

MuCat 1.0
MUSIC CATALOG & COMMUNITY
User Manual

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	GETTING AROUND THE INTERFACE	4
2.1	The Main Window	4
2.2	The Folder View	5
2.3	The Buddy Panel	5
2.4	The Album View	6
2.5	Toolbar	7
	Catalog Tools	8
	Album Tools	8
	Visualization Tools	9
	Buddy Tools	9
2.6	The Graph View	10
3	MANAGING ALBUMS	14
3.1	Opening an Album	14
3.2	Adding a new Album	15
4	MANAGING YOUR BUDDIES	17
4.1	Importing and Exporting Catalogs	17
4.2	Managing Buddy Catalogs	18
5	PERSONALIZING YOUR APPLICATION	20
	Changing Look and Feels	20

1 Introduction

MuCat is a program for cataloging the music you like and sharing your musical tastes with your friends. To add album information from a CD to your catalog, you only need to insert the CD in your CD-drive, and MuCat will download all the album information from Internet. You can browse and edit the album information, add cover art, and share your catalog with your friends. MuCat has a friendly and intuitive user interface that shows full information about albums and offers several intuitive visualizations that will help you build your customized catalog of favorite songs from CDs or from other friends' catalogues. Sharing catalogues is easy.

2 Getting around the Interface

Here is a roadmap to help you find your way around the Music Catalog. Once you know where things are, you will be able to manage your catalog and start using the software.

2.1 The Main Window

When you start the Music Catalog, you are presented with a default user interface, which consists of three panels as depicted in Figure 1. These three panels are: the folder view, which presents you the catalog (organized hierarchically), the buddy panel, which shows you the buddies you have added, and the Album view, which shows you a view of the catalog organized by artist.

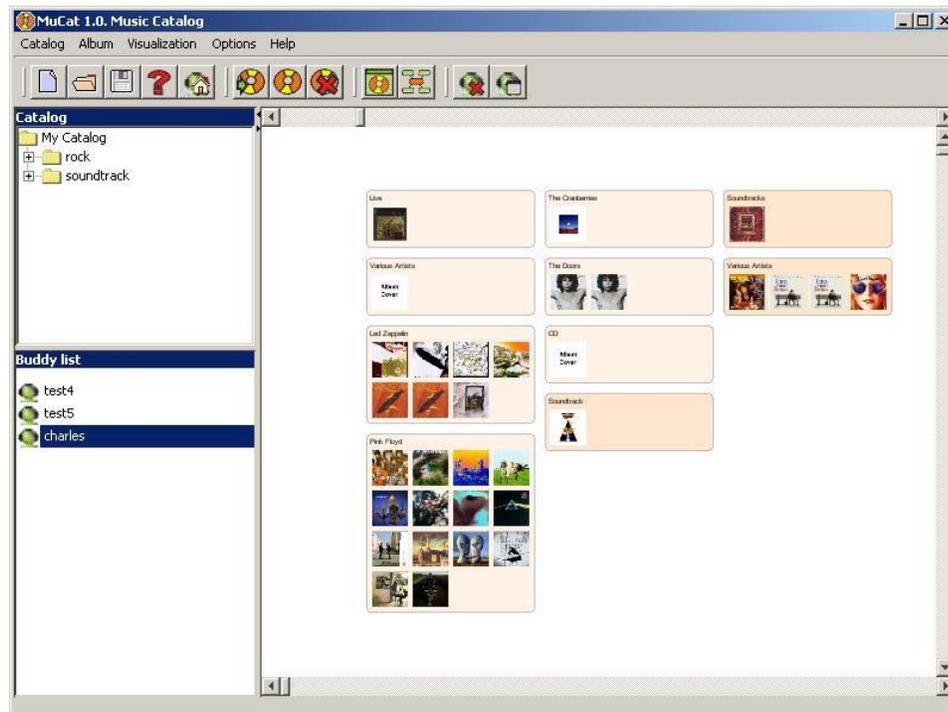


Figure 1. Main window

2.2 The Folder View

The folder view presents you a hierarchical organization of your catalog. In the top levels of the hierarchy you will find the genres, followed by the subgenres. For instance, you may have a genre called rock, and inside this level, you may find subgenres such as classic rock, punk, rock and roll, etc.

