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Printing Documents from C# using OpenOffice Writer

By **psonek**, 7 May 2008

★★★★☆ 3.97 (19 votes)

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Introduction

When it comes to printing from C#, you have many options. But I found this solution with Open Office very nice, elegant and easy.

OpenOffice is a free Office suite. You can download it from the internet and use it for free. In this article, I will show you how to use it to load, modify and print text documents from a program in C#.

Background

First of all, you should know that **OpenOffice** document is a zipped file. You can try to rename the *sample.odt* file (this file is contained in *bin/Debug* directory of my sample) to *sample.zip*. Now you will be able to unpack the file and inspect its contents. The most interesting file between the zip contents is the file *content.xml*. This file is a simple XML text file. You can extract it, modify and write back to *sample.zip*. If you rename *sample.zip* back to *sample.odt*, you should be able to open the modified document back in **OpenOffice**.

We will be doing exactly the same steps in the source code.

Using the Code

All the work for manipulating **OpenOffice** document text file is in the class called **Odt** which stands for Open Document Text.

The constructor takes filename of the document to be opened. It extracts the zip contents using [SharpZipLib](#) and reads *content.xml* into **XmlDocument** class. The **XmlDocument** is then scanned for all input fields and these fields are placed in a collection that allows modifying fields text.

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```
Odt doc = Odt("c:\\test.odt");  
doc.Inputs["address"] = "My address";
```

You can modify the fields as you need. The resulting document can then be saved, opened in **OpenOffice** writer or printed on your default printer.

About Article

Simple printing solution based on OpenOffice suite

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First Posted **4 Mar 2008**
Views **67,485**
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Beginner



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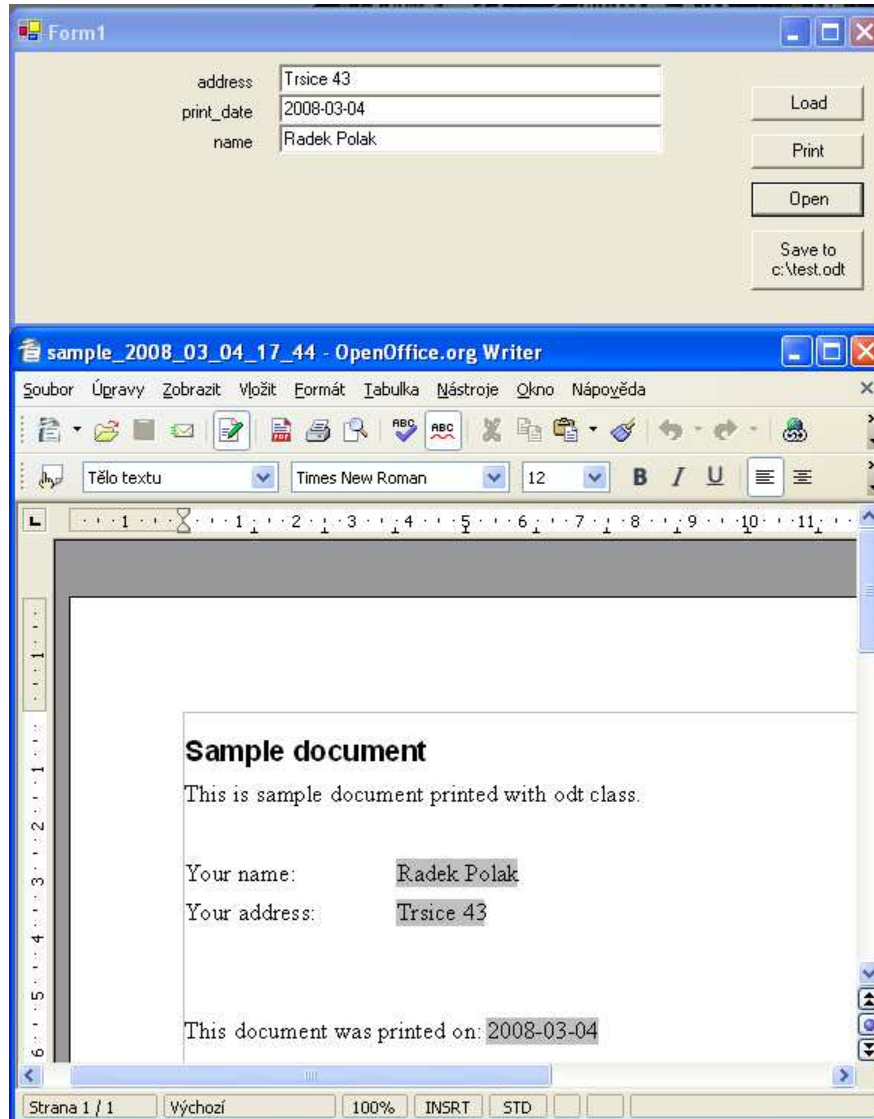
```
doc.Save("c:\\test_modified.odt");  
doc.OpenInOo();  
doc.Print();
```

If something goes wrong, you should check that you have **OpenOffice** installed. The searching for **OpenOffice** is hardcoded in *Odt.cs* and you may want to change it to suit your needs via **static** variable:

[Collapse](#) | [Copy Code](#)

