IBM® Lotus® Expeditor Client for Desktop

Personalities

Lotus software

@ business on demand software

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This presentation explains the Personality support provided by IBM Lotus Expeditor Client for Desktop.

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Goals and agenda

- Understand the Personality support provided by IBM Lotus Expeditor Client for Desktop

- Agenda:
  - ▶ Using personalities
  - ▶ Creating personalities
  - ▶ Personality widgets
  - ▶ Default expeditor personality
  - ▶ Branding
  - ▶ Summary

Personalities

The goal of this presentation is to understand the Personality support provided by IBM Lotus Expeditor Client for Desktop.

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Section

Personalities

Personalities

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Now, let's review the details of personalities.

Using personalities

- The personality of an application defines the framework the platform uses to determine what perspectives or windows, menus, action bar items and status line controls are displayed when the application starts.

- It can also determine what services are available, an event sequence, or what life cycle should be applied to the objects associated with that application.

The personality of an application defines the framework the platform uses to determine what perspectives or windows, menus, action bar items and status line controls are displayed when the application starts. It can also determine what services are available, an event sequence, or what life cycle should be applied to the objects associated with that application.

The layout of the window that contains the views and folders included in your application is defined by a perspective, which is the Eclipse equivalent of a window. You set the needed perspective by specifying a personality for your application.

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Using personalities

- A personality may be needed for one of two reasons:
  - ▶ Your application needs to provide a different UI than other applications running on that platform.
  - ▶ To have fine control over the application's startup sequence.

- A personality can be specified by two different methods:
  - ▶ Personalities can be activated by specifying the personality ID on the command line.
    - For example: richclient -personality personality.id.
  - ▶ Or by specifying it in the plugin_customization.ini file of your branding plug-in.
    - key:com.ibm.rcp.personality.framework/DEFAULT_PERSONALITY_ID= com.ibm.myexample.personality

5   Personalities   © 2007 IBM Corporation

A personality may be needed for one of two reasons. The first is that your application needs to provide a different UI than other applications running on that platform. Second, if you require fine control over the application's startup sequence.

Personalities are activated by specifying the personality ID on the command line. For example: richclient -personality personality.id.

In addition, a default personality can be specified using the plugin_customization.ini file with the key specified on this slide

For detailed Javadoc information regarding personalities, refer to the Javadoc. For detailed extension point schema information regarding personalities, refer to the Extension points schemas.

Workbench UI/ Personalities

Create or extend a personality

- Personalities are contributed to the platform using the extension point:
    - ▶ com.ibm.rcp.personalty.framework.personalities

- See the developer's guide
    - ▶ Create a new personality from scratch
    - ▶ Extend an existing personality

Personalities

Personalities are contributed to the platform using the com.ibm.rcp.personalty.framework.personalities extension point. You can create a new personality from scratch or extend an existing personality. See the developers guide for details.
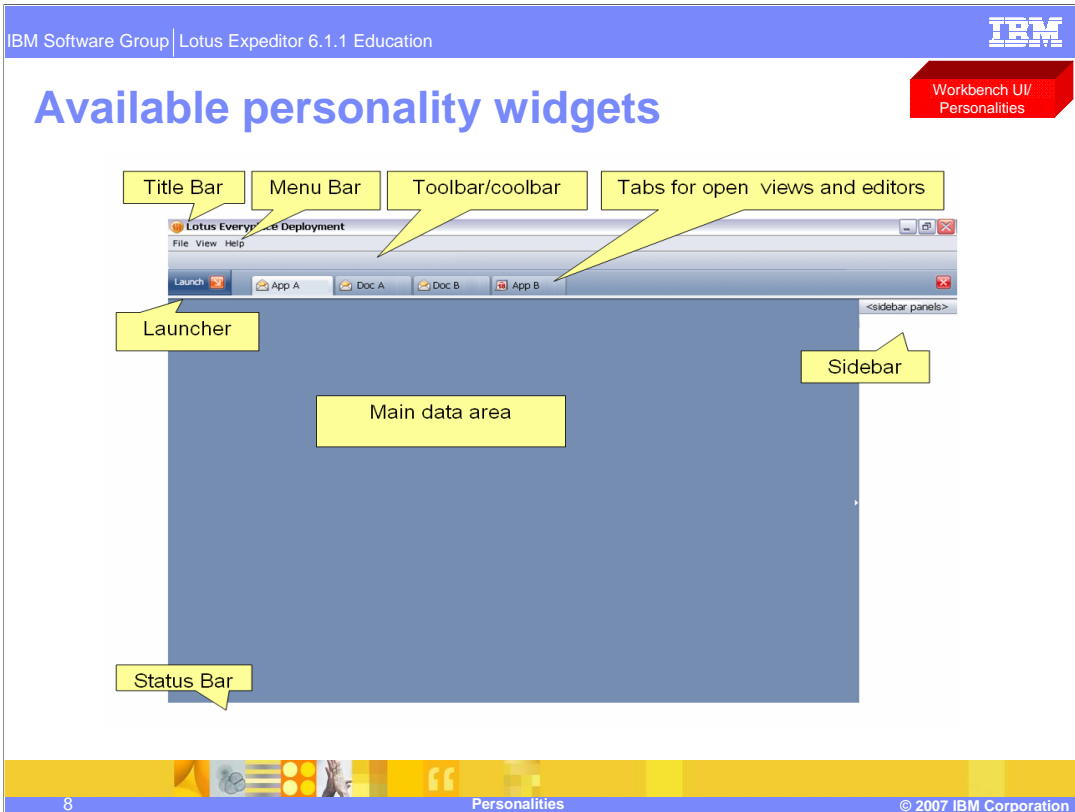
Extension points

