

Blogging: Waste of Time or Time Well Spent?

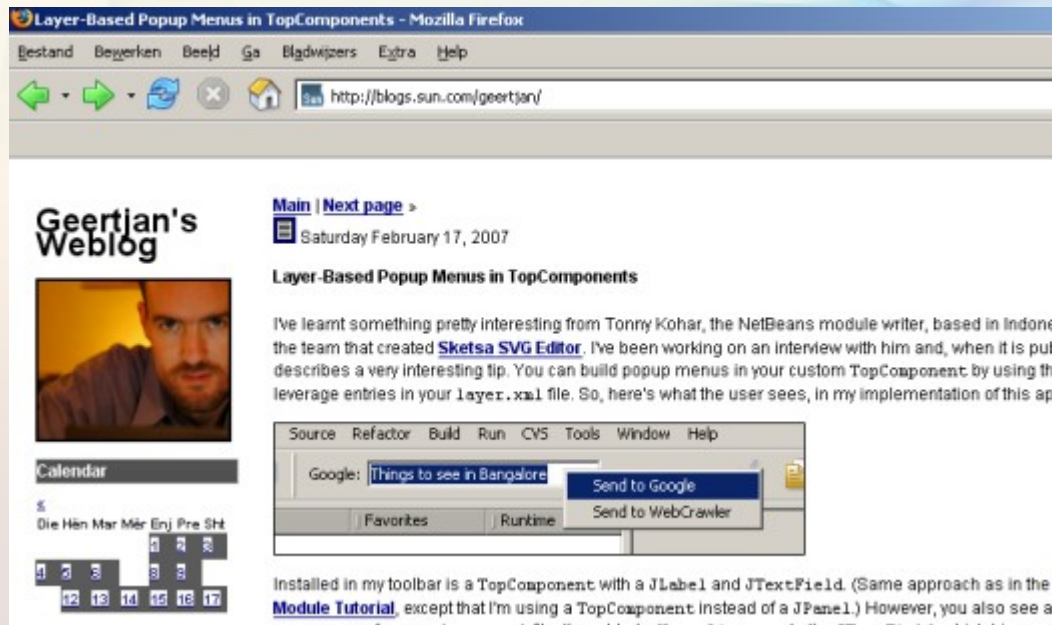
***Geertjan Wielenga
NetBeans Writer
Sun Microsystems***

Agenda

- About Me
- What is blogging? (Healthy blogs, Technical blogs)
- What has blogging done for Sun? And for me?
- “I am hesitant to start blogging because...”
 - > “...it would prevent me from doing my job. I have deadlines!”
 - > “...nobody takes blogs seriously. They lack reliability.”
 - > “...I'm afraid to expose my ignorance to the world.”
 - > “...I'm not much of a writer.”
 - > “...I don't have enough interesting ideas to blog about.”
- Some general guidelines.
- Creating a happy blogging environment.

About Me

- Since 2004, technical writer for NetBeans in Prague.
- Blogging almost from the start:
<http://blogs.sun.com/geertjan>



- Let's talk about what ***you*** can gain from blogging...

What is Blogging?

logged in as **geertjan** - editing weblog **geertjan**

blogs.sun.com

Edit Entry

Create & Edit

Preferences

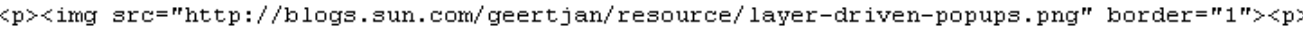
New Entry | Entries | Comments | Categories | Bookmarks | File Uploads | Referrers

Editing weblog entry in weblog **geertjan**

Title	<input type="text" value="Layer-Based Popup Menus in TopComponents"/>
Status	Published (Last updated 07-02-17 1.39.PD)
Permalink	http://blogs.sun.com/geertjan/entry/layer_based_popup_menus_in
Category	<input type="text" value="/NetBeans IDE"/>
Tags	<input type="text"/>

Content

I've learnt something pretty interesting from Tonny Kohar, the NetBeans module writer, based in Indonesia, who is the project lead of the team that created [Sketsa SVG Editor](http://www.kiyut.com/products/sketsa/index.html). I've been working on an interview with him and, when it is published, you'll see that he describes a very interesting tip. You can build popup menus in your custom `TopComponent` by using the NetBeans Lookup API to leverage entries in your `layer.xml` file. So, here's what the user sees, in my implementation of this approach:



Installed in my toolbar is a `TopComponent` with a `JLabel` and `JTextField`. (Same approach as in the [NetBeans Google Toolbar Module Tutorial](http://platform.netbeans.org/tutorials/nbm-google.html), except that I'm using a `TopComponent` instead of a `JPanel`.) However, you also see a popup. The menu items in the popup come from my `layer.xml` file. I've added a `MouseListener` to the `JTextField`, which triggers the building of the menu items when the popup is invoked. The building of the popup menu items is done through the Lookup API, which Tonny finds absolutely fantastic, as you'll see when you read the interview (once it is published). As a result, it is very easy for external contributors to add their own menu items to my module, because they













Comments

None





Pending Entries

None

Recent Drafts

-  What is Jarvis? And who
-  notes for step2
-  draft
-  Happy Holidays...
-  notes on lexer
-  status
-  Open Sourced Duke in A
-  Dilbert in the Sky with Ap
-  universities
-  Holland vs. Portugal
-  aaaaa
-  Links
-  a
-  A Birthday Present for a

Recent Entries

-  Layer-Based Popup Men
-  TimeZone Calculator Int
-  Putting Some Faces To
-  ...

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- Are not static.

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 - > Chance to build relationships and **leverage** beyond base.

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- **Also... real money.** Business decisions have been influenced because Jonathan Schwartz blogs.

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- I have been able to **improve the quality of my work** by incorporating new feedback loops.

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- Be critical?
 - > **Tone and timing.**
 - > The fast route to **being taken seriously.**
 - > Be a **catalyst** for change.

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- **Randomly ask** how things are going and ask for updates, occasionally, at meetings.
- **Do not** make staff feel that blogging is not work and that when one is blogging one is not being productive.

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Remember: Blog entries do not need to be long and they do not require you to know everything. Just something. And everyone knows something.

Discussion

