An XML-based system for management and query of video databases with user identifiable and annotated scenes

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An XML-based system for management and query of video databases with user identifiable and annotated scenes

by

Sri Harsha Nadella

A thesis submitted to the graduate faculty

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Major: Computer Science

Program of Study Committee:
Dr. Shashi K. Gadia
Dr. Carl Chang
Dr. Kevin Liu

Iowa State University

Ames, Iowa

2019

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 2. DESIGN OF STORAGE MODEL</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Movie Type</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Person Type</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Award</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Query</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Generate Testing Video Database</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 3. USER INTERFACE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Movie Information Display</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Query the Database</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1 Query Examples</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Movie and Scene Playback</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Schema Diagram</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 4. PRIOR AND RELATED WORK</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1 Conclusion</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Future Work</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Figure 1</td>
<td>Different situations of scene annotation (P represents “playing”, E represents “eating”, and S represents “Singing”).</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2</td>
<td>Overall data structure for XML-based video database</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 3</td>
<td>Data structure of complex type Movies</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 4</td>
<td>Date structure for Actor</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 5</td>
<td>The hierarchy of scene structure</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6</td>
<td>XML Schemas</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 7</td>
<td>List of features and corresponding values</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 8</td>
<td>Overview of Movie Database Manager user interface</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 9</td>
<td>Scene tab in Movie Information</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 10</td>
<td>Add new scene dialog</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 11</td>
<td>A popup windows indicating the end of scene materialization</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 12</td>
<td>Persist unsaved changes</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 13</td>
<td>User query interface</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 14</td>
<td>Video playback interface</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 15</td>
<td>Schema diagram of Movie Database Manager</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABSTRACT

Video is one type of document. However, unlike traditional documents and databases that are searchable, video is not. At the same time, video is typically lengthy and contains large amount of useful and/or useless information. Therefore, it is desired to make the video manageable and searchable.

Metadata and scene annotation are two keys to resolve this challenge. In this thesis we designed and implemented an XML-based Movie Database Manager (MDM) as a proof of concept. The video information is well organized in its natural way and stored in one single XML file. Videos are divided into user defined scenes with annotations for quick and exact query with build-in query engine. Users can also create, edit, and delete scenes annotations without physically split them in the video files. MDM integrates the query builder to help users run pre-defined queries or create and maintain their own ones. These queries can be stored in the same XML file. A full functional video player is also implemented to help user play their query results, create / edit / delete scene annotations.
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Videos are wildly used to record information nowadays. Videos can be considered as documents, but with great difference that unlike most of the documents which are searchable, video contents are not. Videos are long as well. This intrinsic feature of video raises the challenge: how can one keep track of personal or public collection of videos?

Videos are also complicated. Two distinct but essential concepts are containers and codecs. Container describes the structure of the video, basically means where the various pieces are stored, how they are interleaved, and which codecs are used by which pieces. The container can also include synchronization information such as audio track, subtitles, and metadata [1]. The container is normally reflected by its file extension of the video file such as .asf, .avi, .mp4, etc. Codec is a way of encoding audio or video into a stream of bytes. This process is usually lossy [2]. Optimized method can compress the video and audio to a relatively small size while at the same time maintain the quality. However, more resources are required to decode and playback the video. Based on various purposes, codecs can be classified as:

- Video capture, which includes H.264/MPEG-4 AVC, MJPEG, and DV/HDV etc.
- Disc-based delivery, which includes MPEG-2, Microsoft VC-1 etc.
- Streaming for Web, which includes WMV, H.264/MPEG-4 etc.

Scene is another important aspect of video. Commercial movies, public speeches, and homemade recordings are all composed of scenes. Scene is part of video and generally is considered as some actions occurred in a continuous time in some specific location [3]. However, different definitions might be applied so that a scene might not be limited in single location or continuous time but on specific subject. One video or movie might
contain hundreds to thousands of scenes based on different scenarios or features. Therefore, another question arises: how can people find the scenes that satisfy their interests without going through the whole video?

