

AOL MusicNow
Iteration 2 - Wireframes v. 4
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Overview

Overview

This document specifies the changes and additional functionality as specified for Iteration 2 of production.

Technical Requirements

The following are the high-level technical requirements of the MusicNow 10' application:

- User Interface needs to be controllable via keyboard and remote control.
- All playback will be streaming (Windows Media 128k) with DRM which needs to be maintained in the 10' interface
- The audio encoding specification will vary across the MusicNow library
- The audio specifications for XM radio stations may vary and need to be determined
- User Interface needs to support 16:9 and 4:3 screens
- Optimized for HD, ED & SD quality levels
- Built with Windows Media Center SDK
 - MCE 2004, 2005 (Emerald)
 - Media Center Extenders (Xbox)
 - Intel Viiv-verified

Login

Login & Authentication

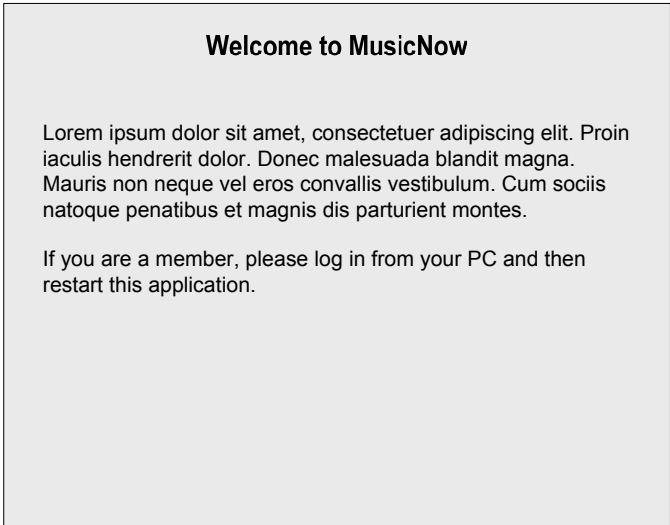
There will be no login functionality or authentication on the 10’ site. Upon launch of the 10’ site, it will check for a cookie set based on previous login from the 2’

If the cookie does not exist, a splash screen will be presented. This screen will:

- Inform the user that if they are a member, they should go to the 2’ interface, login, and then return to the 10’ interface to use it
- Present promotional MusicNow messaging aimed at non-members. This screen will thus, act as the default non-member MusicNow experience on 10’

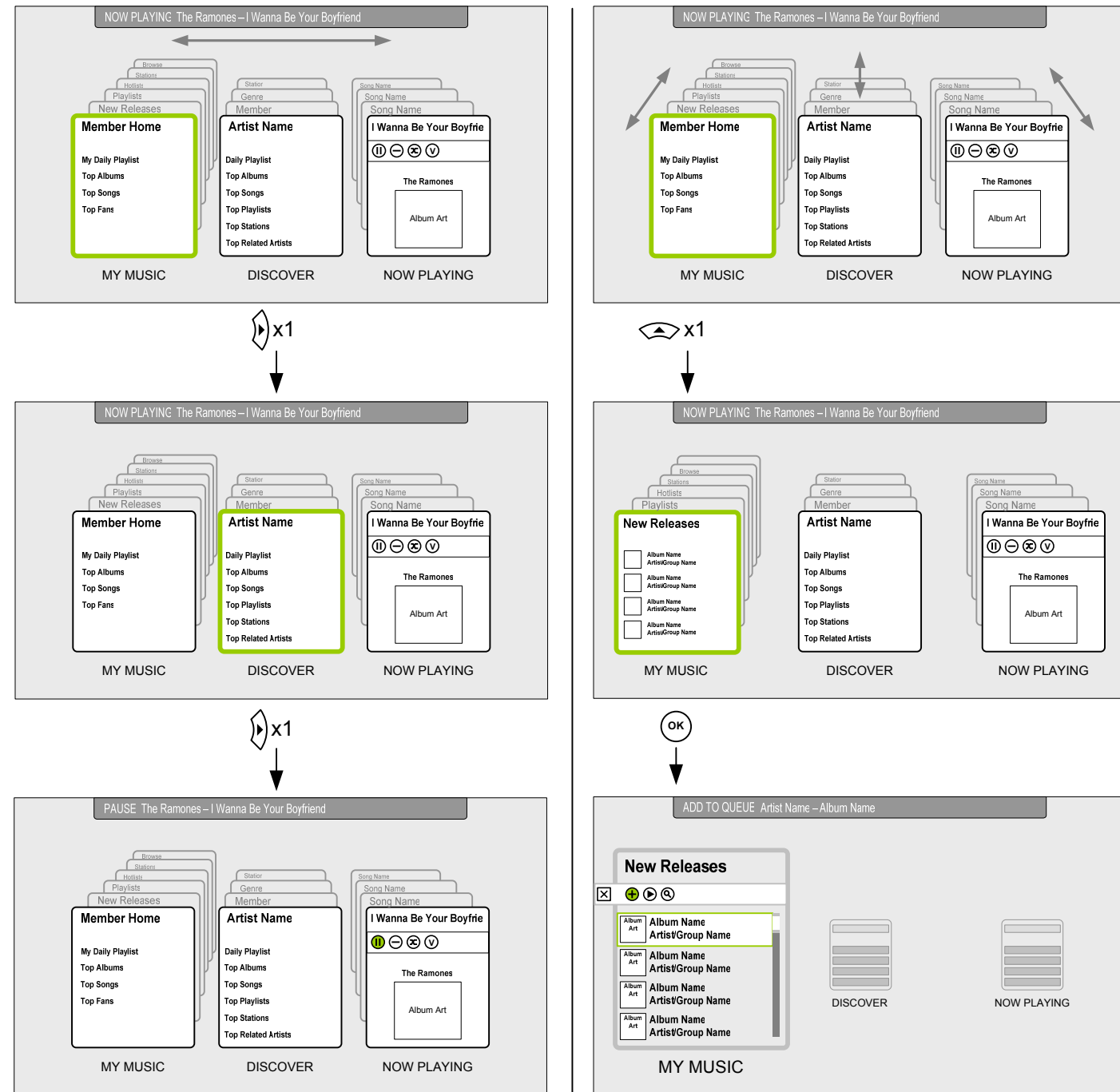
If the cookie does exist, the appropriate user will be recognized and their data will be presented in the 10’ UI.

There will be no Change User functionality on the 10’ site. The new user would have to login to the 2’ interface, thereby resetting the cookie in order to access their data.



Launch Screen
(if cookie doesn't exist)

Navigation between the stacks is controlled by the left and right arrow keys while navigation through the cards of a stack is controlled by the up and down arrow keys. The user can enter a card in a stack by selecting it (pressing “OK”).



When a user enters a card, the interface will create the sensation of zooming into the chosen stack. The other stacks meanwhile will minimize and appear to move further away in perspective.



The diagram illustrates the transformation of a 'Member Home' page. It starts with an initial state on the left, followed by two transformed states on the right, connected by arrows labeled 'x1' with a magnifying glass icon.

