

- [0347] Similar Stations. This will display other stations which are "similar" to the currently selected station. Similar stations are rated based on other SonicIsland.com users behaviors.
- [0348] Search. Allows the user to search for stations by Artist, Station Name, Genre, and Song. Entering information into this box will immediately switch to the Search Tab.
- [0349] CD Image. This box will contain an image of a CD, showing the currently playing music on the currently selected station. Clicking on the image will transfer the user over the CD purchase web site. Most likely this will be a strategic retail partner.
- [0350] History. This will list the last 10 stations that the user has listened to. Clicking on a station in the history will show it immediately in the current view. Clicking on the play button will play. Including "forward" and "back" buttons to navigate throughout the history.
- [0351] Favorites. This will be a listing of user's favorites. Clicking on the station name will show it immediately in the map. Clicking on the play button will play.
- [0352] Additional Features
- [0353] User Registration
- [0354] Users will be encouraged to register with SonicIsland.com, registering will allow them to use some of the more advanced SonicIsland.com features. This will allow SonicIsland.com to track usage by user name. There will be some optional demographic information which the user will be asked to enter when they register, including age, sex, and income. There will also be a checkbox asking them if they want to "opt-in" to SonicIsland.com mailings. When users re-enter SonicIsland.com they will not be required to reenter their user name, their cookie will be used to look up this information in the database.
- [0355] Certain features of SonicIsland.com will only be available to registered users. This includes Favorites, weekly mailings, automatic entry into contests, etc.
- [0356] State Saving
- [0357] SonicIsland.com will remember the user's current Tab, map location, zoom level, history, preferences, etc. It will automatically restore the state when the user returns to SonicIsland.com. This will be managed via cookies. If the user's browser does not accept cookies, then the state information will be saved via the user ID.
- [0358] Alternate Entry Points
- [0359] In addition to the standard www.SonicIsland.com entry point, there are a number of alternate entry points which can be used (and the user can bookmark). These include:
- [0360] Map.SonicIsland.com-display the Map Tab.
- [0361] Search.SonicIsland.com-display the Search Tab.
- [0362] World.SonicIsland.com-display the World Tab.
- [0363] Yp.SonicIsland.com-display the Yellow Pages Tab.
- [0364] Other TBD entry points that will automatically display maps at pre-defined locations, with stations pre-selected. Broadcasters can add this type of link to their WEB site.
- [0365] Favorites
- [0366] When users find a station that they like, they can automatically memorize the station by clicking "Save Favorite". This will add to their list of favorite stations. Users will be required to register to use this feature.
- [0367] History
- [0368] When a user listens to a station, the station will be added to the user's History. The last 10 stations will be displayed in the Information Bar.
- [0369] Advertising
- [0370] The Portal will also have appropriate areas for advertising. At a minimum, a space for a standard sized (468x80 pixel) banner will appear across the top. SonicIsland.com will also make available "in map" ad space.
- [0371] Station Interface
- [0372] Stations administrators will have their own entry point into the SonicIsland.com. Registered radio stations will be able to change their title, URL, chat, genre, map location, etc. The interface will support manual and automatic updates of this information.
- [0373] Suggest Station Interface
- [0374] Users can suggest stations to SonicIsland.com through this interface and register as a preferred station.
- [0375] Instant Messaging Integration
- [0376] SonicIsland.com will feature Instant message notification. Using standard instant messaging protocols used by AIM, ICQ, iCAST, or others, users will be notified when certain stations become available, songs are played, etc.
- [0377] Data Mining Interface
- [0378] Subscribers to SonicIsland.com's data mining service will be able to remotely query the database and retrieve up-to-the-minute station, song, and artist information. This would likely be implemented through an XML interface.
- [0379] Implementation Details of one embodiment
- [0380] Server Architecture
- [0381] SonicIsland.com will be driven by a set of servers co-located at the appropriate site or sites. In one embodiment, an n-tiered server architecture may be used. The application will be split into three layers. These layers are:
- [0382] 1) Presentation layer
- [0383] 2) Application logic
- [0384] 3) Data
- [0385] One embodiment of the architecture is shown in FIG. 26. An alternate embodiment of the architecture is shown in FIG. 31.
- [0386] All servers at SonicIsland.com will be running on an industry standard platform (Intel or Sparc-based) with the