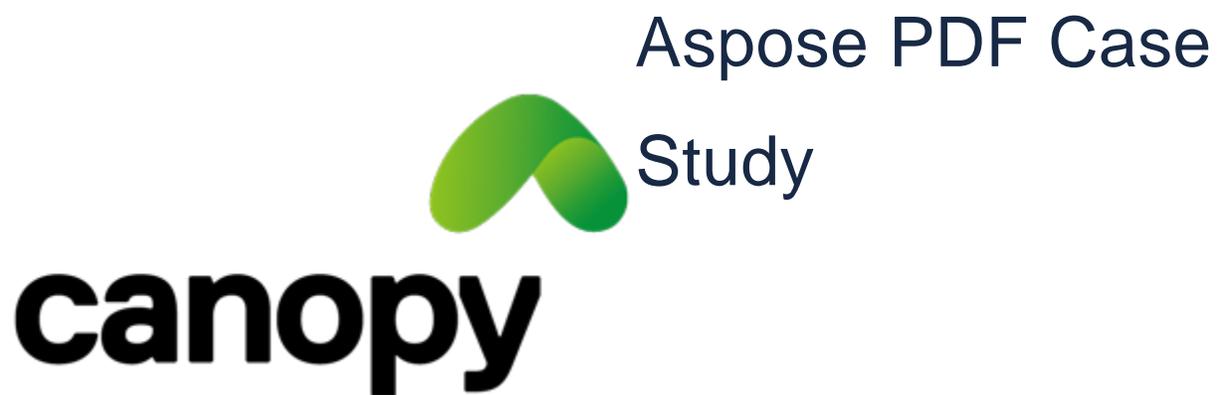


CASE STUDIES



Mesitis - Canopy

Using Aspose PDF to Edit PDF files

Martin Pickrodt, Chief Data Officer, 06-July 2017

About Mesis

Mesis is a Singapore based FinTech startup that offers Canopy (<https://canopy.sg>), a next generation account aggregation and portfolio visualization platform for high net-worth individuals and wealth professionals. We are the Singapore Winner and Global Finalist of the UBS Future of Finance Challenge (2015), and "Singapore's #1 Hottest Startup" according to Singapore Business Review (2016).

The key to providing kick-ass data visualisation is good and clean data. Unfortunately most banks in this world are not willing or able to provide electronic datafeeds about account information of their clients. We are referring to investment portfolio information and not just credit card expenses here.

The PDF file is therefore the go-to solution. Almost all banks are readily providing PDF files to their clients for the purpose of reporting. The formats are machine generated and therefore very stable. Machine-reading a clients' PDF file is therefore integration free with the originating Institution.

Problem

As a data company we help clients visualize their own data. This is very personal financial information and hence very sensitive. We pride ourselves in the high data security standard that we keep, but nevertheless we provide confidence to clients by keeping absolute anonymity.

Absolute Anonymity means that we do not know our client's identity – not their name, not their address and definitely not their mother's maiden name. Clearly, most bank statements are addressed to the holder of the information. Which means that we are looking for a tool that we can implement which allows our clients to easily anonymize their own PDF statements. The tool needs to be easy to use and have a very high success rate in processing the amendments. The latter being the key point, we had to discover that not all PDF files are generated equally. A tool that works for one file might not work for a different file since they would have been generated with different tools.

