Aspose.Words For .NET

Westphal Consulting, Inc.
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Using Aspose.Words for .Net to generate professional insurance policy documents as pdf documents from word templates through a web based application and SqlServer.

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About Westphal Consulting, Inc.

Westphal Consulting was hired by a AAA rated insurance company to develop a web-based policy generation application for professional insurance policies (not home, life, medical etc). Insurance policies and accompanying documents are heavily regulated by federal and states. Each insurance policy will differ by state of issuance, product, insured ratings and various endorsements included in the policy.

Problem

While it is too time consuming to generate manual quote letters, binders and policies for each submission received, the simplest way for the insurance company to maintain their documents is through word. Templates were created and based on various criteria the fields are replaced with data stored in SQLServer. Generating documents and storing them as pdfs is a bit slow and cumbersome when doing it through a windows application, but it is difficult to do through a web based application. Also, the setup for a user trying to use Word through a web application is complicated. There will be hundreds to thousands of documents generated monthly by 5 to 20 users.

Solution

I decided to use Aspose.Words because it quickly and easily let me generate the necessary documents needed through a web application and allowed the user keep their Word templates. Using asp.net, vb.net and SQLServer 5 to 50 fields are input into each template to generate a pdf document.
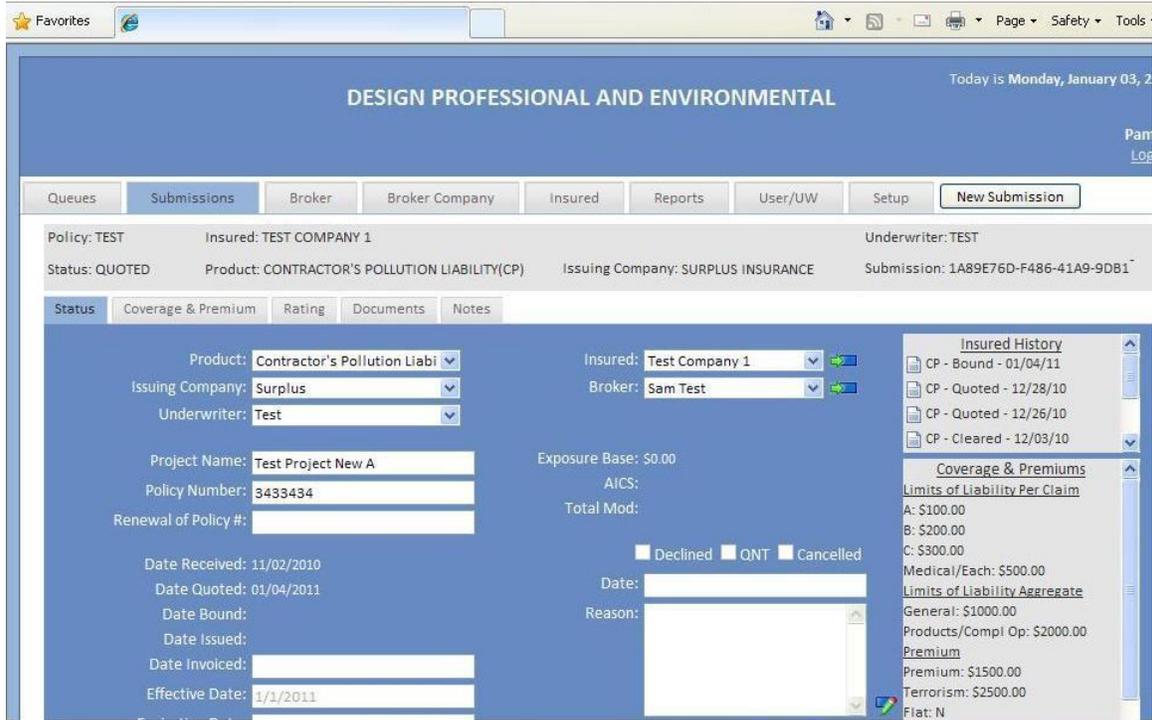
Figure 1: web based application takes input and creates pdf files from word templates.
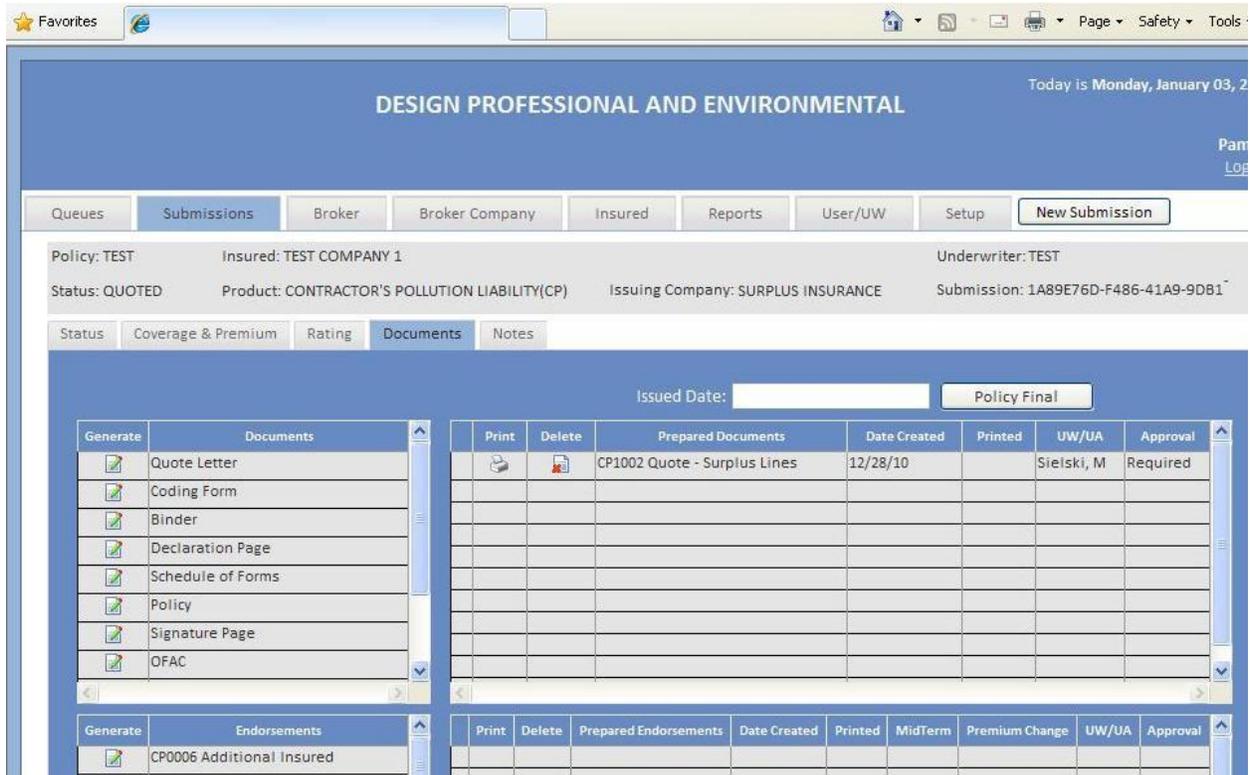
