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CS371 - HCI

Assignment 6

Specification

Last updated: 06.09.2012, not final and is subject to change.

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Executive Summary

“The most useful & aesthetic media player, which removes the noise from your music experience, enabling you to get back to more important things faster”

Justification

This media player is designed just for Graphic Designers and those with high aesthetic standards, who don't see anything else out there that pleases their “educated” visual tastes. This media player will allow them to finally be pleased in using Windows Media Player, without feeling “gross,” and allow them a more efficient and visually-pleasing way to play their music. This media player will offer them an aesthetic that is familiar to their normal surroundings.

Evaluation Criteria:

Efficiency: Stephen the Graphic Designer must be faster at operating this media player than other noisier ones

Learnability: Stephen the Graphic Designer must be able to learn this media player faster than other media players.

Familiarity: Must have a high degree of familiarity for Stephen the Graphic Designer to reach learnability peak faster than other media players.

Simplicity: Must have a simple interface in order to enhance efficiency, learnability and mapping for Stephen the Graphic Designer.

Mapping: The elements' relational organization must be extremely memorable, in order to facilitate the best efficiency & learnability on the market for Stephen the Graphic Designer .

Motivation: Stephen the Graphic Designer must be drawn to this interface, above all others.

Trust: Stephen the Graphic Designer must trust that the media player is doing what the interface indicates it is doing, to enhance efficiency & motivation.

Visibility: All immediately necessary information and interactive elements must be visible, and clearly indicating their status to Stephen the Graphic Designer. All immediately unnecessary elements must be tucked away, but easy to get to without much effort.

Persona

Stephen the Graphic Designer is 24 years old, and wants a media player that matches his aesthetic tastes, gets him listening to music quickly so he can get to designing and doing homework projects. He doesn't have the time or patience to learn new and crazy things, and he mostly designs on the computer with the media player out of sight. He has a strong knowledge of typefaces and design principles, and can never find a media player that has the same high standards of aesthetic and design efficiency he does. He needs something that is very efficient to operate, something that won't look out of place or embarrassing on his computer in his design studio, or in front of his designer coworkers at his internship. He favors brushed nickel surfaces and geometric shapes.

Scenario

Stephen the Graphic Designer gets to his studio design internship after he's out of college classes this afternoon. He parks his bike outside, puts his iPod back in his messenger bag, and sits down at his aluminum/glass desk with dual 27" monitors. He has some design work to do, but he wants some musical help to inspire and motivate his work. He wakes the computer from sleep and quickly opens the music player app. He immediately plays a playlist he made previously for such design work, and minimizes the app, to prevent distraction as he gets down to business.

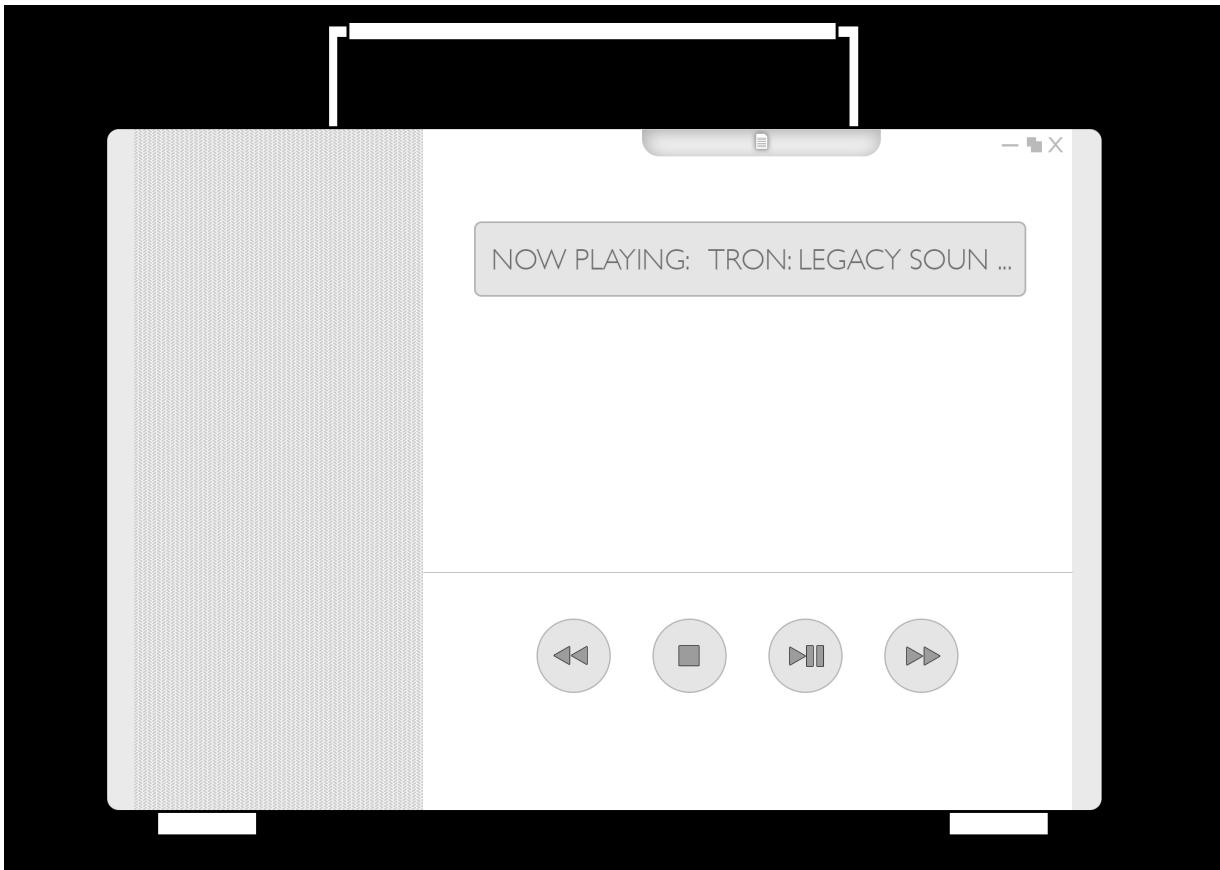
He continues to work on design, but occasionally comes across a track he doesn't think fits his current creative mood, so he uses the keyboard to skip to the next track, without ever looking at the app. He doesn't need to see the app, it may prove too distracting or waste too much time.

