Project Report Group Badgers

Java and C# in depth, Spring 2013

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1 Introduction

This document describes the design and implementation of the Personal $Virtual\ File\ System$ of group Badgers. The project is part of the course $Java\ and\ C\#$ in depth at ETH Zurich. The following sections describe each project phase, listing the requirements that were implemented and the design decisions taken. The last section describes a use case of using the $Personal\ Virtual\ File\ System$.

2 VFS Core

VFS Core is a library that provides an implementation of a virtual file system. The API that a client of this library can use consists of three interfaces that are described in 2.2.1. The VFS Core provides functionality to create/open/dispose new virtual disks and allows the management of files and directories within such a disk. Furthermore it provides a simple way to import/export files from/to the host file system.

The library internally works with a virtual disk that is divided into a header, index and data section, having the index represented as B-tree. Such a design allows quick access to the data on the disk.

2.1 Requirements

Below one will find a list of the requirements implemented in this project.

2.1.1 disk management

- The virtual disk must be stored in a single file in the working directory in the host file system.
- VFS must support the creation of a new disk with the specified maximum size at the specified location in the host file system.
- VFS must support several virtual disks in the host file system.
- VFS must support disposing of the virtual disk.
- VFS must support querying of free/occupied space in the virtual disk.

These requirements are met with the classes

```
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.core.VFSDiskManagerImpl
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.core.config.DiskConfiguration
```

allow creation/deletion and opening of the disk on the host file system. Clients of the library have to pass a DiskConfiguration to the VFSDiskManagerImpl when calling create or open

2.1.2 file management

- VFS must support creating/deleting/renaming directories and files.
- VFS must support navigation: listing of files and folders, and going to a location expressed by a concrete path.
- VFS must support moving/copying directories and files, including hierarchy.
- VFS must support importing files and directories from the host file system.
- VFS must support exporting files and directories to the host file system.

These requirements are met with the classes

```
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.core.VFSEntryImpl
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.core.VFSPathImpl
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.core.VFSFileInputStream
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.core.VFSFileOutputStream
```

The VFSEntryImpl allows copy, move (and rename), delete, listing of children and going to the parent (navigation). Together with the streams it also supports importing/exporting to any location clients of the VFS core library wish to. The classes

```
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.VFSConsole
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.VFSUIController
```

demonstrate this by importing and exporting to the host file system.

2.1.3 bonus features

• Elastic disk: Virtual disk can dynamically grow or shrink, depending on its occupied space.

The implementation only allows growing if more files are imported. Shrinking is not supported.

- Compression, if implemented with 3d party library.
- Compression, if implemented by hand (you can take a look at the arithmetic compression)

The classes

```
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.compression.BadgersLZ77CompressionInputStream ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.compression.BadgersLZ77CompressionOutputStream ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.compression.BadgersRLECompressionInputStream ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.compression.BadgersRLECompressionOutputStream
```

implement streams that can be wrapped around VFSFileInputStream and VFSFileOutputStream. The DiskConfiguration allows to switch compression on and to declare which algorithm shall be chosen. This allows easy configuration of any 3rd party compression streams (which was not chosen to implement, because of the implementation of our own compression algorithm).

- Encryption, if implemented with 3rd party library.
- Encryption, if implemented by hand.

The classes

ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.encryption.CaesarInputStream
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.encryption.CaesarOutputStream

show how encryption can be implemented in the library. It was chosen to implement encryption similar to compression with streams, which allows easy configuration via *DiskConfiguration*. These streams are mainly for demonstration how encryption should work and shall not be used in high security environments:-)

• Large data: This means, that VFS core can store & operate amount of data, that can't fit to PC RAM (typically, more than 4Gb).

Having all operations implemented with streams achieves this requirement on the fly. Manual tests with 6GB files showed pretty efficient import and export to and from virtual disks.

2.2 Design

This section describes the main aspects of the VFS core library. It shows the implementation of the core interfaces and classes, explains the mock classes and tests and eventually describes the file format and its management classes.

