Subject: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by Mindtraveller on Tue, 03 Feb 2009 08:39:17 GMT
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TheIDE has good solution for dividing source files list with separators. I think it will be good idea to apply dividing to the tabs. The will slightly improve tabs mess, especially for large projects.
Alternative 1: Files from separator group are shown in it`s own tabs line. If no files from group are open - line disappears.
Alternative 2: Tabs could be grouped by separator group. Each tabs group is visually divided from each other (i.e. by vertical line).

For example of Alternative 1.
Package:
/separator/->>Common files
main.cpp
common.h
/separator/->>Group1
Group1Class1.cpp
Group1Class1.h
Group1Class2.cpp
Group1Class2.h
/separator/->>Group2
Group2Class1.cpp
Group2Class1.h
Group2Class2.cpp
Group2Class2.h
/separator/->>Group3
Group3Class1.cpp
Group3Class1.h
Group3Class2.cpp
Group3Class2.h

Opened files are:
main.cpp
common.h
Group1Class1.cpp
Group1Class1.h
Group1Class2.cpp
Group2Class1.h
Group2Class2.cpp
Group2Class2.h

Editor tabs are shown in 3 lines:
main.cpp / common.h
Group1Class1.cpp / Group1Class1.h / Group1Class2.cpp
Group2Class1.h / Group2Class2.cpp / Group2Class2.h

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by unodgs on Tue, 03 Feb 2009 13:27:05 GMT
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The idea with this grouping is very interesting. I was also thinking about something similar. But first I have to finish merging docking package with ide (I'm quite close to finish this, however my commercial projects steal my time over and over agein). But then I would like to improve quick tabs. If someone has other ideas please write about them.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by mrjt on Tue, 03 Feb 2009 17:26:59 GMT
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Quote:Alternative 2: Tabs could be grouped by separator group. Each tabs group is visually divided from each other (i.e. by vertical line).
I've just added something like this with horizontal serperators:

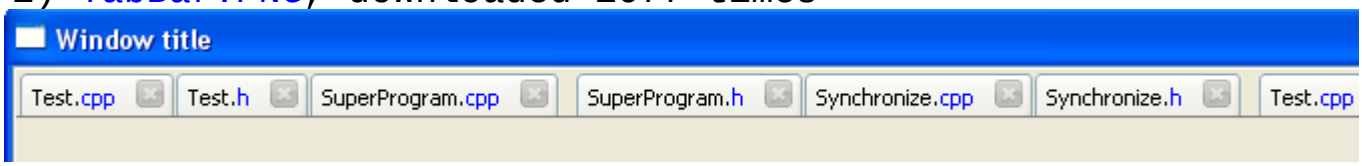
I still have to do the Paint and Style code to show anything in the gap, but you get the idea. I'll probably finish it tomorrow, I've just found a strange memory bug in TabBar too.
Sorting tabs by group is also added (optional of course), since it's required for the seperators to work properly

What I'd like to see:
Stacking tabs - .h/.cpp (and possible .lay) files are stacked to reduce the space used. Clicking on the stack flips between them.
This will require Painting changes to show the stacking though, so it'll be a sod to do.
Some sort of group display above the TabBar - Allowing quick access to selecting/closing groups.
I've tested this just now with another TabBar and it works ok, although I'd rather something cleverer that didn't take up as much vertical space.

IMO any solution should use as little vertical space as possible. I like as many lines of code visible as possible

