PROOF OF CONCEPT

RECIP: A WEB-BASED REMOTE-CONTROLLED INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION SYSTEM

REPORT



Chen

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Sommaire

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1. Introduction

"Recip" is a free and open source **re**mote-**c**ontrolled **i**nteractive **p**resentation system in HTML5.

Although several presentation systems in HTML5 already exist, none of them is at the same time FLOSS (free and open-source software) and has full features (not just a framework like reveal.js, but with legit editor), and most of the time, their presentation system is not remotely controllable.

In brief, the project has a desktop editor application that can edit and generate a standalone HTML file as the presentation file, all resources are included in this sole file. This file can be executed by any modern browser like a normal HTML web page file. After opening the file, user can somehow connect the file on PC with a mobile web app (which could be written as an Android application) that can control the page navigation of the presentation file.

2. Specification

The remotely controllable system "Recip" can be seen as having three parts: file, editor and controller. In this section, I will talk about the natures, functionalities and behaviors of these three parts, as well as the initial thought and ideas on them. For further technical description and detailed implementation, please read the "Technical part" section.

2.1. File

Typical Recip presentation files have an extension of ".recip.html", such file is a simple uncompressed but minified HTML file which contains all necessary resources (.html, .css, .js, images, videos, etc., all base64 encoded and/or embedded in the HTML file). it can be executed with any modern browser, and be viewed and edited using the editor.

The basic structure of the presentation file is based on Reveal.is (see section "Requirements and dependencies").

Although it is minified on the code level, this uncompressed file's size could be a little large if a lot of resources – especially video files – are included (please read section "Constraints in terms of security, size, portability and quality").

2.2. Editor

It is actually a web application that can run in browsers, but the production file is an Electroncompiled executable will also be available, at first for Windows but can also be easily made for other system in the future because of Electron's cross-platform nature. (Electron: see section "Requirements and dependencies")

This web application can create and edit a Recip presentation file, save the Recip presentation file as any Recip format, and open an existed file of any Recip format.

There is already an editor – slides.com – for Reveal.js, but it's not free or open source. Recip has different positioning – it will be an open system for everyone and any purpose. Also, be aware of that Recip's editor is not an open source copycat of slides.com, but offers different interface and features.

(Please see Annex 3 "Editor interface screenshot images" to better understand the description of the editor below)

Basic feature of the editor includes insertion of image, text, table, first and second-level titles (headings).

Slides of two different layout can be added or deleted, their order can be changed.

Several light and dark themes will be available to be chosen from.

There are many visual effects that user can choose from, which can be applied to animation of elements and transition of pages. There are some 3D effects, which differ from the classic PowerPoint effects.

In the editor, advanced user can customize individual element's CSS style or global JavaScript, CSS style for the whole file, and HTML code for one slide.

User can open an existing recip.html file, save the currently edited presentation file as a .recip.html, or abandon current work and create a whole new file. Presentation title can be changed.

All these above-mentioned functionalities are provided in a two-level menu bar on the top of the window.

User can navigate the thumbnail/overview of all slides in the sidebar on the right of the window, it's clickable and scrollable.

The presentation slides are shown in the main window from the center to the left bottom. Every element in the slide is editable in the editor.

2.3. Controller

One way to make remote control possible with the pure HTML presentation file is sending request to a remote server from Android application, the server will offer a file that stores the page number and modify the page number to meet mobile application's request. This file is checked every 0.5 second by the browser that runs the HTML presentation file, and if the page number changes, the current viewed page should also be changed to the correct one according to the file on server.

The controller can control the page navigation (next page, last page, jump to a page).

