CASE STUDIES

Aspose.Total for Java Case Study

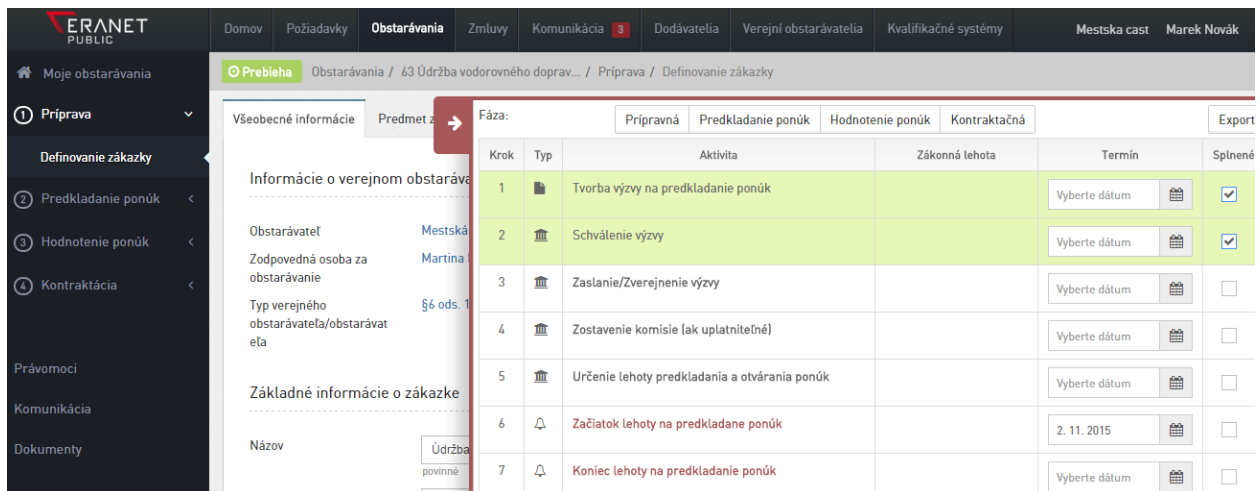INNOVIS, s.r.o.

Using Aspose. Total for Java

Mojmir Pridavok, November 4th 2015

About INNOVIS

INNOVIS, s.r.o., founded in 2014, is a start-up company formed by researchers co-working at the Faculty of Economics, at the Technical University of Kosice. The company's creation was inspired by the expertise and experience gained within European Framework Programs and other research projects conducted by the company's team. Based on our expertise, our vision is to transfer elements of scientific excellence gained at an international level into various business services to support the organizations' processes management and decision making. Our main domains are public and private procurement, supply chains, electronic marketplaces, standardization, exchange of electronic business documents, analytical and decision support tools, etc.

Problem

ERANET is online software for management of public procurement processes in Slovakia and Czech Republic developed by INNOVIS. Due to the nature of national legislations in both countries such software solution becomes even more urgent. The typical comments related to the national legislations are: law is very complicated, ambiguous, misleading etc. Public procurers become gradually frustrated with the amount of paperwork they have to generate every day and for hundreds of deadlines they need keep track of. Than it is just a matter of time when they make mistakes filling up compulsory forms and other related documents or missing on deadlines.

Figure 1: Main ERANET dashboard with internal schedule function activated

ERANET Case Study

ERANET tackles all these obstacles by guiding the procurers through the whole process of public procurement starting from the order definition through the offer placement, automatic evaluation and contracting. There are more than 50 different documents generated during the process of any order and ERANET supports all of them by automatically generating semi-final documents based on the predefined templates. Every document can be edited online in the CKEditor tool; however the import/export has always been a painful experience, let alone exporting the documents to the .pdf file.

Since we adopted Aspose. Total for Java users can easily work around the documents both online and offline – never losing the table, multilevel bullets or advanced formatting.

