
From: Chad Magendanz
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2000 10:29 AM
To: Linda Averett
Subject: RE: WMP UI

Attachments: RE. Media Player skins etc.

As you can see from the date stamps below, this BillG mail came down hard on both teams just yesterday. I had no hint of this coming and certainly didn't incite it in any way. My understanding is that this was just an observation from Bill when shown Whistler Beta 1 and it went down immediately to the VPs. There's no discussion or thread that you haven't seen (other than a branch from this one internally to the Ux team scrambling to get our responses together).

In the meeting we had with Kevin and Geoff back on the 4th, they were pushing back hard on the full-mode UI changes and I don't think I misrepresented their position at all. Check out Kevin's response on the following thread:



RE: Media Player
skins etc.

Really, this wasn't any kind of political move. We're reacting to this news as frantically as you are, but I believe that given the high-level interest that we should take a fresh look at the issue.

Chad

--- Original Message ---

From: Linda Averett
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2000 10:02 AM
To: Chad Magendanz
Subject: FW: WMP UI

Chad -- it is really problematic for me to hear about stuff like this from our GM who has heard it from Chris and Will. I would really like to know about these type of discussions before they happen at the vp level. Can you please tell me what issues you are trying to address? Could you send me some of the original mail in this stream so I can see the attachments?

Also <frown> you were a tad misleading with the "they want to move onto Aruba" comment -- although just a tad. I was very upfront with you at the beginning of the project about the timeline by which we would need input. You guys are months behind that. Changing full mode is FAR more envolved than just changing bit maps because of the embedded versions we offer and because of the requirement to upgrade online after Whistler ships.

Thanks, Linda

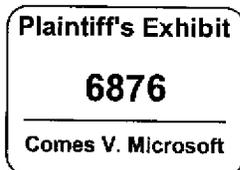
--- Original Message ---

From: Mike Beckerman
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 2:17 PM
To: Chadd Knowlton; Linda Averett; Dan Plastina; Geoff Harris; Kirt DeBique; Kip Olson
Subject: FW: WMP UI

Yet more

--- Original Message ---

From: Chad Magendanz
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 2:13 PM
To: Chris Jones; Robert Girling; Steve Kaneko; Jim Allchin; Will Poole
Cc: Eric Rudder; Tandy Trower; Mike Beckerman
Subject: RE: WMP UI



For Whistler Beta 2 our My Videos folder will host the media player control in filmstrip preview so that you can preview movies just like you do images in My Pictures.

We looked at hosting audio and video previews in the WebView Details section, but it ends up being frustrating for the user because it gets destroyed (and the music or video stops) when they browse away and WebView is updated for the new context. Mars works around this because it's control is hosted outside the content/page frame. We'll do a quick dev costing to see if something like that would work for us.

Chad

----- Original Message -----

From: Chris Jones
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 12:41 PM
To: Robert Girling; Steve Kaneko; Chad Magendanz; Jim Allchin; Will Poole
Cc: Eric Rudder; Tandy Trower; Mike Beckerman
Subject: RE: WMP UI

exactly. what about having DETAILS for music show the player? or having the music icons have a "play" button on them so you could just play? wait stop me, i'm designing ui!

seriously, i think there are some things to consider here. btw -- the luna and pro stuff looks good.

-- C

----- Original Message -----

From: Robert Girling
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 12:26 PM
To: Steve Kaneko; Chad Magendanz; Chris Jones; Jim Allchin; Will Poole
Cc: Eric Rudder; Tandy Trower; Mike Beckerman
Subject: RE: WMP UI

<< OLE Object: Adobe Photoshop Image >>

Here is the other one.. Something like this.. with glyphs of course.

I think what Chris/Jim was driving at was the feasibility of doing something like below, in the my music folder? (ala Mars) Perhaps Will or someone from his team could advise.

<< OLE Object: Adobe Photoshop Image >>

Rob

----- Original Message -----

From: Steve Kaneko
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 11:57 AM
To: Chad Magendanz; Chris Jones; Jim Allchin; Will Poole
Cc: Eric Rudder; Tandy Trower; Mike Beckerman; Robert Girling
Subject: RE: WMP UI

<< OLE Object: Picture (Metafile) >>

FYI- This is the "Luna" media player we have been working on. Note relationship with Consumer theme in background. Rob- Can you share the "mercury" (professional theme) player with this email if it's ready?

----- Original Message -----

From: Chad Magendanz
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 11:45 AM
To: Chris Jones; Jim Allchin; Will Poole
Cc: Eric Rudder; Tandy Trower; Mike Beckerman; Steve Kaneko; Robert Girling
Subject: RE: WMP UI

We've been working with Frog Design to develop two new skins for WMP in Whistler, one focused on consumer and one for corporate users. The 2nd iteration of these designs are now looking promising. Unfortunately, our efforts to cheaply redesign Media Player's full mode met with less success, since we were under the constraint of being able to

only change bitmaps (I think Steve said it looked like "lipstick on a bulldog".) Since the WMP team was pushing back on anything more substantive because they're now wanting to focus on Aruba, we decided to cancel our efforts to redesign the full mode and concentrate on the default Whistler skins.

You can see the most recent designs they gave us at...

<<\\redshark\guides\Whistler\Visual\Media Player 8\WMP\WMPScans>>

Chad

----- Original Message -----

From: Chris Jones
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 10:42 AM
To: Chad Magendanz; Jim Allchin; Will Poole
Cc: Eric Rudder; Tandy Trower; Mike Beckerman
Subject: RE: WMP UI

chad can drive this from my team. i think we have some good thoughts/ideas in this area already and are executing on many of them. chad?

----- Original Message -----

From: Jim Allchin
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 10:28 AM
To: Chris Jones; Will Poole
Cc: Eric Rudder; Tandy Trower; Mike Beckerman
Subject: RE: WMP UI

There is both the long term and short term. This mail is about short term.

You saw my mail earlier about the indexing aspect and my issues of not being able to burn music from the shell. It doesn't stop there. We need to have faster playback without starting the player in My Music. I am sure we can do better in Whistler than what is currently planned.

We should do a brainstorm about this.

jim

----- Original Message -----

From: Chris Jones
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 1:21 PM
To: Will Poole; Bill Gates
Cc: Craig Mundie; Eric Rudder; Tandy Trower; Jim Allchin; Mike Beckerman
Subject: RE: WMP UI

note that we are also doing some work in ie 6 to incorporate media playback into the browser frame. ramezn is working on this with lindaa.

-- c

----- Original Message -----

From: Will Poole
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 1:08 PM
To: Bill Gates
Cc: Craig Mundie; Eric Rudder; Tandy Trower; Jim Allchin; Chris Jones; Mike Beckerman
Subject: RE: WMP UI

Our first step in this area has been with shell integration in Whistler. We've done a ton of work with JoeB's team and people are quite pleased with the results of the integration efforts so far. We have done less with the browser, other than the radio toolbar which is a very popular ie5 feature [when people find it, which it not often b/c the IE team could not turn it on by default due to perf considerations]. As you not we've also done some limited work in Mars (including both integration of audio/video playback via our OCX as well as providing programming through your favorite site windowsmedia.com.) We think there is lots of upside to further shell integration of video as well as audio. As a company we must figure out how to better reconcile the different consumer UIs that we ship (windows shell, IE, .net, mars, media player, etc.).

Would you like to start with a review of current work in Whistler, plus Backcomb plans? Then we could maybe do a

broader review to include Mars etc.

----- Original Message -----

From: Bill Gates
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 12:50 PM
To: Will Poole
Cc: Craig Mundie; Eric Rudder; Tandy Trower
Subject: WMP UI

The meeting on music yesterday reminded me that we need to do a lot better on WMP UI and how it relates to the rest of Windows. Today it is a world of its own - the fonts, the appearance, the file format, the concepts - no relationship to the shell or the browser.

