

FREECOL

Second Contribution

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About

The contribution we made was to add author and map description information to custom maps in FreeCol's map editor, as requested in a [thread](#) on the issue tracker. This contribution involved two main parts: adding an interface in the client which prompts the user to enter an author name and a description, and inputting that information into the XML representation of the map.

Solution

For this improvement request, we created a new dialog class that extended their custom input dialog, so that we are following their current template design pattern. This dialog screen allows users to input the author name and description for the map file that is being saved. This is saved in a common model object we created, and then passed to the server.

The server method that writes the XML file had to be changed to allow the information to be saved in a new element tag. All the code necessary for this implementation can be obtained by checking out the [pull request](#). Additionally, the dialog modal design can be seen in Figure 1.1.

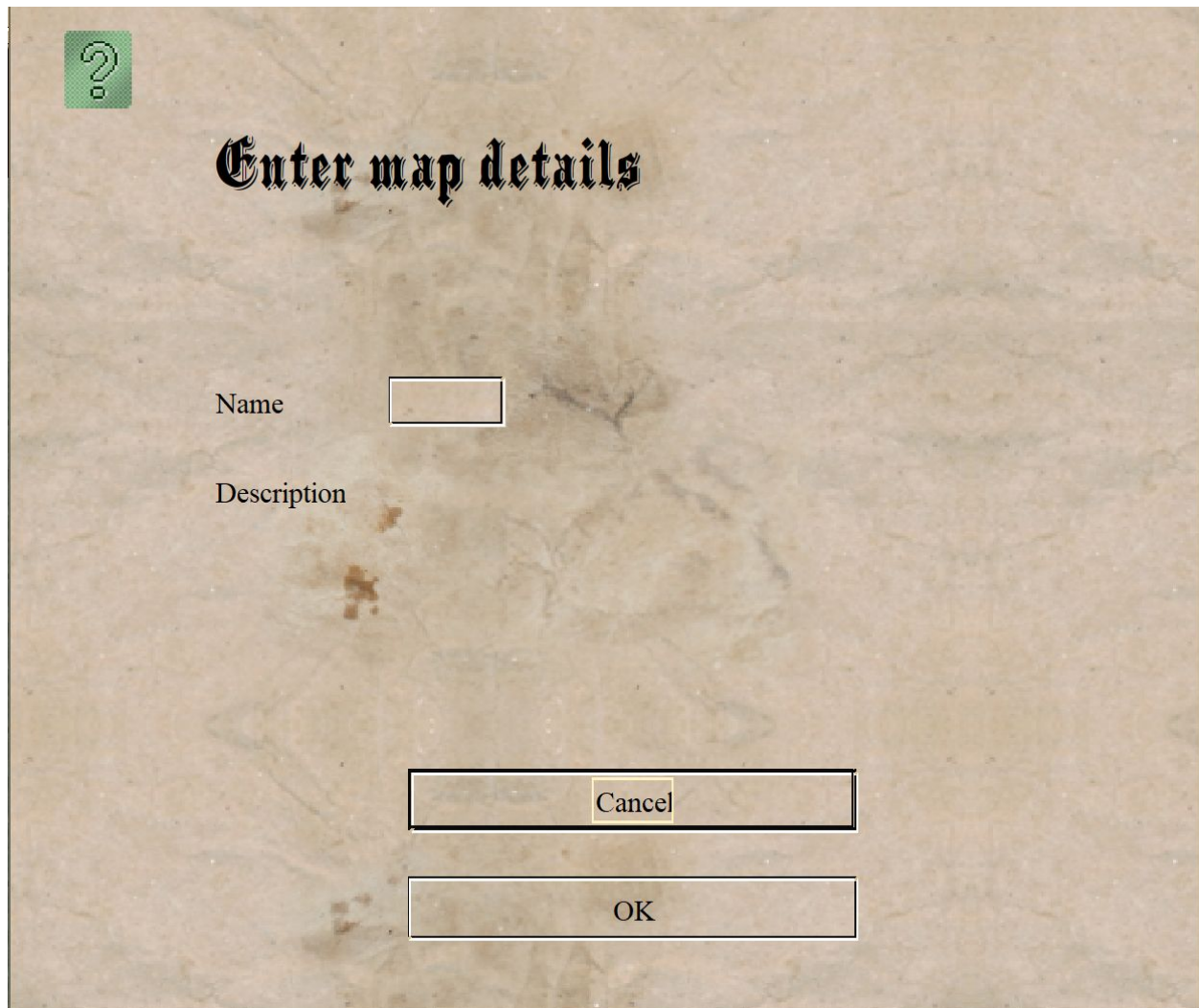


Figure 1.1 - *Implemented map details dialog*

Discoveries

We learned that the template design pattern is widely used in FreeCol, since it is applied to almost all UI custom elements. Moreover, we learned that all of the UI is built on top of Swing, which is a Java widget toolkit.