



ASPOSE.TOTAL for .NET

The New Teacher Project

Applicant Tracking System

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Neel Sata, September 22, 2009

Product Background / Overview

The New Teacher Project (TNTP) is a national non-profit that focuses on recruiting, staffing, certifying, and retaining high-quality teachers into high-needs school districts. In order to better support the school districts we serve, we are building a new platform with Microsoft .NET technologies to allow us to track applicants through our application and selection process. As part of this process, applicants submit documents such as resumes, personal statements, and essays that are used to gauge their eligibility and potential as teachers. Our platform has a wide variety of file conversion needs, and we intend to use the Aspose suite of tools to handle all requirements

Requirements Scenario

A number of requirements for TNTP's new platform technology include uploading, storing, and managing documents. To fulfill this requirement, the Technology team has built an Assets Server that will allow us to manage safely and efficiently documents uploaded by users. A number of requirements also call for the retrieval of these documents in different formats than they were originally submitted. An example is the following user story: "As an admin user, I want to generate applicants' resumes and applications as a pdf so that they can be sent to selectors as file attachments but cannot be edited."

This story requires the system to retrieve documents originally submitted in Word and OpenOffice format and render them as PDFs. Other stories require the conversion of word documents to html files (eg. for display in web browsers for principal access). The ability to embed documents in our pages allows us to present an elegant and easy-to-use version of applicant submitted information.

Solution Implementation

TNTP will be integrating the Aspose suite into our .NET based platform. We have successfully prototyped this integration with the evaluation version of the Aspose suite.

Our first implementation of the functionality allows an admin user to screen information on an applicant, including the applicant's resume, within a screening page. The resume, which was submitted as one of a variety of word document types, is retrieved in HTML and displayed within the screener's page.

The screenshot shows a web application interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Queues', 'Administration', 'Screening Queue', and 'Subject Area Assignment'. Below these, there are sub-tabs: 'Application', 'Resume', and 'Instructions'. The 'Resume' tab is active, displaying a resume for Janice Kobbervig. The resume includes contact information, an objective, education details (Bachelor of Science in Social Work), and licenses/certifications. On the right side, there is a section titled 'Eligibility Survey A' with a form for 'Meets Requirements', 'Ineligible Reason', and 'Ineligible Comments'.

As part of a similar feature, an admin user can upload Instructions and have them displayed to users. Aspose allowed us to accommodate this feature without the costly implementation of a content management system, by converting uploaded Instructions documents into HTML pages:

The screenshot shows the 'Instructions' tab active in the application. It displays a document titled 'Application (Pre-screen) Indicators' with a list of bullet points. A callout bubble points to the document content, stating: 'We use Aspose to display a word document embedded in the page.' On the right side, there is a section titled 'Prescreen Survey A' with a form for 'Application Materials', 'Application Materials Evidence', and 'Application Materials Comments'.

We also plan to use Aspose to generate PDF versions of applicant documents to distribute to admin users and principals.

The screenshot shows a web application titled "The New Teacher Project". At the top, there is a user menu for "John Doe" and a search icon. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs: Overview, Application, Resume, Screening, Workflow History, Notes, Calendar, and Messages. The main content area displays the profile of "Jane Ferguson Smith" (Cohort: 2010-1). The profile includes personal information (Former Name: Liz Tweed, Date of Birth: 7/16/1980, Gender: Female, Ethnicity: Black or African American, Address: 123 State Street, apt 13, New York, NY 11218, United States, Primary Phone: 212-666-6666 ext. 666, Evening Phone: 917-666-6666, Email: jfs@email.com, Password: *****), subject area (Primary: Math, Secondary: Science), and a "CURRENT STATUS" section showing three completed steps: Subject Area Assigned, Prescreened IN, and Application Submitted. A "Profile Tools" section contains buttons for Edit Profile, Reset Log-in, Send Message, and Withdraw Applicant, along with links for Print Profile, Export Profile to Word Document, and Export Profile to PDF. A red arrow points to the "Generate PDF of Applicant Portfolio" link located above the "CURRENT STATUS" section.

Benefits

For TNTP, the benefits are twofold. First, the Technology team dramatically reduces the cost and effort of building a file conversion framework. Second, TNTP will have a scalable product that allows us quickly review applicant documentation in a variety of formats during our application process. Aspose allows us to create user-friendly versions of frequently used information, as well as to maintain the security of documents that are not editable by users.

Future Implementations

No future implementations planned at this time, however we will be exploring other applications for Aspose as we build out our Roadmap.

Conclusion

TNTP is excited to save time and money using the Aspose product and are thankful for the generosity of the Aspose organization in offering a discount on their product.