There are several commercial video management programs available in the market such as Movie Collector, Movie Label, and My Movies, etc. All these management programs have similar functionalities and mainly focus on the commercial movies. As the web-streaming and homemade digital videos increase rapidly, a methodical way to find the desired information in video becomes important. However, none of these products provide the ability to looking for specific scene in the whole movie and hence make them less capable to solve the challenge.

Another type of software is scene splitter. This type of software tends to split the big video files into smaller pieces. There are a couple of different algorithms to achieve this goal by sudden optical change, by date of shooting, or by black frame between scenes. None of these algorithms works perfect and split results are barely consistent. In addition, these programs break the video file integrity and create hundreds to thousands small files for each video and hence make video management even more difficult.

A user-friendly video management system should enable users to identify and refer to any scenes they wanted or interested. To address the challenges, scene identification and their annotation with metadata are the key. The question is how to store the information. Relational database requires the information to be dismantled and atomized. This breaks the natural structure of the information and scatters the information into pieces [4]. The information about videos might be incomplete, missing. For example, the video might not
have any audios, and hence the metadata won’t contain this part of information. In addition, video scenes can contain sub-scenes, which are of interest on their own right, giving rise to a nested scene hierarchy. All these make the relational database inappropriate for this circumstance.

Here we report an XML-based video management system Movie Database Manager (MDM), which gives user ability to review video information, manage scenes, query the video information, and movie/scene playback. Although video is normally considered as a broader definition, we use video and movie interchangeable from now on. The functionalities of this system are implemented with DOM (Document Object Model), XPath (XML Path Language), and XQuery. DOM is used as standard accessing and manipulating tools for the XML file [5]. XPath provides the ability to navigate the XML file and select nodes by different criteria [6]. XQuery is a query language similar to SQL but for xml documents. It is used to query and transform a collection of data, which can be structured or unstructured, to fulfill more complicated query tasks [7].

Currently the system is still a proof of conception, so several assumptions have been made. Frist of all, we assume that the video database is comprehensive, which means it contains different type of videos, different file format, etc. However, current implementation use 250 movie trailers as video source and all files are in .mp4 format. Secondly, we assume that the scene annotation is accurate while current setting randomly generates scenes from video files and random annotations have been generated for the scene. Annotating of video scenes is a very time consuming and tedious process and not possible within the human resource limits that we have at hand. However, it is to be noted that it is perhaps a fraction of the time it takes to produce actual videos. It is hoped
that some industry practices would evolve to address this issue. This would also help users to customize their own user-defined scenes.

The rest of the document is organized as follows. In Section 2, the data storage model has been described. How we structure the xml file to store different types of information has been discussed. Section 3 is focus on the program implementation and user interface introduction. Various functions of MDM are discussed. Section 4 briefly investigates the previous and similar work, and Section 5 concludes the project description and discusses some future thoughts.

Unlike relational database, XML does not have to comply with the data uniformity. Simple object such as atomic values or very complex objects such as nested or hierarchy structure can be saved in the same XML instance [4]. Most importantly, the data structure in the XML file can offer natural ways of storing object. We end this section with an informal example.

**Previous Work:**

When creating scene annotations, user could encounter different situations. The scenes could be continuous, scattered, overlapping, or nested. In order to give an example, we hypothesize that a database \{M\} consisting of a single video M with the title “Fun” is given. Figure 1 shows a scenario consisting of multiple steps where these situations occur. In each step the user interaction is shown on the left and the resulting internal representation is shown on the right. The user has a context ranging from the whole video to a scene that has been previously insolated. In the given context the user identifies scenes and associates the desired annotations with them. The result is a hierarchical partitioning of the video. Sometimes in some part of the hierarchy the level is
incremented by one. Logically, a scene identified with particular annotations will consist of a sequence of finitely many disjoint clips. In this document the term clip stands for an arbitrary sequence of frames without a break. In the example, annotations “eating”, “playing”, and “singing” denoted in short as “E”, “P”, and “S” are used by the user. Whereas a clip is analogous to an interval on real line, a scene is analogous to a finite union of intervals introduced in [8,9].

