

Code Workstation

Design Document

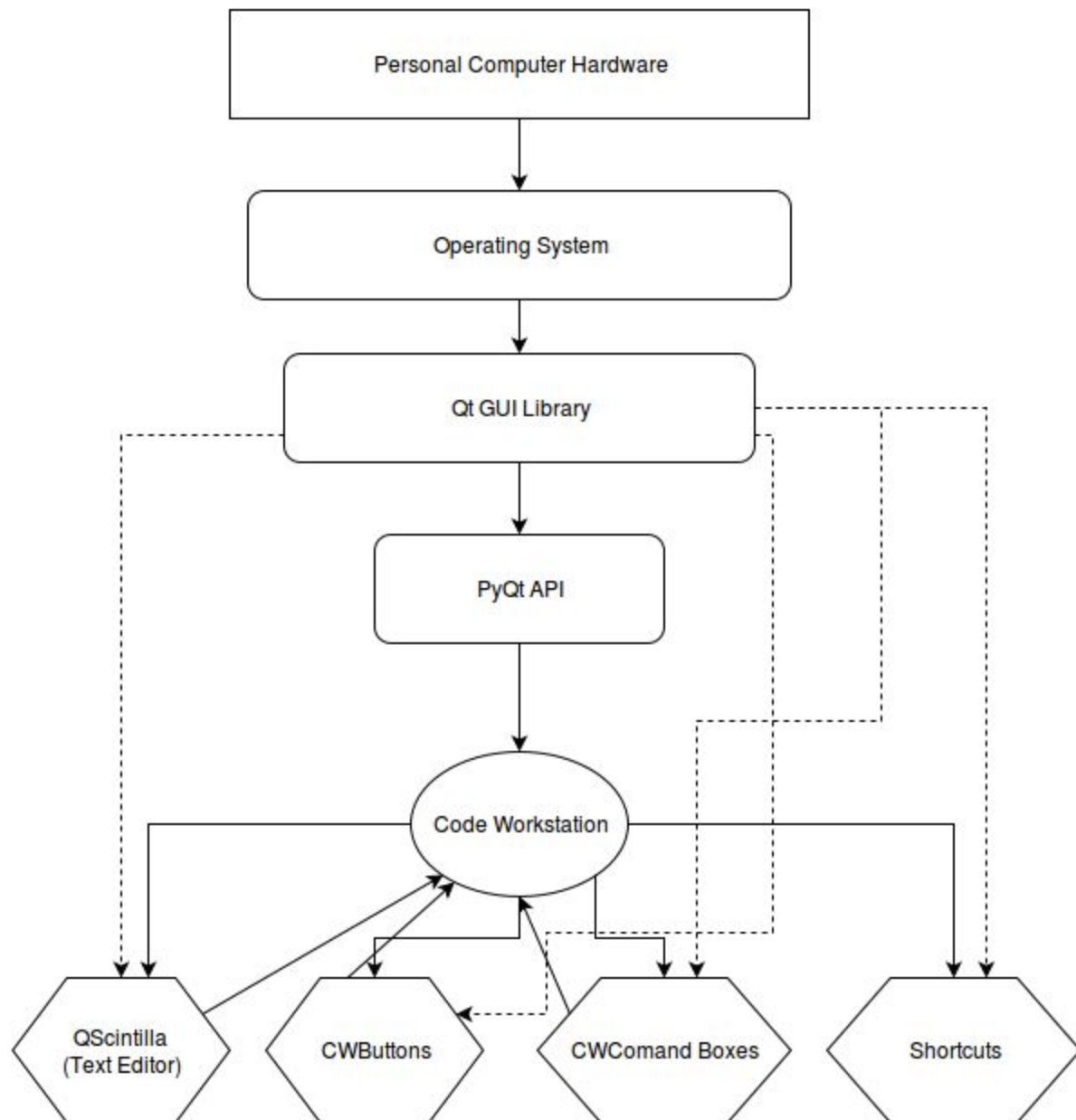
<https://github.com/lrickard/CodeWorkstation/wiki>

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System Architecture



Personal Computer Hardware - Modern personal computer with i386 or x86 architecture

Operating System - Debian at first but hopefully available on all common operating systems

Qt GUI Library - Provides event handling, interface with OS, GUI elements, and windowing

PyQt API - Provides interface with Qt libraries through python

Code Workstations - Initialized window, loads settings, saves settings, and runs commands

QScintilla - Text editor build into Qt will allow users to edit text

CWButtons - Extending Qt Buttons. Button press events will run flag a command to be run by Code Workstation

CWCommand Boxes - Extending Qt Plain Text Edit boxes. Command Boxes display output from button commands and can be set to display output from their own commands.

Shortcuts - Activate existing Buttons and actions through the PyQt API

System Requirements

Hardware Requirements:

We suspect a single core 1 GHz CPU and 512MB of RAM will enable responsive use.

Software Requirements:

Python 3, Qt5, and PyQt5.

System Requirements:

32 or 64 bit operating system, Debian Linux and OSX are what we are developing for.

External Interfaces

Qt - Will be used for generating windows, interfaces, and handling events.

