CASE STUDIES

TiM Case Study

CrewBridge Technologies, LLC

Using Aspose.PDF to facilitate the upload, generation and export of hiring forms for the entertainment industry.

Mike Dearborn, Co-Founder, 4/7/16

About CrewBridge Technologies

We build software to make the onboarding of the freelance workforce of film, television and commercial production paperless. The backbone of our software is a highly customizable, permissions-based, database-driven forms creator and approval system, which Aspose.PDF is a core component of. Another of our goals is to eliminate paperwork on set. By importing several different PDFs into our system we provide a mechanism for distributing these documents electronically (instead of printing them out). Overall, we are creating tools to help bring film, TV and commercial production into the 21st century by creating tools that are purpose-built for this, unique and complex industry.

Our success depends heavily on our ability to create a system that is user friendly, fast, efficient and incredibly reliable.
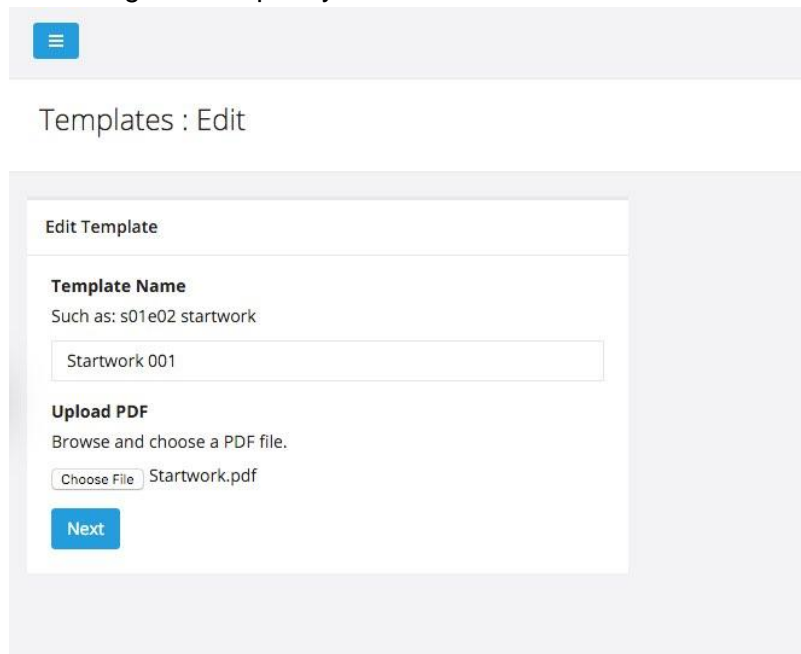
Problem

We are a startup with *very* limited resources. Our product is ambitious in form and function. To find a middle ground between our vision and cost, we went searching for an out of the box solution for uploading and exporting PDFs. This solution needed to be reliable and easy to integrate into our existing code while also being cost effective. So far, in our limited, closed alpha tests, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. In the coming months we plan to roll our product out nationally.
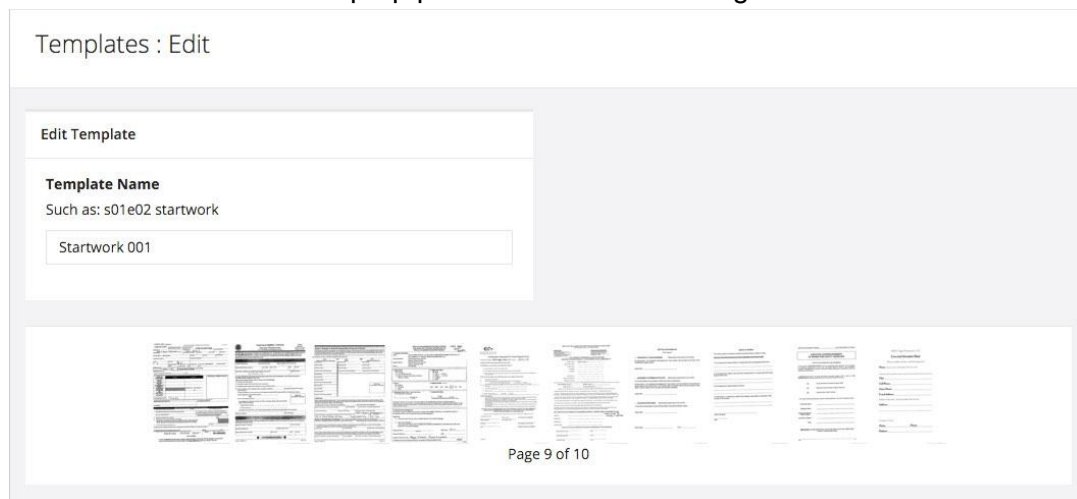
Solution

We used Aspose.PDF for:

- The ability to import PDFs and turn them into images that can be later combined and exported as a single PDF.
- To create documents with highly manipulable fields.
- Ability to apply information from our database to said fields.
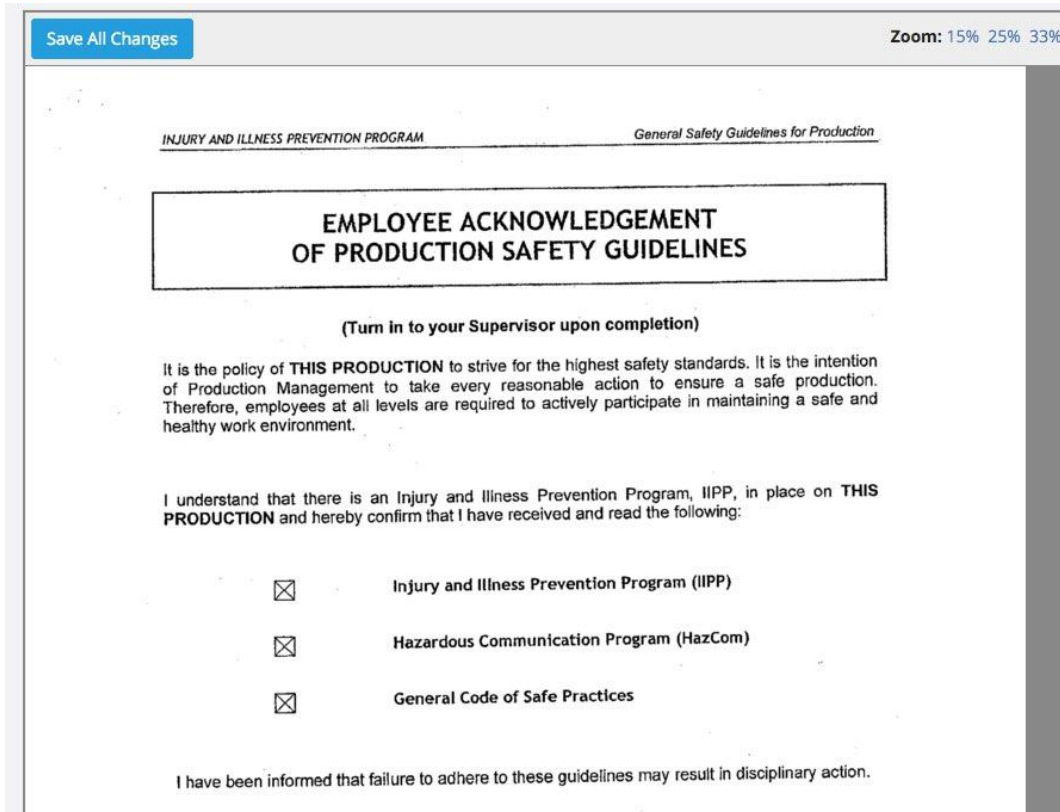- Ability to create large PDFs quickly.

Figure 1: A designated member of the production imports PDFs into our system. This is where the prep process for the forms begins.

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Figures 2 & 3: The now manipulable PDF is customized to the production's needs. Each page is individually selectable/viewable.

Experience

Finding a solution: With such a tight budget, we shopped around considerably to find the right tool for the right price and our lead programmer happened on Aspose.PDF during our search. We immediately used the free trial to gage whether or not Aspose.PDF would fit our needs and, sure enough, it did.

Implementation: Onboarding paperwork is immensely diverse in the filmed entertainment industry. For this reason, we enable a production to upload it's own custom forms into our system and then "prep" them to receive information from our database. Effectively, we have built a system that fills out a new-hire's paperwork for him/her. We also give the production the necessary tools to track this "paperwork" as it is approved and is eventually delivered to the necessary recipient entities. Generally, this paperwork is composed of twenty to thirty customized forms, which is where we rely heavily on Aspose.PDF.

Each production can hire hundreds or thousands of freelancers over its life. We import, export and store the paperwork for each one of these freelancers. As a product that sells itself as a time saving tool, it is very important to us that large amounts of forms with varying complexity can be quickly imported from PDFs. Aspose.PDF allows us to do just that.

Our software also allows for productions to maintain a wide selection of other custom forms within our system. Examples of these are box kit rental forms, union-specific 401k forms and schedules. Many of these forms have to be updated on a frequent (sometimes daily) basis, so having a simple, reliable upload process is important to our user experience. We accomplish this by piggybacking on the functionality we've accomplished with Aspose.PDF for onboarding forms.

Outcome: Aspose.PDF worked exactly as we needed it to by integrating seamlessly with the rest of our product's functionality. We were successful in using Aspose.PDF to tackle all of our objectives while expending minimal resources.

Next Steps

As we expand our system to include other types of film production documents, we will have an ever-expanding need for importing PDFs. We see Aspose.PDF as a long-term building block on which future functionality will depend.

Summary

Overall, Aspose.PDF is a powerful, out-of-the-box solution that has allowed us to focus our development efforts on the proprietary and specialized functionality of our product. The samples on the Aspose website made prototyping a breeze. It was extremely quick to implement with just a handful of lines of code to import any PDF file.

This ease of use has helped keep our development on schedule and allowed our dev. team to stay focused on the intricacies of our product.