BluePrint® SPA

Front-End Architecture

Artifact Management

Main Experience Layout

Version: first draft - in progress

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# Overview

Modern user interfaces make extensive use of multiple windows, panels, tabs and views that enable users to explore different pieces of information and solve different tasks. Efficient usage of coordinated and multiple views requires a window management framework that allows users to interactively arrange their views within the available screen-space by using features such as:

* Resizable/Fixed size panels
* Collapsible/Expandable panels
* Docking / Undocking (Floating dialogs)
* Pinning / Unpinning
* Tabbed panels – dynamic tab creatation
* Maximizable / Minimazable
* Responsive design
* Persistable – be able to save the state and reload it
* Drag & Drop
* Hidable panels
* Slidable panels

A variety of software libraries have been developed to support window management for web-based interfaces. Examining all of these libraries is a tedious task for software developers, who need to select an appropriate library for their purpose without the need for extensive tests and experimental implementations.

# Current Features of Layout in SilverLight

1. Resizable and fixed size panels
2. Collapsible / Expandable panels with title when collapsed
3. Tabbed panels – dynamic tab creatation
4. Persistable

# Features we are planning to add

* Docking / Undocking (Floating dialogs)
* Pinning / Unpinning
* Maximizable / Minimazable
* Responsive design
* Slidable panels
* Hidable panels (nice to have)
* Drag & Drop (nice to have)

TODO – expand on feature set

# Layout Managers from 3rd Parties

Here are a number of layout manager libraries from third parties

1. Golden Layout <https://golden-layout.com/>
2. Web Cabin Docker <http://docker.webcabin.org/>
3. DockSpawn <http://www.dockspawn.com/>
4. jQuery UI Layout <http://layout.jquery-dev.com/>

The following widget libraries also provide a “splitter” widget but leave the management of layout to the developers – which means more coding for us:

1. Wijmo splitter

<http://wijmo.com/widgets/wijmo-open/splitter/>

1. Kendo UI splitter

<http://demos.telerik.com/kendo-ui/splitter/index>

1. jqWidgets splitter

<https://www.jqwidgets.com/jquery-widgets-documentation/documentation/angularjs/angularjs-directives/angularjs-jquery-splitter.htm>

TODO - compare feature set / pro-cons and decide which 3rd party widget to use