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Dashbuster v2.0

Overview

Dashbuster is a native iPhone/iPod Touch application that allows a user to view and manage their Blockbuster online account using the familiar standard iPhone/iPod Touch interface elements and gestures.

Features

Version 2.0 will include all features from version 1.0 and add the following

- "Friends and Family" functionality - Including Currently Viewing and Queued.
- Blu-Ray rental support
- Improved "application state" on exit
- New movie detail screen
- Improved shipped movies screen

Goals

Dashbuster should provide an improved user experience over using Blockbusters site on the iphone. Load times should be faster than directly accessing Blockbusters website and navigation should be intuitive based on users known experience on the iPhone/iPod Touch

Application Launch/Quit

Application Launch

At launch application should check to see if this is first launch. This setting is stored with a flag set in the standard user defaults provided by NSUserDefaults. If it is first launch, the user is presented with a welcome screen telling them a bit about Dashbuster. After dismissing the alert box the user should be automatically directed to the preferences screen to input credentials.

If the application has been launched before, check same preferences file with NSUserDefaults for credentials. If either username or password is blank, direct user to the preferences screen.

Load currently rented movies and queued movies from XML file stored in application directory. Compare time-stamp with current date/time. If last update occurred more than 1 day previously, update queue in background and prevent user from removing or moving movies in the queue until finished.

Application Suspend

Upon suspension, users queue and shipped movies should be saved to XML file for retrieval at next startup.

Communicating with Blockbuster

All communications with blockbuster will be initiated from the users device. This prevents blockbuster from simply cutting access to a server that might be acting as a proxy.

Unfortunately no API exists to communicate with blockbuster, so all screens must be scraped to attain pertinant information. Each queue request will be proceed with a login request to prevent timed out sessions with Blockbusters site. Login request are very small and the response from blockbuster is a very small file size, so very little time is wasted on this process.

Screen Descriptions

Navigation Screen

Main navigation screen is the first screen the user is presented with (unless first run or missing credentials), and is the hub for navigation through the different functions of Dashbuster.

Includes two buttons on the navigation bar:

  Refresh - Launches queue refresh process

About - Presents user with About screen

Menu options:

        View Your Shipped Movies - Presents user with shipped movies screen

        View Your Queued Movies - Presents user with Queued movies screen

        Search - Presents a text box, keyboard and "Search" button. Selection search button presents user with search results

        Friends and Family - Presents user with Friends and Family screen

Navigation Screen (cont.)

        RSS Feeds - Presents user with RSS Feed Selection screen.

        Preferences - Presents user with Preferences screen.

Shipped Movies Screen

Displays shipped movies in standard cocoa touch list fashion. Each cell will include movie title, cover art, shipped date and disc format. Selecting a cell will take the user to the standard movie detail screen for the selected movie. Cells in this screen are not able to be moved or deleted.

Queued Movies Screen

Displays shipped movies in standard cocoa touch segmented list fashion. The first list segment contains queued movies, the second list segment will contain saved movies (movies that have been added to the queue but are not yet released). Each cell will include movie title and cover art.   Selecting a cell will take the user to the standard movie detail screen for the selected movie.

Cells in this list may be deleted by the standard cocoa touch swipe gesture (such as the delete method in MobileMail.app) or with the delete symbol in edit mode. When a cell is deleted it is removed from the table and a delete request is sent to blockbusters site with the corresponding queue id of the movie.

Cells in this list may be moved by entering the edit mode (standard mode built into the UISectionTable class). When a cell is repositioned a move request is sent to Blockbusters site with the corresponding queue id of the movie and it's new position as determined by the location it is dropped in the list. Movies in the saved movies section are not moveable and should be set as such with the canMoveRow: delegate built into UISectionTable.

Search Results Screen

Before search results screen is shown a progress indicator will let the user know that the search is being sent to Blockbuster. The results of the search are parsed from blockbusters site and presented in a standard cocoa touch list. Each cell will include movie title and cover art. Cells can not be moved or deleted. Selecting a movie presents the user with the standard movie details screen.

Family and Friends Screen

The names of the users family and friends are listed in a standard cocoa touch list. Cells include Family/ Friend name. Cells can not be moved or edited. Selecting a cell takes the user to the Family Friend Detail Page.

Family Friend Detail Screen

This screen presents the rental info for the selected Family/Friend. The screen is a standard cocoa touch segmented list. The cells will include cover art and movie title. Selecting a cell will take the user to the standard movie details page. Cells can not be moved or deleted. The segments will include shipped, queued and saved movies.

RSS Feeds Screen

This screen presents the user with the standard supplied Blockbuster RSS Feeds. Selecting a feed takes the user to the RSS Detail Screen.

RSS Detail Screen

This screen presents the user with a standard cocoa touch list containing the movies parsed from the selected RSS feed. The cells include cover art, movie title, and partial movie description. Selecting a movie takes the user to the standard movie detail page.

Preferences Screen

This screen contains the text boxes for the user to input credential information. "Sign in Email" and "Password" as well as information about disk space used by saved box art and the option to clear box art. The "Password" field is a secure text field. Choosing the "save" navigation button saves details in the standard user defaults.

Movie Details Screen

The movies detail screen will be similar to the contact detail screen in MobileAddressBook.app. This screen will include cover art, movie title, description, rating, release date, and starring actors and a button allowing the addition of the movie to the users queue.

If a movie is already in the users queue, the "add to queue" button will be replaced with text stating "in queue".

Selecting "add to queue" will send a request to blockbuster to add the current movie to the users queue.