Task Catalyst



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# 1. User Guide

Main Interface

Task View

Command  
Bar

Default Hashtags

Hashtags

Custom Hashtags

Hashtags

Status and Help Bar

Hashtags

Exit to System Tray

Hashtags



The **Task View** is where tasks are displayed. It changes accordingly to categories, hashtags and search terms used.

The **Command Bar** is where commands are entered. It is the main mode of operating the software.

The **Default Hashtags** contain categories that tasks are grouped into by default. Below is an explanation of what they mean:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Hashtag | Meaning |
| #all | All Tasks |
| #pri | Priority Tasks |
| #ovd | Overdue Tasks |
| #tdy | Today’s Tasks |
| #tmr | Tomorrow’s Tasks |
| #upc | Upcoming Tasks |
| #smd | Someday Tasks |
| #olp | Overlapping Tasks |
| #dne | Done Tasks |

The **Custom Hashtags** section displays hashtags used by the user when adding tasks. They can be quickly used to organize tasks.

The **Status and Help Bar** displays helpful context-sensitive hints and status messages for your actions. Adding a Task

Adding a task is as simple as typing it into the command bar. **You do not have to follow strict formats,** as the program naturally understands date and time.

You can also specify date ranges using the “**to**” keyword.



You can make use of the **hashtagging** feature to organize your tasks. You specify your own hashtags, they appear in the hashtag list on the left.

The recent added task will be highlighted in cyan.

The **Status and Help Bar** provides you constant feedback as you add a task.



Adding Deadline Tasks



The task will be tagged with a “**Deadline**” icon.

If you need to add a task with a deadline, simply use the keyword “**by**”.



Adding Floating Tasks

If you are not sure which day to enter for a task, you can just enter the description.

These tasks will appear in the **“#smd”** category.



Adding All Day Tasks

If you have an all-dayevent, simply specify a date without the time.



Blocking / Reserving Timeslots



You can block out timeslots for a task using the “**or**” keyword.



The task will be tagged with the “**Reserved**” icon.

The task will be automatically shifted to the next specified timing until you confirm or complete it.

Tasks with Multiple Recurrences



You can also add tasks that occurs across multiple timeslots using the “**and**” keyword.



The task is automatically split into the various timeslots.

Viewing Custom Hashtags

You can quickly navigate through categories or custom hashtags simply by typing the hashtag in the command bar.

In addition, you can also use **Alt + Up/Down** hotkeys to navigate through hashtag lists.



This will display the corresponding items with the hashtag.

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Viewing Overdue Tasks

You can view overdue tasks by typing “**#ovd**” in the command bar.

Overdue tasks are tagged with an “**Overdue**” icon



Viewing Upcoming Tasks

You can view upcoming tasks by typing “**#upc**” in the command bar.

The upcoming category displays tasks that happen at least two days later.



Viewing Overlapping Tasks

You can view overlapping tasks by typing “**#olp**” in the command bar.

Overlapping tasks are tagged with an “**Overlapping**” icon.



Viewing Completed Tasks

You can view completed tasks by typing “**#dne**”.

Completed tasks are tagged with a “**Done**” icon.



Searching for Tasks******

You can also search for tasks by typing “**search**” or **“find”** followed by search keywords, dates or a date range.



Matching items are quickly displayed in the task view.

Editing a Task

You edit a task simply by typing “**edit**” followed by the task number.

The **Auto-Complete** feature will fill in your task details in the command bar.



Your changes will be immediately reflected, and the modified task will be highlighted in cyan.



Completing a Task

You can complete a task simply by typing “**done**” or “**complete**”, followed by the task number or keyword.

You can also complete all tasks by typing “**done all**”.





The specified task is moved into the “**#dne”** list and will no longer show up in other categories.

Deleting a Task

You can delete an unwanted task simply by typing “**delete**”, “**rm**” or “**del**”, followed by the task numbers, keywords or dates.

You can also delete all tasks by typing “**delete all**”.





The item is deleted and removed from display.

Undoing an Action

You may undo an action by typing “**undo**” or using the **Ctrl+Z** hotkey.

The previous action is undone. You may also redo by typing “**redo**” or using the **Ctrl+Y** hotkey.



Setting Priority Task



You can prioritize a task by **hashtagging** an entry with **#pri**.



Priority tasks are automatically labelled.