2.2.1 Core Classes

Figure 1 gives an overview of the main interfaces and classes that were implemented. The interfaces VFSDiskManager, VFSEntry and VFSPath can be used by clients using the library implemented here.

- VFSDiskManager The implementations of this interface provide mainly a way to open, create and dispose new virtual disks. Additionally one can get the root entry of the file system and get additional information about an opened disk.
- VFSEntry Represents a directory or file on the file system. A VFSEntry provides all the required methods to manipulate files and directories and importing/exporting files into the virtual file system. The general meaning of VFSEntry is, that such objects usually exist on the filesystem.
- VFSPath Represents a path on the file system to a given VFSEntry. It has a slightly looser coupling to the file system as a path does not imperatively need to exist.
- FindInFolderCallback The find and findInFolder methods on VFS-DiskManager and VFSEntry require a callback object where the find mechanisms provided by the mock and the real implementations will notify the caller when a new entry is found. A client can start the search asynchronously and can handle the notifications for example with updating lists. The console implementation simply lists the absolute paths to the found entries.

The intention of those interfaces is to hide the real implementation of the virtual file system from a client. With that in mind it should be simple to add a network layer upon the real implementation without changing client code. The classes VFSDiskManagerImpl, VFSEntryImpl (and its descendants) and VFSPathImpl implement all the management for actually using the VFS on a virtual disk.



Figure 1: core classes

2.2.2 Design on compression and encryption

Both compression and encryption is only applied to file content. Neither file names nor folder structure is encrypted. Encrypting the whole virtual disk would have greatly increased complexity of the virtual disk core. Considering project deadlines it was decided to only compress and encrypt file content.

2.2.3 Mocking

For discussing the semantics of the virtual file system and the development of the interfaces explained in 2.2.1 it was decided to implement a mock that

works against the host file system. The mock classes implement all the interfaces and were very helpful for acquiring a common understanding of how the interface shall be used by clients. In a further step it was very useful to have the mock classes while developing the console application. Hence the console could be developed independently from the real implementation.

2.2.4 Test

During the development a bunch of test cases came to life. The tests solely depend on the interfaces and thus they can run against the mock classes and the real implementation. This was a huge help in finding bugs in the slightly more complicated real implementation.

2.2.5 The real implemenation

Eventually some code was developed that handles a virtual disk. This code and some details about the file format are described in this section.

The classes Figure 2 shows the overview over the classes implemented for the disk handling and file management.



Figure 2: Implementation of the VFS core classes

The classes were divided into several packages which are explained here in more detail.

core The *core* package contains the implementation of the interfaces mentioned in section 2.2.1. Clients of the VFS core library operate on these classes to manipulate the virtual file system.

exception While manipulating the file system some exceptional behaviour might occur and thus some exceptions will be thrown by the core

classes. These exception are propagated to the clients of the VFS core libraries.

core.header As the virtual disk is divided into three sections (header, directory and data) the classes that handle the management of the header section are put in the package *core.header*.

core.data core.data contains the classes that manipulate the data section on the file system. This mainly means managing data blocks and actually writing/reading the raw data bytes of files to the virtual disk.

core.directory core.directory contains the classes that manage the index of the file system. That means that the whole directory structure is maintained in here. This is done in a B-tree that contains all references to directories and files currently saved in the file system. More about the internals of directory section can be found in section 2.2.5

encryption The encryption package shows some demo classes that implement a ceasar cipher¹. These classes are mainly to show how encryption in VFS core can be implemented and configured. To enable encryption in a new virtual disk one has to enable it in the *DiskConfiguration* that is passed to the *VFSDiskManagerImpl* at creation. Upon selecting the encryption algorithm the encryption streams will be wrapped around the *VFSFileInputand VFSFileOutputStreams*.

compression To reduce the data volume within the virtual disk, compression on each file can be enabled. As mentioned earlier, compression is implemented as Input- and OutputStreams and thus is wrapped around the VFSFileInput- and VFSFileOutputStreams. Currently available compression algorithms are run length encoding [2] and LZ77 [3][1].

