

WinterWolf

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Overview

When tackling this coursework I decided that the first thing I should do would be to plan out the whole user interface.

I started by defining each window that would be needed:

- Main browser window
- Options window
- Bookmarks window
- About window

Once I had decided on these, I began to plan each frame in detail, specifically, which components would be necessary and what sort of layout manager I would use to design each one.

The window of most interest is, quite naturally, the main browser window (herein after referred to as `BrowserWindow`). I decided I needed the following main components:

- Menu bar
- Tool bar
- Tabbed pane
- Status bar

Within these components would be more sub-components and they will be discussed later in the documentation. It became quite apparent to me that the best layout manager would be the `BorderLayout` because of the resizing options it would offer this particular design. When the frame size is modified, the central section (the tabbed pane) needs to change in height and width but the toolbar and status bar need only get wider or slimmer. The `BorderLayout` satisfies these needs.

After taking the user interface (UI) into consideration, the next hurdle was planning the logic of the application.

I came to the conclusion that I should follow the Model, View, Controller architecture whereby the `BrowserWindow` is the View, the main class is the Model, and a third class acts as the Controller.

This forms the basis of my program. There are several extra classes which solve different tasks, the most important of which is the `Tab` class which stores all the information about each tab. Again, these are discussed later on in the documentation.

I also decided to include an attractive icon set and logo so that my application would stand out and the user would understand the meaning of each function more easily since these icons are similar to those of other web browsers.

User Manual

Introduction

Welcome to the WinterWolf user manual. This software is designed to navigate the World Wide Web and allow you to enjoy a rich, intuitive browsing experience.

Features List

This software will allow you to:

- Navigate to a web page
- Create tabs to deal with multiple web pages at the same time
- Cut, copy and paste data to and from a web page or the address bar
- Manage and navigate through your browsing history
- Add bookmarks of your favourite sites so that you can return to them with a single click
- Modify settings such as the homepage and your browsing history

Installation Instructions

To install this program, copy the WinterWolf folder to a folder of your choice on your hard drive. To run it, simply type:

```
java -jar WinterWolf.jar
```

into the command line. The folder should contain:

- WinterWolf.jar
- images directory containing icons and logos

Quick start guide

The following guide is designed to show you how to use the basic functions of WinterWolf.

For future reference, a description of the user interface follows:



Navigating to a page

Open the browser and select the text in the address bar. Type in the address of the web page you wish to navigate to with or without the preceding "http://", for example:

"example.com"

Next you can either press return on your keyboard or click the "Go" button next to the address bar. The page will load in the currently selected tab.

Opening and closing tabs

To open a tab, either click the "New Tab" button on the toolbar, or on the context menu, or in the "File" menu. A new tab will be created to the right of the currently selected tab.

To close a tab, select it, then either click the "Close Tab" button on the context menu or in the "File" menu.

Cut, copy and paste

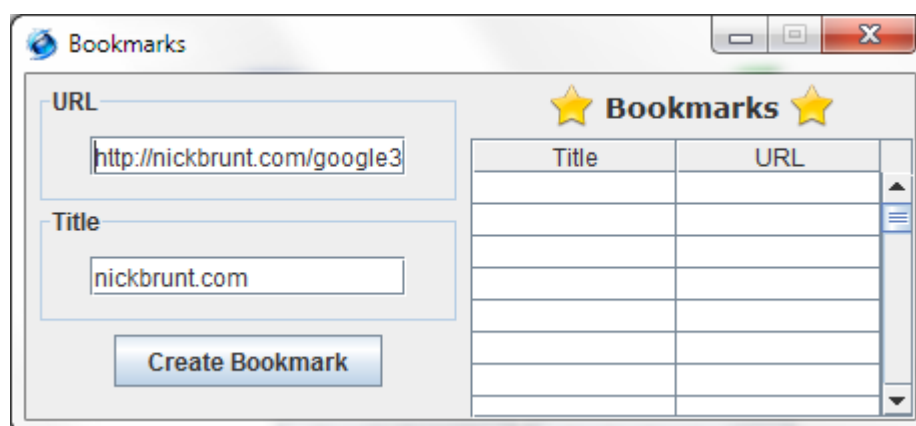
Select the text you would like to edit, then select the action you would like to perform from the context menu or the "Edit" menu.

Using the browser history

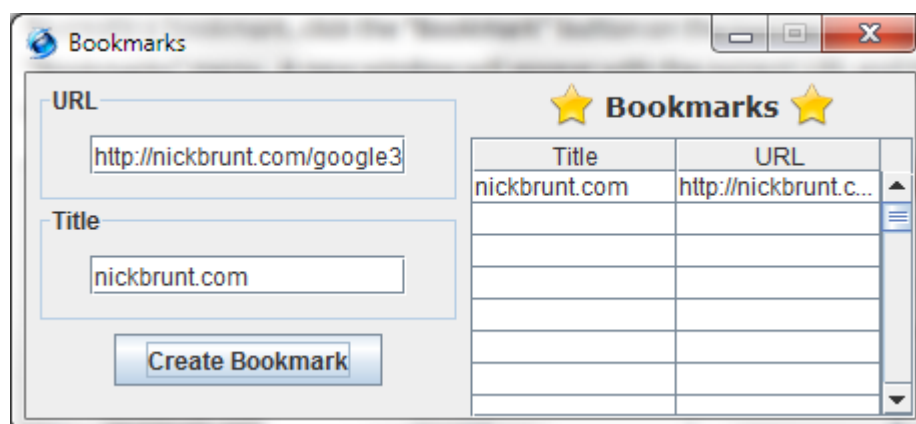
The browser history allows you to navigate backwards or forwards through your recently viewed web pages. Simply select the tab in which you last viewed the page you want to see, and then click the “Back” or “Forwards” button on the tool bar, context menu, or in the “History” menu.

Creating or recalling a bookmark

To create a bookmark, click the “Bookmark” button on the tool bar, context menu or in the “Bookmarks” menu. A new window will appear with the current URL and title already filled out.



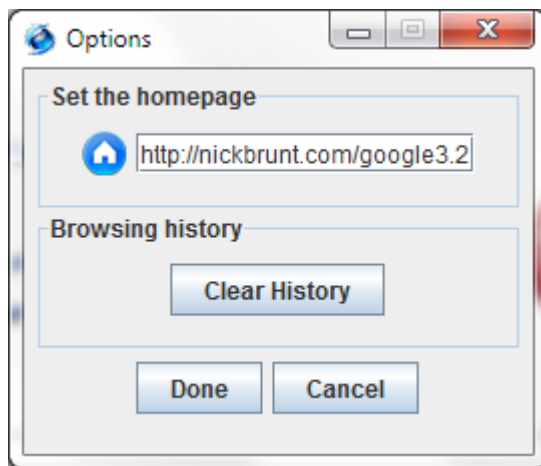
Enter the address and title of the website you want to bookmark and then click “Create Bookmark”. Your site will then appear in the Bookmarks table:



To recall a bookmark, simply click on the corresponding row in the table and the page will be loaded in the currently selected tab.

Changing options

To access the options window, click the “Options” button in the “Tools” menu. The following window will appear:



To change the homepage, simply enter the new URL in the homepage text field and click “Done”.

To clear all your browsing history, click the “Clear History” button and then click “Done”.

Clicking “Cancel” at any point will cancel any of the changes you have made.