

Latest Microfilm Scanning Software Innovations from nextScan

As technology changes rapidly every day (think about the cell phone you had 10 years ago), it is interesting to reflect on how far the industry has progressed and what the future of Microfilm Scanning holds. At nextScan, we firmly believe that continual advances in **software development** will lead the way to **time efficiencies** and **cost savings for conversion** of the still billions of images on Microfilm, Microfiche and Aperture cards in the world that are in need of being digitally preserved.

This blog highlights two of the most recent Software products developed by nextScan that are helping customers around the world preserve their film and fiche libraries – FicheStar and Virtual Film.

FicheStar

Many organizations have delayed the conversion of critical COM Fiche film libraries because the conversion process was very labor intensive and cost prohibitive. Another new industry breaking software program developed by nextScan, FicheStar, now provides a solution that is **ten times faster** and much **more economical** than traditional COM Fiche conversion solutions. nextScan's new FicheStar COM Fiche software **accurately finds every image** without the need for a grid setup or grid alignment. This detection software works even with skewed fiche, individually skewed rows, or even rows with twisted images. In addition to removing the reliance on a grid setup or film alignment during scanning, FicheStar has added many **time saving features** such as auto-add of index pages, saving the title bar for indexing, and handling partially filled fiche intuitively. The result is a **ninety percent time savings** vs. traditional auditing methods.

nextScan's mission is to help customers quickly, **efficiently and economically complete their digitization requirements**. nextScan's new FicheStar COM Fiche software technology is fully integrated with NextStar PLUS Workflow Software and Virtual Film. FicheStar includes an option for re-mastering of COM Fiche Ribbons to remove over-scan for Virtual Film. This software suite will represent **exceptional value** to customers seeking to move to a full ECM solution for their film archives with **quality, cost-effective** innovative microfilm and fiche scanning solutions.

Virtual Film is the easiest, **least expensive, film scanning/retrieval solution** in Micrographics today.

If you are familiar with microfilm and microfiche at all, you know about how long it can take to retrieve the correct images requested if you have patrons or employees who regularly access your film libraries. After a request is received, an employee has to search and search for the proper microfilm or microfiche. Next, the film has to be mounted to a reader/printer and scrolled through to find the correct image to print. At the end, the film must be transported and stored back in its proper location.

Now with nextScan's new **Virtual Film** solution, the **process of retrieval is shortened** by more than half. Using nextScan's high speed production scanners, with speeds up to 1000 pages per

minute, Virtual Film software scans and stores the entire roll or fiche as one image, JPEG, PDF, TIFF Group 4, etc..., and **allows you to easily navigate** thru the scanned images using the **Virtual Film Viewer to find the correct image** as you would on an old style reader/printer, but all from your PC. **Virtual Film** also offers the option to not just **print the image**, but to **save it to a PC, flash drive or email it**.

Without converting microfilm archives to a digital format, there are many problems with using microfilm. Older microfilm is vulnerable to damaging vinegar syndrome which can degrade image quality. Each time a film roll is viewed there can be degradation of image quality and damage to the film. There is also the chance that when the film or fiche is returned to the storage area, it is put in the wrong location making it difficult to find again. Problems like these can lead to slow response times to customers. Extra expenses occur with microfilm storage, labor to locate and transport film, and maintenance on reader/printers. Most **old style reader printers** are becoming **obsolete and parts and support are no longer** available.

Virtual Film delivers **better image quality** while **minimizing the cost to your organization** and the time required for training.

nextScan's new **Virtual Film software** solution allows organizations to say goodbye to old technology by eliminating their film collection and migrating to a permanent digital format. Because **Virtual Film creates an exact digital duplicate**, film can be preserved from future damage and multiple copies can be saved. The **cost of conversion is considerably lower** than conventional scanning and organizations can output individual images in the future based on budget and workflow requirements. nextScan also **offers project management and consultation** for complex scanning projects and works closely to design software features to meet customer workflow parameters and indexing processes with training and support offered throughout your project.

For more information on nextScan Microfilm Scanning and Software, contact us at sales@nextscan.com

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