Programming II

Semester Project

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Documentation for Scribbles

Introduction

Scribbles is a no-database blogging style journal application for desktop use. User created content is saved in a specific file format that can be parsed into the necessary data to display, edit and save that content. It can be used to keep research notes, journal entries, thoughts, etc.

Following are some basic terms used throughout this app.

Post – The content created by the user which is saved and displayed in the app.

Title – Each post has a user created title.

Date – Attached to each post, this can be changed by the user, however the default is always the current date.

Navigating the App

Every screen has 2 menu bars(fig A, 1), one at the top and one at the bottom of each screen. They function the same on every screen. A greyed-out menu option indicates that you are already on the screen to which that menu option links.

Left clicking any menu option will open the related screen. The screens are not able to be toggled back and forth – when you open a new screen, you are leaving another screen and any user-generated data which has not been saved will be lost. For that reason, screens which have a 'Save' button should be saved before opening another screen if you intend to keep that data.

Every screen in the app is accessible from every other screen by way of the menu bars, except the 'Single Post' screen which opens when you select a post to read from any list of posts.
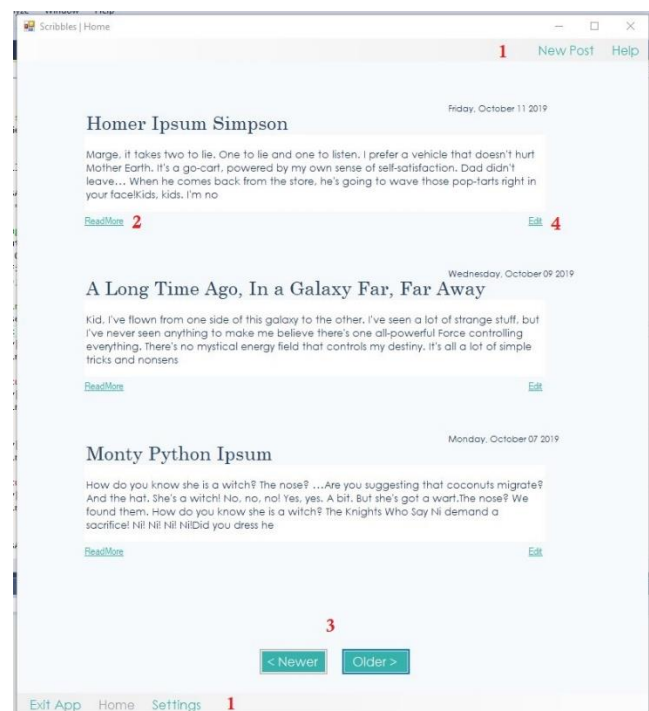

Figure A

Navigating the App – Home Screen

The 'Home Screen' displays a list of post excerpts from the most recent to the oldest. Left clicking on a 'Read More' link (fig A,2) will open that post in 'Single Post' read mode. There is a limit to the number of post excerpts which can be displayed on one screen. To see more excerpts, click on one of the links at the bottom of the Home Screen which are labeled 'Older' and 'Newer,' (fig A,3) and additional excerpts will display.

Under each post excerpt is an 'Edit' link (fig A,4). Posts which have already been created and saved can be edited by clicking the 'Edit' link which opens the Post Editor Screen.
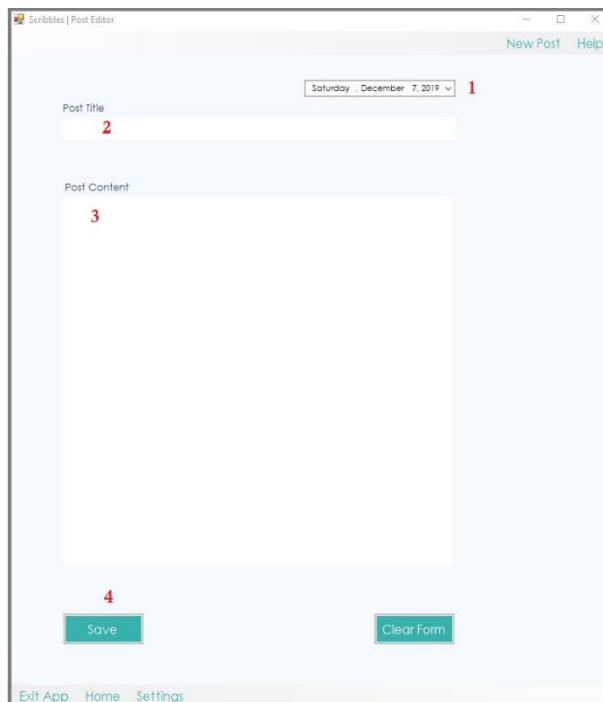

