

DEVELOPING A REPORT GENERATOR APPLICATION USING ADOBE FLEX 3



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DEVELOPING A REPORT GENERATOR APPLICATION USING ADOBE FLEX 3

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ABSTRACT

The team's proposed topic is developing a report generator application using Adobe Flex. The said application can connect to database and lets the user select a schema and table for the report content. It design reports by writing the title, creating query for the report content, writing the person who prepared the report and displaying date and time. It allows the users to export the reports to PDF. It also let the users have printed output of it by using the printing component of this application.

Keywords:

Reports, Adobe Flex, Printing, PDF, MySQL

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Adobe Flex consistently helps its users by producing, building and maintaining expressive flash applications that can be implemented to major browsers and operating systems. Nowadays, people prefer flash applications rather than traditional and static applications. Apart from it is more interactive; it is also the trend for both web developers and application fanatics. However, flash applications also have shortcomings and one of these is generating reports.

Though some experts of Adobe flex have made components such as FlexReport, there are limitations and lacking features in that component which makes it inefficient. Aside from it only serves as report viewer and cannot design report, its printing function is not also perfected. These deficiencies became an issue in Adobe Flex.

However, there are also commercial applications that can generate report perfectly in flash applications such as Crystal reports, however, it is not for free compared to open source applications such as FlexReport.

1.2 TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION CONTEXT

The present study seeks to answer the following general problem:

- How do we make report generator application using adobe flex framework?

Specifically, it seeks to answer the following questions:

- What is Adobe Flex?

- How to build application in Adobe Flex?
- What is MXML and ActionScript?
- How to make MXML and ActionScript applications?
- What is a report generator?
- How does a report generator built?

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The general objective of this research is to:

- Learn how to create application using MXML and ActionScript in Adobe Flex.
- Develop a report generator application for Adobe Flex.

The specific objectives are:

- To create an application where the users can input SQL statements
- To create an application that can print the generated report.
- To create an application that can export the reports to PDF.
- To create an application that can edit the header and title of the report.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study is very important because it would be very helpful for the users of Adobe Flex especially for those who are making reports and printing documents. It will also solve the problems and issues that are encountered by the users. Furthermore, the study will also make the Adobe Flex more efficient and manageable to use.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study will generally focus on Adobe Flex specifically on generating reports, previewing and printing. The following are the project limitations:

- The application can only run in Adobe Flex platform.
- The application is not able to design reports using reporting tools unlike Crystal Reports.
- The application can only use MySQL as database.
- The application is not able to create technical drawings and graphs.

1.6 DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. **XML** - Extensible Markup Language aids information systems in sharing structured data, especially via the Internet, to encode documents, and to serialize data.
2. **MXML** - an XML-based user interface markup language. It can create RIAs by combining with ActionScript.
3. **ActionScript** – used for development of web pages and software using Adobe Flash Player Platform also called as Rich Internet Applications.
4. **Flash** - used to create vector graphics-based animation programs and web applications with high quality.
5. **Rich Internet Applications** – interactive and high-quality web applications that have some of the characteristics of desktop applications.
6. **Server-side** - refers to operations that are performed by the server in a client-server relationship in computer networking. It also includes operations such as processing and storage of data from a client to a server, which can be viewed by a group of clients.

7. **Structured Query Language** - for requesting information from a database. This enables several users on a local-area network to access the same database simultaneously.
8. **Eclipse** - a platform that has been designed from the ground up for building integrated web and application development tooling. By design, the platform does not provide a great deal of end user functionality by itself. The value of the platform is what it encourages: rapid development of integrated features based on a plug-in model. Eclipse provides a common user interface (UI) model for working with tools. It is designed to run on multiple operating systems while providing robust integration with each underlying OS.
9. **JavaScript** - a scripting language widely used for client-side web development. It was the originating dialect of the ECMAScript standard. It is a dynamic, weakly typed, prototype-based language with first-class functions. JavaScript was influenced by many languages and was designed to look like Java, but be easier for non-programmers to work with. It is also used to enable scripting access to objects embedded in other applications.