2.4. Requirements and dependencies

- Reveal.js, an open source (under MIT License), HTML presentation framework (GitHub homepage: https://github.com/hakimel/reveal.js).
- Electron, a tool to build cross platform desktop apps with JavaScript, HTML, and CSS (https://electronjs.org/).
- Other library, framework and environment include: ¡Query (JavaScript library), Node.js (JavaScript runtime built on Chrome's V8 JavaScript engine), QUnit (JavaScript unit testing framework), Electron Packager (to compile the web application as executable file), etc.
- Any IDE (WebStorm, NetBeans, etc.) and code editor (Sublime Text, Atom, etc.) could be used, as preferred by individual team members.
- Google Chrome will be the main browser to be used during the development and test.
- Android Studio will be develop the Android application used to (https://developer.android.com/studio/).
- Node.js is used on the server side, for the time being it is just a small program and does not require Express.js or other web frameworks.
- Git is used to control and manage the code.

2.5. Constraints in terms of security, size, portability and quality

An executable editor's size was estimated to be under 300MB. And actually, it is 135MB for the initial released production version, which is reasonable.

A ".recip.html" file (the currently used file format)'s size could be large because it's uncompressed and all resources are base64 encoded and embedded directly in the HTML file. However, the files of this format are far slimmer than ".recip.exe" (mentioned below in the section "Obsolete file formats"), and are very portable (only one simple HTML file) and compatible (runs in any modern browser), therefore, the file size won't be a very disturbing issue.

2.5.1. Obsolete file formats

Initially I planned to have three file formats, whose extension will be ".recip.html", ".recip" and ".recip.exe" (in Windows) respectively. Apart from the ".recip.html" one that is being used, the other two being:

- ".recip": a file of this format is a simple compressed file (using an open source compression method such as 7-zip) which contains all necessary resources, it's not able to self-execute and must be executed with the editor/viewer. ".recip" files are smaller and more portable but user will have to install an editor/viewer to run such files.
- ".recip.exe": a file of this format is a self-executable file (in Windows) which contains all necessary resources as an equivalent ".recip" file does, but also elements made with Electron that make the whole file self-executable. However, the file size could be large. A plain file's size, or minimum size, is expected to be 60MB. Although such file is expected to be executable without installing anything (Recip software or browsers), its size is too large. Compared to ".recip.html" file format, ".recip.exe" doesn't have too many advantages. The fact is, almost every OS has a modern browser thus can execute ".recip.html".

These disadvantages made me to drop the usage of these two file formats.

Without these two format, I also reasonably dropped the viewer program (the editor is kept), because web browsers are enough for executing the .recip.html file and we don't need such viewer.

3. Technical part

3.1. Modeling and development

3.1.1. Overview

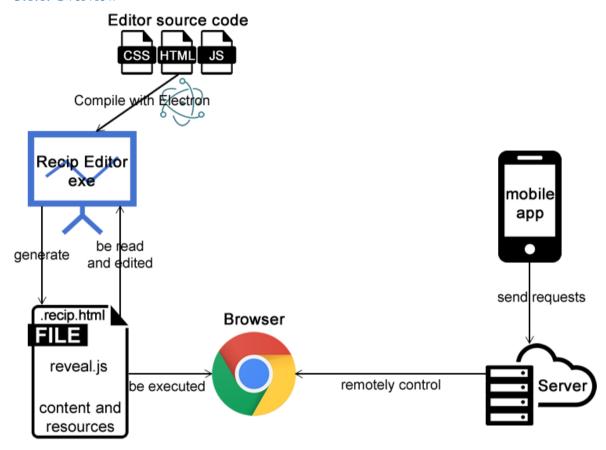


Figure 1 – Recip project overview

The Recip Editor is developed in HTML+CSS+JavaScript and is compiled to executable production file with GitHub's Electron.

The editor can read, edit an existing .recip.html file and generate/update such file.

The .recip.html file includes necessary resources of reaveal.js framework as well as the content and all resources of the presentation.

The .recip.html file can be executed with modern browsers.

Smartphone web app sends request to the server, then the server sends a message to recip.html program, making it go to the next or the previous page. WebSocket technique is used here.