Within each subgenre you will find the artists, and within each artist you will find the albums.

By double clicking on any node, you can collapse or expand your selection.

Also, you can right click on any album to open the available actions.

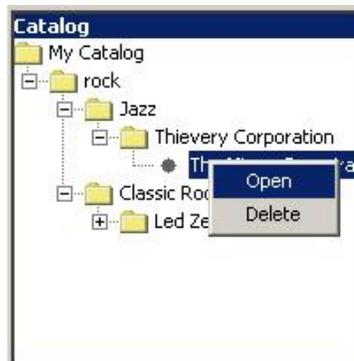


Figure 2. Available Actions in the Folder View

2.3 The Buddy Panel

The buddy panel contains a list of your buddies. Each buddy contains one catalog, and you can open their catalogs by double clicking on them.

In addition, you can right click on any buddy to open the available actions.

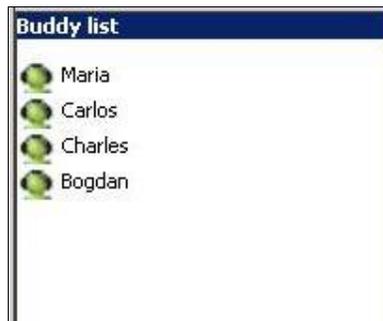


Figure 3. Buddy Panel

2.4 The Album View

The Album view presents you a zoomable view of your catalog, organized by artist.

Each artist is represented by a color box, and inside that box you will find the images of your albums. You can click on any album to select it and double click on any album to open its information.

This album view will also present you three different sliders:

On the right side and the bottom side of the album view, you will find two sliders that allow you to scroll vertically and horizontally along the album view.

The slider on the topside of the album view is the zoom slider. This slider lets you zoom in and zoom out your view of the catalog. The following figures show how the album view looks after scrolling and after zooming out.

