Libraries for VKontakte and Facebook Clients: API-based approach

Sergei Zaharov, Pavel Shiryaev, Kirill Kulakov

Petrozavodsk State University
Republic Karelia, Petrozavodsk, Lenin st., 33, Russia
{szaharov, shiryaev, kulakov}@cs.karelia.ru

Abstract

Social networks (Facebook, VKontakte) are a one of the most important parts of Internet world. People's uses social networks to connect with each other, exchange opinions, photos and other media files. There are several ways to do this: by system components, by standalone applications or by web browser. Most of them require a driver to easy access to social network functionality.

We are proposed network drivers for social networks Facebook and VKontakte. They used VKontakte and Facebook Application Programmer Interface (API) to connect to service. The driver's API based on XML structures. Therefore it can be improved without modification of client application.

The VKontakte driver gets data in XML structure from VKontakte service. It uses sequence of XSLT transformations to build output XML. The Facebook gets data in JSON structure from Facebook service. It uses QtJson to parse data and QtXml to make output XML. Webauth application used for user authorization in the social network. It is based on browser core and used web interface as it is demanded by a rule of a social network.

The current version of drivers supports getting list of friends and friend profile. Also drivers can send and retrieve incoming and outgoing messages, albums and images and other media files.

Network drivers are a part of MySocials project. The aim of project is to develop a Maemo/MeeGo client for social networks. MySocials is primarily oriented to such mobile devices like Nokia Internet tablets, e.g., N810 or N900. Current status of MySocials project will be described at conference.

Index Terms: social network, library, vkontakte, facebook, mysocials, API.