

Sunday, September 19, 2004

Meeting Log

Purpose: Set up Client Meeting, Report on SourceForge Capabilities

Time: September 19, 2004 Friday, 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: CSSE Conference Room

Secretary: Jason Segal

Present: Brandi, Jason, Jonas, Matt

Guests: Ted Gould (via telephone)

Items Discussed:

Ted's Comments:

How do you envision the user's experience?

1. User opens Inkscape
2. User logs onto Jabber
3. User specifies the document to share in Inkscape
 - a. Directly with another Jabber user (identified by user name)
 - b. With all users in a Jabber chatroom

Do we need to integrate with any Jabber client(s) or incorporate any client features in the software?

No. It might be nice to provide an interface for client software to user in the future, but this is not really a goal for this project.

Collision Issues:

All users will be working on separate instances of the Whiteboard that exist locally on their own machines. These will need to be kept in synch with one another.

All objects in Inkscape must have unique IDs.

Preventing different users from simultaneously generating the same ID may be more difficult than resolving such conflicts after they occur

Situations with many users (chatrooms) should be kept in mind when considering collision issues

Keeping all users' undo trees in sync with one another is not a critical issue for this project

Users all have equal priority for conflict resolution

Don't ever prevent users from modifying things if it can be helped (No one should be "locked out" in order to prevent conflicts)

If two versions of a document become irreconcilable, it would be ok to allow both users to select the correct one; This situation should be prevented by other means if possible, though

Possible "worst case" for collisions: Copying and pasting from an unshared window into a shared window

Protocol Issues:

Whiteboard information either needs its own XML tag, either incorporated in the Message tag, or higher in the hierarchy
Try not to make new protocols Inkscape-specific
Inkscape uses SVG, the XML standard for graphics
The existing protocols can handle sending complete images, so the new ones will just have to handle changes that occur while a document is being shared
It would be beneficial, but not necessary, to tag changes so that the user who made specific changes can be identified. This may already be handled by the Jabber servers, especially in the case of chatrooms.

Jabber Issues:

Ted uses the Goosip (a Linux Gnome-only client) and Gaim (which works for Windows) clients, so these might be good ones to use while testing
The Loudmouth library (used by Goosip) should be considered for use in this project. It integrates with GDK in a simple manner.

Miscellaneous Project Issues:

Openclipart.org, a branch of the Inkscape community, contains lots of free art that could be used for testing.
Project documents should be posted in the Inkscape Twiki
Ted will be here for homecoming. We need to have some prototype code ready by that time so that he can go over the basic structure of it with us.
Some Inkscape users/developers use Windows 98. Compatibility with this OS should be kept in mind.

Other Subjects:

Test lives just outside of Phoenix.
The desert of Arizona/California/North Mexico is the only desert that gets two monsoon seasons a year. This allows it to support the unique Saguaro cactus.

Additional Comments:

Jonas pointed out that it will be important to make sure the software provides a fluid user experience. (Users shouldn't have to be concerned about the details of the synchronization process.) He also suggested that being able to take "snapshots" of the document at a given stage would be a good feature.

To Do Before Tuesday:

Everyone – Anyone who has not already done so needs to download a recent release version of Inkscape and play with it for at least an hour.

To Do Before our Next Meeting (Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday):

Matt – Research Jabber libraries before next meeting

Steven – Set up mailing list, determine webpage structure, and upload Twiki documents

Jonas – Look over protocol definitions (xmpp.org/specs)

Jason – Create requirements plan draft

Brandi – Create project plan draft