Figure B

Navigating the App – New Post Screen

To make a new Post, from any screen, click the 'New Post' menu item. The 'New Post' screen is a blank post editor. New posts are created in this screen. The date field is set with the current date by default, but you can change that with the date picker (fig B,1).

You can enter a title in the Title field (fig B,2).

The post content is the note or journal entry. No special formatting, such as font changes or colors, are saved with the content. The content is saved as a simple text file (fig B,3).

All content entered here, and any changes made, must be saved before moving on by clicking the 'Save' button at the bottom of the screen (fig B,4). If you do not wish to save your entry, but would like to start the entry anew, click the 'Clear Form' button. This will clear the form, and anything which wasn't saved will be lost.

Navigating the App – Settings Screen

To open the Settings, from any screen, click the Settings menu item in the bottom menu. There are a few general settings which apply to all posts. Here you can change the Title and Post fonts, font sizes, and font colors (fig C,1). You can also hide the date of each post by unchecking the 'Display Date' button (fig C,2). These setting will apply to all posts. After making changes on this page, be sure to click the 'Save Changes' button (fig C,3) before moving on or changes will be lost.
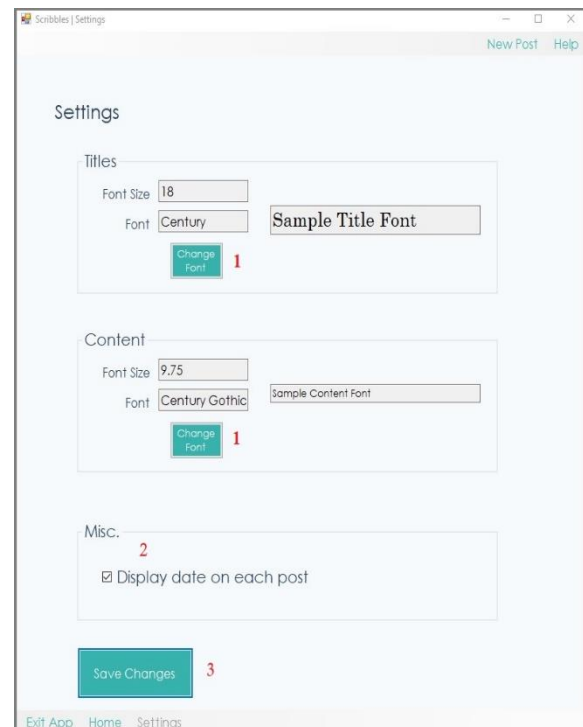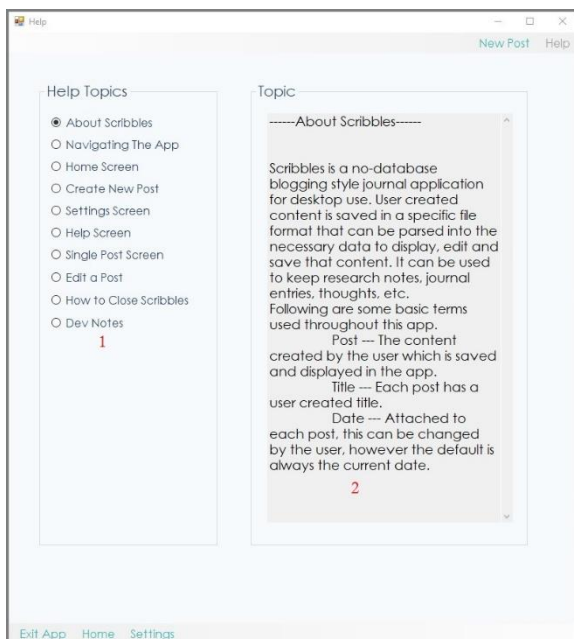

