uCreate Print Training

Transcript for: TUTORIAL 2
Basic VDP job

XM PIE

A CareAR Company

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Notices

Voice over script	Thumbnail
Hi! Welcome to the XMPie uCreate Print training. In this tutorial we get hands on with Adobe InDesign and uCreate Print.	
We will link InDesign with our data source, make text and graphic objects dynamic, manage copy fitting and create our first VDP output.	
To start, download the tutorial resources ZIP file from the downloads tab and uncompress the archive. If you have already completed the first tutorial in this series, you can continue to use the same files you already downloaded.	
There is a PDF included in the ZIP file that will step you through the tutorial if you want to do it later offline. Open the EDU Postcard InDesign file.	
Swap to high quality display performance. This will give you a better screen preview without images being pixelated.	
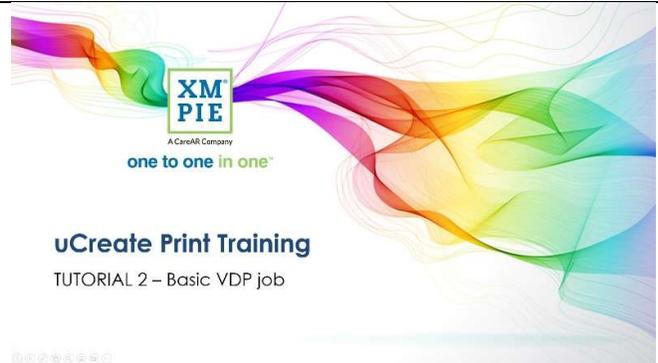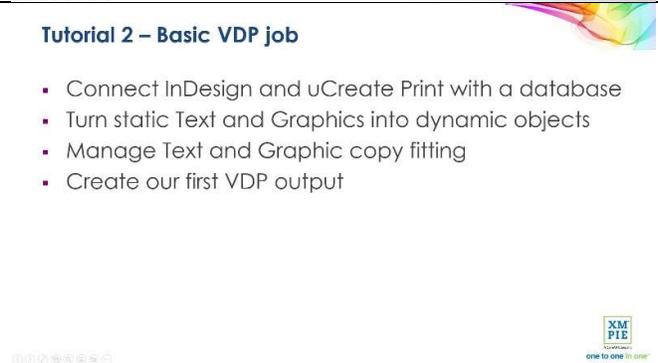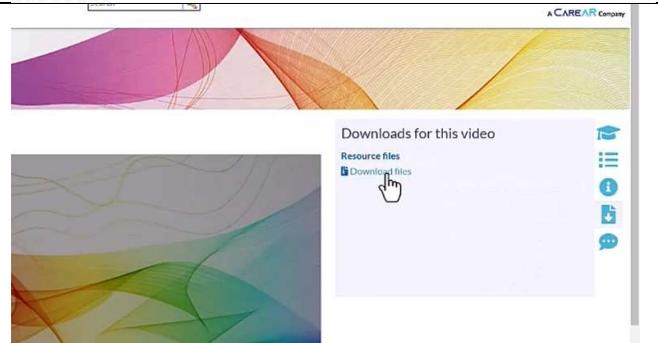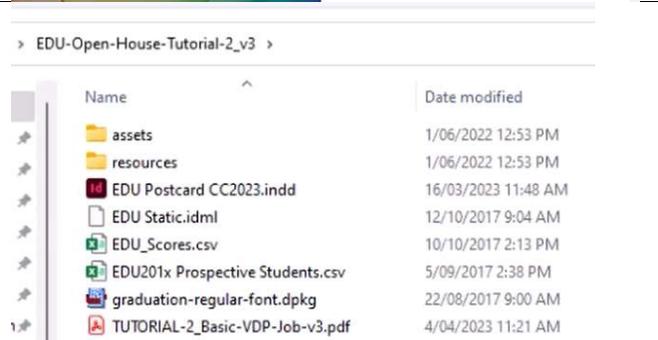
If you don't see the Dynamic Content panel, open it from the Dynamic Content menu, Show Window group.	