Continuous or scattered scene annotations are kept as they are, as shown in Figure 1(a). While for every two overlapped scene annotations, they will be split into three new scene annotations. Non-overlapped parts will keep their original annotations, but their start or end position will be adjusted to the edge of overlapping. A new scene will be created for overlapped part and it inherits both scenes’ annotation. For example, in Figure 1(b), the new scene has annotation of both “E” and “P”. A sub-scene must have its start and end between its parent scene. When a sub-scene has been created, its parent physically keeps its original annotations but should have all annotations from its sub-scenes.

The main goal of this thesis is to make the database of videos queriable. Although the context of a query consists of a database containing multiple videos here we offer some examples assuming that our database {M} consists of a single movie M. The video level metadata (e.g. movie title and directory) and user defined annotations form the main ingredients for queries. Queries will be expressed in XQuery language enabling a user to ask sophisticated queries with the objective of narrowing the scenes as much as possible, here we confine to simple examples with simple informal syntax.
Figure 1. Different situations of scene annotation (P represents “playing”, E represents “eating”, and S represents “Singing”).

Query {“Fun”} will result in the whole video. The query {“Misery”} will return nothing. The query {“S”} will return a scene consisting of a single clip from level 2. Query {“L”} will return nothing, but if there were other videos in the database where annotation “L” appears all corresponding clips from all videos will be displayed. Query {“E”} will return all clips where annotation “E” appears. The query {“E”, “P”} will return all clips where “E”, or “P”, or both appear. Note that {“E”} will absorbs {“S”} completely. In the current state of the database the results of queries {“E”} and {“E”, “S”} are indistinguishable.

New Approach:

We followed a flat method where a user can tag multiple independent scenes to a same feature. This requires creation of a feature prior to creation of scenes. The process is explained in detailed in the later sections of the report.
CHAPTER 2. DESIGN OF STORAGE MODEL

The structure of the XML file has been described in corresponding schema file which was developed with commercial software XMLSpy. The contents of the whole XML file have been categorized into four major parts:

- Video Information
- Person Information
- Reward Information
- Query Information

Each part of the information is a complex type so that we can treat them as a whole.

The overall document structure is shown in Figure. 2.

Figure 2. Overall data structure for XML-based video database

Solid line indicates that it is a required component, thus the root element VideoDB is required. Elements shown in dotted line are optional. We expect the video database to be a comprehensive one, but we cannot rule out the possibilities that in specific videos only part of the information is available. This approach leads to the great flexibility of using XML as information storage.
As clearly indicated by their names, these four types, realized as complex types following XML terminology, are used to separate information based on their nature and also to normalize the data to avoid unnecessary duplications. Although the order of these parts is not essentially important, we add the constraint on the order of these four elements to make the structure more organized.

### 2.1 Movie Type

This is the most complicated type as most of the information resides in this element. As shown in Figure 3, inside the *Movie* type, the information has been divided again into three types based on its nature.

![Figure 3. Data structure of complex type Movies](image)

Each movie has a unique movie id as attribute, which is the primary key to distinguish the movie. This has been designed as a required attribute. Industrial information about the video such as title, release date, budget, rating, overview, actors etc.
is considered as movie info. We try to include as much information as possible so that there will be enough information for user to narrow down their searches based upon their interests. It is useful to note that most of the data inside *MovieInfo* are atomic, some of them are not. For example, Actors element has an attribute *PersonID* which points to *Person* element so that users can find the actor’s personal information. In addition, the actor has a *Character* element as this is part of the movie information instead of personal information, as indicated in Figure 4.

![Figure 4. Data structure for Actor](image)

*Metadata* is the video’s technical information such as *FileName, BitRate, Codec, Resolution, AudioTrack* etc. Again, most of these elements are atomic values except for the *AudioTrack*. A video can have multiple audio tracks with different purpose or languages. In addition, audio track can has its own technical information including sample rate, language etc. Therefore, the *AudioTrack* is considered as another complex type.