3.1.2. Fully dressed use cases and brief technical implementation description

This section includes discussion on all event flows (what the user could do and what the program should treat this) for the editor in the fully dressed use cases tables:

(Please also see Annex 3 "Editor interface screenshot images" to better understand these use cases)

Use case name	Main	
Actors	User	
Preconditions	None	
Postconditions		
	Actor	System
	1. User opens the program	2. Open the program window
		3. Load default example presentation and initialize the top menu, putting it on "Add"
Flow of events		4. Initialize the buttons
		5. Bind events
		6. Update the slide outline view and set the current slide as the first one
		7. generate a random recip ID for the example presentation
Special requirements		

Use case name	Top menu	
Actors	User	
Preconditions	None	
Postconditions		
	Actor	System
	1. User clicks a top menu button	2. Make all buttons not the current one (by removing a class name)
Flow of events		3. Make all button's sub-menus not the current one (by removing a class name)
		4. Make this button the current one (by adding a class name)
		5. Make this button's sub-menu the current one (by adding a class name)
Special requirements		

Use case name	Slide outline view	
Actors	User	
Preconditions	None	
Postconditions		
	Actor	System
Flow of events	1. User clicks a non-current slide in the slide outline view	2. Make this slide the current one in the slide outline view
		3. Make its corresponding slide in the main frame the current one
Special requirements		

Use case name	Add tab	
Actors	User	
Preconditions	None	
Postconditions		
	Actor	System
	a1. User clicks the "Text" button	a2. In the current slide, if the last element is UL, then add Text to the last in it, otherwise add a new UL then add this LI
	b1. User clicks the "Image" button	b2. Open dialog box, show image selection in the box
Alternative flows	b3. User selects a local image file and clicks OK	b4. Get the file content, Base64 encode it and convert to URI format
110 115		b5. In the current slide, add IMG with the image's Base64 URI as "src" attribute to the last
	c1. User clicks the "Table" button	c2. Open dialog box, show ROW x COLUMN selection in the box
	c3. User enters the ROW and the COLUMN, and clicks OK	c4. In the current slide, add TABLE element with correct row and column number to the last

	d1. User clicks the "Title" button	d2. In the current slide, add ${\tt H1}$ element to the last
	e1. User clicks the "2 nd LVL Title" button	e2. In the current slide, add H2 element to the last
	f1. User clicks the "Delete last" button	f2. In the current slide, remove the last element if exists
Special requirements		

Use case name	File tab	
Actors	User	
Preconditions	None	
Postconditions		
	Actor	System
	a1. User clicks the "Open file" button	a2. Open dialog box, show file selection in the box
	a3. User selects a local .recip.html file and clicks OK	a4. Get the file content
		a5. Use regular expression to match the slides wrapper element (div.slides), make it "contenteditable" then replace the whole current slides wrapper element with the new code
Alternative flows		a6. Get the title from the new file's content and update the current one
		a7. Get the theme string from the new file's content and update the current one in the stored data as well as the style element
		a8. Update the slide outline view
	b1. User clicks the "Save file" button	b2. Open dialog box, show current presentation title input in the box
	b3. User enters a new presentation title (or not) and clicks OK	b4. Pop up a .recip.html file selection window

	b5. User selects a file and clicks OK	b6. Insert current file title, transition string and the slides wrapper element (div.slides)'s outerHTML to a preprepared template (see ".recip.html file structure" section and "Annex 2 — #save-file script snippet" for a detailed description), remove "contenteditable" attribute and save all these as the content of the target file
	c1. User clicks the "File info" button	c2. Open dialog box, show file title input and Recip ID input (Recip ID is not editable) with the current file title in the box
	c3. User enters a new file title (or not) and clicks OK	c4. Update the file title string in the stored data as well as the HTML TITLE element
	d1. User clicks the "New file" button	d2. Replace the slides wrapper element (div.slides)'s outerHTML with a preprepared, clean one
Special requirements		

