iText Bulletins

**What are iText bulletins?**

1. Bulletins created with a properties file, jython script and iText, an open source software – all included with a standard CWMS client.
2. A script retrieves data from the database and accesses the iText software. All fonts, borders, images, etc. are applied through iText.
3. Final product is a custom bulletin as a pdf file.

**Why create bulletins with iText?**

1. MRBWM, NWO, and NWK current bulletins are created with OpenOffice. OpenOffice will not be supported on T7s.
2. Over the last 2 years, due to intensive setup and configuration of Jasper Reports, not all critical bulletins have been created for the three offices.
   1. MRBWM and NWO personnel (Jessica, Scott, and John) recommended not pursuing Jasper Reports after completion of initial bulletin.
   2. Estimated 90 work hours to set up Report Delineation Language (RDL) manager and create initial Jasper Reports Bulletin. Estimated no decrease in work hours for 2nd Jasper Reports Bulletin.
3. Need a solution in place prior to installation of NWO T7s in fall 2018.

**Pros and Cons of iText Bulletins**

1. Pros
   1. ACE-IT is not involved
   2. No installation and setup of software required. All necessary components included in a standard CWMS client.
   3. Utilize CPC‘s existing web server, which is currently being used with MRBWM external website.
   4. Bulletins are customizable for each office (e.g. adding columns, various one-offs, etc.).
   5. Ad hoc bulletins (e.g. 2018 Missouri River Levee Bulletin, ~8-9 hours to create)
   6. Short time requirement from development to production, especially for similar bulletins.
      1. Initial reservoir bulletin required less than 60 work hours to get into production
      2. Second reservoir bulletin required 12 hours to get into production
      3. Third reservoir bulletin required 3 hours to get into production
   7. Flexibility to setup property files with more or less information depending on offices preference.
   8. Skills developed when creating bulletins can be applied to other aspects of Water Management.
2. Cons
   1. Need to learn or have prior knowledge of jython scripting.
      1. MRBWM, NWO, and NWK team members can assist in setting up a bulletin and teach other offices how to create their own bulletins.
   2. No standard template for bulletins.
      1. Modify bulletins to create new bulletins.

**MRBWM, NWO, and NWK Bulletins in Production**

MRBWM Reservoir Bulletin: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/reports/pdfs/MRBWM_Reservoir.pdf>

NWO Reservoir Bulletin: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/nwo/dailybull.pdf>

NWK Reservoir Bulletin: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/nwk/kcbull3.pdf>