Pygame-ui

Pygame-UI is a component framework intended for rapid user interface development of games developed using the pygame library and for graphical user interface applications. Pygame-UI extends pygame by providing easily accessible and configurable commonly used components and tools. Pygame-UI also provides easily extendable base framework for development of custom components.

UI Component Framework for Python and Pygame

# Vision

Game development has several different aspects to it all of which contribute to the end-user experience. One of these aspects is the user interface (UI) development. Good UI is usually intuitive, easy to use, and visually appealing to the user. Pygame-UI provides extensible UI component framework and a toolbox of often used UI components. The main purpose of this framework is to reduce the time developers spend designing and implementing their user interface and thus to allow for more time for the development of game engines, game mechanics, etc. Pygame as a library does not provide any such user interface toolbox which requires from game developers to write their own using the provided pygame objects. This allows for developers to make custom components for each of their games, but some components are common to all such as buttons, labels, input boxes, menus, etc. Pygame-UI is intended to provide \customizable such components that are easily configurable and provide end-user experience equivalent to custom made.

# Architecture

Pygame-UI takes advantage of the pygame Surface object by wrapping it. The Surface object is then extended to abstract functionalities related to user interaction. Pygame-UI provides a component collection which handles user events in order for the components to respond to user interaction. The component collection also handles the rendering of all the components. Components that are not included in the component collection have to be manually provided the user events and their rendering method has to be manually called. Pygame-UI uses the pygame.events in order to queue up custom client events defined in the component framework. Thus when for example a button is clicked this would be reflected to the developer by a queued click event in the event queue and then the developer can respond to the user action appropriately. Pygame-UI also provides a configuration manager which handles XML definitions of components and provides an easy method of styling and declaring components in markup instead of programmatically.

# Key Classes

BaseUIComponent:

This is the base class for all components. This class provides all the components fundamental functionality, event handling methods and rendering method. Any custom component in the toolbox inherits from this class. For more information refer to the BaseUIComponent specification.

UIComponentCollection:

This class provides a wrapper for the component collection. The UIComponentCollection handles user interaction with the components and the rendering of the components. Once a component is added to the collection the developer has two methods he needs to call in his game loop: the Update method which takes as an argument a user event and updates the components according to the event and the Render method which re-renders all the visible components. For more information refer to the UIComponentCollection specification.

ConfigurationManager:

The configuration manager handles the parsing of XML markup that defines components. The key idea of this class is to define components non-programmatically thus speeding up the development time even more. The configuration manager initializes objects of type ComponentStyle, which is a class that handles the styling of the components. For more information refer to the ConfigurationManager specification.

ComponentStyling:

The component styling class allows for components to be styled using properties similar to web CSS styling. It parses a styling XML node defined for the specific component and it extracts properties defining positioning, colors, backgrounds, aligns, etc. For more information refer to the ConfigurationManager specification.