



The Canadian Paediatric Society integrates RealObjects PDFreactor®

The Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) publishes position statements that convey the opinion and recommendations of the Society. They provide guidance to health care practitioners and policy makers on issues relevant to the health and well-being of Canadian children and youth. The CPS also publishes practice points, which are aimed at paediatricians, family physicians and other child health care providers and discuss specific issues of clinical care.

Statements are published in abstract format in our medical journal *Paediatrics & Child Health*, and in full-length html at www.cps.ca. A printable, professionally-designed PDF is then created from the HTML in real time from a server using PDFreactor® and can be downloaded.

Authors: Christine LaRocque, Manager, Public Affairs, Canadian Paediatric Society
Ross Barclay, Ruby on Rails Developer, Toronto, Ontario

About the Canadian Paediatric Society

The CPS is the national association of paediatricians, committed to working together to advance the health of children and youth by nurturing excellence in health care, advocacy, education, research and support of its membership. As a voluntary professional association, the CPS represents more than 3,000 Canadian paediatricians, paediatric subspecialists, paediatric residents, and other people who work with and care for children and youth. The CPS is governed by an elected Board of Directors representing all provinces and territories.

The CPS is active in several major areas:

Professional education: The CPS supports the continuing professional development needs of paediatricians and others involved in providing health care to children and youth through position statements, a peer-review journal, and educational opportunities.

Advocacy: The CPS identifies gaps in and encourages improvements to public policy that affects the health of children and youth.

Public education: The CPS works to increase public awareness and education about the health needs and health care of children and youth.

Surveillance and research: The CPS monitors rare diseases and conditions through the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program, and ensures continued research into vaccine-associated adverse reactions and vaccine-preventable diseases through IMPACT (Immunization Monitoring Program, ACTive).

Problem

Every month, the CPS publishes position statements that convey the opinion and recommendations of the Society. They provide guidance to health care practitioners and policy makers on issues relevant to the health and well-being of Canadian children and youth. The CPS also publishes practice points, which are aimed at paediatricians, family physicians and other child health care providers and discuss specific issues of clinical care.

Statements are published in abstract format in our peer-reviewed medical journal [Paediatrics & Child Health](#), and in [full-length html](#) at www.cps.ca. Many of our core audiences require a printer-friendly, journal quality full-length version of these documents. Traditionally PDF files were provided by the journal's publisher, but since moving to publishing the abstract version only, the full length documents have only been available in HTML.

At the same time, the organization was interested in updating the standard design for the printer-friendly PDF versions to make the elements consistent across all documents.

The CPS is a non-profit organization. With a repository of more than 360 documents (statements and practice points in English and French) the cost of manually updating the design for each document was cost prohibitive.

Why RealObjects PDFreactor®?

Moving forward the CPS was looking for a solution that would convert these documents from HTML to PDF dynamically and in real-time to accommodate any ongoing revisions and updates to the HTML version. The solution had to be easily integrated into our existing publishing structure, provide consistent design across all documents and reduce long-term costs. We did evaluate other PDF solutions, but came to the conclusion that PDFreactor® was the most efficient and cost-effective solution.

With RealObjects PDFreactor® we were able to capitalize on our existing web processes by defining page layout and styles using Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). The tool delivers fast, reliable, high-quality journal-like documents that our audiences can easily download and print.

Realization of objective

It was critical to the integrity of the documents that only one canonical version existed of each, in the master document database. This would ensure that all consumers of the document would pull from a single source, and the document would be transformed in real time to suit the display mechanism. This has the added advantage that staff time will not be required to create and manage, indefinitely, both printed and electronic versions of a document in two official languages. Keeping all the content unified in the document management system is superior to splitting it between the database and the file system (for the PDFs). It greatly simplifies the process of updating and revising documents.

CPS already had their re-engineered website fully integrated with the document database which provided attractively styled renderings of the documents in HTML. The only thing missing was to provide a print-ready version of the documents as well.

Conclusion

PDFreactor® was formally and successfully implemented after the software was tested across a variety of different types of documents. The main advantages in using this software included:

- A completed style sheet was immediately applied to all 360 documents.
- The ability to update and revise the style sheet moving forward and to integrate the revisions across all documents.
- The ability to streamline the work flow into an existing publication process.

“PDFreactor® is incredibly versatile and was very straightforward to integrate into CPS’s existing Ruby on Rails document management system. The PDF Reactor team was able to provide extremely quick turnaround on support questions. Between their CSS experts and the software itself, RealObjects has allowed CPS to produce output with surprising visual complexity and polish.”

Ross Barclay, Ruby on Rails Developer, Toronto Ontario

Overall the RealObjects support team was responsive, professional and tremendously easy to work with.

Contact

RealObjects GmbH
Altenkessler Str. 17/B6
66115 Saarbrücken
Germany
Tel. +49 681 985 790
Fax +49 681 985 7929
info@realobjects.com
www.realobjects.com

Canadian Paediatric Society
2305 St. Laurent Blvd
Ottawa, ON
Canada K1G 4J8
Tel. +1 613 526 9397
Fax +1 613 526 3332
info@cps.ca
www.cps.ca