



METAOPTION

CASE STUDY

QuickLink Plug-in For Managing Editor, Inc.

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QuickLink Plug-in

The Client

Managing Editor Inc. (MEI) provides innovative software solutions to a rapidly evolving publishing market. The company delivers a variety of automated pagination and workflow solutions to newspaper and magazine publishers, as well as to other print and electronic publishing markets. MEI is a portfolio company of [Adobe Systems Inc.](#)

Challenge & Solutions

MEI required a QuickLink Plug-in that would allow users to link QuickSilver issue pages from the QuickLink application window to an open InDesign document. Also, preferences had to be set for the QuickLink plug-in before linking QuickSilver pages.

MetaOption developed the QuickLink plug-in to allow users to quickly and efficiently navigate QuickSilver issues for the purpose of linking issue pages to a pagination document. QuickSilver objects are placements made in either the ALS or CLS layout application. QuickLink allows database updates and automatic folio generation.

Features

- QuickLink Plug-in preference
- QuickLink Plug-in login
- Contextual menu
- Link QuickSilver issue pages
- Save linked documents
- Close linked documents
- Open linked documents
- Edit linked documents
- Update linked documents

Architecture

InDesign is a small host application with features implemented through client plug-ins. InDesign defines an architecture that determines how a plug-in interacts with the host. It also provides the building blocks from which each plug-in is made.

Object Models: An object model is a set of rules or conventions that describes how objects are created and handled within a system. The C++ language implements an object model, describes an object as a contiguous block of memory (at its most basic level), and defines how that object is instantiated, behaves during its lifetime, and can be destroyed.

Object models can be used to map out how large, complex systems behave. The Microsoft® COM (Component Object Model) defines objects with functionality that is accessible through interfaces, making it possible to have distributed components.

Model-View-Controller (MVC): The model-view-controller (MVC) architecture formalizes the relationships among input, output, and data processing.

InDesign Plug-ins use COM Object Model, MVC architecture and various Design Patterns like Observer, Façade, Chain of Responsibility, and Command.

Technology & Environment

- Adobe InDesign CS3 SDK
- C++
- Development Environment
 - Visual Studio .Net 2005
 - XCode 2.4.1
- Operating System
 - Windows: Windows XP or later
 - Macintosh (Power PC/MacIntel): Mac OS X 10.4.9 or later