ACTF Project Status Update
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Kentarou Fukuda, IBM

Agenda

- ACTF restructuring
  - http://dev.eclipse.org/mhonarc/lists/actf-dev/msg00271.html

- Visual Complexity Rankings and Accessibility Metrics (ViCRAM) tool status update

- MobileOK integration status update

- Helios (Eclipse 3.6) release status update

- Alternative Interface part development plan

- Other discussions

ACTF restructure

- Background
  - Due to recent resource limitations, etc., the main contributor of the validation part (IBM Human Ability and Accessibility Center (HA&AC) team) will no longer actively participate in this project.
  - This makes it difficult to ensure development/release of the validation part.
  - Currently, the validation part has no downstream dependencies or consumers.

- Proposal
  - Remove the Validation components from the Eclipse CVS repository.
    - This includes Java Validation Componentry (Javaco), Web Validation Componentry (Webelo), and Accessibility Probe (AccProbe, RCP application).[1]
    - Any plugins or resources that are shared with other ACTF components will remain in the Eclipse CVS repository.
    - See actf-eclipse.html for more details.
  - Move previously released materials of validation part into "archive download page" with notices that they are no longer actively developed or supported.
  - ACTF community will make decisions about these components' future reactivation or enhancement.

[1]: Further development and enhancements of AccProbe will be directed by the IAccessible2 community residing at the Linux Foundation. http://www.linuxfoundation.org/collaborate/workgroups/accessibility/iaccessible2

Helios (Eclipse 3.6) release schedule
http://wiki.eclipse.org/Helios

- Schedule
  - ◆ **M1** 8/19/2009　　(= Galileo SR1 RC1)
  - ◆ **M2** 9/30/2009　　(= Galileo SR1)
  - ◆ **M3** 11/11/2009
  - ◆ **M4** 12/16/2009
  - ◆ **M5** 2/3/2010　　(= Galileo SR2)
  - ◆ **M6** 3/17/2010
  - ◆ **M7** 5/5/2010 (Feature Freeze)
  - ◆ **RC1** 5/19/2010
  - ◆ **RC2** 5/26/2010
  - ◆ **RC3** 6/2/2010 (API Freeze)
  - ◆ **RC4** 6/9/2010
  - ◆ **Final** 6/16/2010

- Work items
  - ◆ WCAG 2.0 support
    - ▪ initial support is done
  - ◆ Performance improvement
    - ▪ blind usability visualization
  - ◆ Usability improvements
  - ◆ Advance integration with WST/PDT, etc.
  - ◆ Bug fix
  - ◆ New features?

milestone release is available at
http://download.eclipse.org/technology/actf/0.8/milestones/

Alternative Interface part development plan

- Plan to join 2011 annual release.

- Work items
  - Documentation (incl. Javadoc, Help, etc.)
  - API improvements/enhancements
  - Usability improvements
  - Bug fixes

- Focus
  - Develop a common platform of synthesized audio description for online videos

Audio Descriptions in Japan

Movie

448

Number of Japanese movies
(2008)

54

With Captions

4

With audio descriptions

from NPO Media Access Support Center

TV

0.4%

Ratio of TV programs with audio descriptions in Japan (except public broadcasting) (2008)

from NICT: National Institute of Information and Communications Technology

Internet

0.2%

Ratio of OpenCourseWare (educational content) with **Captions.**

0.0%

Ratio of online movies with audio descriptions in major online movie site and educational content.)

*from sampling investigation by IBM Research - Tokyo*

1. Writing an audio description script requires special expertise to describe the scenes between dialogues and scene changes.

2. Recording an audio description calls for a skilled narrator and a good recording environment.

Approach

- Make ACTF into an open source platform for audio descriptions.
  - Enhance ACTF alternative interface components to enable authoring and playing (synthesizing) audio descriptions on PCs
  - Develop/enhance prototype tools (Script Editor and Video Player) on top of ACTF components.

Online Video

Script Editor

Website

Video Player (ACTF aiBrowser)

Refer

Browse

Audio Description Script

Fetch

Post

ACTF Text-To-Speech Service (support SAPI engines, etc.)

