

CHAPTER 5



Developing a Music Player for Melissa

This chapter covers the details of building a music player for Melissa that lets you select all the MP3 files in a given directory and play them using a command-line music utility. Melissa will be able to play music randomly as well as play a specific music file from a list of files when asked.

To build this functionality for Melissa, you must first select command-line players for OS X and Linux so that after appropriate handling by the logic engine, it can pass the name of a song or a list of songs to the music player via the `os.system()` function. Let's discuss the command-line music players suitable for this module before moving forward to building the module.

OS X Music Player

Apple's OS X has a built-in command-line music player utility called `afplay` that helps you play music from the command line without installing anything. To check whether you have `afplay` installed on your system, open the terminal and enter the following command:

```
$ afplay
```

This should give you the following output:

```
Tanays-MacBook-Air:~ tanay$ afplay
```

```
Audio File Play
Version: 2.0
Copyright 2003-2013, Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Specify -h (-help) for command options
```

```
Usage:
afplay [option...] audio_file
```