- The extension point startBundles
  - ▸ enables you to define a set of bundles that should be associated with a personality.
- The following example associates the org.eclipse.equinox.event bundle to the personality identified by the extension point com.ibm.myexample.personality.

```
<extension point="com.ibm.rcp.lifecycle.personality.startBundles">

  <personality id="com.ibm.myexample.personality">

    <bundle id="org.eclipse.equinox.event"/>

  </personality>

</extension>
```

The extension point startBundles enables you to define a set of bundles that should be associated with a Personality.

The example shown on this slide associates the org.eclipse.equinox.event bundle to the Personality identified by the extension point com.ibm.myexample.personality.

Available personality widgets

Title Bar | Menu Bar | Toolbar/coolbar | Tabs for open views and editors

Launcher

Sidebar

Main data area

Status Bar

IBM Software Group | Lotus Expeditor 6.1.1 Education

Workbench UI/ Personalities

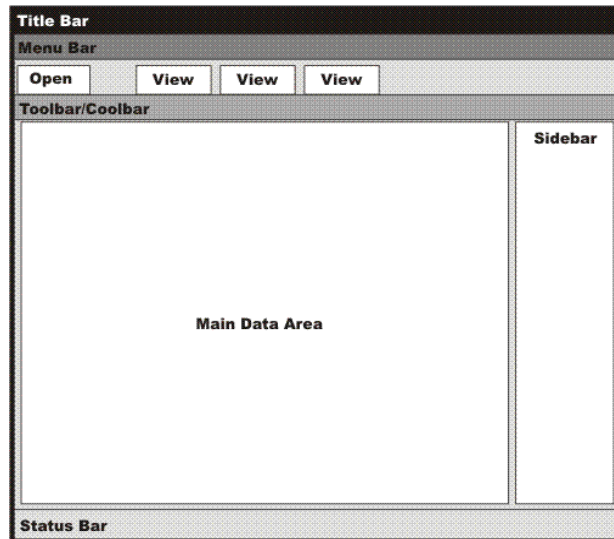8   Personalities   © 2007 IBM Corporation

This screen capture of a Lotus Expeditor Client illustrates the organization of the user interface provided by the client platform. Three parts of the user interface are displayed by default: Title bar, Menu bar, and Status bar.

The main data area contains only a default image when the client platform starts. Once applications have been opened, the views associated with those application display.

User interface organization

- Title bar
  - Displays program title and icon
- Menu bar
  - Contains set of actions provided by either default Workbench or by other applications
- Banner bar
  - Optionally display a graphic and application name
- Launcher (Open)
  - Lists running applications, each as an icon, from which users select applications
- Main data area
  - Primary data area, contains the perspectives and views for an application
- Sidebar
  - The sidebar is a view that displays vertically at the side of the workbench window
- Toolbar / Coolbar
  - Optionally displays icons for available actions
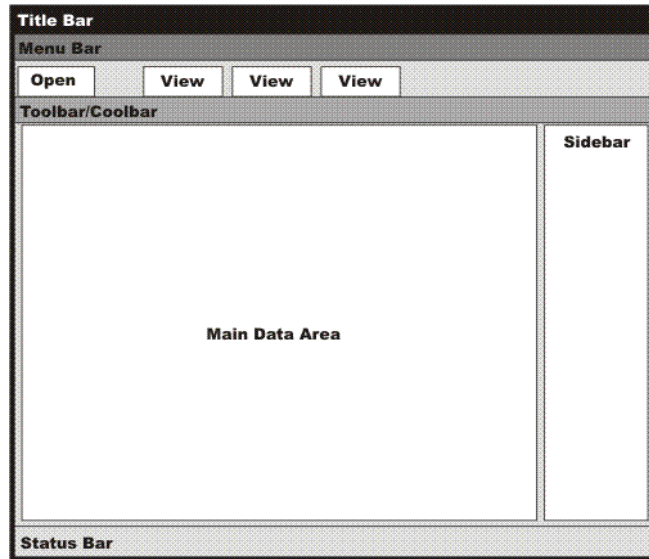- Status bar
  - Used by an application to display its status

This figure illustrates the organization of the user interface provided by the client platform. The following parts of the user interface are displayed by default: Title bar, Menu bar, Status bar.
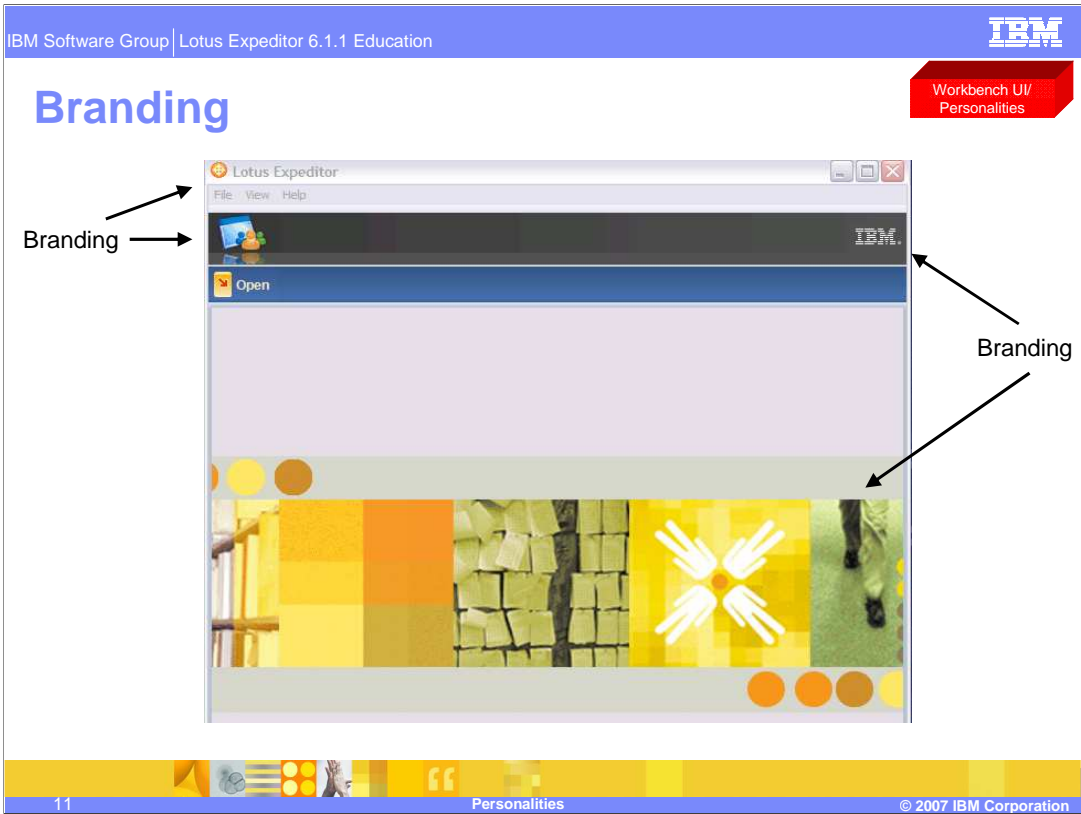
The main data area contains only a default image when the client platform starts. Once applications have been opened, then the views associated with the application will be displayed.

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Branding

Workbench UI/
Personalities

- Title bar
  - ▶ Product image icon
- Banner bar
  - ▶ Visibility
  - ▶ Background color
  - ▶ Images
  - ▶ Application title
    (font, position, color,
    text)
- Coolbar
  - ▶ Visibility
- Data area
  - ▶ Background image
- Splash screen
- About dialog
- Sidebar
  - ▶ Visibility

Title Bar

Menu Bar

| Open | View | View | View |

Toolbar/Coolbar

Sidebar

Main Data Area

Status Bar

You can modify the user interface of the client workbench to include your own branding. You can modify elements as the title bar, splash screen, icons and images, and the About dialog. This slide shows the user interface elements that you can modify when specifying platform branding.

This screen capture of the Expeditor Client shows what areas can be branded.

Personalities - Summary

- Personalities
  - ▸ A personality may be needed for one of two reasons. The first is that your application needs to provide a different UI than other applications running on that platform. The other is to have fine control over the application's startup sequence.
- API
  - ▸ com.ibm.rcp.personality.framework – the plug-in contains the API
- Extension points
  - ▸ com.ibm.rcp.personality.framework.personalities – specifies the personality to use
  - ▸ com.ibm.rcp.personality.framework.personalityExtensions - used to associate contributions with a personality.
    - ControlSet: a control set to display in windows controlled by this personality
    - Startup: a class to load and run after the window for a personality has loaded
  - ▸ com.ibm.rcp.personality.framework.PersonalityStartup - Mirror of the standard org.eclipse.ui.Startup extension point.
- Target feature:
  - ▸ Personality framework
- Reference:
  - ▸ Developer's guide: Using personalities

In summary, a personality may be needed for one of two reasons. The first is that your application needs to provide a different UI than other applications running on the platform. The other is to have fine control over the application's startup sequence.

Personalities can be defined using the provided extension point. See the Developers Guide for more information on creating and using personalities in the Expeditor Client for Desktop platform.

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