TEXtacular

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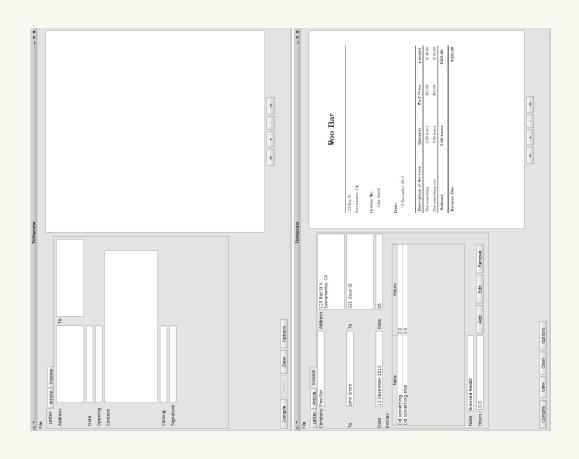
ldea

- 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



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 TEX source
- Uses latexmk and a script to compile
- PreviewPanel updates
 automatically with the contents
 of the compiled PDF
 - Third party libraries
- MiGLayout
- Sun PDF-Renderer
- PgsLookAndFeel

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