Metadata Repository

Supported by a Japanese government agency
NICT: National Institute of Information and Communications Technology

ACTF aiBrowser

- http://www.eclipse.org/actf/downloads/tools/aiBrowser/index.php
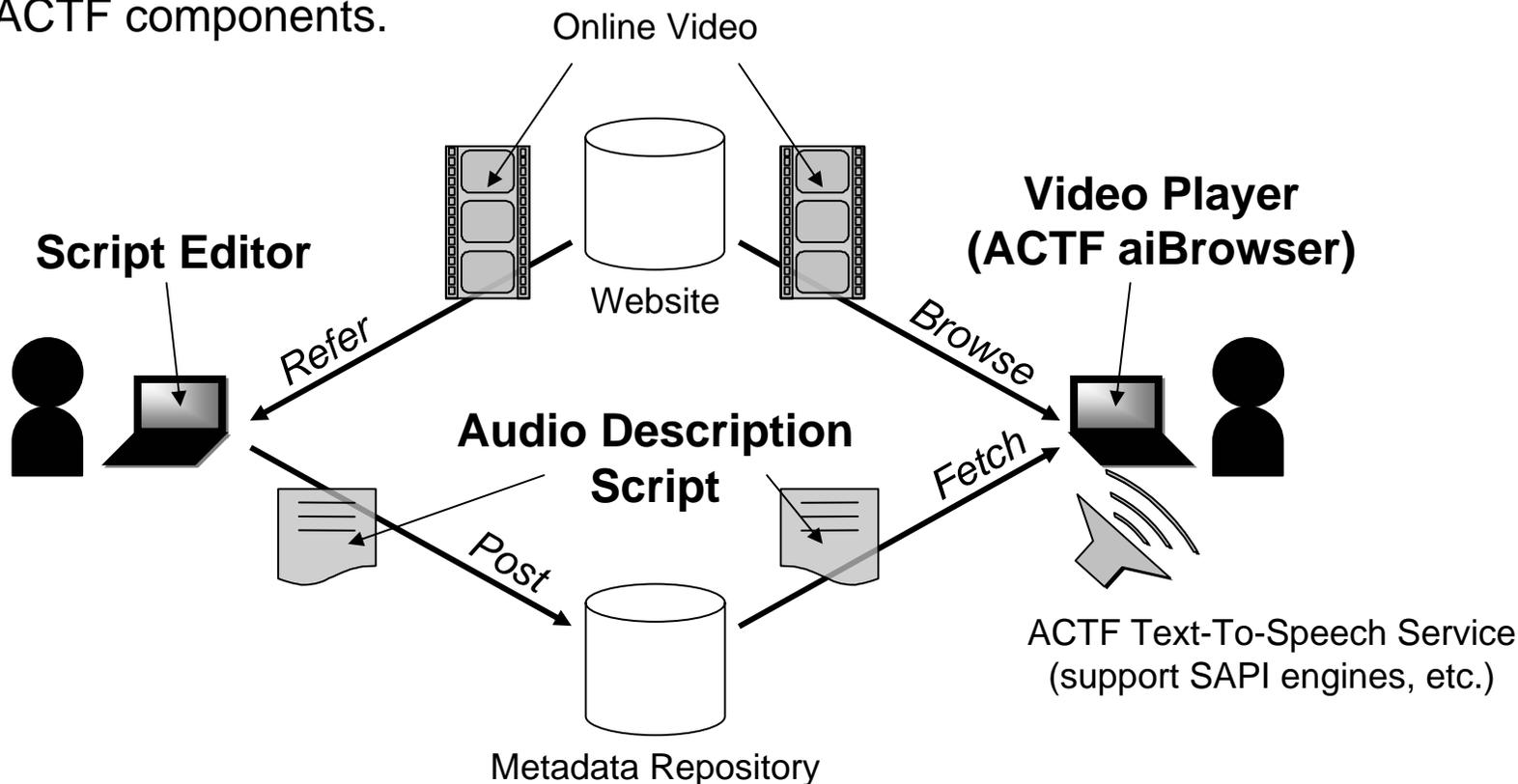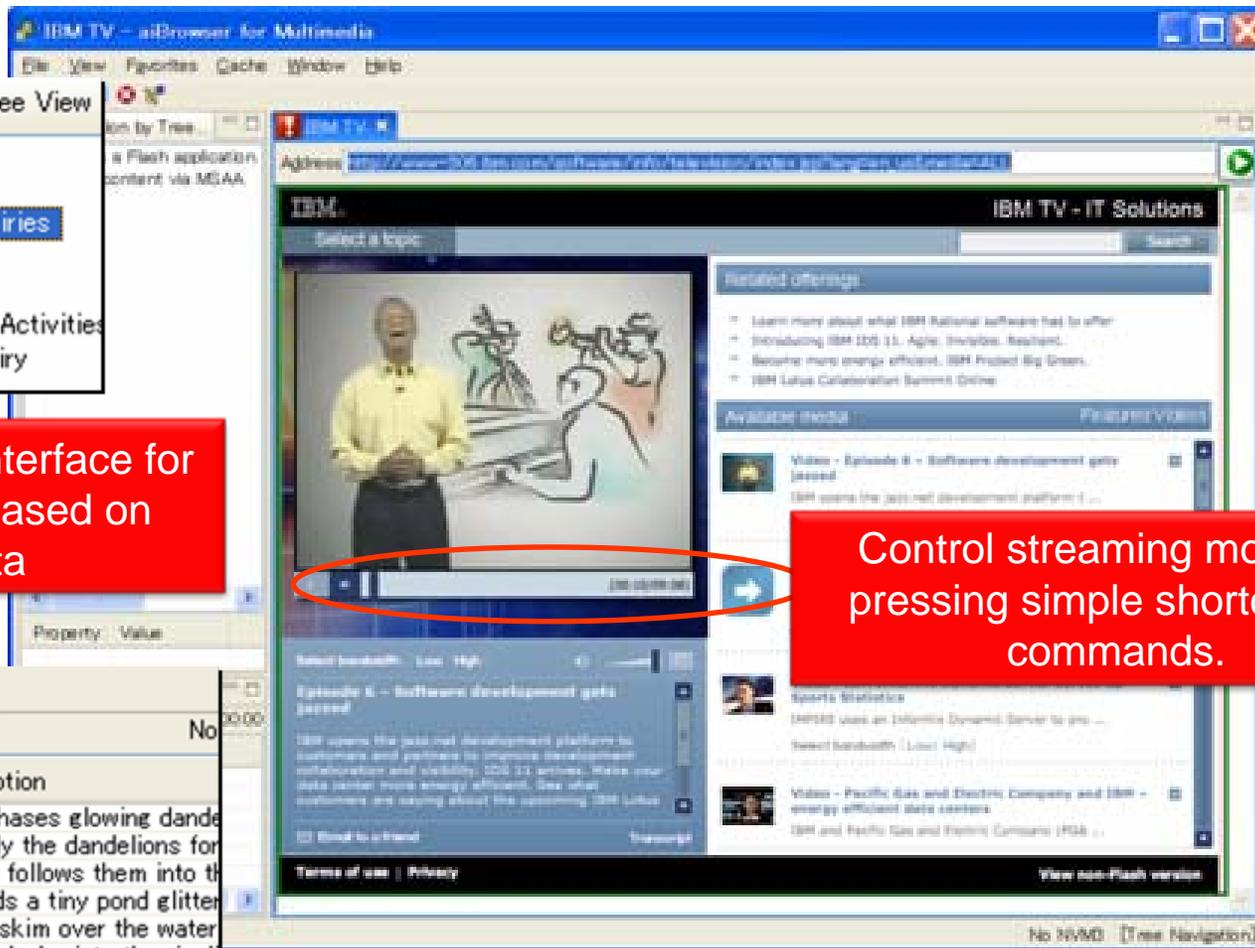
Simplified user interface for voice access based on metadata

