Case study for a small utility

Overview

Company A is a large accountancy firm that offers all types of accountancy services including a payroll service, many of the workers are home based and some of the work is outsourced.

Problem

There were a large amount of documents that needed to be sent to various individuals within an outsource company for processing on a weekly basis for the payroll department, the document took the form of PDF documents and resided on the server in the head office, each week allocated users sifted through the modified documents and attached them to emails then sent them to the outsource company, the outsource company printed the attached documents and distributed them to the relevant individuals. This was obviously a very time consuming operation and was totally reliant on the person printing or forwarding the email to get it to the right person.

The brief

The individual and his email address that needed to receive the document   were already stored in company A's existing database (although this could have been built in as part of the utility if required), the system needed to be automated so the modified documents for that week could be sent to the individual directly, some individuals could receive up to 30 or 40 documents, Company A requested a manual start to the program and wanted the ability to check that all was well after it completed and report which emails were sent to which individuals.

The solution

The solution needed to be robust and run unattended as it would take some minutes to complete its cycle. We chose to build it into a VB.net standalone program as this allowed us to harness the power of the .net framework and gives better access to system resources than many other development platforms.

All the requested requirements were incorporated saving substantial amounts of time not only at Company A's offices but also at the outsourcers business therefore saving Company A money.