When Stephen is done with design work for the day, he pauses the music and puts the computer to sleep using a memorized keyboard shortcut. He picks up his messenger bag, pulls his iPod out and plays his "biking" playlist as he exits the building and jumps on his bike to go home for the night.

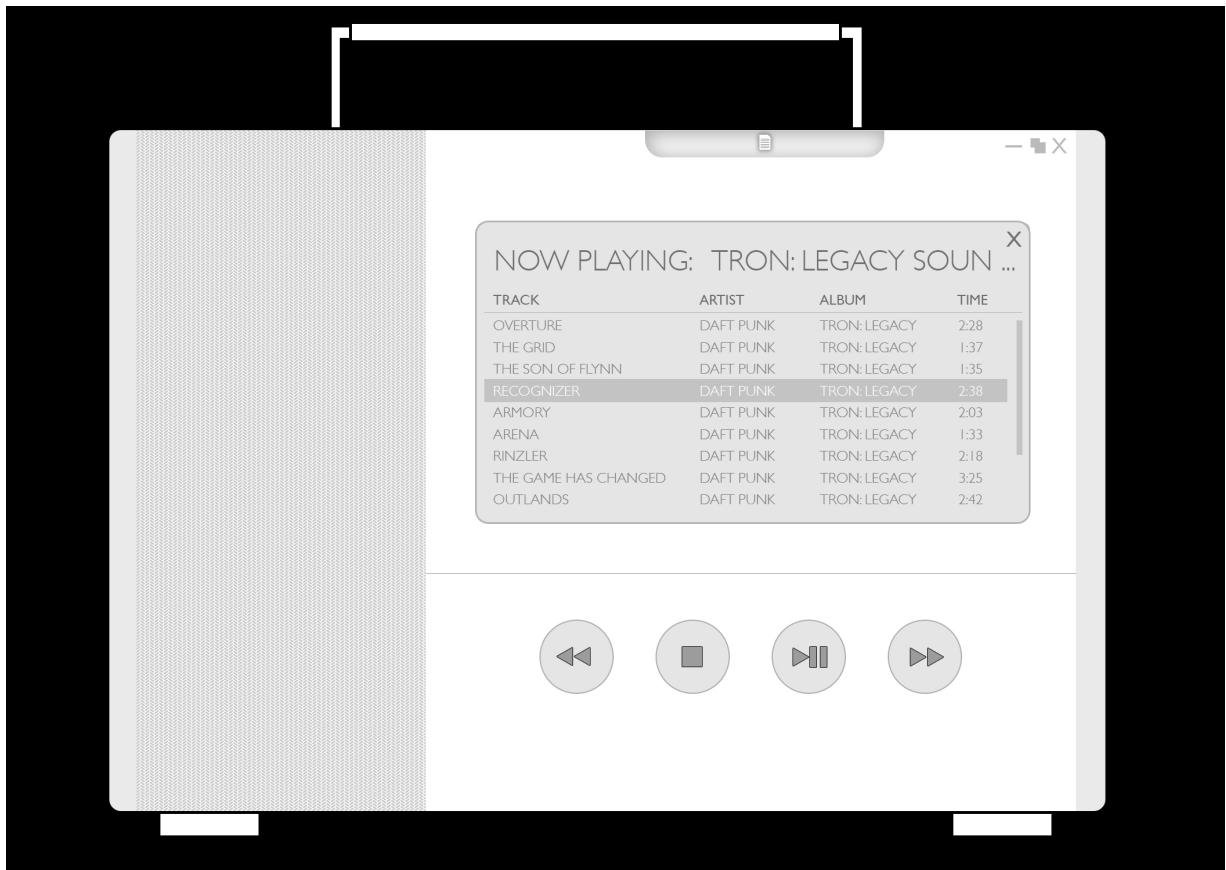
Nongoals:

This media is NOT meant to please everyone, especially not Computer Science Majors and your Grandma. It is intended solely for those with discriminating visual tastes and an extreme need for efficiency, like Stephen the Graphic Designer.

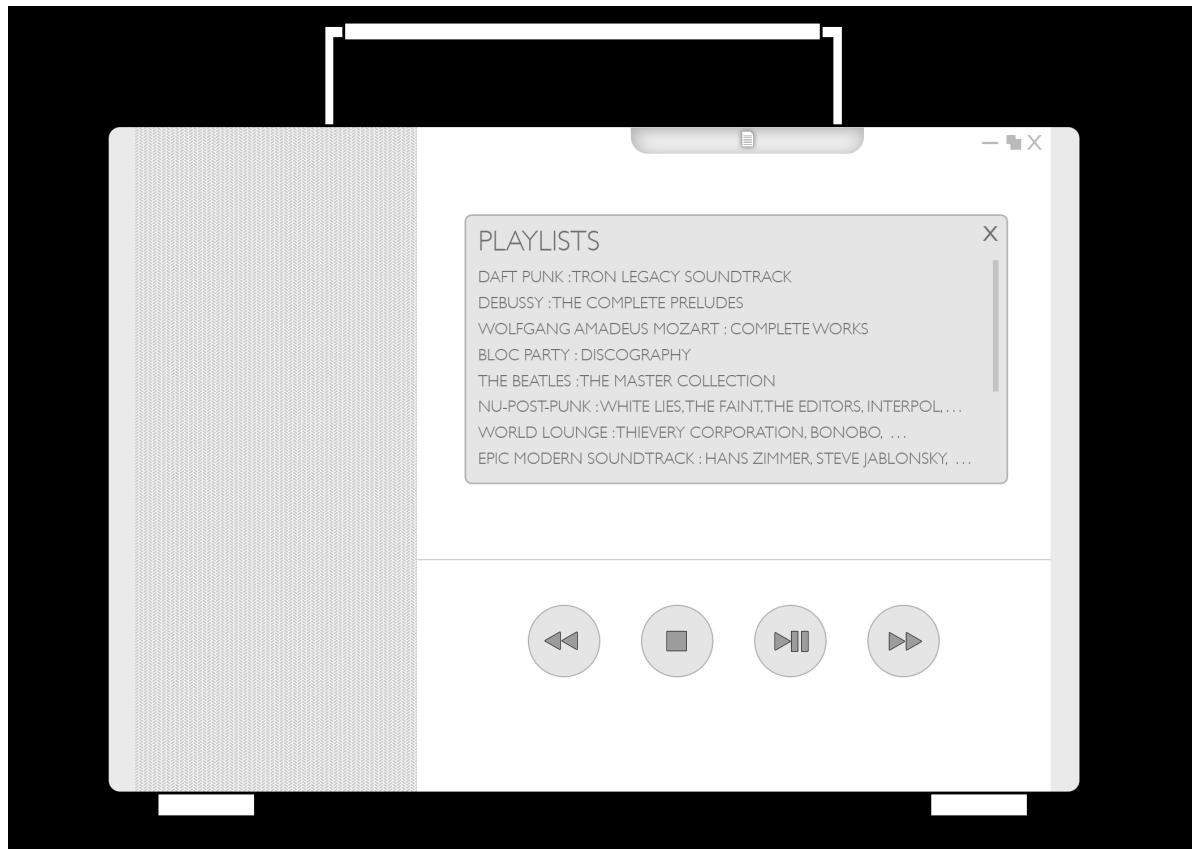
Prototype:



[NOW PLAYING SCREEN, WITH ALL ELEMENTS CLOSED]



[NOW PLAYING SCREEN, WITH NOW PLAYING LIST EXTENDED OPEN]

