Focal Point Software Case Study

Focal Point Software Ltd.

Using Aspose.Pdf to automate processing of PDF documents

George Harpur, Director/Co-Founder, November 2012

About Focal Point Software

Focal Point is a software development and consultancy company specialising in Intelligent Document Recognition software. It develops software that automatically classifies and extracts key data from documents, regardless of source or format.

It was set up in 2009 by consultants with over 30 years' experience in developing and using Intelligent Document Recognition software. The team is passionate about the smart use of technology to increase the efficiency of document-centric business processes.

Problem

Focal Point was already using PDF components from other vendors to extract content from and perform other basic manipulation of PDF documents. However, they were unhappy with these components for a number of commercial and technical reasons, such as inflexible licensing models, needing to pay extra for additional functionality, limited support, and missing features.

Solution

As a result of these issues, Focal Point looked again at the market for alternative components that would better meet their needs. After trialling several PDF toolkits, they adopted Aspose.Pdf as the best fit for their requirements. Within Focal Point's Document Analysis SDK, which is a toolkit for automatically classifying documents and extracting or matching key data, Apose.Pdf is used to support the input of PDF files in all formats (scanned or electronic) and also to make innovative use of interactive PDF features such as bookmarks and annotations to provide input and output of data.

Experience

Finding a solution: Focal Point made an extensive search of the market and trialled several products before choosing Aspose.Pdf. They made use of the free trial, and found that support via the product forums was highly responsive and of a high quality.

Implementation: Focal Point's re-implementation of their PDF features based on Aspose.Pdf took around 2 weeks in total. Where there were questions or issues, Aspose's support team were incredibly helpful, and were able to provide code samples or fixes when needed. Overall, the transition was very smooth, and Focal Point (and their customers!) were delighted with the results.

Outcome: Aspose.Ppdf is now used for all aspects of handling PDF input and output within Focal Point's Document Analysis SDK, has been installed on some large-scale systems, and is showing good performance and stability.

Next Steps

Focal Point's software components also include support for a wide variety of other documents formats, including Office documents and emails, so they will be looking closely at an upgrade to Apose.Total in the future.

Summary

Focal Point have found all aspects of working with Aspose – working with the software, and interacting with the sales and technical teams – to be straightforward and professional, and are looking forward to a fruitful ongoing relationship.