

DockingFrames 1.0.5 - FAQ

Benjamin Sigg

April 20, 2008

Contents

1	Writing applications	2
1.1	How to write a close-button?	2
1.1.1	Solution 1: FDockable	2
1.1.2	Solution 2: DockFrontend	2
1.1.3	Solution 3: CloseAction	2
1.1.4	Solution 4: New DockAction	3
1.2	How do I layout the contents of a SplitDockStation?	3
1.2.1	Solution 1: SplitDockProperty	3
1.2.2	Solution 2: SplitDockPathProperty	4
1.2.3	Solution 3: SplitDockTree	4
1.2.4	Solution 4: SplitDockGrid	4
1.2.5	Solution 5: Start and store	5

Abstract

Some questions that are frequently asked.

1 Writing applications

This section deals with questions that are related to writing code.

1.1 How to write a close-button?

A "close-button" is some button, most times a cross in the upper right edge, that closes a `Dockable` when pressed.

1.1.1 Solution 1: `FDockable`

When using the common-project, then you can use `DefaultSingleCDockable` or `DefaultMultipleCDockable`. Both `CDockables` contain a method `setCloseable`. Call that method with `true`.

```
1 DefaultSingleCDockable dockable = ...
2 dockable.setCloseable( true );
```

If you implement the interface `SingleCDockable` or `MultipleCDockable` directly, then ensure that `isCloseable` returns `true`.

1.1.2 Solution 2: `DockFrontend`

When using a `DockFrontend`, register the `Dockable` at the `DockFrontend` and call `setHideable`.

```
1 DockFrontend frontend = ...
2 Dockable dockable = ...
3
4 frontend.add( dockable, "a_unique_id" );
5 frontend.setHideable( dockable, true );
```

1.1.3 Solution 3: `CloseAction`

If you use the common-project, then a `DockAction` called `CloseAction` is available. Add the action to the `Dockables` which should be closeable, for example you could use an `ActionGuard`:

```
1 public class CloseGuard implements ActionGuard{
2     private DockActionSource source;
3
4     public CloseGuard( DockController controller ){
5         DockAction close = new CloseAction( controller );
6         source = new DefaultDockActionSource(
7             new LocationHint(
8                 LocationHint.ACTION_GUARD,
9                 LocationHint.RIGHT_OF_ALL ),
10            close );
11    }
12
13    public boolean react( Dockable dockable ) {
14        return true;
15    }
16    public DockActionSource getSource( Dockable dockable ) {
17        return source;
18    }
19 }
```

And later:

```
1 DockController controller = ...
2 controller.addActionGuard( new CloseGuard( controller ) );
```

1.1.4 Solution 4: New DockAction

If `CloseAction` of the common-project can't be used, then a new `DockAction` must be written.

```
1 public class CloseAction extends SimpleButtonAction{
2     public CloseAction( DockController controller ){
3         setText( "Close" );
4         setIcon( new ImageIcon( "close.png" ) );
5     }
6
7     @Override
8     public void action( Dockable dockable ) {
9         DockStation parent = dockable.getDockParent();
10        if( parent != null )
11            parent.drag( dockable );
12    }
13 }
```

This action is then used as described in the third solution.

1.2 How do I layout the contents of a SplitDockStation?

The `SplitDockStation` has a complex layout. How can new `Dockables` be added to `SplitDockStation` such that they have a certain location and size?

1.2.1 Solution 1: SplitDockProperty

A `SplitDockProperty` describes the size and location of a `Dockable` on a `SplitDockStation` by storing the x, y coordinates, and the width and height. All the properties are normalized such that they are between 0 and 1.

A client can create new `SplitDockProperty`s and call `drop`:

```
1 SplitDockStation station = ...
2 Dockable alpha = ...
3 Dockable beta = ...
4
5 if( !station.drop( alpha, SplitDockProperty.NORTH ) )
6     station.drop( alpha );
7
8 if( !station.drop( beta, new SplitDockProperty( 0, 0, 1, 1 ) ) )
9     station.drop( beta );
```

A few words to this code: in lines 5 and 8, the result of `drop` needs to be checked. It is possible, that `SplitDockStation` refuses to add a `Dockable`.

`SplitDockStation` internally has a binary tree in whose leafs the `Dockables` are stored, and the nodes determine the proportions between the `Dockables`. Each `drop` adds a new branch into that tree. The `SplitDockProperty` is only a hint where to insert the branch, and will not be stored for later use. So this station does **not** work like a `LayoutManager`, the order in which the `Dockables` are dropped is important. The first `Dockable` will always get boundaries of 0,0,1,1.

1.2.2 Solution 2: SplitDockPathProperty

As set earlier, `SplitDockStation` is internally organized as a binary tree. A `SplitDockPathProperty` is the description of the exact location of a branch. It is used like `SplitDockProperty`:

```
1 SplitDockStation station = ...
2 Dockable dockable = ...
3
4 SplitDockPathProperty path = new SplitDockPathProperty();
5 path.add( SplitDockPathProperty.Location.BOTTOM, 0.4 );
6 path.add( SplitDockPathProperty.Location.LEFT, 0.25 );
7 if( !station.drop( dockable, path ) )
8     station.drop( dockable );
```

In lines 5,6 a branch to the bottom left edge is created.

1.2.3 Solution 3: SplitDockTree

A `SplitDockTree` is an exact model of the internal binary tree that every `SplitDockStation` has. When calling `dropTree`, all `Dockables` will be removed from the station, and the new tree will replace the old one.

```
1 SplitDockStation station = ...
2 Dockable[] dockables = ...
3
4 SplitDockTree tree = new SplitDockTree();
5 tree.root(
6     tree.horizontal(
7         tree.vertical(
8             dockables[0],
9             dockables[1],
10            0.4 ),
11        tree.vertical(
12            tree.put(
13                dockables[2] ),
14            tree.put(
15                dockables[3],
16                dockables[4] ) ) )
17 );
18 station.dropTree( tree );
```

Note that several `Dockables` can be put at the same location as shown in lines 14-16.

1.2.4 Solution 4: SplitDockGrid

A `SplitDockGrid` is an algorithm that takes several `Dockables` and their desired location, and creates a `SplitDockTree` that matches these locations as good as possible.

The use is straight forward:

```
1 SplitDockStation station = ...
2 Dockable[] dockables = ...
3
4 SplitDockGrid grid = new SplitDockGrid();
5 grid.addDockable( 0.0, 0.0, 0.5, 0.5, dockables[0] );
6 grid.addDockable( 0.0, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, dockables[1] );
7 grid.addDockable( 0.5, 0.0, 0.5, 0.5, dockables[2] );
8 grid.addDockable( 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, dockables[3] );
9 station.dropTree( grid.toTree() );
```

There is also the possibility to model the layout with a `String`:

```

1 SplitDockStation station = ...
2 Dockable[] dockables = ...
3
4 Map<String, Dockable[]> map = new HashMap<String, Dockable[]>();
5 for( int i = 0; i < dockables.length; i++){
6     map.put(
7         String.valueOf( i ),
8         new Dockable[]{ dockables[i] });
9 }
10
11 String layout =
12     "0022\n"+
13     "0022\n"+
14     "1133\n"+
15     "1133";
16
17 SplitDockGrid grid = new SplitDockGrid( layout, map );
18 station.dropTree( grid.toTree() );

```

The layout is defined in lines 12–15, just image a raster where the characters tell which `Dockable` should overlap a given cell.

1.2.5 Solution 5: Start and store

If your application is able to store the layout, then just start the application, make the layout by hand, and store the layout.

The common-project or `DockFrontend` can help you storing one or several layouts.