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CSCI 188
Project Final Report And Summary

FINAL REPORT

For the final project a MIDlet was implemented which queries a web site to find new releases on DVD. A list of the new releases are presented to the user. The user can then select any of the new releases to view information about the release. The information presented includes director, running time, and a movie rating. The user can configure whether director and running time information is displayed. Additionally, the user can choose to display either five movies or ten movies. The user's choices are persistent across invocations of the MIDlet.

The main issue encountered while working on this project was difficulty in finding a suitable source of data for new DVD releases. It proved somewhat difficult to find a web site which provided information about new DVDs. Netflix was originally considered, but it has a proprietary API which is difficult to use on the JME platform. Several other web sites were considered, but in the end Meta Critic proved to be the best choice as it presents the necessary data in an HTML format that is (relatively) easy to parse.

 Two modes were created for the MIDlet—a "live" version and a "demo" version. The live version retrieves data off of the Internet, while the demo version uses previously saved (local) HTML files. This proved very useful as it allowed almost all the functionality of the application to be developed off line.

The project also makes reuse of the Movie Information API which was created for the Presentation/API requirement of the class. This API allows one to specify the name of a movie as input and get back various information as output. The API uses Meta Critic as well (although it doesn't present this fact to the user of the API.) Using Meta Critic as both the source of information regarding new DVDs and the source of information regarding any particular DVD made it easier to get an application that worked well. This is because there was never a concern about a DVD being listed on one site with no information about it available on another site (since both came from the same site.)

SUMMARY

The new releases MIDlet provides the user the ability to see what is new on DVD. Once a user selects a DVD title, the application presents the user information about that DVD (running time and director) as well as a rating of the movie on a scale of zero to one hundred.

Two screen shots are included separately—one showing a list of DVDs with one title highlighted, and the other which shows information displayed if a highlighted title is selected.