You can type “**#pri**” to view all prioritized tasks.

Hotkeys

You can do many things with hotkeys in Task Catalyst. For a list of all the hotkeys and more, you can use **Ctrl+H** to launch a comprehensive Quick Start menu.



Smart Paste

You can quickly paste highlighted text from other applications using a global hotkey **Ctrl+D**.

System Tray Icon



Once the application has been launched, there will be a system tray icon.

Left-click on the icon to **hide**/**show** the application. You can also right-click for a context-menu.

# 2. Introducing the Developer’s Guide

#### Our Audience

Task Catalyst is a lightweight, cross-platform application that caters to the modern urban crowd with a busy lifestyle. The program is optimized for keyboard-use, and hence provides for many command styles, and uses familiar Social Media-inspired features like hashtagging for organization.

#### Our Vision

The design of Task Catalyst is based on the *Natural Bucket*, which focuses to make Task Catalyst:

* User Friendly and Intuitive
* Simple yet Powerful
* Accessible

#### Using this Guide

This guide will walk you through the basics required to maintain and develop Task Catalyst. First, you will be introduced to the **High-Level Architecture (Section 3)** of the program. Next, we will talk about the **System Components (Section 4)** from front-end to back-end. Each component will be introduced top-down using its class diagram and APIs, and then further elaborated with behavioral diagrams and code samples if necessary. Finally, we will orientate you to the **Development Infrastructure (Section 5)** of this project.

This guide assumes that you have some prior experience in Java and CSS.

Throughout the guide, we will be using the following markups to improve readability:

* *Class, Component, Library or Framework*
* Pattern or Principle
* Commands, Code or Input/Output

# 3. Defining the Architecture



Figure – Architecture Diagram

The overall architecture is illustrated in **Figure 1**. It is designed around the MVC (Model-View-Controller) pattern in order to achieve the following objectives:

1. ***DUMB* View** – Minimal data processing in the View.
2. ***THIN* Controller** – Only data redirections in the Controller.
3. ***SMART* Model** – Full data processing in the Model.

*GUI (Graphical User Interface)* is the main interface between the user and the system. Its main role is to handle high-level UI interactions, which include displaying tasks, hashtag categories, command hints and status messages. It is also responsible for many interactive features like hotkeys and autocomplete. It relies on the Logic component for command execution, low-level decision-making and data processing.

*Logic* provides a variety of APIs (Application Programmable Interfaces) for *GUI*. It handles parsing and execution of commands, generation of status, hint and autocomplete messages, filtration of task lists, tracking of display states, and provision of logical data structures. It depends on *Storage* for physical storage.

*Storage* is responsible for persistent physical storage. Its functionalities include *JSON (JavaScript Object Notation)* encoding and decoding of task lists and settings, as well as read/write operations for physical storage.

# 4. Developing the Components

## 4.1 Graphical User Interface



Figure – Class Diagram of GUI Component

*GUI* was designed using *JavaFX Scene Builder*. The class diagram of the component is shown in **Figure 2**. *UIController* implements the Observer pattern internally to control the display elements and communicate with *Logic*.

The interactions between the *User*, *GUI* and *Logic* during initialization is depicted in **Figure 3**.



Figure – Sequence Diagram for Initialization

Figure – Sequence Diagram for User Interactions

The standard sequence for generating hints and command execution is depicted in **Figure 4**. Each character entered will trigger the listener for the text field, which passes the user input to logic to generate a new hint. When the user confirms the command, the entire command string is sent to *Logic* without any preprocessing in the *GUI*.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note:** | The **Hashtag** and **Task** lists need to be refreshed with most successful commands, with the exception of repeated search or repeated category selection. Therefore, the Observer Pattern is not required between *Logic* and *GUI*. |



## 4.2 Logic



Figure – Class Diagram of Logic Component

*Logic* is based on the Façade pattern. *Logic Controller* abstracts the complexities of the *Logic Subsystem* from the *GUI* by acting as an intermediary. The *Logic* class diagram is shown in **Figure 5**.

*Logic*’s role is to provide all necessary backend functionality for the *GUI*, including command parsing, hints generation, list processing, and display state maintenance. These functionalities are achieved by relaying method calls to *ActionHintSystem* and *TaskManager*.