The first thing to do is to link to our data file. You can either use the Dynamic Content menu to select Set input data, or you can simply click the button on the Dynamic Content panel.	
Select data source file and click Next.	
Browse to and select the prospective students CSV file provided in the tutorial folder.	
This is a comma separated file, so click OK.	
In many cases it is useful to see the data values in the panel. If you don't already see the data column here, select Preferences from the Dynamic Content menu, and check the box to Show Data Column in Dynamic Content Panel.	
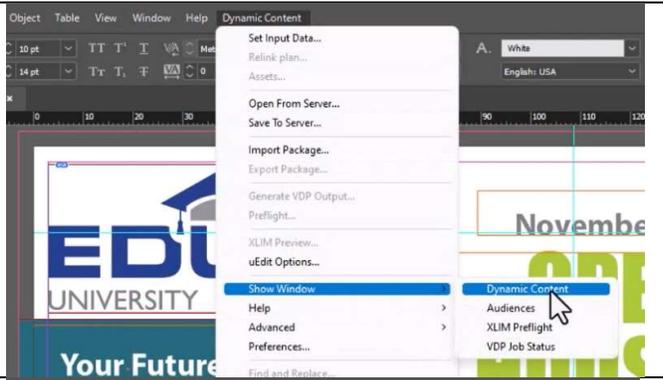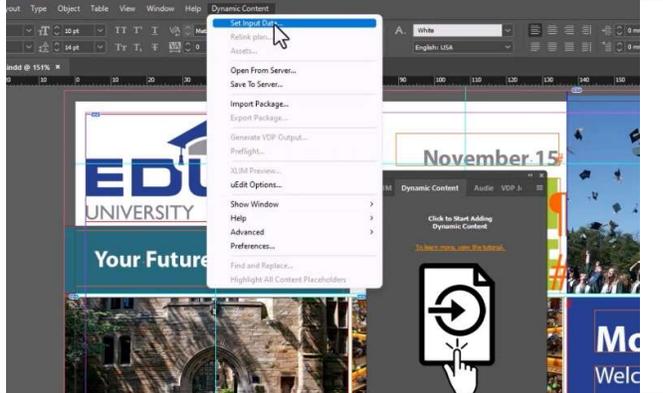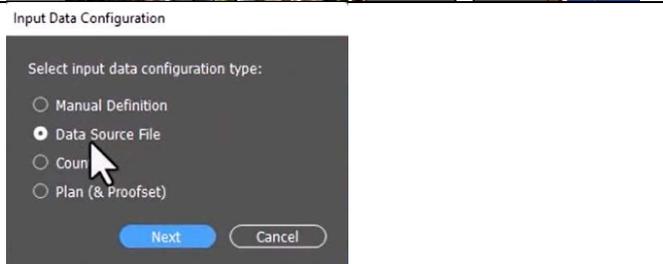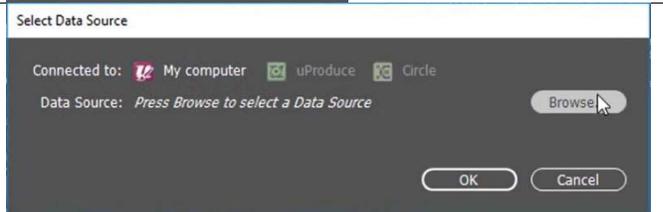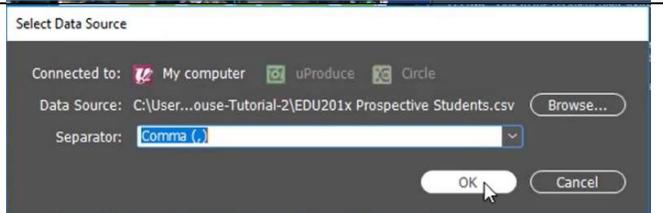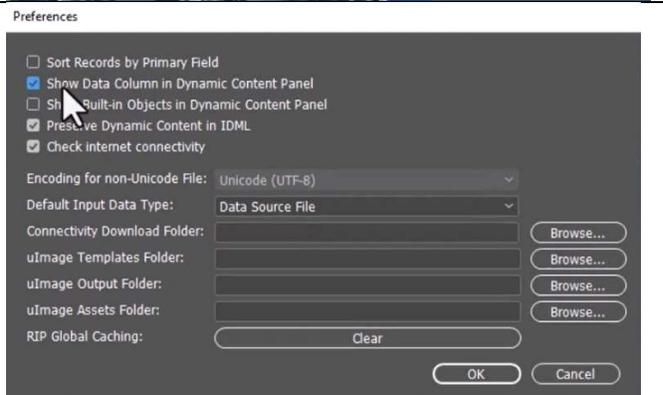
At the bottom of the panel are controls to scroll through the data records.	