The last but the most important child of *MovieType* is the *Scene* element. A scene is normally considered as an action in a single location and continuously. While there could exist other classifications. For example, a video might be split by topic of interest. Here, we do not limit how the scene is split. Users can split the video in any way they want
based on their own interests. To better mimic the real world example, we designed the scene structure as a hierarchy structure, as indicated in Figure 5.

Three elements are defined as required, which are SceneID, StartFrame, and EndFrame. SceneID is the identifier of scene but is only unique within a movie. The root scene of a video is considered as the whole video and has an id of “1”. While the second layer of scenes have ids like “1.x”, and so on. User can define as many as layer they want. The StartFrame and EndFrame define the boundary of a scene in the video. The rest of the elements are optional, as shown in Figure 5. In order to remove information duplications, the Actor and Feature elements are only physically appearing in leaf scene. Non-leaf scene does not have these two elements filled but shows a collect of actors and features from all its descendant scenes in the user interface.

2.2 Person Type

Person is a relatively simple complex type. It is used to store personal information for actors, directors, speakers etc. Similar as Movie element, a PersonID attribute is used as
unique identifier for *Person* element and it is an IDREF type so that *Movie* element can get personal information by *PersonID*. Child elements include *Name*, *DateOfBirth*, *Biography* etc.

One important element is *Award* element in *Person*, as indicated in following schema. This element contains the information about the awards the person received. It also has a *MovieID* attribute to point to the movie or video the person was rewarded for.

### 2.3 Award

The third element of *VideoDB* is *Award*. This is also a pretty simple complex type, which record details of all types of awards. A unique *AwardID* attribute is used as identifier. Award name, country and description are the only elements.

### 2.4 Query

A comprehensive video management system should have the capability to run user define queries as pre-defined categories might not be enough to narrow down the video searching. And users might want to provide their own criteria for video screening. The MDM integrates the XQuery so that users can write their own queries and also save the queries for later use or future development in the *Query* element.

*Query* element has a unique attribute *QueryID* just like *MovieID*, *PersonID*, and *AwardID*. The *Title* element stores a short name for the query and *Description* element describes the details of the query. The *String* element stores the query itself.
(a) XML schema for Award Element in Person Element

```xml
<xs:complexType name="AwardType">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="Name" type="xs:string"/>
    <xs:element name="Country" type="xs:string"/>
    <xs:element name="Description" type="xs:string"/>
  </xs:sequence>
  <xs:attribute name="AwardID" type="xs:ID" use="required"/>
</xs:complexType>
```

(b) XML schema for complex type AwardType

```
<xs:complexType name="QueryType">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="Title" type="xs:string"/>
    <xs:element name="Description" type="xs:string"/>
    <xs:element name="String" type="xs:string"/>
  </xs:sequence>
  <xs:attribute name="QueryID" type="xs:ID" use="required"/>
</xs:complexType>
```

(c) XML schema for complex type QueryType

**Figure 6. XML Schemas**

2.5 Generate Testing Video Database

As mentioned in our assumptions, the work presented here is a proof of concept. Thus, we create a sample XML video database to test our implementation. Considering the large amount of information, it is not realistic to manually input all the information. Thus, the database was created step by step as described below.

The movie list is obtained from IMDB (Internet Movie Database), the most authoritative source for movies, tvs. It is not possible to include all movie information, so we choose the Top 250 movies as our movie list. An open source java project
themoviedbapi is then used to fetch MovieInfo and Person from another popular movie information source TMDB (The Movie Database) by movie titles. The information is inserted into the video database at right position with duplicated information removed. The MovieID and PersonID are generated and mapped automatically during this process.

The movie trailers are used as our video file sources. Xuggler, a third-party java package handling multimedia, is used to extract the metadata from the video files. The metadata information is then appended as MetaData element right after the MovieInfo element for each movie.

Scene annotations are generated randomly. Although the Scene element has been designed as a hierarchy structure, we only create two levels in the beginning: a root scene and random number of child scenes. For each movie, the number of scenes is randomly generated between 1 and 10. After the number of scenes has been determined, the percentage of scene length over movie length is randomized for each scene and their total is normalized to 100% and then followed by calculating the start frame and end frame. For meta data associated with the scene, actors are also randomly picked from the actors in MovieInfo element.

