

RIPTIDE CONVERSION SERVICES FOR FILENET

Replacing FileNet Rendition Engine



BACKGROUND

FileNet Rendition Engine transforms MS Office documents stored in FileNet Content Manager into PDF and HTML. FileNet Rendition Engine was originally introduced for FileNet Content Services (also known as Panagon) which was withdrawn in December 2012. It was made available for WorkPlace/XT but deprecated in P8 CPE v5.2.1 in November 2014. Rendition Engine is not enabled or supported with IBM Content Navigator, IBM FileNet Content Manager, IBM Content Foundation or IBM Case Manager.

FileNet Rendition Engine included a “Publishing Template” for WorkPlace which provided automated subscription renditions. Though not officially supported, customers carried that forward with WorkPlace/XT. The Publishing Template has been deprecated and will no longer be supported and has no integration into Content Navigator.

FileNet P8 Events and Subscriptions are the recommended alternative mechanism for any customers still using the Publish Template via WorkPlace, and can be developed by the customer, IBM Lab Services or by business partners.

The current FileNet Rendition Engine version is 5.2, which became generally available April 2013 and is due to reach end of support (EOS) 30th April 2018. Full details of the product lifecycle can be found at <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/support/lifecycleapp/PLCSearch.wss?q=filenet+rendition&ibm-search=Search>. Since Rendition Engine is now scheduled for withdrawal, IBM recommends customers seek alternatives for situations where fully supported applications are required after the EOS date. IBM recommends CrawfordTech Riptide Conversion Services for FileNet as the replacement for FileNet Rendition Engine.

Solution

Riptide Conversion Services for FileNet offers a rendition replacement solution for FileNet Rendition Engine. Riptide Conversion Services includes a custom “Viewer” and “Cart” plug-in for IBM Content Navigator that allows users to render MS Office and image documents to PDF, PDF/A or HTML. Users can select individual documents or accumulate multiple documents for rendering to a supported format.

WorkPlace/XT customers who require Riptide Conversion Services for FileNet are recommended to upgrade to IBM Content Navigator. Custom integration with WorkPlace/XT is available through CrawfordTech professional services.

Overview

CrawfordTech Riptide Conversion Services is a replacement solution for FileNet Rendition Engine. Features include:

- A custom plug-in for IBM Content Navigator for users to perform ad-hoc transformation of MS Office documents to PDF
- Support for a wide range of input formats, including standard Office 2000-2013 documents (rtf, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, xls,xlsx), images (tif/tiff, bmp, eps, gif, jpg / jpeg, png, wmf) and text documents (text, htm/html)
- Output to PDF, PDF/A, TIFF and/or HTML
- Support for Microsoft Office in driverless mode, with no need for an authoring application
- SOAP web services API
- Support for watermarking/overlays, ToC, page numbering
- Available under the IBM Passport Advantage program to IBM customers and partners

There are some important differences between the IBM Rendition Engine and Riptide Conversion Services, which users should plan for accordingly described in the following table.

Feature	IBM Rendition Engine	Riptide Conversion Services
IBM ECM platforms	WorkPlace/XT v1.1.5 (deprecated with v5.2.1)	IBM Content Navigator with IBM FileNet Content Manager, IBM Content Foundation and IBM Case Manager 5.1/5.2 or WorkPlace/XT through custom integration only
Input formats	Office 2000-2013 documents: rtf, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, xls, xlsx AutoCAD 2011/2012 documents: dwg	Office 2000-2013 documents: rtf, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, xls, xlsx Microsoft Visio Images: tif / tiff, bmp, eps, gif, jpg / jpeg, png, wmf Text documents: text, htm/html MS Outlook MSG
Output formats	PDF and HTML	PDF, PDF/A, TIFF and HTML
Supported applications	Requires authoring application. Supports Microsoft Office 2007/2010/2013, Microsoft Visio 2007/2010/2013, Microsoft Project 2007/2010/2013, AutoCAD 2011/2012, IE 8.0/9.0/10.0/11.0	Authoring application not required. Supports MS Office 2007/2010/2013
OS platforms	Operating System: Windows Server 2008 Standard/Enterprise/Datacentre; Windows Server 2012 Essentials/ Standard/Datacentre 32 and 64 bit Processor: 2.8GHz quad core RAM: 8GB Hard Disk: 10GB	Operating Systems: Windows Server 2008 or later; Windows 7 or later. 64-bit recommended. Processor: Pentium 1 GHz or higher RAM: 512 MB (Minimum); 2048 MB (Recommended) Hard Disk: At least 200 MB of available space.
State database	SQL Server, Oracle	None
Queue management	Folders and object stores	None
API	No	SOAP web services
User driven publishing	Yes with WorkPlace/XT	Yes. IBM Content Navigator and custom for WorkPlace/XT
Batch publishing	Yes with WorkPlace/XT	Custom P8 event/subscription recommended
Versioning	Generate new document or version	Custom P8 event/subscription recommended
Parallel processing	Single threaded	Multi-processing enabled
Integration method	FileNet Publishing Event Framework and Publish Template (via WorkPlace – deprecated)	P8 Events and Subscriptions recommended. Windows service web service interface (SOAP API)
Multiple documents	Single document conversion to PDF	Multiple document conversion to PDF
Watermarking/overlays, ToC, page numbering	No	Yes

