

XF Designer 2008

XSL-FO and Template editing Overview

Creating complex, professional-looking PDF output can be a difficult and time consuming process when using nothing but a text editor. Using the new XF Designer 2008 you can greatly reduce the development time while ensuring superior quality.

XF Designer 2008 is a user-friendly, easy to learn document template editor with an advanced XSL-driven WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) interface. Although it looks and works just like a conventional word processor, the designer gives you much more flexibility to alter or reuse layout, by separating it from the underlying data. And because XF Designer is based on the same core engine as XF Rendering Server 2008 you can rest assured that the designed documents will match the expected output.

Presentation

XF Designer 2008 enables the user to create layout elements (XSL-FO style sheets) with an intuitive graphical user interface, thereby simplifying and accelerating the layout creation process considerably. The XSL-FO documents can be later rendered using XF Rendering Server 2008 or any other XSL-FO renderer.

XF Designer allows the creation of almost all kinds of documents, including: invoices, quotation forms, illustrated price lists, technical documentation, price lists, product manuals, marketing brochures, delivery notes, in a very short period of time.

The Designer provides three different views to help you work with and edit XML documents in whatever way suits you: an **XML (Text) View**, a **Design View** and a **Print View**. You can switch between them at any time simply by clicking the tabs at the bottom of the main editing window.

The XML (Text) View	The Design View	The Print View
Is ideal for hand-coding or editing XML documents and is complete with a full array of many powerful XML editing features.	It allows you to visually create the document using different functions such as Drag & Drop, Insert etc.	It allows you to visually inspect the resulting output. The template is combined with actual data and a preview is displayed.

Features

The design view is able to handle blocks, frames, tables, text and images. The user has a drag and drop interface for defining the output.

The XML editor includes full support for intelligent XSL-FO editing (which helps you avoid errors of automatic code completion), including syntax coloring and code sensing for standard XSL-FO tags.

Here are the most important features of XF Designer 2008:

General

- Conforms to the latest W3C specifications
- No XSL-FO or XML-programming skills necessary
- Performs XSL transformations using both MSXML parser and the .NET parser

User interface

- Clearly structured, intuitive and friendly graphical user interface
- Comfortable use with drag and drop, double-click editing
- Unlimited undo/redo options
- Different measure support allows precise handling of points, millimeters, inches, centimeters

Page layout

- Multiple page layouts can be defined in a template
- Regions (left, right, top, bottom) like header, footer for every page layout
- Page break on every element level available
- Index generation
- Paper margins

Output and print

- Cross media and multi channel publishing
- Support for multiple output formats (PDF, XPS, HTML, XSL-FO, AFP and more)
- Dynamic generated XSLT can be saved and used in batch publishing
- Color spaces support for digital print (RGB, CYMK, ICC and spot)
- Postscript specific instructions for paper tray selection and duplex printing

Different elements

- Allows you to use a wide range of standard objects: text and data fields, numerical fields, lists, tables, graphics, bar codes, XSL fields, templates, references (e. g.: index, table of contents), page numbers.
- Word like layout editor (WYSIWYG)
- Different fonts can be used in one text element
- Intelligent entry helpers to assist in editing
- Native barcodes support, including 3of9, 2of5, Datamatrix, Postnet and many others

Advanced users support

- XF Designer 2008 supports XPath and allows complex expressions. This gives the designer the ability to control the output as exact and precise as necessary
- Regulated generation for every element (possibility to use conditions)
- Multiple external template files can be used

Benefits

The deployment of modern XML and XSL-FO technology allows for tremendous time-saving, and has a correspondingly high savings potential. XF Designer 2008 supports the modern XML and XSL-FO technologies, so the resulting layout stylesheets can be easily integrated in many workflows and environments.

Among the primary benefits of XF Designer 2008:

- Supports powerful visual design of XSL-FO documents
- Greatly reduce development time while ensuring superior quality
- Cost and time savings in the creation of documents
- Integration in automatic processes such as database publishing, print-on-demand and batch processing

Conclusion

XF Designer 2008:

- Can design templates for database publishing or print-on-demand
- Offers support for multiple output formats (**PDF, XPS, HTML, XSL-FO, AFP** and more)
- Creates forms, catalogs, product sheets, invoices, price lists etc.
- Is easy to use, **WYSIWYG**
- Comfortable use with drag and drop
- Doesn't require XSL-FO programming skills
- Offers **XPath** and **XSL** support for advanced users
- Enables reuse of created layouts in automatic processes

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