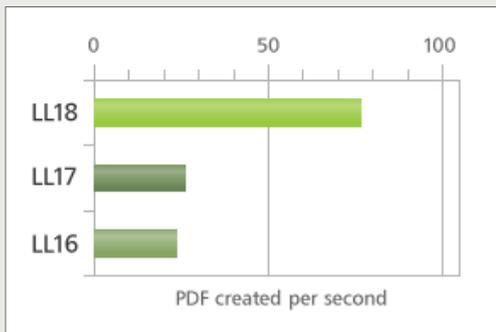




Performance

Comprehensive measures have been taken to thoroughly improve the performance in List & Label 18. Almost every application will immediately benefit from these accelerations. Depending on the type of project, typically LL18 will print in only 25% to 50% of the time LL17 needed. The optimal multithreading behavior additionally ensures an enormous increase in performance in server environments.



In many places the base load has been reduced and resource access improved. Overall we've made adjustments to lots of individual areas, and this fine tuning has enabled us to increase the performance in such an impressive way.



Fine adjustment

Through innovative profiling technology of Visual Studio 2012 it was possible to identify and remove many bottlenecks, including the optimization of wordwrap, character algorithms and printer caching. This means that LL18 requires much less computing power for these tasks.



Multithreading

LL18 uses system resources more efficiently through comprehensive optimization measures, meaning it is able to perform, in particular, parallel operations in multiprocessor and multicore systems significantly faster. The generation of reports is thus immensely accelerated, particularly in server environments.



Improved export

LL18 recognizes identical image files and ensures that these are only exported once into the preview file. Especially for large-scale production, it is possible to achieve a great increase in speed when using identical logos or scanned forms.



Utilization

31%

LL18



Innovation

✓ Data usage

It is now only necessary to transfer data to LL18 once if several diagram objects in the report container use the same data sources. In addition to the increase in the speed of generating reports, the number of times the database needs to be accessed is also reduced – that will make the database administrator happy.

✓ Even faster with .NET

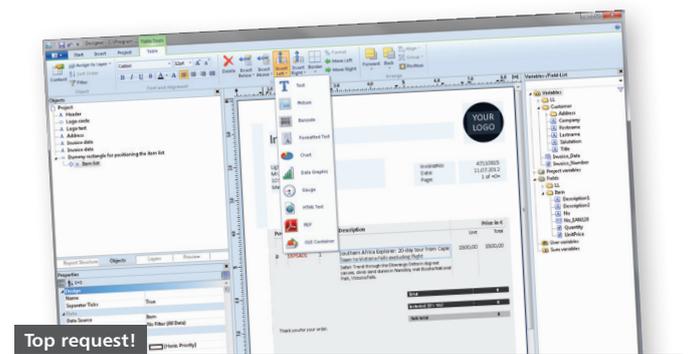
In-memory databases are significantly faster than other SQLite databases. The LL18 data provider now also supports this type of database, and thus also contributes significantly to further acceleration of LL18 output.

✓ Native 64-bit PDF export

Faster output, higher reliability and leaner and more simple redistribution through real 64-bit PDF export.

LL18 is the Windows 8 version of the Report Generator and specially optimized for this operating system. Touch operation and the optional ribbon in Designer blend nicely with the user interface of Windows 8. It is now possible to conveniently scroll through the multipage preview. A zoom slider has been added to the status bar and all elements now are displayed in the report container to allow significantly simplified processing of complex, nested reports.

Further innovations are the simple back side printing, top-N reporting in cross tables and there is also the option to create the Datamatrix code for Deutsche Post Premiumadress.

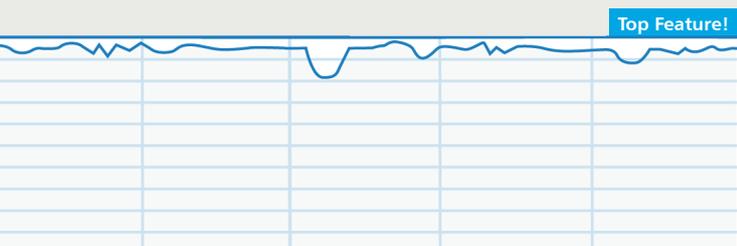


Ribbon

From Windows Vista upwards you have the option of using a ribbon in Designer. The ribbon in List & Label is streamlined, comprehensive and quickly visually recognizable. Developers who already use the ribbon in their applications can integrate the Designer seamlessly.

