

Puma JavaWorks



Draft User Guide

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Draft User Guide for ioRAD design of an Internet Radio software product for Macintosh.

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Document History

12/03/2013

09:32 pm – Original document and layout created by Denise Tien

10:03 pm – Architectural sketch added by Denise Tien

10:25 pm – Introduction started by Denise Tien

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09:02 pm –Introduction edited by Erinna Woo

10:04 pm – Features and Functions Walkthrough added by Denise Tien

11:32 pm –Installation Instructions added by Erinna Woo

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09:40 pm –Edited features and functions to match most updated ioRAD by Erinna Woo

10:20 pm –Beta test results and changes added by Erinna Woo

12:58 am—Photos changed by Denise Tien

Introduction

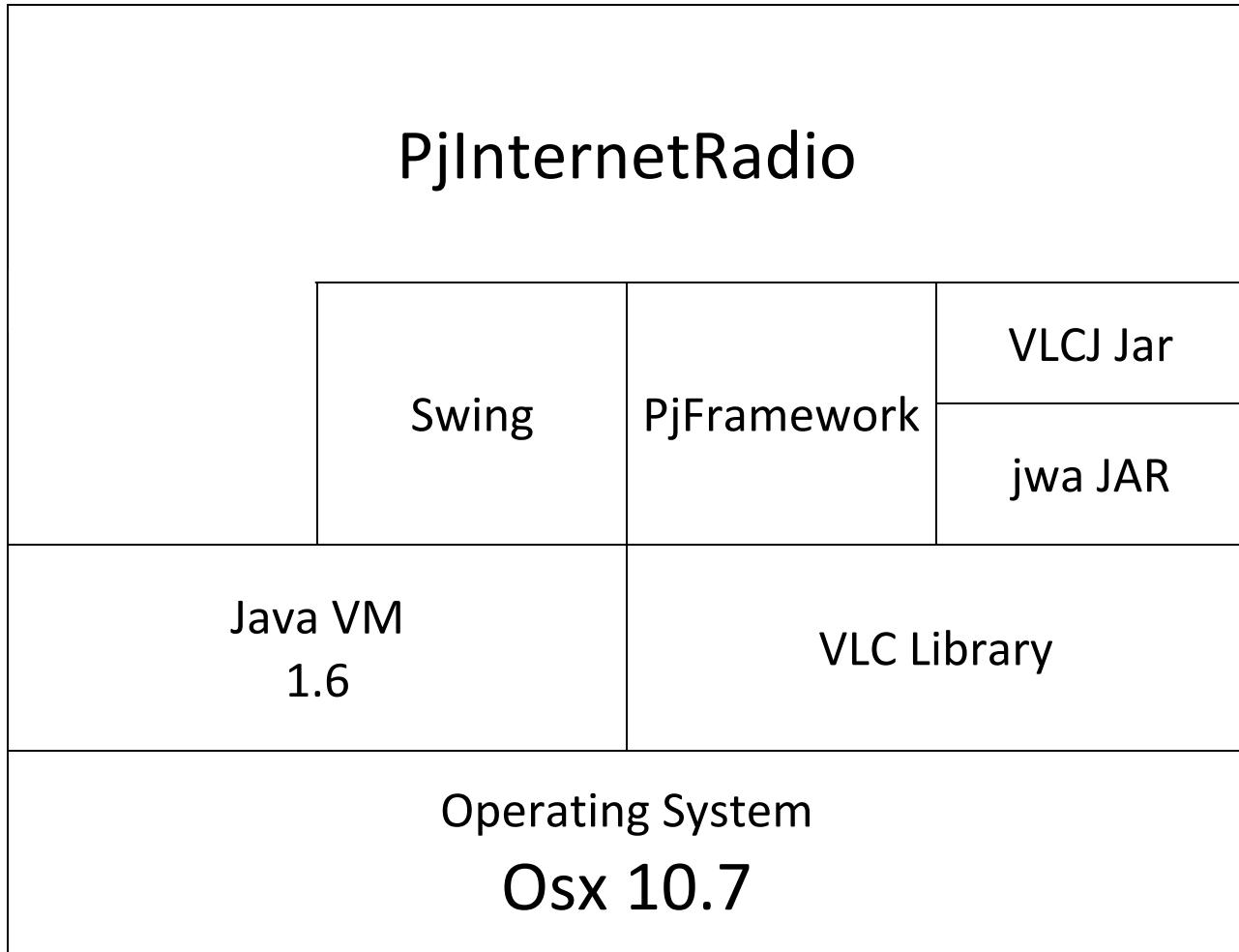
ioRAD is a highly functioning radio. With an assortment of different radio stations, ioRAD allows users to switch between stations, scan through stations with a 5 second preview, and simply toggle between stations.

ioRAD is unique as users may choose the style of radio that most appeals to them visually. The initial screen will allow users to select a type of genre. Kids can enjoy the Toy Radio style, teenagers may prefer the Boom Box style, and the simplistic Classic Radio may be perfect for those adults not wanting distractions. During the Holiday Season, tune into a Christmas channel, automatically switching to the Snow Radio. Or tune into a station playing electronic music, and witness an amazing light show.

After clicking which genre he or she prefers, a new set of buttons shows up with variety of stations of that genre. For instance, after clicking the “Country” radio, “181.1 Kickin’ Country”, “Absolutely Country Hits”, and other country stations will pop up. Select genres will also trigger a special feature. Clicking the “Christmas” genre will cause snow to start falling to match the mood of the music.

