



NSS launches AdVit-server at Roularta

The Belgian software developer NSS recently installed several Vit2Print applications at Roularta, that hereby further automates the placement and management of ads via the web.

NSS or Net & Storage Solutions, based in Pittem, is firmly anchored in our Belgian market and is of course well-known in the graphics industry. The firm started in 1987 as Computil. Today the firm thus exists 20 years! Two years later, in 1989, the firm decisively chose to become a supplier for prepress applications. The company started with this by adding Unix-servers to its portfolio. The most important thing however for the company for the temporary situation, is that it decided to develop own software. In conclusion: NSS is an experienced software developer for the graphics industry. In 2001 Computil changed its name to NSS or Net & Storage Solutions. The new company name described their activities much better. The activities of NSS contain three important aspects for graphic companies: development and sales of back-up and storage systems, prepress and premedia automation and internet solutions. Nowadays, the company counts 16 people, of which 10 are software developers.

NSS summarizes its mission in one sentence: "Quand tu tombes, je tombe!" This sentence expresses the tight partnership NSS always strives for. Filip Desseyn, CEO NSS, says it in this manner: "We want to create a triple win situation. Triple Win is: one, we want to be a partner for the graphics industry; two, NSS sells products to its customers that make them stronger; and the third 'win' is found in the fact that our customers have more satisfied customers."

NSS follows the marketing logics and goes to the customer with a "what you wish is what you get" philosophy. The graphics industry needs a strong IT-partner, because –generally speaking – the IT knowledge in-house is mostly insufficient. This is a pity, because the added value to IT solutions is big. Just think about archival and storage solutions of customer base, offering digital asset management, the development of a web-to-print system, realizing database publishing, automating the prepress workflow, etc.

New Vit2Print software Suite

The latest NSS software suite is named Vit2Print. This software technology operates on a Mac OSX, but is also available for Linux and Solaris. The advantages of this selection are the Unix stability, the low license costs and the flawless integration of all libraries with OS. The NSS product portfolio now counts six products, but will be expanded in the near future.

- AdVit server: is the core of the production. It is an Indesign CS2 based engine that dynamically generates documents.
- PhotoVit: a set of modules for asset management, preflighting and prepress-server management.
- FormVit: is an application server with web-interface for one-to-one dynamic document creation, based on AdVit or PDF Library.
- PuzzleVit: an application server with web-interface for complex grid positioning of ads.
- TransVit: an application server for online translation of InDesign documents.
- EasyBurn: software for automatic CD/DVD creation, database CD-archive.

Roularta uses the AdVit server, FormVit and PuzzleVit to further automate the treat, manipulation and management of the ad orders. Anyway, this is a reference that counts for a software developer!

AdVit server

The AdVit server is the software shell build around the Indesign CS2 server, because the Indesign server is more a toolbox that isn't very user-friendly and has to be programmed. For lots of companies the Indesign server is a problem because it is hard to work with, it requires a lot of plug-ins to create functionalities. This results in a long process to get to the desired results. The AdVit server itself operates on Xserve from Macintosh and is as a communication layer developed with the below components:

- NSS Logic , that allows server-management for the Indesign CS2 server, preview- and template management and document creation and "load balancing"
- Adobe Indesign CS2 server
- A database, MySQL tables for internal management
- API-function with powerful options for web services
- Communication via SOAP and WSDL protocols
- Robust technology based on Webobjects 5.2 + Java; that guarantees stable applications

AdVit allows big possibilities and is very user-friendly. The templates are programmed by means of a completely readable menu formula and the actual XML programming happens in the back-ground. AdVit makes the Indesign server a scalable solution and thus a solution that can grow along with the company.

FormVit

This is an application server for the treat, creation and manipulation of documents, based on templates. The creation of templates does not require any IT knowledge or knowledge of databases. FormVit is an application server for generating documents with variable data e.g. business cards, ads, flyers, technical brochures, etc. It is able to process simple as well as complex documents. The web-interface is user-friendly. The server contains a lot functionalities such as: user management, order management, data import, validations, download and e-mail of assets, upload and saving images, text formatting, free lay-out, personalization, image editing, image rotation, languages, payment systems, MIS-interface, etc.

In conjunction with the AdVit server and PDFLib, lots of supplemental and interesting applications are possible.

FormVit is one of the temporary web-to-print systems that allow companies to create their own web system for creating and communication concerning print. It is flexible and it works independently of the company-specific software. Moreover, it can be integrated with all software environments. An important factor is that FormVit even automates administration for printers, regarding the treat and manipulation of orders.

PuzzleVit

The PuzzleVit-interface allows creating big colour ads based on grid positioning. PuzzleVit contains a powerful set of instructions and is connected to an internal database (XML).

This is not everything. Some modules of the Vit2Print software suite are still in development. Those modules will complete and expand the functionalities of the software suite. For instance RoughOUT, a tool that automates catalogue publishing and CorrectVit. NSS is working on an update of the PhotoVit-module today. NSS offers the different Vit2Print components in different levels. Either, the customer elaborates its own interface or applications or – if the customer does not have sufficient IT knowledge – NSS elaborates the interface and applications.

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