A quick overview of the methods specified by the *Logic* interface is shown below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Field / Method | Description |
| processCommand(String): Message | Parses, interprets, and executes a user command. |
| getMessageTyping(String): Message | Generates a dynamic hint based on the current user command. |
| getHashtags(): List<String> | Returns the list of hashtags. |
| getList(): List<Task> | Returns the list of Task objects. |
| getHashtagsSelected(): int | Returns the hashtag index that should be selected (or highlighted). |
| getTasksSelected(): List<Integer> | Returns the indices of tasks that should be selected (or highlighted). |

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### 4.2.1 Action and Hint System

Figure - Action and Hint System

*ActionHintSystem* applies the Command pattern. As shown in **Figure 6**, it provides two main API methods to handle execution of commands, and generation of hints and autocomplete messages.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Note: | Only critical APIs and relationships are shown in this class diagram. Dependencies on static libraries like the *TaskCatalystCommons* are not shown. |

*ActionHintSystemActual* is responsible for interpreting and creating *Action*s from user commands. *Action*s encapsulates a complete specification of a command (to be elaborated in the next section). These *Action*s are passed to *ActionInvoker* for execution. The *ActionInvoker* is also responsible for maintaining command stacks for undo/redo functionality.

The *ActionInvoker* is a Singleton class as there should only be one command queue operating on the *Task* list at any instance of time.

A quick overview of the methods specified by the *ActionHintSystem* interface is shown below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Field / Method | Description |
| processCommand(String): Message | Parses, interprets, and executes a user command. |
| getMessageTyping(String): Message | Generates a dynamic hint based on the current user command. |

#### Action Class – Parsing and Executing Commands

*ActionHintSystemActual* parses user inputs and creates commands in the form of *Action* objects. These *Action* objects are sent to *ActionInvoker* for execution and, if undoable, are stored in a history stack. These *Action*s can then be undone or redone by calling the undoFromStack() and redoFromStack() methods of *ActionInvoker*.

*Action* implements the Template pattern. Each subclass of *Action* encapsulates a complete description of how an operation is performed and how hints are generated. Even though it is not specified in the *Action* interface, it is compulsory to implement various static methods for each *Action* subclass.

A summary of all mandatory methods and fields are shown below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Field / Method | Description |
| DICTIONARY: String[] | All commands associated with this *Action*. |
| EXECUTE\_ERROR, EXECUTE\_SUCCESS | Status messages for execution. |
| UNDO\_ERROR, UNDO\_SUCCESS | Status messages for undo, if undoable. |
| HINT\_MESSAGE | The hint message to return when getHint() is called. |
| execute(): Message | Code for executing the *Action*. |
| undo(): Message | Code for undoing the *Action*. |
| isThisAction(String): boolean | Static method for matching entries in the dictionary. |
| getHint(String): Message | Static method for generating a *Message* hint based on the input string. |
| isUndoable(): boolean | Static method for checking if the action is undoable. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hint:** | To add functionality to the program, you simply have to create a new a new *Action* subclass, and add it to *ActionHintSystemActual*. For the following example, you can refer to Delete.java to supplement your understanding. |

An abridged example of how the *Delete* operation is carried out is outlined in **Figure 7**.



Figure – Sequence Diagram for Delete Action

Whenever *LogicActual* requests for a command to be processed, *ActionHintSystemActual* first calls the isThisAction() methods of all *Action* subclasses until a match is found. An instance of the matching *Action* is created and the entire user input is passed to its constructor for further parsing.

All actions are executed by passing it to the *ActionInvoker*, which will also maintain the undo and redo stacks. *ActionInvoker* stores the actions based on whether it is undoable.

Upon completion of the *Action*, the *Message* is returned and forwarded back to the *GUI*.



Figure – Sequence Diagram for Undo Action

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note:** | The undo() method of *Delete* is omitted, but the steps are similar to how it is executed. Please refer to the actual code for more information. |

**Figure 8** illustrates the process of undoing an *Action*. When undoing the previous command, an *Undo* object is created in the same fashion as the *Delete* object.

Upon execution, the *Undo* object gets the instance of the *ActionInvoker* and calls requests for the last action to be undone. *ActionInvoker* then requests for the previous command in the stack to undo itself.