- Initial State:** A 'Member Home' page with a list containing 'My Daily Playlist', 'Top Albums', 'Top Songs', and 'Top Fans'.
- Transformed State 1:** The 'My Daily Playlist' item is moved to the bottom of the list, and 'Top Albums' is moved to the top position.
- Transformed State 2:** The 'My Daily Playlist' item is moved to the third position, and 'Top Songs' is moved to the top position.

The diagram shows a sequence of three UI components representing a transformation process:

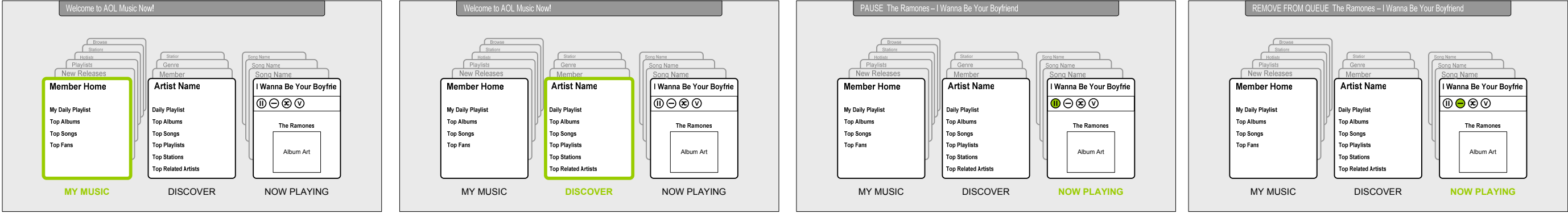
- Initial State (Left):** A 'Member Home' card with a 'Top Albums' section. This section contains a list of four items, each with an 'Album Art' icon and text: '1. Album Name Artist/Group Name', '2. Album Name Artist/Group Name', '3. Album Name Artist/Group Name', and '4. Album Name Artist/Group Name'. A green box highlights the first item.
- Transformation (Middle):** A curved arrow with a magnifying glass icon and the text 'x1' indicates a transformation or aggregation operation.
- Final State (Right):** The 'Member Home' card now shows a 'Top Albums' section with a single summary item: 'Top Albums'. Below this summary item are three other items: 'Top Songs', 'Top Fans', and 'My Daily Playlist'. A green box highlights the 'Top Albums' summary item.

An 'OK' circle is positioned between the middle and right components, indicating the completion of the transformation.

Highlights

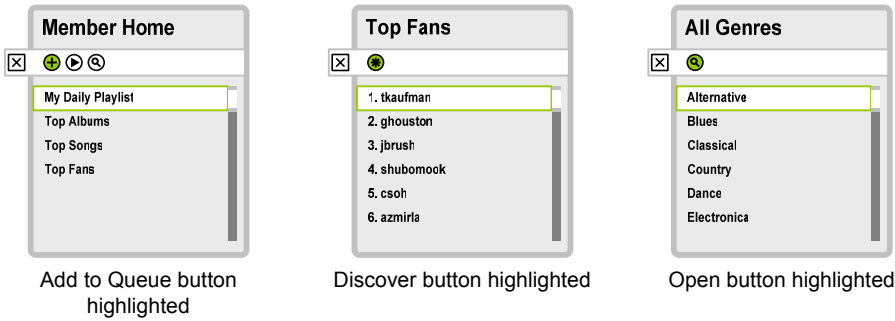
Highlight States

There must always be at least one item in the interface that’s highlighted; this can be a stack, card, or any selectable item on a card. In the sequence below, the user is moving from left to right. First the Member Home card is highlighted, then the Artist card, and then the play control buttons on the card in the Now Playing stack.



Default Highlights

When any card is opened, the button to the right of the close button will be highlighted.



Member Home Summary

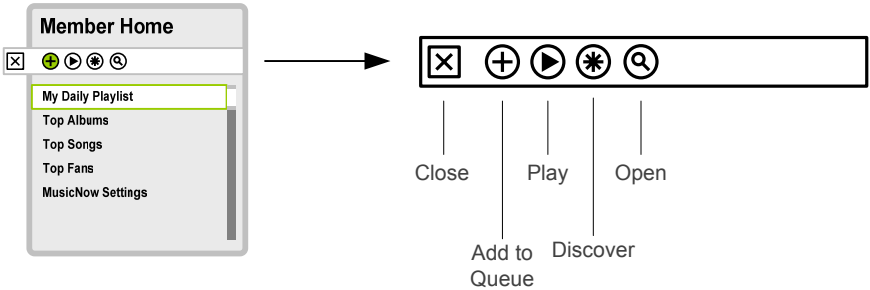
My Music

The My Music stack is the default stack that the system will start highlighted on. Member’s Home card will be the default card highlighted upon starting the application. All content displayed in the My Music stack will be content in the user’s library previously selected by the user and managed on the 2’ interface, or content that is suggested by MusicNow based on the member’s library.

My Music Card Options

Each card will generally have the options as described below. Each button will only be displayed if its respective function is available for that specific card.

- Close: Closes the active card
- Add to Queue: Adds the selected song, album, playlist, etc. to the back of the Now Playing Queue
- Play: Adds the selected song, album, playlist, etc. to the front of the Now Playing Queue and starts playing it; also used to start playing a radio station
- Discover: Spawns a Discover card for that specific artist, genre, station or member
- Open: Opens the next card based on the current selection



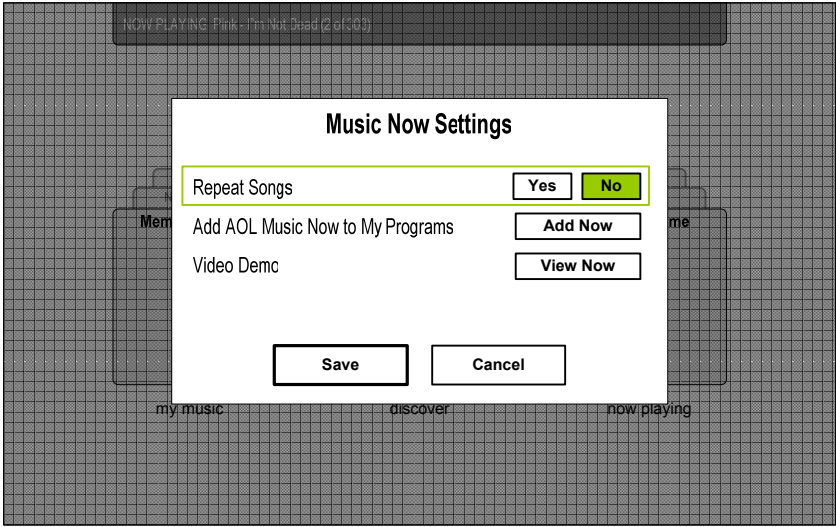
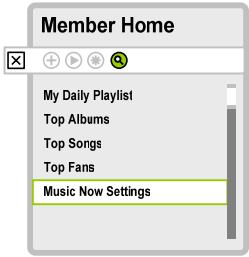
Member Home > Music Now Settings

Music Now Settings

The user is allowed to modify certain settings relating to the application. This is accessible by choosing “Music Now Settings” from the Member Home card.

Choosing this option opens the settings dialog box, as illustrated below.

