



Aspose.Words

Gekom

Gekom uses Aspose.Words for .Net to generate invoices from user input, including company logo

24/10/2010

About

Gekom is an online web application that offers small companies and freelancers a secure, reliable and easy way to manage their customers' quotes and invoices wherever they are. Gekom customers can quickly create then download an invoice in order to send it by e-mail or print it out.

Brief Description of Demo

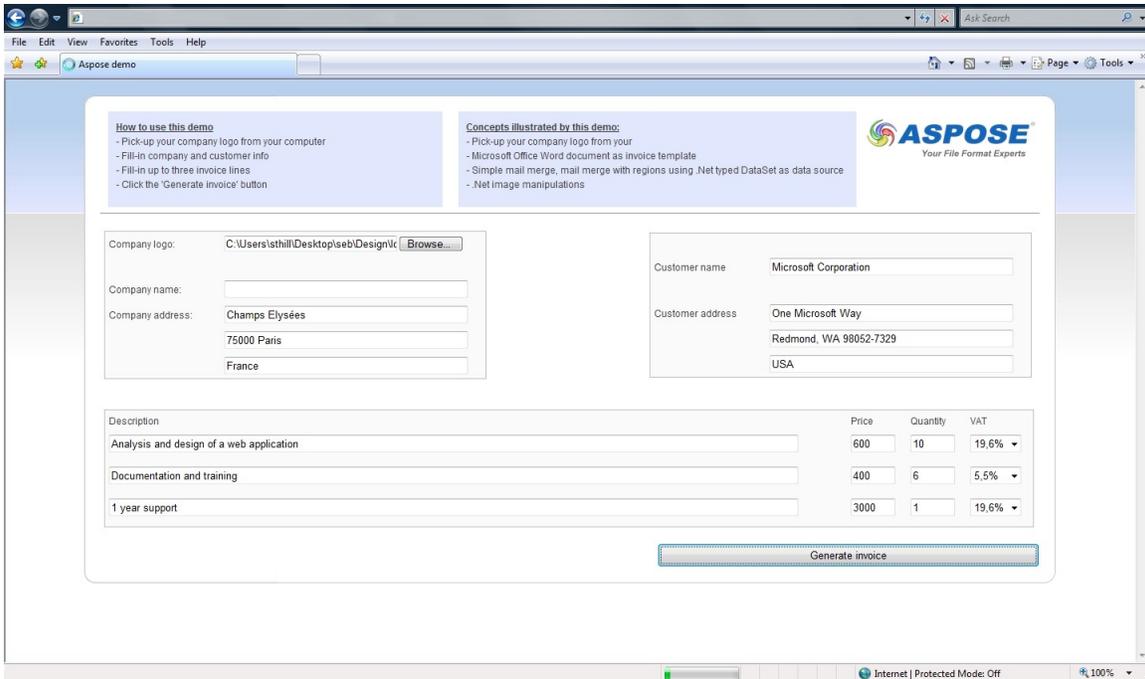
The purpose of the demo is to show how simple it is to generate a document (including images) from user input with the help of Aspose components.

Extended Description

During the development of Gekom, one of the major difficulties was to find the right way to handle the document generation. While using a database engine to store user input is a very common issue that is not difficult for a developer to solve, document generation is a much less straightforward task. The main requirements while building Gekom were:

- To generate invoices from both user input and database records
- To include images such as company logos on invoices
- To be able to manage invoice templates easily

The third requirement was probably the most interesting to solve: the question was how to use Microsoft Word for authoring templates without using Microsoft Word for generating invoices? After several tries and non-convincing results, the answer was found: Aspose.Words.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ASPOSE demo application. The page includes a navigation menu, a header with the ASPOSE logo, and two columns of instructions. The main form contains fields for company and customer information, a table for invoice items, and a 'Generate invoice' button.

How to use this demo

- Pick-up your company logo from your computer
- Fill-in company and customer info
- Fill-in up to three invoice lines
- Click the 'Generate invoice' button

Concepts illustrated by this demo:

- Pick-up your company logo from your
- Microsoft Office Word document as invoice template
- Simple mail merge, mail merge with regions using .Net typed DataSet as data source
- .Net image manipulations

Company info:

Company logo: C:\Users\sthill\Desktop\eeb\Design\lc (Browse...)

Company name:

Company address: Champs Elysées
75000 Paris
France

Customer info:

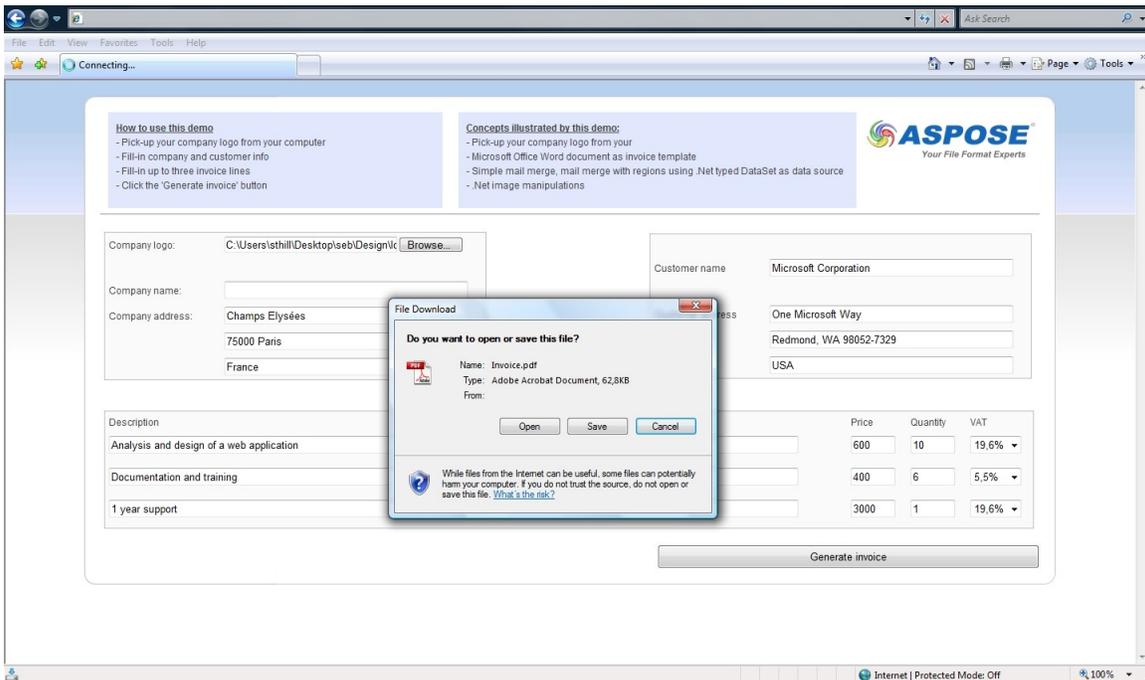
Customer name: Microsoft Corporation

Customer address: One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052-7329
USA

Description	Price	Quantity	VAT
Analysis and design of a web application	600	10	19,6%
Documentation and training	400	6	5,5%
1 year support	3000	1	19,6%

Generate invoice

Figure 1: collecting user input from within an asp.net web form



The screenshot shows the same ASPOSE demo application as in Figure 1, but with a 'File Download' dialog box open in the foreground. The dialog box asks 'Do you want to open or save this file?' and provides details about the file being downloaded.

File Download

Do you want to open or save this file?

Name: Invoice.pdf
Type: Adobe Acrobat Document, 62,8KB
From:

Open Save Cancel

While files from the Internet can be useful, some files can potentially harm your computer. If you do not trust the source, do not open or save this file. [What's the risk?](#)

Figure 2: download the invoice once it has been generated server-side

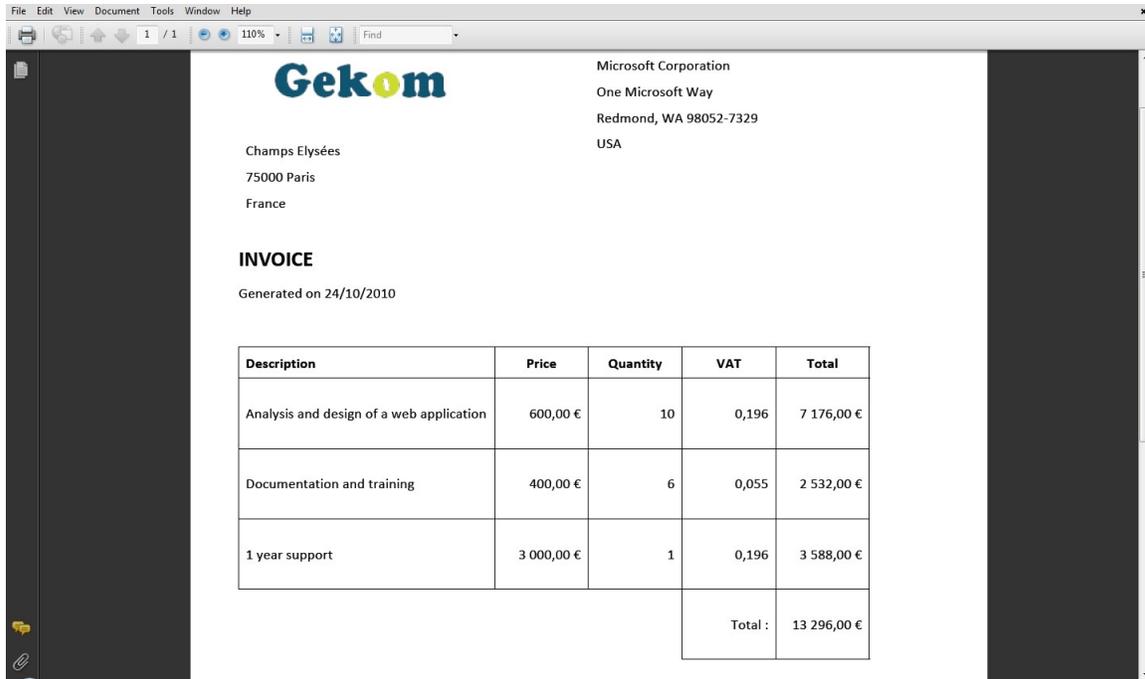


Figure 3: the result is a tailor-made invoice showing the chosen company logo

Actors

This scenario is performed daily by all users of the application.

Products Used

Aspose.Words for .Net has been used to build this use case into an Asp.Net web application written in C#. The following functionalities of Aspose are used:

- Simple mail merge using Microsoft Word template
- Mail merge with regions
- Image merge fields
- Save Word document as PDF

Future Implementations

Aspose.Words for .Net provided a so simple solution to my main requirement (that was to be able to manage templates using Microsoft Word), that I am seriously considering extending the use of their components. I could, for example, provide the end-users with a way to generate monthly Excel extracts using Aspose.Cells for .Net.

Why Aspose?

As a software developer, I have been facing the document generation challenge several times, in several contexts. I have already been using:

- Word/SpreadsheetML in conjunction with XML data and XSLT transforms
- Office automation
- XSL-FO language and processors

I have never been convinced by any of these solutions: performance, easy templates management and data integration requirements were never met all together.

Now that I have implemented real-world scenarios using Aspose.Words, I know for the first time which components I will use next time!

Conclusion

I am really convinced about the quality and the robustness of Aspose components, and would recommend every software developer to have a look at it.