CPU Utilization with Multithreading

% Utilization 100%

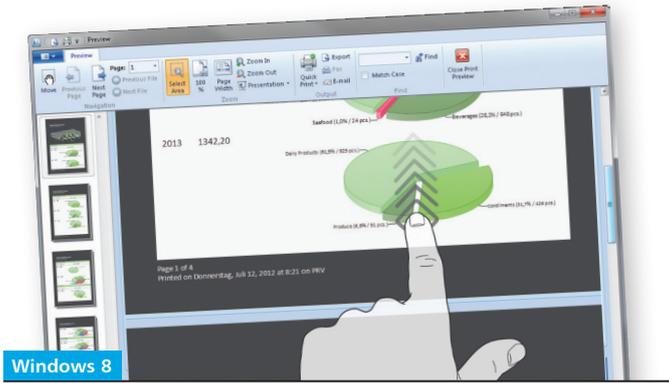


Utilization 0
98%



Multipage preview

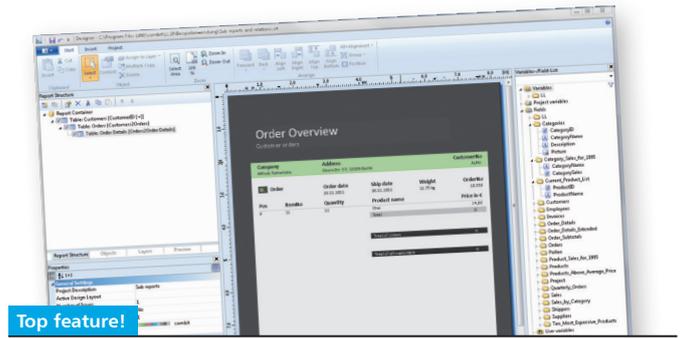
If the current page is scaled down in the preview, increasingly more and more pages will be displayed. In the new "grab" mode, it is possible to move through the preview pages in an intuitive way. Double clicking on the page will then display it in its full size on the screen, making the navigation of complex preview files much easier.



Windows 8

Touch gestures

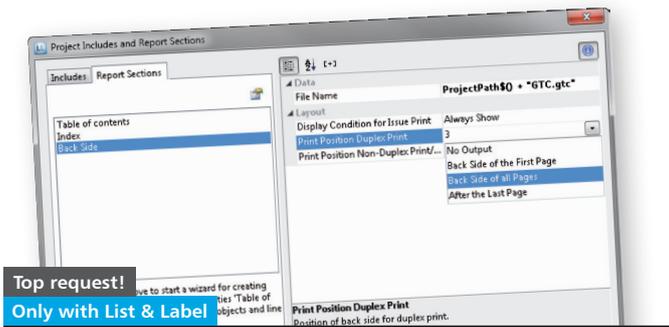
In LL18, touch operation through gestures is supported, for example in the preview. The touch gestures such as panning or two-finger zoom are particularly of interest to developers targeting mobile devices running on Windows 8.



Top feature!

Full view in report container

The report container now displays all contained elements. Especially in the case of layouts with nested tables, the generation is significantly simplified and accelerated. It is no longer necessary to switch to preview mode to get a realistic overview of the end result.

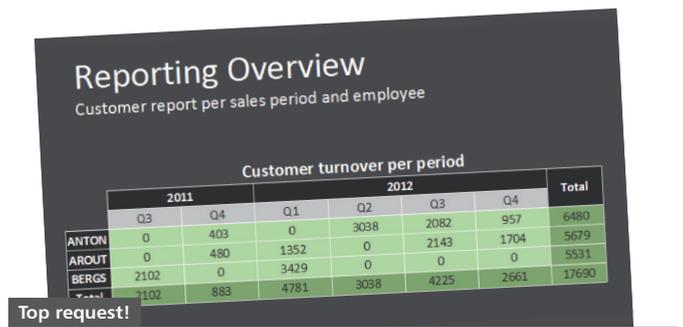


Top request!

Only with List & Label

Backside printing

The new backside printing feature integrates the duplex-capability of the used target printer into LL18. A simple activation makes it possible, for example when printing an invoice, to print the Terms and Conditions of Business either on the first, last or every reverse side.