The MARs guys did move things in the right direction but I guess that is viewed as heretical.

We need to lead in the UI including the integration.

Somehow we need to get better discussion going on this.

From: Nadja Vol-Ochs Wilson
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2000 10:03 AM
To: Steve Kaneko; Kevin Larkin; Robert Girling; Geoff Harris
Cc: Chad Magendanz; Jennifer Shetterly; Jeremy Knudsen
Subject: RE: Media Player skins etc.

Back in office, catching up on this thread.

Skins - do you have Frog concepts I could review?

Full Mode UI - I agree with Kevin, the timing is to late to take in a new set of UI graphics.

As for industrial design style refinements, I'd like to hear, see, understand what everyone's suggestions and refinements would be exactly. Our design team (myself and Jeremy) need to learn what everyone thinks is the "right" design style so we can go in a solid direction for Aruba, which will be a complete "look and feel" overhaul.

Thanks,

-Nadja

----- Original Message -----

From: Steve Kaneko
Sent: Friday, October 06, 2000 1:59 PM
To: Kevin Larkin; Robert Girling; Geoff Harris; Nadja Vol-Ochs Wilson
Cc: Chad Magendanz; Jennifer Shetterly
Subject: RE: Media Player skins etc.

I'm going to ask rob to keep going anyway. There's a ton of assumptions about "consistency." This should not be an extensive investment and the return could be very high. We can't make the business case for it if we can't show its value. I very much want to see what we can do to enhance the full screen mode because it is a very important part of the Whistler experience and image.

----- Original Message -----

From: Kevin Larkin
Sent: Friday, October 06, 2000 12:18 PM
To: Robert Girling; Geoff Harris; Nadja Vol-Ochs Wilson
Cc: Chad Magendanz; Steve Kaneko; Jennifer Shetterly
Subject: RE: Media Player skins etc.

I have followed up with dev and test on changing the Full Mode UI. The recommendation is to RUN AWAY.

Reasoning:

1) Full mode alone will not suffice. If you do the Full Mode UI, you will also then want to touch the Full screen UI for consistency. Then again how about the other compact skins. For consistency you will want to tweak them too.

2) Though swapping the BMPs is easy, it is the constant twiddling that will suck cycles away. If a BMP is too big, or one is missing, or the colors just do not work, or we forgot the upstate art of one button. We are guaranteed to introduce a myriad of bugs.

Given that our team needs to be focused on closing down the player and moving on to Aruba, we do not want to take this on at this time. We will certainly consider your designs for Aruba, but I suspect that we will see a bigger change in the main UI for that release. Because of this, any work you do in this area may be throw away.

kevin

----- Original Message -----

From: Robert Girling
Sent: Friday, October 06, 2000 11:49 AM
To: Geoff Harris; Kevin Larkin; Nadja Vol-Ochs Wilson
Cc: Chad Magendanz; Steve Kaneko; Jennifer Shetterly

Subject: Media Player skins etc.

Just to follow up on where we stand after the meeting and get Nadja back in the loop (hope your feeling better)

We briefed FROG design yesterday to do 2 skins for the Consumer and Pro looks. These are only XML and bmp tweaks - no code changes. They will pick a couple of existing MS skins as templates for development and work around the Jscript functional constraints. I have asked them to follow up with me about which skins they want to use. Their schedule is by next Wednesday they will have a couple of concepts for each of the styles. Final designs by the 16th and 2 fully implemented skins shortly thereafter. Nadja et al, you are welcome to come see the design presentations on Wednesday and Monday. -let me know

One other much more constrained design problem we gave them was to spend some cycles revving the full mode main UI. Everyone acknowledges the lateness of this, but we are talking about BMP tweaks only in this case. No movement, no code touched, very little change just some Industrial design styling refinement. If we can't use these images for this round perhaps you can consider this some early Aruba design sketches.

Thanks
Rob Girling
Creative Director
Windows Shell