ASPOSE
Your File Format Experts

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.

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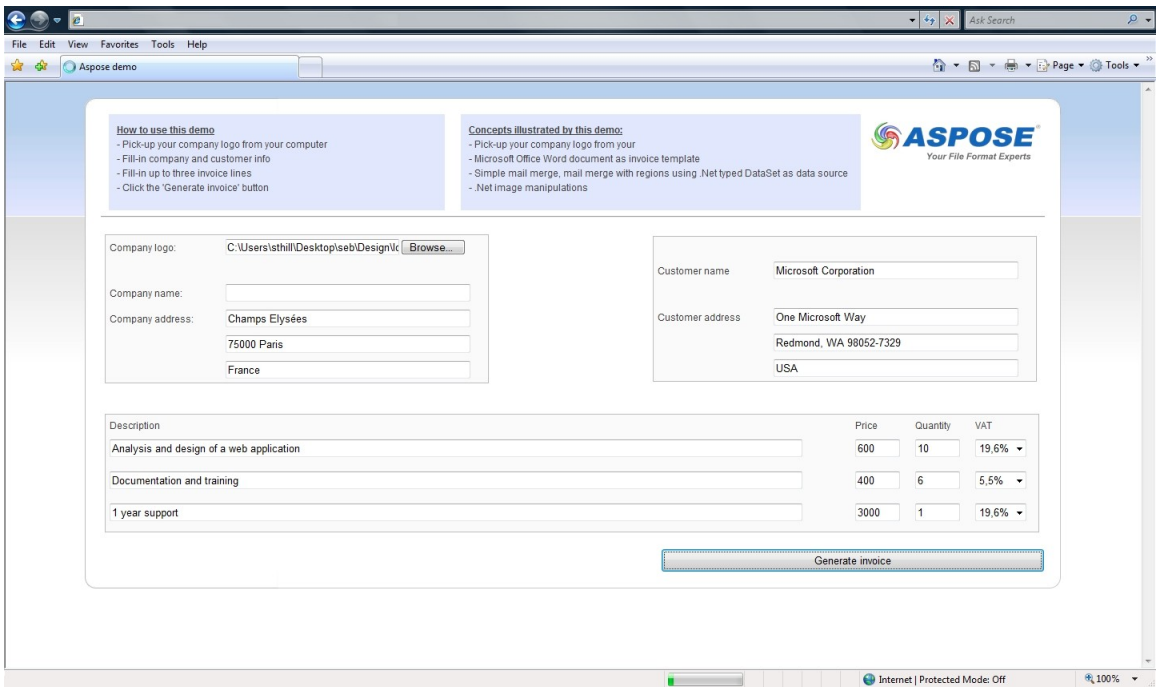

Figure 1: collecting user input from within an asp.net web form

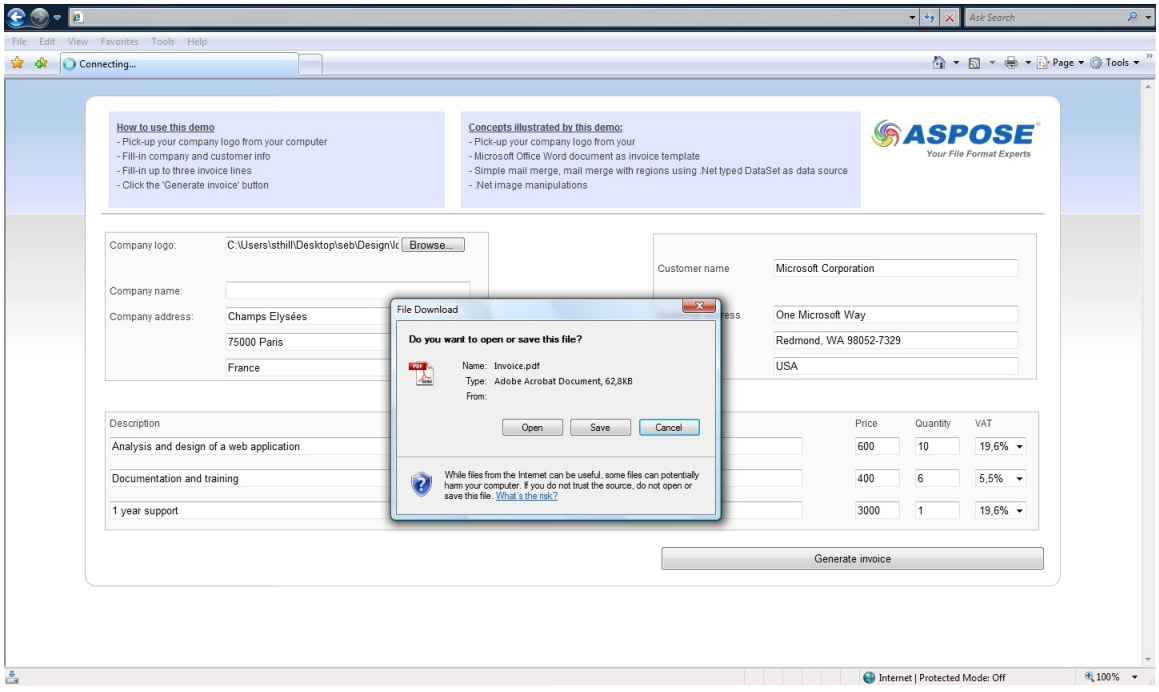

Figure 2: download the invoice once it has been generated server-side

Gekom

Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052-7329
USA

Champs Elysées
75000 Paris
France

INVOICE

Generated on 24/10/2010

Description	Price	Quantity	VAT	Total
Analysis and design of a web application	600,00 €	10	0,196	7 176,00 €
Documentation and training	400,00 €	6	0,055	2 532,00 €
1 year support	3 000,00 €	1	0,196	3 588,00 €
			Total :	13 296,00 €

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.

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