**NostalgiaBox: Cozy TV at Grandma’s**

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NostalgiaBox allows users to customize a watching room and selection of videos to put themselves back in the comfort of watching TV – not YouTube, not a phone, TV. Choices for the NostalgiaBox at present include 70s, 80s, or 90s themed rooms, with choices for daytime or night viewing, as well as a seasonal Christmas offering. The rooms are simply images composed similarly to SceneBuilder, but due to an issue with loading were ultimately not made into FXML files.

The magic comes with the use of WebView to play videos. Depending on the user’s previous choice – 70s, 80s, 90s, and/or Christmas – the videos are tailored to the user, generally 12-15 videos. The links to each video are held in an array created at the time of choice, and each video is randomly selected before initial playback. Due to unfortunate restrictions around the use of embedded YouTube Videos, the project required use of the primary website for maximum playback. However, that does mean that modern ads may sneak in.

Luckily, the television has been given full control, and with a click of the knob an irritating add may be skipped past in favor of another video, or the TV may be turned off completely. Beware, though – this is retro TV, and once you’ve started watching, you’ll never see the same thing twice! Each click of the “dial” buttons is tied to a function that adds 5 seconds to play time, simulating the time passing with real television, whether it’s on or off.

The program opens with NostalgiaBox.java, but the brunt of the work is completed with NostalgiaBoxController.java, which takes over after the options screen is generated. The options screen is the only XFML file in the program. Config.java, the final class, merely holds the addresses of the videos and a collection of basic arrays – decade-only, Christmas-only, and Christmas-by-decade only (for later adding to the decade collection). All of the images used are stored in the Images folder.

Future planned additions will be more rooms and the ability for the user to upload their own videos, and the ability to actually control the YouTube video via external buttons or commands (e.g. for volume, mute, etc.)

A picture containing text, wall, indoor, floor

Description automatically generated

MTV plays in the 80s room (note: image shown is a prototype, but a reasonable if bland facsimile of what awaits in the actual program.)

Graphical user interface, website

Description automatically generated

The current start menu hints at more things to come.