T_EXtacular

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Overview

Idea

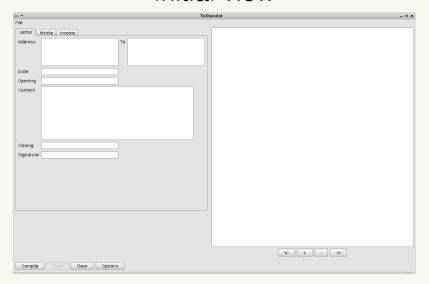
- Make LATEX accessible to everyone
- Simplify creation of beautiful documents

Audience

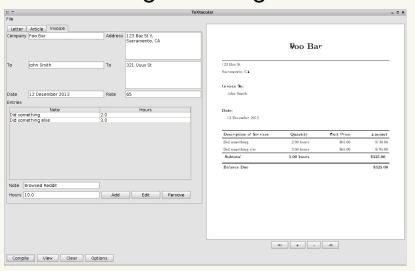
- Users who prefer point-and-click and simple forms over manual creation of TEX source
- Those less technically inclined

Implementation

Initial view



View after generating an invoice



Implementation Details

- Main frame contains a concrete
 TemplatePanel with inputs, a
 few buttons at the bottom, and
 a PreviewPanel on the right
- A Texhandler class handles compilation of T_FX source
 - Uses latexmk and a script (res/bin/compile) to compile
- PreviewPanel updates
 automatically with the contents
 of the compiled PDF
- Third party libraries
 - MiGLayout
 - Sun PDF-Renderer
 - PgsLookAndFeel

Notes

Difficulties & Concerns

- How best to handle template types
- Reasonable method of laying out components without a completely different strategy for each template type
- Auto-updating PDF panel and zooming (conversion of PDF to a BufferedImage – far from perfect
- Handling application and latexmk compilation errors

Future

- Improve scrolling inside preview panel
 - Currently click and drag but can be flaky
- More general, approachable way for building templates
- Improve scaling of PDF preview
- Add "Save", "Load", "Print" options
- Add Windows support
- Add options dialogue for font/package selection and paper size