

NetBeans GUI Builder (Matisse)



Problems with Traditional GUI Building

- Using Swing APIs and Layout managers is complex
- Resizing and alignment are hard
- Handling of locale is hard
- Providing Look and Feel of a particular OS is hard

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Matisse Solves These Problems!

- Create professional forms without deep knowledge of Swing
- Good looking by default – spacing is handled according to underlying OS's Look and Feel
- GUI components are added and positioned by drag & drop, baseline support
- GUI components are grouped together, they react on neighbor changes
- Form behaves intelligently when resized
- GUI components alignment can be easily controlled

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Matisse Features

- Simple and intuitive layout of GUIs without the complexity of Swing layout managers
- Drag and drop capability
- Automatic form alignment
- Visual guidelines for optimal spacing between components and alignment of components
- Support for both visual and non-visual forms
- Extensible Component Palette with pre-installed Swing and AWT components

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Matisse Features

- Component Inspector showing a components tree and properties
- Support for null layout
- In-place editing of text labels of components (labels, buttons, textfields, etc).
- Full JavaBeans support - installing, using and customizing (properties, events, customizers)
- Visual JavaBean customization - ability to create forms from any JavaBean classes
- Built-in support for i18n and a11y
- In-place text label editing

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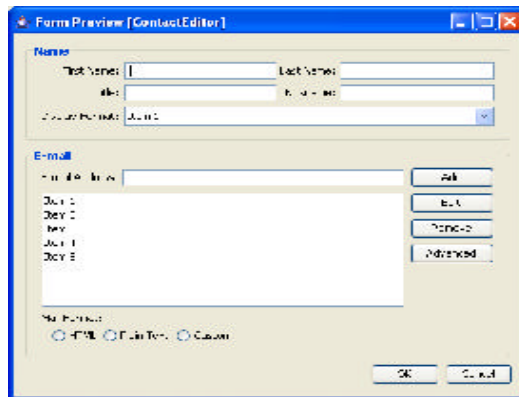
How Does Matisse Work?

- Similar to Interface Builder on Mac or Visual Studio, but on Java platform
 - > Supports multiple OS'es
- New layout manager - GroupLayout layout manager
 - > This layout manager can be used separately
 - > GroupLayout will be included in JDK in future, can be distributed with the application now

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Lab: Create a ContactEditor Form



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Resources

http://www.javapassion.com/netbeans/masterindex.html#GUI_Builder_Matisse