



CICS²PDF

Native CICS PDF creation for web-enabled mainframe applications

Web-enabling transactional CICS systems to deliver critical business information to employees, customers, and partners is a critical element of today's 'on demand' business environment. While most of that transactional or event content is presented via HTML or XML for viewing, printing, and other post-processing activities, PDF is the standard for document viewing, printing and archiving. CICS²PDF is native CICS mainframe technology to create enhanced PDF output directly from CICS transactional systems.

Why PDF

Current web-enabled systems typically deliver end user results via HTML or XML. HTML page presentation is subject to a browser's interpretation and formatting, and typically contains multiple embedded links and graphics that are presented via the HTML 'page' construct. However, that HTML 'page' is transient in nature, since it can not be reproduced in its entirety without assembling all the necessary data and presentation elements again in the future.

PDF, on the other hand, is a permanent, portable representation of a unit of work or output. A PDF can be saved and forwarded and viewed reliably, with all of its fonts and graphics included. A PDF can be a multi-page document and it will print the same on all printers.

Why in CICS

By building the PDF on the mainframe in CICS, instead of at some other layer in a multi-tier solution, there are fewer 'moving parts', fewer 'points of failure', and ultimately more control. For example, in an application that is to deliver a copy of the customer's latest statement or transaction, CICS²PDF can get the request, compose the PDF, send it, and update the customer database to the effect that 'the document was delivered with a timestamp' - all in a single CICS transaction or unit of work at the source of the data. Without this tight coupling, this level of assurance would take more time and effort and represent multiple units of work on potentially multiple platforms.

CICS²PDF Features and Functions

CICS²PDF is native CICS mainframe technology to create enhanced PDF output directly from CICS transactional systems. The major features and functions include:

Overlays and PrepHost. Overlays represents the ability to combine CICS transactional output with pre-designed PDF forms. These PDF forms can be created using any standard design tool (Mac or PC) to create a master PDF that is converted to a mainframe Overlay file, using the PrepHost facility, so CICS²PDF can 'print' on it. In addition, all government forms are available in PDF format, so they can be used directly. (Imagine how a customer could create a W2 reprint application by using the actual W2 form from the IRS).

Imported fonts. PrepHost can extract fonts from any PDF and make that available to CICS²PDF. For example, a Barcode font can be invoked to dynamically add bar-coded information to an invoice/bill of lading PDF generated by CICS²PDF.

Advanced PDF Formatting with the Script Language. CICS²PDF includes a powerful scripting language that can create complex PDF pages, such as multiple Overlays, watermarks, JPEG and TIFF-F images, rotating objects, drawing functions (boxes, lines, etc), annotations, bookmarks and more.

Encryption and Password Protection. CICS²PDF supports Adobe Acrobat™ encryption and password-protection. This includes the two standard levels of encryption protection: the 'owner' level can prevent changes to the PDF after generation and 'user' password level prevents the PDF to be viewed by anyone without the password. With encryption, the customer can be assured that no data leaves their mainframe un-encrypted and without proper passwords it can't be altered. Both RC4 and AES encryption are supported.

Compression. Adobe Acrobat™ PDF supports compression automatically and CICS²PDF compresses data contents. On larger PDF documents, compression can reduce the output size by up to 80%.

Email Delivery. CICS²PDF will hand the PDF document back to the application in storage and generally expects that the application is responsible for the delivery of the document to its intended location. If the intent is to email the document to a recipient then CICS²PDF will perform this function for you. The document will be sent as an email attachment along with a specified cover page.

Embedded Files. Adobe Acrobat™ version 7 supports attached, or embedded, files. These files can be text or binary and because they are located within the PDF document, they take advantage of any encryption used on the document. CICS²PDF supports the embedding of separate text or binary files within the PDF. The recipient must have Acrobat (or Reader) version 7 or above.

Diagnostics. CICS²PDF has extensive built-in diagnostics. There are several levels of tracing that can be activated, from 'Minimum' to 'Debug' level, and the destination of the trace information can also be controlled.

Documentation. CICS²PDF is fully documented with samples programs, overlays and scripts provided.

Experience. CASI/L&A have been delivering mainframe based PDF solutions since 1999 in products such as JES2Mail, JES2FTP and MQ2Mail.

Contact Information

For more information, please visit www.cics2pdf.com to view a live CICS demonstration or contact CASI Software by e-mail at info@casisoft.com or by telephone at 714-378-1109.