Notice that since the *Undo* action is not undoable, it is not stored in the undo stack of *ActionHintSystem*.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note:** | By convention, when implementing an *Action* that is not undoable, the undo() method should return a *Message* object with its type set to MessageType.ERROR. |

#### 

#### Message Class – Status Messages, Hints and Autocomplete

*GUI* relies on *Logic* to generate hint messages while the user is typing. *Logic* relays these requests to *ActionHintSystem* to do the actual processing. By moving the user input through a decision tree, *ActionHintSystem* generates the corresponding *Message* objects to either display a hint or perform an autocomplete operation.

A *Message* object encapsulates the methods and fields shown below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Field / Method | Description |
| message: String | All commands associated with this action. |
| type: MessageType | Static method for matching dictionary. |
| getType(): MessageType | Returns the message type. |
| getMessage(): String | Returns String stored in the message. |

*Messages* with their types set to ERROR or SUCCESS are generated by the execute() and undo() methods of *Action* objects. These *Messages* are typically displayed at the status bar of *GUI*.

The getHint() method of *Action* objects generates *Messages* of HINT and AUTOCOMPLETE types. HINT *Messages* are displayed on the status bar like SUCCESS and ERROR *Messages*, while AUTOCOMPLETE *Messages* prompt the GUI to replace the user’s input bar with the encapsulated message.

*ActionHintSystem* generates hints for partial command matches, as well as hints specific to a command if there is a match. **Figure 9** illustrates the hint generation process.

  
Figure – Hint Generation Activity Diagram

With the exception of *Edit* and *Add*, the getHint() methods of most commands generate static hints. The *Edit* hint generation process is depicted in **Figure 10**. Itcan return AUTOCOMPLETE *Messages*, and provide *Live Task Preview* similar to *Add*.



Figure – Edit Hint Generation Process



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note:** | When generating an AUTOCOMPLETE *Message*, make sure it contains the exact command the user should type. For example, the parameter “edit 2 “ should generate an AUTOCOMPLETE *Message* containing “edit 2 Meet boss at 5PM”, and not simply “Meet boss at 5PM”. Also, make sure to use getTaskDescriptionEdit() from the *Task* object to preserve ignore tags (explained in the parsing section below). |

#### Add Action – Parsing, Building and Adding Tasks



Figure – Class Diagram for Add Action

The high-level structure of *TaskBuilder* is outlined in **Figure 11**. *TaskBuilder* is used by the *Add* action to parse and create *Task* objects. The system makes use of the *PrettyTime* NLP library to recognize date and time formats. However, its behavior is inconsistent across various scenarios. There is also a need to have *Relative Date Display* to facilitate *Task Editing* and *Live Task Preview*. Therefore, the solution is to convert a *Task* description to something that is more easily understood, parsed and displayed later on.

When the user wants to add a task, the *Add* object passes the user input to *TaskBuilder*, which in turn uses the parsing libraries in *TaskCatalystCommons*. The parsing process produces an *Interpreted String* which is of the following format:

This is a sample task. Some sample dates are {08 Nov 2014 02:00:00 PM}, {08 Nov 2014 03:00:00 PM} and {08 Nov 2014 05:00:00 PM}. [This text is ignored].

Notice that each date is stored in absolute format and enclosed in curly braces. The *Interpreted String* can be converted into a *Relative String* for further manipulation or a *Display String* for displaying.

The following table outlines the conversion methods in *TaskCatalystCommons***.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Field / Method | Description |
| getInterpretedString(String, boolean): String | Converts a *User Input String* into *Interpreted String*. |
| getRelativeString(String, boolean): String | Converts an *Interpreted String* into a *Relative String*. |
| getDisplayString(String): String | Converts a *User Input String* into a *Display String* (used for *Live Task Preview*). |
| getDisplayStringWithoutDate(String): String | Converts a *Relative String* into a *Display String*. |

**Table 1** shows an abridged example of how user input is converted into an *Interpreted String*. The full process can be found in TaskCatalystCommons.java.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Process | Interpreted Input | Parsing Input |
| Original *User Input String* | Meet client in MR5 at 5pm to 6pm. Phone number 91234567. |  |
| Ignore all number strings longer than 4 digits. | Meet client in MR5 at 5pm to 6pm. Phone number [91234567]. |  |
| Ignore all words ending with a number. | Meet client in [MR5] at 5pm to 6pm. Phone number [91234567]. |  |
| Remove all ignored words for the *Parsing Input*. |  | Meet client in at 5pm to 6pm. Phone number. |
| Remove all *PrettyTime* buggy words for the *Parsing Input*. |  | Meet client 5pm to 6pm. Phone number. |
| Remove consecutive “and”, “on” and whitespaces. |  | Meet client 5pm to 6pm. Phone number. |
| Send *Parsing Input* to *PrettyTime*, and replace each match in *Interpreted Input*. | Meet client in [MR5] {12 Oct 2014 05:00 PM} to {12 Oct 2014 06:00 PM}. Phone number [91234567]. |  |
| Remove all prepositions before each date. The correct prepositions will be generated later. | Meet client in [MR5] {12 Oct 2014 5PM} to {12 Oct 2014 6PM}. Phone number [91234567]. |  |

