Connection handling

The For-Mainframe plugin allows the user to connect their machine with installed IntelliJ IDEA to a mainframe and add, edit or delete datasets, JCL scripts, etc. on it. Here we will explain how the connections are being handled.

Let's start with an example. When user wants to add a connection, they click on the add action button in the Settings Dialog, which results in the opening of a Connection Dialog. Upon adding additional information to the Connection Dialog, the ConnectionTableModel calls the onAdd method, which adds a row to the table and new information to the Storage. The changed table is then being shown in the Settings Dialog.

A diagram of connection handling can be seen in the Fig. 1. The UI is composed of tool windows, dialogs, etc. The user can configure the connection through the Settings Dialog. Upon some operations like add or edit connection, additional configuration has to be provided through the Connection Dialog. Connection uniqueness is validated by the dialogs.

The API part is represented by all of the methods and classes which operate in the plugin and do not need UI to exist. One of them is the ConnectionTableModel class, which receives the message from the Settings Dialog and calls an appropriate method. The UI representation of this class is a table in the Settings Dialog. The method edits the information within the ConnectionTableModel and two variables called sandboxCrudable and configCrudable. These variables act as a data storage, to which other plugin components have an access. The information in these variables is then used in other parts of the plugin, such as the creation of a work set or data set. Upon the successful completion of the method, the changed table is shown in the Settings Dialog.

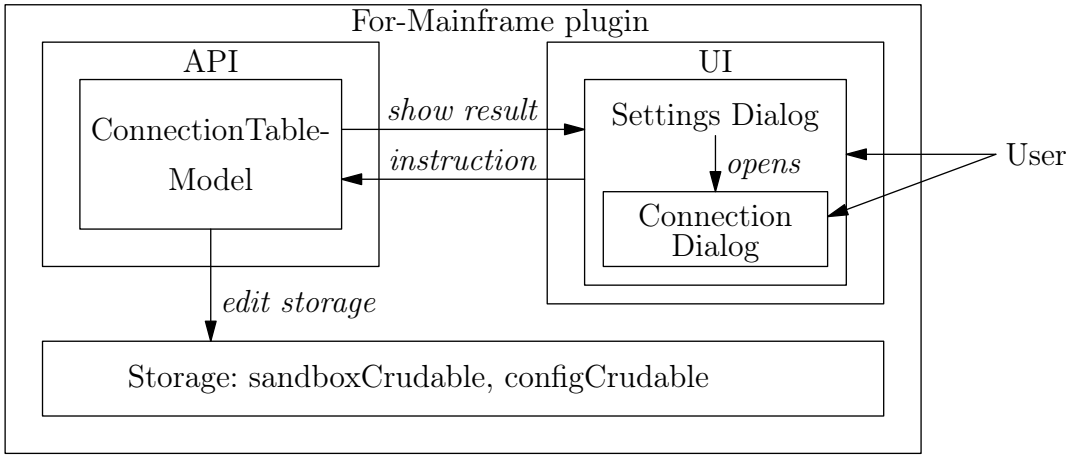

Fig. 1: Diagram of connection handling. We can see the UI, API and Storage sections of the plugin along with their parts.