

Billify

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Description of Software	3
Perspective	3
Functions	3
Environment	4
Requirements	4
Functional Requirements	4
Feature 1: Expenses	4
Feature 2: Income	4
Feature 3: Net Balance	4
Use Case 1:	4
Use Case 2:	4
Non Functional Requirements	5
Performance:	5
Useability:	5
Portability:	5
Constraints	5
User Interface Requirements	5
Other Requirements	5
UML Diagram	6
Design Pattern(s)	7
Releases with Screenshots	7
First Release (v0.3):	7
Second Release (v0.4):	9
Final Release (v1.0):	11

Description of Software

Billify will be a standalone piece of software designed to help users manage their bills, expenses, and paychecks easily. It aims to provide an all-in-one way for users to track their financial transactions, net balances, and take a look into their spending patterns.

Perspective

Billify will be a standalone app that is not part of a larger project, as it will have all of the desired features built in. The end user will interface with Billify through a GUI that will provide all of the graphs and data entry features.

Functions

Billify will include expense tracking, allowing users to input and categorize their expenses, which includes their bills, groceries, insurances, entertainment, and savings, etc. Income management will also be included in Billify via the ability to add paychecks, freelancing deposits for things such as Doordash or Instacart, and other forms of income. Another function would be calculating how much money is left after a selectable timeframe, as low as a day, and as large as a year, allowing the user to get a wide range of information on how much money is left over or missing after expenses. In addition to net balance calculation, the end-user can view summaries, charts, and trends all related to their financial activities, giving the user total control over how they can view their expenses and income.

Environment

Billify will be a standalone Java app that can run on any platform. The only thing that will need to be installed is a java environment on the host system, and Java can run on almost anything, Windows, Mac OS, and Linux. This is due to Java being a “WORA” language, Write Once, Run Anywhere, making Billify a multiplatform application with little to no code changes

over different platforms. Billify will implement a Java graphical library JavaFX to create a GUI that is responsive and multi-platform friendly.

Requirements

Functional Requirements

Feature 1: Expenses

Expense tracking with categorization, such as rent, utilities, phone bill, rent, savings, etc.

Feature 2: Income

Income tracking, allowing addition of paychecks, bonuses, freelancing income, etc.

Feature 3: Net Balance

Net balance calculation, showing income minus expenses, allowing users to see how much is left over.

Use Case 1:

A user adds a new expense or income to the data set.

Use Case 2:

An end user views a summary of their expenses and income.

Non Functional Requirements

Performance:

The application needs to be very responsive, and low data retrieval times and low calculation times.

Useability:

The user interface needs to be good looking and intuitive for even novice users. If a more advanced experience is desired, advanced options can be available via menus.

Portability:

Data will be stored in .CSV files, which allows for amazing portability since it is lightweight and compatible with other programs such as Microsoft Excel.

Constraints

The program will be written in Java, using the JavaFX library to make a responsive GUI, and the ability to export and import .CSV files for simplicity. It will have to be compatible with all operating systems.

User Interface Requirements

The user interface will have to be easy to use for novice users, while having the functionality available to more advanced users via extra menus, or maybe an “advanced” option in the settings. Visual feedback will be ever present in the program, such as pie charts, line charts, etc.

The program will also have to be scalable to different screen sizes, whether it be big or small.

Other Requirements

Provide the ability to make backups on data, or autosave data entries in the event of a crash or power loss. Another nice addition would be to allow the user to export the data, via .png's of the graphs, .CSV files for the data entries, etc.

```
graph TD
    Main[Main] --> Controller[Controller]
    Main --> CMD[CMD]
    Controller --> FinancialCommand[FinancialCommand]
    Controller --> LineController[LineController]
    Controller --> PieController[PieController]
    FinancialCommand --> CSVAdapter[CSVAdapter]
    FinancialCommand --> Income[Income]
    FinancialCommand --> Expense[Expense]
```

The Main class starts with the program launch, giving the option to the command line simple interface, or the JavaFX implementation of the program. The command line version is used for testing out the FinancialCommand class, the main meat of the whole program. The FinancialCommand class creates an ArrayList of Expense and Income objects, of which have a date, amount, person, source, and category. All math relating to the ArrayList of Income and Expense objects are done in FinancialCommand. Controller is the JavaFX class that runs the GUI, which holds a FinancialCommand object, and can call on the PieChart class, the LineChart Graph, or the CSVAdapter to either create a pie chart, create a line chart, or save/load a CSV file.