Solution

We use Aspose as a component on our server. Main task is converting documents, mainly word, html and PDF. There are some minor cases when we use it to generate PDF files. There are some specific cases in the ERANET software in which users need to import some Word files to system or vice versa - export file as Word or PDF from system. Request for an action goes to the server where we call Aspose to do the work and result is returned back to user browser and downloaded.
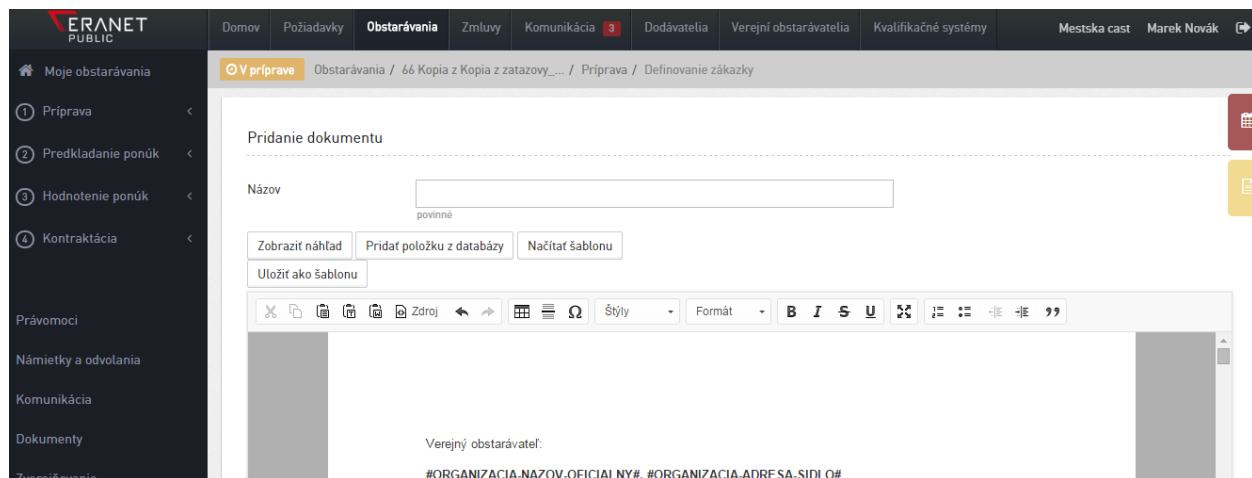

Figure 2: Online text editor inside view

Generally speaking ERANET uses Aspose mainly for the following activities:

- Import of Word files (public procurement mandatory documents) into the online text editor (HTML format)

- Export of text generated in the online editor (HTML format) to Word files (public procurement mandatory documents)
- Export of text generated in the online editor (HTML format) to .pdf files
- Transformation of Word files to .pdf files and vice versa
- Generation of Outlook events from the internal schedule

Experience

Finding a solution: Yes, we looked at the other options, but never really tried any. Aspose trial was convincing enough.

Implementation: There were no big challenges. Documentation on Apose.com is quite huge, but sometimes is hard to find information (even with search option). Also we have problem with some classes in examples, as we cannot find them in API Reference. We have also problem with our national symbols (diacritic), but we sent the questions to support and after couple of days we get answer (as Forum topic).

Currently it is not fully implemented, but it took only two days (counting only programmer work, not research for finding right component).

Outcome: Implementation of Aspose had not affected our team since the whole process took just two days. On the other, just after the Aspose was implemented we have realized great savings while processing customers' requests for document templates changes.

Next Steps

We have adopted the Aspose. Total for Java and so we do not have any short term objectives to adopt more of Aspose software. However, we are very much interested in testing the following functionalities in the future:

- Generation of QR codes carrying on the information about the concrete public procurement call – this will be used within the mobile application for the interested applicants/suppliers
- Spreadsheet editing and conversion (price calculation) into the ERANET databse
- .pdf file conversions to plain text or HTML format in order to be able to edit this file and reverse conversion back to .pdf

ERANET Case Study

Summary

Generally speaking, Aspose is pretty expensive software but the rich functionality is really worth it. Since we are a start-up company it was pretty difficult to splash thousands of euros for a licence, but now we consider it as one of the best decisions we made in the technical area. Well done!