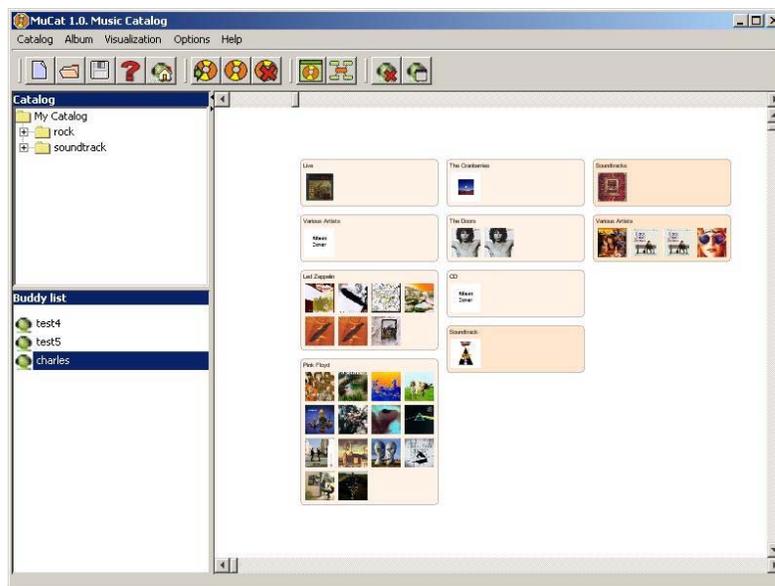


Figure 4. Album View

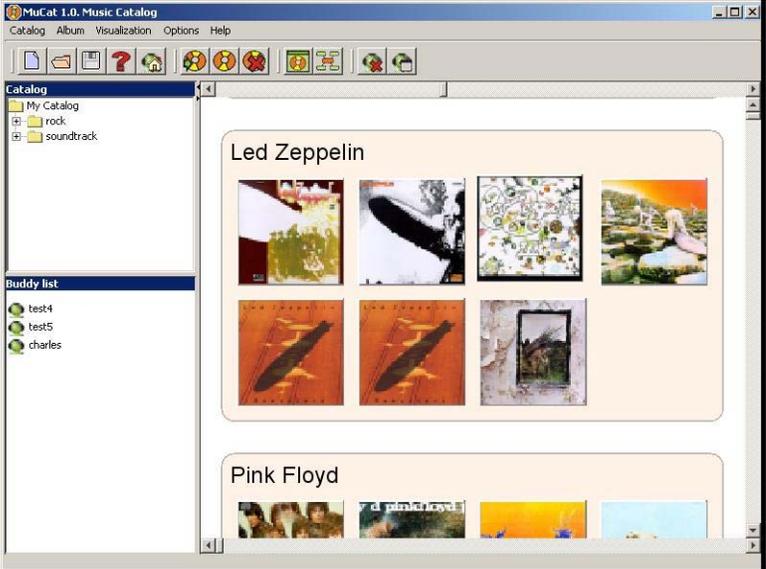


Figure 5. Album View after zooming in

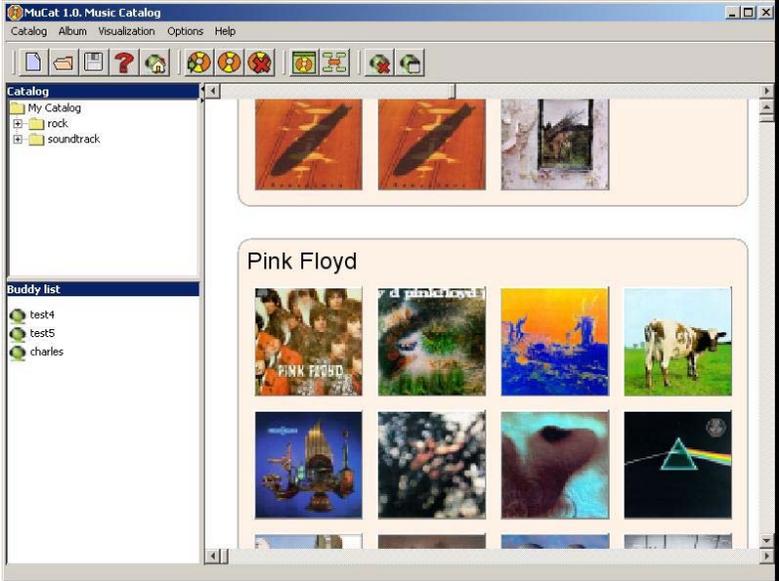


Figure 6. Album View after scrolling down

2.5 Toolbar

The toolbar presents you a set of tools to manage your catalog. Some of the tools can be launched by using the menu bar.

Catalog Tools

Import Catalog

 This tool allows you to import catalog from a file directory. You can set the imported catalog as your catalog, or add it as a buddy catalog.

Export Catalog

 This tool allows you to export your catalog to a file.

Help

 This tool provides help.

Load User Catalog

 This tool allows you to load your own catalog into the application.

Album Tools

New Album

 This tool allows you create a new album. Refer to section “Adding a new album” for a description of this process.

Open Album

 This tool allows you to open the selected album. You can select an album by clicking on it on the folder view, the album view or the graph view.

Delete album

 This tool allows you to delete the selected album.

Visualization Tools

Change to Album View



This tool allows you to change your visualization to the album view.

Change to Graph View



This tool allows you to change your visualization to the graph view.

Buddy Tools

Delete Buddy



This tool allows you to delete a buddy from your buddy list. You must first select a buddy from the buddy panel.

Load Buddy Catalog



This tool allows you to load a buddy catalog from your buddy list. You must first select a buddy from the buddy panel.

2.6 The Graph View

The Graph View presents a hierarchical structure of the albums in the catalog.