Figure C

Navigating the App – Help Screen

To find help from any screen, click the 'Help' menu item in the top menu bar. The Help Screen has a list of help topics on the left side (fig D,1). Clicking any one of them will open a corresponding document on the right side of the screen (fig D,).

Navigating the App – Single Post Screen

To read any full post, click on the post excerpt's Title, or on the 'Read More' link and a Single Post screen opens where you can read the full post. To read the next or previous post (in chronological order), press the 'Next' or 'Previous' buttons at the bottom of the screen.

Figure D

How to Edit a Post

To edit an existing post, from the Home Screen, click on the 'Edit' link under the chosen post excerpt. The Post Editor Screen will open. It is the same as the New Post Screen, except your chosen post will already be displayed in the editor. Make any desired edits. Then be sure to click the 'Save' button to save those edits to file; however, if the date of the post is changed during the edit, a new file will be created when the 'Save' button is clicked due to the method of file creation employed.

Close the App

To exit the app from any screen, simply click the Exit App button in the bottom menu of every screen, or from the Home Screen, click the 'X' in the top right corner of the screen.

Creating Posts Without the Post Editor

Since the Scribbles app is based on a file system and not a database, posts can be added without opening the app, if desired. Simply write the post in a plain text editor (no formatting) and save the file according to the naming convention listed below.

The post text file MUST be formatted as follows:

post*DATE*.txt^
DATE^
TITLE OF POST^
CONTENT……………CONTENT…

Where *DATE* is the long date of the post in this format – YYYYMMDDHHmmss, *TITLE OF POST* is the title of the post, and *CONTENT* is the body of the post. Notice the ^ symbol between each field – it is required in order for the file to be parsed by the app. However, line breaks are not required between fields (see fig E for example).

Figure E

The file should be saved in the 'repo/Scribbles/Scribbles/bin/Debug' folder according to this convention:

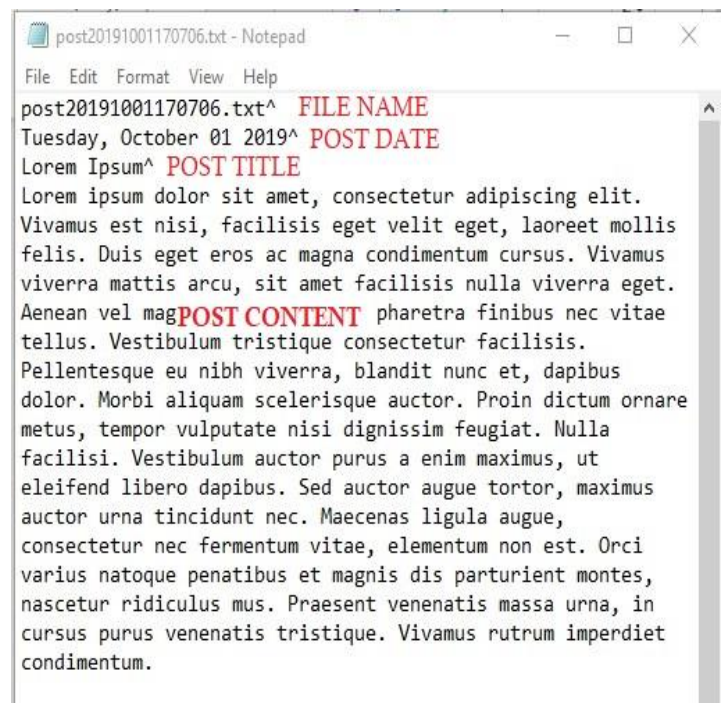'post*DATE*.txt' where DATE is the long form date of the post in this format – YYYYMMDDHHmmss.