ASPOSE
Your File Format Experts

CASE STUDIES

XfleX Case Study

CIO Camenzind Information + Organisation

Using Aspose.Words to Convert RTF to PDF

Reto B. Camenzind, CEO, 19.2.2015

About XfleX

XfleX is a brand new business solution available as SaaS to the market by mid 2015. Of course for a business software document production is crucial, as it is needed for offering, invoicing, correspondence and more. The layouts can be designed by the users with any RTF editor (such as MS Word) and they can choose if the final document should be RTF or PDF.

XfleX covers business processes for small and medium enterprises with special care for the needs of professionals and the commercial and manufacturing sector. It includes CRM and ERP functionality.

Designed on the green field it converts 20 years of experience with such solutions the designers have into an easy to use but extremely flexible business web application. Usability has great priority in the implementation process.

Built with the best industry standards (ASP.NET, MS SQL Server) it will be made available as SaaS offering full scalability and reduced costs.

Problem

Offers, contracts, invoices etc in the sectors XfleX is designed for can be very complex documents. Often these are multi page structured documents with chapters and sub-chapters (up to 9 levels), different types of items with different rendering, intermediate totals, different types of text components and more.

Each enterprise needs to apply their corporate identity to the document layout, insert logos and graphics and choose the fonts. Thus XfleX gives the users the ability to completely design themselves the layout of the documents. As they can use any RTF Editor (such as MS Word) and any of their functionality to do so the document layout can be complex.

The final document is even more complex as it merges the basic layout with the specific document data from the database. XfleX creates this final document again as an RTF document.
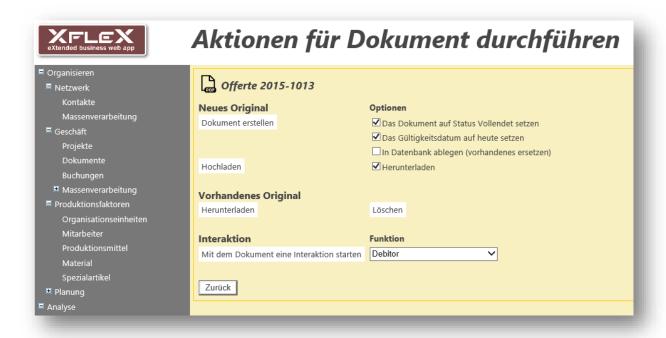
A crucial requirement though can be that the user is not allowed to change the final document he receives as download from the website. So XfleX can be set to convert then to PDF format before offering them as download.

In an SaaS solution MS Word cannot be used to make this conversion as it is a desktop and not a server software. So we were looking for a tool that we could integrate as component in our .NET solution.

Solution

We evaluated many tools out there and most of them were not able to convert the complex documents XfleX can produce pixel perfect to PDF. Another tool could but needed either an MS Word or an OpenOffice installation. That is neither useful nor a possible way for SaaS solutions.

Experience

Finally we found Aspose.Words and were happy with the 1:1 conversion from RTF to PDF. Even more happy was the programmer who had to integrate it. It took him not even half an hour to implement the process of converting documents with Aspose.Words.

What is very nice is that with the installation of Aspose.Words the component is immediately registered with MS Visual Studio and can easily be attached to the project simply by selecting the entry in the Add Reference dialog.

This makes the entire namespace of Aspose.Words available so Visual Studio auto-completion works and the code can easily be written. To convert the RTF file built by XfleX merging the RTF template with the data out of the database to a PDF file only two function calls to the Aspose.Words component are needed: load the RTF and save as PDF.

Aspose.Words does not even need to be provided with plenty of parameters. The file ending of the given file names defines the file format expected by Aspose.Words when loading a file and also when saving the file in the new PDF format. Our programmer was ready with the solution after half an hour.

Summary

The benefits of selecting Aspose.Words for.NET were:

➢ Ease of implementation

➢ User friendly software

➢ Straight forward & painless

➢ Quality of conversion

➢ Met our specific requirements to enhance the functionality of our product