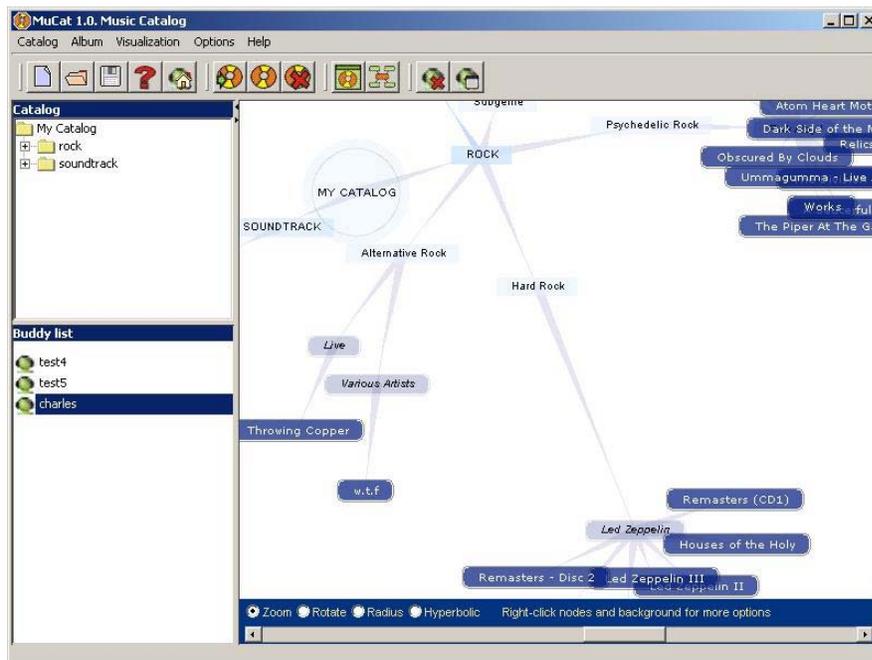


Figure 7. Graph view

The information in the catalog is organized in five different levels: A *Catalog* (level 1) that includes different *Genre*. Each *Genre* (level 2) is divided in one or more *Subgenre* (level 3) that contains a set of *Artists* (level 4). Finally, each artist has one or more *albums*. The figure below shows the default presentation of the nodes in the graph.



Figure 8. Graph view levels

A circular node represents the Catalog. If this node reads “My Catalog”, the catalog in display is the user’s catalog. When the catalog belongs to a Buddy, the node will display the Buddy’s name.

You can click in any element of the graph and it will be positioned in the center and its color will change. When you click on any album, there appears a window with its information.

A right click on an album will display the following menu.



The slider on the bottom of the graph view allows you to set the zoom, rotation, radius, and hyperbolic appearance of the graph.

The zoom option changes the length of the edges connecting the graph elements as shown in the following figures.

The rotation tool rotates all the elements of the graph around the center of the graph panel. In the following figures the graph is rotated around the catalog element (seen in orange) because this node is located in the center of the panel.

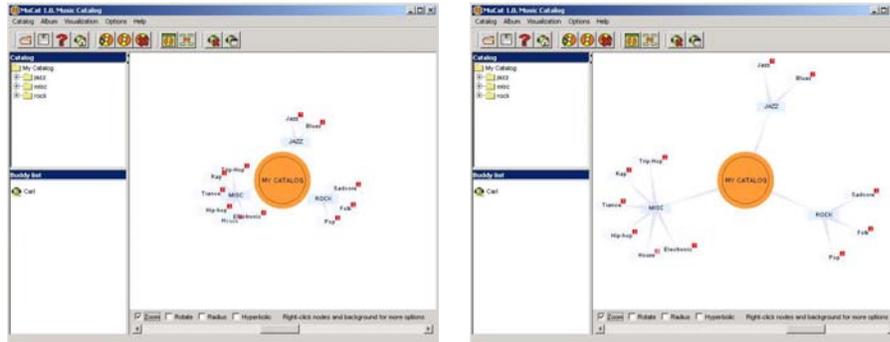


Figure 9. Graph view zoom

The radius allows you to determine the depth of the graph. In other words, it let you to determine how many elements away from the element selected you want to see.

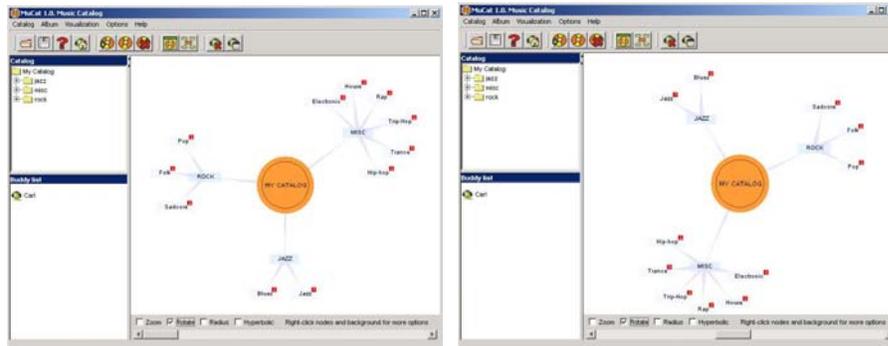


Figure 10. Graph view rotation

For example, the figures below on the left shown how we fixed the radius so the graph shows only one element away from the selected element. The figure on the right shows the elements two levels away from the selected node.

