

Improve GUI Designer usability on...



[Christian Schwanke](#) 71 posts since

Dec 5, 2002

Hi,

I've looked in JIRA and searched the forum but I didn't find this topic before, so here are the things, I'd like to see improved:

1. Simplify the process of adding multiple components. Currently, one has to add the components one by one which is really tedious and definitely not a pleasure.

I'm often using components from third party libraries like SwingX oder the open source stuff from JIDE and it would be great if IDEA could simply search the classpath for all component candidates (e.g. decendants of JComponent or something like that) and offer me a list to choose from.

2. Make it possible to create a kind of persistent/global component palette. Right now, I have to recreate my custom component palettes for every new gui project - this is really annoying, especially considering my first point that adding multiple components is a pain as well.

It would be great if one could define a "SwingX Palette" once and link it to the swingx-jars. When I start a new project and use the GUI Designer, the SwingX-Palette should be available right away. As soon as I use one of the components from that palette, IDEA should add the swingx-jars to my project. A simpler way could be to offer a special Java-GUI-Module type and let me mark the additional GUI palettes I want to use (a little bit like the dialog where one can choose the facets to use).

3. Allow the creation of new components by grouping existing component. The best example is a filechooser: a textfield displaying a filepath with a button to the right that allows the user to browse the filesystem to select a file. I would like to be able to mark the textfield and the button and define/save this group as a new component.

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Regards,

Christian

Tags: idea, gui_designer, usability



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Dec 5, 2002 1. **Re: Improve GUI Designer usability on palette management** Sep 2, 2008 1:09 AM

Mmh, since IDEA 8.0 seems to be just around the corner:

is there any chance that these suggestions will make it into an upcoming release ?

Should I create JIRA Tickets for these suggestions ?

Please advice 🤔

Christian



Guest 2. **Re: Improve GUI Designer usability on palette management** Sep 2, 2008 1:15 PM

Hello Christian,

Mmh, since IDEA 8.0 seems to be just around the corner:

is there any chance that these suggestions will make it into an upcoming release ?

Should I create JIRA Tickets for these suggestions ?

JIRA tickets are welcome (there is one somewhere for your first suggestion, but the rest are new). However, it doesn't look like we'll be able to implement

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any of your suggestions before the final 8.0 release.

--

Dmitry Jemerov

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<http://www.jetbrains.com/>

"Develop with Pleasure!"



[Christian Schwanke](#) 71 posts since

Dec 5, 2002 3. **Re: Improve GUI Designer usability on palette management** Sep 2, 2008 7:42 PM

Hi Dmitry,

thanks for your quick reply.

JIRA tickets are welcome (there is one somewhere for your first suggestion, but the rest are new).

After you mentioned that a ticket exists for the first item, I searched JIRA again and found it - sorry for bringing up this duplicate 😊

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I've now added two tickets for the other suggestions - I just wasn't sure what the preferred way of requesting new features is.

However, it doesn't look like we'll be able to implement any of your suggestions before the final 8.0 release.

No problem - the EAP for 8.0 is really promising even without these things 😊

The 3rd suggestions is more a nice to have, but seeing the first and second item implemented would really be great and would ease the use of the GUI Designer a lot.

Christian

For anyone else stumping across this entry, here are the corresponding JIRA Tickets:

1. <http://www.jetbrains.net/jira/browse/IDEADEV-8033>
2. <http://www.jetbrains.net/jira/browse/IDEA-19416>
3. <http://www.jetbrains.net/jira/browse/IDEA-19417>