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CASE STUDIES

NOTE

Aspose.Network was renamed Aspose.Email in 2011. The features described in this case study are still available in Aspose.Email for .NET and Aspose.Email for Java.

Aspose.Network for Case Study

Gladstone Health & Leisure
www.gladstonemrm.com

Orbit Professional

Bronya Oldfield, Development Project Manager, November, 2008

Product Background / Overview

Gladstone Health and Leisure Ltd, based in the UK, is a market-leading supplier of comprehensive leisure management solutions covering all aspects of membership management and health club fitness facility administration.

Orbit Professional™, the first of a new line of products from Gladstone, is a simple, intelligent and integrated membership management solution for private independent health clubs. The product supports prospecting, member signup, communication, bookings, point of sale, administration, payment collection and reporting.

Requirements Scenario

A critical aspect of health club membership management is the ability to control the payment frequencies that are offered to members, so that they can choose how to pay for membership.

Another key requirement for bookings is to provide clubs with a flexible and powerful mechanism to schedule ad-hoc and regular classes so that members can reserve a space in a class or schedule a session with a personal trainer.

To ensure the smooth running of the club classes and personal fitness assessments need to be defined according to a regular schedule or as an ad-hoc event, and the relevant facility or resource needs to be reserved for that specific date/time slot. Bookings need to be configurable to a specific time slot on a specific day, a regular time slot on a specific day every week. In some cases they need to span days or even weeks. In many cases they need to support complex date patterns (e.g. Monday evenings between 6-7pm except for public holidays).

The ability to configure odd time slots is also required, for example in some clubs golf "tee time" bookings require a booking slot every 8 minutes during the day.

Solution Implementation

The Aspose.Network iCalendar component is used within Orbit Professional for several different purposes:

1. To control the payment frequencies that are offered in clubs. Clubs can define their own payment frequencies such as weekly, monthly, 3 monthly, annually etc.
2. To define our resource and activity schedules to control the availability of resources and activities for bookings. The Aspose.Network iCalendar is a great component to configure occurrences, and within Orbit Professional it is combined with duration to control the availability of a resource.
3. To define booking slots. The booking slots are created with the Aspose.Network iCalendar component and determine when during a day, the resource can be booked. A tennis court, for example, can be booked every 60 minutes during the day.

Benefits

Payment frequencies, date patterns and recurrence patterns for bookings were quickly and easily implemented. Most significantly, valuable developer resources were saved. The code is robust and maintainable, and it is not necessary for the Orbit Professional development team to develop separate algorithms to support complex date patterns.

Benefits

• Increased speed of development

• No complex data structure to support recurrence patterns

• Improved stability and maintainability of code

• Supports extremely complex recurrence patterns simply

Future Implementations

The Aspose.Network iCalendar component will continue to be used in the development of Orbit Professional. The development team will expand its use in future to support complex courses (recurring weekly classes, scheduled once), multi-resource and spa bookings (series of treatments booked in a pre-set, ordered sequence).

Conclusion

Gladstone's experience with similar systems has shown the company that recurrences and scheduling can be extremely demanding, especially when recurrence patterns are complex.

The Aspose.Network iCalendar component has saved the Orbit Professional development team many hours of development. It is extremely easy to use, as the only item that it is necessary to store is a simple string in the database. Most importantly, the Aspose.Network iCalendar component provides us with the ability to define advanced recurrence patterns, simply and intelligently.

Orbit Professional screenshot showing payment frequencies created with the Aspose.Network iCalendar component: