

Title ReMP3 – The Remote MP3 Player

Document GUI Prototyping

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CSAI Final Year Project : GUI Prototyping	
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1. Introduction and Background

My name is Sacha Barber, I am a student at Sussex University studying Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence. I am planning to make a MP3 organizer / player application that runs in Microsoft Windows, that enables users to construct play lists on one computer and then send these play lists to a 2nd computer for playing.

This document includes screen shots of a mid fidelity prototype that has been developed for my final year project, code named **ReMP3**.

The prototype has been developed using a combination of the following

- Adobe Photoshop
- DreamWeaver MX 2004

Also included is a proposed scenario of use to try and achieve with the prototype contained within this document at section 2. The scenario of use will serve as a basis for conducting user interviews, which in turn allows the gathering of user feedback regarding the design of the prototype that has been developed. The results of these interviews will be analysed, and enable the appropriate re-design of the final product, taking into account these users responses.

This prototype document has been produced well in advance of any coding actually taking place, such that user comments can be gathered and analysed as early as possible.

It is envisaged that by studying and acting on these user comments that the end product will be well suited to user requirements.

2. Scenarios Of Use

The following scenarios should be carried out by the test user against the mid-fidelity prototype.

3.1 Listen To A Few MP3's

You are at home and a bit bored, so decide to listen to a selection of music, your main PC is booted and running ReMP3 server, which offers the promise of being able to receive a remote play list of music from a ReMP3 client computer and have the ReMP3 Server computer play the music you selected at the ReMP3 client. This is good as you have just downloaded a couple of new MP3's from iTunes on your laptop that you haven't listened to yet, and fortunately the laptop also has the ReMP3 Client installed.

However your laptop is not booted up yet, so you decide to load an initial set of MP3 files locally at the ReMP3 Server computer, while you get your ReMP3 client computer up and running. You figure that it will not take too long to get your ReMP3 client computer prepared, so you only select a couple of MP3 tracks to listen to at the ReMP3 Server computer.

In the mean time you proceed to get your ReMP3 client laptop prepared, you then decide to create a compilation of various different MP3's from the set of MP3's that you downloaded from iTunes. Once the list is created you decide to submit this list of tracks to the ReMp3 Server for playing.

3.2 Drag And Drop Files To The Track List

As a normal windows user you figure that the ReMP3 application should be flexible enough to support drag and drop file operations from the normal OS file system, so you try and drag a few files from the OS file system to the ReMP3 TrackList.

3.3 Remote Control Functions

There is a selection of music being played on the ReMP3 server which is to your taste, then to your utter astonishment and horror, is that MEATLOAF, BAT OUT OF HELL you hear ? Oh my god, argghh, it is ! So you immediately decide to use the ReMp3 client to skip the cacophony of noise that has taken over your (otherwise unspoiled) audio experience.

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3. The Mid Fidelity Prototype

This section shows several screens (though not all) of the proposed GUI prototype for the final year ReMP3 application.

The functionality of the prototype will be explained to the test user, prior to the interview questionnaires being presented. With this up front explanation, the user should be able to form a general model of how the final product will function. Where certain operations are not clear from the paper prototype, the product designer will outline the functionality to the test user. The test user should also be free to ask questions about operations of the prototype at any time.

3.4 ReMP3 Server Application



Figure 3-1 The ReMP3 Server application main GUI

The ReMP3 server application offers the following features

- Navigation to Track List tab
- Navigation to Track List tab
- Navigation to Media tab
- Help window
- About window