Table 11 – Interpreted String Conversion Process (Abridged)

The *Interpreted String* is generated by converting the *User Input* into an *Interpreted Input* and *Parsing Input*, and then combining them afterwards. The *Interpreted String* is passed to *TaskBuilder* and used to instantiate a *Task*. Whenever the getDescription() method of the *Task* is called, it is converted into a *Display String*.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note:** | Square brackets are used to exclude text from processing, while curly braces are used to denote date and time information. |

The process of converting an *Interpreted String* to a *Display String* is shown in **Table 2**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Process | Display String |
| Original *Interpreted String* | Meet client in [MR5] {12 Oct 2014 05:00 PM} to {12 Oct 2014 06:00 PM}. Phone number [91234567]. |
| Parse items in brackets and replace them with relative dates. | Meet client in [MR5] {today 5PM} to {6PM}. Phone number [91234567]. |
| Remove all square brackets and curly braces. | Meet client in MR5 today 5PM to 6PM. Phone number 91234567. |

Table 22 – Display String Conversion Process (Abridged)



When there are more than one date in a sentence, the following code snippet in **Figure 12** is used by the conversion process to display relative dates and ensure that there is no repeated information (i.e. “Saturday 5PM to Saturday 6PM” instead of “Saturday 5PM to 6PM”). Whether the date or time should be shown is determined by looking at the previous and next date in the sentence.

|  |
| --- |
| **if** (isShowDate) {  **if** (*isYesterday*(currentDate)) {  formatString = "'yesterday'";  } **else** **if** (*isToday*(currentDate)) {  formatString = "'today'";  } **else** **if** (*isTomorrow*(currentDate)) {  formatString = "'tomorrow'";  } **else** **if** (*isThisWeek*(currentDate) && isFirstDate) {  formatString = "'on' E";  } **else** **if** (*isThisWeek*(currentDate)) {  formatString = "E";  } **else** **if** (isFirstDate) {  formatString = "'on' d MMM";  } **else** {  formatString = "d MMM";  }  **if** (!*isThisYear*(currentDate)) {  formatString = formatString + " yyyy";  }  }  **if** (isShowTime) {  **if** (!isDateEmpty) {  formatString = formatString + " ";  }  formatString = formatString + "h";  **if** (*hasMinutes*(currentDate)) {  formatString = formatString + ":mm";  }  formatString = formatString + "a";  } |

Figure – Display Date Conversion Process

### 4.2.2 Task Manager



Figure – Task Manager Class Diagram

*TaskManager* follows Demeter’s Principle closely by ensuring that most common operations can be done using APIs without low-level manipulation of *Tasks*. An overview of *TaskManager* is illustrated in **Figure 13**. *TaskManager* generates the actual *Task* list displayed to the user by keeping track of the last display mode and keyword used by the user. The keyword can be a hashtag or search key depending on the display mode.

*TaskManager* is responsible for maintaining the full list of tasks, and depends on *ListProcessor* to generate the display list and identify overlaps whenever the list is refreshed. In addition, it also keeps track of the list of tasks that was most recently modified for the *GUI* to highlight.

Whenever the list of tasks is modified, *TaskManager* automatically sends it to *Storage* for saving.