File Attachments

1) TabBar.PNG, downloaded 1677 times



Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by cbpporter on Tue, 03 Feb 2009 17:55:51 GMT
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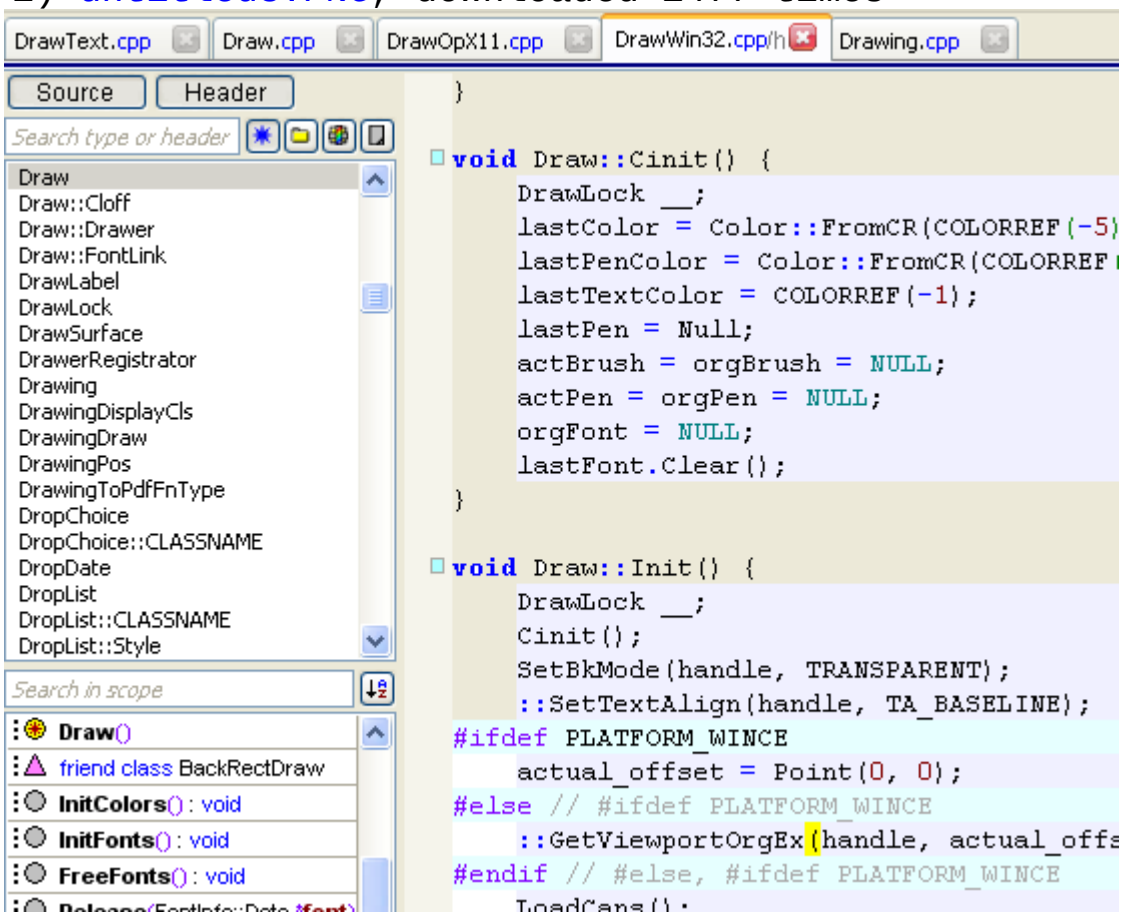
Quote:Stacking tabs - .h/.cpp (and possible .lay) files are stacked to reduce the space used.

Clicking on the stack flips between them.
I second that! While U++ favors one big header, this would still be greatly useful and would help cleanup the problem of a lot of tabs a little. We could have two extra buttons on the toolbar, one for source and one for header. If one of them is not available, the button would be grayed out. And an easy keyboard shortcut to witch between them.

Or maybe we put small buttons on each tab. Or above the code navigator, with large buttons and text that says clearly "Source" and "Header". This would be better than in some less intuitive place. We don't want to make TheIDE even more unfriendly to new users, do we?

File Attachments

1) untitled3.PNG, downloaded 1477 times



Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by Mindtraveller on Tue, 03 Feb 2009 18:18:47 GMT
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cbpporter, just to polish your idea a little to keep interface intuitive, I`d like to propose chang tab

this way:
/Synchronize[.cpp][x]\
where [.cpp] and [x] are button-looking images.
Interface rule is simple: clicking active tab switches it to Synchronize.cpp<->Synchronize.h
User will consider [.cpp] as a small button and will click tab. After some time he understand that it is not necessary to click small [.cpp] button, clicking any tab point is ok too.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by mrjt on Wed, 04 Feb 2009 14:44:36 GMT
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I've added tab stacking to the TabBar class now:

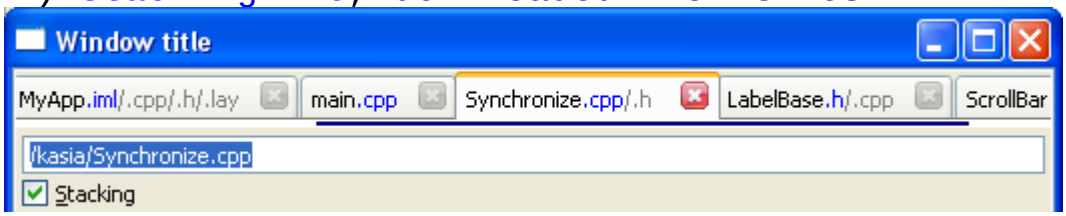
The screenshot shows a TabBar-derived QuickTabs that has the same class interface as the ide package, so in theory could replace it.

Clicking on a tab cycles through the stacked tabs. Adding buttons (or more likely hyperlink-style text) for the stacked tabs requires a bit more work, but may be possible. I'd also like to modify the appearance of the stacked tabs so that you can see the tabs 'behind' them, but unpredictable OS themeing may make this impossible.

Excecutable in next post. I won't update the SVN version for while, since the Docking package relies on TabBar and I don't want to break it.

File Attachments

1) stacking.PNG, downloaded 1454 times



Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by mrjt on Wed, 04 Feb 2009 14:46:21 GMT
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Executable (Win32) example of stacked tabs.

File Attachments

1) QuickTabsTest.zip, downloaded 541 times

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs

Posted by cbpporter on Wed, 04 Feb 2009 15:20:47 GMT
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That really works fine! I believe something like this would be a worthwhile addition to TheIDE.

I also figured out what the deal with that small dark-blue line under the tabs: it's a scrollbar! I always try yo keep my tab bar with as few elements as needed so that they all fit, and I never noticed that you can scroll that.

And since we are talking about the tab bar, I would like to see an option which when turned on will change the text from "filename" to "packagename/filename". I know this is quite long, but when working with a lot of packages, one must always figure out the package name based only on the filename.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by tojocky on Wed, 04 Feb 2009 20:01:06 GMT
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I don't think that it is a good idea! we do not complicate our life! this propose nothing optimize!
It is my opinion!

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by mrjt on Thu, 05 Feb 2009 09:29:39 GMT
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tojocky wrote on Wed, 04 February 2009 20:01I don't think that it is a good idea! we do not complicate our life! this propose nothing optimize!
It is my opinion!
Don't worry, it will be completely optional.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by Novo on Sun, 08 Feb 2009 17:59:00 GMT
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mrjt wrote on Wed, 04 February 2009 09:44I've added tab stacking to the TabBar class now:

In which way tab stacking is better than nested tabs? Nested tabs seem to be a natural representation of hierarchy.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by mrjt on Sun, 08 Feb 2009 18:35:29 GMT
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Novo wrote on Sun, 08 February 2009 17:59In which way tab stacking is better than nested tabs? Nested tabs seem to be a natural representation of hierarchy.

I'm not sure I understand the question. Stacking is an internal function of the TabBar, but nested tabs can be implemented externally by combining multiple TabBars. The docking package will continue to use nesting.

TheIde could have a similar system by using two TabBars, one for the file group and one for inidividual files, and this is easy to do without any internal changes to TabBar.

Whatever system is used in TheIde will not be decided by me, I only implemented tab stacking because I thought it was cool

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by Novo on Wed, 11 Feb 2009 04:20:38 GMT
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mrjt wrote on Sun, 08 February 2009 13:35
I'm not sure I understand the question.

