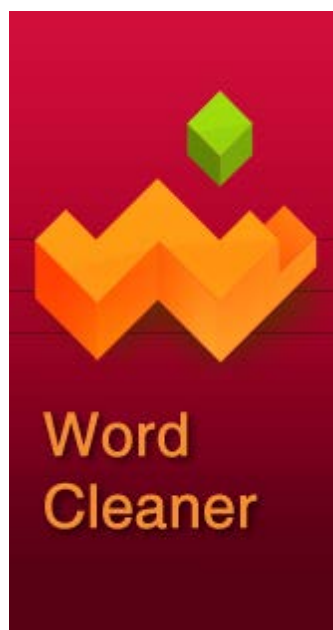# CASE STUDY

Aspose.Words for Java Competitive Upgrade Case Study

Competitive analysis of Microsoft Word Automation against Aspose.Words for Java

Brian O'Neill, March 8, 2011

About Word Cleaner

Word Cleaner is a shareware program that batch converts Microsoft Word files to HTML and in the process, cleans up the code. In previous versions we have relied on linking into Word to do the conversion, and then run special clean up routines on the code. We are looking to use Aspose.Words in the next version of Word Cleaner, specifically to use the conversion from Word files to HTML function.

Problem

It is very common for users to write content for web pages in Microsoft Word, but the problems come when users then try to convert these files to HTML. Two major issues arise:

1. Word has a "save as HTML" function, but the HTML it produces contains massive amounts of unnecessary Word-specific code. This makes the code very messy, and dramatically increases the size of the HTML files.

2. Users try to copy and paste from Word into a CMS. The problem here is that very often the Word-specific HTML is also pasted over causing unnecessarily complex code and increased storage space in the CMS.

Another problem with Word Automation is that users need to have Word installed on their machine. Even if they have Word, there can sometimes be issues linking into it.

Example of Problem and the Aspose Solution

If you open up a new Word file, and enter in sample text like „This is a test", then go to **File** and **Save as HTML** you will find that the HTML file contains 436 lines of code, and the file size is 21kb. If we convert the same file with Aspose.Words for Java the HTML file has only 14 lines of code and the file size is less than 1k. This is over a 95% reduction in size!

You can clearly see that using Aspose.Words can dramatically reduce the size of converted HTML; also the HTML is better formatted and structured.

Solution

We looked at Aspose.Words for several reasons:

- It is a standalone product; it does not require the user to have Microsoft Word installed.

- It produces very clean HTML when converted from Word files. It also supports advanced features like tables of contents, footnotes etc.

- It works really well on servers

- It can work on Mac OSX, and we are looking into using it with the Mono framework. A Mac version is one of our top user requests so we hope by using Aspose.Words we can create a Mac version.

