

Warning: Trying to access array offset on value of type null in
/var/www/vhosts/thecmsbcookbook.com/httpdocs/recipeDetail3.php on line 44

The CMS Builder Cookbook

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CREATING PDF'S FROM VERY LARGE PAGES - Jan 6th, 2015

As the cookbook grew to well over 400 recipes (records) in late 2014, conversion to PDF became a problem. Server memory allocation issues were keeping the PDFs from being created.

Dave Edis from Interactive Tools came up with a simple, elegant solution for creating multiple PDFs, each containing a set number of recipes (records) , and displaying a paging menu at the top of the viewer.

At the top of the viewer, the load records call contains a conditional statement that determines when perPage limitations are implemented. In this case when there is a request for a PDF to be created. (The 'loadCreatedBy' => false, reduces the server load slightly). There's also a createPDF_fromOutput instruction.

```
if (@$_REQUEST['pdf']) {
    list($table_of_contentsRecords, $table_of_contentsMetaData) = getRecords(array(
        'tableName' => 'table_of_contents',
        'perPage' => 100,
        'loadCreatedBy' => false,
    ));
}
else {
    list($table_of_contentsRecords, $table_of_contentsMetaData) = getRecords(array(
        'tableName' => 'table_of_contents',
        'loadCreatedBy' => false,
    ));
}

if (@$_REQUEST['pdf']) { createPDF_fromOutput('inline', 'example.pdf'); }
```

Then in the body, this code changes the background color of the page if a PDF is requested:

```
<?php if (@$_REQUEST['pdf']): ?>
    <body style="background-color:#FFF">
<?php else: ?>
    <body style="background-color:#9FF">
<?php endif ?>
```

And the code that creates a dynamic paging menu:

```
<?php
$recordCount = mysql_count('table_of_contents');
$recordsPerPage = 100;
$pageCount = 1;

print "We now have $recordCount recipes!\n";

while (($pageCount * $recordsPerPage) < ($recordCount + $recordsPerPage)) {
    $recipesLow = sprintf("%03s", ($pageCount-1) * $recordsPerPage + 1 );
    $recipesHigh = min($recordCount, ($pageCount * $recordsPerPage) );

    print "Section $pageCount (Recipes $recipesLow - $recipesHigh)";
    print " - <a href='cookbook.php?page=$pageCount'>View HTML</a>";
    print " - <a href='cookbook.php?page=$pageCount&pdf=1'>Download PDF</a>";

    $pageCount = $pageCount + 1; // show next page
}
?>
```

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