The red number in the top-right hand corner of some graph elements represents number of elements in the following level that are not been shown. For example, if the genre ROCK has the number 3 in red, it means that there are 3 subgenres not currently displayed in the graph.

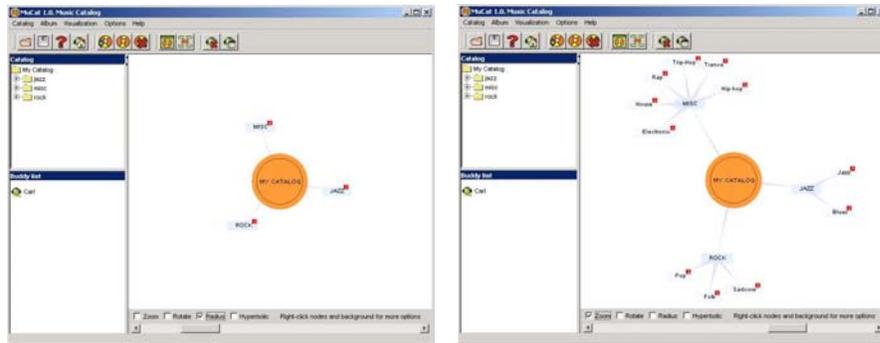


Figure 11. Graph view radius

The hyperbolic appearance works like a fish-eye lens. This effect emphasizes the elements in the center of the graph panel. The pictures below illustrate the graph with (right picture) and without (left picture) hyperbolic effect.

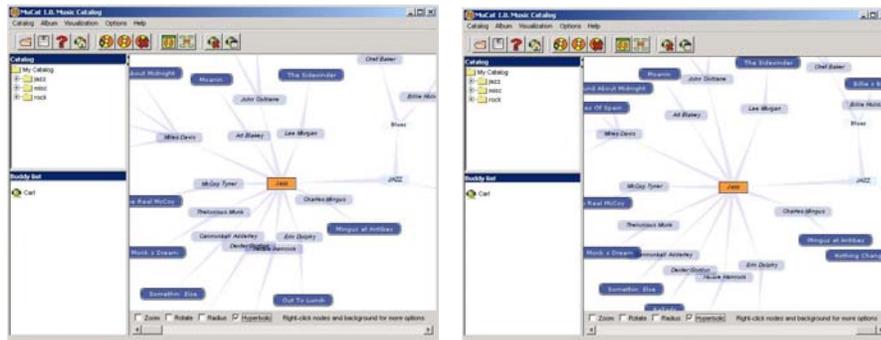


Figure 12. Graph view hyperbolic appearance

3 Managing Albums

3.1 Opening an Album

You can open an album in different ways:

- You can select an album in any of the three views (Folder View, Album View, Graph View), and click on the *Open Album* tool 
- You can right click on an album in the folder view, and select the option *Open* from the popup menu.
- You can double click on an album in the Folder View
- You can click on the album cover in the Album View
- You can click on the album title in the Graph View.

When you open an album, you are presented with the Album Dialog.