Scene feature is critical as it is one of the keys for users to find scene precisely using some logical (or physical) criteria. Again, randomization is used to populate scene features. We defined four types of features (denoted as FeatureName in the XML file) and various feature value (denoted as FeatureValue in the XML file), as indicated in Figure 7. Other types of scene feature can be added into the database through the user interface and will be discussed in next chapter. This makes searches highly customizable.
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Moods</strong></th>
<th><strong>Locations</strong></th>
<th><strong>Times</strong></th>
<th><strong>Actions</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Morning</td>
<td>Eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sad</td>
<td>Sea</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Sleeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angry</td>
<td>River</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Talking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxious</td>
<td>Sky</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Playing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bored</td>
<td>OutSpace</td>
<td>Dawn</td>
<td>Singing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheerful</td>
<td>House</td>
<td></td>
<td>Driving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disappointed</td>
<td>School</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frustrated</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>Running</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonely</td>
<td>Supermarket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaceful</td>
<td>Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 7. List of features and corresponding values**

*Award* information was populated manually from IMDB as no suitable API available to retrieve the award information. Only part of the movies and persons have their award information filled.

The *Query* part is intentionally left empty at the beginning as it is programmatically added when users enter their own queries.
CHAPTER 3. USER INTERFACE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

A Java Swing based interface has been developed for user interaction with the XML-based video database. The overall interface is shown in Figure. 8. There are four tabs on top of the main screen providing four main functionalities which are described in detail in following sections.

In addition to the standard Java SDK, a couple of third-party packages have been used to facilitate the implementation including:

- Saxon: used as our XQuery engine
- Vlcj: used for video playback
- Xuggler: used for video metadata extraction and scene materialization
- Themoviedbapi: used for commercial movie information retrieval from themoviedb.org

3.1 Movie Information Display

Movie Information tab is used to display video information. This panel has been divided into three sub-panels. Data have been read from XML file and re-organized for better information demonstration. Thus, the information layout on the screen is not necessarily identical to its physical structure in the XML file.

This is the default screen showing when program starts. The video list table displays all videos in the XML file and right bottom panel shows information of first video in the video list table by default.

Left panel is a tree structure that lists some basic categories that users can narrow down the video display. Currently *Country*, *Genre*, *Language*, *Release Year*, and *Studio* have been added into the list and potentially more criteria could be added. Each time
when user click on the root node (*Movies*), the movie list table on top right will be updated and show all movies in the file. Clicking on non-leaf node won’t do anything. When a user clicks on any leaf-node under each category, videos fall into selected category will be listed in video list table. At the same time, right bottom panel changes to current first video in the video list table. For example, if user click the node “The United States” under *Country* node (not shown in Figure. 8), then all videos produced in the United States are listed. The details of the first movie in the table will be display in right bottom panel.

![Figure 8. Overview of Movie Database Manager user interface](image)

Right panel is split into two sub-panels. Top one is used to display filtered video results. As we indicated earlier, *Movie* element contains most of the information. A single
table won’t be able to display them all in a manageable way, so only a couple of fields are included in the table such as id, title, etc. The information gives user a good overview of the video. Right click on the selected movie will pop up a Play Movie menu so that users can play the movie in Movie Player tab, as indicated in Figure. 8.

Details of the video are shown in right bottom panel. This tabbed panel has four panes including Movie Details, Casts and Crews, Movie Metadata, and Movie Features. The panel titles are self-explained. Movie Details displays industrial information of the video and Casts and Crews display all persons related to video such as actors, directors, writers, etc. These two tabs map to the MovieInfo element in the XML file. The third tab is metadata of the video including file name, file location, codec, audios, etc. As clearly indicated, it maps to the MetaData element in the XML file. The final part maps the feature element in the XML file, as indicated in Figure. 9. However, unlike the other three tabs, it is not just displaying the feature information, but also is editable.