Stacking is just another way of grouping files if I understand it correctly. IMHO, nested tabs is a more natural way of grouping. You just see what is inside of a group. No need to decode content of a tab name. You can group open files by package names instead of just names.

Just my two cents.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by mrjt on Wed, 11 Feb 2009 08:36:04 GMT
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Novo wrote on Wed, 11 February 2009 04:20Stacking is just another way of grouping files if I understand it correctly. IMHO, nested tabs is a more natural way of grouping. You just see what is inside of a group. No need to decode content of a tab name. You can group open files by package names instead of just names.

Well, what I was trying to say was that it is not a choice between the two. You could have nested tabs for the package groups, and then a seperate option for stacking files by name within the groups. The criteria used for stacking files can be different to that used for grouping them.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by unodgs on Wed, 11 Feb 2009 09:05:40 GMT
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I don't like nested tabs. They eat editor space. I think mrjt's solution is quite good.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by Mindtraveller on Mon, 16 Feb 2009 10:19:44 GMT
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Also, I`d like to propose an option to group tabs by their package separator group without using additional space. We could do 2 things:
1) sort tabs by separator group
2) use slightly different color for tab of i-th group (something like this:
group 0: SColorFace()
group 1: SColorFace()+"slighly red"(30,0,0)
group 2: SColorFace()+"slighly yellow"(15,15,0)
group 3: SColorFace()+"slighly green"(0,30,0)
group 3: SColorFace()+"slighly blue"(0,0,30)
...

P.S. If I understand correctly what you mean by "nested tabs" (something like AAA.cpp/.h/.lay within tab caption) and you don`t like that it uses more space than original tab, I want to say that it is not necessary to draw all the options inside tab caption. We may just leave caption as-is but do switch on clicking active tab. Or we may draw something informative when mouse pointer is over active tab caption to inform user that he may click it to switch. From usability point of view there`s no sense in drawing many .cpp/.h pairs within all open tabs. User needs this information only for opened tab, so we may draw .cpp/.h options only for active tab. We may draw it this way:
AAA.cpp - when it could be switched to some other file (there must also be shortcut for switching by keyboard)
or AAA.cpp - when there`s nothing to switch to.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by mrjt on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 10:21:59 GMT
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Mindtraveller wrote on Mon, 16 February 2009 10:19Also, I`d like to propose an option to group tabs by their package separator group without using additional space. We could do 2 things:
1) sort tabs by separator group
This is easy to do and already implemented in what will (presumably) be the future QuickTabs, with optional serparator (|) between groups.
Quote:
2) use slightly different color for tab of i-th group (something like this:
I think this has been tried before and personally I didn't like it much. The problem is also more difficult these days because the tab backgrounds are drawn using the GUI theme which shouldn't be colourized. Some other indicator, such as a superscrip 1/2/3 might work though.

Quote:P.S. If I understand correctly what you mean by "nested tabs" (something like AAA.cpp/.h/.lay within tab caption)...
This is a misunderstanding I think. What I mean by nested tabs is having two tab bars, one for groups (upper) and one for files (lower). When a group tab is clicked the lower bar is filled with the files for that group. My and unodgs objection to this idea is that it uses too much vertical editor space, the most precious dimension . Tab stacking (/h/cpp) etc has the advantage of saving horizontal space without increasing the vertical dimensions. Exactly how the stacking is done and displayed is application specific (though controlled internally in the TabBar) and easy to change so we can explore different representations.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by mr_ped on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 12:57:53 GMT
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I'm using "ColorfulTabs" extension for firefox, and it's beautiful IMHO, although I don't use it's "group" option, so I have every tab with different color, and I'm not sure if it would work for groups too. But from visual standpoint I don't see any problem to break the OS theme if the result will look as good as ColorfulTabs.

Subject: Re: Proposal about editor tabs
Posted by mrjt on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 18:21:54 GMT
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That is indeed very pretty!

I'll have a think about how it could be done. The issue isn't so much violating the the OS theme, more that it's not possible to use any of the OS theme with colouring (since the theme includes bits you would not want coloured and theres no way of differentiating).

Something could be done with styles though.
