CASE STUDIES

Aspose.Cells Case Study

Abbottsfield Industrial Training, Inc.

Using Aspose.Cells to Report Pending Notifications from a Performance Improvement and Regulatory Compliance System

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About Abbottsfield Industrial Training

Abbottsfield Industrial Training, Inc. operates as a technical and safety training consulting company. The company offers SkillsNOW Performance Improvement and Regulatory Compliance System that brings together the training, performance improvement, and regulatory compliance programs, materials, documents, and other similar elements available at the site and offers access to the materials and programs to the employees; generic computer-based training (CBT) programs; and site-specific CBT programs.

We have a dynamic .NET programming department which is implementing the newest technologies based on Microsoft .NET to offer customers an excellent user experience and a complete tracking and reporting mechanism for the e-learning materials we are developing.

Problem

Recently, one of our customers asked us to generate a new set of custom made reports and deliver them in a dual format: Excel Spreadsheet 2003 (XML) and PDF. The requirements were gathered and were involving data mining, file generation, and export in most known format (Excel 2003 and PDF).

Basically, the customer wanted a new report to be added to our main product (SkillsNOW), to reflect Pending MOCs (entities which are gathering information about the Management of the document changes) in an XLS based format, with automated email delivery of the current pending MOC information in PDF format.

Additionally, the request was to add a new feature to SkillsNOW, to retrieve statistics from the XLS based report, to be used in other reports and for historical reporting purposes.
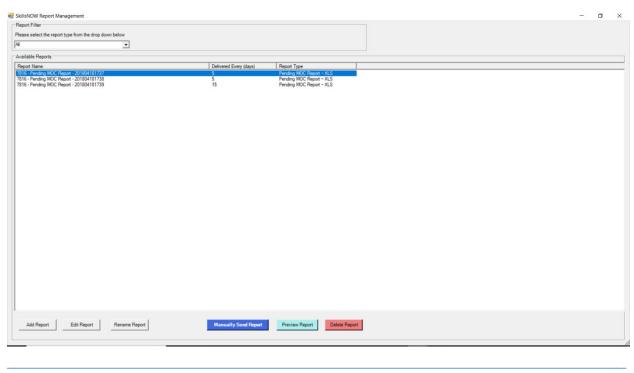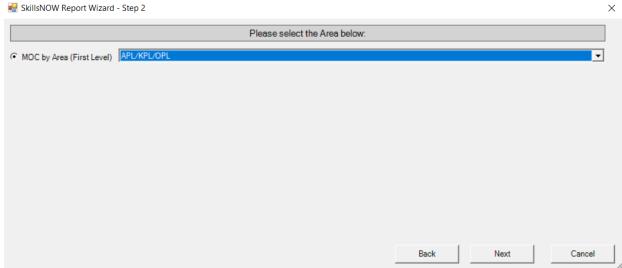
Solution

The main challenge was to find a reliable library which can support an unlimited number of columns and rows (since the customer had a requirement to have the number of columns
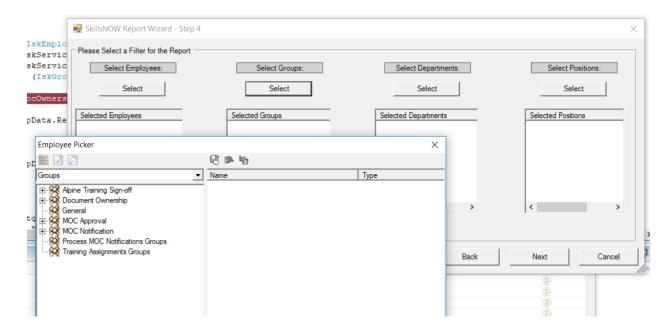
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scaled to the number of MOC entities, which at present time is bigger than 10000) and which supports generating the report in a less used Excel type (XML SpreadSheet 2003).

The users can create filters by multiple criteria, to generate a report. Few details in the screenshots below.

