

List & Label
in use at
WebDatabases

List & Label – Universal Reporting Remedy for Individual Applications

Up-to-date product lists are everything in retail and that, of course, counts for pharmacies, too. WebDatabases from the German city of Schwabebisch Gmuend has developed a unique piece of software that generates updated product lists overnight with consistent reliability. The managing director, Alex Singer, discovered a universal remedy for reporting in the List & Label report generator that can be optimally customized according to his customers' individual demands. And the pharmacists aren't the only ones finding his applications are just what the doctor ordered.

The Company

Since 1990 WebDatabases in the city of Schwabebisch Gmuend/Germany has been programming individual solutions for a wide range of business processes for companies whose needs are not met quickly enough with standard solutions. Alex Singer and his team use Visual Studio 2008 and 2010 not only to develop traditional software and database programs for Windows, but also for web-based solutions and online presences with highly complex B2B and B2C systems. His customers are found in the fields of drug stores, medicines, natural cosmetics, automotives and municipalities. The sophisticated web applications are based on Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL and Oracle database servers.

The Challenge

The pharmacy WebDatabases customer needed a SQL Server database program for preparing medicinal product lists to be gene-

Facts

Organization: WebDatabases GmbH



Sector: Software manufacturer

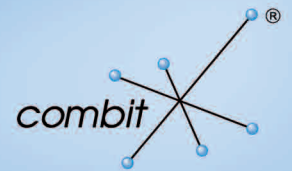
Location: Schwabebisch Gmuend/Germany

Web: www.webdatabases.de

Challenge: Develop a program for preparing automatically generated reports of medicines that are distributed to a web server.

Solution: combit List & Label Enterprise Edition

Success: SQL Server web application with complex reporting features and export options.



rated automatically and distributed to a web server during the night. A purchasing application for a customer in automotives needed to offer complex database supported reporting with flexible fields and criteria. Alex Singer required a highly flexible development tool that can be used with different programming languages for these types of projects. "The cost-benefit ratio has to be right, too," he explains, "We have to be able to depend on high-quality documentation and reliable support." It's also important for him to have a licensing model that allows the report designer to be delivered to the end user along with the application without incurring any additional licensing fees.

The Solution

Numerous positive test reports brought Alex Singer's attention to the List & Label report generator from combit. He had used the competition's Crystal Reports prior to this discovery. "I wasn't happy with their support at all and found Crystal Reports to be too complex," he summarizes. He was ultimately convinced by the List & Label licensing model, as it allows him to deliver the Designer to the end user along with his application as often as he wishes. The performance range and ability to use various programming languages and databases were also important factors in the decision to use List & Label. Since 2003 WebDatabases has integrated List & Label in about 20 applications. Alex and his team have used every List & Label version starting with version 10.

Alex Singer felt the effort and costs of integrating List & Label were "always very acceptable." The pharmacy application project using List & Label was completed within 2 months. Various changes and expansions were easily made in the course of the project and the combit support team proved to be "willing and able to help" whenever a question arose. Starting with version 13 of List & Label Alex Singer was able to consult with support at any time and at no extra cost because he had decided to use the Enterprise Edition of the reporting tool.

The numerous List & Label features were used heavily by the developers at WebDatabases for the application for preparing pharmacy product lists, as well. It runs on an SQL Server and is distributed as a console program on a web server. Alex Singer

and his team often integrated the chart object and used special characters only available in Unicode, as well as formulas for object properties, in the various reports. The report container serves as the basis for complex spreadsheet structures and relational reports; the export to diverse formats can even be started directly from the preview. WebDatabases passes the List & Label Designer on to the customer in most applications other than console applications. Only the administrator has access to the Designer with web applications, but the users are able to develop complex selections. "Data is exported to PDF in most cases," Alex Singer says in describing how his customers use his applications. List & Label web applications are actively used by 5-50 users in general.



Summary

WebDatabases has found a universal remedy for reporting using List & Label. Managing Director and Head of Development, Alex Singer, values the flexibility of the components and fast results in particular and summarizes: "List & Label allows for more complex and flexible reporting than any other reporting tool." That is why WebDatabases has stayed true to List & Label since 2003 and integrated the report generator in some 20 successful applications. When asked about his future with List & Label, Alex Singer responds very clearly: "Yes, we plan to use List & Label even more often in the future."

„List & Label allows for more complex and flexible reporting than any other reporting tool“

„Simple integration, fast programming“
Alex Singer, WebDatabases GmbH