

CASE STUDIES

ASPOSE.CELLS Case Study



Xpand IT

Using ASPOSE.CELLS to create value for Xporter Add-On for JIRA

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About Xpand IT

With several customers across the world, we provide the top IT knowledge for our customers, so they can focus on their core business and still have the best IT resources for their company needs, seamless integrated into their business processes. We identify ourselves as a Team with Passion for Excellence, and we differentiate our services by having the best people with the best expertise in the following areas: Business Intelligence, Business Process & Integration, Enterprise Mobility, IT Systems and Enterprise Applications. For more information, please visit: www.xpand-it.com.

Problem

Xpand IT develops an Add-On for JIRA, called Xporter for JIRA. This Add-On offers to users the possibility of exporting their JIRA issues content to several formats, using Microsoft Word Templates. Among several features we highlight as more relevant for this situation:

- Defining templates in DOCX, RTF or ODT files, upload and configure through JIRA Administration
- Single and multiple issue export to PDF, DOCX, RFT, ODT, PNG and SVG
- Exporting image attachments
- Exporting comments, subtask fields and linked issues
- And many other.

The problem emerged when several clients asked about the possibility of exporting those issues into an Excel format. Such feature wasn't available in Xporter neither in JIRA itself.

Solution

Xpand IT chose Aspose.Cells, since we were already satisfied clients, as we used already other ASPOSE products, more exactly the Aspose.Words.

Our development team has investigated all available libraries that provide manipulation and creation of Excel files. After that investigation we conclude that Aspose.Cells was the best mature library relative to others, it has a good support and a nice product evolution.

We need to build documents dynamically, so the input that can variate, and Aspose.Cells provide a way to do that, easily.

Xporter for JIRA templates are managed in JIRA Administration and allow us to manage templates (upload/remove templates) and set templates permissions (which templates to be displayed for a project, issue type, user, etc...)

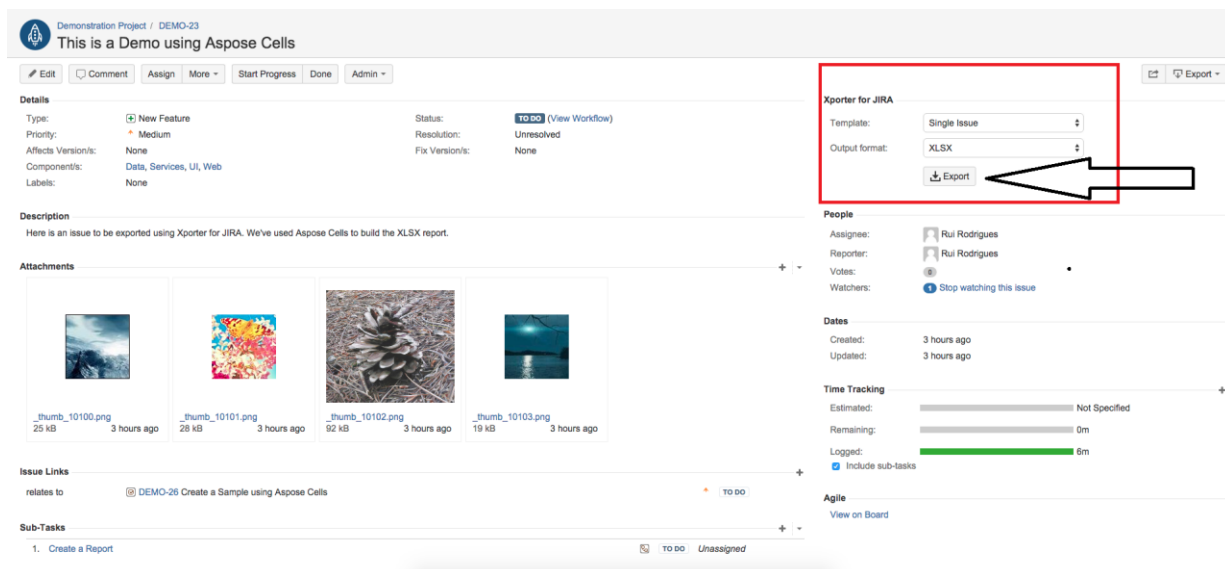


Figure 1: Exporting issues for JIRA

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1	Author	Author Name	Comment	Created Date	Time												
2	=for comment																
3	=for comment																
4	=for comment																
5	=for comment																
6	Link Key	Link Summary															
7	=for link																
8	=for link																
9	=for link																
10	Author	Author Name	Comment	Created Date	Time	Start Date	Start Date Time	Time Spent	Time Spent Formatted								
11	=for worklog																
12	=for worklog																
13	=for worklog																
14	=for worklog																
15	=for worklog																
16	Subtask Key	Subtask Summary															
17	=for subtask																
18	=for subtask																
19	=for subtask																
20	Component Name	Description	Lead Name	ID	Project ID	Assignee Type											
21	=for component																
22	=for component																
23	=for component																
24	=for component																
25	=for component																
26	Author	Created Date	Time	Old Status	New Status												
27	=for status transition																
28	=for status transition																
29	=for status transition																
30	Image Link	Name	Size	Author	Created Date	Time	Mime Type										
31	=for image																
32	=for image																
33	=for image																
34	=for image																
35	Attachment Link	Author	Author Name	Created Date	Time	Size	Mime Type										
36	=for attachment																
37	=for attachment																
38	=for attachment																
39	=for attachment																
40	=for attachment																