Use case name	Slide tab	
Actors	User	
Preconditions	None	
Postconditions		
	Actor	System
Alternative flows	a1. User clicks the "New title slide" button	a2. In the slides wrapper element (div.slides), add a slide (section) with only an H1 element to the last
		a3. Make the newly added slide the current one
	b1. User clicks the "New content slide" button	b2. In the slides wrapper element (div.slides), add a slide (section) with an H2 element and a UL+LI elements to the last
		b3. Make the newly added slide the current one

	c1. User clicks the "Delete current" button	c2. Delete current slide
		c3. Make the last slide (if exists) the current one
	d1. User clicks the "Change order" button	d2. Open dialog box, show slide number selection in the box
	d3. User select a number and clicks OK	d4. Move the current slide to the number as its index in its parent element
		d5. Update the slide outline view
	e1. User clicks the "Edit HTML" button	e2. Open dialog box, show HTML editing text area with the current slide's HTML in the box
	e3. User makes some modification (or not) to the HTML code then clicks OK	e4. Update the current slide's HTML
Special requirements		

Use case name	Theme tab	
Actors	User	
Preconditions	None	
Postconditions		
	Actor	System
	a1. User clicks the "Choose a theme" button	a2. Open dialog box, show theme choice in the box
	a3. User chooses a theme then clicks OK	a4. Make it the current theme string in the stored data
Alternative		a5. Update the theme style element
flows	b1. User clicks the "Transition" button	b2. Open dialog box, show transition effect choice in the box
	b3. User chooses a transition then clicks OK	b4. Make it the current transition string in the stored data
	c1. User clicks the "Global script" button	c2. Open dialog box, show script editing text area with the #custom-script element's innerHTML in the box

	c3. User makes some modification (or not) to the code then clicks OK	c4. Update the #custom-script element's innerHTML
	d1. User clicks the "Global style" button	d2. Open dialog box, show script editing text area with the #custom-style element's innerHTML in the box
	d3. User makes some modification (or not) to the code then clicks OK	d4. Update the #custom-style element's innerHTML
Special requirements		

Use case name	Current selected tab	
Actors	User	
Preconditions	None	
Postconditions		
Flow of events	Actor	System
	1. User clicks an element in the current slide	
Alternative flows	1a1. User clicks the "Edit style" button	1a2. Open dialog box, show style editing text area with the currently selected element's style attribute in the box
	1a3. User makes some modification (or not) to the code then clicks OK	1a4. Update the currently selected element's style attribute
	1b1. User clicks the "Delete element" button	1b2. Remove the currently selected element from the current slide
Special requirements		

3.1.3. Directory structure

Recip Editor's full directory structure is shown below:

RECIP	+js
+recip-editor	jquery-3.2.1.min.js
blank_example.recip.html	script.js
icon64.ico	
icon64.png	+min-resources
index.html	head.min.js
LICENSE	reveal.css

```
main.js
                                               reveal.js
   package.json
   renderer.js
                                           \---theme-css
                                                   beige.css
+---css
                                                   black.css
        style.css
                                                   blood.css
                                                   league.css
 ---imq
                                                   moon.css
       chart.png
                                                   night.css
       content.png
                                                   serif.css
       css.png
                                                   simple.css
       delete.png
                                                   sky.css
       h1.png
                                                   solarized.css
       h2.png
                                                   white.css
       html.png
       image.png
                                        \---reveal (reveal.js 's source
        js.png
                                   code structure is omitted here)
       name.png
                                   +---reveal (reveal.js 's source code
       new.png
                                   structure is omitted here)
       open.png
       order.png
                                   \---test
       save.png
                                           qunit-2.4.1.css
       shape.png
       table.png
                                           qunit-2.4.1.js
                                           test.html
       text.png
       theme.png
                                           tests.js
       title.png
       transition.png
       video.png
```

The recip-editor folder is the real working directory for the Editor.

The test and a backed-up reveal folders are outside the recip-editor working directory. The test is the directory where stores and runs JUnit tests, which I will mention below in the "Tests" section.

In the recip-editor working directory, there are several necessary files for Electron compilation: main.js (mainly for window initialization), package.json (configuration file).

stores the MIT License content. There are also two icons and an LICENSE example .recip.html file.

index.html is the main interface file, its CSS style file (which controls the appearance of the interface) is stored in the css folder and the main JavaScript file (which manipulates and determines the behaviors of the interface (such as button click event)) as well as a copy of jQuery library are in the js folder.