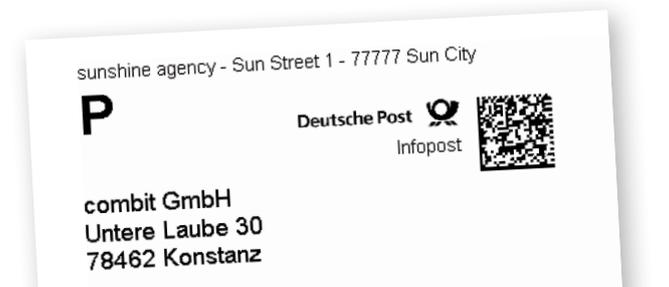


Top request!

Top-N Reporting

Cross tables can now be sorted according to the results column. Additionally, the number of rows to print can now be restricted. This way, the three customers with the highest sales can now be displayed in order – and there you have your top-3 report!

etc.



New barcodes

The Deutsche Post Premiumadress is the professional solution for digital address maintenance. LL18 can now generate the required barcode for every address label. Also updated: The Pharmazentralnummer (German drug code) can be used as an eight-digit number, mandatory from January 1, 2013.

Windows 8

LL18 can be used in Window 8 and can be seamlessly integrated into the new operating system through the ribbon and touch gestures.

Zoom slider in the status bar

Seamless zooming, familiar through office applications – easy operation through the familiar positioning of the zoom function.

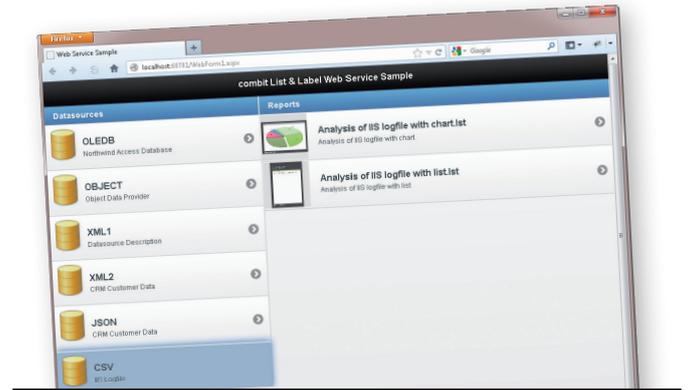
HTML object

Updated, also available in a 64-bit version.

.NET

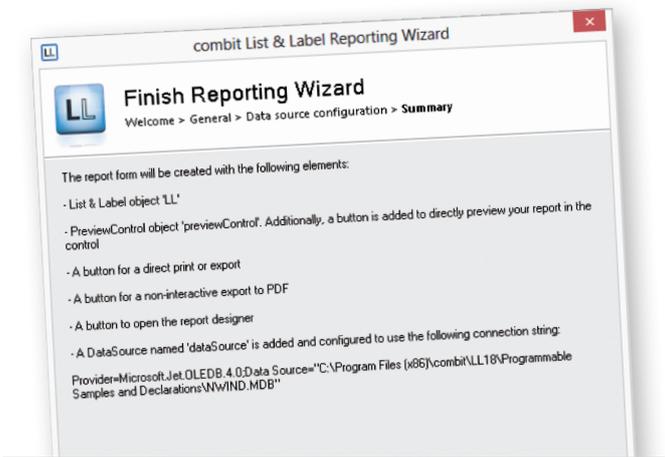
.NET and web developers can look forward to the realization of many of their requests. LL18 can now be used with Amazon Web Services, it is compatible with Visual Studio 2012, has a new data provider and supports SQLite in-memory databases and ADOMD commands.

For WinForms applications, there is also a new wizard available in Visual Studio. Two new samples show reporting examples for web developers.



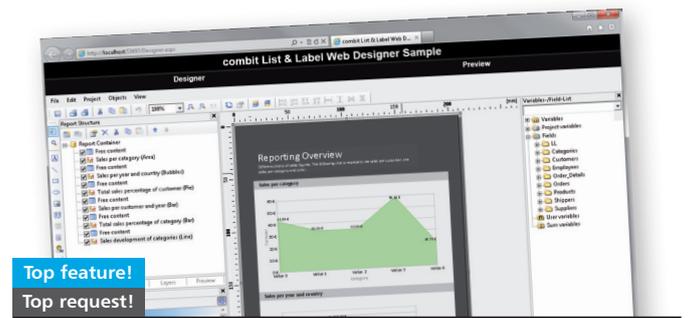
Web service sample

This example shows the usage of LL18 in a .NET Web Services (WCF) environment and various data sources. Reports can be processed asynchronously. They are automatically read and made available with a preview.



