

SearchSongs Composite Application

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Platform: Lotus Notes 8.5.1 or Lotus Expeditor 6.2.1

Description

This composite application provides a UI for searching lyric, mp3, and video of a song in an integrated manner. This is composed of three web pages: YouTube, Lyrics.com, MP3.com.

Screenshot



How to run and try the composite application

1. Open the SearchSongs.ca in Notes 8.5.1 or Lotus Expeditor 6.2.1
2. A message dialog will prompt to ask you to install SearchSongAction feature. Install it and restart Notes or Expeditor.
3. When you enter a video page in YouTube, the title of the YouTube video will be used as the search string and perform search in the lyrics and mp3 web pages. Same thing will also happen when you enter a lyrics page in lyrics.com and a album page in mp3.com

Custom Action used here

Here we use a function called custom actions, which is newly introduced in Lotus Notes 8.5.1. There are already some default actions for each built in container, but sometimes what you want to do can't be fulfilled with those default actions, and custom actions can help you solve this problem.

You can find the detail of how to develop a custom action from Notes or Expeditor infocenter, or Composite Application wiki. In brief, custom actions are Eclipse plugins that extends the custom action extension point and allow you to do something you want when the interaction happens between views. Once installed to the Notes or Expeditor, your composite application can use that.

The custom action we are using here is to take the transmitted string from other views, for example the song title from lyrics.com, and use it as search string to perform search in another web page. The plugin can get the transmitted string from the extension point callback, and we take that string to form search URL for each web site, and redirect the browser to that URL. Some corresponding settings also needs to be done in the Composite Application side. You can also find the details from the Composite Application wiki.