

Gemini Browser – Preliminary Report

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So far, I've written code that sends a request to a Gemini server and parses the header information and content from the server's response. I've also written a GUI and a Gemtext parser that parses the content into JavaFX elements.

Sounds like it's done, right? Not quite! There is still a lot of room for improvement, both on the GUI side and the network side. On the GUI side, hyperlinks aren't quite working properly for local URLs, and the UI/UX in general is clunky. I'm also not thrilled with the tidiness of the GUI code.

On the networking side, while I'm able to send requests to a server and parse its response, I'm ignoring the server's certificate. According to the Gemini specification, the correct behaviour for browsers is to only trust the certificate provided by the server the first time it connects (TOFU). I'd like to get this working correctly by implementing a known-hosts file.

Other improvements that I'd like to make include adding support for downloading (maybe not viewing) binary files like images. This isn't hard, I just need to write the binary data returned by the server to a file. I've just been lazy!