For Iteration 2, only “Add AOL Music Now to My Programs” is in scope. The other two options will be added at a later time.



Discover Summary

Discover Stack

The Discover Stack is first revealed when the user clicks on a Discover button or when a song is first played.

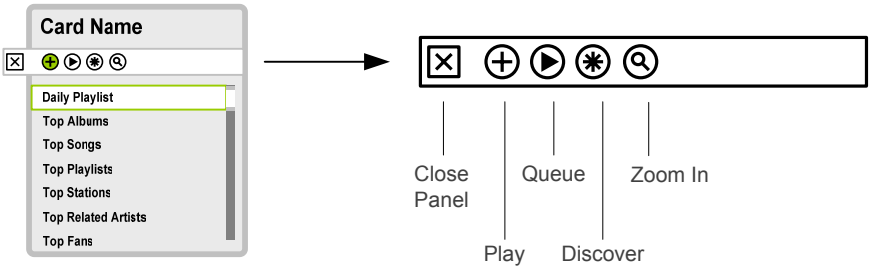
Upon Playing a Song:

When a new song or station is begins playing, the Discover stack receives a new discover card 1-2 seconds afterward.

Discover Card Options

Each card will generally have the options as described below. Each button will only be displayed if its respective function is available for that specific card.

- Close: Closes the active card
- Add to Queue: Adds the selected song, album, playlist, etc. to the back of the Now Playing Queue
- Play: Adds the selected song, album, playlist, etc. to the front of the Now Playing Queue and starts playing it; also used to start playing a radio station
- Discover: Spawns a Discover card for that specific artist, genre, station or member
- Open: Opens the next card based on the current selection



Now Playing Summary

Now Playing Queue

The Now Playing Queue contains both songs the user has added from the My Music and Discover stacks, as well as any radio stations they've played.

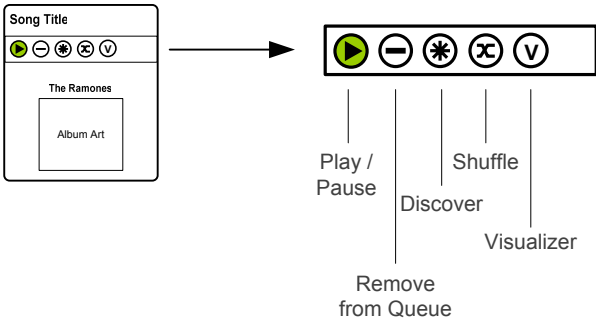
Each Song card in the Now Playing will display the album art, artist name and context (if applicable) of where the song is being requested from (e.g. Playlist name, Station name, etc.). The album name will not be displayed.

The Now Playing stack will display the Song title for the next 3 songs in the queue (exact number to be determined based on final design). Additional information (album art, artist name, context) may be also displayed (to be determined based on final design).

Song Card Options

Each Song Card will has the following options:

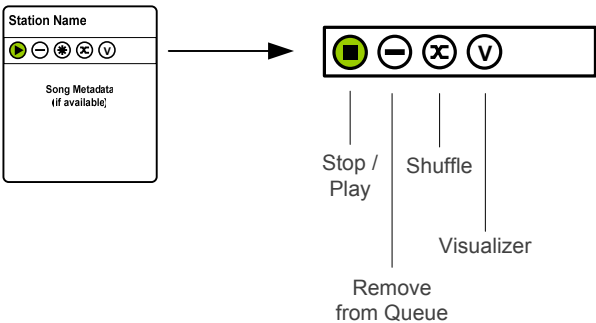
- Play/Pause: Plays or Pauses the song or station stream. This function may work differently based on XM radio vs. other stations.
- Remove: Removes the song card from the Queue.
- Discover: **Only displayed on song cards that aren't currently playing**, this button will spawn a new artist card in the Discover stack.
- Shuffle: Shuffles and places all the cards in the Queue into a new random order.
- Visualizer: Initiates the visualizer. The exact behavior will be determined when the visualizer(s) is designed.



Station Card Options

Each Station Card will has the following options:

- Play/Stop: Stop or Plays the station stream
- Remove: Removes the station card from the Queue
- Shuffle: Shuffles and places all the cards in the Queue into a new random order
- Visualizer: Initiates the visualizer. The exact behavior will be determined when the visualizer(s) is designed



Music Controls

Regardless of application state, the user can use the play-control buttons on the remote to manipulate what's currently playing.

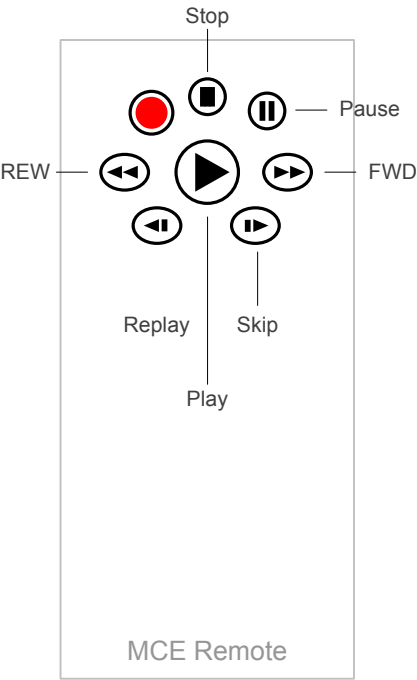
Songs

- Play/Pause Toggle: Plays or Pauses the song or station.
- Stop: Stops the current song or station.
- Replay: Restarts the current song at the beginning. If pressed multipel times in succession the previous songs in the queue will be played.
- Skip: Plays the next song in the queue
- REW: Skips backwards through the song currently being played.
- FWD: Skips forwards through the song currently being played.