- Run Length Encoding The available 8bit run length encoding(rle) algorithm is a very simple form of data compression where multiple occurrence of the same byte were stored as a single byte value and the corresponding count. It is useful for simple graphic images like line drawings and icons.
- LZ77 Abraham Lempel and Jacob Ziv introduced the LZ77 lossless compression algorithm in 1977. Newer compression methods such as

¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caesar_cipher

GZIP or DEFLATE often use LZ77-based algorithms. The compression is achieved by replacing the data with a reference to an earlier existing copy in the data input stream. For that a window of a certain size is held in memory where existing copies of the current data are searched.

The File Format This section describes the binary file format used by the file system inside a virtual disk. The file is separated into three major parts. The header, index and the data section. Each of them is described below. Figure 3 gives an overview, of how the sections are distributed in the virtual disk and what contents they have.



Figure 3: Overview of a disk

Header Section The header section contains some general information about the currently opened virtual disk. The details can be found in the following table:

Name	Length	Description
Info	50 byte UTF-8 String	Contains something like
		Badger VFS 2013
Version	10 byte UTF-8 String	Contains something like
		"1.0"
Compression used	20 byte UTF-8 String	null or indicates compres-
		sion used for this file
Encryption used	20 byte UTF-8 String	null or indicates encryption
		used for this file
DirectorySectionOffset	long (8 byte)	File offset where the direc-
		tory section starts
DataSectionOffset	long (8 byte)	File offset where the data
		section starts
SaltString	8 bytes	Salt used to hash username
		and password randomly
		string generated while
		creating this file. (Not
		implemented yet)
Password	xxx bytes	CryptoHash (SHA-
		whatever) of Pass-
		word+SaltString (Not
		implemented yet)

Directory Section The directory section describes which files and folders belong to which parent directory. This section has a fixed size and contains so called *DirectoryBlocks* which also have a fixed size. This makes management and manipulation easy. To each directory belongs a B-tree structure which lists all contained entries.

DirectoryBlock One *DirectoryBlock* represents a node in the B-tree of order 2.

Name	Length	Description
DirectoryHeader	1 byte	Header information. This header makes it easy to determine whether a <i>DirectoryBlock</i> is in use or not (a file delete operation fills this DirectoryHeader byte with zeros)
DirectoryEntryBlock1	128 byte	The smaller key inserted into the B-tree
DirectoryEntryBlock2	128 byte	The bigger key inserted into the B-tree
DirectoryBlockLink1	8 byte	Points to another DirectoryBlock which contains keys smaller than DirectoryEntryBlock1
DirectoryBlockLink2	8 byte	Points to another DirectoryBlock which contains keys bigger than DirectoryEntry-Block1 but smaller than DirectoryEntryBlock2
DirectoryBlockLink3	8 byte	Points to another DirectoryBlock which contains keys bigger than DirectoryEntry-Block2

DirectoryEntryBlock Represents a single directory or file.

Name	Length	Description
Filename	112 byte	UTF-8 file name String
DataBlockLocation	8 byte	Pointer to a DataBlock located in the Data Section. This DataBlock holds some meta information about the current directory
DirectoryEntryTreeRoot	8 bytes	Pointer to a DirectoryBlock located in the Directory Section. This referenced DirectoryBlock is the root block of a B-tree containing all entries of that directory specified by the current DirectoryEntryBlock. This field containing a 0 indicates that this entry represents a file not a directory

Data Section The data section is split into blocks where each of them is 1024 bytes long. Each block contains some amount of data and points to a subsequent block (simple linked list).

