



AFP Watched Folder Processing with ADSS Server

In many business environments a very convenient way of processing files of data is to use a watched folder approach. In such a scenario an application places output files in a given folder and another then picks these up and processes them. The **ADSS Auto File Processor (AFP)** is a flexible front-end application for the ADSS Server that implements such a watched folder strategy.

ADSS Signing Server is a multi-function server providing digital signature creation and verification services for PDFs, XML data and other files. It can be integrated within existing business processes either by using web-services calls, Ascertia's high level APIs, the ADSS AFP product or Secure Email Server.

ADSS AFP has been designed to provide intelligent watched folder automatic monitoring of one or more Windows folders or Unix directories to process batches of documents in an unattended environment. It does this by monitoring a set of input locations for documents. Any document found in a defined input location is selected for processing using the operator defined AFP profile.

The main use of AFP is for bulk signing of documents, particularly PDF invoices and other documents. AFP creates digital signatures by calling ADSS Server with a specified signing profile. This pre-defined profile determines the type of signature to be produced. The signed documents are delivered back to AFP which writes them to an output folder, or if a problem is detected, an issues folder. AFP can be easily enhanced to offer signature verification services and long-term document archive services on request.

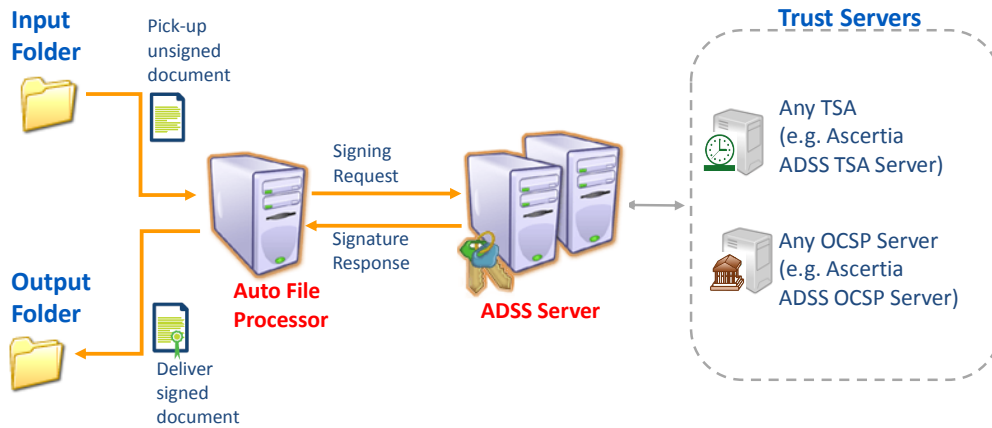
Auto File Processor provides one of the simplest ways to utilise the power of the ADSS Server within various organisations and can be easily inserted into a workflow system without any system integration or development expense.

Key Features

- **AFP supports multiple watched folders:**
Multiple watched folders profiles can be managed, each defines a set of input, output and error folders and the signing policy to be used
- **AFP supports multiple signature formats:**
One or more pre-defined signing profiles are used to leverage the full power of ADSS Server and produce basic, timestamped and long-term signatures of various formats including: PDF, PDF/A, PAdES, XAdES, CAdES, PKCS#7, CMS & S/MIME.
- **AFP supports signing and verification:**
AFP is an intelligent client application that uses the power of ADSS Server to sign, or on request verify, or even archive documents.
- **Scalability and Resilience:**
AFP has been designed for high throughput and high availability and it can send requests to multiple load balanced ADSS Servers.
- **Sophisticated Filtering:**
AFP uses watched folder profiles to apply complex rules such as defining sub-folders, filename filters, batch sizes and operational timers.
- **Security:**
To ensure that only authorised requests are processed, AFP authenticates itself to ADSS Server using a caller ID. For stronger authentication AFP can optionally sign requests or use SSL communication. ADSS Server retains a secure log of all request and response transactions and can provide detailed reports from these.
- **Low cost implementation:**
Ascertia provides well documented products so that no large professional services bill are seen when deploying products or solutions such as AFP.

Deployment Scenarios

The following diagram shows how AFP can be used with one or more ADSS Enterprise Servers for automated document signing. Back end trust services such as Timestamp Authorities (TSAs) and OCSP Validation Authority servers may be required where long-term signatures are requested:

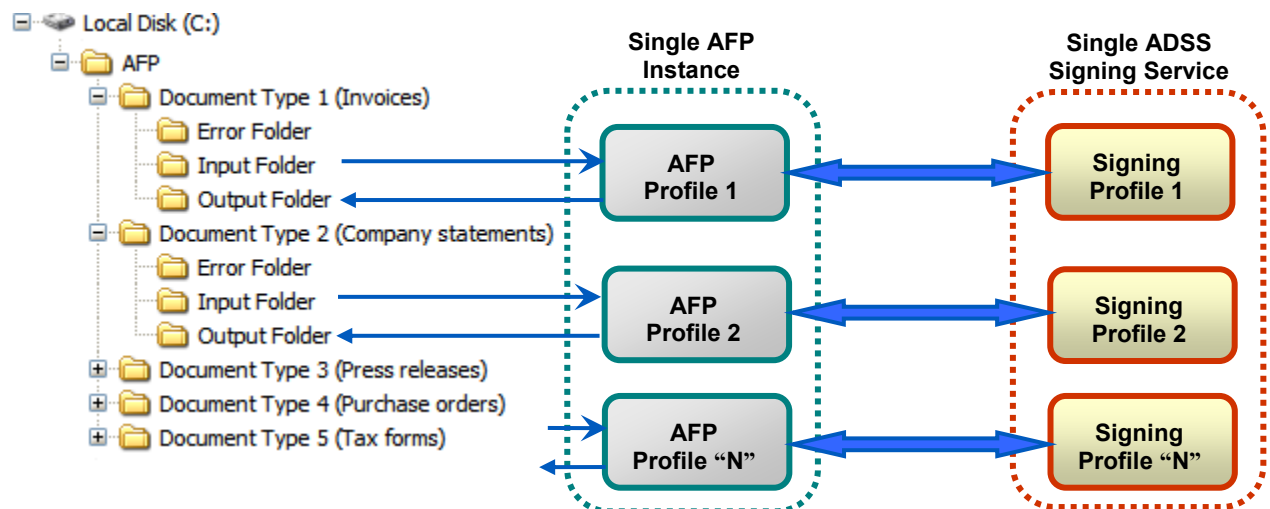


- Any type of document (PDFs, Word, Excel, proprietary formats, etc.)
- Signed document with option of using basic, timestamped or long-term signatures

AFP uses an optimised HTTP communication protocol for communication with the ADSS Server to ensure high performance signing operations.

Multiple Watched Folder Profiles

It is possible to set-up multiple AFP watched folder profiles each with its own set of input, output and error folders as illustrated below. Each AFP watched folder profile can be associated with its own Signing Profile configured on the ADSS Enterprise Server:



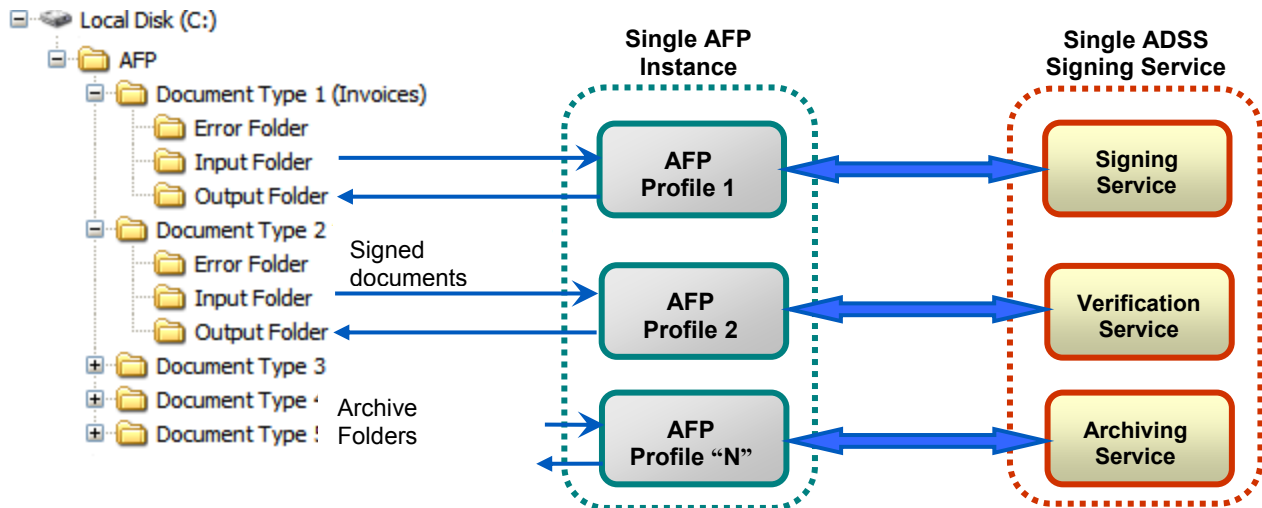
The diagram illustrates multiple AFP profiles processing various document types located in different input folders. The documents are then signed on the ADSS Server using unique signing profiles and the resultant file deposited in the appropriate output folder.

ADSS Server Signing Profiles define the type of signature to produce, including:

- The format of the document to sign (PDF, XML, files and other data including email)
- The type of signature to create (Basic, timestamped, long-term, explicit policy, archive and ETSI PAdES, XAdES, CADES etc.)
- Which signing key to use (a default key can be used or a key chosen from a list)
- Which information to include in the signature (e.g. signing reason, signer’s location, signing policy etc.)
- For visible PDF signatures, the signature appearance to stamp on the document can be selected (e.g. the text to include, the images to use, their size & positioning, etc.)

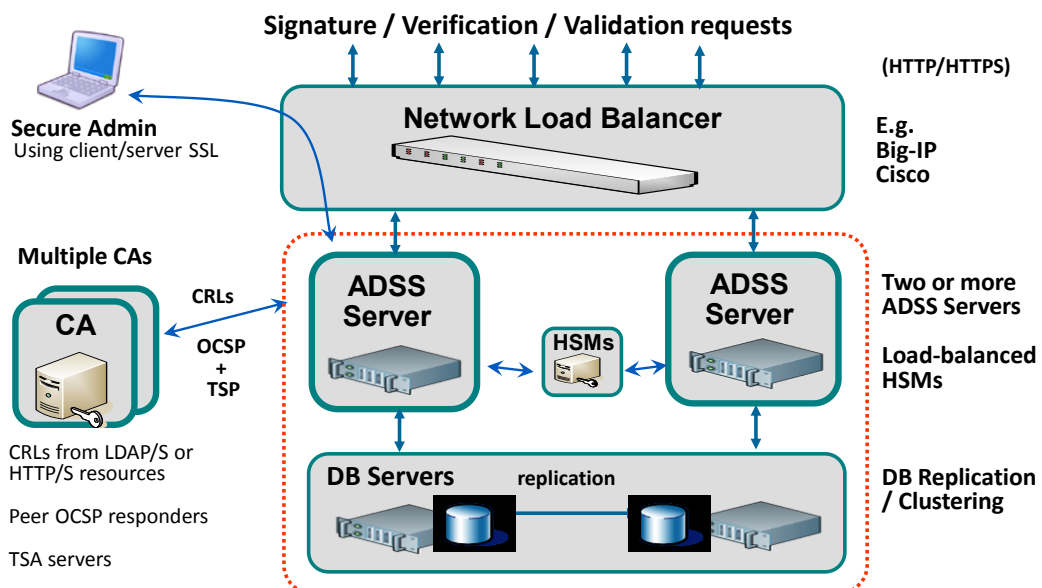
Signing, Verification and Archiving

Different AFP profiles can be used to request additional services from ADSS Server. As shown below, profiles can also be linked with Verification or Archiving Services on request.



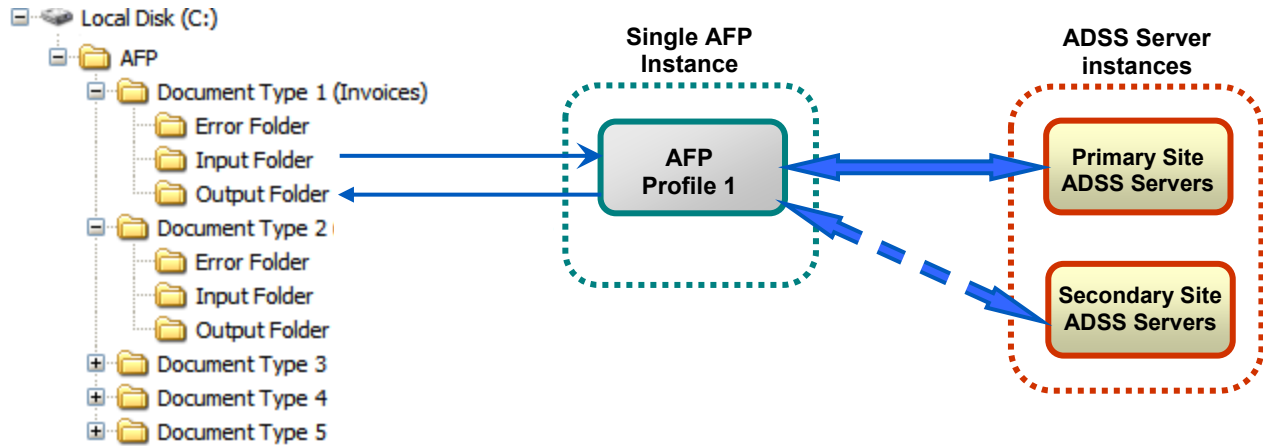
High Availability / Load-balanced Configurations

A load balancer can be deployed to ensure that two or more primary servers are used to provide greater throughput and resilience:



High Availability Multi-Site Configuration

Multiple ADSS Servers can be listed for each AFP profile to ensure that if the primary site ADSS Server instances goes down unexpectedly then a back-up site ADSS Server can be automatically invoked:



Summary

ADSS Auto File Processor (AFP) is a front-end application for ADSS Server. It monitors multiple input folders and processes batches of files according to pre-defined AFP profiles. AFP selects a batch of files to process, removes these from the input folder, processes them and then places the output files in their specified output folder locations. It can process several files at once and thus optimises the utilisation of ADSS Server. It's as simple as that.

Platform Support

AFP is available on Windows 2003, 2008 and Solaris platforms. Support for other environments such Windows 64 bit systems and Linux variants can be provided as part of an agreed solution delivery.