```
Odt.OoExe = "path to your soffice.exe";>
```

The attached sample program shows how easy is to use the **Odt** class. It displays all input fields of the document and has buttons for saving, opening and printing the modified document.



Thanks

I hope you enjoyed reading this article. See you next time.

Updates

I have added support for spreadsheet documents. You can get it [here](#).

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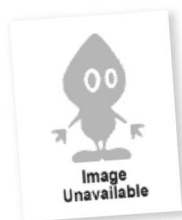
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About the Author



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Software Developer ODP-software
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Czech Republic 

Started programming on Z80. Later on PC i started playing with Linux and joined the DotGNU project. Here i implemented debugger and fixed a few easy bugs. I have also started project PortableStudio which will be DotGNU's IDE. At work i am developing ticket system for Czech Railways and systems for on board sales for Czech Airways.

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 **Silverlight version**  **robdal** **10-Dec-11 11:45**



Hello psonek,
I've used your code since the moment you published it and it proved to be a fantastic solution.
Now I'm working on a silverlight project and I would love to use it.
Nonetheless the code, as it is, won't work.
Have you ever tried to write a code that would run indifferently on WPF and Silverlight?
Do you think it is possible?
Best Regards
Roberto

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 **Do you have any example that allows you to preview a print?**  **amdacc** **19-Nov-10 9:56**

Thanks very much for this bit of code, its saved me a lot of time. Do you know how to create a print preview, that would make my life sooo much easier"

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 **Can input field be used for images/graphics?**  **chihuahua0965** **13-Oct-10 18:22**

Ive used this for text input using doc.input, but my document also has fields for graphics is there a way to dynamically insert these as well?

Reply · View Thread · Permalink · Bookmark		1.33/5 (3 votes)
	Good work....	 anshulvaid 13-Oct-10 11:44
<p>Hi,</p> <p>Can u tell me once the openoffice document is opened then i add further more details in it how can i save the new changes.</p> <hr/> <p>Rgds, Anshul.</p> <p>Reply · Email · View Thread · Permalink · Bookmark</p>		
	Wonderful work, psonek	 vovovulture 5-Feb-10 3:12
<p>Had to make a few small changes, like:- Was: Ods.OdsCell cell = ods.Tables["1"]["AE42"]; Now: Ods.OdsCell cell = ods.Tables["Cells"]["A2"];</p> <p>but now it work really well. Very useful introduction.</p> <p>Reply · Email · View Thread · Permalink · Bookmark</p>		
	Great job	 balaji_s84 26-Nov-09 9:37
<p>i had been frequently visiting codeproject.com for my project work.... but first time ever i wanted to appreciate a work.... this was really superb... i had been breaking my head for a week and u made it really possible..... that was really a great job</p> <p>balaji s india</p> <p>Reply · Email · View Thread · Permalink · Bookmark</p>		
	saving as .doc	 hollyhazen 21-May-09 20:19
<p>is there anyway to save the document as a .doc so that Microsoft word users can open it?</p> <p>Reply · View Thread · Permalink · Bookmark</p>		
	Re: saving as .doc	 robajz 25-May-09 21:32
<p>Make the bloody MS office users install a simple converter? ODF is an ISO standard indeed.</p> <p>http://odf-converter.sourceforge.net/[^]</p> <p>Regards, Robajz.info</p> <p>Reply · View Thread · Permalink · Bookmark</p>		
	Very simple and excellent work	 pvox 24-Apr-09 8:50
<p>Any ideas for adding images and tables to the source ODT ? 😊</p> <hr/> <p>pvox</p> <p>Reply · Email · View Thread · Permalink · Bookmark</p>		
	Here's my version	 DmitryDrosd 23-Jan-09 6:32
<p>http://www.gotdotnet.ru/Forums/Office/513237.aspx[^]</p>		

However, while in Russian. 🤔

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Good Work... But a small bug



Member 4588639

30-Oct-08 6:41

Hi,

I tried this example with odf_printing_v2.zip. But when I run the example i have an error of this line "Ods ods = new Ods("D:\\test1.ods");". The program can't create the file?? I work with sharpdevelop on vista ultimate x64... Thanks for your help..

The error is follow:

```
Exception System.IO.FileNotFoundException was thrown in debuggee:
Impossible de trouver le fichier 'D:\test1.ods'.
```

```
WinIOError()
Init()
.ctor()
OpenRead()
Load() - d:\homeprojects\cs\odf_printing_v2\odf_printing\Odf.cs:66,9
Load() - d:\homeprojects\cs\odf_printing_v2\odf_printing
\Ods.cs:583,3
.ctor() - d:\homeprojects\cs\odf_printing_v2\odf_printing
\Odf.cs:23,3
.ctor() - d:\homeprojects\cs\odf_printing_v2\odf_printing
\Ods.cs:11,2
Main() - d:\homeprojects\cs\odf_printing_v2\odf_printing
\Form1.cs:369,3
```

```
Ods ods = new Ods("D:\\test1.ods");
Ods.OdsCell cell = ods.Tables["1"]["AE42"];
for(int i = 0; i < cell.Column; i++)
{
ods.Tables["1"][cell.Row, i].Value = i.ToString();
ods.Tables["1"][cell.Row+1, i].Value = i.ToString();
}
ods.OpenInOo("c:\\result.ods");
```

```
Application.Run(new Form1());
```

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1.00/5 (2 votes)



Great Work



skjpatel

13-May-08 19:07

Is it possible to automate the 'Save to PDF' bits - that would be a real bonus.

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Good work



AlePu

13-May-08 7:42

Is It possible generate dinamic document with table and pagination?

Goodbye

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2.00/5 (1 vote)

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