

Casabac GUI Server 2.5 in a Nutshell

Release 2.5 of the Casabac GUI Server is available from Nov 1st 2003 on!

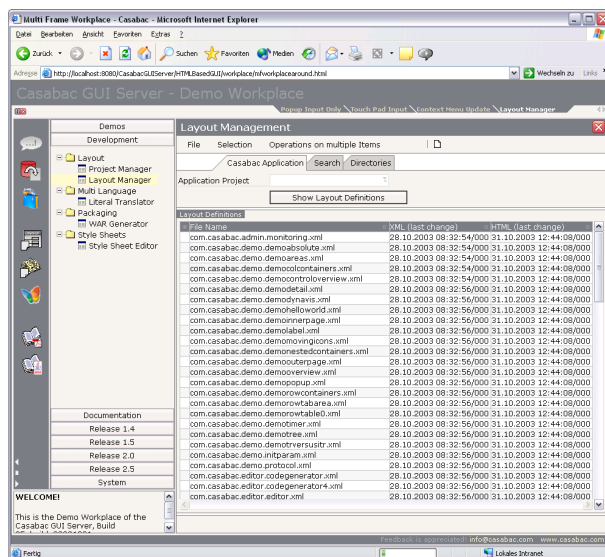
This document lists the “most visible” new features of release 2.5. Please find more detailed information inside the Casabac documentation that is part of the product delivery.

This is a “delta document” – it is dedicated to readers already knowing the Casabac GUI Server from previous releases.

Look & Feel

Updated Default Style

The default style sheet was slightly updated – and now appears “more light” than before.



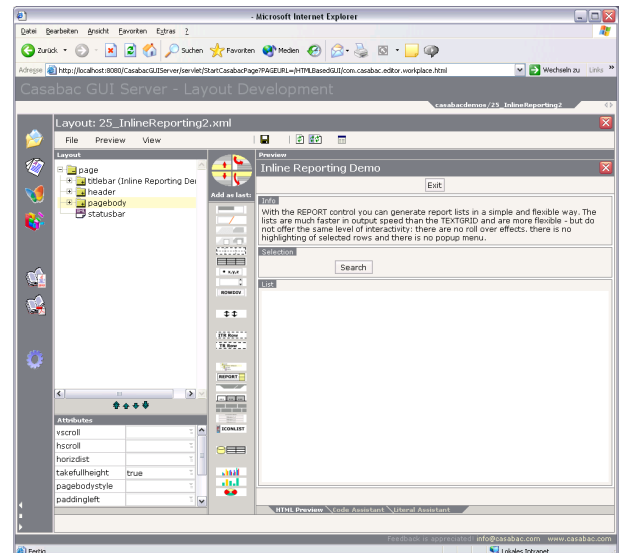
The readability was enhanced in certain areas. Dark blue is not the dominant colour anymore.

Of course you can quickly set up your own style sheets with own colour definitions by using Casabac’s “Style Sheet Creator”.

Separate Workplace for Development

There are now two standard workplaces:

- A demo workplace to show what you can do by using Casabac’s GUI Server.
- A development workplace in which you have quick access to your layouts and to all development tools.



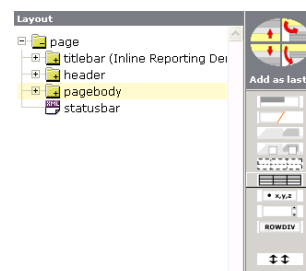
Development Tools

The Casabac Development tools were updated:

- All tools supporting the creation of layouts are now integrated inside the “Layout Painter”. You can directly create the code from the layout and you can directly translate texts.
- The usability of the Layout Painter was improved – resulting in a much faster input of layout definitions.

Layout Painter

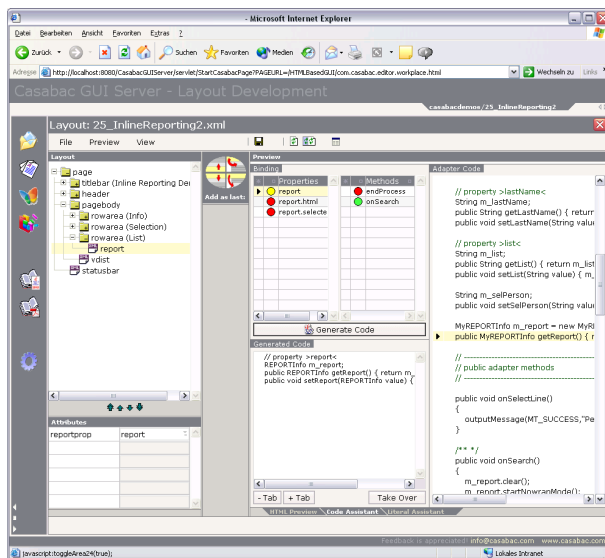
By selecting a control in the layout tree all controls that might be input around are shown as a list of icons. By quickly selecting one control it is embedded into the layout definition.



Integrated Code Generator

When defining a layout definition you create control instances. The attributes of each instance both hold rendering information and hold binding information, defining how the control is linked to a server side adapter object.

The creation of the source code for the class of this object is assisted by the "Java Assistant". The assistant is directly integrated into the Layout Painter:



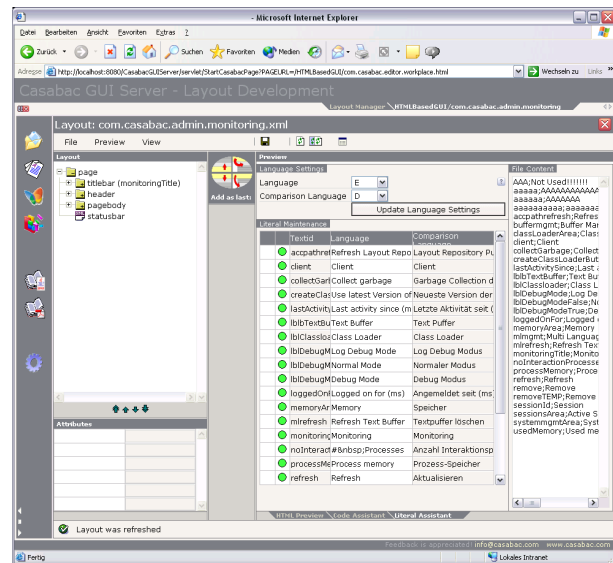
It tells you which properties you have already created and which not. It creates the corresponding code and lets you drop the code into your existing adapter code.

Compiling and further editing is then to be done inside a Java Development Environment (Eclipse, Jbuilder, ...). You can constantly use the Java Assistant when updating your layout definition – it will not overwrite any code that you added in the development environment.

Integrated Literal Translator

If defining literals in your controls – e.g. the name to be displayed inside a button – then you may assign so called "text-ids". A "text-id" is an anchor into the multi language management – at run time it is replaced by a literal taken from a certain language file.

The "Literal Assistant" is a tool that is also directly integrated into the Layout Painter. Text-ids that you define inside the layout can be directly translated.



Control Library Integration

By adding control libraries you can easily enrich the set of controls that you can use inside your application.

Controls can either be:

- "New controls", i.e. new graphical controls with a certain rendering and behaviour
- "Composed controls", i.e. a certain aggregation of existing controls to form a higher value control – you may e.g. define an address control to edit a person's address that can be used through various screens.

With release 2.5 all definition and configuration issues are completely kept separate from Casabac's definitions. You do not have to add any items e.g. inside the "editor.xml" file anymore.

DTD

An XML data type definition file can be created from the control definition file – including the controls you add via control libraries. You can use the DTD file to directly edit layout definitions inside a XML editor.

Workplace

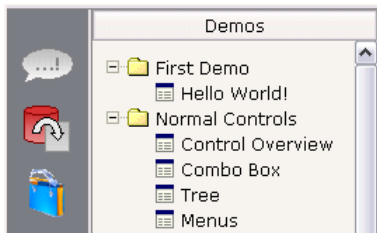
A workplace is "the application around the application". It manages the functions that may be called by a certain user.

Casabac may either run inside an already existing portal environment or they can run inside an own workplace environment – based on the Casabac technology.

The Casabac Workplace is an easy way to build up this application. The set of available functions can be arranged in topics, each topic contains a tree – if clicking on the tree node then a corresponding function is opened in the content area. The functions that may be called are requested dynamically by a certain Java API that your application has to implement.

Favourites

You can add “favourites” to the workplace.



A “favourite” is just a normal node of the tree on the right that you also add as favourite on the left.

Various Tree Node Types

The following tree node types are available that behave differently when clicking on the corresponding tree node:

- Casabac Page: a Casabac page is opened in the content area
- HTML Page: an HTML page is opened in the content area
- Casabac Page Popup: a modal popup is opened showing a Casabac page
- HTML Page Popup: a modal popup is opened showing a normal HTML page
- Casabac Frame: a Casabac page is opened in a certain frame of the workplace
- HTML Frame: an HTML page is opened in a certain frame of the workplace
- Call back: a certain Java functions is executed – without any optical representation.

Workplace API

The workplace API was extended by having added a much more fine granular level of manipulation to an existing workplace. You can...

- ...add tree node items
- ...add complete topics
- ...switch to an already opened page

...without having to restart or redefine the workplace environment.