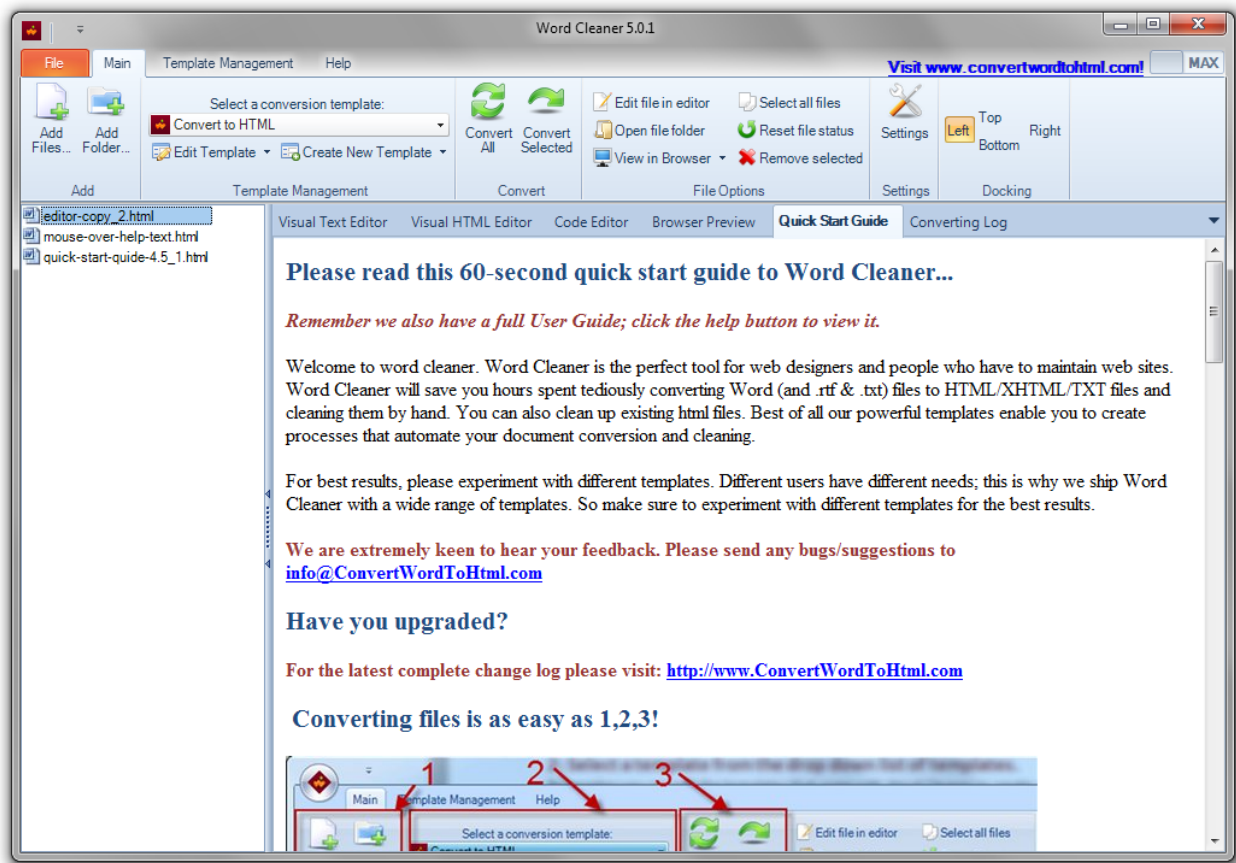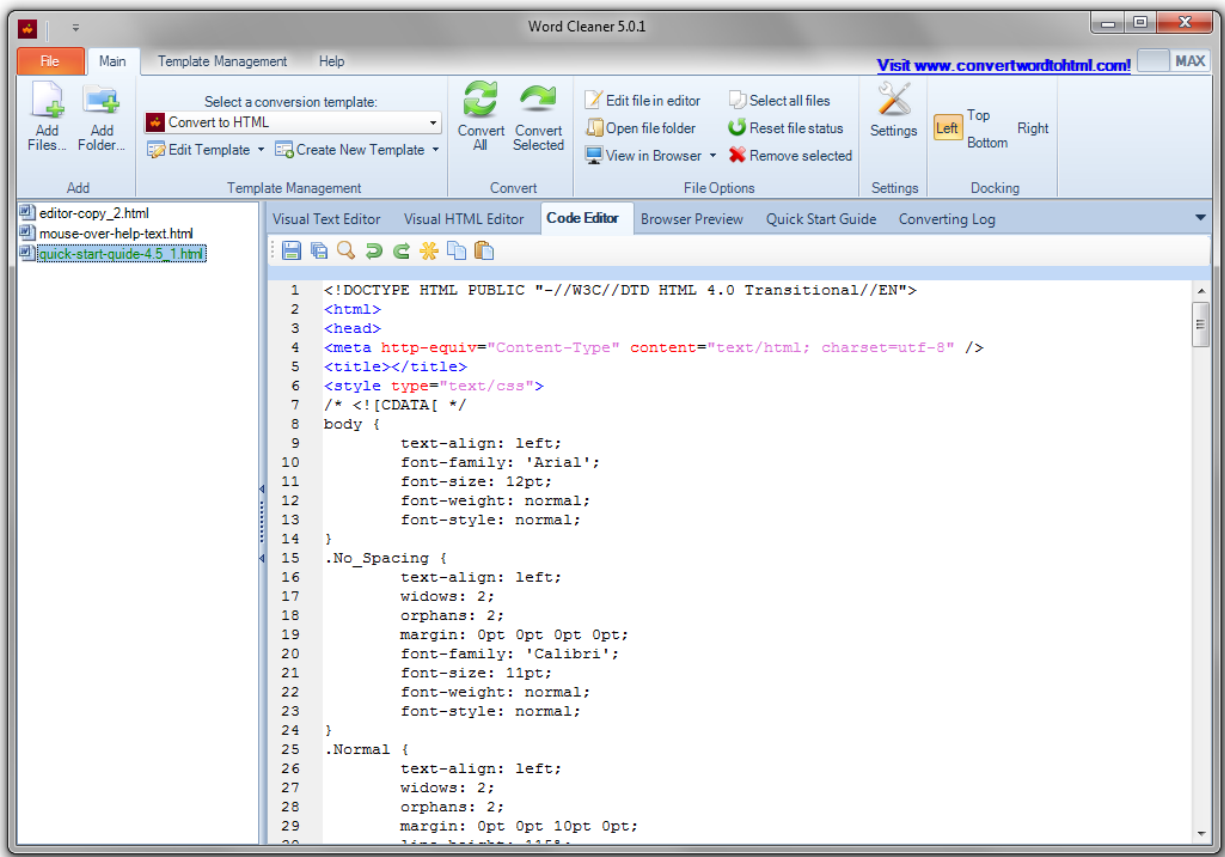**Figure 1: The word cleaner main screen.**

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Figure 2: Built-in editors let you view the converted HTML.

Experience

We liked the fact that you could download a fully functional free trial of Aspose.Words and this enabled us to create a demo app to test its capabilities.

We also liked the support forum, and found a massive amount of information there. We posted a few requests in the forum and found that we got very prompt and helpful replies from the support staff.

Implementation: Switching to Aspose.Words took about a week to change over the code, and so far we have been very happy with the results and have had no real issues reported.

Outcome: To date we have been extremely satisfied with the results. We are due to go live with the new version of our software next month and anticipate that by using Aspose.Words our customers will clearly see the benefits of the new version.

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Next Steps

We are interested in looking at other Aspose products like Aspose.Cells. We are very impressed with the flexibly of the Aspose range, particularly the ability to run them on server environments and the ability to run them with the mono framework.

Summary

Generally we are very happy working with Aspose.Words and were impressed by the way the product is continually updated with regular new releases. We found the documentation clear, the support very helpful and we would have no hesitation at all in recommending Aspose.Words to other developers.