TX Text Control Enhances Custom Health Record Solution

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The Problem

Managing the interaction of document formatting with custom applications can be a challenge, especially when users must switch contexts between various and potentially conflicting user interfaces. This brittle approach can also be problematic should applications outside the custom program's control change their expected functionality between versions and updates. And perhaps the most significant limitation of the reliance on an external word processor is the lack of fine tune control over the exact behaviors and features that users demand. These can range from file export constraints to the look and feel of document data being displayed within a custom application's interface.

Faced with these challenges, Aprima Medical Software sought a solution that would not only address these shortcomings, but also elevate their application's feature set and help future-proof their development investment with flexible and extensive properties and methods that could be manipulated with the component's intuitive interface.

The Solution

Using TX Text Control, Aprima delivered more compelling, functional, and versatile document editing capabilities in its healthcare software solution, eliminating the need to rely on word processors and text editors. According to Dwight Neal, Aprima's senior software developer, this capability gave the users of Aprima's solution the ability to "design how they want to see their data, and how it should be rendered in documents and forms."

TX Text Control supports multiple file formats, including Microsoft Office documents, as well as server-side document generation. Dwight comments that this feature of the components allowed Aprima's customers to "create documents and forms from a user interface that feels familiar and also gives them a very responsive document generation capability."

The Outcome

These improvements in Aprima's application dramatically improved the user experience and generated enthusiastic feedback from their customers. According to Dwight, "Our support for designing user templates was improved. Before, the document design process required users to lay out a document in Word, then import it to our product. The process was slow, complicated, and prone to time-wasting errors. Now, with the design process integrated within our own product, we can present a straightforward interface for designing templates, and it's much easier to teach people how to create their own designs."

TX Text Control also greatly boosted the application's document creation and processing performance. "The speed of document creation is astounding," Dwight said, "reducing response by an order of magnitude (30 seconds to 3 seconds, on comparable documents). For example, the creation of a document holding a patient's complete chart has gone from 3 to 5 minutes to 10 to 15 seconds. Our users really appreciate that time savings."

Even the developer experience was rewarding. "As a developer, I did encounter problems," says Dwight. "However, the TX Text Control support forum is a great place to work out what is going on and fix my own mistakes by reviewing other TX Text Control customers' experience."

Upon further reflection, Aprima contributed the success of its TX Text Control implementation to two key factors:

- TX Text Control handles documents created within Word or Postscript. "This feature allows us to migrate our customers forward gracefully. They have existing documents, created using older versions of our product. They can migrate them into our new release in a painless way."
- TX Text Control provides the ability to define user data fields (compatible with the "merge field" feature in Microsoft Word) so that data can be linked to locations in a user document. "This permits an extremely flexible and responsive creation of output documents."

In addition to powerful, feature-rich client-side controls, TX Text Control offers server-side components to centralize the creation and management of document generation, editing, and exporting. Combined with the client-side components that companies like Aprima leveraged, the TX Text Control approach can dramatically improve the functionality and usability of document-centric applications. And that, in turn, excites customers to positively promote your solution among their peers.

About Aprima Medical Software

Aprima Medical Software, Inc. develops innovative electronic health record and practice management solutions for medical practices. Aprima serves thousands of physicians nationwide, with practices ranging from solo rural providers to multi-specialty urban groups. For more information, visit www.aprima.com. ∎

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