![Figure 9. Scene tab in Movie Information](image)

The Feature tab is split again into different zones. Left panel list all scenes in the selected video with their feature name, feature value, start time and end time.
As an example, Figure 9 shows all scenes in movie “The Shawshank Redemption”. The Right panel contains all the features that are used to tag the scenes of the selected movie. When users click on any feature on the right panel, the corresponding scenes are shown in the right panel.

Users can perform several actions regarding features. User can add new features and tag new scenes to that feature. When user clicks Add Feature button, a new dialog pops up, as shown in Figure 10.

![Figure 10. Add new feature dialog](image)

User can add Feature Name, Feature Value, and can tag new scenes to that feature by adding new scenes using add Scene.

![Figure 11. Add new scene dialog](image)

The user can choose the start time and end time by playing the movie using the play Movie button at the bottom of the new scene dialog as shown in the Fig 11.
Users can tag multiple scenes to a feature by using add scene button. Once the scenes are tagged to a feature, we can see all the scenes that are tagged to a feature in the feature dialogue as shown in the figure 12.

![Figure 12. New Feature dialog](image)

User can also choose one of the scenes added and play the scene using the play scene using the play scene button at the left side of the new feature dialog as shown in Figure 12. Difference between play movie and play scene is user does not have to watch the video from the beginning to end. Player plays scene from their start frame. In such manner, users can quickly jump to the part they are interested.

Users can also use other options such edit scene or delete scene using the buttons as shown in Fig 12. Edit scene button is used to edit the details of the scene start time and scene end time. Delete scene button is used to delete any of the scenes that are already added.
3.2 Query the Database

The categories in the *Movie Information* panel are quite broad and only work on the video level. To obtain more specific contents, users have to run pre-defined queries or build their own queries. Thus, MDM provides a query panel to fulfill this requirement.

The query interface has several main fields. On the left side is a query list. All queries stored in the XML file are shown here. As the query description could be long, it is separated from the table and displayed in the textbox below the table. In the middle of the query panel is the query builder and right side is the query result. To assist users in building the queries, a console is added to display error and success messages.

Query id is an in editable field and is generated automatically. When users click on a query in the table, the query id, query name, description, and actual query show in their own textbox, as indicated in Figure. 13. When running the query, the query is parsed by the integrated Saxon XQuery engine. If it is a valid query, a success message will show in the console and results outputs to the result windows. The program then parses the query output again. If it contains both *MovieID* and *SceneID*, the *Play* button is enabled. Thus, if users click the *Play* button, the list of scenes extracted from the query results will be sent to the *Movie Player* panel, which will be discussed in next section. The query result can also be export as text file, html file, or xml file.
Users can either create a query from scratch or modify an exist query to meet their requirement. When a new query is created by clicking the New button, a query id is assigned automatically. Users can then enter the query name, query description and start to build query in query builder. After its creation, the query can be added into the query list. If working on an existing query, adding it to the list will overwrite the original one. Again, all these actions are still recorded in the memory until users click on the Save button to persist them. Therefore, users can work on several queries at the same time and save them as a batch. Here too, if user forgets to save query changes and tries to close the program, the “Save Changes” windows pops up to remind user that there are unsaved changes.
3.2.1 Query Examples

The query does not tie to the scene search. Any information in the database could be queried. For example, following is a simple query to generate a list of movies that have rating at least 8. This query only returns movie information.

```
<Movies>{
   for $movie in doc("VideoDB.xml")/Movie
   where $movie/MovieInfo/Rating >= 8
   order by $movie/MovieInfo/Rating descending
   return <MovieID>{
      $movie/@MovieID, $movie/MovieInfo/Title, $movie/MovieInfo/Rating
   }<MovieID>
}</Movies>
```

Another example that looks for actor information is shown below.