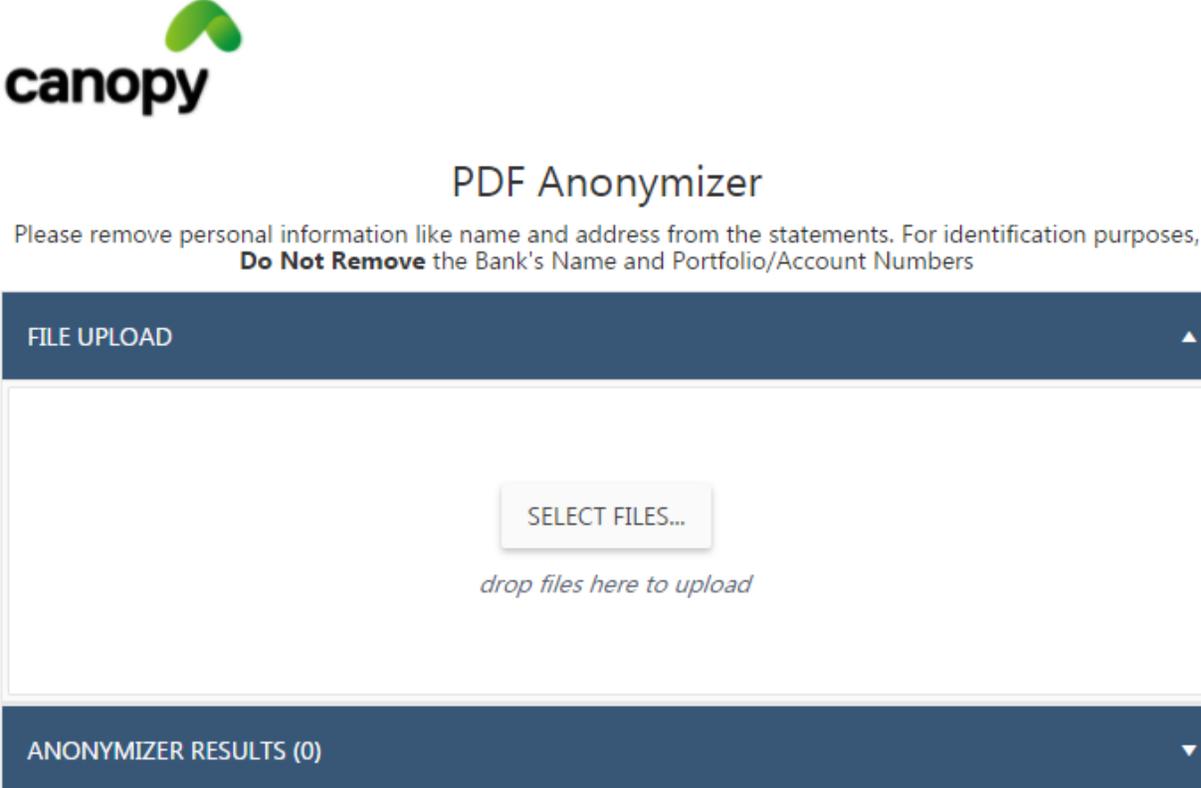
Solution

We have built our own site which we make available to users that will allow them to anonymize their data.

The functionality is deliberately very simple. Upload the file and mention the words that need to be removed. Done.

The Aspose PDF product showed the highest success rates among the products we tried.

Screen shot of the landing page of our anonymizer:



The screenshot shows the landing page for the Canopy PDF Anonymizer. At the top left is the Canopy logo, which consists of a green leaf-like shape above the word "canopy" in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. The main heading is "PDF Anonymizer" in a large, bold, black font. Below the heading is a paragraph of instructions: "Please remove personal information like name and address from the statements. For identification purposes, **Do Not Remove** the Bank's Name and Portfolio/Account Numbers". The central part of the page is a large white rectangular area with a dark blue header bar on top that says "FILE UPLOAD" and a small upward-pointing triangle on the right. Inside this area is a light gray button labeled "SELECT FILES...". Below the button is the text "drop files here to upload" in a smaller, italicized font. At the bottom of the white area is another dark blue bar that says "ANONYMIZER RESULTS (0)" and a small downward-pointing triangle on the right.

[PRIVACY](#) | [TERMS OF USE](#)

Screen shot of the output of the function:



PDF Anonymizer

Please remove personal information like name and address from the statements. For identification purposes, **Do Not Remove** the Bank's Name and Portfolio/Account Numbers

FILE UPLOAD						
ANONYMIZER RESULTS (1)						
File Name	Time Passed	Status	Pages	Message	Actions	
Canopy_transaction_schedule_FINALv2.pdf	00:14		25	'Annex' found 4 times		 

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Experience

Finding a solution: We looked at multiple different products. The quality of the output was the most important factor for us, due to the fact that we receive PDF files from many varied sources and the way they are generated differs a lot.

We also used the free trial to verify that the output is compatible with our system.

Implementation: We already have an implementation of the tool with another PDF editing tool. The switch was relatively easy to do and took our developers a couple of days.

So far no help from the support team was required.

Outcome: So far we still have to find out how the user feedback is. Our initial tests are pointing to very good quality of the outputs. We measure two factors for quality:

- 1) are all the key words successfully found and removed or replaced
- 2) Is the PDF format otherwise unaffected and allows us to further process the file.

Aspose product has provided the best outcome for our pre-defined metrics.

Next Steps

Right now this is solving our key pain point and we want to observe user feedback more before we take any additional measures.

Summary

Overall we are very happy with the Aspose experience.

The implementation was seamless and the quality of the output is up to our expectations. We can only recommend Aspose.