The img forder stores all the button icons for the editor interface.

index.html, css/style.css, js/script.js and the icons in the img folder are the main efforts.

min-resources folder stores all minified .js and .css files that are used during the content replacement process of the .recip.html file creation. See ".recip.html file structure" section for details.

3.1.4. .recip.html file structure

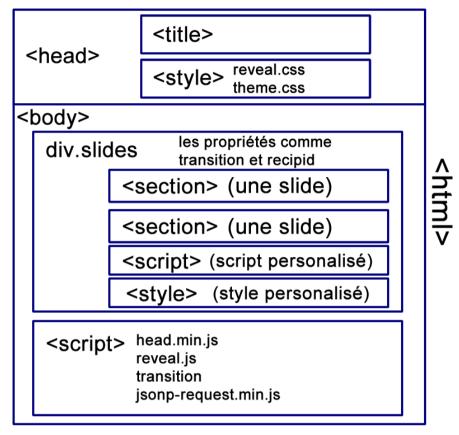


Figure 2 – .recip.html file structure

A .recip.html file has nothing special than a normal HTML file, its typical source code is shown below:

```
<!doctype html>
<html>
        <head>
                <meta charset="utf-8">
                <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-</pre>
scale=1.0, maximum-scale=1.0, user-scalable=no">
                <title>{ { title} } } </title>
                <style type="text/css">
{{{reveal.css}}}
{{currentThemeName.css}}}
                </style>
        </head>
        <body>
                <div class="reveal">
                        <div class="slides" contenteditable="true" data-</pre>
transition="{{{transition}}}" data-title="{{{title}}}" data-
recipid="{{recipid}}}">
                                <section class="current-slide">
                                        <h1>Blank Example</h1>
                                </section>
                                <script id="custom-script"></script>
                                <style id="custom-style"
type="text/css"></style>
                </div>
                <script>
{{ head.min.js}}}
```

The "{{{}}}" are to be replaced with the real values (title and transition name values) or file content (these minified .js and .css files are stored in the min-resources folder as mentioned in the "Directory structure" section).

The "Annex 2 – #save-file script snippet" shows how the program replaces these " $\{\{\{\}\}\}\}$ " with correct values during the file save process.

The presentation content is stored in the div.slides element, one section element is one slide.

Although jQuery library is used in the editor, .recip.html file does not include the jQuery library, this reduces the file size.

A simple .recip.html file's size is 110 KB. It is very portable if user doesn't include too much videos and large images in it. That's what is recommended: to use text instead.

Images and videos are to be encoded to base64 URI in pure text before being embedded to the .recip.html file (instead of using an external file). Below is an example code of an HTML

img element which actually shows the image "



<img

3.1.5. Smartphone controller

This idea has been described in the section "Specification" → "Controller". Now I'm going to implement it.

Every .recip.html file has a random 10-letter-and-digit Recip ID, it can be viewed after clicking the "File info" button. It is expected to be used by server authentication. However, for the current, Proof-of-concept early-release version, a very simple server-side program will be set up without authentication, one sole user connection will be assumed.

WebSocket is the crucial technique that is used here.

The client browsers, where .recip.html file is loaded, is connected with the server using WebSocket, and is listening for a message from the server.

User uses smartphone to access a web app, which could send AJAX request to the server with a signal representing "next page" or "previous page". Once the request is received, the server sends a message to let the recip.html presentation program in the client browser go to the next or the previous page.

The server-side program is powered by Node.js, but Express.js or other web frameworks are not used for the current simple version.

```
/* ===== Server ===== */
if (req.method === 'POST') {
   wsInstance.send(command);
}
function onSocketConnect(ws) {
       clients.add(ws);
       wsInstance = ws;
       ws.onclose = function() {
              clients.delete(ws);
              wsInstance = null;
       };
}
/* ===== */
socket.onmessage = function(e) {
   if (e.data === '1') {
       Reveal.right();
    } else if (e.data === '-1') {
       Reveal.left();
}
```

3.2. Tests

jQuery's QUnit, a JavaScript unit testing framework has been used to write the tests for the Recip editor.

An example usage of QUnit code is shown below (part of the "Add buttons functional" test unit):

```
/* ===== Add ===== */
QUnit.test("Add buttons functional", function(assert) {
    $("#add-text").click();
    assert.ok($(".slides section.current-
slide").children().last().is("ul"), "Add text button is functional");
    $("#add-table").click();
    $("#table-row-width").val("3");
    $("#table-column-width").val("3");
    $("#dialog-ok").click();
    assert.ok($(".slides section.current-
slide").children().last().is("table"), "Add table button is functional");
```

});

Below is the table that includes all test units I've written as well as the detailed description of each assertion:

Category	Test unit name	Detailed description of the assertion
Top menu	Add button active	Test if 'Add' button has the "current-topmenubtn" class after page load
		Test if the submenu of 'Add' has the "current-menu" class after page load
	Top menu button functional	Simulate the click of the 'Theme' button in the first row, test if the sub menu of 'Theme' shows
File	File info button functional	Simulate the click of the file info button, enter a string then Click 'OK', test if that string becomes title
Outline view	Outline view slide click functional	Simulate the click of a slide in the outline view, test if it becomes the 'current-slide'
		Simulate the click of a slide in the outline view, test if its corresponding slide in the main frame becomes the 'current-slide'
Add	Add buttons functional	Simulate the click of the Add text button, test if it adds text (ul+li) as the last element of the slide
		Simulate the click of the Add table button, test if it adds a table as the last element of the slide
		Simulate the click of the Add h1 button, test if it adds h1 as the last element of the slide
		Simulate the click of the Add h2 button, test if it adds h2 as the last element of the slide
		Simulate the click of the Delete last button, test if the last element becomes h1
File	New file button functional	Simulate the click of the New file button, test if the slides number count becomes 1
Theme	Theme change functional	Simulate the click of the Theme change button, choose 'sky' then 'OK', test if the theme becomes 'sky'
	Choose transition button functional	Simulate the click of the Choose transition button, choose 'none' then 'OK', test if the transition becomes 'none'

Global script button functional	Simulate the click of the Global script button, enter a string then 'OK', test if the global script becomes that string
Global style button functional	Simulate the click of the Global style button, enter a string then 'OK', test if the global style becomes that string

A screenshot of the successful QUnit tests result is shown below:

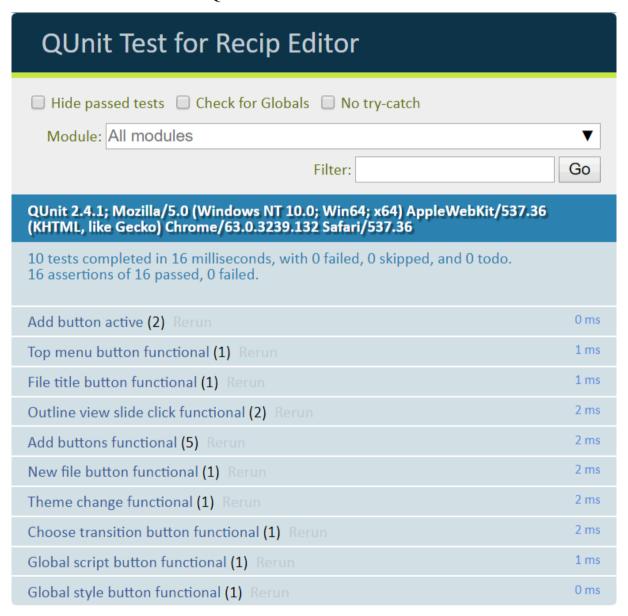


Figure 3 – QUnit tests result page

4. Synthesis

4.1. Final product

As I said, for this long-term project, the "final product" at this stage is actually an early release. I'm glad that most of the basic features are successfully implemented, although some plans were changed and some jobs were unable to be finished.