Figure 2: Excel template

Actually Xporter Plugin for JIRA offers the ability to export data along with a customization component, all in an extremely simple and effective way. Project managers can export JIRA issues and thus create your custom reports in seconds.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Author	Author Name	Comment	Created Date	Time					
2	admin	Rui Rodrigues	This is the first comment.	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:23:21					
3	admin	Rui Rodrigues	The key is blue as moment.	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:23:35					
4	admin	Rui Rodrigues	Xporter is working fine with X	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:24:03					
5										
6	Link Key	Link Summary								
7	DEMO-25	Create a Sample using Asp								
8										
9	Author	Author Name	Comment	Created Date	Time	Start Date	Start Date Time	Time Spent	Time Spent Formatted	
10	admin	Rui Rodrigues	Creating a Report	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:24:48	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:24:00	00	5 minutes	
11	admin	Rui Rodrigues	Creating a new issue	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:25:00	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:24:00	00	1 minute	
12										
13	Subtask Key	Subtask Summary								
14	DEMO-24	Create a Report								
15	DEMO-25	Export issue using the rap								
16										
17	Component Name	Description	Lead Name	ID	Project ID	Assignee Type				
18	Site	The Data Component		10000	10000	2				
19	Services	The Services Component		10001	10000	2				
20	UI	The UI Component		10003	10000	2				
21	Web	The Web Component		10002	10000	2				
22										
23	Author	Created Date	Time	Old Status	New Status					
24										
25	Image Link	Name	Size	Author	Created Date	Time	Mime Type			
26	_thumb_10100.png	_thumb_10100.png	25.36 Kb	admin	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:18:03	image/png			
27	_thumb_10101.png	_thumb_10101.png	27.73 Kb	admin	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:18:03	image/png			
28	_thumb_10102.png	_thumb_10102.png	91.59 Kb	admin	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:18:03	image/png			
29	_thumb_10103.png	_thumb_10103.png	19.33 Kb	admin	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:18:03	image/png			
30										
31	Attachment Link	Author	Author Name	Created Date	Time	Size	Mime Type			
32	_thumb_10100.png	admin	Rui Rodrigues	05-10-2015	05-10-2015 10:18:03	05-10-2015 10:18:03	image/png			

Figure 3: Result of Exporting issue data into Excel format

Experience

Finding a solution:

We are using Aspose.Words for JAVA since 2009 in our Product. And the feedback couldn't be better. Because of that, we thought about as for Aspose.Cells we are currently using a trial version, our implementation using it is almost done, and this will be a great and a powerful future for our product. We're using a trial license and we didn't need any support until now.

Implementation:

The implementation took around 7/8 weeks, but most of the time was more due to the complexity of the engine, than with the use of the Aspose.Cells library.

Our business logic is based in templates, we've a document engine that receives some data and an Excel file known as the template file. This template file has mappings that will be processed by our document engine. As a result, we've a "compiled" file, i.e., the template file with mappings replaced by real data. Until today everything went smoothly and there was no need to ask for support.

Outcome:

As it was described above, we've a document engine that processes template files. This introduces a high complexity leave here but it is not related with the usage of Aspose Cells. Regarding to that usage, it is simple to use and provides a simple way to read, create and manipulate data into the entire workbook. All the objectives were fully met and we do believe that with the help of Aspose.Cells we just created a great feature for our product, making it even more competitive.

Next Steps

As our product is constantly following our client's needs, we are always upgrading it and thinking about new features. For sure if in the future we find that any other Aspose products could be the answer of some of our requirements, we have no doubts that they are going to be our first priority.

Summary

Our overall experience with Aspose products was very positive. This component increased business value to Xpand IT product - Xporter Plugin for JIRA, allowing us to develop a reference solution for data export. The Aspose.Cells Component is extremely complete and was very important in implementing this new feature in the plugin.

Xporter for JIRA now is able to export issues from JIRA in Excel format, which is a huge step for the product.

Xpand IT is very satisfied with the Aspose.Cells performance and until now we are fully confident that we made the right decision in choosing it. We sincerely recommend Aspose products as their components have a key role in Xporter for JIRA, and in its success.