Use the InDesign Type tool to select the text here. Double-click on the FirstName content object to place it into the document.	
You can move through the records to see the value change in the design.	
Again, use the Type tool to select the text in this position and double-click the firstname content object. Notice that the database value takes the font attributes of the text that you selected.	
Before we go any further, it might be a good idea to "save as", so if you want to repeat the tutorial in future, you still have the original file with no XMPie content.	
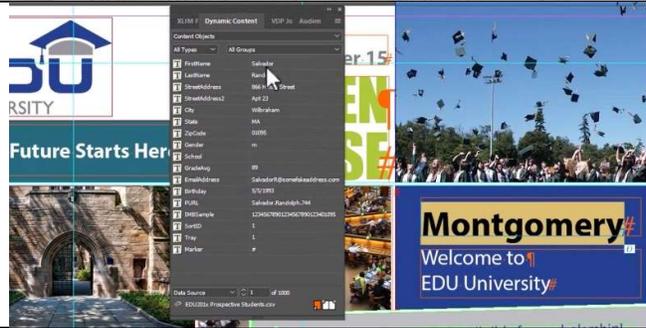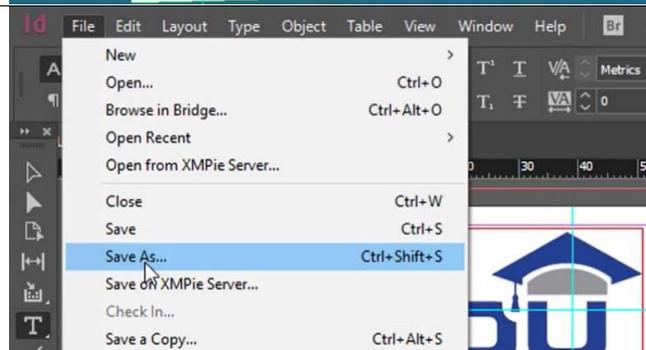
Now, because we are putting a data value into the document, we don't really know how long that value might be. So, right-click on the FirstName content object and select Go to longest. This will move to the data record with the most characters.	
And you can see that this name overflows the text frame and the InDesign Preflight also shows overset text.	
From the InDesign tool box, use the Selection tool to select the text frame that has a Text content object in it. Right-click on the text frame and select Dynamic Content, and then Copy fit…	
uCreate Print gives us different ways to control the text in the frame. For this example, we want to enable copy fitting when the frame overflows. I'll select to change the font size and horizontal scale. Because there is only one line, I won't worry about leading.	
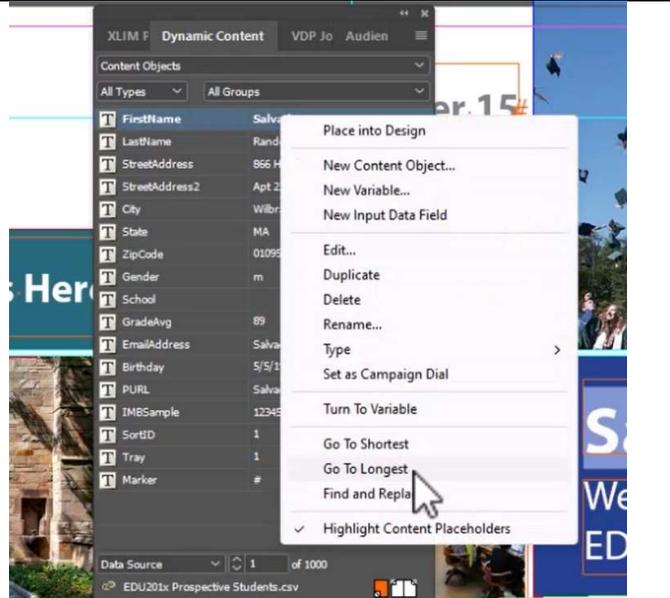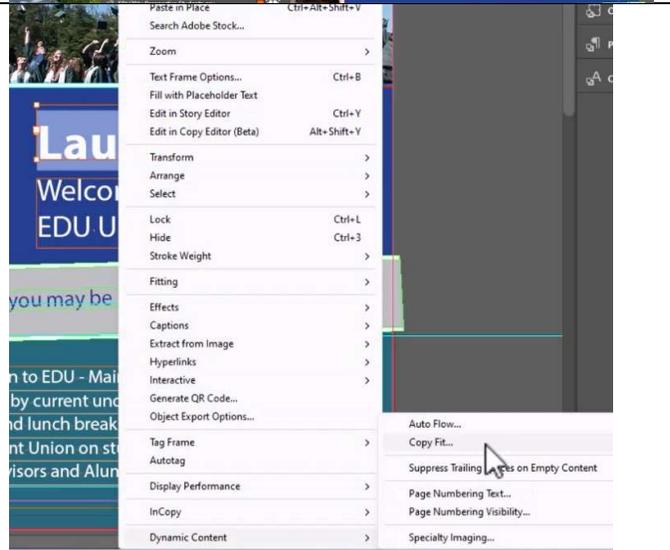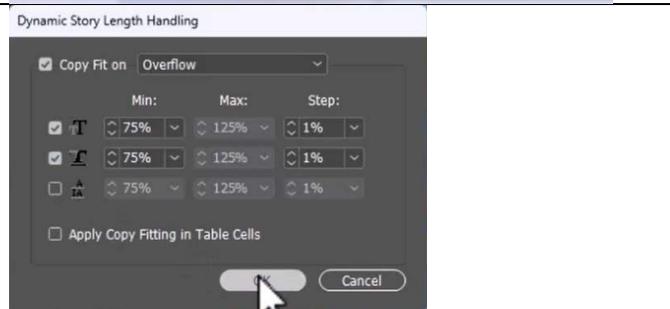
OK, we can see that the longest name will now fit. While it is not really necessary in this box, because even the longest name will fit, I will still turn on copy fitting because in future I might link this document to a different database with an even longer name.	
Let's move over to page 2. Here we need to replace the customer firstname in the text. And, set all the name and address fields here in the address block.	
So, the next thing we need to deal with is to remove the line feed or space when there is an empty line in the address block. Use the selection tool, to select the entire text box. Right-click and from Dynamic Content, select Suppress Trailing Spaces on Empty Content. Scrolling through the records will now show that the empty line disappears.	
Now, back to the first page. We also want to change this central graphic based on the School name that is in the database. We have a folder of asset images that are named by each School.	
So, I will duplicate the School content object.	
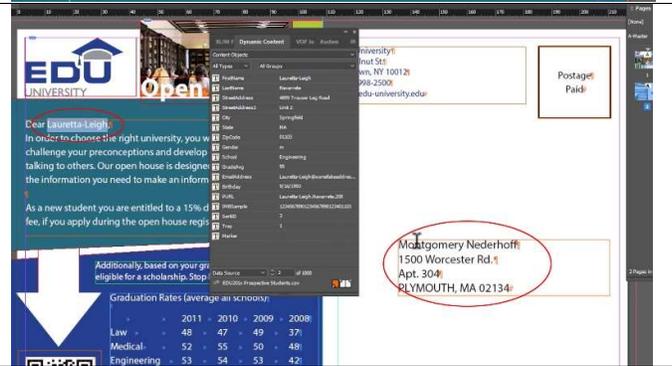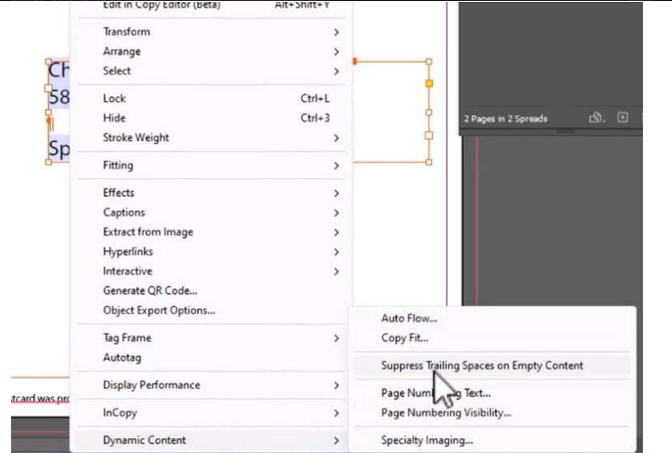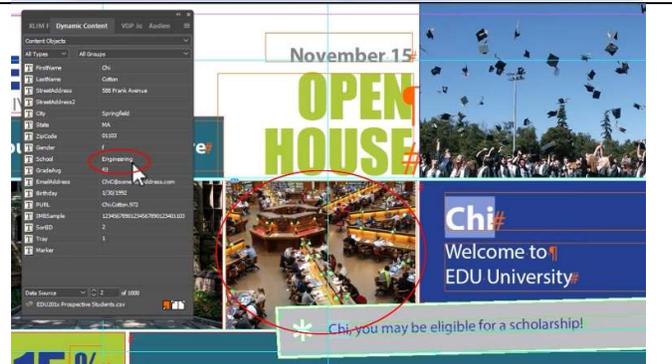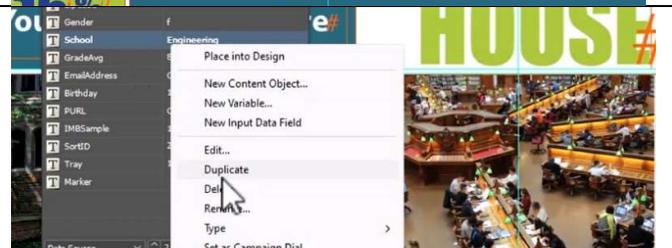
Right click on the new School copy content object and select to rename it.	
Right click again and change the content object type to Graphic. Notice the icon change to help you identify the type of content object.	
From the Dynamic Content menu, we should also set the location for uCreate Print to find the assets.	
Now, place the Graphic content object into the design. Use the selection tool, select the graphic box, and double-click on the School photo content object.	
For this record, you can see the Engineering photo appears. But, when I scroll through the data, you will see that some records don't have a value for school, so there is no image displaying. We will fix this in the next tutorial when we look at using rules or logic.	