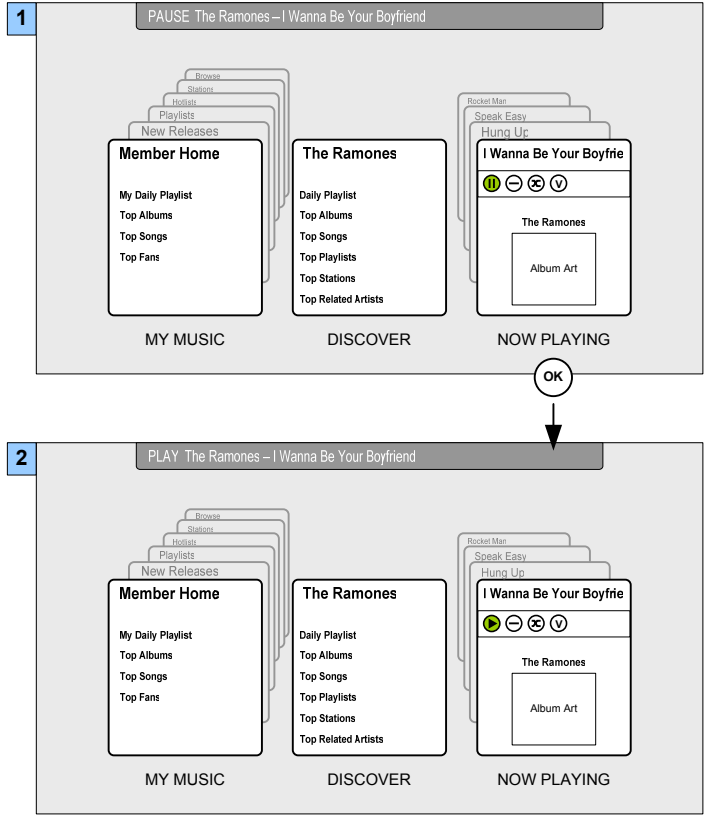
Radio Stations

- Play/Stop Toggle: Plays or Stops the station stream

Sample MCE Remote Playback Controls



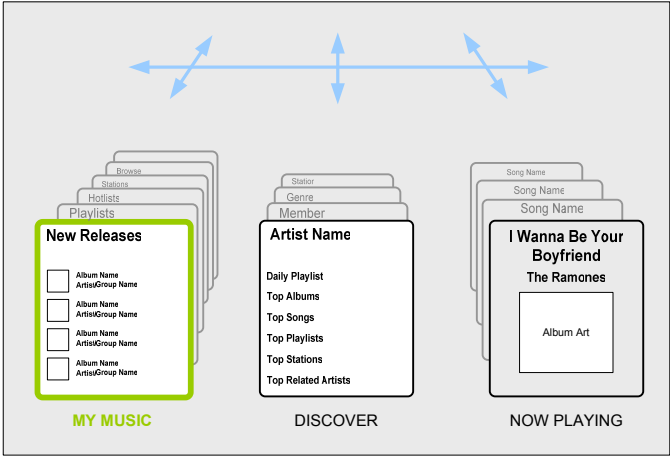
Now Playing Queue



Application States Mapped to Remote Control Buttons

Navigation Controls

State 0: Main



Left and Right buttons highlight different stacks.

In this example:

- Pressing left-arrow would highlight the "Now Playing" stack.
- Pressing right-arrow would highlight the "Discover" stack.

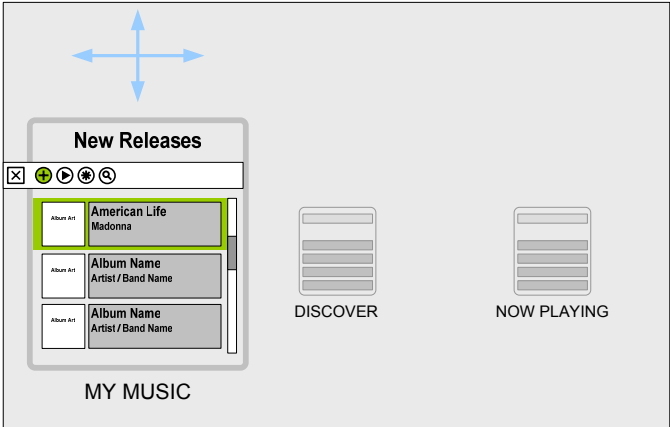


Up and down buttons cycle through the cards in the highlight stack.

In this example:

- Pressing up-arrow would bring the "Playlists" card into focus, and the New Releases card would move to the back of the stack.
- Pressing down-arrow would bring Member's Home (the last card) to the front.
- Pressing OK will zoom into that card.

State 1: Zoomed-In

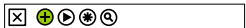


List Controls – Up and Down buttons scroll the list upwards and downwards. The list loops so that items exiting from the top will appear at the bottom.

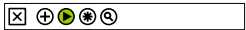
These can be pressed at any time, no matter what toolbar item is highlighted, and the list will scroll.



Toolbar Controls – Left and Right buttons highlight different buttons in the toolbar. Pressing OK will initiate the highlighted action.



Adds songs in this album to the end of the Now Playing queue.



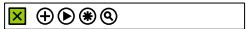
Adds songs in this album to the beginning of the Now Playing queue.



Opens a Discover card for "Madonna"



Open Card



Close card

Music Controls

No matter which state the application is in, they can use the play control buttons on the remote to manipulate what's currently playing.

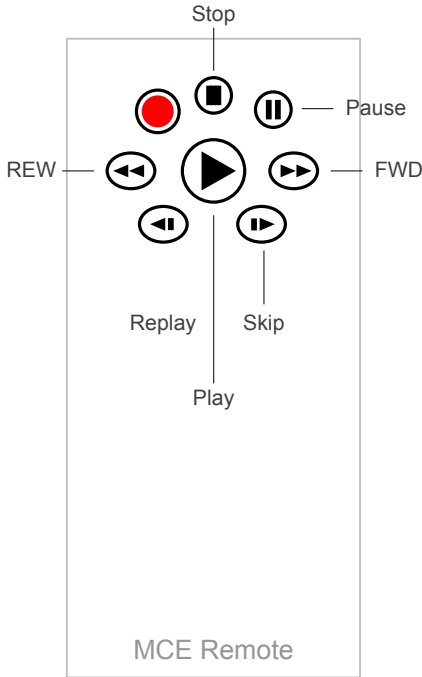
Songs

- Play/Pause Toggle: Plays or Pauses the song
- Stop: Stops the current song
- Replay: Restarts the current song at the beginning. If pressed multiple times in succession, within a to-be-determined time period, previous songs in the queue will be played.
- Skip: Plays the next song in the queue
- REW: Skips backwards through the song currently being played.
- FWD: Skips forwards through the song currently being played.

Radio Stations

- Play/Pause Toggle: Plays or Pauses the station stream

Sample MCE Remote Playback Controls



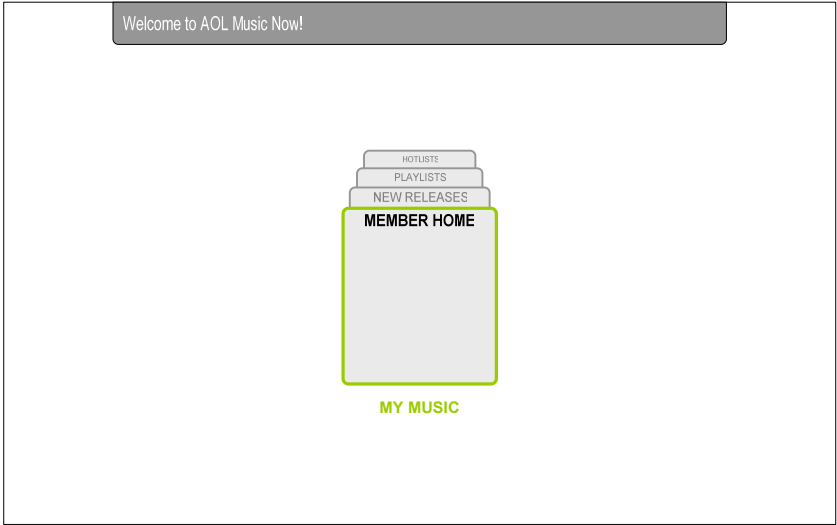
Stage with Message Center / System Voice

Messaging Center

The Messaging Center is being introduced in Iteration 2 to allow for a “system voice” that addresses several needs:

1. Provide basic instructions to the user in certain situations (such as application startup)
2. Reinforce selection behaviors by displaying tooltips to the user.
3. Display what’s Now Playing.
4. Recoverable error notification
 - Unable to find song or station stream

Default State



Error Notfication

Unrecoverable Errors

Unrecoverable errors are those which prevent the application from performing it’s purpose, such as:

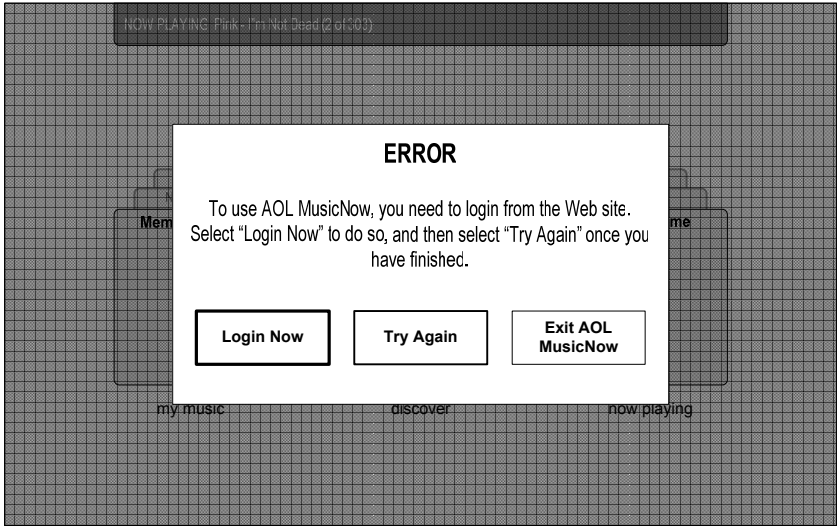
- Internet Connection Down
- Service Disruption for AOL Music Now
- Login & Authentication

The user is alerted of these through a modal dialog that allows the user to either “Retry” or “Exit AOL MusicNow.” The error remains on the screen until the user chooses one of the options.



Login & Authentication

This is a special case, since the user is requested to actually initiate the action that opens a non-MCE window so they can login. After they have been authenticated, the non-MCE window should close, and the user should then select “Try Again.”

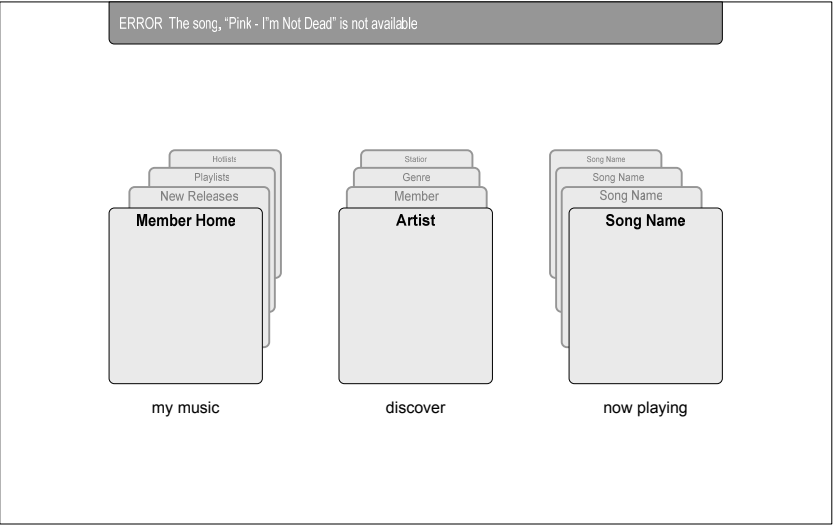


Recoverable Errors

Recoverable errors are those which cause only a disruption in the user’s experience, such as:

- The song, “Song Name,” is not available
- The station, “Station Name,” is not currently available

The user is alerted of these through the Message Center, and they fade out after approximately 10 seconds (or whatever period of time is deemed most appropriate based on prototype testing).



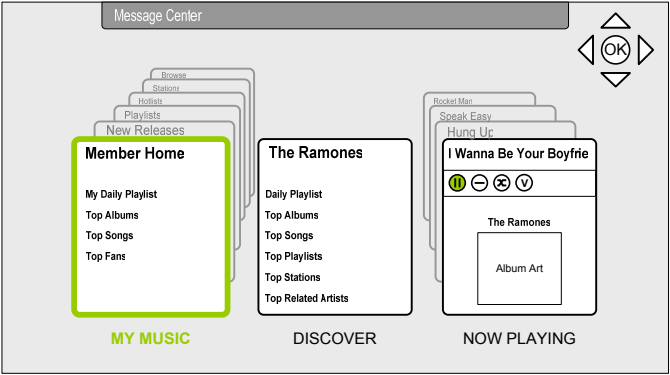
Mouse-Controlled Navigation

Mouse-Controlled Navigation

AOL MusicNow is optimized for use at a 10-foot level, for which the typical control device is a remote control with directional buttons. As such, for any highlighted object the only possible directions for movement are up, down, left and right. In allowing for the possibility of mouse-controlled navigation specific to this interface, we need to impose this same restriction.

When the user moves their mouse, a compass rose will appear on the screen. The ideal location for this is the upper-right corner of the screen since there will be nothing to block it at any state in the application. The user will be able to click buttons that correspond to movement or action allowed for the specific state the application is in. For movements that aren't allowed in any particular state, it's corresponding button will be dimmed.

After a set period of mouse inactivity, the compass rose will fade from the screen.



Exiting

Exiting AOL Music Now

To exit the application the user can either press the green “Windows” button on the remote, or the back button when the application is at the home state.



