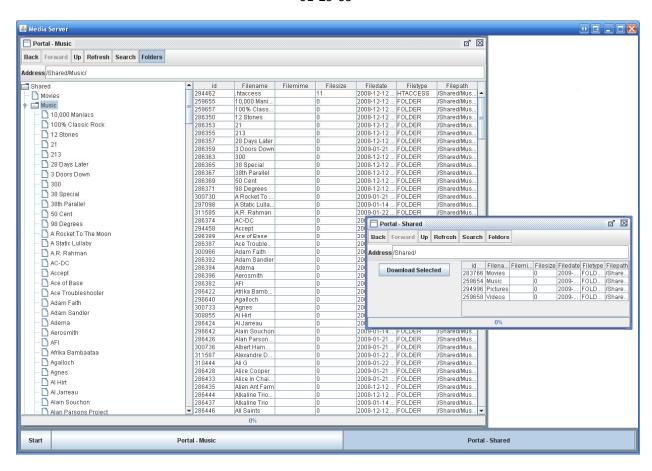Brian Cullinan

Project 0: Swing-o-rama

01-29-09

Problem Statement:

Use lots of java components to create something useful; in this case a client side interface to my media server using AJAX.

Completion Level:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Level 1: Base Basics | 100% Complete | My Program starts by launching a JDesktopPane in which is creates many windows.  Just like a desktop environment there is a taskbar, and a start-menu.  More windows can be launched from the start-menu. |
| Level 2: Some of the cool stuff | 100% Complete | JTrees, JPopupMenus, and JTables can be found throughout the application.  Right clicking on a task bar item allows the user to close windows, just like in a desktop environment. There is a JTree to display a folder struction, and a JTable to display files in a "Details" like mode. |
| Level 3: Fancy Extras | 100% Complete | Content is dynamically loaded from my media server and displayed.  SAX processing is used to add and remove components and display information. Files can be downloaded by using the "Download Selected" button, progress is shown using a JProgressBar. JToolbars are used to contain window functionality and navigation. |
| Custom "Look and Feel" | … | Attempted without success, very disappointing. |

Implementation Overview:

I started this project by examining some of the available classes in the WYSIWYG editor of NetBeans. It was immediately apparent the amount of junk code that it produces. The main window contains a JDesktopPane that JInternalFrames can be used inside of. I create some frames for the taskbar and start menu, and the only current "Module" is the Portal window. This window allows browsing of files from my remote media server. The Portal window has many features. You can double click folder items to open them; you can use the search function by click search. And there is a folder view for viewing the entire folder tree on the left of the window.

The portal window has various other functions for browsing through the files. For example, a stack is maintained for the Back and Forward button, so you can use that to navigate through the history of folders you have visited. There are various SAX calls on the backend to interface with the server.

Main - This class just initializes the application.

Desktop - this is the main display controller, all frames are registered with this class and it controls a few of the window events.

Taskbar - this controls the task buttons in the taskbar, and it also contains the start button for opening the start menu.

Startmenu - this is where modules will register themselves in order for buttons to be placed in the list. It also provides some nice quick links for accessing key shared files on the server.

Portal - This is the main functionality of the application, it allows users to browse through files on the server. It provides multiple ways of browsing through the tree view, and displays the most information.