Convert a Text File to a PDF File

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This article shows how to convert a text file to PDF.

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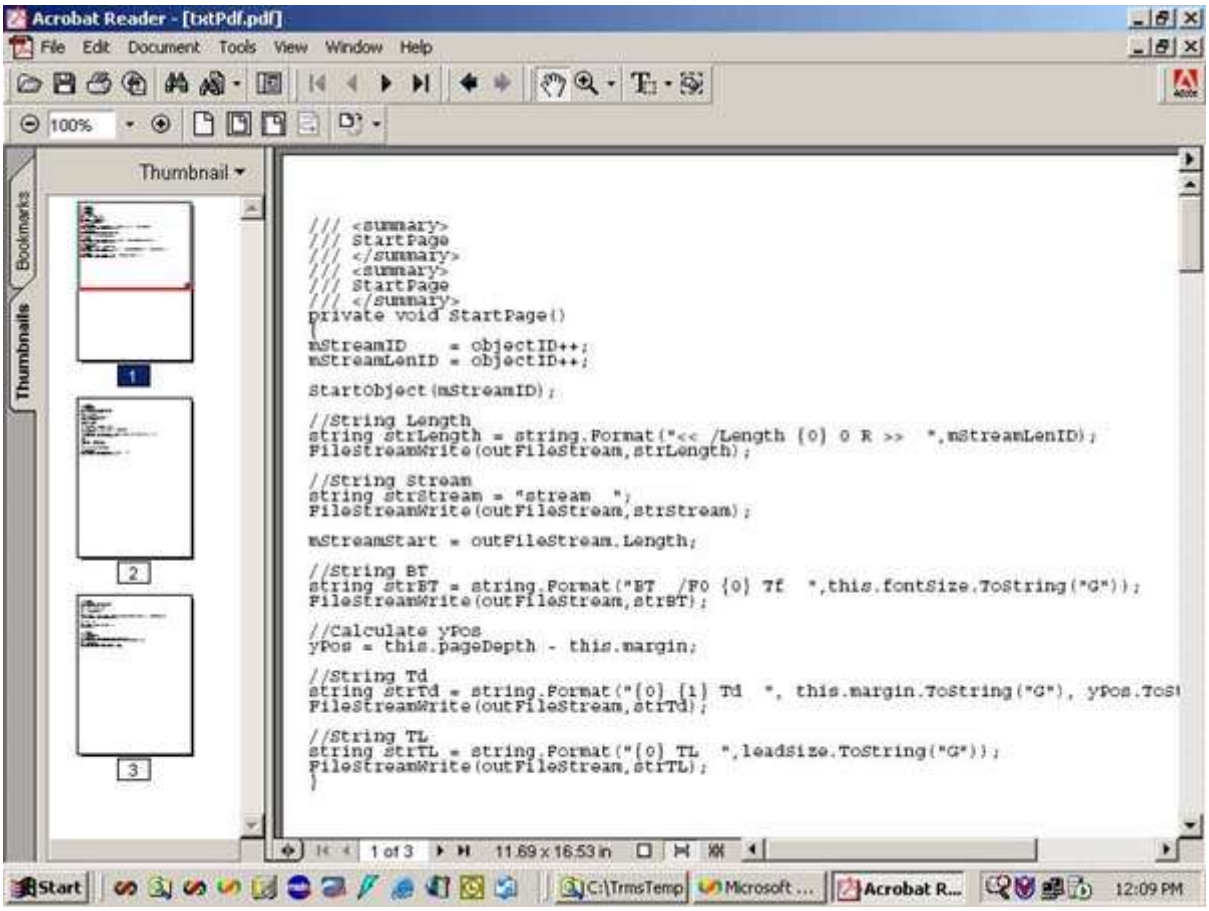

Introduction

This article presents a basic text to PDF library. With this library, you can convert a plain text file to PDF format (PDF is an abbreviation of Portable Document Format). You can break your text file into PDF pages at any place (as long as you set up a page break "1" at column 1). This article also presents a sample application to demonstrate how to use this DLL.

