Subject: PDF facility to produce letters
Posted by gpatti on Fri, 29 May 2009 14:02:16 GMT
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Tony,

Further to the post about column size relating to text fields, I thought it might be worth posting what I am actually doing here in case you thought it might be worth providing a properly designed and supported feature that everyone could use.

I've actually produced a very basic facility to produce letters from my application using the PDF output patterns. I allow the user to specify paragraphs of text which are stored in a table. Taking other user data and the paragraphs and using titles I can combine the data into a (very basic) letter format. I was thinking of improving on this with some kind of mail merge of fields (similar to way you do with %%name) to allow more flexibility and give a better looking letter.

At this point I thought it was worth mentioning to you to see if you felt it was worth proper deveopment within the framework.

Graham

Subject: Re: PDF facility to produce letters
Posted by AJM on Fri, 29 May 2009 14:14:25 GMT
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That sounds too specific in its functionality rather than generic, and it could probably be produced with an existing pattern combined with the right custom code, so I don't see any advantage in building a new pattern.

Subject: Re: PDF facility to produce letters
Posted by gpatti on Fri, 29 May 2009 14:24:32 GMT
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Well you are right - it can be achieved with the existing patterns and some custom code because I've done (albeit a little crudely at the moment).

I just wondered whether there might be any benefit in an additional pattern that is not so biased to tabular format output. This might make it a little easier to develop a more user friendly interface within an app.

If you don't think it's worth it that's no problem.