<<SkillsNOW Pending MOC Notifications >>
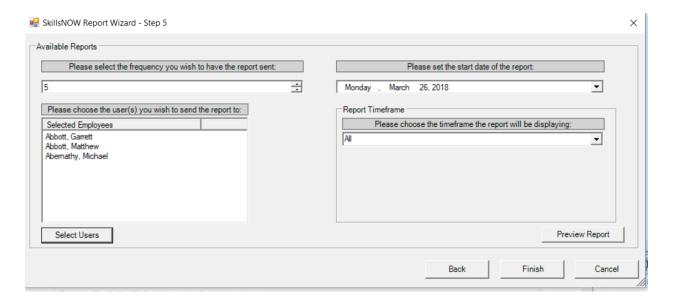
Also, one of the requirements was a reliable export into PDF format, including shrinking of some areas of the report to the page format and processing other areas to fit into one page. The exported document was supposed to be sent as attachment in PDF and Excel format, as well.

The XLS generated document is rich and fulfills the customer needs, in terms of format complexity and data.

				FirstName, LastName; FirstName, LastName	
ToC-9254-16036235	FAC 2017	5/25/2017	303		Additional information added on skid programming and operation. Published: 05/16/2017 06:51:52 AM ***PSM, Admin***
ToC-UP1-9076-Wrapper	Oily Waste	5/26/2017	302		Additional information added on skid programming and operation. Published: 05/16/2017 06:51:52 AM ***PSM, Admin***
				FirstName, LastName; FirstName, LastName	
ToC-16514981	DS1G	5/26/2017	302		Additional information added on skid programming and operation. Published: 05/16/2017 06:51:52 AM ***PSM, Admin***
ToC-16532301-C	Fac Closed Temporary ToCs	5/27/2017	301		Additional information added on skid programming and operation. Published: 05/16/2017 06:51:52 AM ***PSM, Admin***
				FirstName, LastName; FirstName, LastName	
ToC-UP1-8837-Wrapper	Wrappers	5/30/2017	298		Additional information added on skid programming and operation. Published: 05/16/2017 06:51:52 AM ***PSM, Admin***
ToC-UP1-9077-Wrapper	Oily Waste	5/30/2017	298		Additional information added on skid programming and operation. Published: 05/16/2017 06:51:52 AM ***PSM, Admin***

Employee	#Pending				
FirstName, LastName	31		222	People with pending ToCs	
FirstName, LastName	27		1357	Total Notifications Pending	
FirstName, LastName	25		433	Days Is average age of pending ToCs	
FirstName, LastName	24		6.11	Is average number of pending ToCs per employee	
FirstName, LastName	17		Text	ToC is older than 28 days	
FirstName, LastName	17		Text	ToC is older than 56 days	
FirstName, LastName	16			NOTES:	
FirstName, LastName	15			Data pulled from SKN on 3/24/2018	
FirstName, LastName	15			Age (in days) = Date of Report - Publish Date of ToC	
FirstName, LastName	14			If #Pending is 5 or fewer for a particular ToC, then names are listed in '#Pending' column	

Experience

To reach a reliable implementation, we have looked at different products available on the market. We first did a short list of the products which meet the file format criteria and we tried them, to see if they are offering the features required. We started with a free trial of the Aspose.Cells and, based on the simplicity and robustness of the solution, we've choose it as a product to be used. The API was easy to be used and the help was enough to manage, generate document, export to PDF, prepare document for printing (like fit to page, shrinking etc).

The implementation took one month, for the document handling part and export features. The Aspose products were well received by the different involved departments (programming, testing and quality control).

Finally, we were able to meet the customer needs and to implement them in the desired timeline.

Next Steps

We plan to implement Aspose.Cells in all our products which involve generating reports, for reasons like reliability of the API, speed of the report generation, API clearness, and easiness of usage.

Summary

Our experience in using Aspose.Cells products was very positive, since we were able to satisfy one of our important customers in one of the most complicated data mining and reporting project we had, in the last five years.

We would definitively recommend Aspose for software companies which need a strong tool for generating and processing documents.

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