

File Selection Dialog with Oracle Forms 10g (10.1.2): replacing some of webutil functionalities

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Problem

Suppose that in your module, you need to prompt the user with a file dialog where the user can list the directory's content and from there select a file. In 10g, webutil will provide this functionality.

Now, if the directory has sub-folders with several hierarchical levels, clicking on any of the file dialog button will bring the module to a halt (becomes very slow). This is to be expected given the levels we have in this folder.

In C/S version, we don't have the problem because we use the Windows native code to browse the content and this was optimized a long time ago by Microsoft.

In Forms 10g, we use the webutil version which is JAVA based. That one makes use of JFileChooser which is notoriously slow.

By using the AWT implementation (FileDialog), we can provide the same user experience as in C/S implementations.

Solution

I implemented a bean similar to fileuploader, found in Oracle forms 10g demos, that relies on FileDialog. I kept the same structure found in the fileuploader bean in order to implement in the future the same functionalities.

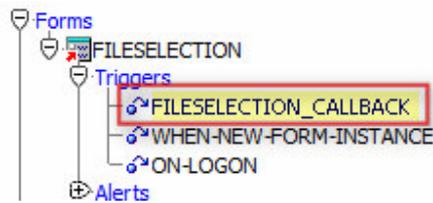
For the time being, the fileselection bean provides a way for the user to select the filename. No other functions such as saving, opening, uploading etc. are implemented.

Procedure

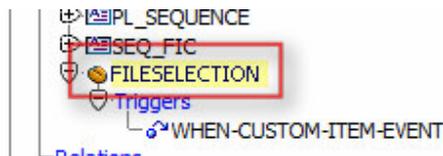
- Attach library utilweb.pll (without the path)



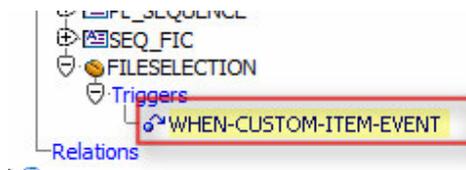
- Add trigger FILESELECTION_CALLBACK with the specified code.



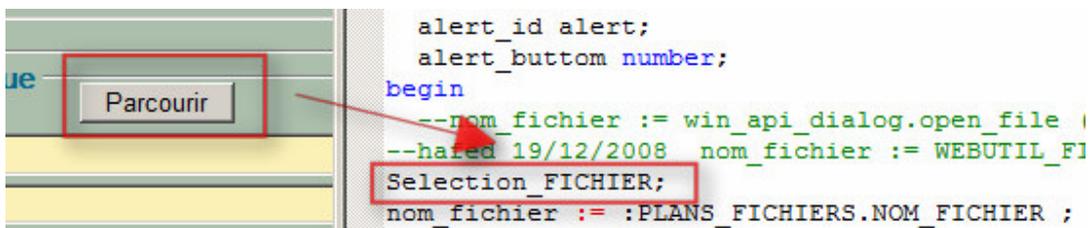
- Add a bean with the name FILESELECTION



- Check that the bean has a trigger WHEN-CUSTOM-ITEM-EVENT



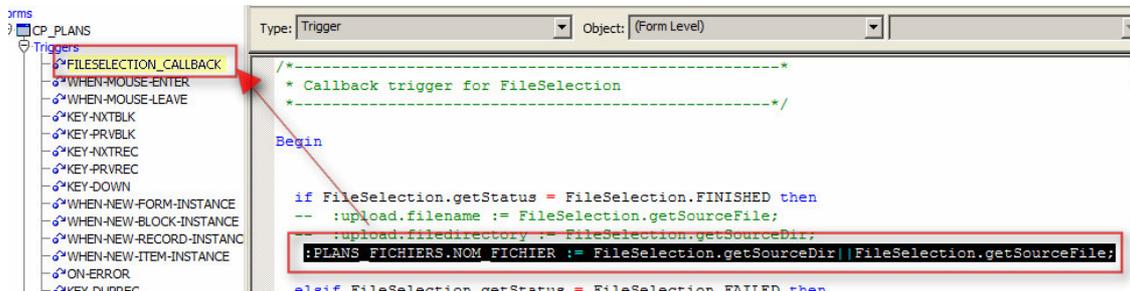
- Add a procedure that updates the file name obtained from the dialog: Selection_fichier;



For an example, see module fileselection.FMB

In the trigger FILESELECTION_CALLBACK, the filename is returned in

```
:PLANS_FICHIERS.NOM_FICHER :=  
FileSelection.getSourceDir||FileSelection.getSourceFile;
```



As such, change `:PLANS_FICHIERS.NOM_FICHER` for the form's item that will hold the filename.

Installation :

- put `utilweb.pll` in a folder within your `forms_path`
- put `utilweb.jar` in your application server classpath. The Jar needs to be signed since we will be accessing the client's folder.