List the actor names and their characters played in movie “The Godfather”

```
<Actors> {
   for $e in doc("VideoDB.xml")/Movie
   for $a in $e/MovieInfo/Actors/Actor
   for $p in doc("VideoDB.xml")//Person
   where $e/MovieInfo/Title = 'The Godfather'
   and $a/@PersonID = $p/@PersonID
   return <Actor> {
      <Name>{$p/Name/text()}</Name>,
      <Character>{$a/Character/text()}</Character>
   }<Actor>
</Actors>
```

Part of the results are shown below. The result does not contain any movie or scene information; thus the Play button will not be activated.

```
<Actors>
   <Actor>
      <Name>Marlon Brando</Name>
      <Character>Don Vito Corleone</Character>
   </Actor>

   <Actor>
      <Name>Al Pacino</Name>
      <Character>Michael Corleone</Character>
   </Actor>

   ... 

   <Actor>
      <Name>Gabriele Torrei</Name>
      <Character>Enzo, the baker</Character>
   </Actor>
</Actors>
```
Below are more queries that are not scene related but are also very helpful to retrieve information from the database:

- Extract scenes with famous dialogues
- List actors who have acted in 25 or more movies.
- List all queries currently in the database

Besides for general information query, the most valuable and the core of this application is to query the scene information. Careful designed query can return user very accurate results.

Extract non-root scenes that are at least 60 seconds long and the corresponding movie has revenue greater than $2,000,000. The result is ordered by MovieID first and then by the length of the scenes.

The result lists the information satisfies above query and since both movie information and scene information are included, the Play button will be activated and user can send the result to player to review.
As user can ask any questions to obtain the movies or scenes they are interested, this integrated query capability provides a very good opportunity for searching the database. Some examples are listed below:

- Find the scenes with famous dialogs. This assumes that annotations for famous dialogs have been used.
- Show stunt scenes from James Bond and Jackie Chan movies.
- Extract action scenes involving chase from movies involving while collar crime where both Tom Cruise and Gene Hackman have acted.
- Extract the climax scenes from movies with happy ending where the prosecutor wins the case. Here, we envision that scene level annotations have been used to identify scenes with climax and where prosecutor wins and movie level annotations indicating have happy ending and court case.
- List the scenes in show “Colombo” where he talks about his wife. (In this serial it was amusing that the detective Colombo would randomly mention his wife who remained unseen for several seasons. Here it is assumed that such scenes have been so annotated.
- Obtain scenes with theme music of movies that won Oscars for the best music.
- Show scenes where the actor Dev Anand is shown as singing sad songs.
- Show my favorite scenes from my favorite movies.
- Show the whole scene surrounding Dandi March from the Gandhi movie.
- Show suspense scenes from our family favorite movies.

3.3 Movie and Scene Playback

The third important function of Movie Database Manager is the integrated video playback. When searching or querying the database, users will be interested in watching the selected videos or scenes without leaving MDM. This is also helpful for making
scene annotations as it is very difficult to add or edit a scene without visual assistance. As indicated in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, video and scene can be sent to this panel for playback. That requires the player can handle both full video and part of the video.

The *Movie Player* panel has a table holding the playlist. To play a scene, it requires both *MovieID* and *SceneID* to be present at the same time since a scene can’t be located by *SceneID* alone. Therefore, both *MovieID* and *SceneID* are listed in the table. In addition, video title is also present as reference. Figure. 14 shows the list of scenes extracted from query result in Section 3.2. The playlist table accepts multiple selection and generate a playlist for continuous play. Just like the scene materilization in scene information section, user can materilization multiple scenes from the playlist.

A full functional player like the commercial player has been integrated, as shown in Figure. 14. Bottom figure is the full control panel designed for the player. The implementation utilizes an open source framework vlcj and allows an instance of a native vlc media player to be embedded in the window. To make the embedded player work, vlc player needs to be installed in the operation system.

The player has the basic functions such as play, stop, pause etc. It also has the exclusive scene navigation functions. The leftmost button uses to jump to previous scene when playing a list of scenes. Similarly, the right button near the volumn adjustor jumps to next scene in the playlist. These two functions help user to quickly go through or skip the scene without waiting.
Figure 14. Video playback interface

Information about the playing scene are displayed in several places. On top of the player, it always shows the video title of current playing scene. While in the console...
window, more detailed information is displayed including SceneID, video title, start and end. Sub-scenes are also listed in the console window if it is not a leaf scene.

