



Document Actions and Storefront API

Pageflex software allows you to automate document customization and personalization through the easy to use interfaces of Pageflex Studio, Server, and Storefront. While these graphical user interfaces allow for a substantial amount of automation, you may also find situations where programming is your best option. Pageflex offers a rich set of application programming interfaces (APIs) for such situations. While some Pageflex users produce large quantities of customized output without writing a line of code, others take full advantage of these APIs to achieve sophisticated tailoring of documents and workflows.

This class focuses on two of the most popular APIs, Document Actions and the Storefront API, and is primarily geared toward Storefront users. The Document Actions API allows you to programmatically interact with the object model and various properties of a document. The Storefront API allows you to read and write Storefront data using SINI and take control from Storefront using SXI.

The audience for this class is programmers. You must meet the following pre-requisites:

- Experienced with .NET programming (class samples are written in C#)
- Proficient user of Microsoft Visual Studio
- Pass a verbal interview with the instructor

Day 1 — Document Actions API

Day 1 is spent focusing on the Document Actions API. You will start the day by examining how to set up document actions in your Studio project and how to use Microsoft Visual Studio for simplified code-writing. You will then be led through several example projects illustrating some of the many capabilities of the Document Actions API. The day will end with some tips and tricks for using document actions, including retrieving a variable's value, grouping sub-routines into one method, and calling document actions over a network.

LESSONS

- Document Actions Overview
- Color project - change a box's color based on a variable value
- Business Card project, part 1 – make font and color changes
- Business Card project, part 2 – detect text overflow and set the box's fill color
- Generic code libraries
- Dynamic-length Documents – controlling a documents page count
- Tips and Tricks

Day 2 — Storefront API

Day 2 starts with an overview of the Storefront API. The creation of DLL and SOAP based SXI extensions will be discussed as well as the use of SINI in a SXI extension. You will also learn about the different extension types and how to work with Users, Orders, Products, and Document IDs. The instructor will then walk the class through the planning, coding, and testing of a sample extension for moving final output from the Storefront output directory to another location.

LESSONS

- SXI / SINI API structure and overview
 - DLL and SOAP
 - innerSINI via inserts
 - Extension Types
 - Classes, Properties, and Fields
- Output Mover project
 - Using Visual Studio
 - Choosing the appropriate SXI events for desired functionality
 - Developing the extension
 - Testing
 - Creating a configuration page

Day 3 — Storefront API

Day 3 continues with the opportunity to build a second Storefront extension, forcing a user to order multiple items as part of a kit. The instructor will work with the students to identify the requirements for completing this project. Students will learn how to locate specific Products, programmatically create and delete Documents, and copy fields between Documents.

LESSONS

- Forced Ordering (Kitting) project
 - Finding specific Products
 - Creating and deleting Documents
 - Copying fields between Documents
 - SXI / SINI and Storefront's Object Model: debugging timing issues