Background

I started writing this library because I really couldn't find a good C# library for exporting my reports. Of course, you can create your own library to suit your own purposes.

Implementation of the Library

To achieve the page break functionality, I created `StartPage`, `EndPage`, `StartObject`, and `StorePage` functions. If the stream reader reads the page break "1" of the input text file, I'll be able to end this page and start a new page. That is the whole idea.

The `Dotext` function is as follows:

```
private void DoText(StreamReader sr)
{
    string strLine = string.Empty;

    //Start Page
    StartPage();

    try
    {
        while (sr.Peek() >= 0)
        {
            //Get one string at a time from the input text file
            strLine = sr.ReadLine()+"\r\n";

            //If yPos <= this.margin?
            if(yPos <= this.margin)
            {
                //Invoke EndPage and StartPage functions
                EndPage();
                StartPage();
            }

            if(strLine == "" || strLine == null)
            {
                FileStreamWrite(outFileStream,@"T*\r\n");
            }
            else
            {
                //Is there a page break "1"?
                int cmpPageVal = String.Compare(strLine.Substring(0,1),"1");

                //Is there a Formfeed?
                int cmpfVal    = String.Compare(strLine.Substring(0,1),"\f");

                bool bl = false;

                //Formfeed
                if(cmpfVal == 0)
                {
                    //Invoke EndPage and StartPage functions
                    EndPage();
                    StartPage();
                }
                else
                {
                    //If there is a page break "1"
                    if (cmpPageVal == 0)
                    {
```

```
                        //Invoke EndPage and StartPage functions
                        EndPage();
                        StartPage();

                        //Remove the page break "1"
                        strLine = strLine.Remove(0,1);
                    }

                    FileStreamWrite(outFileStream,@"(");

                    //Convert "strLine" to a char array
                    char[] textchars=strLine.ToCharArray();

                    for (int index=0;index<textchars.Length;index++)
                    {
                        char c=textchars[index];

                        //If there is page break
                        if(c=='1' && strLine.Length == 2)
                        {
                            EndPage();
                            StartPage();
                        }
                            //new line
                        else if(c=='\n')
                        {
                            if (!bl)
                                FileStreamWrite(outFileStream,@")'");
                            else
                                FileStreamWrite(outFileStream,@"T*\n");

                            bl = true;
                        }
                        else
                        {
                            FileStreamWrite(outFileStream,c.ToString());
                            bl=false;
                        }
                    }

                    if (!bl)
                        FileStreamWrite(outFileStream,@")\r\n");
                }

            }

            //Set yPos
            yPos -= leadSize;
        }//for loop

        //Close file
        sr.Close();
        sr = null;

        //End page
        EndPage();

    }
    catch( Exception ex )
    {
        string error = ("The process failed: " + ex.Message);
    }
}
```

Using This Library

In the sample application, I put a `Button` in a *.aspx* page.

Here is the code behind the button `Click` function:

```
private void Button1_Click(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
{
    //The input text file "TextFile.txt"
    string fileName = @"TextFile.txt";
    string filePath = Server.MapPath("temp/" + fileName);

    // Create a new PdfWriter
    TextPDF.PdfWriter pdfWriter =
       new TextPDF.PdfWriter(842.0f, 1190.0f, 10.0f, 10.0f);

    if(filePath.Length > 0)
    {
        //Write to a PDF file
        pdfWriter.Write(filePath);
    }
}
```

Conclusion

By using this library, you can easily covert a plain text file to a PDF format file. You can also create a page break anywhere in the text file.

Note: I put the PDF output file underneath the "*c:\temp\txtPdf.pdf*" directory; and the input text file under the "*TextPdfSample\temp\TextFile.txt*".

History

- **12/10/2005** - Posted the article.

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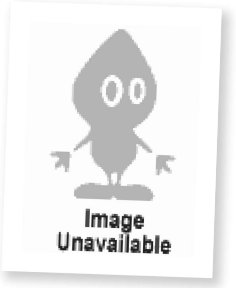
About the Author



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Florence currently works at Confident Software, Inc. Atlanta, U.S.A. Besides programming, during her spare time she enjoys opera.

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