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The devil is in the details

Handling Motion JPEG video streams with pharo smalltalk

Saturday, April 13, 2013

Playing around with [Zinc's](#) streaming entities I looked for a source of streaming data. A never ending streaming source are video streams. So I implemented a very simple [Motion JPEG](#) reader using [Pharo Smalltalk](#). It does not use any plugins. Just plain smalltalk and a stock pharo image.

Use your pharos monticello browser to add the following repository and open it.

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```
1. MCHttpRepository
2.   location: 'http://www.min.at/prinz/repo/mjpeg'
3.   user: ''
4.   password: ''
```

It consists of just one class **Mjpeg**.

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```
1. | cam |
2.
3. " Create a new MJPEG stream from a given url "
4. cam := Mjpeg
5.   fromUrl: 'http://218.219.210.174:86/mjpg/video.mjpg?
6.   camera=1'.
7. " Start reading the stream and displaying it in a window
8. "
9. cam start.
10. " Start capturing the stream frame by frame to disk "
11. cam startCapture: 'c:/temp/test'.
12.
13. " Returns true if the stream is started (reading or "
14. " capturing), false otherwise "
```

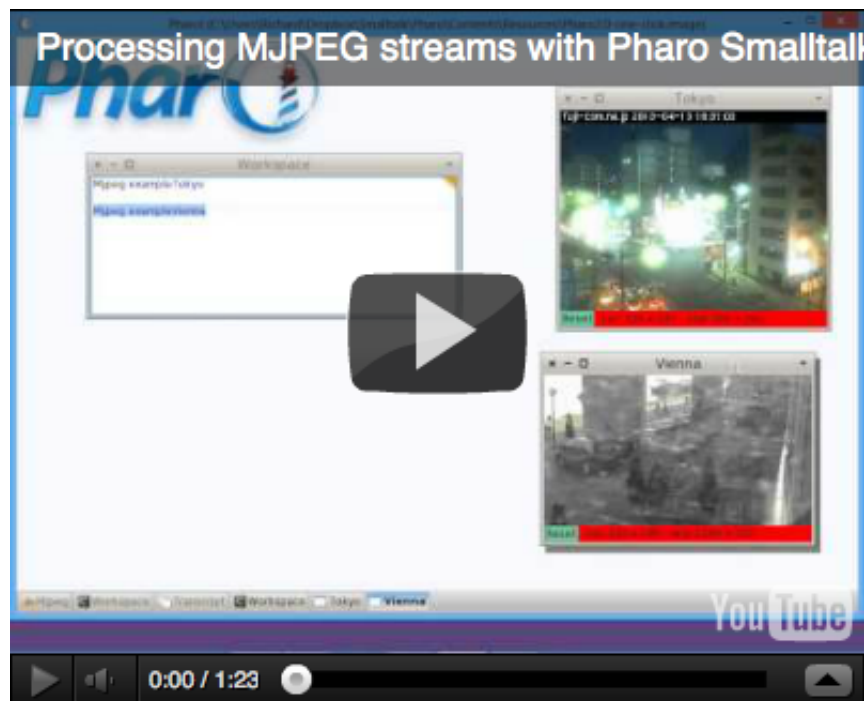
```
15. cam isRunning.  
16.  
17. " Stop reading the stream and close the camera window "  
18. cam stop.  
19.  
20. " Stop capturing "  
21. cam stopCapture.
```

There are two example class methods available.

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```
1. " Sample of a webcam stream from Tokyo "  
2. Mjpeg exampleTokyo.  
3.  
4. " Webcam from Vienna "  
5. Mjpeg exampleVienna.
```

Performance of this simple implementation is quite good. The Tokyo example used the stream available at <http://218.219.210.174:86/mjpg/video.mjpg?camera=1>. Playing this stream with Pharo has no impact on CPU usage whereas playing the same stream with Chrome has a noticeable effect on CPU usage.



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