### 4.2.3 List Processor



Figure 14 – Class Diagram of List Processor

*ListProcessor* provides the API for processing the list of *Tasks* passed by *TaskManager*. The structure of ListProcessor is shown in **Figure 14**. *ListProcessor* is responsible for processing the list and provides functionalities like searching by hashtags, searching by keywords, sorting by date, and identifying overlapping tasks.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Field / Method | Description |
| searchByHashtag(List<Task>, String): List<Task> | Returns a list of *Task*s containing the specified hashtag. |
| searchByKeyword(List<Task>, String): List<Task> | Returns a list of *Tasks* matching the specified keyword or dates. |
| sortByDate(List<Task>): List<Task> | Sorts the *Task* list by date. |
| getOverlapping(List<Task>): List<Task> | Returns a list of *Tasks* overlapping with at least one other *Task* in the list. |
| getOverlapping(Task,List<Task>): List<Task> | Returns a list of *Tasks* overlapping with the *Task* specified in the parameter. |

When searching for keywords, *ListProcessor* is able to filter the list of *Tasks* based on the specified keyword, dates or date ranges. Example searching formats are summarized in **Table 3**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Example |
| Keyword | * boss * marketing team |
| Single Date | * 4 Nov |
| Multiple Dates | * 30 Oct, 1 Nov, 3 Nov |
| A Range Of Dates | * 2 Feb to 4 Feb * between 3 Mar and 6 Mar |

Table 3 – Example Search Formats

When the user requests to display a hashtag category, thesearchByHashtag(List<Task> list, String hashtag) method is used. *ListProcessor* returns a list of *Tasks* with the specified hashtag if it is a custom hashtag, or a list of *Tasks* within the specified category if it is a default hashtag.

**Table 4** lists the default hashtags used in Task Catalyst.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Default Hashtag | Description of the list returned |
| #all (All) | Returns a list of *Tasks* which are not completed. |
| #pri (Priority) | Returns a list of *Tasks* which are marked as priority. |
| #ovd (Overdue) | Returns a list of *Tasks* which are overdue. |
| #tdy (Today) | Returns a list of *Tasks* which are due today. |
| #tmr (Tomorrow) | Returns a list of *Tasks* which are due tomorrow. |
| #upc (Upcoming) | Returns a list of *Tasks* which are due at least two days later. |
| #smd (Someday) | Returns a list of *Tasks* which do not have due dates. |
| #olp (Overlapping) | Returns a list of *Tasks* which are overlapping. |
| #dne (Done) | Returns a list of *Tasks* which are completed. |

**Table 4 – Default Hashtags**



The sorting function uses the built-in comparator of the *Task* class to perform sorting. The comparator in *Task* is summarized in **Figure 15**.

|  |
| --- |
| **…**  **if** (isThisDateNull && !isOtherDateNull) {  **return** 1;  }  **if** (isOtherDateNull && !isThisDateNull) {  **return** -1;  }  **if** (isThisDateNull && isOtherDateNull) {  **return** 0;  }  **if** (isSameDate && isThisAllDay && !isOtherAllDay) {  **return** -1;  }  **return** thisDateTime.compareTo(otherDateTime);  … |

Figure 15 - Task Comparator Snippet



## 4.3 Storage



Figure 16 – Class Diagram of Storage

*Storage* handles the storing and retriving of *Task* data in physical storage. **Figure 16** illustrates the structure of *Storage*. *Storage* provides libraries to encode *Tasks* into *JSON* objects format, and decode *JSON* data back into *Tasks*. *Storage* also handles the automatic creation of storage files and folders if they do not exist.

The API of *Storage* is summarized in the following table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Field / Method | Description |
| saveTask(List<Task>, String): boolean | Saves the list of tasks from the specified file path and returns true if operation is successful. |
| loadTask(List<Task>, String): List<Task> | Loads the list of tasks from the specified file path and returns a list of tasks. If the save file is not found, an empty list will be returned. |
| saveSettings(String, String, String): boolean | Saves a setting to the specified file and returns true if operation is successful. |
| loadSettings(String, String): String | Loads a setting from the specified file and returns it. |

**Figure 17** outlines the process of saving a list of *Tasks* passed by *Logic*, while **Figure 18** shows how *Tasks* are read.



Figure – Sequence Diagram for Saving Tasks



Figure – Sequence Diagram for Reading Tasks

# 5. Setting up the Environment

## 5.1 Using the Versioning Tool

Task Catalyst is hosted on *GitHub*. To begin working on Task Catalyst, you will need to synchronize a copy of the source code using the *GitHub* client from the following page:

<https://windows.github.com/>

After downloading and installing a suitable version, you will have to log into your account and clone the remote repository to the local file system. The steps to clone a repository is outlined in **Figure 19**.

