

Kepler - Bug #1882

Investigate UI Changes

01/20/2005 09:20 AM - Rod Spears

Status:	Resolved	Start date:	01/20/2005
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:	Matthew Brooke	% Done:	0%
Category:	interface	Estimated time:	0.00 hour
Target version:	1.0.0alpha8	Spent time:	0.00 hour
Bugzilla-Id:	1882		
Description Work with Laura to investigate the level of effort needed to make the UI changes to Kepler (most of these changes impact Ptolemy) For example: Changing the Context Menu (right click) Changing the color schema Localizing all the strings Adding dropdown lists for port types Better layout of dialogs			

History

#1 - 11/02/2005 12:45 PM - Matt Jones

Partially complete. Need to post time estimates on the wiki.

#2 - 11/08/2005 03:56 PM - Matthew Brooke

re: Changing the color scheme:

Do we really want to override the default system look & feel for background colors? It would look especially odd on Mac, which uses a "pinstripe" BG under Java 1.4. Would it not make more sense to let the system manage background colors for these particular components, thus giving them the default platform look & feel?

#3 - 11/09/2005 08:26 AM - Laura Downey

There is no proposal to change the "feel" of any system components of various operating systems. The proposal is to control the color scheme only so that all visual elements coordinate appropriately with the proposed color palette. I would assume the "striped" effect on the Mac would remain, but the shades of various gray and blue gray would be the ones we specify.

#4 - 11/09/2005 09:00 AM - Matthew Brooke

Unfortunately, that is not how it would work. The panels and window backgrounds in the UI either get the native OS look, or they adopt the solid background colors we specify. For example, setting the background color of a panel to gray on the mac would make it solid gray, not a pinstriped version of our gray coloring.

#5 - 11/09/2005 09:54 AM - Laura Downey

Well then my take is this. Having one application on a Mac desktop that doesn't have the striped look is not going to make the application unusable. I've worked on cross platform designs in the past and they were always a pain because it is often difficult to address every issue in every OS. The Mac is the least prevalent OS out there so from a practical perspective, I'm not sure we should spend lots of effort making sure everything looks perfect on a Mac.

We did have numerous discussions about controlling the colors when I first started working on the visual design. I asked if we had total control and was told yes since it was a java app. So as designer, of course I was going to control the color palette so that everything coordinated appropriately.

#6 - 11/09/2005 10:52 AM - Matthew Brooke

My rationale for making this suggestion is as follows:

1) It would actually involve be **less** effort to make this work cross-platform; more effort is needed to add the background colors (see the reasons and time estimates at <http://kepler-project.org/Wiki.jsp?page=UIImplementation>).

2) the most-widely-used commercial Windows applications keep the system look/coloring for toolbars and panels, thus providing an integrated user experience - see for example all Microsoft Office & internet applications, Adobe products et al. (The notable exception being Apple's iTunes, of course, whose purpose is to convince windows users to switch to mac... :-)

Not a big deal to me either way; just wanted to point out that using system colors would save time/effort **and** make the app "fit in" better on all platforms - a win-win. Color coordination with actor icons etc. would still work, since all 3 OS's have neutral (med-high value, low saturation) native app BG colors.

#7 - 11/09/2005 12:58 PM - Laura Downey

Applications can indeed have a different color set and still look okay on a desktop -- it just needs to be done right -- with coordinated colors and professionally designed graphics -- both of which we have. The current proposed color set is still in the neutral gray family.

Also, the proposed color set will pretty much work on the silver, tan or light blue windows color schemes but will of course look the best on the background colors they were designed to match.

#8 - 11/11/2005 02:30 PM - Matthew Brooke

see wiki page:

<http://kepler-project.org/Wiki.jsp?page=UIImplementation>

These examples all have their own bug entries now, too:

Changing the Context Menu (right click) (Bug [#2011](#), Bug [#2016](#), Bug [#2247](#))
Changing the color scheme (Bug [#2271](#))
Localizing all the strings (Bug [#2270](#))
Adding dropdown lists for port types (Bug [#1845](#))
Better layout of dialogs (Bug [#2247](#) tracks all these)

Haven't set these up as dependencies for this bug, since these were only examples - in reality, this bug applied to all the UI tasks

#9 - 03/27/2013 02:18 PM - Redmine Admin

Original Bugzilla ID was 1882