Autodoc (Microsoft Office Document Generator)

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Overview

Reports and presentations are constantly being written by the Cassini team. Often times, many of these documents follow a consistent format that only change slightly in content between versions. As a result of their consistency in format, these documents are a great candidate for automation. *Autodoc* was designed as a means to automate such reports in order to alleviate the amount of work that its writers would have to do. It is a tool that when given a docx, pptx or xlsx file along with a text file of desired content can output a document of the same format with the desired content inserted into the template.

Use

Autodoc replaces *key* values in a document with a desired value stated in a textfile. *Autodoc* can be used in both graphical and command-line environments. The application takes in the three following inputs:

- **Text file** with key words and desired values (tab or space delimitted)
- **Template file**. This can be a docx, pptx or xlsx file with included keywords to be replaced
- **Output path**. This is the desired path where you would like your desired output document saved to.

Textfile Structure

- Text file must be *space* or *tab* delimitted *(key[space]value)*
- Lines beginning with a hashtag (#) will be treated as *comments*
- Keys with values of *null* will be replaced with a blank space in document
- Keys should be *unique* strings. Using syntax such as *${this}* will achieve this
- Keys must be *identical* in both template file and text file

Graphical Mode

Can be executed by double-clicking the JAR file or executing the JAR from command-line without any inputs. Input files can be drag-and-dropped into their corresponding fields or selected through their appropriate file browser. This mode also supports an auto-open feature that when selected will automatically open the output file when generated.

Command-line Mode

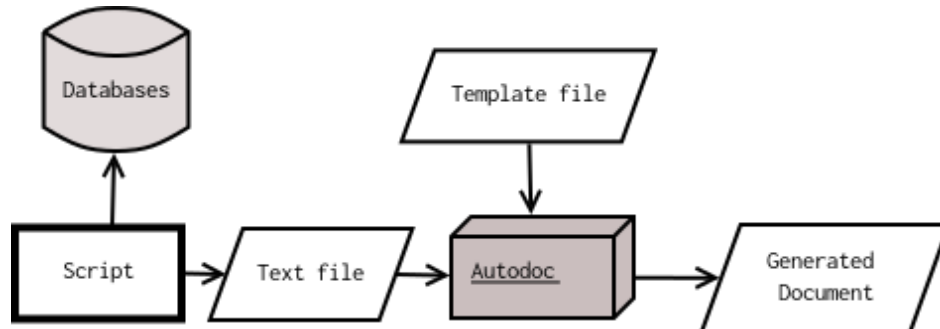Can be executed by command-line by executing the JAR file with the required input.

Example(With and without auto-open):

```
java -jar autodoc.jar /path/to/textfile /path/to/template /path/of/output
```

```
java -jar autodoc.jar /path/to/textfile /path/to/template /path/of/output true
```

True Document Automation

True document automation is ideal for documents that are generated routinely and vary only slightly from one report to the next. True automation can be achieved by utilizing *Autodoc* in command-line mode and tools such as shell scripts and job-scheduling software such as Cron in Unix machines. The diagram below depicts the process that can be captured by a shell script in order to acheive true automation.

Development

Javadoc - Java documentation for developers.

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About

Autodoc was developed by JPL Summer Intern Delvison Castillo under the advisement of Diane Conner and Bill Heventhal.

Changelog

Wed Aug 21 13:56:45 PDT 2013 - **v1.5** - Auto-open and keywords not found implemented in command-line mode

Mon Aug 19 14:44:57 PDT 2013 - **v1.4** - Fixed powerpoint in-text replace for keys such as ${this} and [this]

Fri Aug 16 16:38:46 PDT 2013 - **v1.3** - Fixed Excel file bug. Values for formulas were not being recalculated. Now values formulas will recalculate after Autodoc outputs an xlsx file.