Figure 2: web based application which generates pdf files from templates.
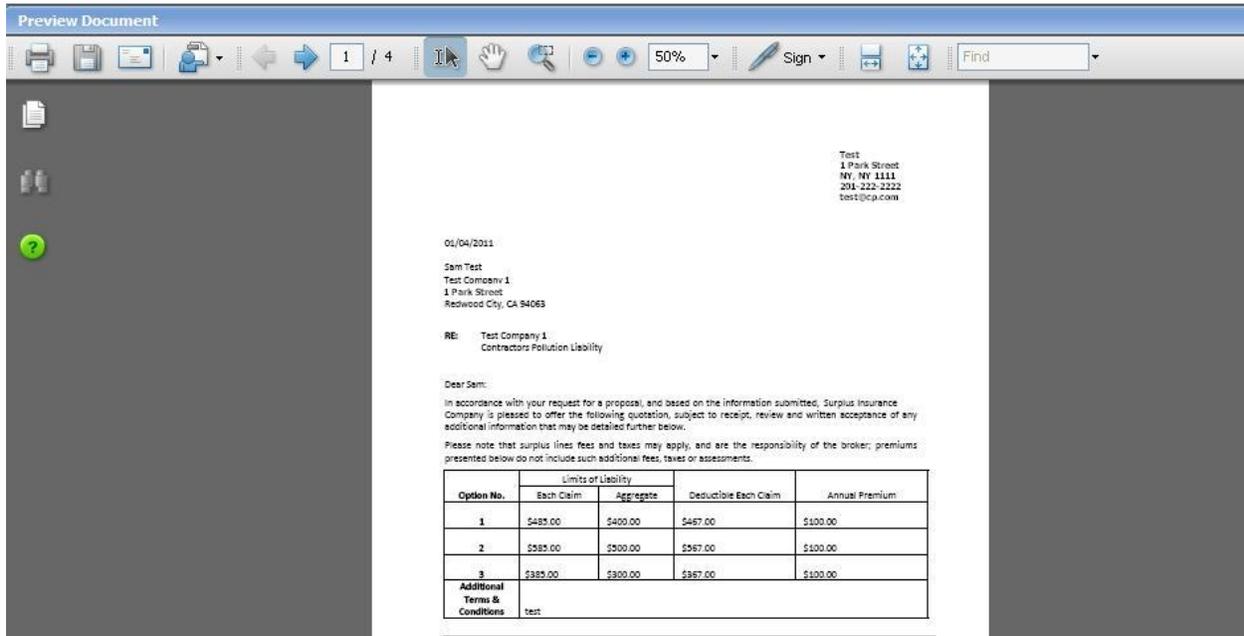
Figure 3: pdf file generated from templates.

Experience

Finding a solution: I originally found Aspose in a trade journal. I looked at other products and did not find another product that worked as simply and quickly as Aspose. I tried the free trial and support and was thrilled with the results. The support was quick and accurate, which is a welcome relief. Generally I feel like I know more about a product than their own support, but this was definitely not the case with Aspose.

Implementation: Implementing the word portion of my project took less than one day. I knew how to replace fields with data using windows application development techniques, but with designing a web based applications it didn't work the same. I set up as asp user to work with word documents, but I couldn't imagine how that was going to work when the application was deployed. With Aspose, I simply added less than 5 lines of code using the FormFields and Results functions and the functional portion was complete. I also needed to package documents into one complete policy which was very simple with the AppendDocument function in Aspose.

Outcome: The application will be going live within a month and the users couldn't be happier. Simple features such as watermarks made a big difference to their workflow too. Using Aspose saved me at least a week or two in development time and made the application workflow much more smooth.

Summary

I think Aspose.Words is a great product and added to the professionalism of the application I developed. I would highly recommend Aspose.Words. I am planning on using Aspose with a pathology application along with a medical transcription application I have developed.

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