

Google Summer of Code 2008

AMAROK: MASS-TAGGING

I heard a few days ago about the Google Summer of Code. And it took a while to read through (nearly) all proposals. The project which was most attracting to me, was the Mass-Tagging from Amarok. I had already a small project in our university, to tag, sort and to archive mp3's. But unfortunately we decided to do our project in Java, and we had only an unstable library to access the id3 tags. In the end we had one small Tool which can extract the id3 tags out of the filenames, or rename the file according to the tags. If you want to archive your files with an external tool, you loose all information in Amarok about them, like play count and score. I already planned to write an tagging tool in python, which also updates the MySQL database in case it is used, after my diploma thesis. After I read about this proposal, I thought it would be great to implement this directly in Amarok.

The Project:

I think, that the project is a little bit bigger than only mass tagging. One huge deficit of many usual tagging tools (that one I looked at) is that they remember which files are already well tagged, or if they are automatically tagged already confirmed by the user. It would be nice if there is an mode where you can tag the new music files. If you have a big collection, it would take days to check all files manually. And if you have only a few minutes a day to tag you music than you have to check, which one you already have worked out. This will cost much time. First I tried only to import a few titles into Amarok, and then tag them. But I wanted to hear all my music and not only this one which is already tagged.

I think it would also be nice to add some functions to confirm to some naming conventions. For example automatically convert all title tags to upper case (lower case, only the first character to upper case, maybe only the first letter of the first word to uppercase).

Maybe one option to clear all comment tags.

It would be nice to find duplicates. And not only copies of one music file, also through the tags. If there are some you could get an info about them like bit rate. or if you have one whole album with a good bit rate and only one has a duplicate with a better bit rate, you maybe want to remove the single song.

Also manage lyrics.

And the normal tagging stuff:

Different views for tagging, like how they are located on the disc, or sorted by the tags.

Maybe with the help of one web service, suggest titles, album names, etc.

(just thinking, is it legal to access web pages, like last.fm or amazon, through "bots" or such tagging tool to get this information)

Timeline:

at the beginning (from may to middle of June) I can only spend about 25 – 30 hours a week. Maybe I have to optimize my last pages of the diploma, and or maybe defend it. But after that I will be able to work 35 – 40 hours a week.

May – Beginning of June:

Familiarize with Code and API

Look for good web services, websites which can provide us useful information.

create one requirement specification.

specify milestones

discuss them with the community, mentor

June – Juli:

begin coding

submitting midterm evaluation

Jul – August:

more coding

submitting final evaluation

About me

My name is Olaf Gladis and I am 22 years old. I live in Germany (CET), Hildesheim. I am a student of applied computer science in the last semester. I am enrolled in "Hochschule Ravensburg-Weingarten University of Applied Science". I will be finished with my diploma in the middle of May. I have programming experience in C, C++, Python, Java, (HTML, Perl, Java Script). My first contact with linux was in 2002 and since then I used it frequently. Since 2 and a half year switched completely to linux, and used Fedora, Gentoo, and now Ubuntu linux. In 2002 I also started with programming, and had some smaller projects in C++, Java and Python. Currently I am working for BOSCH in the development department in an project for over one year. The most programming in this project is part is in C and also some Python.

Unfortunately I don't have any experience in Qt but I think I will learn quickly. I think I am the right person for this job because I am really motivated and I have a better bear reference to the task, because i had already a project similar to this one. Now I know already some problems and how to solve them.

I am sorry, my English is not very well, but I think good enough to communicate.