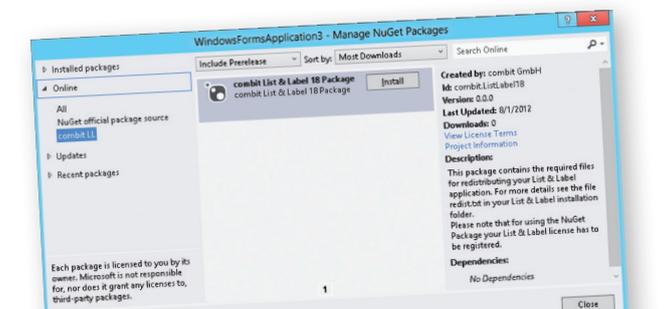
Wizard for WinForms applications

The wizard easily integrates LL18 into the application, configures the data source and creates the required elements in a WinForm. It couldn't be easier!



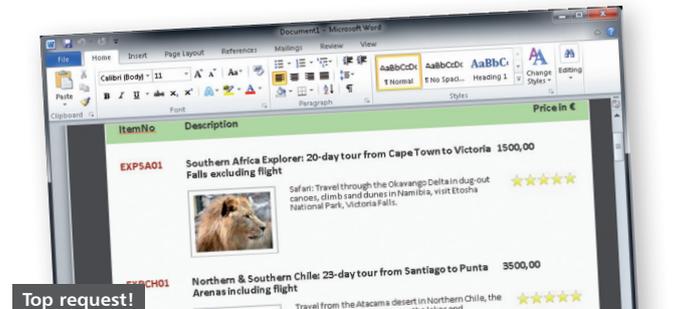
Web Designer

The List & Label 18 Web Designer in the designer control works in all important browsers (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome). This ensures real design in a web application.



NuGet

Integration made easy thanks to NuGet support. The required files and DLLs are always up to date: Developers simply need to select the suitable package and add it – everything else is done automatically.



Export

Cross page export into a word processing format is available with Office Word XML Export (DOCX). Tables, pivot tables and shapes can then be directly edited as objects.

A Look Behind the Scenes

Jochen Bartlau, combat
Development Manager List & Label



What are the most important updates for you in version 18?

I'm really pleased we were able to greatly enhance the performance of LL18 through a range of different measures. Our automated testing system prints a variety of approx. 150 mixed reports after every build and compares these with saved reference outputs. The entire process now only takes approximately 25% of the previous time. Almost every application immediately benefits!

How was this performance boost achieved?

The acceleration can't simply be attributed to one single thing. We've really made a whole lot of improvements. Multithreading means LL18 can achieve higher system utilization through a more efficient use of resources. If several charts use the same data source, the data now only needs to be transferred once and can then be used simultaneously, and LL18 now recognizes if the same image is used more than once and then it is loaded only once.

The List & Label Designer can now use the ribbon as GUI. Was that a customer request?

Yes, it really was! Even if there was a huge outcry at the time of the introduction of the ribbon by Microsoft, e.g. for the Office product family, I think the implementation in LL18 is very smooth. Developers of applications that make use of the ribbon can now integrate LL18 seamlessly. Of course it is also possible to turn off the ribbon ;-). We have also implemented support for intuitive touch gestures in the new, multipage preview, which will be particularly interesting for developers of applications on Windows 8 tablets – LL18 is already designed for the Windows 8.

What other innovations does List & Label 18 have for the customers? What can we expect?

Version 18 has also been improved in the .NET/web area with the web designer and e.g. approved for use with Amazon Web Services. As a special new feature, I would also mention backside printing, which is now possible in an extremely uncomplicated way. A load of other new features are described in this newsletter – Happy reading!



jQuery Mobile HTML export

The new jQuery mobile export enables mobile reporting for iPhone, Android and others. Optimized HTML files ensure a seamless usage on mobile devices. The data from the nested tables are exported as individual "drill down" layouts.

etc.

Amazon Web Services

LL18 is approved for use with Amazon Web Services – it can also be used in the "Amazon Cloud".



Visual Studio 2012

As Premier Visual Studio Industry Partner, we were able to make sure very early on that LL18 works perfectly with Visual Studio.



Ajax Viewer

The report can be previewed e.g. in carousel mode. It all works without special installation with the AjaxViewer control.

ADOMD commands

OLAP cube queries allow to execute simple queries on complex, multidimensional datasets with operations such as dicing, slicing etc. LL18 integrates the data sources and supports ADOMD commands.

Object provider and XML data provider

Both providers now feature special attributes that support fixed field type assignments, e.g. a barcode field.



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