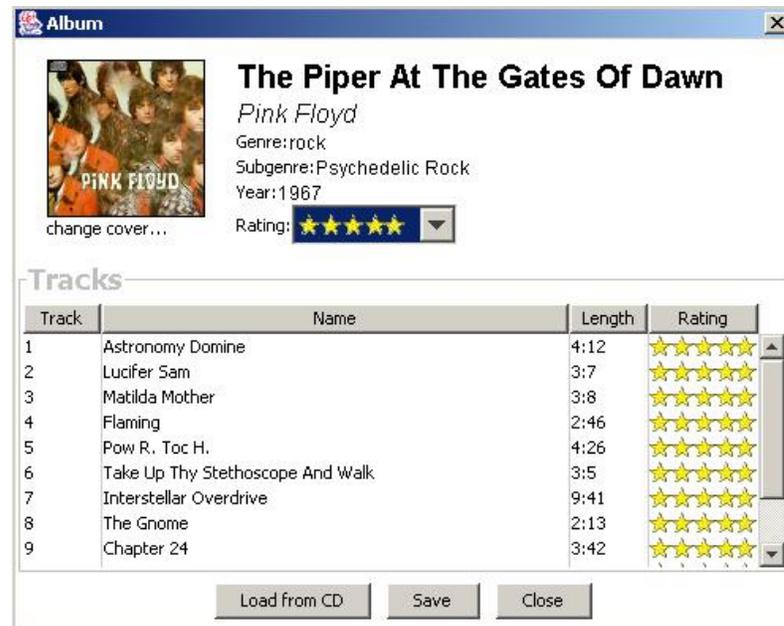


Figure 13. Album Dialog

The Album Dialog shows the album cover on the upper left corner, the album title, author name, album genre and subgenre, year and tracks. Each track is listed as track number, name, length and rating.

You can modify any of those values, except the track numbers, reload them from the CD, or save the album information in your catalog. Album rating is obtained automatically by averaging the rating of the individual tracks. You can also set the rating for all the tracks by selecting a rating from the Album Rating.

3.2 Adding a new Album

You can add an album in two different ways:

- You can click on the *Create Album* tool 
- You select the entry *Create* from the *Album* menu

When you create an album, you are presented with the Album Dialog as seen in the next figure



Using this dialog window, you can either:

1. Create the new album manually
2. Choose to load the album information from the CD and the internet.

Adding new album manually:

All you need to do is to type in the album information in the appropriate fields: artist, title, genre, subgenre, track titles, lengths and ratings.

Adding new album from CD and Internet:

If you decide to use the automated creation of a new album, you first have to make sure that:

1. The music CD is present in your computer's audio CD drive
2. That your computer has a live connection to the internet

If those two requirements are met then follow these steps:

1. The program will get some album information from the CD
2. The program will fetch possible matches for your CD from the Freedb servers on the internet
3. The program will show you a list of possible matches for your CD
4. You must pick one of the entry in the list of matches
5. The program will create a new album based on the match you selected
6. To save the new album click in the *Save* button.

4 Managing your Buddies

4.1 Importing and Exporting Catalogs

You can import a catalog in two different ways:

- You can click on the *Import Catalog* tool 
- You can select *Import* from *Catalog* menu

When you import a catalog, you are presented with the Open Catalog dialog.



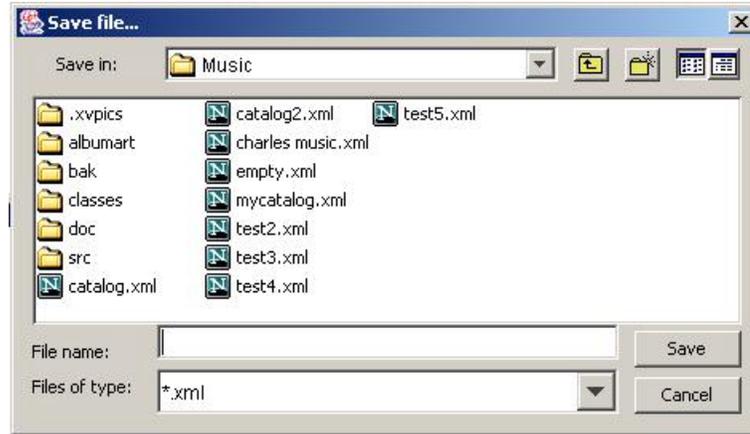
Using this dialog window, you can either:

1. Import the catalog information in your current catalog. The content of your catalog will be automatically updated.
2. Import the catalog as a separate buddy catalog. In this case you need to specify a buddy name. The buddy catalog will be added to the buddy list.

You can export a catalog in two different ways:

- You can click on the *Export Catalog* tool 
- You can select *Export* from *Catalog* menu

When you export a catalog, you are presented with the Save Catalog dialog.



Using this dialog window, you can specify the name of the file that will contain the exported catalog. You can further send that file to your friends to import it in their catalogs.