Design Pattern(s)

For Billify, I actually used multiple different design patterns. The Controller class is the central code for the GUI backend, and is typical of an MVC pattern. The FinancialCommand class would be considered the model, since it contains the data for the application and the business logic. The view is represented by the UI elements generated and put to the display via the Controller, with buttons, text fields, and date pickers. Billify also uses the Adapter pattern, due to the CSVAdapter class, where I convert the ArrayLists of Income and Expense objects, of which all I have to do is pass on existing code to the Adapter without changing the core business logic.

Releases with Screenshots

First Release (v0.3):

<https://github.com/AnthonyClemens/Billify/tree/v0.3>

This release had the Command Line version, and a simple GUI for adding and subtracting Incomes and Expenses, which would only update the total when “Calculate Total” was pressed. This version had many bugs, and lack of input checking, so many errors would show in the console, sometimes causing crashes. This version also had a lot of redundant code and argument passing.

```
C:\Users\billy\Desktop\Billify. x + v

-----Billify-----
1 - Launch the Command Line Interface
2 - Launch the JavaFX GUI
3 - Quit
1
Welcome to Billify (Console)

-----BillifyCMD-----
1 - Add an Income/Expense
2 - Remove an Income/Expense
3 - View Summary
4 - Quit
1

Will this be an Income or Expense? income
What category is this income? Existing categories are: []food
Who is the person creating this income? anthony
Where is this transaction taking place? wendys
How much was this item(s)? 10.50
Please enter the date of the transaction in MM-dd-yyyy format:
10-24-2023

-----BillifyCMD-----
1 - Add an Income/Expense
2 - Remove an Income/Expense
3 - View Summary
4 - Quit
3
There are 1 Income records, and 0 Expense Records.
-----

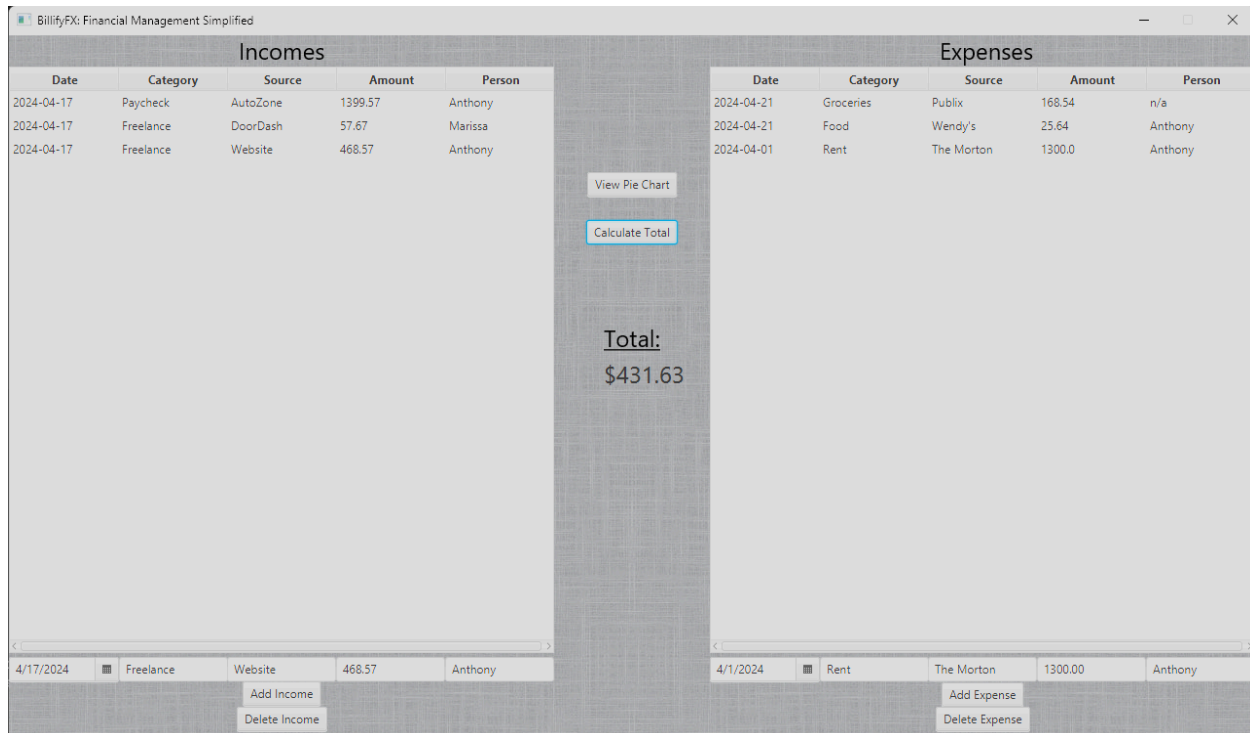
List of incomes:

Income number 1:

Date: 10/24/2023
Category: food
Person: anthony
Amount: 10.5
Source: wendys

List of expenses:
There are no expenses.

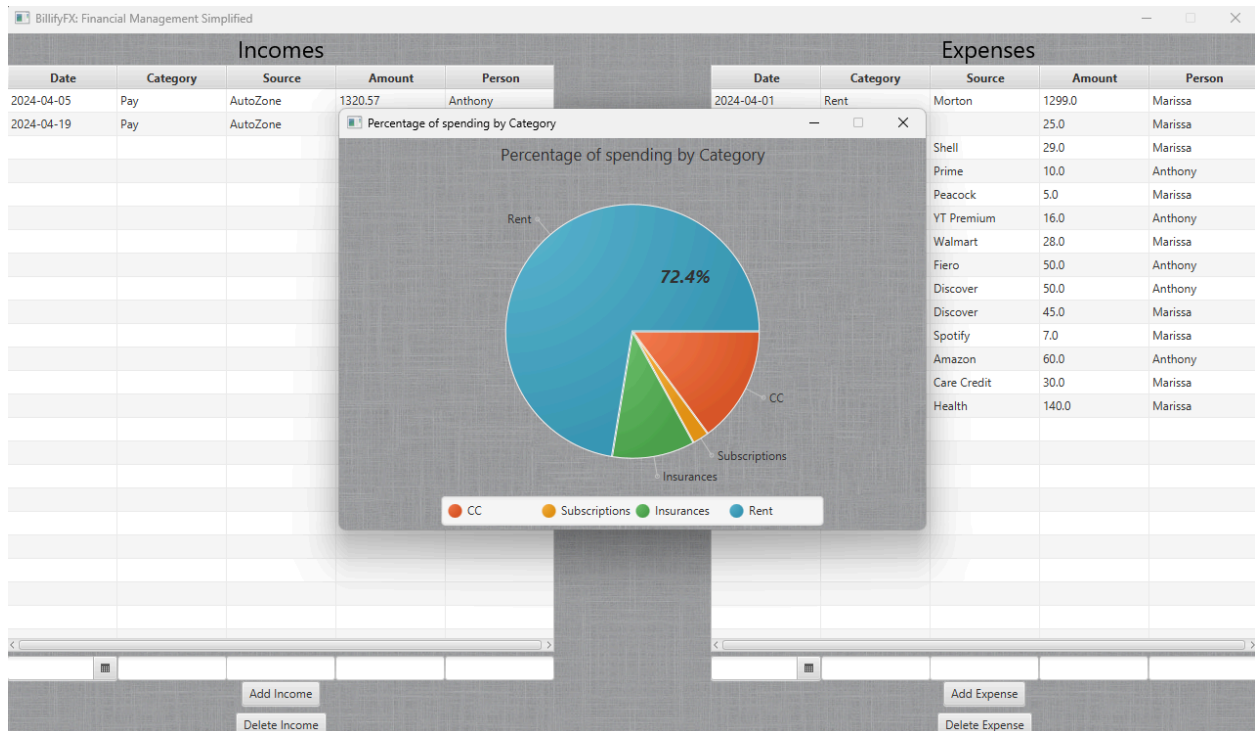
-----BillifyCMD-----
1 - Add an Income/Expense
2 - Remove an Income/Expense
3 - View Summary
4 - Quit
|
```

