DocOrigin vs BI Publisher White Paper
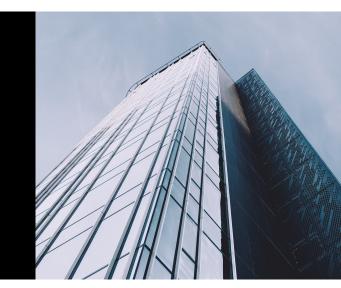
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Upgrade Your Document Generation with DocOrigin: The Superior Replacement for Oracle BI Publisher

Are you considering Oracle Business Intelligence Publisher (BIP) to replace an outdated or discontinued document generation solution? Or are you already using BIP but struggling to meet your growing document generation needs? As your business evolves, so do the demands for more dynamic, flexible, and sophisticated document generation capabilities.

Introducing DocOrigin by Eclipse Corporation — the smarter choice for enterprise document generation. DocOrigin offers unmatched flexibility, superior performance, and intuitive ease of use, positioning itself as the ultimate addition or alternative to BIP. Whether you're dealing with compatibility issues, seeking better support, or simply looking for a more efficient and powerful solution, DocOrigin transforms your document generation process, driving greater business productivity.

DocOrigin stands out as a leader in advanced document generation, featuring seamless integrations, a user-friendly document composition interface, and optimized business processes. With its rapid, flexible design capabilities and reliable high performance, DocOrigin meets the demands of today's fast-paced business environment.

At the heart of DocOrigin is DocOrigin Design, a Microsoft® Windows® application that provides an intuitive graphical user interface (GUI) tailored to create business forms and document templates effortlessly. Designed to solve the unique challenges of template development, DocOrigin empowers users to handle complex document generation scenarios with ease and efficiency, offering limitless possibilities for your organization's needs.

Solving Complex Document Generation: DocOrigin vs. Oracle BI Publisher

Document generation requirements are becoming increasingly complex, especially when dealing with regulated industries, precision formatting, and dynamic content. While BIP offers a strong foundation for standard document generation, it cannot meet more complex requirements. DocOrigin, however, is designed to address these challenges head-on, offering advanced features and tools that simplify the process while ensuring compliance and efficiency. In this section, we will dive deeper into these key features and explore why it is necessary to invest in additional document-generation software to complement existing solutions.

In this white paper, we will explore the key features of DocOrigin that set it apart in the realm of document generation:

- Light Table Matching
- Precision Formatting and Placement
- Complex Table Support
- Optional and Mandatory Section Control
- Label Printer Capabilities
- Embedding and Attaching External Documents
- Performance, Reliability, and Speed

Light Table Matching

Light table matching is a technique that ensures a document's content layout matches the original exactly. This is crucial for hand-filled forms, machine-readable elements (such as text and barcodes), and government regulatory forms. international shipping, and insurance documents. Key reasons for light table matching:

- **OCR/ICR Accuracy and Barcode Scanning:** These technologies depend on fixed barcode and text positions to accurately read and extract data. Maintaining the same layout ensures reliable performance and prevents errors.
- **Consistent Referencing:** A uniform layout allows easy reference to specific parts of a document, which is vital in legal and compliance contexts.
- **Seamless Template Conversion:** When transitioning to new document generation software, light table matching helps maintain the original document format. This avoids the need for re-approval from authorities, ensuring compliance and saving time and resources.

By preserving the exact layout during software changes, companies can ensure compliance and avoid the hassle of re-approval processes.

DocOrigin offers two powerful methods for forms that require light table matching.

DocOrigin Document Stitching

With DocOrigin's document stitching feature, customers can seamlessly integrate external, text-intensive, and static documents directly into the output without conversion. For static forms, fields are overlayed on the template with precision, using the PDF as a "ghost image" in the background. This feature not only ensures compliance but also guarantees light table matching since the original source files are used.

Precision Object Placement

DocOrigin offers more granular control over document formatting, ensuring the exact placement of text, images, and table elements to meet strict regulatory or legal requirements. DocOrigin Design supports accurate object placement using the snap-to-grid feature, position docking window, or even scripting to place an object or section, such as a footer, in an exact position. Users can also use the "ghost image" feature to overlay objects to recreate the form.

In contrast, Word flows content or anchors positions based on margin, page, or paragraph, leading to difficulties in achieving the desired layout. As a result, documents fail to meet business standards or require additional time and effort to correct.

Complex Table Support

DocOrigin excels in building advanced tables with multi-tiered details such as detail lines, comments, alternate item ship-to information, specifications, vendor part numbers, and more. Adding a table in DocOrigin is simple.

BIP relies on XSL-FO, making it more challenging to design complex table structures that contain optional information.

Section Control

In DocOrigin, sections are defined into panes (like windowpanes) that can be triggered by a simple mandatory checkbox, the existence of a data element that resides in the pane, or by defining conditions for when it should be instantiated. This approach provides flexibility and precision in document design, allowing users to create highly customized documents with ease.

DocOrigin provides more straightforward mechanisms for controlling optional content, allowing users to define sections as optional based on the presence of data or other conditions without complex scripts.

In addition, BIP's ability to dynamically handle rich content for generating complex layouts is limited. Users struggle with scenarios requiring advanced formatting or the inclusion of variable content that must change dynamically based on complex rules. BIP's reliance on XSL-FO for formatting means that more sophisticated formatting and dynamic content handling often require complex workarounds, such as pre-processing data or using additional tools.

Solving Label Printer Challenges

DocOrigin generates output specifically targeted for label printers to generate barcodes, text, and graphic elements, driving printers at rated speeds. ZPL (Zebra Programming Language) and TPCL (Toshiba Printer Control Language) are used to drive Zebra, Toshiba, and other label printer manufacturers, including Honeywell, TSC, and SATO, which support ZPL.

Integration with Labelary® ZPL Viewer lets the developer preview the output in a PDF viewer. This adds convenience and reduces the cost of label development by reducing ribbon and label waste. With ZPL Viewer, you can view a single label or hundreds, making quality assurance and testing a snap!

BIP does not natively support label printers, which require specific formatting and command languages (such as ZPL). Direct integration with Zebra and Toshiba TEC printers may require additional middleware or a print server to convert BIP output into a format suitable for label printers.

Embedding and Attaching PDFs

DocOrigin allows users to embed PDF files directly within the output file, enhancing flexibility and functionality for complex document needs. Often, external PDF documents are provided to you from external sources such as your compliance department, engineering team, or the government. They can range from legal, text-intensive documents to complex installation instructions. Pulling your documents into your output eliminates the need to convert them. In addition, staying current is easy since any updates to the external documents are implemented the moment the PDF file(s) are replaced.

BIP does not support embedding PDF files within another or attaching additional PDFs (like terms and conditions) as part of the document output process instead uses sub templates to add files to existing templates.

Performance and Speed Issues

DocOrigin's advanced output generation algorithm runs up to 300% faster than the leading competitor's applications. DocOrigin was built by the creators of Adobe Central Output, encompassing the speed and reliability you expect along with the most innovative features on the market today.

Since Microsoft Word and Excel are not designed for production output, BIP struggles with performance and speed, particularly in high-volume document generation scenarios or when processing complex templates with extensive formatting or data. Performance issues stem from the underlying architecture of BIP, which relies heavily on XSL-FO (Extensible Stylesheet Language Formatting Objects) processing and may not be optimized for real-time, high-volume output scenarios. Additionally, the performance can be affected by the complexity of XSLT and XPath expressions used in templates.

Data Mapping and Field Navigation

DocOrigin offers a variety of intuitive data mapping methods, allowing users to bind data to templates more dynamically and with less manual effort. These tools can automate data mapping based on field names or metadata, speeding up template creation and maintenance.

BIP requires manual mapping and navigation for each field, which can be cumbersome for templates with many fields or when data needs to be dynamically bound.

Dynamic Images and Content

DocOrigin Offers more flexible and user-friendly methods for including images or other content based on data-driven conditions. DocOrigin's profile feature allows direct access to INI files for capturing the value of a key field based on the section. This feature is used for text translations to generate multiple languages with a single template. In addition, locale supports currency and date formatting based on region and language. Profile files can also manage variable company content such as logos, addresses, and colors so multiple subsidiaries can use a single template effectively.

DocOrigin is powered by a robust JavaScript engine, offering extensive integration features that provide full access to templates, data, and documents. With built-in JavaScript functions, users can address complex business scenarios, giving them virtually limitless possibilities in document generation.

BIP can manage dynamic images by referencing URLs or paths in the data, but it requires precise configuration and often additional pre-processing or scripting. BIP does not natively support complex dynamic content from external INI files. Implementing such functionality would require pre-processing data or using complex XSLT scripting.

Rich Text File Support

DocOrigin provides capabilities to include external rich text files. The RTF file can be defined by the data. For example, if the document contained a clause that varies from state to state. Rather than write a custom script that is wrapped around each state's unique clause, users can pull the desired state clause based on the recipient's address. This not only makes it easier to generate personalized, complex documents, but it dramatically reduces the size of the template.

Continuous Updates and User-Friendliness

DocOrigin is constantly evolving with new releases three times a year. Eclipse is dedicated to supporting our customers no matter what version of DocOrigin they are running. Eclipse will not force companies to upgrade when they are not ready. Running a company involves many moving pieces, including ERP software, legacy applications, hardware changes, company mergers, and more.

BIP users find the interface dated and cumbersome, making it difficult to design complex templates without significant training or experience. BIP's user interface has not evolved significantly over time, which can make it feel outdated compared to modern document generation tools that offer more intuitive, drag-and-drop interfaces and real-time previews.

Oracle Users Document Generation Challenges

Reliance on plugin software carries inherent risks, particularly when compatibility and support are not guaranteed. Oracle support focuses on the BIP rather than the custom templates created by users. Users require an advanced understanding of Microsoft Word and Excel for developing reports using BIP. The separation between software support and template design expertise can create a gap where users feel unsupported, especially if they lack in-house expertise in BIP's unique syntax and design principles.

Who is to Blame?

When things go wrong with plugin integrations, pinpointing the root cause can be challenging. In the case of BIP and Microsoft Word, users often find themselves caught in the middle, with each vendor blaming the other. Oracle may attribute the problem to template design issues in Word, while Microsoft may blame the plugin from BIP. This lack of clear accountability can lead to prolonged resolution times and increased frustration for users.

Version Limitations

There can be compatibility issues between different versions of BIP, Oracle databases, and other components, making upgrades and integrations complex. Oracle's ecosystem is vast, and different versions of its products may have specific dependencies or requirements, leading to compatibility issues if all components are not properly aligned. While most Microsoft Word RTF templates will not fail when used with BIP, changes in Microsoft applications may impact existing templates.

The DocOrigin Advantage

Eclipse Corporation, the developers of DocOrigin, are solely focused on document generation, making troubleshooting easy. By choosing DocOrigin, organizations gain access to a robust, user-friendly platform that eliminates compatibility concerns and provides comprehensive support, ensuring a smooth and efficient document creation experience.

Since DocOrigin templates are developed using Oracle data structure, integration is not an issue. Changes to the template are only required if the input data structure changes or new template requirements are needed. Upgrades to the DocOrigin software are not required unless a desired feature becomes available in a new release. The only direct integration requirement is a small configuration setting in the user report drop-down, which allows reports to run seamlessly from Oracle. DocOrigin enables users to generate professional output using either XML data or Oracle PDF as input data, which is automatically filtered to XML.

Conclusion

While BIP is a powerful tool for certain document generation tasks, it may not be suitable for high-volume, complex, or specialized document needs. Challenges include difficulties with precision layout, performance, complex dynamic content, label printing, and compatibility issues. These limitations often prompt organizations to seek additional document output solutions that provide more flexibility, better support, and enhanced features tailored to their specific needs.

DocOrigin provides enterprise-class software to design forms, checks, documents, and labels. Created by the founders of JetForm, DocOrigin combines more than 30 years of industry knowledge with current open technology to produce high-fidelity, high-performance templates for any industry. DocOrigin provides more advanced features, flexibility, and ease of use for complex document generation requirements, especially in a highly customized environment.

Comparison Overview

Topic	DocOrigin	BI Publisher
Design	DocOrigin has its own easy-to-use design solution, making it simple to create any form, label, check, or packet.	Requires the use of Adobe Publisher, Microsoft Word, or Microsoft Excel.
Support	Eclipse support focuses solely on document generation, providing fast and effective assistance.	Oracle support does not help with templates designed in Adobe, Excel, or Word.
Performance	DocOrigin is highly optimized for speed and capable of producing large volumes of documents efficiently.	Performance issues may arise, particularly if the system is not properly optimized or configured.
Label Printer Support	DocOrigin drives label printers at rated speeds. DocOrigin generate ZPL and TEC output to drive Zebra, Toshiba, and other label printer manufacturers, including Honeywell, TSC, and SATO.	BIP does not natively support label printers.
Ease of Use	DocOrigin features an intuitive GUI front end with drop-down menus, excellent online documentation, and superior support staff, making it user-friendly.	BIP often requires a strong understanding of XML, XSLT, Oracle technologies, and database expertise.
Dynamic Capabilities	DocOrigin's advanced technology enables the development of highly dynamic and intelligent templates, offering a wide range of customization options.	BIP's customization flexibility is limited compared to DocOrigin.
ERP Compatibility	DocOrigin works seamlessly with any ERP or homegrown application, offering a flexible and versatile integration approach.	BIP is designed to only work with Oracle solutions such as JDE, PeopleSoft, and EBS.
Migration	DocOrigin offers a conversion service, allowing you to migrate quickly and efficiently without the need to redesign your templates from scratch.	BIP does not offer a direct conversion service, requiring significant redesign work for migration.