ASPOSE
Your File Format Experts

CASE STUDIES

Aspose.Words for .Net Case Study

Arcoba Srl

Using Aspose.Words for .Net to convert html to pdf/doc document.

Stefano Facchetti, Software Engineer

About Arcoba Srl

Arcoba is a small company specialized in financial software.

Problem

Our goal and our need was to develop a feature that allowed users to convert a text (html) generated by web-based JavaScript WYSIWYG HTML editor (TinyMCE) in word (both .doc and .docx) and pdf format.

We needed to realize this as a .NET service, working under both linux (mono) and windows environment.

Experience

We started to look for software components (possibly free - our budget was quite low) to use for our development.

We have tried many components, including:

- Wkhtmltopdf (html to pdf – free)
- Essentialobjects (html to pdf - third party)
- Nreco (html to pdf – free)
- Docx4j (html do docx – free)
- Gembox (html to docx - third party)
- Html to OpenXML (.docx to html - free on codeplex)
- OpenXML (.docx to html – free)
- DocX (.docx to html - free on codeplex)

and, after some (not really exciting) experimentation, we chose to use Wkhtmltopdf, available for both Windows and Linux, and Docx4j (java) for our project.

Unfortunately both of these components were not nearly able to replicate faithfully the content of the html file, so we had to dynamically make changes to the HTML content in order to have acceptable results even if in this way it was impossible to be sure about the quality of the results! (the html file can include many combination of tags which cannot be managed correctly).

However, we was really short of time, so we have presented the developed feature to the final users, which were disappointed for several reasons:

- The font style in some cases suffered changes
- Pagination and text disposition in page were not always fully respected
- Images were not aligned and sized properly
- The overall conversion performance was not really exciting

Practically only a few customers could use the new feature for very simple conversions.

Solution

We did not give up, so we decided to try "Aspose Words" component, that in first place we had not considered due to his relatively high price.

Well... the results were exciting:

- Excellent conversion quality (absolutely no problem with page style and pagination itself)
- Use of a single component to perform conversions between html and word/pdf
- Significantly improved conversion performance
- No more need to develop dynamically changes to the content of the html file
- It works really well in both Windows and Linux environment
- And finally: faithful and identical output from the conversion to word and pdf documents

It was very easy to use "Aspose" component to load and manipulate html files and for the conversion process.

```
// Load html file in MemoryStream
MemoryStream stream = MemoryStream(File.ReadAllBytes(@"C:\MyInputHtmlFile.html"));

// Create Aspose document from MemoryStream
LoadOptions option = new LoadOptions();
option.LoadFormat = LoadFormat.Html;
Document asposeDoc = new Document(stream, option);

[...]

// Save as docx document in another MemoryStream
MemoryStream outputStreamDocx = new MemoryStream();
asposeDoc.Save(outputStreamDocx, SaveFormat.Docx);
```

Aspose.Words for .Net Case Study

[...]

```
// Save as pdf document in another MemoryStream
MemoryStream outputStreamPdf = new MemoryStream();
asposeDoc.Save(outputStreamPdf, SaveFormat.Pdf);
```


Figure 1: TinyMCE editor (source HTML template example)

Figure 2: Final PDF output

Figure 3: Final DOCX output

Aspose.Words for .Net Case Study

Develop

We used a free trial to try and test Aspose.Words in our application. We have also took contact with Aspose support (free for all) to ask help about some conversion behaviour.

Next Steps

In future we will implement a feature to dynamically generate excel documents and, surely after this experience, we will use directly Aspose.Cells for .NET. We will save time and the results will be excellent.

Summary

Aspose.Words is a powerful component, very easy to integrate and to use.
We recommend Aspose not only for its products but also for its "open-source feel" approach (frequent releases, features prioritized according to your requests, free support for anyone).