We now have a legit editor which meets most part of the specification. It has a simple interface, top menu bar and sub menu bar, it can open and save file, view file information (title, etc.), create new file, add text, image, table, first-level or second-level title, delete last or selected element or slide, create new slide of two different layouts, change slides' order, choose a theme and transition effect, edit global script, style and slide's HTML, edit selected element style, and has a scrollable and clickable "slide outline view". (for further functionalities, behaviors and technical details, please read the section "Fully dressed use cases and brief technical implementation description" and the section "Specification")

4.2. Perspective and future features

There are some features that are not included in the initial release but could possibly include in the future.

4.2.1. Editor

The video, basic shape (line, circle, rectangle, triangle, arrow) insertion is not done during the one-month project, but future implementation could be possible.

Table of content is another expected feature that could be automatically generated according to the headings at different levels of every page.

Interactive graphic for data visualization will be another feature. For example, in a clustered column chart, when the cursor is put on a graphical column, all necessaire data will be shown. During the presentation, the presenter could also modify the data to change the chart real-time.

4.2.2. Mobile application

Future features of the controller - the mobile application - that can be reasonably imagined includes:

Future iPhone support, or even the support of a professional remote control such as Logitech Spotlight, will be possible.

The controller will be able to control the cursor (which serves as both the pointer and the text/graphical content selector (the cursor can hover over or click on such elements)) real-time.

The controller interface currently uses classic buttons. But it is also expected that gestures, or even position sensors (gyroscope and magnetometer) be used to measure the orientation of the smartphone, then pass the right order to the server or the presentation file on the computer to make the cursor move in the way the smartphone move. Also, the controller should be able to show the presentation content in the future.

5. Conclusion

There seems to be no open-source editor to create standalone HTML files for presentation. I hope this project could inspire more programmers, and more users will use it and benefit from it.

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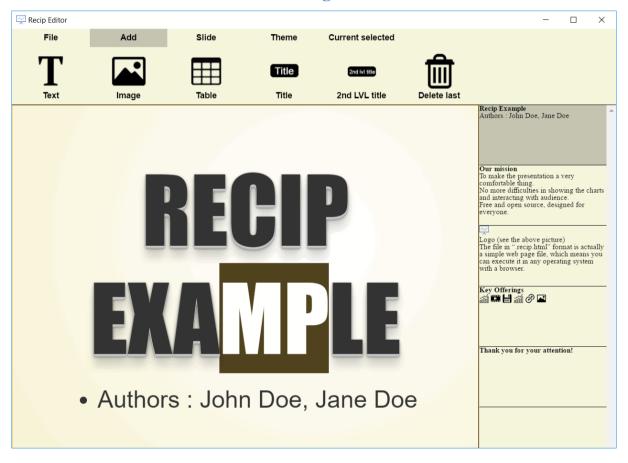
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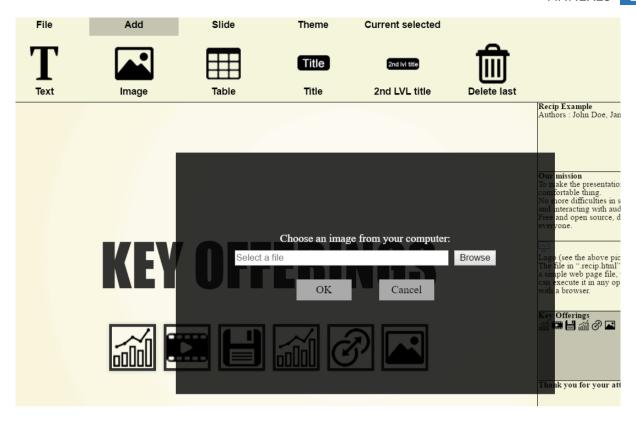
Annexes

Annex 1 – Repository

GitHub repository where all the source code and the Electron-compiled executable are hosted: https://github.com/tomchen/recip

Annex 2 – Editor interface screenshot images









Title

2nd LVL title

Delete last

Table

Text

Image