IBM FileNet Rendition Engine vs. Riptide Conversion Services

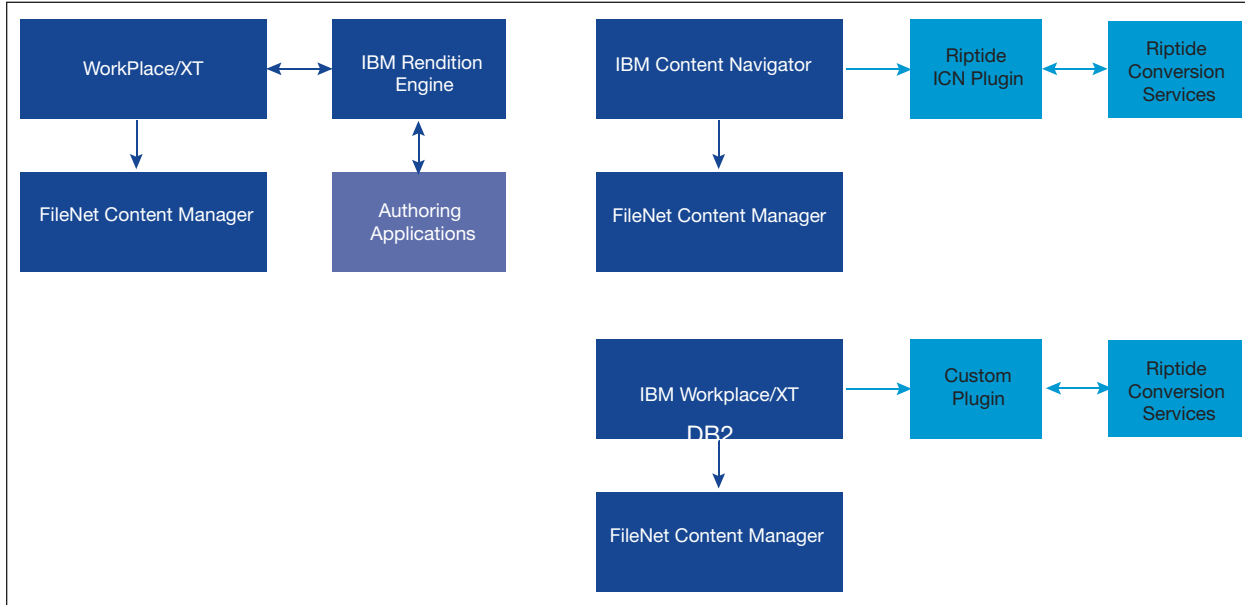


Figure: Comparing the Architecture for IBM FileNet Rendition Engine vs Riptide Conversion Services

Packaging and Pricing

Riptide Conversion Services is available under the IBM Passport Advantage program to IBM customers and partners. Year 1 maintenance is not included in the software license price.

IBM Part No.	Description
D1BVELL	Software license production server
D1BVFLL	Software license non-production Server
D1BV6LL	Elite support production server
D1BV7LL	Elite support non-production server

Services

Services are optional but highly recommended and engagements are usually 2-3 days for the ad-hoc IBM Content Navigator integration use case with the CrawfordTech ICN plugin. Longer engagements are required for event subscription use case similar WorkPlace/XT Publishing Template capability and/or providing an automated rendition capability.

The IBM order must indicate that Riptide Conversion Services is a replacement for FileNet Rendition Engine so that the correct Riptide Conversion Services software is fulfilled.



About CrawfordTech

Since 1995, Crawford Technologies solutions and know-how have enabled the largest enterprises to print, digitize and regulate their customer documents. Crawford Technologies/Solutions is a global IBM Registered Business Developer/ISV Partner certified in Enterprise Content Management and has provided aftermarket solutions for IBM content management platforms including FileNet and Content Manager OnDemand. CrawfordTech's IBM solutions are available through passport advantage or direct from CrawfordTech. We are IBM's preferred global partner for print transformation technology in the ECM market

Crawford Technologies integrated solutions for IBM ECM solutions are focused on transforming, packaging and delivering digital content for improved digital workflows. Our range of solutions include:

- Riptide Server is a rich ECM and Case Manager document output solution which provides the capability to combine, enhance and deliver documents to multiple output channels.
- Riptide Conversion Services (for CMOD) is a document transformation engine supporting many input and output formats, such as AFP to PDF. It integrates with CMOD and IBM Content Navigator through Riptide e-Presentation Server.
- Riptide Conversion Services (for FileNet) offers a web services based Microsoft Office document rendition replacement for the withdrawn FileNet Rendition Engine product.
- Riptide ePresentation Server provides the integration and management platform for the retrieval and transformation of documents residing in popular ECM repositories such as IBM CMOD. It requires Riptide Conversion Services for document transformations such as AFP to PDF. It is integrated with IBM Content Navigator for real time ad hoc transformation of documents.
- Riptide Dark Data Feeder is a document data mining tool which repurposes IBM CMOD unstructured data for analytics use cases such as for Cognos and Watson analytics. (Not currently in IBM PPA)

All these products (except Riptide Dark Data Feeder) are available through IBM Passport Advantage and a range of add on modules for document accessibility, digital signatures and redaction are available directly from Crawford Technologies.