed image inconsistencies, which can cause a wide range of problems.

Inconsistencies can occur because students often add debris to test sheets, such as eraser bits, gum, sticky fingers, lip gloss, peanut butter and jelly, etc. This debris gets collected on the imaging guides and can lead to inconsistent image capture.

"We told Kodak about the problem and soon Kodak's Field Engineers and Technicians came out to see us scan and witnessed the problem firsthand. Then, over the course of a year, these engineers worked closely with our imaging staff to make special modifications to the cameras and imaging guides. These modifications significantly reduced the amount of image inconsistencies we were experiencing," remarks Gilbert.

As a result of Kodak's diligence, and their engineers' innovative glass imaging guides with hollow tops, image inconsistencies are no longer an issue.

## **Open to the future**

As mentioned earlier, one of the primary features Measured Progress looked for in a new scanning solution was the ability to use generic printers and image viewers. Kodak's scanning solution provided exceptional, high-quality images that can be recognized by any printer. This allowed the company to move to more competitive print vendors for their back-end printing.

Beyond printers and image viewers, the **Kodak i840 Scanner** does not lock Measured Progress into proprietary products. It features completely open standards and architecture that pave the way for future company growth.



*Eric Gilbert (left) and Chris Picou of Measured Progress with one of their **Kodak i840 Scanners** used to capture test results.*

## **"Kodak treats our business as if it were their own"**

"While Kodak worked on our debris issue, we also noticed some color inconsistencies where every once in a while images would change color, for example, dark green to light green. These inconsistencies can affect the data output. We told Kodak and they fixed it within a couple of weeks," reports Gilbert.

Measured Progress feels confident knowing Kodak backs its products with high-quality maintenance agreements and quick response times.

**"We sleep well knowing Kodak will fix any problem right away. Their technicians are knowledgeable and truly concerned about our business,"** summarizes Gilbert, **"Plus, we've enjoyed general productivity improvements and business growth since implementing this scanning solution from Kodak."**



*The flagship **Kodak i800 Series Scanners** deliver the high-value benefits that customers need most: productivity, versatility and reliability.*