POI-HWPF - A Quick Guide

Overview

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HWPF is still in early development. It is in the [scratchpad section of the SVN.](#) You will need to ensure you either have a recent SVN checkout, or a recent SVN nightly build (including the scratchpad jar!)

1. Basic Text Extraction

For basic text extraction, make use of `org.apache.poi.hwpf.extractor.WordExtractor`. It accepts an input stream or a `HWPFDocument`. The `getText()` method can be used to get the text from all the paragraphs, or `getParagraphText()` can be used to fetch the text from each paragraph in turn. The other option is `getTextFromPieces()`, which is very fast, but tends to return things that aren't text from the page. YMMV.

2. Specific Text Extraction

To get specific bits of text, first create a `org.apache.poi.hwpf.HWPFDocument`. Fetch the range with `getRange()`, then get paragraphs from that. You can then get text and other properties.

3. Changing Text

It is possible to change the text via `insertBefore()` and `insertAfter()` on a `Range` object (either a `Range`, `Paragraph` or `CharacterRun`). It is also possible to delete a `Range`, but this code is know to have bugs in it.

4. Further Examples

For now, the best source of additional examples is in the unit tests. [Browse the HWPF unit tests.](#)