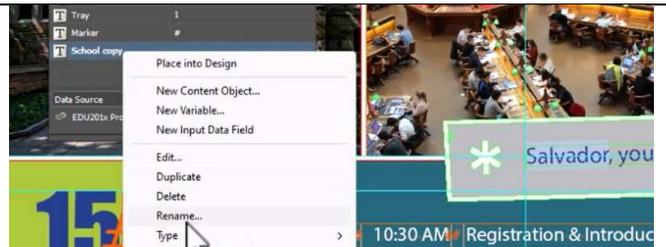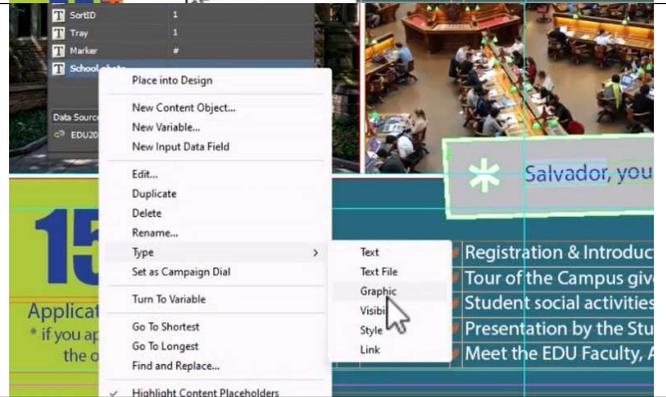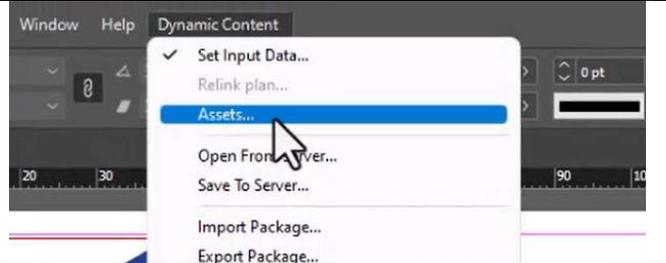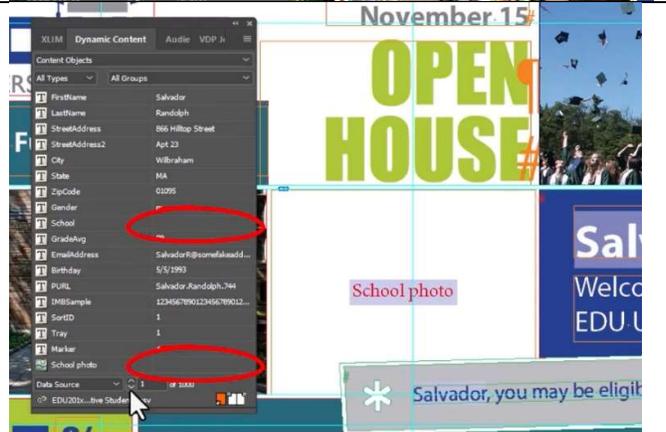
uCreate Print also gives you control of how the images will be fitted into the graphic frame. Right-click on the graphic frame and select Dynamic Content, and then Dynamic Graphic Properties.	
I will select to fill the frame proportionally and centred. Our template is now complete. The only task remaining is to create the print output.	
From the Dynamic Content menu, select Generate VDP Output.	
If you have not already saved your document, you will be prompted to do so.	
I'll create a PDF so we can open and review the document. I'll process 10 records to start. And, leave the other settings as default.	
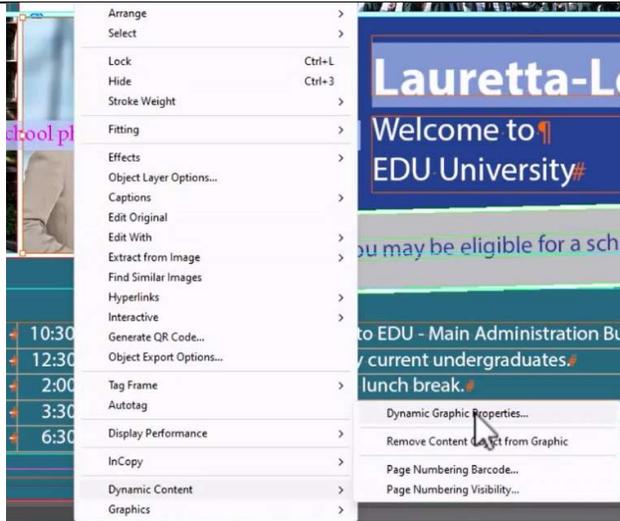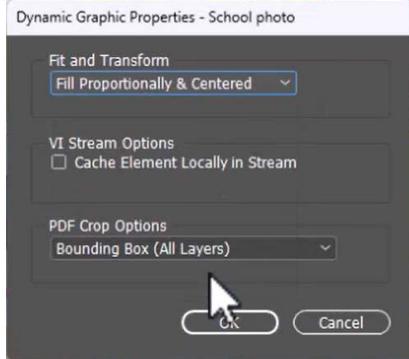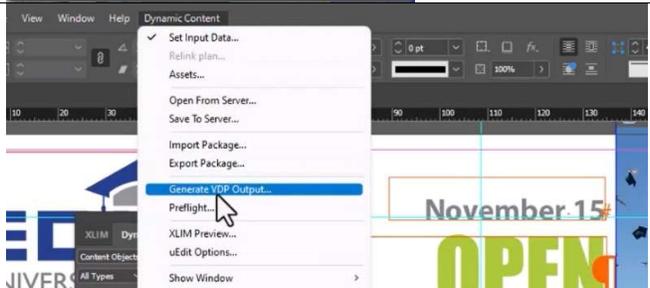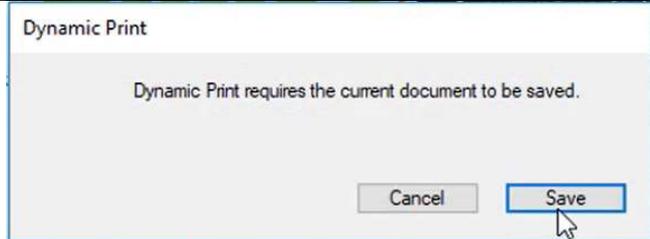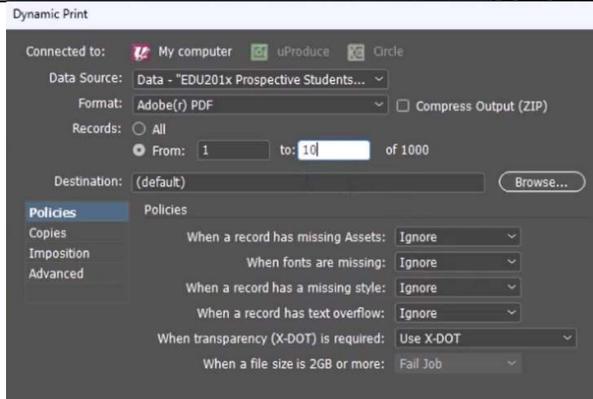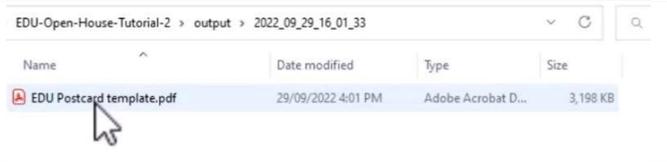
This dialog is warning that there was no graphic asset for several of the records. We will fix this in the next tutorial when we start to look at the rule editor. After production, the file is opened again, and InDesign always reverts the display performance, so if you like to see the document more clearly, swap back to high quality.	
The default location for the output (if you don't select a specific folder) will be next to the InDesign file in an output folder. Here is our PDF.	
Let's create another output, but turn on the imposition settings to get four on a page. If I'm going for 4 on a page, let's print the first 12 records. I'll select SRA3 Landscape for the sheet size which should be large enough. I want to turn on cut marks and these are drawn in the margin area so I'll make the margin a bit larger 2mm or 0.08" should do. I'll check Auto calculate and you will see that we can fit 2 rows and 2 columns on the sheet. I'll check Auto calculate and you will see that we can fit 2 rows and 2 columns on the sheet. I'll check duplex. This is important when you have multiple rows and columns because the records need to be reversed on the back side of the sheet. I'll click to centre the pages on the sheet. This InDesign document has 3mm or 0.12" of bleed defined. So, I want the cut marks drawn into the document by the same amount, so I will set 3mm here. We will go into the Dynamic Print settings in more depth in a later tutorial.	
I get the same warning about missing assets. And the PDF will be in the next folder. You can see the cut marks drawn in the 2mm of margin, and you can see the document bleed is printed correctly so the job can be guillotined.	