Kommander 101

Robert Nickel

19 July 2004

History

- Eric Laffoon and Kaptain (http://kaptain.sourceforge.net/)
- Marc Britton (The Father of Kommander)
- The Quanta connection

Getting It

- Download it with KDE (package now called kdewebdev)
- kde-apps.org
  - http://www.kde-apps.org/content/show.php?content=12865
- Get it from CVS
  - cvs -d:pserver:anonymous@anoncvs.kde.org:/home/kde login
  - <enter> when prompted for password
  - cvs -d:pserver:anonymous@anoncvs.kde.org:/home/kde co kdewebdev
- Documentation
  - Sparse (at least partially my fault!)
  - http://kommander.kdewebdev.org/docs/
  - http://www.kde-apps.org/content/download.php?content=12865&id=4

What is it?

A good tool for:

- Simplification of tasks
- Reduction of tedium
- Learning complex tasks
- Rapid application development (for KDE shops)

A likely bad choice for:

- Performance critical applications
- Sys Admin tasks
- Suid applications

Laffoon speaks:

> ***Kommander is a visual dialog building tool which may be expanded to create full mainwindow applications. The primary objective is to create as much functionality as possible without using any scripting language.***

Nuts & Bolts

The two components of Kommander

- The editor (kmdr-editor)
  - Create your dialog here
  - Save with .kmdr extension
- The executor (kmdr-executor)
  - Interprets the dialog xml file

kmdr-editor

- Basically a rewritten Qt-Designer
- Slots and signals
- Widgets build the UI
- Specials allow for interaction of widgets
- DCOP provides IPC glue

DEMO

DEMO

DCOP

DEMO

DEMO

Some notes on DCOP demo

- dcop kdesktop KBackgroundIface setWallpaper image mode
  - Image must be a full path
  - Modes:
    - 1 – Centered
    - 2 – Tiled
    - 3 – Center Tiled
    - 4 – Centered Maxpect
    - 5 – Tiled Maxpect
    - 6 – Scaled
    - 7 – Centered Auto Fit
- The @dcop special is broken right now in cvs – fix this week
- startprocess() slot on widgets
- Radio button group doesn't allow for signal connection from widgetTextChanged – Each radio button has to connect clicked or some other signal to get this functionality.

Editor
K

Some notes on editor demo

- Inserts text at beginning of file using dcop
  - To insert at the end of the file, add this to the kommander text
    - end=`dcop kate @ComboBox1 numLines`
  - Change existing line to this
    - dcop kate @ComboBox1 insertText $end 0 "@TextEdit1"

- @widgetText on any boxes where you need the current value

- population kommander text

- Connections between widgets
  - ViewText.clicked --> Combobox.populate and TextBox.populate
  - FileSelector.widgetTextChanged --> Form.initialize
  - LineEdit.widgetTextChanged --> Form.initialize

- Enable widget dcop call
  - dcop @dcopid KommanderIf enableWidget <widget> <bool>

Extending Kommander

Creating widgets (working/extendingkommander.txt)

- *kmdr-editor examples/widgetgenerator.kmdr*
  - *Fill in the blanks and click save*
- *<classname>.cpp|h*
  - *Skeleton code for your widget*
  - *Add states to constructor*
  - *Override widgetText & setWidgetText (others if needed)*
- *Create myplugin.cpp*
  - *Constructor*
    - *Calls addWidget to get it into menu list*
  - *create() method*
    - *Actually creates the instance of the widget*
  - *NOTE: Multiple widgets can go under single plugin*
- *Compile and link*
  - *I've not gotten a widget to work yet! <sigh>*

More information

Mailing lists:

- Kommander
  - Subscribe: http://mail.kdewebdev.org/mailman/listinfo/kommander
  - Archive: http://momo.creolmail.org/pipermail/kommander/
- Kommander-devel
  - Subscribe: http://mail.kdewebdev.org/mailman/listinfo/kommander-devel
  - Archive: http://momo.creolmail.org/pipermail/kommander-devel/

Help shipped with kommander:

- <kmdr base dir>/examples/*.kmdr
- <kmdr base dir>/examples/tutorial/*.kmdr
  - See the README for descriptions of files

Questions & Comments

robert@artnickel.com