

Print Anything v8



Abstract

This utility provides the ability to produce a customised printable view of any data in Salesforce.com. Examples are Quotes, Contracts, Order forms, SLA's etc. Used in conjunction with a PDF print driver, these views may be saved in Acrobat format. Alternatively, using a service such as eFax, they may be faxed directly to a customer.

Description

A printable view is created using a print "package" which contains all of the queries, template and styles required to get the correct data and display in a specific way. Creation of packages is a somewhat technical process since it requires creation of SOQL queries, HTML templates and CSS but no actual programming is required. Why use "Print Anything" instead of building your own? Because pre-built packages exist for known display requirements.

Where you must create your own custom display, javascript is a labour intensive development language so anything that removes the need for developing and testing new code will save you time. SOQL & HTML, by comparison, are much less complex and understandable.

Finally, "Print Anything" provides a separation of data vs display code. This is widely accepted as an efficient method of building applications because development tasks can be assigned to those with the appropriate skills i.e. your graphic/web design team can customise a display without needing to tinker with the data & queries that supply the template.

Print Anything is a "Managed" application which allows patches & upgrades without reinstall. Version 8 represents the Apex API version to which Print Anything was built.

Requirements

Salesforce.com Edition

Developer
Enterprise
Unlimited

Specifications

Publisher
Type
Salesforce.com Certification
Pricing

Steve Buikhuizen, Sales Engineer
Appexchange
None
Free

Features & Benefits

- **Multi-query data access, all fields available using merge syntax** Any number of SOQL queries can be chained together in a package to provide fields to the html template. This means there are no restrictions on data available to your template as long as it is accessible by SOQL. Relationship queries are supported meaning that you can query related data in one round trip for maximum performance. Support SOQL & Retrieve.
- **Multi-row repetition support** Where multiple rows of data need to be displayed by a template, the merge field syntax supports a repetition model allowing formatting of the individual rows. e.g. line items in a Quote
- **Multi-row choice auto-dialog when single row required** If a template expects a single row but a query returns more than one, the user is automatically prompted to choose the correct row.
- **Multi-template support with automatic selection** Where multiple templates are necessary data, the user is prompted to choose from the list of available templates. These templates may have varied languages and layouts e.g. the address fields might need to be located differently for varying international postal requirements. Using the automatic selection feature allows fields from the queries to provide a template selection e.g. language field on a Contact record.
- **Currency and Date format support in templates** Each template can have it's own default date format. Specific fields may also override the default format.
- **Javascript hooks for CSS application and other custom code** A simple CSS application function is invoked at the end of the render process so that all merged data may have CSS classes applied. A hook is also available before the merge to allow data to be massaged before merge.
- **Conditional Display** Templates support conditional display of elements depending on whether or not they are present e.g. display product images in a Quote if an image custom field exists and is populated for the line items & org being used.
- **Package Development tools** Packages can be run in development mode where you see the execution of the queries and can re-execute without reloading the s-control from scratch. This greatly decreases the iterative test loop which is inevitable when tweaking user interface code.
- **Large template Support** Where templates are larger than 32k, documents may be used as the template source allowing unlimited size. This includes support for CJK (multibyte) character sets.
- **Multi Browser Support** Tested on IE6, IE7 & Firefox.
- **Portable package invocation** When used in multiple Salesforce instances, custom buttons or links can invoke the driver & package without using ids i.e. are completely portable between instances.

Print Anything v8

Screenshot

https://na2.salesforce.com - Printable View - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Date: 30/08/2006
Customer Phone: (512) 757-6000
Customer Fax: (512) 757-9000
Customer Email: sean@edge.com
Contact: Steve Buikhuizen
Contact Email: steveb@salesforce.com
Payment Terms: 90 Days Net

Universal Containers

Quote Number: Q-00000

Universal Containers Limited
Sales & Support Center
PO Box 1111
Los Angeles CA 90210
Phone: +1 555 555 1212
Email: sales@uc.com
Web: www.genwatt.com

Sean Forbes
312 Constitution Place Austin, TX 78767 USA

Dear Sean,

Thank you for your inquiry. Taxes are estimated and delivery is within 14 days. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

This quote expires on 04/09/2006.

Product	Quantity	Unit Price	Discount	Unit Net Price	Ext Net Price
SLA: Bronze <i>Bronze SLA is 4 hour turnaround on service requests during business hours</i>	1	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
GenWatt Diesel 10kW <i>An weather-proof, all purpose 240V 10kW Genwatt generator</i>	3	\$5,000.00	15%	\$4,250.00	\$12,750.00
Total					\$22,750.00

Done Internet