

Re: browser screen capture with java applet

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- *From:* Simon Brooke <simon@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 30 Sep 2006 10:19:44 +0100
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in message <1159602356.582477.251950@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Andrew Thompson ('andrewthommo@xxxxxxxx') wrote:

mikeyjudkins@xxxxxxxx wrote:

All this is possible. What is the purpose of it?

I am exploring the idea of developing a web-based service aimed at web designers/developers which allows you to view your page design within multiple browsers and platforms to ease cross platform design headaches. The closest thing to this right now is a site called browsershots.org. There are also a number of more intricate pay services aimed at enterprise level use. But there are some issues with these and also areas in which I think my model would be differentiated and in many cases better than the above services. Anyway the purpose of the applet would be to do the job of the actual image capturing on each "target" browser and then to send this image back to the server for the requestor to see.

All that could be done from within a webstarted application*, and it will be easier to deploy, and lower maintenance.

* Except perhaps for determining the shape/size of current browser window – if that's relevant. A Java applet could ask via JS for the size of the content area of a browser window.

Can you also specify minimum Java version?

Each target browser would be run by a host (in a distributed network) who would have received in advance precise instructions for running the applet which does the screen capture. I think that would address the

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minimum Java version.

Once Java hit version 1.3 – the WebStart files allow you to specify a minimum Java version to run the app., Java WebStart takes care of prompting the user to download/install it – then runs the app.

What about the browser make/version?
(I'm guessing yes to the former, no to the latter, but will only know when you answer the question above..)

It would require that the applet support a wide range of browsers and platforms (Mac, Windows, Linux, with the full range of modern browsers) as this is pivotal to the concept of the service.

This is where you are going to run into problems with the applet. Is it expected to be up and running in a separate browser window to the target window?

You mentioned frames, so the other possibility is to embed the applet in a hidden frame and the content page in a different frame. But frames and cross-domain(?) web pages are a nightmare in themselves, let alone throwing applets into the mix.

You could do a single-pixel applet without greatly affecting the layout of the page. I think that would be the easiest approach.

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