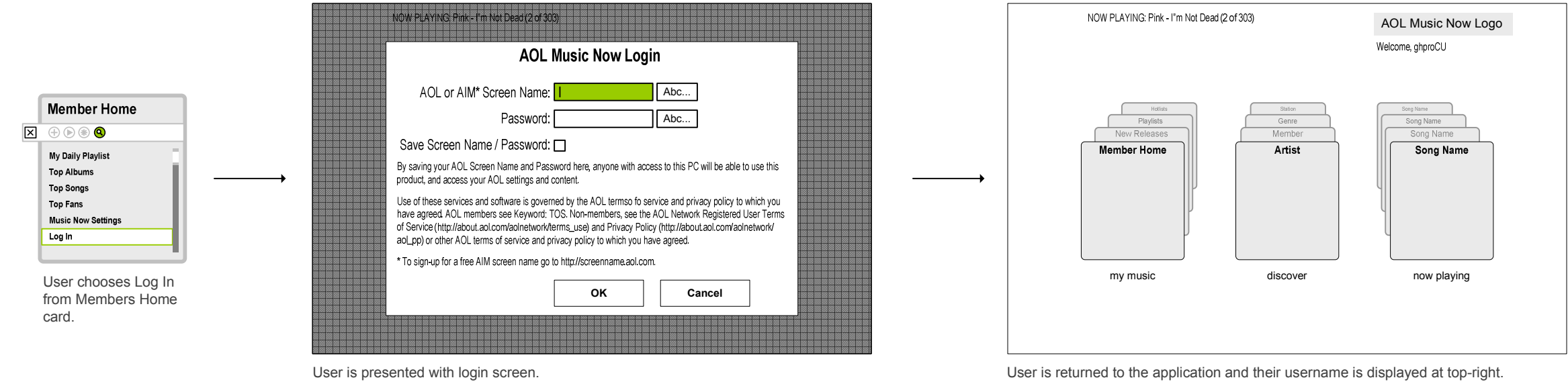
Members Home: Log In / Log Out

Log In and Log Out

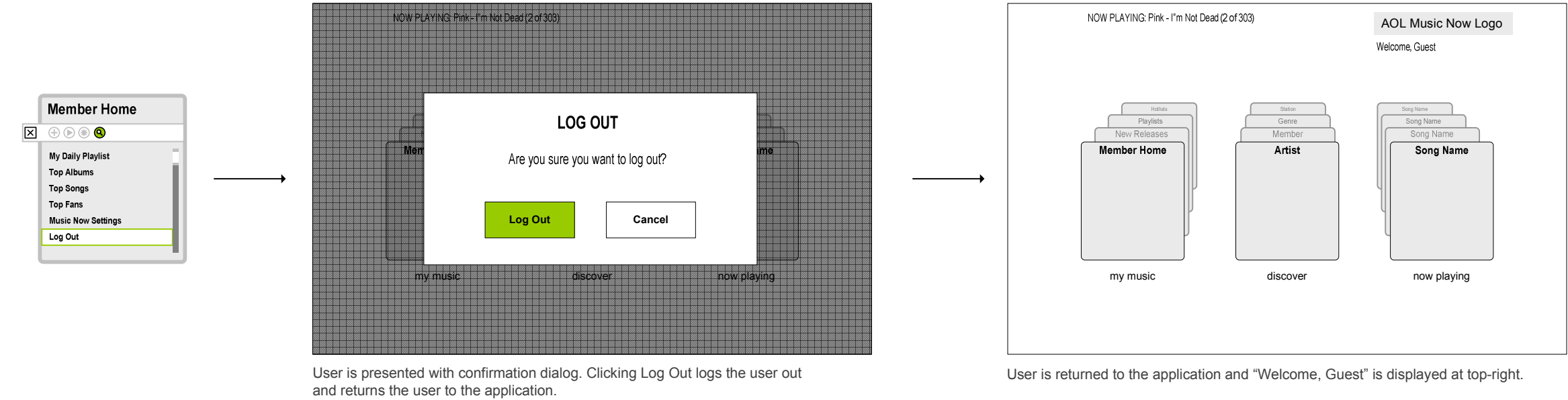
To log in and out of the Music Now application, the user chooses an option from the Members Home card. When logged in, “Log Out” is the available option, and when logged out, it is “Log In.”

When logged in, text below the AOL Music Now logo would display, “Welcome, [screen name].” When logged out, the same text would display, “Welcome, Guest.”

1. Process Flow – User Logging In



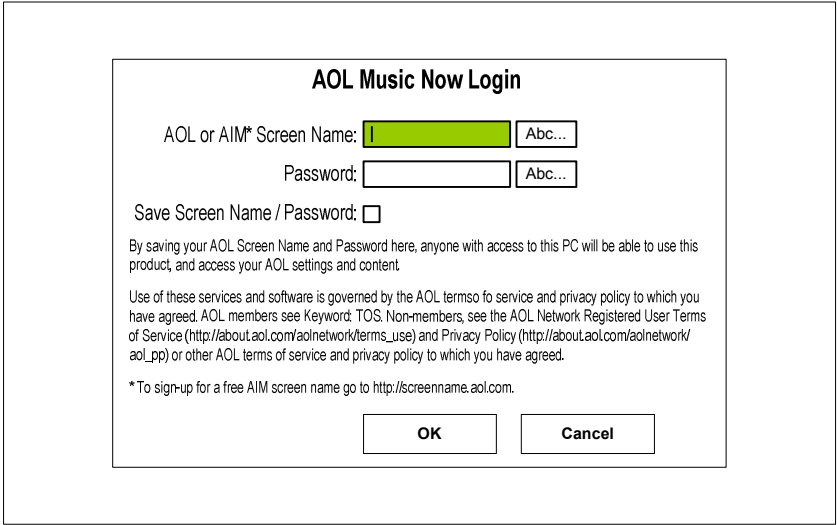
1. Process Flow – User Logging Out



Login & Authentication

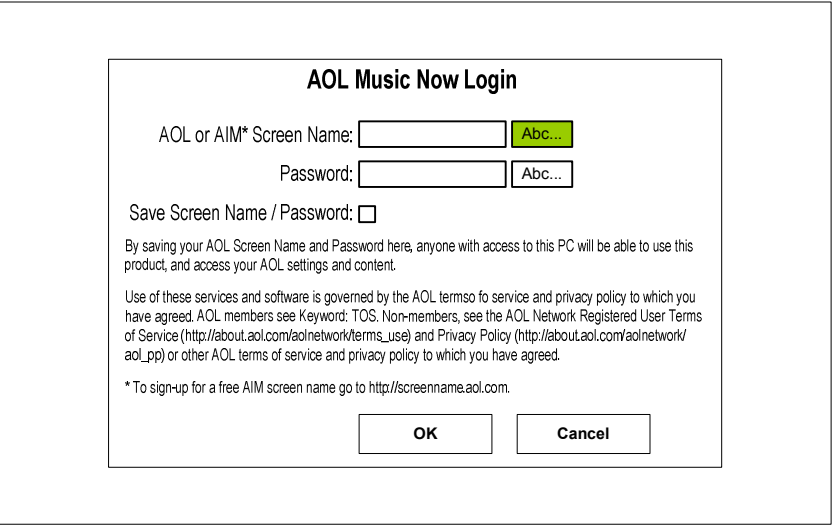
Process Flow

To access the AOL Music Now service, the user must have login credentials present on the MCE device (in the form of a cookie). If this cookie is not present, the application will prompt them to login, as illustrated through the following screenshots.



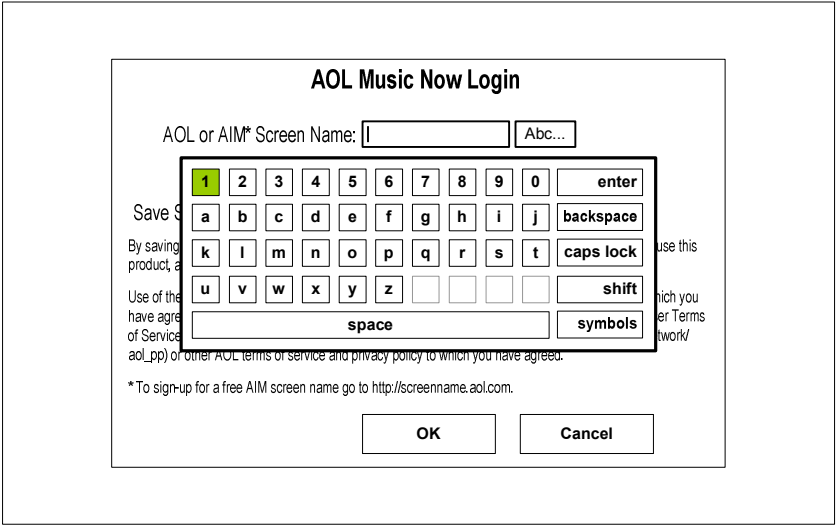
1. Default State

The Screen Name field is highlighted. The user can type directly into this field through a physical keyboard, if attached. The OK button will submit the login credentials in the fields, and Cancel will exit the dialog and return the application to its previous state.



