RML Example 19: Outline

ReportLab

RML (Report Markup Language) is ReportLab's own language for specifying the appearance of a printed page, which is converted into PDF by the utility rml2pdf.

These RML samples showcase techniques and features for generating various types of ouput and are distributed within our commercial package as test cases. Each should be self explanatory and stand alone.

Table Of Contents (TOC) example

This demonstrates the fast way to generate a table of contents. The table of contents below is generated dynamically. We reserve a fixed size box to hold the TOC below (6x3 inches in this case), and use a deferred form to draw it. If you can safely estimate the maximum size of the TOC (and if it fits on one page), this lets you generate one in a single formatting pass.

If the TOC might span pages, then don't do the deferred form; just put the TOC table inline within the document, using namedString and getName. RML will automatically do multiple passes over the document (usually 2 but it can be 3) until all cross references are resolved accurately.

We also did some cunning trickery with the page numbers to make the second page show 'page 1' - see the source. You can do basic page number maths to number sections distinctly.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: About this page

About these pages: the code behind this pdf should give an example of how to set up a table of contents. You'll see the form for the table of contents (headed 'form name="TOC"') is defined at the end of the code. The two most important tags and the (ones that must match here)are namedString id="label3" and the related getName id="label3". The first sets a value for the contents page number, the second retrieves it. Ignore the following pseudo-bio babble, it's there for padding

Politics of Foramenifera

Globorotalia Menardii coils according to water temperature and prevailing political situations. Preferring alkaline rather than acidic environments they are however intuitively left-wing

Drosophila Melanogaster

How fruit flies changed my life. Blah blah waffle waffle blah blah yawn yawn
....

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CHAPTER2

Politics of Foramenifera

Globorotalia Menardii coils according to water temperature and prevailing political situations. Preferring alkaline rather than acidic environments they are intuitively left-wing

Drosophila Melanogaster

How fruit flies changed my life. Blah blah waffle waffle blah blah yawn yawn ....

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CHAPTER3

Acrocladium Cuspidatum

A meaningful relationship with Moss

Rattus rattus

So bad they named him twice Blah blah waffle waffle blah blah yawn yawn
....

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more rubbish about ratty and so forth ....

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CHAPTER4

Namby Pamby

Lilac scented satin trousers

Ganesh the elephant god dances on heads with Kali

So bad they named him thrice Blah blah waffle waffle blah blah yawn yawn
....

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ReportLab

the print button for eBusiness

Last Chapter

Blah blah waffle waffle blah blah yawn yawn...................................... Blah blah waffle waffle blah blah yawn yawn..................................... Blah blah waffle waffle blah blah yawn yawn......................................