A Comparison of Formstack Documents & Windward Studios

If you're working with document generation, be aware of the plenitude of options out there. Windward Studios and Formstack Documents are two of the more popular choices. Windward's product team has created this comparison to help you understand the merits of both.

Formstack Documents provides a Document Builder that allows users to customize their own documents with the ability to implement basic loops and conditional logic. While the Document Builder does have similar functionality to Microsoft Office products, the interface looks outdated, and is less intuitive to navigate.

Windward runs directly in the native Microsoft application which gives users flexibility to design freely in Office, while making it easy to retrieve, filter and sort data from their data sources to display in an intuitive manner.

Formstack Documents offers unique features like a Cloud option and provides a document delivery option built in, but their process lacks quick and easy data selection. In order for the Document Builder to know what to generate, specific syntax must first be manually added to the document, which creates room for error.

Windward simplifies this process by providing the user with Windward Designer. With the help of Windward Designer, table and chart creation is quick and to the point, taking advantage of Microsoft Office and building upon it. Syntax errors become a thing of the past with Windward Designer doing the heavy lifting.

There is a learning curve for first time Formstack Documents users, especially when making a template from scratch. An alternative to using the Document Builder is offered as there is an option to upload previously designed templates already populated with the required syntax. This does allow for more options than only using the provided design environment.

In terms of support, Formstack Documents provides access to many help articles, as well as Formstack Documents University, which offers access to past webinars, videos, and free resource guides.

Windward offers extensive support by providing users access to in depth training guides, free webinars, forums to discuss issues, a strong internet presence, extensive documentation, and more.

The table below provides an overview of Formstack Documents and Windward, and its selection of key features.

Product Comparison Table

FEATURE	Formstack Documents	WINDWARD
Data Sources	Œ0Œ& some web integrations/3rd party services	All SQL supported data sources plus • File Based (XML, XLSX, Access) • Web Based (Salesforce, JSON, REST, and more)

Customization	Templates can be created from scratch using tables, images, and basic formatting options, but not all Microsoft Word functionality is present.	Free form design allows users to intuitively make layout and formatting changes in Office, a tool they know. Create modern looking reports that impress clients.
Learning Curve	Fairly easy design process, but there is a learning curve for first time users making templates from scratch.	Easy design template in tools you know through the Microsoft Office Suite, create tags with drag and drop design/wizards.
Designer Environments	Document Builder within the Formstack Documents website	Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint
Template Formats	DOCX, XLSX, PPTX, PDF, HTML	DOCX, RTF, WordML, XLSX, PPTX, HTML
Conditional Logic	IF/ELSE	IF/ELSE/SWITCH/CASE
Output Formats	PDF, DOCX, XLSX, HTML, Email, JPG	PDF, Printer, HTML, DOCX, WORDML, RTF, XLSX, XLS, PPTX, TXT, PostScript, EPS, SVG, PNG, JPG, GIF, BMP, CSV
Support	Has a thorough support page with many articles and has Formstack Documents University which offers webinars, videos, and free training guides.	Windward provides the user with YouTube tutorials, free webinars, forums to discuss issues, strong internet presence, and more.
Cloud	Stash	N/A

Summary

- **Formstack Documents lacks quick and easy data selection,** and requires users to add specific syntax to the document in order to generate the desired output.
- **Formstack Document and Windward Studios** provide extensive support for all users in order to make the initial process as easy as possible.
- **Report as you should, directly in the native Microsoft application:** Windward produces your document to spec so you can continue working with your documents even after generation.
- **Windward gives users flexibility to design freely in Office**, while making it easy to retrieve, filter and sort data from their data sources to display in an intuitive manner.
- **Select your data in a single step through intuitive wizards.** Don't struggle getting data into your reports, let Windward's drag and drop wizards do the heavy lifting for you.
- **The biggest difference**: Formstack Documents users supply most of the data during report generation, where Windward users can collect and generate documents en masse from data stored in many formats and locations.

Try Windward Today!

Visit www.windwardstudios.com and **download a free, 14-day trial** or **schedule a live demo**.