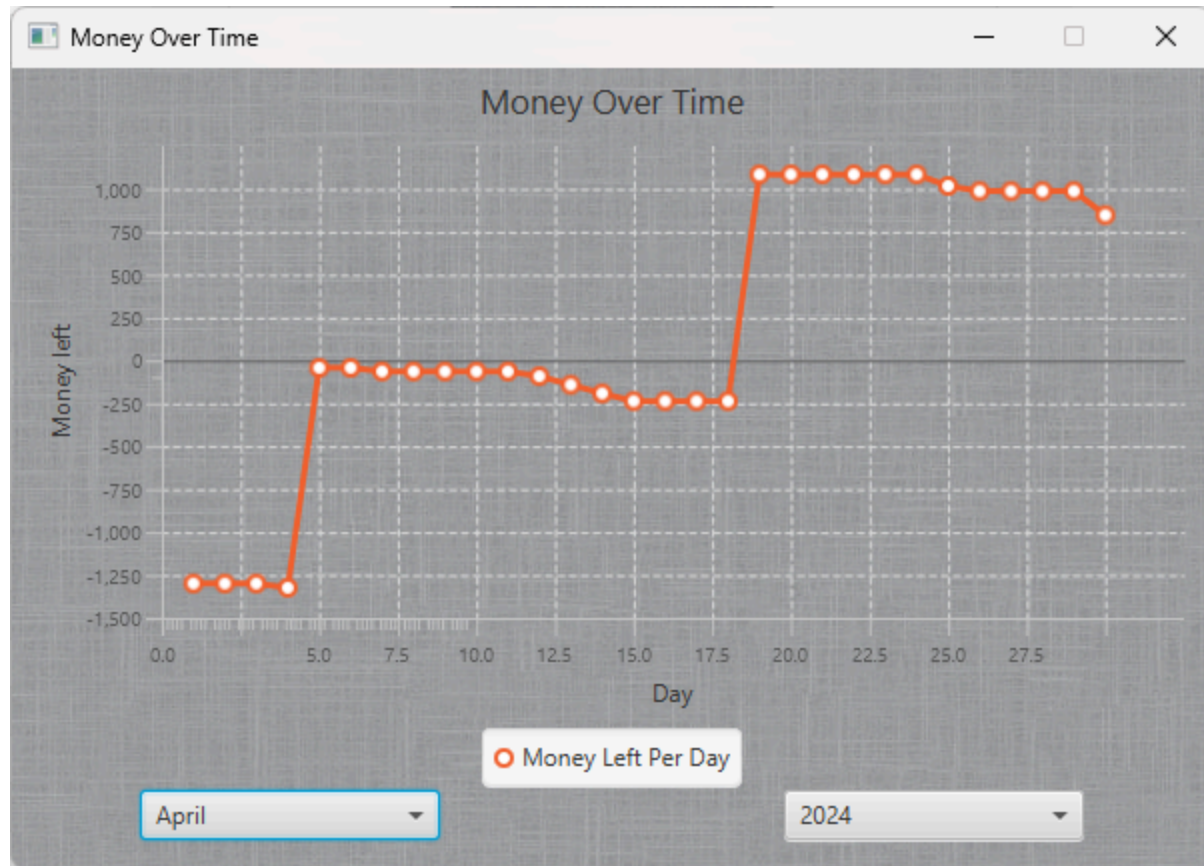



Second Release (v0.4):

<https://github.com/AnthonyClemens/Billify/tree/v0.4>

The second release I enjoyed a lot more due to the addition of the Line Chart of money over time per day of the month, and the addition of the Pie Chart showing percentages when you hover over it. CSV saving and loading was also added in this version, which moved the program up into the usable category. Instead of crashing or having errors put to the console, I made a Message bar at the bottom, of which I could catch Exceptions, and post relevant messages to the user on how to fix their problem, and not crash the program.





Final Release (v1.0):

<https://github.com/AnthonyClemens/Billify/tree/v1.0>

For the Final release, I took out the Command Line version as it was very lacking in features, and was mainly to test the functionality of the FinancialCommand class. I took out a ton of redundant code, and redundant arguments being passed through methods. I also added a paycheck calculator, that even goes based off of tax bracket and overtime calculations depending on if certain requirements are met. This is the most polished and bug-free version of my program, and I would say this is a good stopping point. It has the features I would want for myself to keep track of my bills. Yes it is not perfect, but it was my first Maven project, my first big JavaFX project, and my first multi-file project that I have done. If I had done this again I would have laid out certain classes differently in order to enable more functionality from

[illegible]