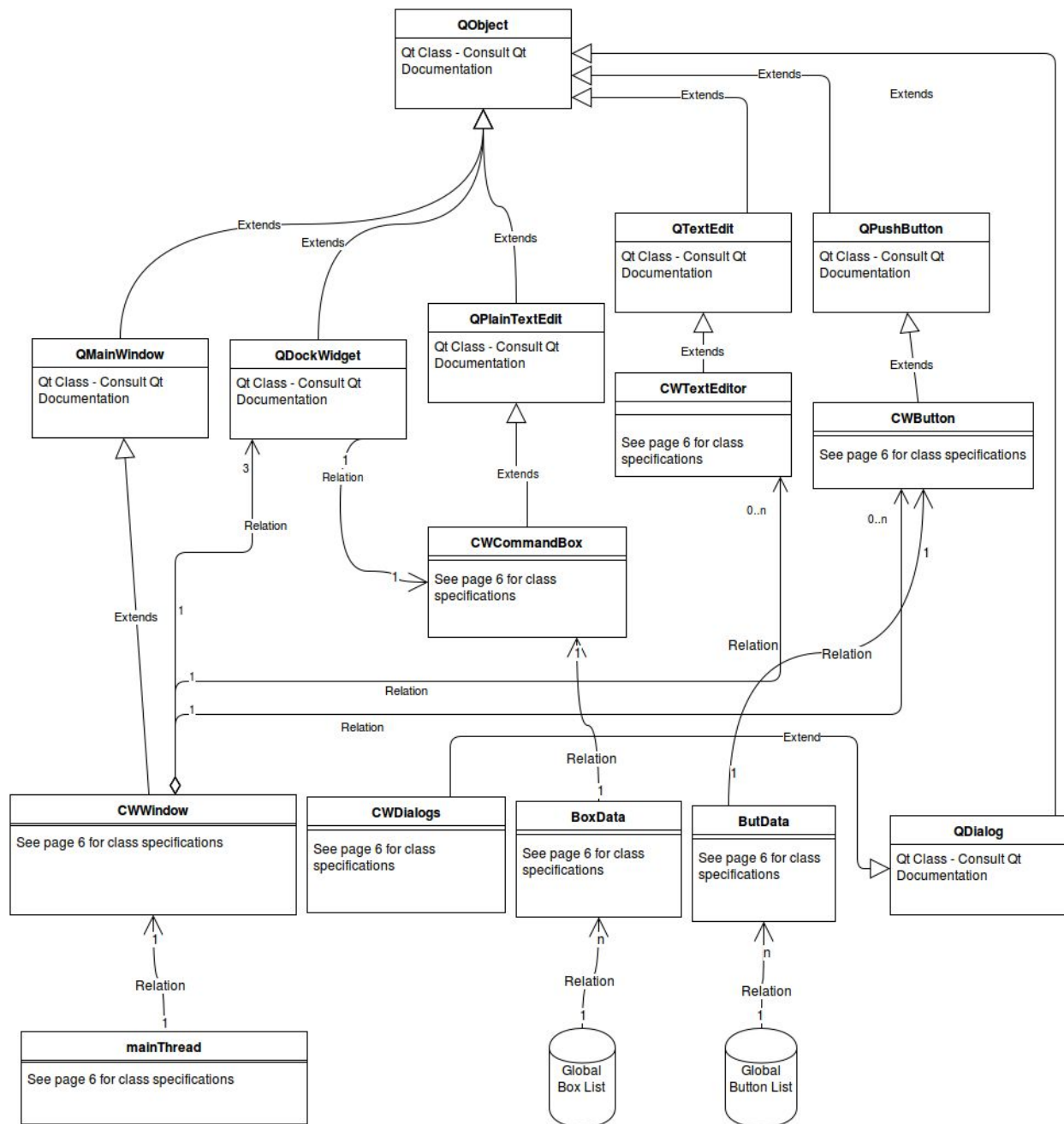
<http://doc.qt.io/>

PyQt - A Python API to interface with Qt Libraries

<https://riverbankcomputing.com/software/pyqt/intro>

Software Design

Class Diagrams (General):



Class Specifications:

ButData
+ string: name
+ string: command
+ BoxData: outputLoc
+ CWButton: buttonObj
+ boolean: run

BoxData
+ string: name
+ string: command
+ string: location
+ string: ouput
+ boolean: auto
+ integer: interval
+ CWCommandBox: boxObj
+ integer: lastrun

CWErrorDialog : QDialog
+ init()

CWShortcutDialog : QDialog
+ init()
+ saveShortcut()
+ closeEvent()

CWButtonDialog : QDialog
+ init()
+ saveSettings()
+ updateSettings()
+ openCommandBoxChoiceDialog()

CWButton : QPushButton
+ ButData: data
+ init()
+ onClickFunction()
+ contextMenuEvent() [right click event]
+ loadButton(ButData)
+ editButton()
+ deleteButton()

CWCommandBox : QPlainTextEdit
+ BoxData: data
+ init()
+ contextMenuEvent() [right click event]
+ loadBox(BoxData)
+ editBox()
+ deleteBox()