Overall, ioRAD caters to a wide variety of music tastes, so any listener can enjoy the radical musical experience.

Architectural Sketch

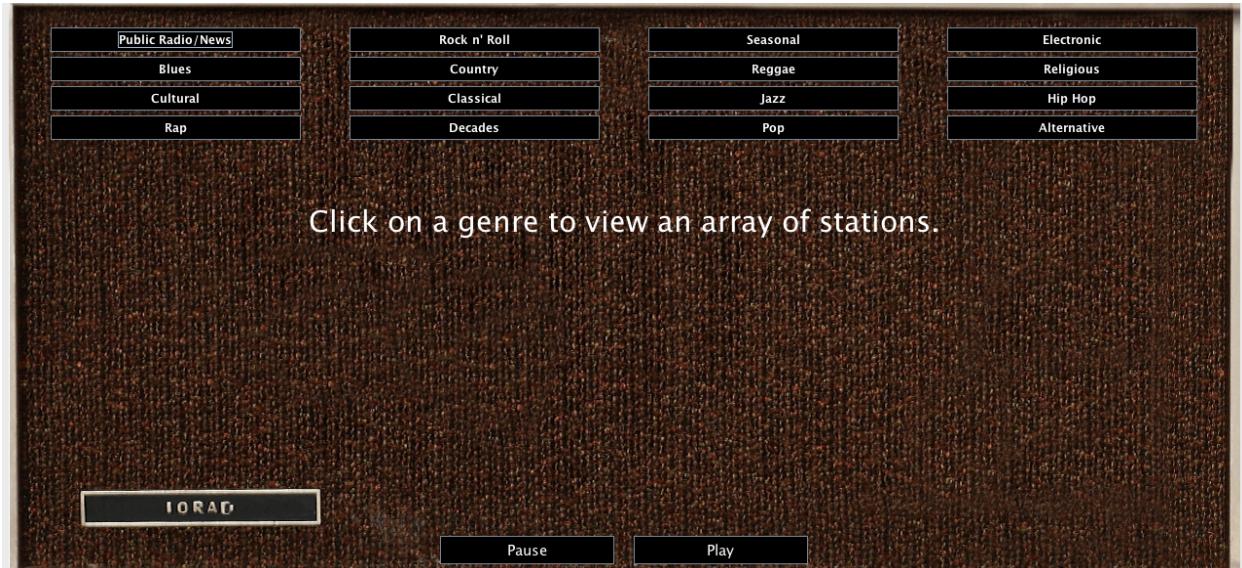


Our internet radio speaks to PjFramework and the swing class to create the shapes and buttons that make our radio function. It also speaks directly to the Java program that runs the radio, as well as the VLC that enables the radio to play the musical media. However the radio does not directly interact with the VLC library or the actual operating system of the computer. It has to go through the Java VM first.

Installation Instructions

1. Download BlueJ
2. Download VLC
3. Download ioRadio.app
4. Run ioRadio app. (Or, open BlueJ, compile ioRad and run the main with no arguments.)

Features and Functions Walkthrough



Click on a genre to view an array of stations.

Default skin with selection of genres, instructions and play and pause buttons.



Example of how a selection of stations appears after selecting a genre and the skin changes to match the genre.



For some stations like “Christmas”, the skin changes from the genre skin to a station skin.

Instructions: After opening the application instructions will appear at the center of the screen. Once the user clicks a genre the instructions will disappear.

Click on a genre to view an array of stations.

Genres: Click a genre to open multiple options for stations within that genre.



Stations: Click a station to hear that radio station. Some genres have more stations than other genres, for example, Cultural has over 10 stations while Public Radio/News only has 3 stations.



Play and Pause: While a station is playing, click pause to pause the station. However, since these are radio stations, clicking “play” will not resume the song from the same point. Thus, the pause button functions as a mute button.



Beta Test Results

The Beta test set up had the play pause buttons at the top, the genres at the bottom and the stations would appear in the middle. The genre buttons were also on a flow layout at the bottom with a default size. The default skin was an entire radio, and the image contained fake dials on the side. There also were no other skins.

Ameline Tien:

- Pushed the play button before selecting a genre
- Stations too far from genres after they appear
- Did not like the fake dials, tried to click them
- The default background still had Panasonic written in the corner
- Did not like how small the buttons were

Suggestions:

- Put the genres above the stations
- Make the instructions larger
- Make the buttons bigger
- Make the fake dials actually do something, or get rid of them
- Write “ioRAD” where Panasonic is
- Add an acapella genre
- Add a few more stations to the religious genre, like Gregorian chanting

Evan Woo

- Knew how to make the stations play and everything
- Felt that the overall layout and functionality was boring, our radio was not that unique
- Attitude towards the product seemed very neutral

Suggestions:

- Make the product more physically appealing or flashy
- Make it stand out in some way
- In general, focus more on the user interface and how to make it more appealing

Kevin Tien

- Also was able to navigate the radio fine
- Said the flow layout of the genre buttons was questionable, not very visually pleasing
- The station continues playing even after closing the radio

Suggestions:

- Box Layout or Grid Layout for the buttons
- Increase font size of the instructions
- Make sure the radio stops playing when you close it

After the Beta testing, we did a makeover on the appearance of the radio. We shifted around the buttons as Ameline suggested to make the radio more navigable for anyone to use. We also changed the layout of the genre buttons to fill the screen in a more pleasing manner (4 x 4 grid).

To make our radio more visually interesting as Evan suggested, we went through and made every click of a genre (and some stations) change the skin of the radio. Finally we edited the close operation to actually stop the radio once closed.