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CASE STUDIES

Aspose.Total for .NET Case Study

W3K Tecnologia

Using Aspose.Net Total to convert CAD drawings and Office documents to PDF

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About W3K Tecnologia

W3K provides a cloud based EDMS (Engineering Document Management System) applied to industrial capital projects in Brazil and Latin America. Our solution enables technical communication management and document control within capital projects.

Problem

Our customers are mainly engineering firms, construction companies and industrial project owners. They use our system do store and manage the workflow/circulation of digital engineering documents (basically MS Office and AutoCAD documents).

Some of our important customers had a business issue we were not able to address. They need to keep track of printed version of files and better manage its circulation to non-CAD users and to construction field people (who normally use printed documents). They wanted to make sure, for instance, that paper blueprints, used at the construction field, were only consider valid if printed from the system. This would mitigate the risk of wrong document versions circulation and enable version replacement.

Solution

Firstly, we needed our Document Management System to be able to create printable PDF files from MS Office and AutoCAD documents. This would allow printing a document even

from clients without CAD or Office installs. Then we defined that any copy made from documents stored on our system went out with a watermark indicating that it was a controlled copy. With these requirements in mind we went out searching for a solution that would be easy to implement and could convert the most common types of files used by our customers and users in a fast and reliable way.

Aspose's capability to convert CAD and Office documents into PDF, and the ability to easily edit this PDF files is what has driven us to choose the product. When the user uploads or creates a new version of a CAD file, for example, we convert it to PDF using Aspose.CAD and then add the required watermark using Aspose.PDF. The result is a new file that can be viewed directly through the browser, or to be printed, allowing not only document viewing and printing but also the possibility of restricting access to the original CAD file. Aspose.CAD also allowed us to create the PDFs with a black background for viewing, which Engineering users are more comfortable with, as seen on Figure 1.

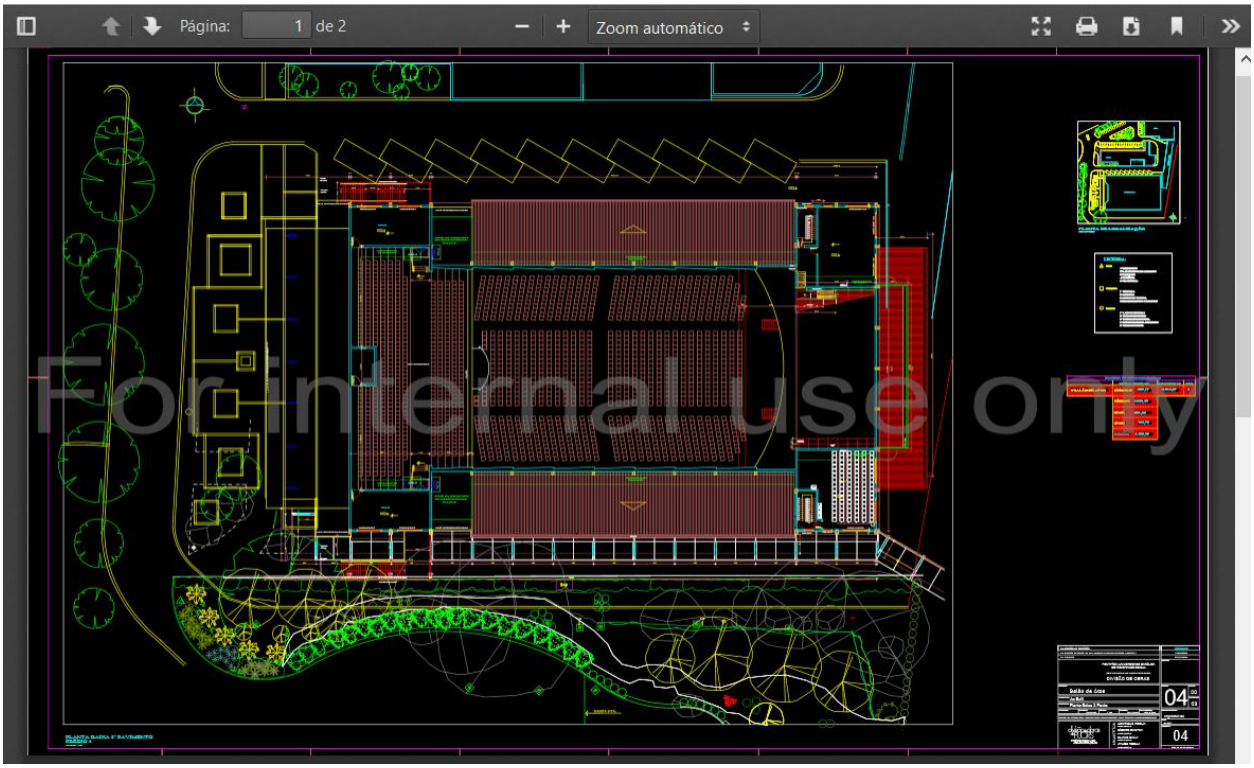

Figure 1: DWG file converted to PDF with a "For internal use only" watermark

Experience

Finding a solution: We had tested Aspose before when searching for a solution to manipulate Office files. We needed to export Word and Excel files using a template filled with data from our document management system, but at the time we ended up using the Open XML SDK for that. Since we knew Aspose could render PDF from Office files, when the new requirement came we considered it again and discovered that it had now a new product: Aspose.CAD. It was easy then to settle on Aspose, since it had all the things we needed in on product family.

Implementation: The implementation was smooth as it gets. Everything we needed we could figure out from the online documentation, which is very concise and filled with examples. Comparing with other libraries for PDF manipulation, Aspose's solution is simpler and straightforward.

Outcome: We met our objectives fully, everyone at our company was satisfied with the results and the developers were amazed by how easy it was to accomplish something that at first looked like a lot of work.

Next Steps

We plan to extend the PDF generation feature, with the option to not only add a fixed watermark, but also metadata from the document stored in our system, like workflow status as "stamps". And, using Aspose.BarCode, the ability to generate barcodes to protocol and track received and distributed documents in our system.

Regarding Office files, we plan to replace our current Open XML SDK implementation to use Aspose's and thus having a more clean and maintainable code.

Summary

During our implementation, we could sense that we touched only a fraction of what Apose.Total is capable of. The API's ease of use give the developers satisfaction for "getting work done" with it's simple and clean code, and the end product's robustness makes our customers happy. We would definitely recommend Aspose for any .Net companies who wants to work with virtually any type of file in their applications.