CASE STUDIES

DoCo Case Study

für software, die passt

nowhow solutions AG

Using Aspose.Total for Microsoft .NET

Stefan Studer, CEO, 05.11.2016

About nowhow solutions AG

nowhow solutions AG is a small software development company located in Bern, Switzerland. Founded in 2001, the company specializes in the implementation of web-based business solutions mainly for the telecommunications and governmental market.

Challenge

Often our customers approach us with business requirements that are linked to the generation of Word or PDF documents. They require the solutions to be capable of gathering raw data from various sources (order management systems (SAP), Excel calculation tables, or even PDF documents) and transform that data into consolidated price information sheets and contract documents. Templates are used to generate uniform documents and to allow for customized layouts (CI/CD).

The Document Composer project (DOCO) was one of our projects that faced these challenges.

Solution

We realized DOCO as a web-based application using .NET technology. An intuitive user interface with a tree structure lets the user choose from a selection of components. These are being used to generate price information sheets and contract documents (Word, Excel, PDF, PowerPoint).
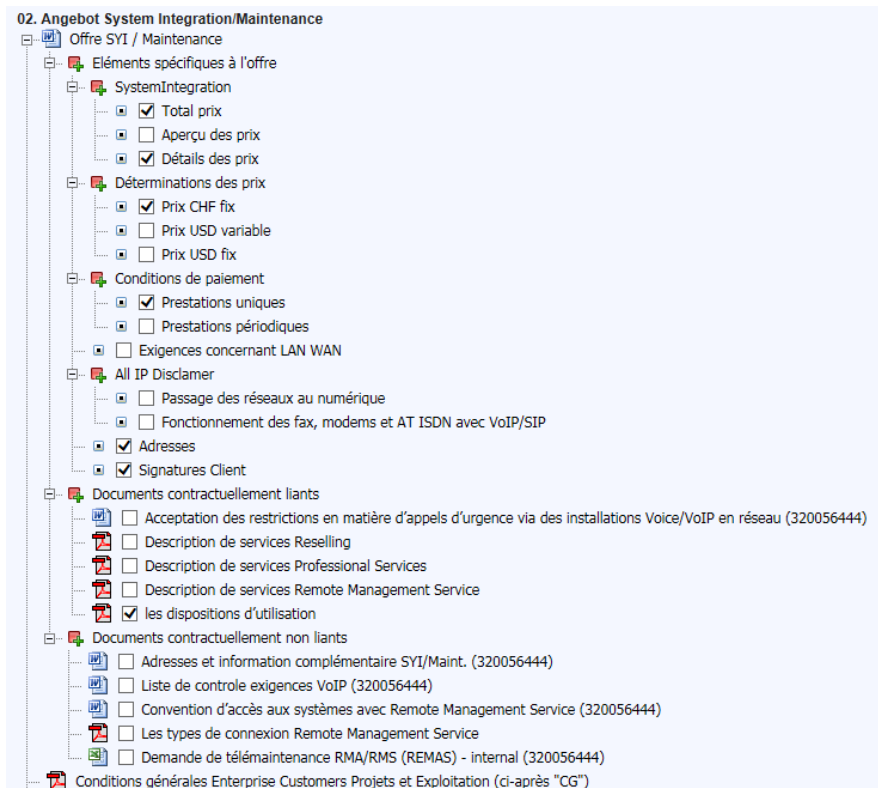
Figure 1: Selecting in whole or in part documents

The solution deployed the following ASPOSE components:

Aspose.Words: generate word documents, create new documents, merge documents or parts of a document, save generated documents to PDF, hide parts of a document, and replace texts

Aspose.Cells: read order or calculation data from Excel, create new Excel sheets and populate them with data, create Excel charts

Aspose.Slides: generate PowerPoint slideshows, delete slides form a template, include images (generated Excel charts), fill tables, and hide text elements

Aspose.Pdf: read data from PDF files

Aspose.BarCode: generate QR-codes including customer, product & contract information, integrate QR-codes in contract documents
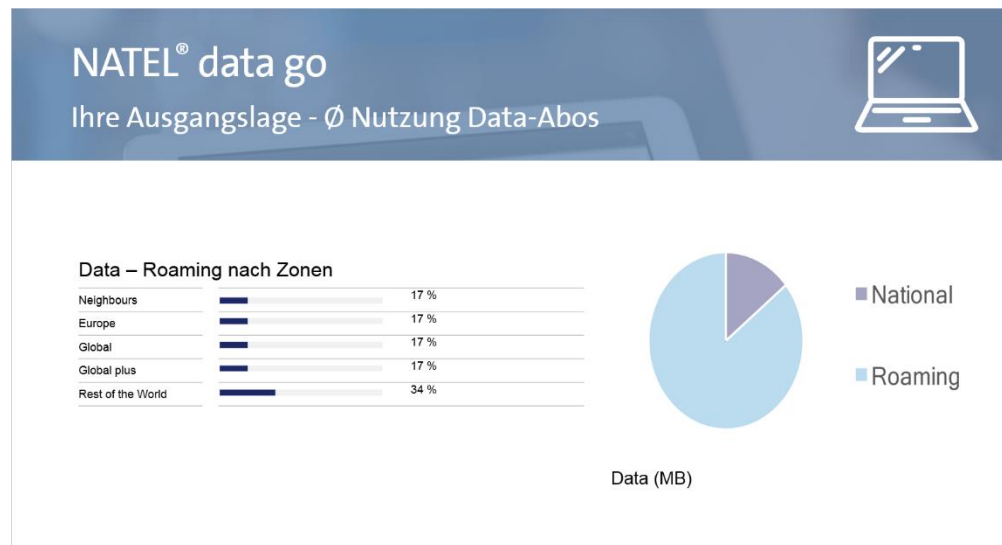
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Figure 2: Generated slideshow with integrated Excel charts

Experience

- We *evaluated* many products to create and manipulate some sample documents. However, most of the products we found either difficult to use, buggy, or lacking in features. The simple usage and the resulting output quality were finally the deciding key factors to go with Aspose.Total.

- The well-documented instruction manual and the robustness of the Aspose.Total components led to a straightforward *integration* into DOCO. This helped us cut on development time more than anticipated.

- If there were still questions we could always rely on the Aspose support team for prompt and invaluable advice.

- Aspose.Total allowed for no-fuss *continuous development* of DOCO (e.g. adding QR codes). This enabled us to meet the ever growing customer needs.

- During the lifetime of DOCO, emerging document formats posed a risk. Frequent *updates* of Aspose.Total components, however, guaranteed that DOCO can support new document formats.

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Next Steps

DOCO is currently in a maintenance / support & enhancement phase. At nowhow solutions AG we will continue to use Aspose.Total to create and manipulate Word documents, PDFs, or slideshows. Now and in the future – in DOCO and in other projects.

Summary

Aspose contributed to the great success of DOCO. Therefore we recommend Aspose.Total components for creating, managing and manipulating Word documents, Excel sheets, PDF's or PowerPoint slideshows.

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