3.4.1 Track List Tab

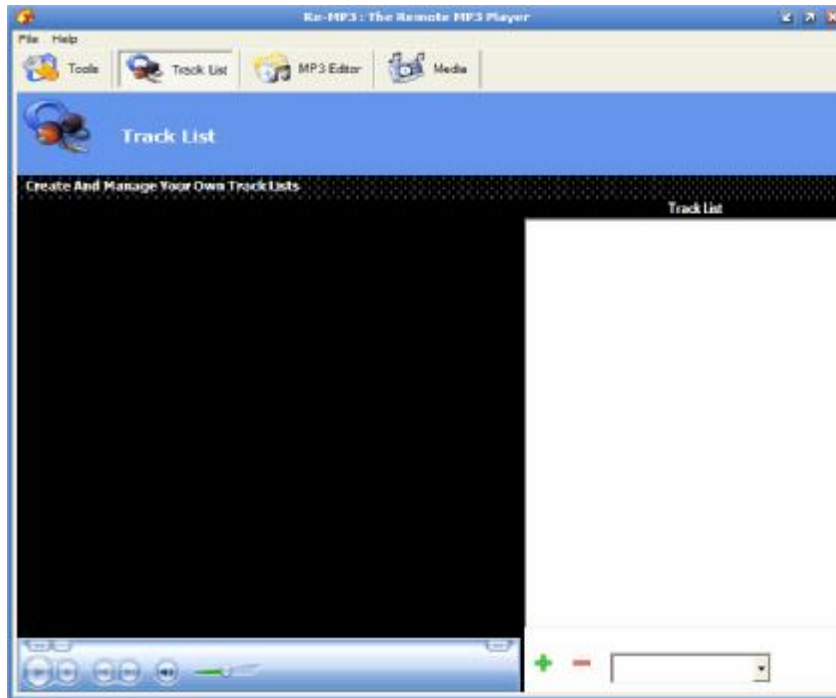


Figure 3-2 Track List Tab

The Track List tab provides the following features

- Drag and drop from operating system file explorer to create new track list
- Re-Order track list using drag and drop
- Play or stop music via controls

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3.4.2 MP3 Editor Tab



Figure 3-3 Media Catalogue Viewed By Organiser

- The MP3 Editor tab provides the following features
- View music by MP3 ID3 tag type organisation
 - View music by folder location
 - View more details for MP3 tracks
 - Update MP3 details

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3.4.3 Media Tab



Figure 3-4 Media Catalogue Viewed By Organiser

The Media tab provides the following features

- View music by MP3 ID3 tag type organisation
- View music by folder location
- View more details for MP3 tracks
- Create new shared folders, for use in the catalogue
- Add items to the track list, either singularly or by album

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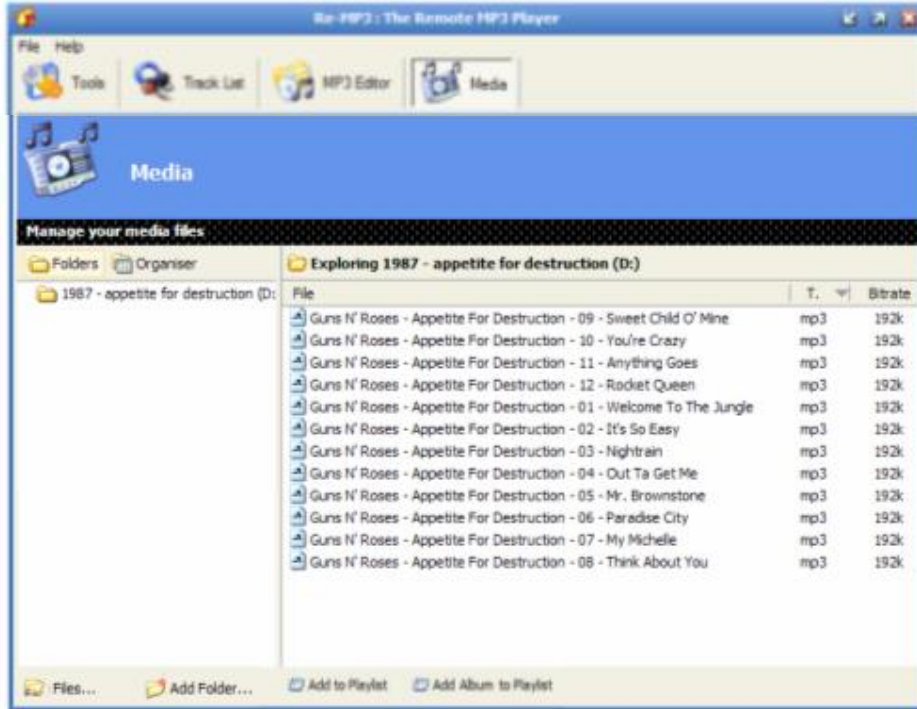


Figure 3-5 Media Catalogue Viewed By Folder

It is also possible to add new folders to be catalogued. These folders may be accessed via the Files button. When accessed this will present the following screen, from this screen the user may choose to add or remove folders.



Figure 3-6 Media Catalogue Adding Folders

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3.5 ReMP3 Client Application

3.5.1 Connection To ReMP3 Server

There is a small splash screen that the user must use initially, to inform the Client application which PC the ReMP3 Server is running on. There is a drop down list box containing all the different network PC's available.

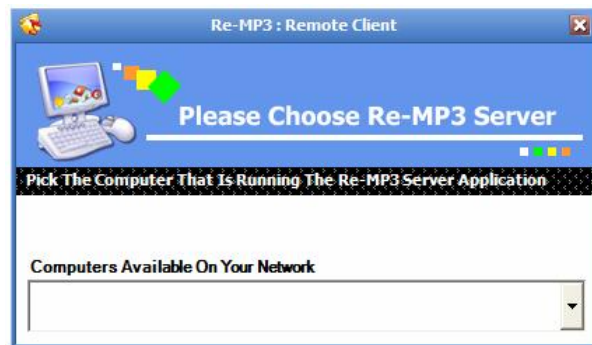


Figure 3-7 ReMP3 Client, Connect To Server Selection

3.5.2 Media Tab

Once the user has chosen which node the ReMP3 Server application is running on, the user will be presented with similar tabs to that of the ReMP3 Server, namely the Media and Tracklist tabs.