Scene annotation is greatly enhanced here. When playing a scene, if a new scene is desired, user can either enter the frame number or by click the Start Frame and End Frame buttons to capture the start frame and end frame. Add Scene and Edit Scene Info buttons invoke the same Add Scene and Edit Scene dialogs described in Section 2.1 and will not be discussed here.

### 3.4 Schema Diagram

![Schema diagram of Movie Database Manager](image)

**Figure 15. Schema diagram of Movie Database Manager**

The schema diagram is mainly used to illustrate the structure of XML file. Left panel is a tree structure demonstrating the main elements. Each node corresponds to the
complex type in the schema. Clicking on tree node will display schema information for
the node including diagram, properties, etc. in the right panel. This part of information is
used to assist query development.
CHAPTER 4. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

4.1 Conclusion

It is an information explosion era. How to manage information becomes a great concern. Video is one of the important information sources and become part of people’s life nowadays. How to find useful information efficiently has become a critical task. Traditional documents such as books, newspapers are normally searchable when digitized, while videos are not. In addition, most the videos are lengthy and might contain useless information that may be difficult to bypass. There is strong desire to make video searchable so that users can easily find what they are interested.

In this thesis, we have designed and implemented an XML-based video database management system meets the requirements. All video information except the video and image files is stored in one XML file. Natural structure of the information has been retained. Based on the nature of information, there are four complex types representing four types of information: Movie, Person, Award, and Query. Among these four types, Movie is the most complicated one and contains the most information. Inside Movie, three sub-elements, MovieInfo, MetaData, and Scene, are created to better organize the information.

Scene is part of the video and normally happen in one place or has one single topic. Several scenes might be combined to form another topic. Theoretically it is not a scene anymore since it can’t be split into smaller pieces; however, in this thesis, we override the meaning of scene and consider this big chunk as a scene too. Thus, the scene forms a
hierarchy structure with unlimited levels. Annotation normally occurs at leaf level. Non-leaf scenes obtain the annotation from their descendants.

A user interface has been implemented to help user visually working on the XML file. The interface displays the information in a different but more user-friendly way from its storage in XML file. Users can browse the database on almost everything such as movie/scene information, metadata, and scene information etc. The interface also integrated a query engine so that user can refine their searching. The output is parsed again to generate the scene playlist if exists.

A full functional video playback has also been integrated into the interface. Thus, users can watch the videos, scenes, or the playlist created by the query directly. Integrated with the scene creating, editing, and annotating function, the interface can make scene annotation easier.

5.2 Future Work

Although the Movie Database Manager is fully functional on video managing, querying, and playing, there are still some directions that could further improve or expand its functionalities.

The user interface still can be improved. As we indicated in Section 2.5, an open source project themoviedbapi is used to collect commercial movie information from The Movie Database (http://www.themoviedb.org). This function can be integrated into the user interface so that users can make their own contributes. This function might introduce adverse effects, but it gives the user more controls. A statistical module could be very useful to obtain an overview of the whole database. It could be pure text or visualized. Improvement could also be made by giving the user ability to operate their playlist.
Similar as queries, another *PlayList* element can be created to host the playlists. User then can maintain the playlist without run query each time. Also results returned from different queries could be integrated into one play list. The management of the playlist needs to thoughts as the scenes may go through changes.

So far, the Movie Database Manager is still a stand-alone program that can only be access by one user. It is desired to turn it into a multi-user program. Lot of concerns need to be covered such as security, threads, etc. Also, how to store user information would also be challenge. Swing based interface could also be turn into web-based, thus user does not need to worry about environment setup, software installation etc.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my advisor, Dr. Shashi K. Gadia, for the many insights and ideas he has given me. His expertise in databases and XML improved my knowledge and skills and prepared me for future challenges. Without his supervision and help, this thesis would not have been possible. The amount of time he spent helping me was invaluable and deeply appreciated.

I gratefully acknowledge and thank my committee member, Dr. Carl Chang and Dr. Kevin Liu for their concerns, suggestions, and comments during this process.
REFERENCES


