

## RE: Mail Merge Automation

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Office/microsoft.public.office.developer.automation/2004-02/0004.html>

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Date: Wed, 18 Feb 2004 21:14:24 GMT

You can find an quick sample that automates Word from VB to do a mail merge at the following link.

220607 HOWTO: Automate Microsoft Word to Perform Mail Merge from Visual Basic

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=220607>

I would look closely at the CreateMailMergeDataFile Sub in the sample in this KB Article. If you're sending a data file to the client, you can have them read that data in and create the DataDocument on their side by reading the data file you send them from the WEB Server. In that situation you'll be modifying the CreateMailMergeDataFile SUB.

*>From what you wrote in the last thread, I believe the client is running the mail merge from their PC, and that you send them the data they enter or modify in a file that they download from the WEB Server. I also understand that you are sending them a template Word MailMerge Document in the same way. But it sounds like you are creating the Word MailMerge document on the server side. If you are, you don't want to do this. If you need to generate the MailMerge Document you want to do that on the client side as well. KB Article 257757 goes into some of the details of why you would not want to automate word from the server side. Here's a link to that article.*

257757 INFO: Considerations for Server-Side Automation of Office

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=257757>

If you have no choice and have to create the document on the server side you may want to create an RTF File and do the MailMerge there. Then you could have the client download the RTR File, which they would open in Word. Here's a quick sample of how to create an RTF File using an ASP Page.

270906 HOWTO: Use ASP to Generate a Rich Text Format (RTF) Document to Stream

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=270906>

Let me know if this does the trick.

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| Thread-Topic: Mail Merge Automation  
| thread-index: AcP1/QzmsOd5GjLXRP2THmV/LIMzMg==  
| X-Tomcat-NG: microsoft.public.office.developer.automation  
| From: "=?Utf-8?B?Q2hyaXMgSG9hcmU=?" <helpme@hotmail.com>  
| Subject: Mail Merge Automation  
| Date: Wed, 18 Feb 2004 00:56:08 -0800  
| Lines: 12  
| Message-ID: <ED4441D4-3FB7-4BBB-9AA2-9314A196435C@microsoft.com>  
| MIME-Version: 1.0  
| Content-Type: text/plain;  
| charset="Utf-8"  
| Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit  
| X-Newsreader: Microsoft CDO for Windows 2000  
| Content-Class: urn:content-classes:message  
| Importance: normal  
| Priority: normal  
| X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.3790.0  
| Newsgroups: microsoft.public.office.developer.automation  
| Path: cpmsftngxa07.phx.gbl  
| Xref: cpmsftngxa07.phx.gbl  
microsoft.public.office.developer.automation:8427  
| NNTP-Posting-Host: tk2msftcmty1.phx.gbl 10.40.1.180  
| X-Tomcat-NG: microsoft.public.office.developer.automation  
|

| I need to do a mail merge letter for a generated contract. The letter basically comes in two parts :

- 1 ) Standard letter bits – dear so and so
- 2 ) n Lines of contract specific information

The data is being supplied over the web and needs to be fairly simple for the end user to understand (as they will want to be able to modify the contracts without calling me for XSLT changes ...)

At the moment i output a table to disk; using word active x on teh client pc, and then import that to a template which is downloaded from the webserver. I am open to any suggestions because i am fresh out of ideas how to accomplish this now... (Have tried two documents and an ole embed which is force updated on merge xslt and a second merge to the file.)

The ole merge seemed to be a good idea; but in practice gave me issues

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