Block layout

Name	Length	Description
BlockHeader	1 byte	
0) Block Header-Bit (LSB)		If set to 1 this DataBlock
		is in use and contains real
		data.
1) Entry Header-Bit		If set to 1 this is the first
		DataBlock of a file or folder.
2) not used		
3) not used		
4) not used		
5) not used		
6) not used		
7) not used		
NextDataBlock	8 byte	Points to the start ad-
		dress of the next DataBlock
		(linked list). 0 if this is the
		last DataBlock of a certain
		file or folder.
CreationDate	8 byte	UTC time when this file was
		created
		This field only exists if File
		Header-Bit is set to 1
LinkCount	2 byte	counter from 0 to 127 which
		indicates how many Direc-
		toryBlocks point on this
		specific DataBlock.
		This field only exists if File
		Header-Bit is set to 1
DataLength	4 byte	Indicates the number of
		data saved on this Dat-
		aBlock.
Data	n byte	user data (may be en-
		crypted/compressed)

The root directory By definition the root directory's DataBlock and DirectoryBlock are located at the very first position in their correspond sections.

3 VFS Browser

VFS Browser is a JAVA Swing application atop the VFS core. The browser was developed during the second milestone of the project. The main goal of the browser application is to give users a convenient access to their virtual disks. It allows browsing files and folders, as well as importing and exporting from/to the host filesystems. Additionally it provides a convenient search interface, that allows quick finding of files.

3.1 Requirements

Below one will find a list of the requirements implemented in this project.

3.1.1 Basic Requirements

- The browser should be implemented on one of the following platforms: desktop, web or mobile
- The browser should support all operations from Part 1 (VFS core). For example, users should be able to select a file/folder and copy it to another location without using console commands.
- The browser should support both single and multiple selection of files/folders.
- The browser should support keyboard navigation. The mandatory set of operations includes folder navigation, going to parent and child folders (this is optional for mobile applications due to limited keyboard functionality).
- The browser should support mouse navigation (or touch in case of the mobile platform). The required operations are the same as in requirement 4.
- The browser should support file-name search based on user-given keybwords. The search should provide options for: case sensitive/ case insensitive search; restrict search to folder; restrict search to folder and subfolders.

These requirements are met with the classes

```
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.view.BadgerMainFrame ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.view.BadgerMenuBar ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.view.BadgerTable ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.view.DiskSpaceDialog ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.view.ImportDialog ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.view.NewDiskCreationDialog
```

provide the frontend functionalities to meet the requirements

```
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.model.BadgerFileExtensionFilter
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.model.EntryTableModel
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.model.EntryUiModel
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.model.ParentFolderEntryUiModel
```

are the model classes, that model table entries and ui models

```
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.controller.BadgerController.java
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.controller.BadgerViewBase.java
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.controller.DesktopController.java
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.controller.SearchController.java
ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.controller.WorkerController.java
```

provide the controller classes of a typical MVC design.

3.1.2 Implemented Bonus Requirements

- Responsive UI, i.e. the browser does not stall during long-running operations (i.e. file search or import). Is implemented with decoupling the disk work from the gui work. This is done with a single thread accessing the disk api. This thread has a work queue to which Actions are added.
- Advanced search; For example, search with wildcards. For this the API had to be extended slightly.
- Drag-and-drop for manipulative operations (import). For that we register a DropTarget on the BadgerTable that has a DropTargetListener which starts the import on the DesktopController.
- Nice-to-have features like operation progress report (e.g. the number of files processed during export) Is implemented as a small popup window, that kicks in after an action takes more than 500ms.

3.1.3 Not Implemented Bonus Requirements

- Nice-to-have features like drag-and-drop for manipulative operations (move, copy).
- The browser is implemented for an additional platform
- Efficient full-text search (using some sort of indexing).

3.2 Design

This section describes the main aspects of the VFS Browser application. It shows the implementation of the core interfaces and classes.

3.2.1 GUI classes

Figure 4 gives an overview of the main interfaces and classes that were implemented for the GUI. The implementation followed the rules of a MVC design dividing the aspects of Model View and Control to their respective classes. According to the partition of MVC the classes were partitioned into the packages model, view and controller.

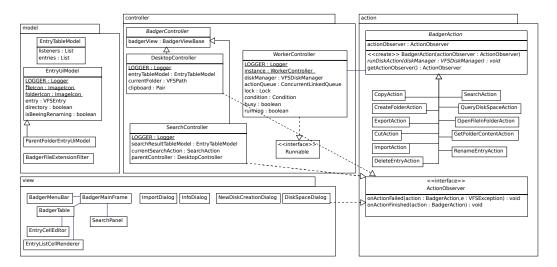


Figure 4: gui classes

3.2.2 Decoupling of GUI and working threads

This section describes the way how the decoupling from GUI and working threads was implemented. This decoupling made the GUI still responsive even though some long running tasks like import or search would be running. All operations performed on the core components accessing the virtual disk file are encapsulated in subclasses of BadgerAction. These BadgerActions are then performed single theaded by the WorkerController. By queuing these actions concurrent access to the virtual disk is prevented.

Figure 5 shows the sequence diagram of the example "Import": The *DesktopController* which lives in the GUI thread creates a new *ImportAction* that is enqueued in the *WorkerController*'s action queue. It is worth to

mention, that the WorkerController is a singleton, that has an instance field. The WorkerController has a thread that works on a blocking queue and every time it gets a BadgerAction the thread wakes up and performs the action on the VFS core API. After the API work is done (in this case the import of files), the WorkerController calls the corresponding ActionObserver, which is in most cases the DesktopController instance, so that the GUI can be updated. This design ensures single threaded access on the VFS core API with keeping the GUI responsive.

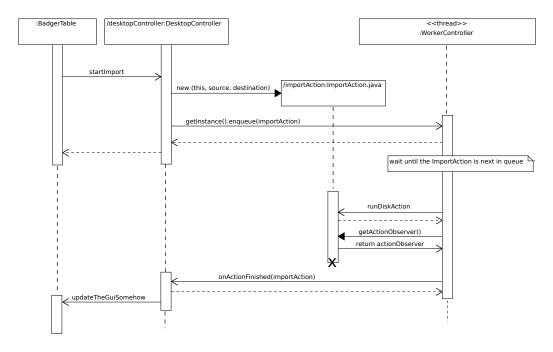


Figure 5: example of decoupling import from gui

Even when doing a seach the decoupling works pretty well: The SearchAction uses the VFS core's FindInFolderCallback to update the SearchController every time finds an entry. Upon such an update, the SearchController updates the GUI.

3.2.3 Search

Searching files can be done in a separate Panel: After entering the search string one is allowed to switch several flags like "case sensitive" or "search subfolder" and one can change the search folder. As mentioned before? and * are supported as wildcards.

Search can be canceled on the gui at any time. However the search routine performed on the core checks for cancelation only once walking through a

directory (which should be often enough).

A double click (or keyboard enter) on a search result stops the current search and opens the containing folder in the browsing window.

3.2.4 Keyboard and Mouse support

One can navigate the list of entries by double clicking folders. The parent folder can be accessed by double clicking "..". By right clicking on an entry the user gets a menu depending on wheter she clicked on an file, folder or the empty space. The right click in empty space reveals the same menu entries as the right click on the parent folder. The only difference between file and folder menus are the "new folder", "paste" and "import" actions, that are not allowed on files.

The user is also allowed to select several files and folders from the list and can then perform cut/copy or export on the selected items.

Keyboard Shortcuts For keyboard wizards there are several keyboard shortcuts for doing the actions on the selected entries. They keep to the general standards like F2 for renaming or Ctrl+C for copy. The menus indicate the available shortcuts.

Drag & Drop For doing quick import, the user is allowed to drag&drop files or folders from the host file system to the current folder. On doing such an import a small progress window is displayed, that show how much of the task is already finished, and how much has yet to be done.

3.3 Integration

For the integration of the VFS core into the VFS Browser application almost nothing had to be changed in the core. As the core is meant to be accessed by only one thread at a time, the user interaction from the gui had to be bundled into the *WorkerController* and could be used from there without changes. The only improvements on the core were done for the search, which allows some wildcards that were not yet there in the first part of the project.

