

CMSI 370

INTERACTION DESIGN

Fall 2007

Assignment I004

This assignment is meant to get your feet wet with Swing, particularly with component creation and layout.

For Submission

Putting together Swing user interfaces takes a lot of practice, particularly in the pure layout/positioning area. The kind of programming specified in this assignment should eventually become second nature for you, because in the long run, layout/positioning will be the least of your interaction design problems!

What to Do

Choose at least three (3) user interface displays of sufficient complexity from existing software, and replicate their look and layout with Swing. While there are no hard rules for “sufficient complexity,” these characteristics can serve as a guide:

- At least four (4) distinct types of atomic components (i.e., labels, buttons, text fields, check boxes, radio buttons, sliders, menu items, etc.)
- At least ten (10) actual components (e.g., 3 buttons, 4 labels, 2 text fields, and 2 check boxes)
- Genuine 2-dimensional layout — so, no toolbars or simple lists
- Multipanel interface (e.g., tabs, master-detail, previous-next)

Good candidates include: preference, configuration, or setup dialogs; non-trivial data entry windows; control panels; instrumentation displays. When in doubt, show me the interface and I can tell you if it’s complex enough.

Submit each of your “facsimiles” as self-contained source code trees with Java source starting at *src/main/java*, resources at *src/main/resources* (if applicable), and an Ant *build.xml* script or Maven *pom.xml* descriptor at the top-level directory. Since you’re essentially doing three mini-projects, use Ant and Maven at least once; i.e., you should provide one facsimile with *build.xml* and two with *pom.xml*, or vice versa.

How to Turn it In

If you haven’t already done so, make sure to follow the *CVS Depot Preparation* instructions from Assignment 0913. Then, specific to this assignment:

1. Under your checked-out *homework/cmsi370* directory, create a *facsimiles* subdirectory.
2. Place each of your facsimile programs in its own subdirectory under *homework/cmsi370/facsimiles*. Stick with all-lower case directory names, without spaces.
3. Add then commit the files to CVS. When in doubt, *cvs update* to verify file statuses.

For example, if you decided to name your 3 facsimiles *explorer*, *thunderbird*, and *gaim*, respectively, then your final checked-out CVS directory tree for this assignment will look like this:

```
homework/  
  cmsi370/  
    facsimiles/  
      explorer/  
        build.xml or pom.xml  
        src/  
          main/  
            java/  
              resources/ (if applicable)  
      thunderbird/  
        build.xml or pom.xml  
        src/  
          main/  
            java/  
              resources/ (if applicable)  
      gaim/  
        build.xml or pom.xml  
        src/  
          main/  
            java/  
              resources/ (if applicable)
```