VIDIVOX

Design Decisions

User Manual

SOFTENG 206

Hannah Sampson

Software Engineering Design

# Executive Summary

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# Introduction

There are a number of different video editors and each has its own range of functionality aimed at specific target audiences. Our project was aimed around the idea of being able to create a documentary-type video, where the video plays and keeps its own original soundtrack but a voice is added over the top, describing the video. This meant a lot of emphasis was put on creating appropriate audio commentaries, and being able to dictate where each of these audio files fits into the video.

Our work has involved developing a tool that lets the user take a standard video file and add different audio files to it, whether these audios are music files of commentaries that the user creates. We worked primarily in Java, with a Java specific video manipulation tool: vlcj. By working in Linux, we could also implement Linux system calls to process the media files, as well as working in speech synthesis with festival to create audio files from text.

There are a number of different video editors available, all aimed at a different level of user. VIDIVOX is aimed at a home user, and hence is required to have obvious functionality, and easy use. All of the design decisions throughout this work has taken into account how this kind of user would feel using the product.

All design and implementation decisions had to work towards creating “an easy to use” Video Commentator, which would be easy for a non-technical person to use. The main points are:

* A well designed graphical user interface
* Help on how to use the different features of the tool
* File retrieving abilities
* The ability to create, play back, overlay and save multi-media material

In the discussion section of the report, I have detailed the design decisions made at each stage of development and why these decisions were made.

# Discussion