4 Synchronization Server

Synchronization Server is a command line server that allows synchronization of virtual disks. It allows basic user management via VFS Browser, that includes creating users and a login of created users. Logged in users can link local disks to an account on the server via VFS Browser and then can connect to such shared disks from an other client machine. Disks can also be created directly on the server. When VFS Browser has a connection to the server, changes that occur on the local disk will be propagated to the server which propagates these changes to possibly other connected machines. If a user has no connection to the Synchronization Server but operates on a disk that is linked to a server instance the changes are recorded and are propagated as soon as the connection is established next time. Thus synchronization server allows seamless synchronization between several VFS Browser instances running on different machines.

4.1 Requirements

Below one will find a list of the requirements implemented in this project.

4.1.1 Requirements for the browser

- The browser should allow the user to create a new account or to log in to an existing account.
- The browser should offer to switch to an online mode, and be able to operate without a connection to the server.
- The browser should support binding an existing virtual disk to an active account.

4.1.2 Requirements for the server

- The server should support registration of unique accounts. Each account includes name & password.
- The server should track changes to linked virtual disks of registered accounts and synchronize the changes across the machines.

4.1.3 Implemented Bonus Requirements

- Provide a set of mocked unit tests for your implemenation.
- Conflict Resolution: implement a conflict resolution scheme, so that concurrent changes to the same file are not lost (e.g. saving conflicting files as separate versions).
- The browser is updating automatically when changes to the disk occur.
- The server is able to synchronize changes, which are done simultaneously on the same account on different machines

4.1.4 Not Implemented Bonus Requirements

- File History: provide a history for files and an interface to restore a previous version
- Incremental Changes: minimize the communication between the browser and the server by only transfering the parts of a file that changed.

- 4.2 Design
- 4.2.1 Scenarios
- ${\bf 4.2.2} \quad {\bf Technology}$
- 4.2.3 User Management
- 4.2.4 Synchronization

4.3 Integration

5 Quick Start Guide

5.1 the eclipse project

The project requires to be compiled with JAVA 7. It also depends on the maven plugin which pulls in all the required libraries.

5.2 Command line client

The command line client allows the usage of the VFS core and is mainly intended to test the basic functionalities. The console runs either in management mode or in file system mode. The management mode is entered automatically when starting the command line client. It allows creating and opening virtual disks. The file system mode is entered as soon as a virtual disk is opened.

5.2.1 startup

The command line client can be started as follows:

```
java -jar VFSCore.jar ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.shell.VFSConsole
```

or by starting ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.shell.VFSConsole in eclipse. This gives a console prompt where the following commands can be used in.

5.2.2 commands

Following commands can be used with the command line client in management mode:

- create c:\path\to\disk.bfs [size] creates virtual disk with a maximum quota of [size] megabytes on the host system. The file may grow up to [size] megabytes. There is currently no way to change encryption or compression by using the console application. By default no encryption and the LZ77 compression will be used.
- open c:\path\to\disk.bfs opens filesystem mode for the given virtual disk
- exit exits the console program

following commands can be used in file system mode:

- Is lists the contents of the current directory
- pwd shows the path to the current directory
- df shows the usage of the current virtual disk space
- **cd dst** changes current directory to *dst* which must be either a child directory of the current path or ".."
- find searchString lists absolute paths of all files containing search-String in their file name
- mkdir dirName creates a new directory dirName in the current path
- mkfile fileName creates a new empty file fileName in the current path this is rather not useful, as the "import" creates a file with content
- **rm file** deletes the entry denoted as *file*, it must be a child of the current path
- cp src dst copies the src file to dst as a child of the current path
- mv src dst moves the src file to dst
- import ext_src dst imports a ext_src from the host system to dst
- export src ext_src exports a src file to the host system ext_dst
- find searchString lists all filesystem entries below the current entry containing searchString
- dispose deletes the currently opened virtual disk
- close closes the file system mode, from now on management mode commands can be executed

5.3 VFS Browser

5.3.1 startup

The VFS Browser can be started as follows:

java -jar VFSCore.jar ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.view.BadgerMainFrame or by starting ch.eth.jcd.badgers.vfs.ui.desktop.view.BadgerMainFrame in eclipse.

Figures 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 give a short overview of opening the browser and importing the first folder. From there on the UI is pretty much self explanatory of the features it exposes.



Figure 6: after startup, create a new disk



Figure 7: the disk creation wizard openes, one can choose the file, file size, encryption and compression algorithms

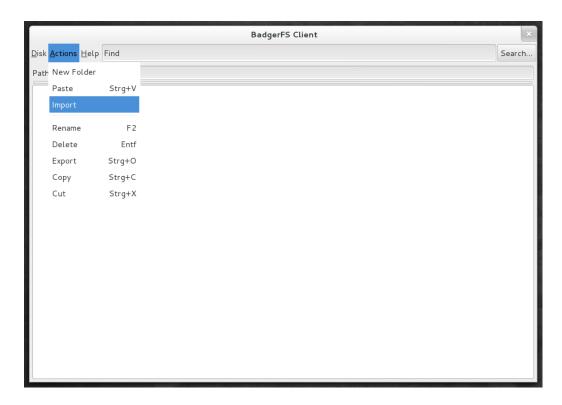


Figure 8: the new disk gets created on the host file system and the user can start importing files via Actions/Import. . .

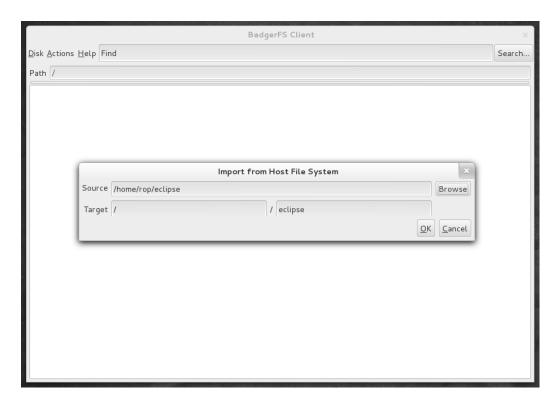


Figure 9: \dots which triggers the import dialog, where the user can choose a file or folder...

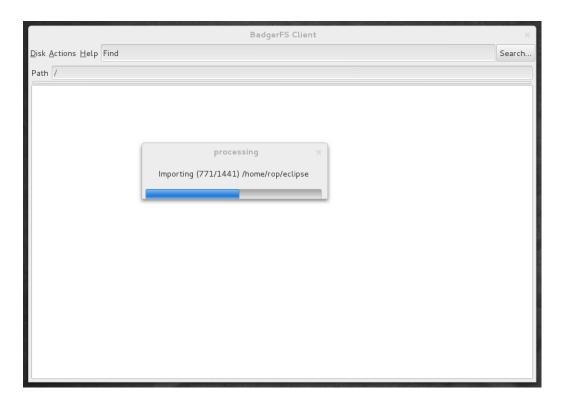


Figure 10: after clicking "OK" the progress window appears. . .

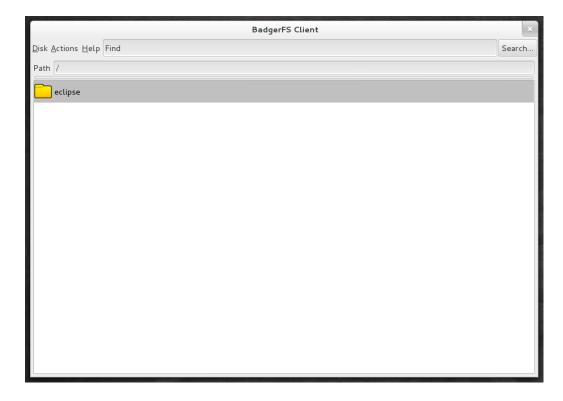


Figure 11: \dots and finally the folder is imported after a couple of time.

6 Glossary

VFS core The main Java library, that handles all the interaction with virtual disks and importing/exporting/storing files. It is used by the command line client and the gui.

Virtual Disk A virtual disk denotes a container file that is stored on the host file system. A virtual disk can be opened with the software that is developed during this project and stores the actual files. The file extension of the virtual disk is "*.bfs".

References

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