4.2 Managing Buddy Catalogs

You can open a buddy catalog in three different ways:

- You can double-click with the left mouse button on a buddy catalog in the Buddy List.
- You can select a buddy catalog in the Buddy List and click on the *Open Buddy Catalog* tool 
- You can click with the right mouse button on the buddy catalog in the Buddy List and select *Delete* from the pop-up menu.

When you open a buddy catalog, the tree directory, the graph view and the catalog view will be update automatically to display the open catalog.

You can delete a buddy catalog in two different ways:

- You can select a buddy catalog in the Buddy List and click on the *Delete Buddy* tool 
- You can click with the right mouse button on the buddy catalog in the Buddy List and select *Delete* from the pop-up menu.

You can go back to your catalog click in two different ways:

- You can click on the *My Catalog* tool 
- You can select *My Catalog* from *Catalog* menu

To compare your catalog with a buddy catalog follow these steps:

1. If you are currently not viewing your catalog, go back to your catalog as described in the previous paragraph
2. If you are not in the Graph View mode, change to the Graph View  View 
3. Click with the right mouse button on the view and select *Compare* from the pop-up menu, then select the buddy catalog from the submenu

The Graph view will show the differences highlighted.

5 Personalizing Your Application

Changing Look and Feels

You can change the Look and feel of the application. Go to the menu “Options” and select “Look and feel”. You will see a list of the Look and feels available. Select one of them and all the application will automatically update.

The following are some of the look and feels available.

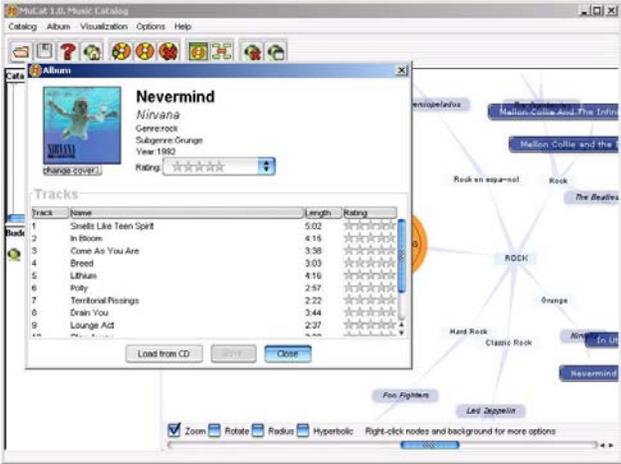


Figure 14. Aqua Look and Feel

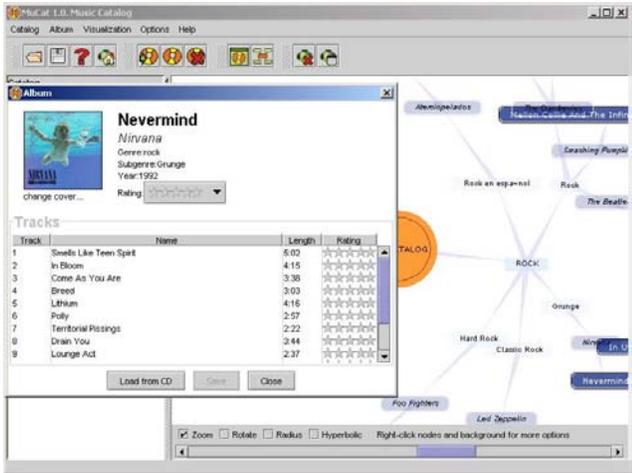


Figure 15. Metal Look and Feel

INDEX

A

Album
 create, 8, 15
 delete, 8
 manage, 2, 14
 Open, 8, 14
 Album view, 4, 6

B

Buddy
 compare catalog, 19
 delete, 9, 18
 load, 9
 open catalog, 18
 buddy panel, 4, 5, 9

C

Catalog
 Export, 8, 17
 import, 8, 17

F

folder view, 4, 5, 8, 14
 Freedb, 16

G

Graph view
 leves, 11
 radius, 11, 12
 rotation, 11
 zoom, 11
 Graph View, 2, 9, 10, 14, 19

H

Hyperbolic. See Graph view.

L

Look and feel, 20
 Look and Feel, 2, 20

M

MuCat, 1, 3
 Music Catalog, 4

V

Visualization, 2, 9

Z

zoomable view, 6