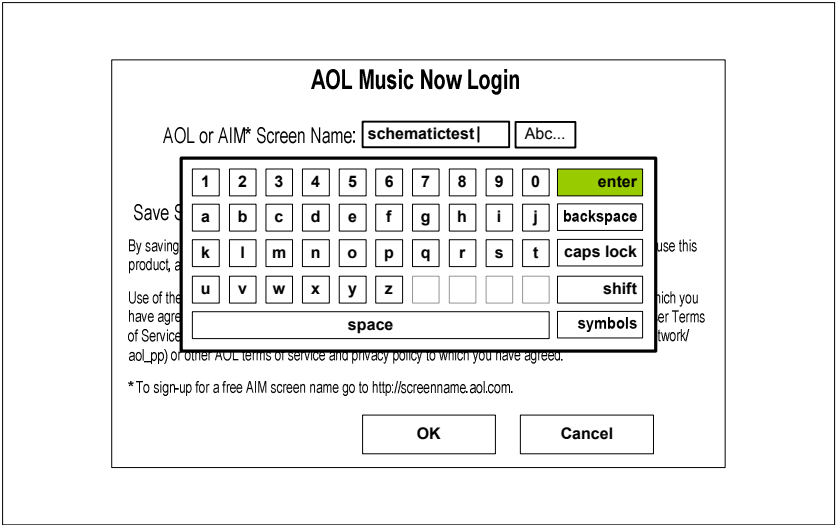
2. Screen Name Keyboard Button Highlighted

To enter text using the remote control, the user highlights the Screen Name Keyboard button and presses OK.



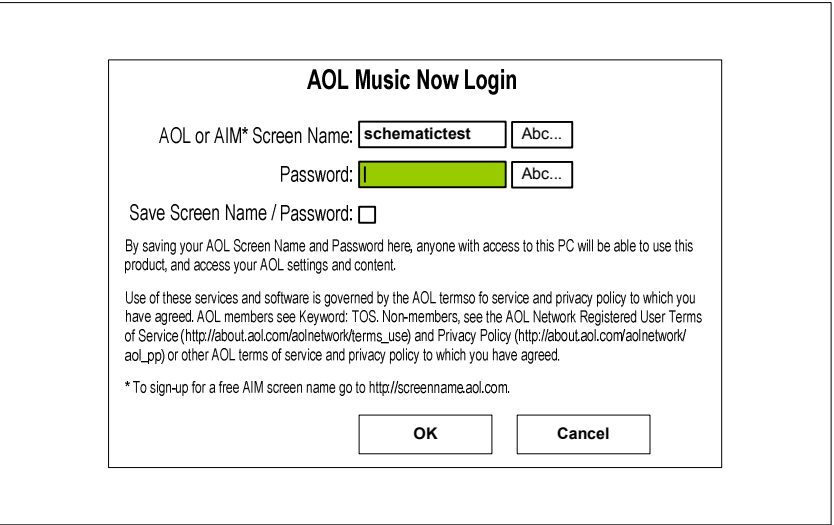
3. Keyboard Engaged for Screen Name Field

The on-screen keyboard is displayed directly below the Screen Name field. As the user navigates to different letters/buttons and presses OK on their remote, the corresponding letter or option is input into the field. A vertical in the field will indicate to the user where the cursor is located in the field.



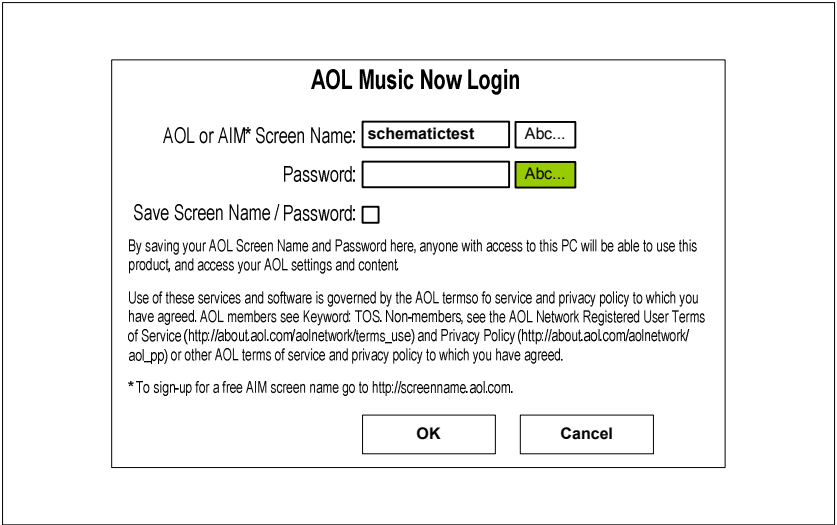
4. Keyboard Engaged / Finished Typing Screen Name

When the user has finished entering their Screen Name, they highlight ENTER and press OK on their remote..



5. Password Field Highlighted

The Password is highlighted automatically after the user selected ENTER from the keyboard in the previous state, or if they arrow down to it.



6. Password Keyboard Button Highlighted

To enter text using the remote control, the user highlights the Password Keyboard button and presses OK.

Login & Authentication (continued 1)

AOL Music Now Login

AOL or AIM* Screen Name:

schematictest

Abc...

Password:

|

Abc...

Save Screen Name / Password: ☐

By saving your AOL Screen Name and Password here, anyone with access to this PC will be able to use this product, and access your AOL settings and content.

Use of these services and software is governed by the AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed. AOL members see Keyword: TOS. Non-members, see the AOL Network Registered User Terms of Service (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/terms_use) and Privacy Policy (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/aol_pp) or other AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed.

* To sign-up for a free AIM screen name go to <http://screenname.aol.com>.

1

2

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8

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0

enter

a

b

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o

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q

r

s

t

caps lock

u

v

w

x

y

z

shift

space

symbols

OK

Cancel

7. Keyboard Engaged for Password Field

The on-screen keyboard is displayed directly below the Password field. As the user navigates to different letters/buttons and presses OK on their remote, the corresponding letter or option is input into the field.

AOL Music Now Login

AOL or AIM* Screen Name:

schematictest

Abc...

Password:

*****|

Abc...

Save Screen Name / Password: ☐

By saving your AOL Screen Name and Password here, anyone with access to this PC will be able to use this product, and access your AOL settings and content.

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* To sign-up for a free AIM screen name go to <http://screenname.aol.com>.

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g

h

i

j

backspace

k

l

m

n

o

p

q

r

s

t

caps lock

u

v

w

x

y

z

shift

space

symbols

OK

Cancel

8. Keyboard Engaged / Finished Typing Password

When the user has finished entering their Password, they highlight ENTER and press OK on their remote..