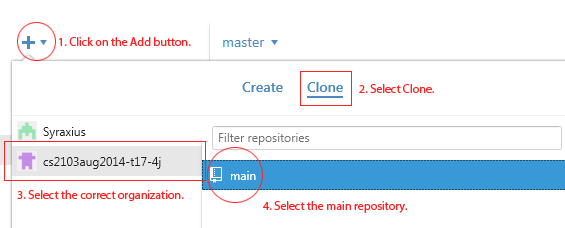


Figure 19 – Cloning the Task Catalyst Repository

You will be prompted to select a folder as the local repository. For the rest of this guide, we will assume that the default folder is selected as shown in **Figure 20**. The files will be synchronized to your local system upon confirmation.

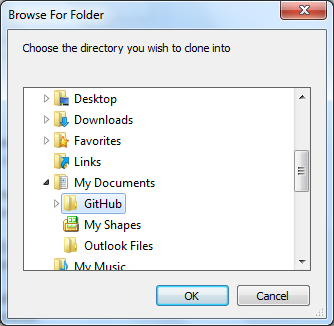


Figure 20 – Selecting Clone Folder

## 5.2 Setting up the IDE

The project relies on *Maven* framework for dependency management. In order to import *Maven* projects, you will need to download the *Java Developers* version of *Eclipse* from the download page:

<https://www.eclipse.org/downloads/>

After you have downloaded *Eclipse*, you will need to import the project as a *Maven Project*. Select **File > Import** and browse to “Existing Maven Projects” as shown in **Figure 21**.

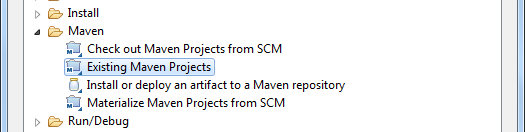


Figure 21 – Import Existing *Maven* Projects

Ensure that you select only the main pom.xml file as shown in **Figure 22**.

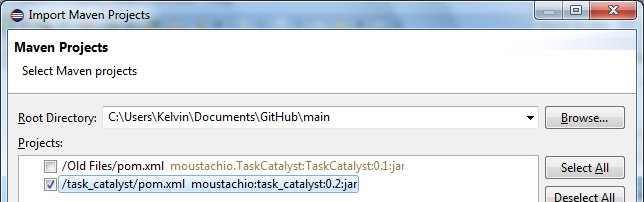


Figure 22 – Selecting the Correct POM File

You will have to use the Alt + F5 key combination to bring up the *Update Maven Project* dialogue as shown in **Figure 23**. This will automatically download and refresh all dependencies into your system.

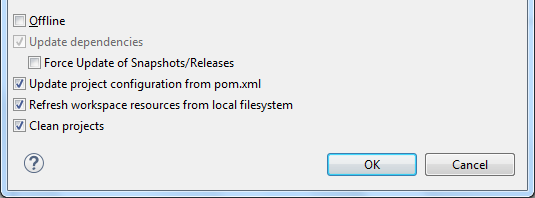
.

Figure 23 – Update *Maven* Project

Whenever you wish to add a new *Maven* dependency into the system, you will need to insert a new entry into pom.xml as shown in **Figure 24**.



Figure 24 – Adding a Dependency

Whenever you add a dependency, remember to use Alt + F5 to update the project.

To build the project into a JAR (Java Archive), ensure that you have the latest *JDK* selected in the build paths, then create a new *Maven* Build configuration as shown in **Figure 25**. The program will be built when you select **Run**.

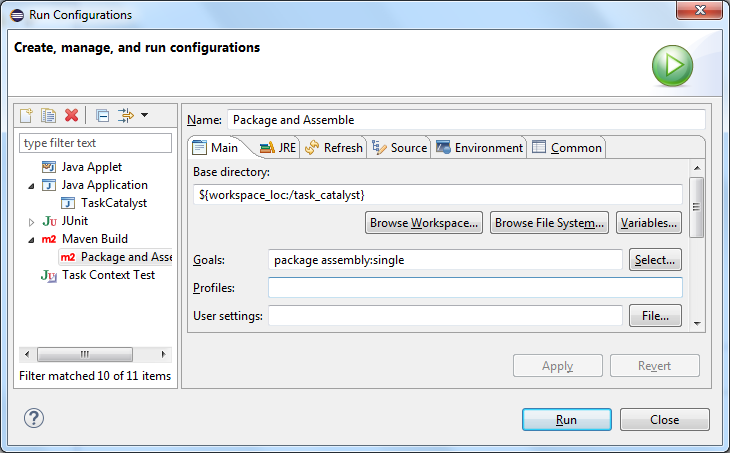


Figure 25 – Build Configuration

## 5.3 Testing the System

When developing new functionalities for Task Catalyst, the TDD (Test-Driven Development) approach should be applied. More information on how to use the TDD approach can be found in the following URL:

<http://agiledata.org/essays/tdd.html>

*JUnit* is the main unit testing system used in the project. As the project structure follows the specifications of the *Maven* dependency management system, *JUnit* test cases are stored under the /src/test/java directory as shown in **Figure 19**.



Figure – /src/test/java Directory

To create a new *JUnit* test case, right-click on the project package, and select **New > JUnit Test Case** as shown in **Figure 20**.



Figure – Creating a new *JUnit* Test Case

Ensure that your test case follows the naming convention of *ClassName*Test where *ClassName* is the name of the Class under test. Also, ensure that *JUnit* *4* is in use, and the correct class is selected for the “Class under test” field. An example is shown in **Figure 21**.



Figure – Creating a new *JUnit* Test Case

The setUp() and tearDown() methods are called before and after respectively after each test case. Use setUp() to instantiate an instance of the Class Under Test, and tearDown() to perform any cleaning up operations. A code snippet is shown in **Figure 22**.

|  |
| --- |
| List<Task> tasks;  TaskBuilder taskBuilder;  ListProcessorActual listProcessor;  @Before  **public** **void** setUp() **throws** Exception {  tasks = **new** ArrayList<Task>();  taskBuilder = **new** TaskBuilderAdvanced();  listProcessor = **new** ListProcessorActual();  }  @After  **public** **void** tearDown() **throws** Exception {  BlackBox.*getInstance*().close();  }  /\* This is a boundary case for the case 'empty list' partition \*/  @Test  **public** **void** testSearchByHashtag() {  *assertEquals*(listProcessor.searchByHashtag(tasks, "boss").size(), 0);  } |

Figure 22 - Test Case Code Snippet

You can write test cases as shown in the above code. Remember to write comments for your test cases to specify its purpose and partitions as shown whenever possible.

When using TDD, remember to create the smallest test case possible, and pass each test case using the simplest code. You can create additional test cases simply by prefixing them with the @Test directive.

When you are done, simply right-click the test case and select **Run as > JUnit Test** to run the test as shown in **Figure 23**.



Figure – Running the JUnit Test

# 6. Upcoming Developments

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Feature | Description |
| Abstraction-Occurrence Pattern in *Task* | Able to handle multiple dates better by abstracting *Tasks* and its associated dates using the Abstraction-Occurrence Pattern. |
| Color Themes | Able to switch to various color themes in *GUI*. |
| Custom Parser | Able to parse and recognize date and time formats without relying on third-party libraries. |
| Google Calendar Integration | Able to log-in and synchronize *Tasks* with the user’s Google account. |
| Instant Overlap Notification | Able to display overlaps immediately during Live Task Preview. |
| Reminder System | Able to parse and recognize user requests for reminders in *Logic* and display notifications to the user in *GUI*. |
| Settings Page | Able to modify and save various settings (Color Theme, Preferred Date Formats, etc.) using a settings page. |



# 7. Appendix

## 7.1 Glossary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Term | Description |
| Action | A complete specification of a command, including its command dictionary, actual implementation and related hints. |
| Blocking Task | A task with multiple dates defined separated by the “or” connector. |
| Display String | A String to be displayed to the user. |
| Floating Task | A task without any date specified. |
| Hashtag | A # symbol appended to the start of a word. Can be used as a verb to describe the act of appending a hashtag to the start of a word. |
| Task | A collection of description, date and time information used to describe an entry in the task manager. |
| Interpreted String | A String directly formatted from the user's input, with date/time information converted into absolute values (i.e. 08 Nov 2014 08:30:00 PM). |
| Message | A message paired with a type. |
| Multiple Task | A task with multiple dates defined separated by the “and” connector. |
| Relative String | An Interpreted String with date/time information converted into relative terms (i.e. today, tomorrow). |
| Ranged Task | A task with a start and end time. |
| Undoable | An Action that can be undone. |