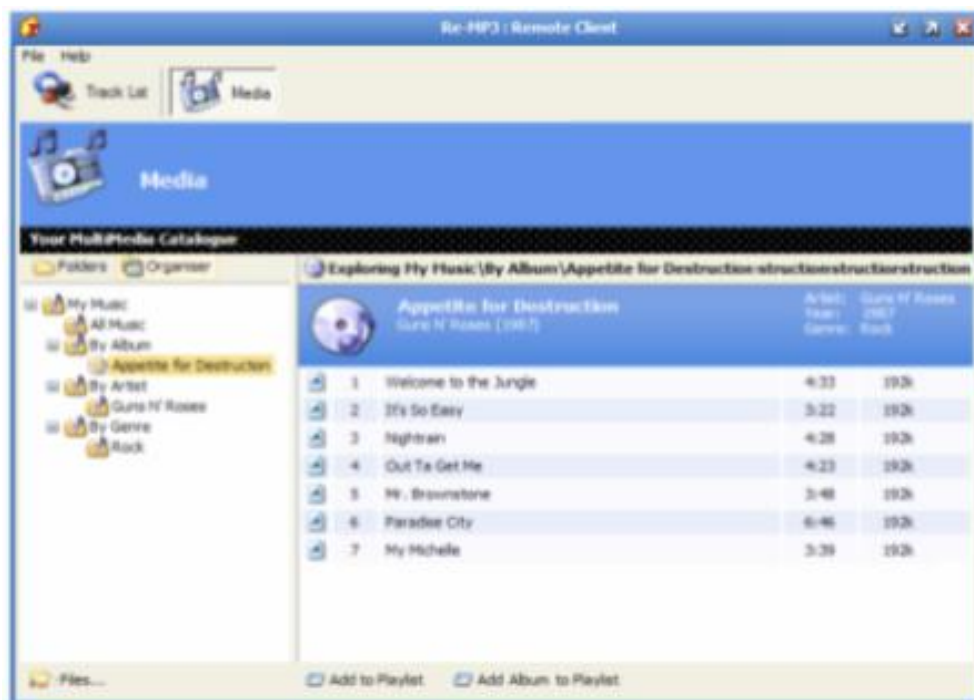


Figure 3-8 ReMP3 Client (Media Catalogue)

3.5.3 *Tracklist Tab*

Will be very similar to the ReMP3 Server TrackList tab, with the exception that there will be no player on the ReMP3 Client, and there will be additional buttons for control of the ReMP3 Server media player.

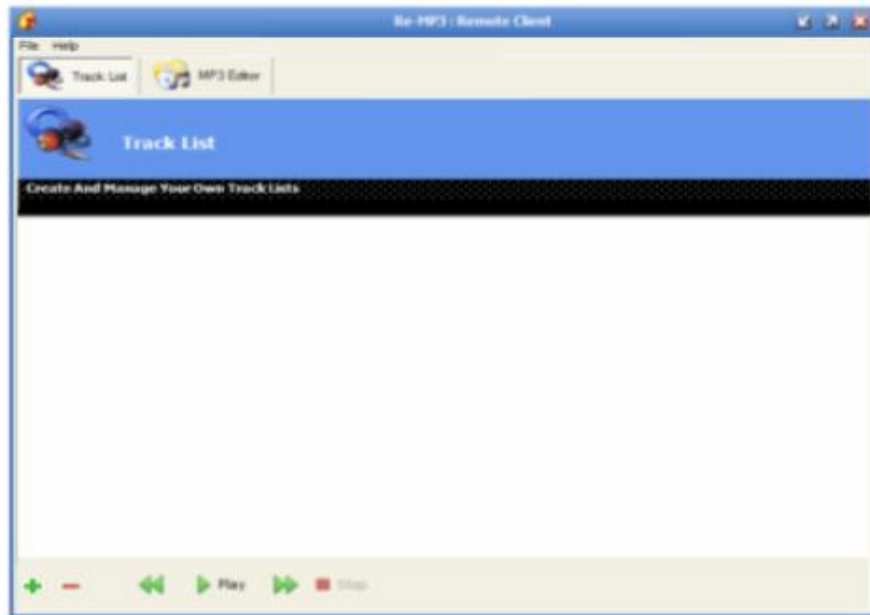


Figure 3-9 ReMP3 Client (Remote TrackList)

APPENDIX A – Interview Questions