AOL Music Now Login

AOL or AIM* Screen Name:

schematictest

Abc...

Password:

Abc...

Save Screen Name / Password: ☐

By saving your AOL Screen Name and Password here, anyone with access to this PC will be able to use this product, and access your AOL settings and content.

Use of these services and software is governed by the AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed. AOL members see Keyword: TOS. Non-members, see the AOL Network Registered User Terms of Service (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/terms_use) and Privacy Policy (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/aol_pp) or other AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed.

* To sign-up for a free AIM screen name go to <http://screenname.aol.com>.

OK

Cancel

9. Save Screen Name / Password Checkbox Highlighted

The Save Screen Name / Password checkbox is highlighted automatically after the user selected ENTER from the keyboard in the previous state, or if they arrow down to it.

AOL Music Now Login

AOL or AIM* Screen Name:

schematictest

Abc...

Password:

Abc...

Save Screen Name / Password: ☒

By saving your AOL Screen Name and Password here, anyone with access to this PC will be able to use this product, and access your AOL settings and content.

Use of these services and software is governed by the AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed. AOL members see Keyword: TOS. Non-members, see the AOL Network Registered User Terms of Service (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/terms_use) and Privacy Policy (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/aol_pp) or other AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed.

* To sign-up for a free AIM screen name go to <http://screenname.aol.com>.

OK

Cancel

10. Save Screen Name / Password Checkbox Checked

To check this box, the user presses OK on their remote control.

AOL Music Now Login

AOL or AIM* Screen Name:

schematictest

Abc...

Password:

Abc...

Save Screen Name / Password: ☒

By saving your AOL Screen Name and Password here, anyone with access to this PC will be able to use this product, and access your AOL settings and content.

Use of these services and software is governed by the AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed. AOL members see Keyword: TOS. Non-members, see the AOL Network Registered User Terms of Service (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/terms_use) and Privacy Policy (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/aol_pp) or other AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed.

* To sign-up for a free AIM screen name go to <http://screenname.aol.com>.

OK

Cancel

11. OK Button Highlighted

When finished, the user highlights the OK button and presses OK on their remote.

AOL Music Now Login

AOL or AIM* Screen Name:

schematictest

Abc...

Password:

Abc...

Save Screen Name / Password: ☒

By saving your AOL Screen Name and Password here, anyone with access to this PC will be able to use this product, and access your AOL settings and content.

Use of these services and software is governed by the AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed. AOL members see Keyword: TOS. Non-members, see the AOL Network Registered User Terms of Service (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/terms_use) and Privacy Policy (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/aol_pp) or other AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed.

* To sign-up for a free AIM screen name go to <http://screenname.aol.com>.

OK

Cancel

ERROR

Sorry, you have entered an incorrect screen name or password.
You can either Try Again or Exit AOL Music Now.

Try Again

Cancel

OK

Cancel

12. Error State Displayed

If the user has entered incorrect login credentials, an error is displayed. They can Try Again, which goes to screen 13, or they can Cancel, which takes the application back to the previous state.

Login & Authentication (continued 2) / On-Screen Keyboard

AOL Music Now Login

AOL or AIM* Screen Name:

Password:

Save Screen Name / Password: ☒

By saving your AOL Screen Name and Password here, anyone with access to this PC will be able to use this product, and access your AOL settings and content.

Use of these services and software is governed by the AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed. AOL members see Keyword: TOS. Non-members, see the AOL Network Registered User Terms of Service (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/terms_use) and Privacy Policy (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/aol_pp) or other AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed.

* To sign-up for a free AIM screen name go to <http://screenname.aol.com>.

OK

Cancel

13. Post-Error State

In the post-error state, information the user has entered, and remains on the screen. The default highlight is the Screen Name field.

AOL Music Now Login

AOL or AIM* Screen Name:

Password:

Save Screen Name / Password: ☒

By saving your AOL Screen Name and Password here, anyone with access to this PC will be able to use this product, and access your AOL settings and content.

Use of these services and software is governed by the AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed. AOL members see Keyword: TOS. Non-members, see the AOL Network Registered User Terms of Service (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/terms_use) and Privacy Policy (http://about.aol.com/aolnetwork/aol_pp) or other AOL terms of service and privacy policy to which you have agreed.

* To sign-up for a free AIM screen name go to <http://screenname.aol.com>.

OK

Cancel

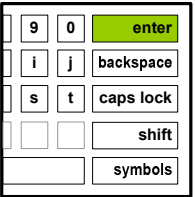
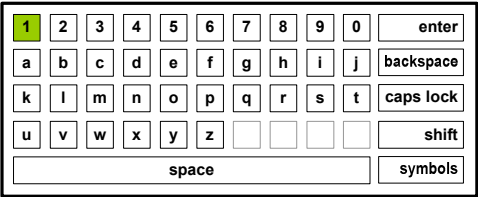
14. Default Login State (if previously authenticated)

If the user has already logged in, either in the current session or in a past one which has been stored in a cookie, the information will be pre-populated, and the OK button highlighted by default.

On-Screen Keyboard

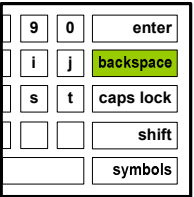
The On-Screen Keyboard (OSK) allows the user to enter text using only their remote control. This is activated through a button that resides next to all input fields. Clicking OK on the remote when this button is highlighted will display this keyboard, and in the specific use cases outlined in this document, the OSK will be positioned directly below the respective field. When activated, the “1” key is highlighted by default.

Default



Enter

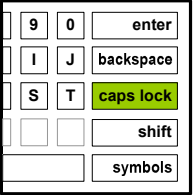
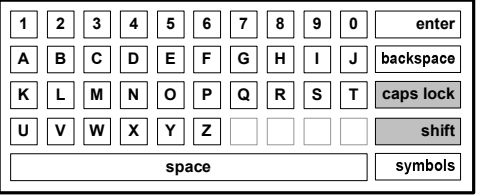
The user exits the OSK by highlighting the ENTER button and pressing OK on their remote control.



Backspace

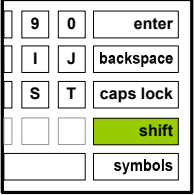
The user can delete characters preceding the cursor highlighting the backspace button and pressing OK on their remote control.

Caps Lock and Shift



Caps Lock

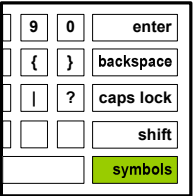
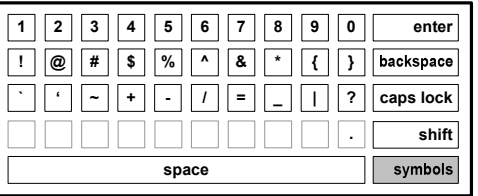
When CAPS LOCK is engaged, the button is displayed in an alternate color (not the highlight color), and all the letters are capitalized until the user highlights it again and presses OK.



Shift

When SHIFT is engaged, the button is displayed in an alternate color (not the highlight color), and all the letters are capitalized until the user presses another key.

Symbols



Symbols

When Symbols is engaged, the button is displayed in an alternate color (not the highlight color), and letter keys change to display symbols.