Control streaming movie by pressing simple shortcut key commands.

XML Audio description

Current status of aiBrowser

- Support media
  - Flash (swf v6-v9 (AS2))
  - Experimental: Windows Media (wmv, etc.), RealMedia, QuickTime

- Media control functions
  - Play / Stop / Pause   Ctrl+P / Ctrl+S / Pause
  - Volume Down / Up   Ctrl+J / Ctrl+K
  - Mute / Mute off   Ctrl+M
  - Speed Up / Down   Ctrl+Up / Ctrl+Down
  - Rewind / Forward   Ctrl+Left / Ctrl+Right

- Audio description
  - Provide audio description by using TTS engine (SAPI, ProTalker)
  - Support simple XML format
    - start time
    - text

Enhancement plan

- Enable sharing of audio description scripts via networks
  - provide HTTP-based fetch mechanism
- Enable use of pre-generated audio descriptions (wav, mp3, etc.)
- Enable control of TTS parameters (voice gender, speed, pitch, stress, etc.) for providing high-quality audio descriptions
  - extend TTS control interface of ACTF
  - provide adapters for existing TTS engines/APIs (SSML, SAPI, etc.)
- Support extended audio description
- Support existing/coming formats for captions and audio descriptions
  - design common interface
  - provide ExtensionPoint to add adapters for each format

Script Editor (design image)

- Adopt commonly-used UI and make these views reusable components.
- Provide APIs to export/read Audio Description Scripts in XML, CSV, etc.

Audio description list
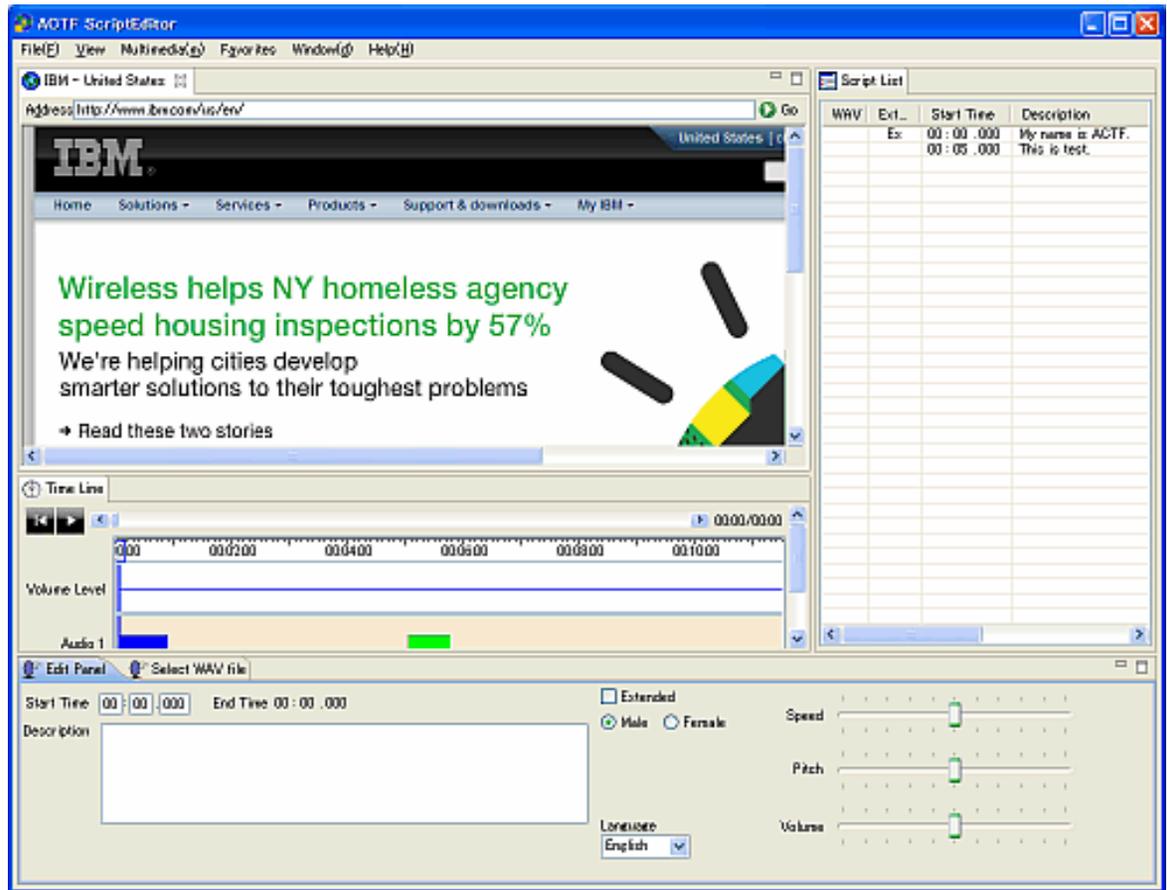
preview

volume level, audio description

edit panel

Thank you!