

File format for generating dynamic reports in applications

Asked 16 years, 3 months ago Modified 10 years, 10 months ago

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2



We generate dynamic reports in all of our business web applications written for .Net and J2EE. On the server side we use ActiveReports.Net and JasperReports to generate the reports. We then export them to PDF to send down to the browser.

Our clients all use Adobe Reader. We have endless problems with the different versions of Adobe Reader and how they are setup on the client.

What file format/readers are others using for their dynamic reports? We need something that allows for precise layout as many of the reports are forms that are printed with data from our systems. HTML is not expressive enough.

pdf

adobe-reader

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edited Jan 28, 2014 at 21:42



Kara

6,206 ● 16 ● 53 ● 58

asked Sep 5, 2008 at 16:03



Mike Schall

5,889 ● 4 ● 42 ● 48

3 Answers

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1



I've used SQL Reporting Services for this purpose. You can design a report template in Visual Studio or generate the XML for the report on the fly in code. You can then have SSRS export the report to about 10 different formats and send to the client including pdf, excel, html, etc. You can also write your own plugin to export to your own format.

Crystal Reports has a similar product thats more expensive but has a better report designer.

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answered Sep 5, 2008 at 16:12

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Joel Hendrickson



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I've always had the most success using PDFs to accomplish this. I can't think of a more universally acceptable format that does what you are trying to do. Rather than looking for another format, perhaps it would be better to try to understand how to overcome the problems that you are experiencing with Acrobat on the client side. Can you provide some more information on the types of problems that you are experiencing with Acrobat?

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answered Sep 5, 2008 at 17:55

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[Joe Barone](#)

3,140 ● 3 ● 24 ● 20



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I does know only 3(4) possible viewer(formats) for reporting in browser.

- PDF
- Flash
- Java
- (Silverlihgt)

For all 3 there are reporting solutions. Silverlight are to new and I does not know a solution. You can test how flash and Java in your intranet work and then search a reporting solution. I think PDF should be made the few problems if you use the newest readers. The old readers has many bad bugs.

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answered Sep 19, 2008 at 22:58

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24.4k ● 23 ● 105 ● 167