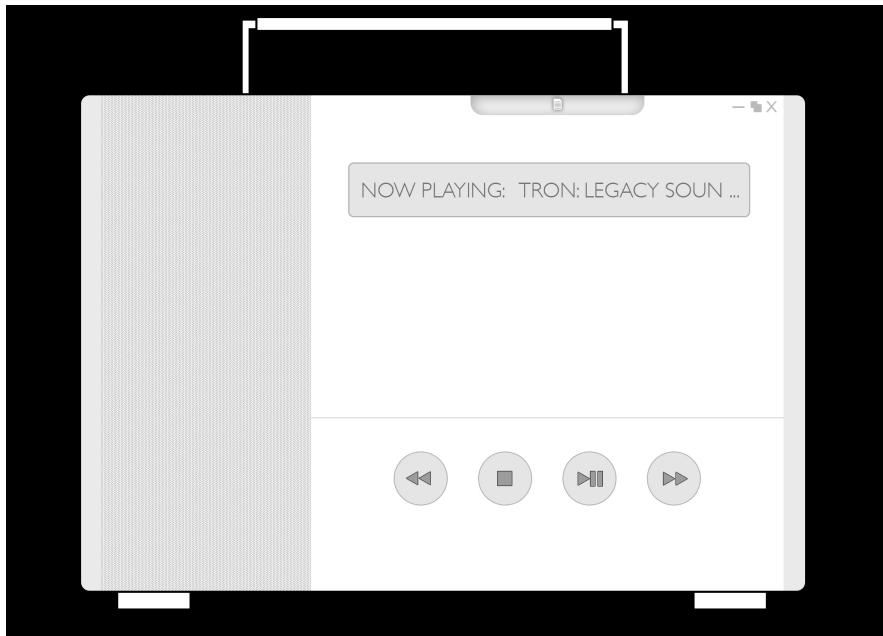


[PLAYLISTS SCREEN EXTENDED OPEN]

Detailed Design:

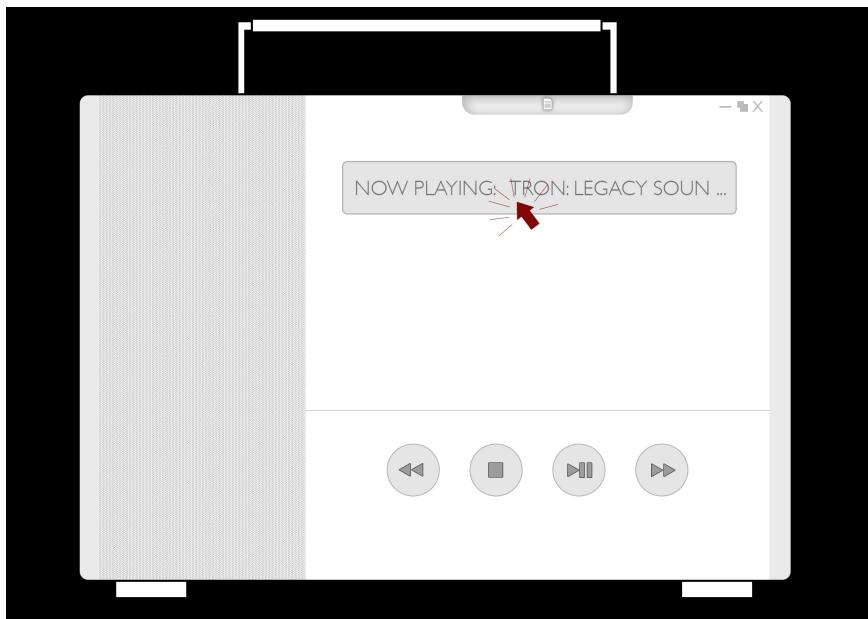
DEFAULT STATE:

The media player will appear like the following image when opened, when left idle for a few minutes, and again when all menus have been closed.

