

EnMasse Datasheet



OVERVIEW

RenderX EnMasse is a powerful solution for high-performance content formatting that provides a distributed formatting server environment. When combined with one or more RenderX XEP Servers, EnMasse meets the demands required for high volume printing of documents such as invoices and statements. The application accepts documents locally or over the network and controls the formatting process to maximize throughput.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- The formatting takes place on the server, which makes it possible to have the server as fast as necessary, and user stations to only handle less resource-hungry editing tasks.
- The formatting is asynchronous; for long documents, the user does not have to wait for the formatting to finish, but can continue editing the document while a preview is being generated.
- EnMasse is highly scalable and can simultaneously handle as many authors as necessary by simply installing additional XEP engines.
- All authors use the same version of XEP, with one configuration, so that results do not differ from one workstation to another.
- The previews and the final documents look exactly the same, because the scalability of EnMasse allows the user to generate previews and format final documents on the same system.

INSTALLATION

A typical EnMasse installation includes:

- One or more XEP Servers, running locally or remotely
- A simple monitoring interface over HTTP (a tiny HTTP server is embedded into each engine)
- An XEP Access Point

EnMasse's current implementation is written in Java and Python. It runs on most modern computer platforms and operating systems, including various Unixes, Microsoft Windows, Linux, Mac OS X, and Plan 9. A simple and flexible sockets-based protocol allows programs in any language to easily connect to EnMasse, thus eliminating limitations imposed by any single environment. EnMasse is highly portable, easy to install and requires almost no maintenance.

XEP ACCESS POINT

The XEP Access Point is a hub that accepts formatting queries and returns results using either a hot folder or a service-based interface. It can be run as a separate application

(serving network requests or monitoring folders) or can be embedded in code such as with a workflow or database application.

EnMasse provides a “single point” abstraction, so there is no need to worry about the number of engines that are currently running or busy. Because the access point and the processing engines both have HTTP servers embedded in them, the system administrator can instantly check the status of the grid, identify problems and take measures.

An EnMasse access point takes little memory and processing time. It can be deployed on a loaded intranet server, or even on a workstation. As long as the processing engines run on separate machines, the speed or throughput of the framework are not affected.

ENMASSE APPLICATIONS

For accounting purposes and performance tuning, EnMasse provides a logging facility that provides a choice of ways to submit queries and receive responses. Internally, EnMasse distributes formatting jobs, logs activity and monitors grid nodes. Whatever the system around it does, the role of its core is still the same. The amount of logging can be adjusted or completely turned off. The log files are easy for users to understand and for programs to process. The two current interface applications are active folder and network server.

ENMASSE ACTINIA

EnMasse Actinia, an “active folder” application, monitors the input folder, picks up documents in XSL FO, and puts formatted documents in PDF or PostScript into the printer queue.

When the user drops an XSL FO file into the active folder, Actinia notices it, picks it up, sends for formatting to one of servers in the grid, and stores the formatted document in the output folder. The output folder can be the same as, or different from, the input one. This approach works when the client sends the document for processing, for example, when a different player needs the formatted document, or when the document leaves the system through another channel (is printed and delivered in hard-copy form).

A typical example is a bank generating statements, bills, invoices and personalized letters. Different programs installed on many servers generate different kinds of documents, each with its own stylesheet and with its own data retrieved from the database. All documents are placed into the inbound folder of EnMasse Actinia. Actinia picks them up and places generated postscript files into the output folder. A separate program monitors the output folder and sends the final documents to a number of print devices according to labels embedded in the documents.

ENMASSE TOASTER

EnMasse Toaster is the formatting service that accepts requests over the local network via a simple network protocol, and sends back formatted documents in PDF or PostScript. The user’s workstation then displays the formatted document.

GLOBAL MARKET SUPPORT

RenderX offers the most productive set of software tools available for high-quality electronic and print output of business content. We provide both standalone software products as well as integrated components into larger business solutions, all based on XEP – our original commercial engine. With hundreds of worldwide customers, from the Global 1,000 to smaller organizations, RenderX software is used within virtually every business segment. If you have content and you need it in print or a page representation, RenderX has the right product for your needs.