Up to release 2.5 you only could replace one workplace definition completely by another. Now you can interact with one workplace via a Java API.

Multi Frame Pages

Frameset Definitions

The base of the workplace is the definition of a frameset containing Casabac pages. The pages themselves are able to interact with one another. E.g. one page can call the other to update its content.

Multi frame pages so far had to be created without Casabac tool support. You had to write an HTML frameset page on your own.

Now the frameset pages can be (and should) be directly created by using a Casabac layout definition. There is a certain page type (“mfpage”) that is chosen to do so. Frameset pages are maintained in the Layout Painter just as normal Casabac pages.

Frame API

On Java adapter side you have an extended set of methods that you can use to manipulate the frames around your page. The methods include:

- Open a certain page inside a certain frame
- Refresh a certain frame’s data
- Resize a certain frame

Control Update

Quick Report Creation

A REPORT control enables you to write “ad hoc” reports in a very quick way.

First Name	Last Name	Birth Date	Cost Center	Bonus
First0	Last0	02.05.1987	470	0,00
First1	Last1	02.05.1987	470	100,00
First2	Last2	02.05.1987	470	200,00
First3	Last3	02.05.1987	470	300,00
First4	Last4	02.05.1987	470	400,00
Total in cost center				1.000,00
First0	Last0	02.05.1987	471	0,00
First1	Last1	02.05.1987	471	100,00
First2	Last2	02.05.1987	471	200,00
First3	Last3	02.05.1987	471	300,00
First4	Last4	02.05.1987	471	400,00
Total in cost center				1.000,00
First0	Last0	02.05.1987	472	0,00
First1	Last1	02.05.1987	472	100,00
First2	Last2	02.05.1987	472	200,00
First3	Last3	02.05.1987	472	300,00
First4	Last4	02.05.1987	472	400,00
Total in cost center				1.000,00
Total over cost centers				4.000,00

The report is assembled on server side inside your adapter coding. There is an easy Java API allowing to define multiple output grids to be shown to the user.

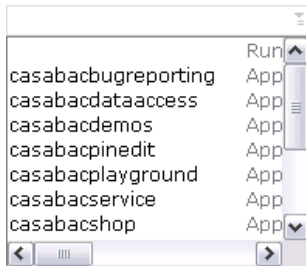
Inside the grid you can...

- ...set individual cell styles
- ...span cells
- ...add “line-ids” that transfer the click-selection the user does to the server side adapter.

(One of the next development steps will be to output the report directly to PDF – without you having to care of.)

Field – Valid Values

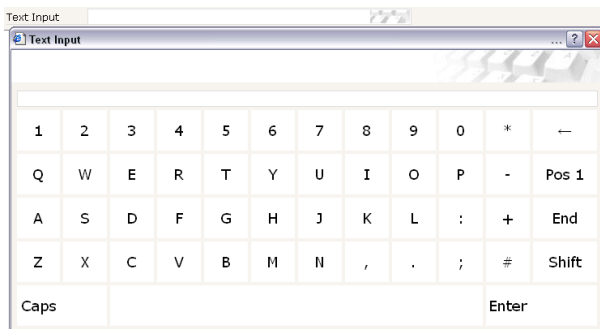
Valid values now can be input through a “pseudo combo box” – that actually is a normal FIELD.



The definition is done in the same way you define valid values popups in former releases. You can switch from the popup style to the “combo”-style by just changing the definition of the control.

Field – Touch Pad Input

Fields may be input by using a touch pad that appears as popup when clicking into a certain area of the field.



There are two types of touch pads available:

- Numeric touch pad
- Keyboard touch pad

Other Control Updates...

Various enhancements in the controls were done: they are not mentioned inside this documentation. Please have a look into the “Casabac Developer’s Guide”.

Mozilla

Mozilla 1.4 (= Netscape 7.1) is now officially supported for usage in production environment.

Besides some aspects in vertical sizing screens can be defined in IE and can be used in Mozilla without additional effort.

Performance

Content Zipping

The net data transferred between browser and client is now zipped. Because this data is ASCII character data the data volume reduction is > 50%.

Multi Page Round Trips

When having one page containing another page then each page is independently requesting its net data information by individual http requests.

You now can – by using a Java API inside the adapter – integrate the result of other page’s adapters into the response of your adapter. The data is buffered in the browser client. Next time the data is requested in the browser then first the buffer is checked internally before a new request is sent to the server.

A usage example is the Casabac workplace: when starting a page then internally 3 pages have to be updated: the content page, the tab selection page on the top and the function selection page on the left. The adapters of all three pages are brought to the client in one step.

Page Caching

Due to a page caching in the browser the performance of revisiting pages was increased.

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