CWCommandBoxChoiceDialog : QDialog
+ init()
+ saveSettings()

CWCommandBoxDialog : QDialog
+ init()
+ saveSettings()
+ checkInput()
+updateSettings()

mainThread : Qthread
+ run()

CWWindow : QMainWindow
+ PyQtSignal: updateSignal
+ init()
+ updateCBoxes()
+ newButton()
+ newCommandBox()
+ newShortcut()
+ save()
+ saveAs()
+ openFile()
+ beginningOfLine()
+ endOfLine()
+ deleteLine()
+ beginningOfFile()
+ endOfFile()
+ saveSettingsSecret()
+ loadSettingsSecret()
+ loadSettings()
+ closeEvent()

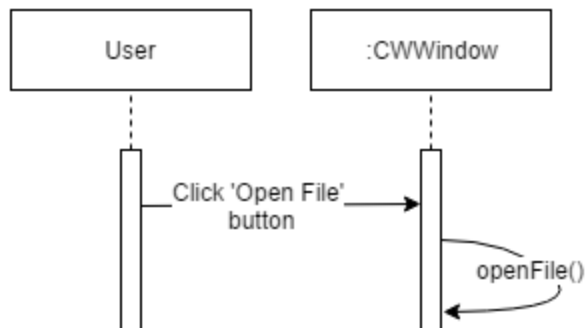
Additional Class information:

All CW classes which inherit from a Qt class use a user interface class created with Pyuic to set up their user interface. Thus, for every CW class there is also a corresponding UI.py file which is used solely within the corresponding class.

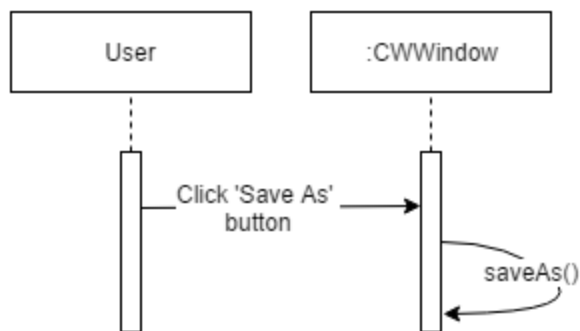
While this is the way we decided to create our interfaces, it is not necessary and we also implement some UI changes manually. Tracking all user interface elements in this document would be intractable, so we are just documenting that they exist and are created with Qt Designer and set up using python classes created automatically with Pyuic.

Interaction Diagrams:

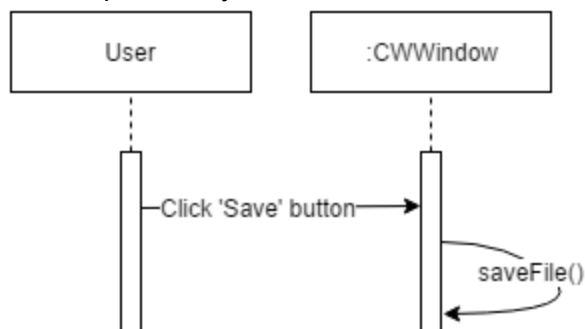
Open a file:



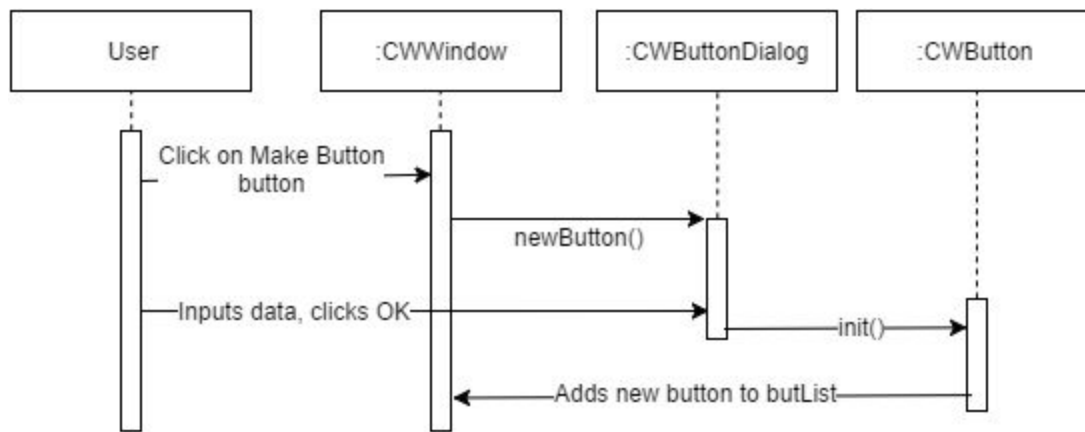
Save a new file:



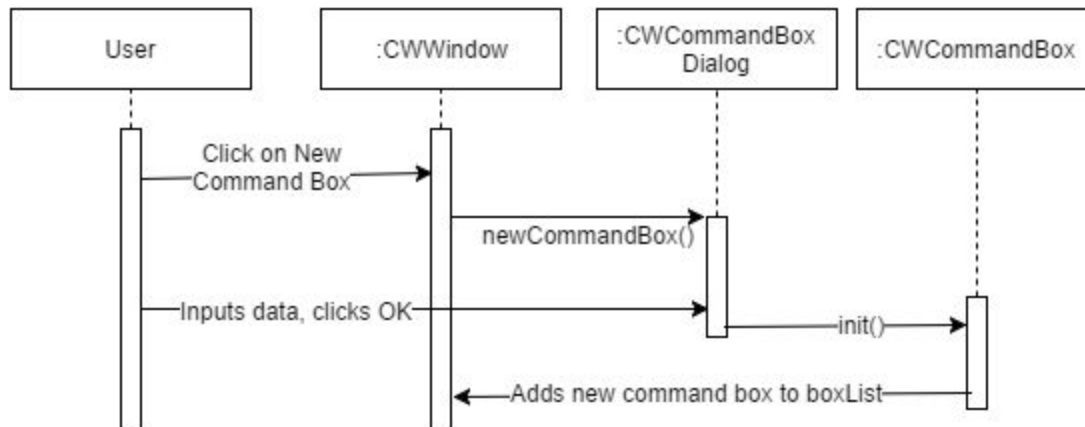
Save a previously saved file:



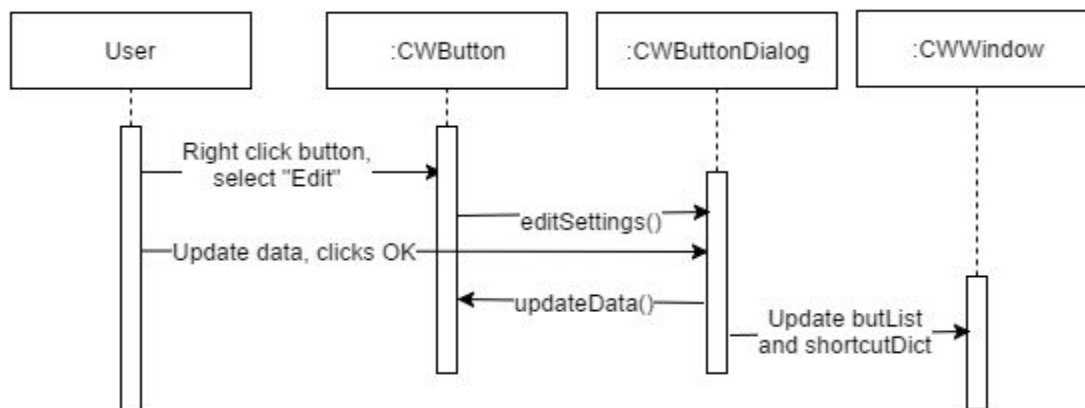
Create a new Button:



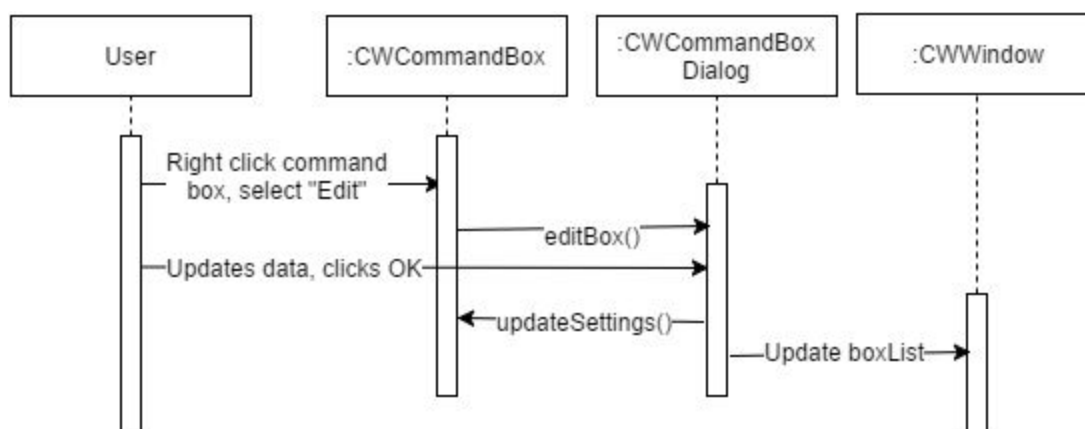
Create a new Command Box:



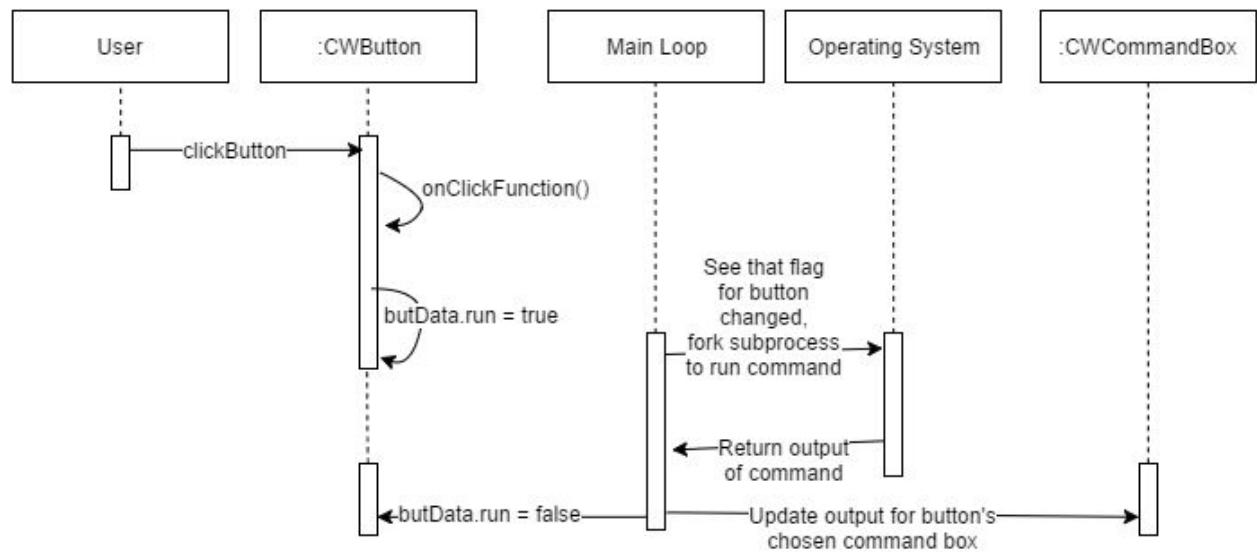
Edit a Button:



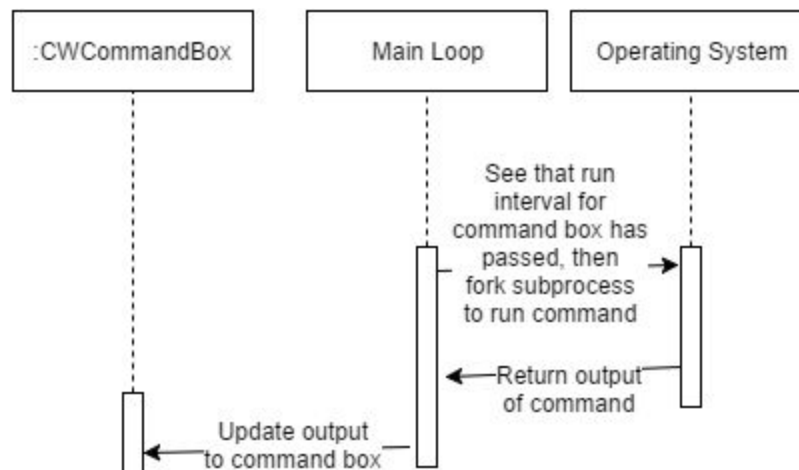
Edit a Command Box:



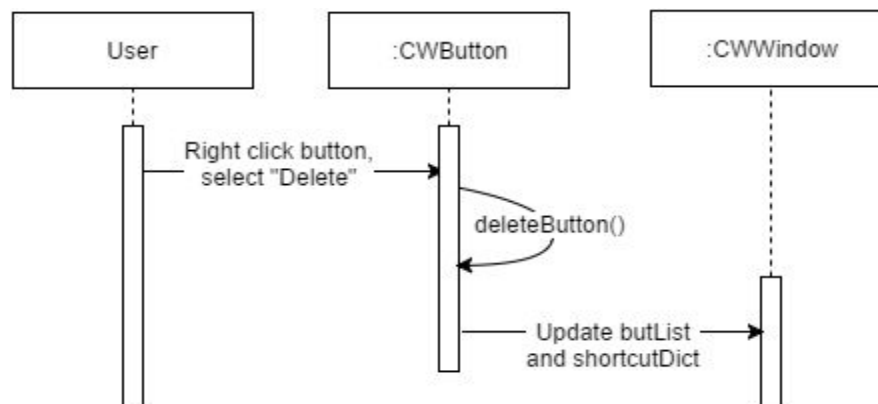
Run a command with a Button:



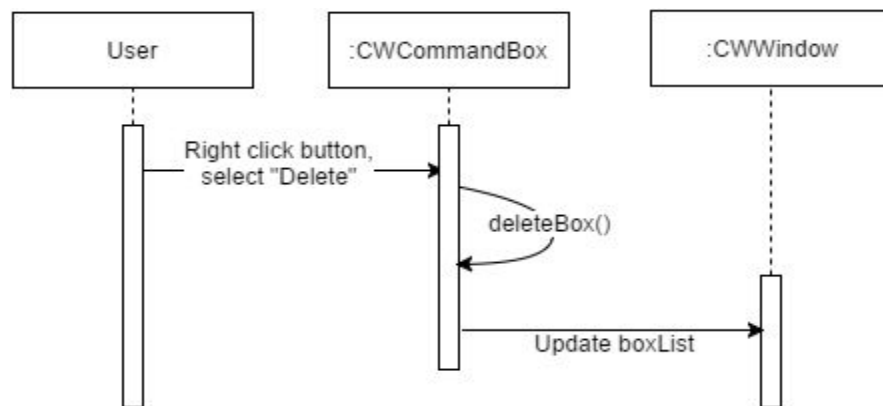
Run a command with a Command Box:



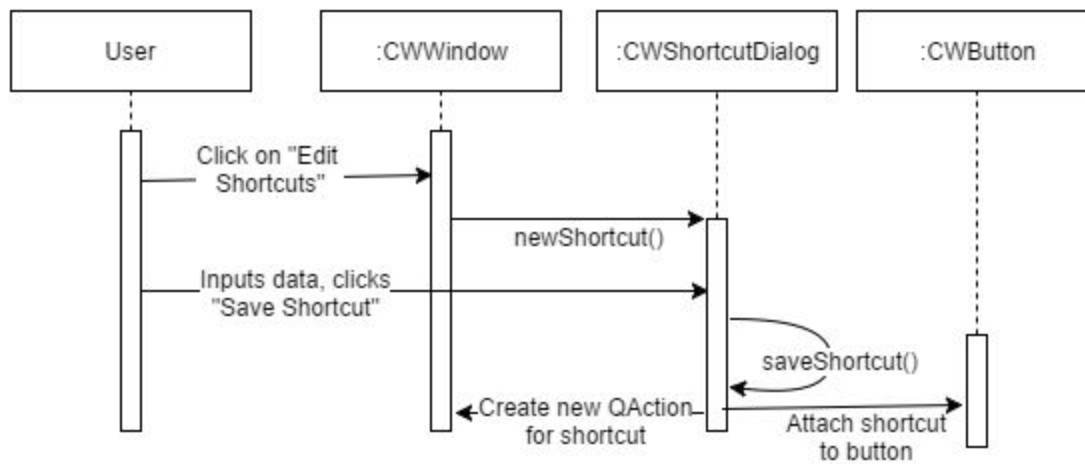
Delete a Button:



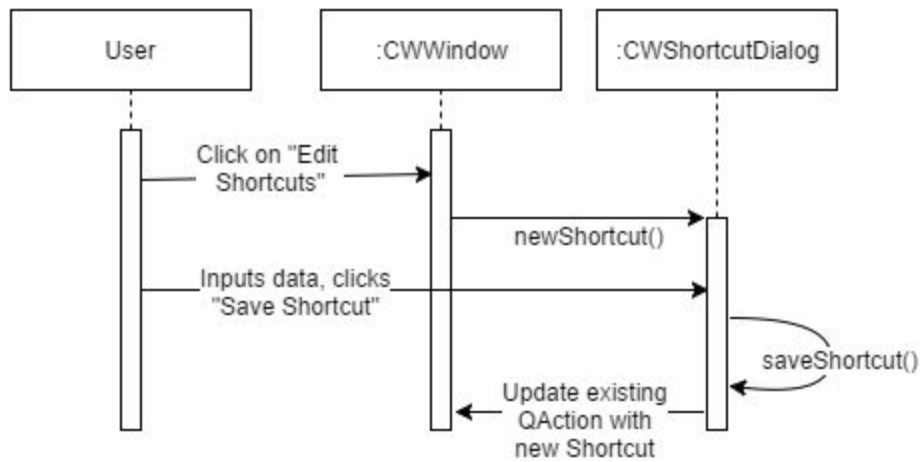
Delete a Command Box:



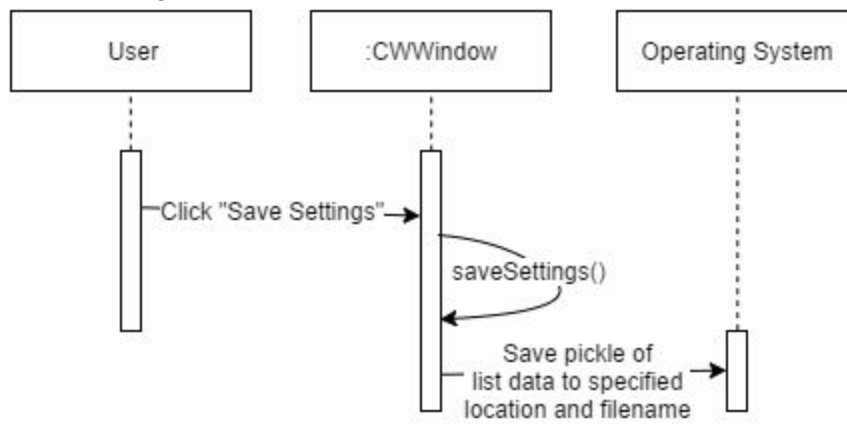
Create a shortcut for a Button:



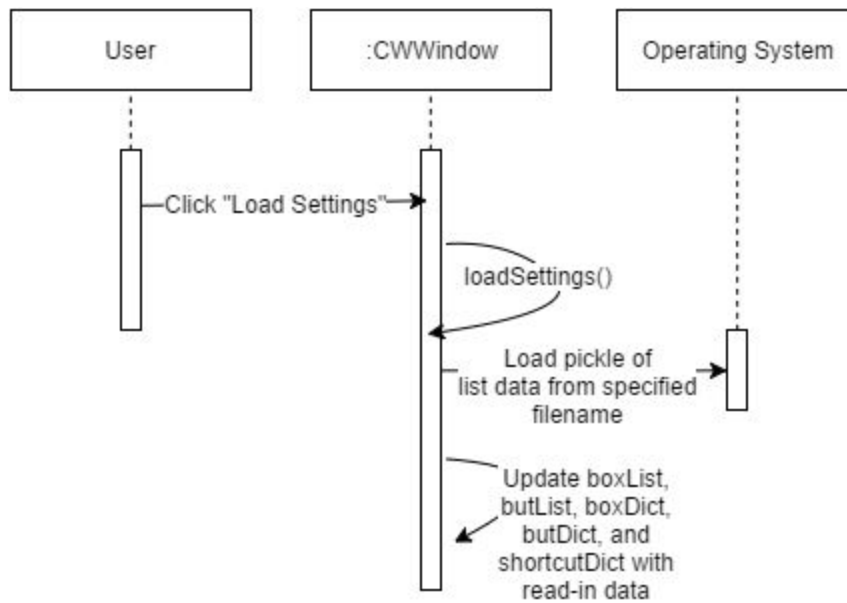
Create a shortcut for Save, Save as, or Open:



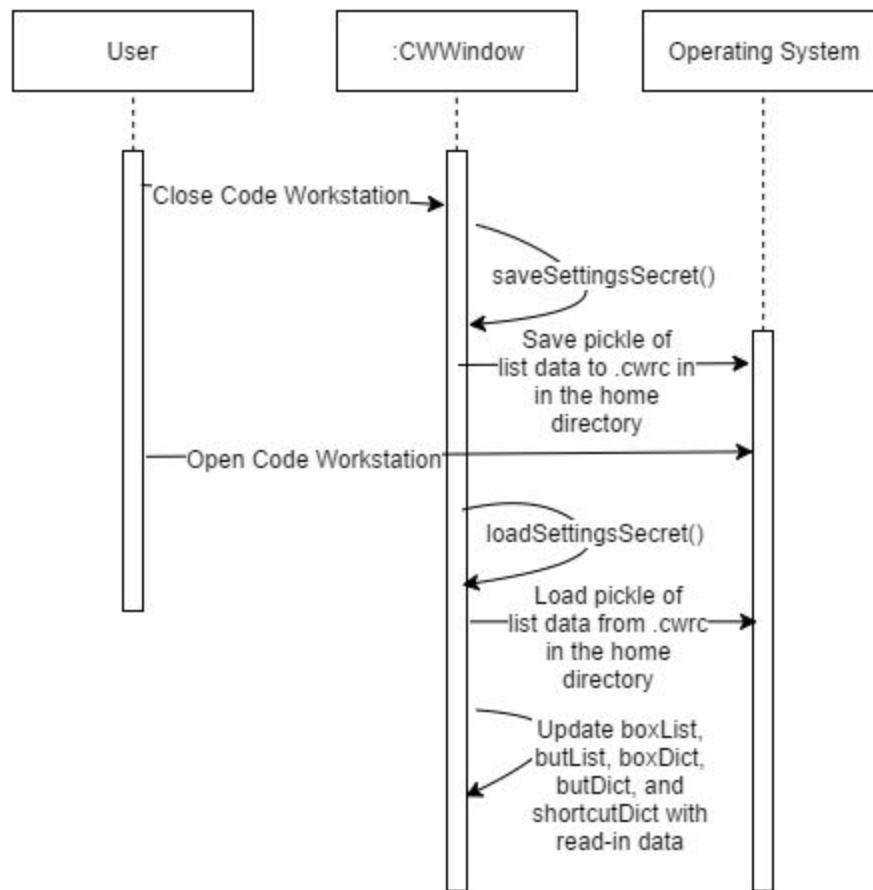
Save Settings:



Load Settings:



Close and Open Code Workstation:



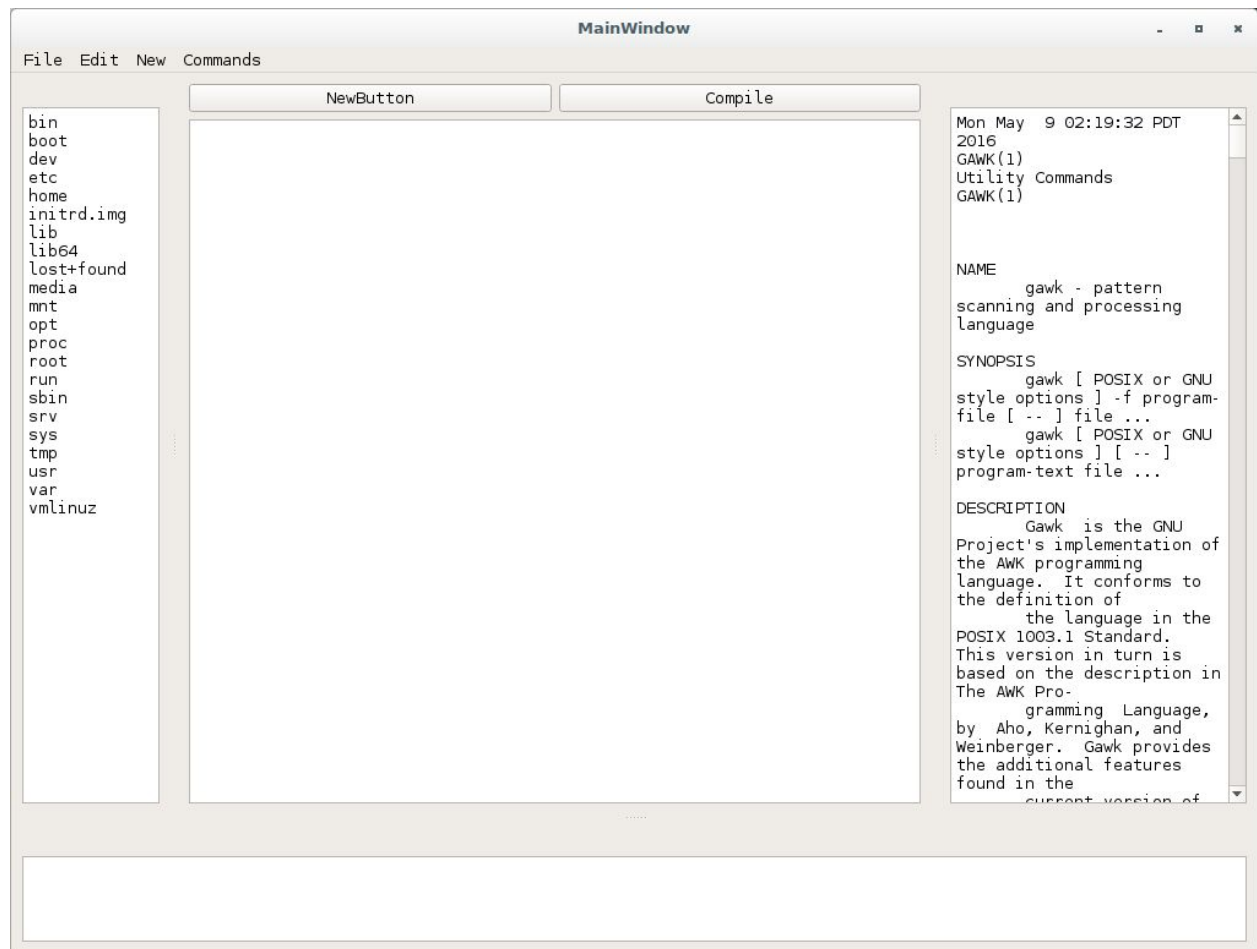
Design Considerations:

Upon consideration of performance and scalability, we decided to integrate all our features and event handling by extending Qt classes and rewriting their primary functions. This seemed to be the most efficient way to do event handling and helps to keep things organized.

In order to minimize threading and increase caching we decided to store all of our user interface and command data in separate global lists.

The use of an update signal was necessary because Qt events cannot spawn child threads. We decided after dealing with this that we would have a main loop which would run all the commands on a thread completely independent from Qt threads. Allowing Qt to update with the update signal.

User Interface Design



Buttons:

- Created with New->Button
- Left Click: This should run the command stored in the button
- Right Click: This should display options for editing and deleting

Text Editor:

- Right Click: This should expose a list of well know commands such as copy, paste, select all, etc.
- Shortcuts: While most linux systems have keyboard command shortcuts, we are have well known and used text interactions mappable to shortcuts.

Command Boxes:

- Created with New->Command Box
- Left Click: This should do nothing. The text should be scrollable.
- Right Click: This should display an edit and delete option.
- There are grabable areas between the Command Boxes and the text editor which can be used to resize the command boxes

File Dropdown:

- Click Save Settings: This should save the current commands and window settings to the default location
- Click Save File: This should save the currently editing file
- Click Save File As: This should launch a save dialog/file explorer(part of Qt) which will allow the user to save the text in the main text box anywhere on the system where they have permissions

Keyboard Shortcuts:

- Edit->Shortcuts shows the user a list of existing custom shortcuts and allows them to create new ones

Glossary of Terms

API - Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) allow a programmer to access functionality of a library or previously created code with a specifically exposed functions and variables.

Python - A high level interpreted scripting/programming language.

OS - Operating Systems (OSs) interact with hardware and firmware to form a base for other software to interact with hardware and display things to a user. Examples: Windows 7, Debian Linux, OSX

OSX - A Macintosh operating system (OS)

UI/GUI - User Interface or Graphical User interface

UML - Unified Modeling Language is used to create class diagrams in a consistent manner

Command - Throughout this document this generally refers to a word, phrase, or set of words and phrases which can be executed in an operating system's shell/terminal.

References

Qt - <http://www.qt.io/>

PyQt - <https://riverbankcomputing.com/software/pyqt/intro>

Python - <https://www.python.org/>