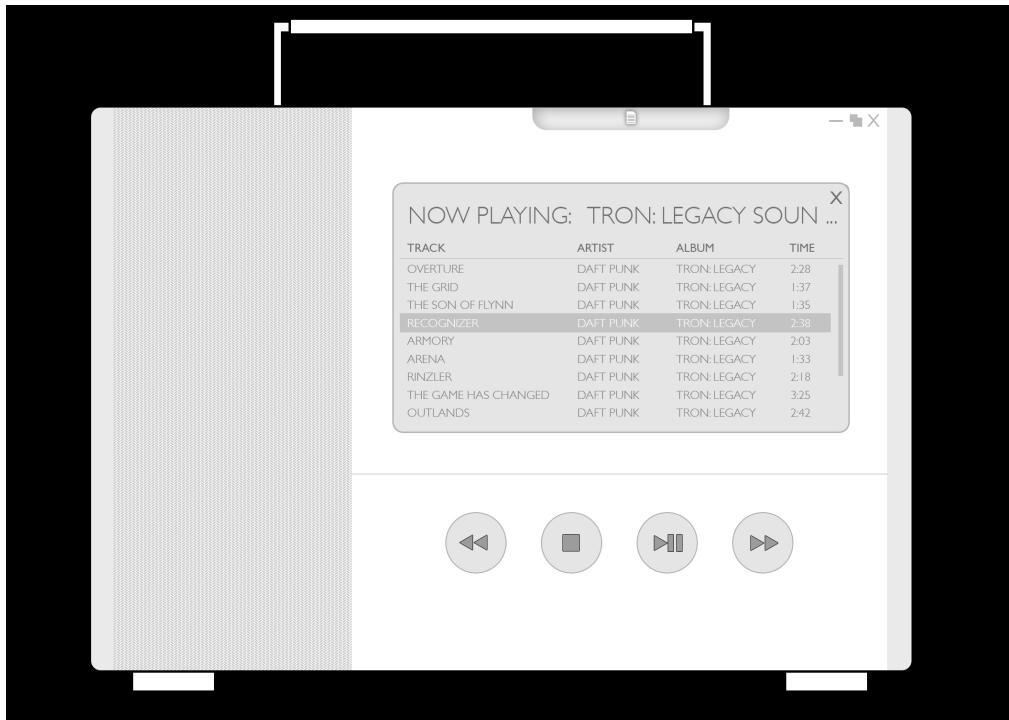


EXTENDED NOW PLAYING MODE:

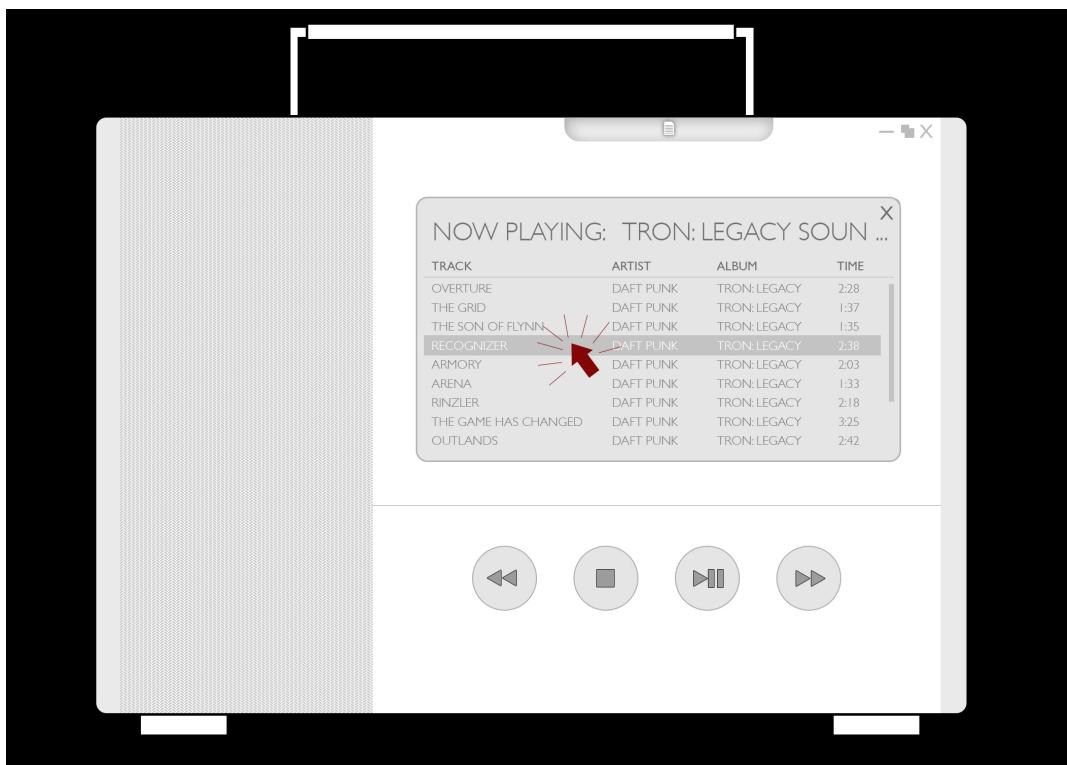
OPENING THE EXTENDED NOW PLAYING MENU: When the NOW PLAYING screen area is clicked:



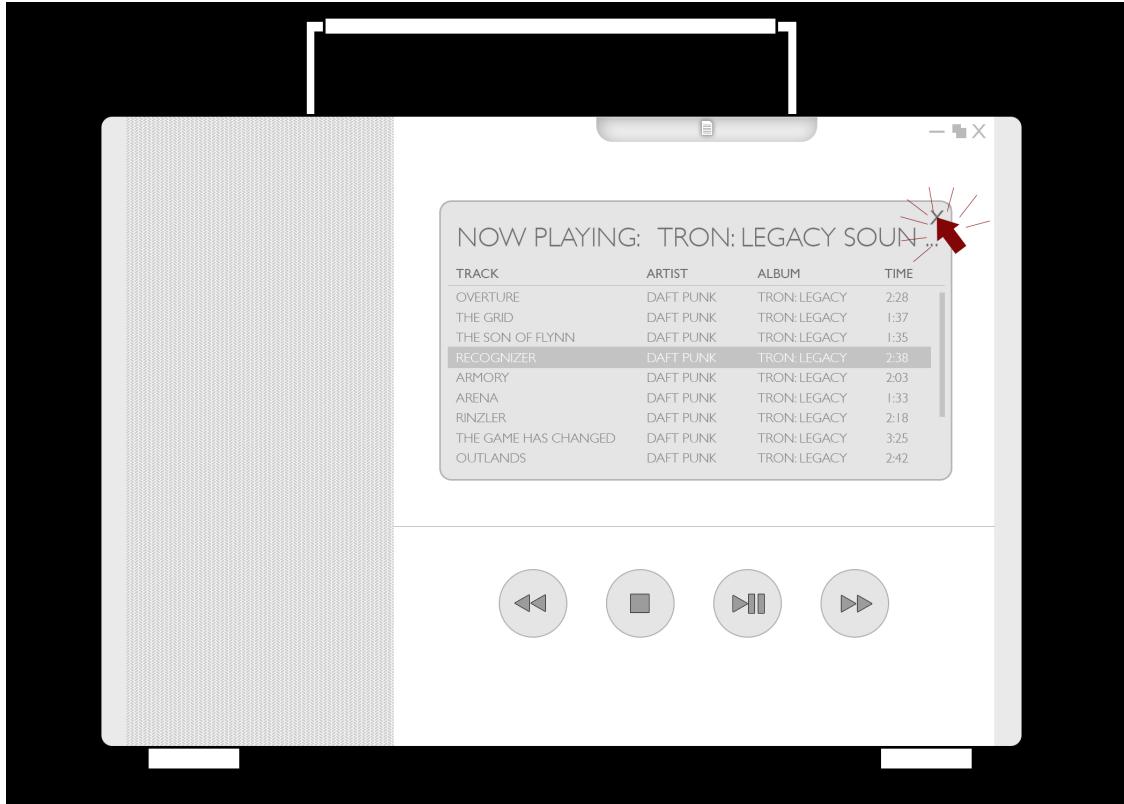
The extended NOW PLAYING menu appears like so:



SELECTING A TRACK: You can select a new track from the currently playing selection by double-clicking on the menu item like so:

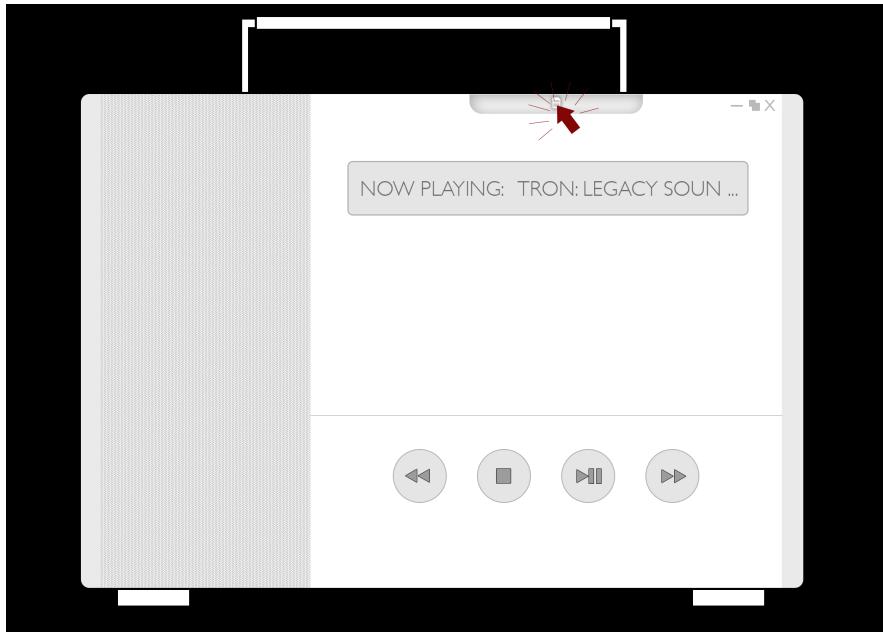


CLOSING THE EXTENDED NOW PLAYING MENU: The EXTENDED NOW PLAYING menu can be closed by clicking the closing “x” in the top right corner of the menu, like so:

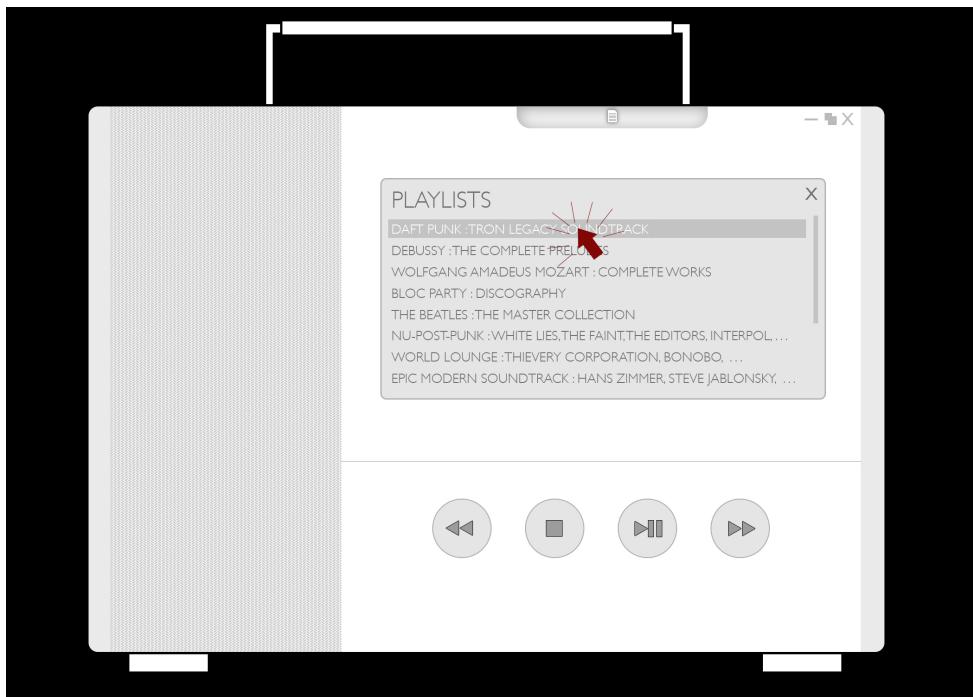


EXTENDED PLAYLIST MODE:

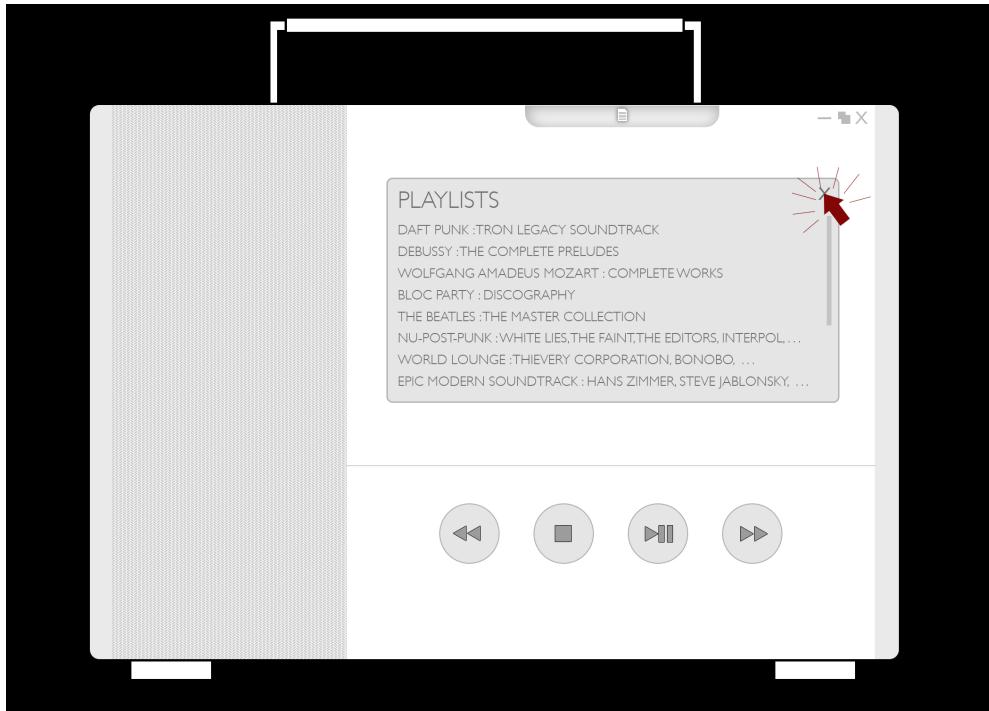
OPENING THE EXTENDED PLAYLIST MODE: The EXTENDED PLAYLIST mode may be accessed from the default state by clicking on or near the playlist button on the top of the player, like so:



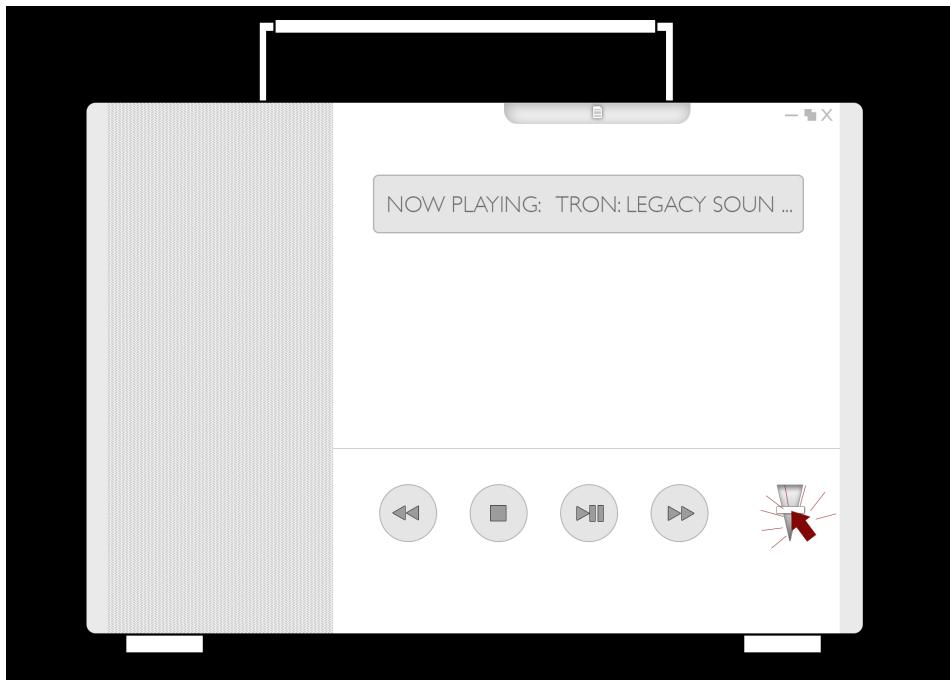
SELECTING A PLAYLIST: A playlist may be selected for playing by double-clicking on the menu item. It will highlight with a gray background color bar when hovering over the selection, like so:



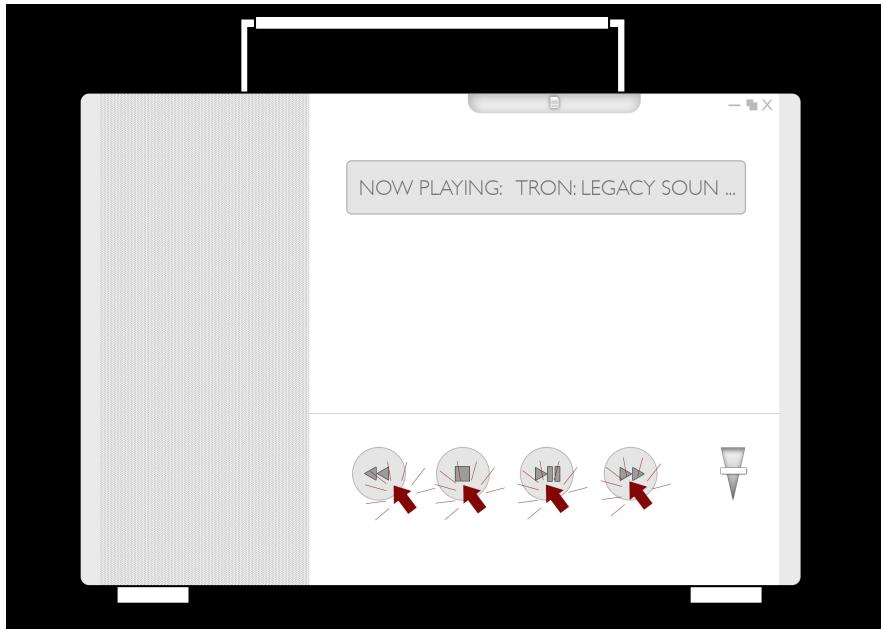
CLOSING THE EXTENDED PLAYLIST MODE: The EXTENDED PLAYLIST mode may be closed by clicking the “x” in the top right of the menu, like so:



ADJUST VOLUME: The volume of the player may be adjusted at any time by clicking and dragging the volume slider up and down, like so:



PREV TRACK / STOP / PLAY / PAUSE / NEXT TRACK: To navigate between tracks, you may use these buttons, like so:



MINIMIZE / MAXIMIZE / CLOSE APP: To minimize, maximize or close the app, click the buttons in the top right of the app at any time, like so:

