Introduction

This document related to mvCentral release 1.0.1 (1st March 2012)

The purpose of this document is to help you understand how mvCentral interacts with the MediaPortal's skin engine. In this document you're going to find a general overview of how the plug-in is structured, the components that you, as a skinner should be interested in, and a list of available properties that you can use.

It's recommended that you use the DefaultWide (16:9) or Default (4:3) skin as a base which is installed with the release. It is written by the same people that write the plug-in, so if you are having trouble getting something to work right, refer to this skin.

If you want to see whats NEW in a particular version, search for the version throughout this page e.g. To see what has changed in v1.0.5, perform a search on term '1.0.5'.

Translations

You can make use any of the plugins string translations to create button menus, headings, labels etc. Syntax for translations are just simple skin properties in the form #mvCentral.Translation.$(string).Label e.g. | **Property** | **English** | |:-------------|:------------| | #mvCentral.Translation.Artists.Label | Artists | | #mvCentral.Translation.FavouriteVideos.Label | Favourite Videos | | #mvCentral.Translation.PlayAllRandom.Label | Play All (Random) | | #mvCentral.Translation.Tracks.Label | Tracks |

There is a wide selection of translated strings to choose from, here is a complete list. Use the Field value in the skin property to get the translation you require.

Skin Files required for mvCentral

There are 5 skin files required for mvCentral, this Wiki will detailed the Controls, required images and skin properities avaiable for each skin. Please look at the included Default and DefaultWide, these can be used as a referance when building your own skin files. If you find what you think is a bug or if you have any suggestions for improvement please mail me or add to the issue tracker

Skin Filename	Skin ID	Description
mvCentral.xml	112011	Main skin file, loaded when plugin is selected
mvCentral.Playlist.xml	112012	Playlist skin file, access from mvCentral.xml and SmartDJ.xml
mvCentral.StatsAndInfo.xml	112013	Most played Artist and Video. Also displays top ten videos and progress bars for background processes
mvCentral.SmartDJ.xml	112015	SmartDJ screen, allows creating of playlists by either matching or filtering on fields
DialogMvMultiSelect.xml	112014	Custom select dialog allowing for muliple selections

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Common Properities

Primary Properities used within all screens

Skin Property	Description
#itemtype	Set as the localized translation description of #itemcount
#itemcount	Set to total number of Artists
#selecteditem	Label of current selected facade item
#selectedthumb	Texture of current selected facade item
#mvCentral.Hierachy	This skin property is altered depending on where the user has navigated to, it

Skin Property	Description
	displays the View names initially and will expand with each level the user accesses

mvCentral.xml

This is the main skin file for mvCentral and is displayed when the user first enters the plugin.

This screen will allow display of the video files in 4 views, Artists, Albums (If enabled), Tracks (Videos) and Genres. In addition this screen will also display the progress of background metadata refresh, this is normally a once off process unless configured in Advanced setting in the plugin configuration.

Controls

The following is a list of the controls used in this skin file, all but ID 12 and 50 are nornally used in a menu.

Control ID	Type	Text	Description
2	Button	Layout: type	MediaPortal Standard Layout Button - Calls dialog with layout choices, List, Icon (small/large), Filmstrip & Coverflow
3	Button	Sort	MediaPortal Standard Sort Button - Calls dialog with sort options
5	Button	Switch View	Mediaportal Standard View Button - Calls dislog with View options, Artist, Album, Tracks and Genres
6	Button	Play All Random	Create and play all vidoes in random order
7	Button	Smart Playlists	Calls a Menu Dialog with Smart Playlist option
8	Button	Playlist	Access the Playlist screen (mvCentral.Playlist.xml)
9	Button	Stats and Info	Access the Status and Information screen (mvCentral.StatsAndInfo.xml)
10	Button	Configured Genres	Call the Multi Select Dialog (DialogMvMultiSelect.xml) to allow Genres to be created from Last.Fm tags
11	Button	Search Artists	Brings up the virtual keyboard to allow entry of search string
12	Progressbar	-	Metadata background update progress bar Note: When scan is active #mvCentral.Metadata.Scan.Active will be set to 'true'
50	Facade	-	Facade control - List, Icon Small, Icon Large, Filmstrip and Coverflow supported

Exposed Skin Properities

As of Version 1.0.1 the skin currently supports 4 views and a 5th is in development.

- Artist - Initial display is Artists (Defaut View)
- Albums - Initial display is Albums
- Tracks - Inital display is tracks
- Genres - Inital display is Genres
- DVD - Initial display will be DVDs only (this is work in progress as of the 1st March 2012)

For each view there is a corrsponding skin property, this will be set to **true** for the currely selected view, see the table below.

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.ArtistView	Set to 'true' if Artists is selected view
#mvCentral.AlbumView	Set to 'true' if Albums is selected view
#mvCentral.TrackView	Set to 'true' if Tracks is selected view
#mvCentral.GenreView	Set to 'true' if Genres is selected view
#mvCentral.DVDView	Currently not used - reserved

For each view there is a set of skin properties exposed when an items is selected, the following sections

detail the view and properties that are exposed.

Artist View

Visibility test

<visible>string.equals(#mvCentral.ArtistView,true)</visible> **Required Image File** defaultArtistBig.png

Selected item skin properites

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.ArtistBio	Set to the full text of the Artist biography or the localaized "No Biography Available for Artist **artist**" text
#mvCentral.ArtistName	Set to the Artist Name
#mvCentral.ArtistImg	Set to the path of the full resolution artist image
#mvCentral.VideosByArtist	Set to the total number videos by this Artist
#mvCentral.ArtistTracksRuntime	Set to the total runtime of all videos by this artist, format HH:MM:SS
#mvCentral.BornOrFormed	Set to the date the Artist was born or group formed, if no data is available this is set to "No Born/Formed Details"
#mvCentral.Genre	Set to the main genre for the Artist
#mvCentral.ArtistTags	List of Last.FM tags seperated by a space

Album View

Visibility test

<visible>string.equals(#mvCentral.AlbumView,true)</visible> **Required Image File** defaultAlbum.png

Selected item skin properites

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.Album	Set to Album Name (Note: this is not present in version 1.0.1)
#mvCentral.Album.Rating	Set to rating value for the Album between 0 and 9
#mvCentral.ArtistName	Set to the Artist Name
#mvCentral.Watched.Count	Set to the number of time the video has been watched (0 if not watched)
#mvCentral.VideoImg	Set to the Album cover image
#mvCentral.TrackInfo	Set to the full text of the Album description or localized message if not description exists
#mvCentral.AlbumInfo	Set to the full text of the Album description or localized message if not description exists
#mvCentral.AlbumTracksRuntime	Set to the total runtime for all videos in the album
#mvCentral.TracksForAlbum	Set to the number of videos within this album

Track (Video) View

Visibility test

<visible>string.equals(#mvCentral.TrackView,true)</visible> **Required Image File** defaultVideoBig.png

- elected item skin properites

Skin Property	Description
#iswatched	Set to 'yes' if this video has been watched and 'no' if not.
#mvCentral.Watched.Count	Set to the number of time the video has been watched (0 if not watched)
#mvCentral.VideoImg	Set to the Video thumbnail image

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.TrackInfo	Set to the full text of the track description
#mvCentral.Track.Rating	Set to rating value for the track between 0 and 9
#mvCentral.Composers	Set to the composer(s), if more than 1 composers are seperated by a comma
#mvCentral.ArtistName	Set to the Artist Name
#mvCentral.Genre	Set to Artist Genre
#mvCentral.Duration	Set to the playtime of the track in the format MM:SS or HH:MM:SS if longer than 1hr

Video and Audio Media Details as extracted and reported by MediaInfo

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.videoresolution	Video resolution 720p, 1080i, 1080p etc
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.videoaspectratio	Set to*fullscreen**or**widescreen
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.videocodec	Set to the video codec
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.videowidth	Set to the video width
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.videoheight	Set to the video height
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.videoframerate	Set to the video framerate
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.audiocodec	Set to the audio codec
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.audiochannels	Set to the numbe of audio channels
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.audio	Combined setting of #mvCentral.LocalMedia.audiocodec #mvCentral.LocalMedia.audiochannels

These additional properties are set/changed if this track is part of an Album

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.Album.Rating	Set to rating value for the Album between 0 and 9
#mvCentral.Hierachy	Will be set to **Artist Name
#mvCentral.Album	Set to Album Name (Note: this is not present in version 1.0.1)

Genre View

This view will only be available if Genres have been configured or Artist has AllMusic Genre.

Visibility test

<visible>string.equals(#mvCentral.GenreView,true)</visible> **Required Image File** DefaultGenre.png

Selected item skin properities

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.ArtistTracksRuntime	Total runtime of all videos for Artists that match the Genre
#mvCentral.VideosByArtist	Total number of videos for Artists that match the Genre

Background Metadata process - Progress Bar

Control ID 12 is a process bat that display the progess of the background Metadata process. This process is normally only run one when the user updates to a new version that has a new provider though this can be overiddeen in advanced settings.

There are two skin properties that are linked to this progress bar.

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.Metadata.Scan.Active	This is set to the value **true** when the background process is active
#mvCentral.Metadata.Update.Progress	The percentage complete, a value between 1 and 100 (Format #.##% Complete) Note: Complete is a localized string

Code Example

```
<control>
  <type>label</type>
  <description>Background Metadata Refresh Text Percentage</description>
  <id>0</id>
  <posX>320</posX>
  <posY>600</posY>
  <width>800</width>
  <font>font9</font>
  <align>left</align>
  <label>Background Metadata Refresh: #mvCentral.Metadata.Update.Progress</label>
  <visible>control.isvisible(12)</visible>
  <animation effect="fade" time="70" reversible="false">visible</animation>
</control>
<control>
  <description>Background Metadata Refresh Progress Bar</description>
  <type>progress</type>
  <id>12</id>
  <posX>320</posX>
  <posY>630</posY>
  <width>440</width>
  <height>20</height>
  <label>-</label>
  <texturebg>osd_progress_background.png</texturebg>
  <onlymidtexture>yes</onlymidtexture>
  <midwidth>440</midwidth>
  <midheight>18</midheight>
  <midoffsetX>1</midoffsetX>
  <midoffsetY>1</midoffsetY>
  <midtexture>osd_progress_mid.png</midtexture>
  <animation effect="fade" time="70" reversible="false">visible</animation>
  <visible>string.equals(#mvCentral.Metadata.Scan.Active,true)</visible>
</control>
```

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mvCentral.Playlist.xml

The playlist screen allows the display of the current Playlist using various layouts, current supported layouts are Small Icon, Large Icon, Filmstrip, Playlist and Coverflow. This screen also allows for loading and saveing of playlistsas well as standard Playlist functions.

Controls

Control ID	Type	Text	Description
2	Button	Layout: type	MediaPortal Standard Layout Button - Calls dialog with layout choices, Icon (small/large), Filmstrip, Playlist & Coverflow
9	Button	Load	Load a dialog to allow loading pf previous saved Playlists
20	Button	Shuffle	Shuffle currently loaded/playing Playlist
21	Button	Save	Displays a virtual keboard to allow entry of playlist name to save
22	Button	Clear	Clear the current Playlist
23	Button	Play	Start plying the loaded Playlist
24	Button	Next	Skip to next track in Playlist
25	Button	Previous	Play previous track in Playlist
30	ToggleButton	Repeat	If enabled will repeat the Playlist
40	ToggleButton	Auto Play	When enabled will start playing the Playlist when loaded
50	Facade	-	Facade control - Icon Small, Icon Large, Filmstrip, Playlist and Coverflow supported

Global Properites

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.Hierachy	Set to the current navigation level
#mvCentral.Playlist.Count	Set to the total number of videos in the Playlist
#mvCentral.Playlist.Runtime	Set to the total runtime for all videos in the playlist

Selected item skin properities

Skin Property	Description
#iswatched	Set to 'yes' if this video has been watched and 'no' if not.
#mvCentral.Watched.Count	Set to the number of time the video has been watched (0 if not watched)
#mvCentral.ArtistName	Set to the Artist Name
#mvCentral.ArtistImg	Set to the path of the full resolution Artist image
#mvCentral.ArtistTags	List of Last.FM tags seperated by a space
#mvCentral.Genre	Set to the main genre for the Artist
#mvCentral.BornOrFormed	Set to the date the Artist was born or group formed, if no data is available this is set to "No Born/Formed Details"
#mvCentral.VideoImg	Set to the Video thumbnail image
#mvCentral.Track.Rating	Set to rating value for the track between 0 and 9
#mvCentral.Composers	Set to the composer(s), if more than 1 composers are seperated by a comma
#mvCentral.Description	Set to the full text of the track description or Artist Bio if no track description
#mvCentral.Duration	Set to the playtime of the track in the format MM:SS or HH:MM:SS if longer than 1hr

Video and Audio Media Details as extracted and reported by MediaInfo

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.videoresolution	Video resolution 720p, 1080i, 1080p etc
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.videoaspectratio	Set to*fullscreen**or**widescreen
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.videocodec	Set to the video codec
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.audiocodec	Set to the audio codec
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.audiochannels	Set to the numbe of audio channels
#mvCentral.LocalMedia.audio	Combined setting of #mvCentral.LocalMedia.audiocodec #mvCentral.LocalMedia.audiochannels

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mvCentral.StatsAndInfo.xml

The Status and Information screen provides an overview of the current video collection, it displays

Total Artists and Videos Most Played Artist **Most Played Video**Top Ten Played Videos **Progess bars for Metadata and Artwork Background Processes**

Controls

Control ID	Type	Text	Description
12	Progress	-	Metadata background process progress bar
13	Progress	-	Artwork background process progress bar
14	Button	-	Hidden button, need to be present and used as a default control when entering the plugin
15	Label	Vx.x.x	Text set by the plugin to the version
16	Label	-	Set by the plugin as 'Database has X Videos across X Artists'
18	Image	-	Set by the plugin to the Video thumbnail image
20	Image	-	Set by the plugin to the Artist image thumbnail
30	Label	-	Top Ten display (1) - Set by the plugin to the 'Artist - Track'

Control ID	Type	Text	Description
31	Label	-	Top Ten display (2) - Set by the plugin to the 'Artist - Track'
32	Label	-	Top Ten display (3) - Set by the plugin to the 'Artist - Track'
33	Label	-	Top Ten display (4) - Set by the plugin to the 'Artist - Track'
34	Label	-	Top Ten display (5) - Set by the plugin to the 'Artist - Track'
35	Label	-	Top Ten display (6) - Set by the plugin to the 'Artist - Track'
36	Label	-	Top Ten display (7) - Set by the plugin to the 'Artist - Track'
37	Label	-	Top Ten display (8) - Set by the plugin to the 'Artist - Track'
38	Label	-	Top Ten display (9) - Set by the plugin to the 'Artist - Track'
39	Label	-	Top Ten display (10) - Set by the plugin to the 'Artist - Track'

Exposed Skin Properites

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.Hierachy	Set to the current navigation level
#mvCentral.MostPlayed	Most played video track name
#mvCentral.FavArtist	Most played Artist name

Background Metadata & Artwork processes - Progress Bars

Control ID 12 and 13 are progress bars they display the progess of the background Metadata and Artwork processess.

Metadata Refresh Progress Bar

Control ID: 12

There is one skin propertie linked to this progress bar.

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.Metadata.Update.Progress	The percentage complete, a value between 1 and 100 (Format #.##% Complete) Note: Complete is a localized string

Artwork Refresh Progress Bar

Control ID: 13

There is one skin propertie linked to this progress bar.

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.Artwork.Update.Progress	The percentage complete, a value between 1 and 100 (Format #.##% Complete) Note: Complete is a localized string

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mvCentral.SmartDJ.xml

SmartDJ is basiclly a Playlist builder, it has two modes.

Match This mode displays buttons for the 6 main infomation metadata fields

Genre	AllMusic Genre
Last.FM Tag	Tags from Last.FM
Style	Styles as sourced from AllMusic
Tones	Tones as sourced from AllMusic
Composer	Track composer(s)

By clicking a button a select dialog is displayed allowing the user to chose an item, all vidoes are then searched and these are displayed in a Facade list. Each subsquent field selected will add to this list.

Filter This mode allows the user to chose the order of fields, selecting a button will first display a list of fields

(same as those for Match mode) and after selection will then display the data for that field allowing the user to chose as per Match mode and the result is displayed as a Facade list. Where filter mode differs is that each subsquent field chosen will use selected data set as input and will thus narrow the selected data.

Controls

Control ID	Type	Text	Description
20	Button	Match or Filter	This button text will swap bewteen Match and Filter each time selected
21	Button	Play Playlist	This will convert the selected items on the Facade into a Play list and start playing
22	Button	Save Playlist	Displays a virtual keboard to allow entry of playlist name to save
23	Checkbutton	Shuffle	If selected this will shuffle the Playlist before playing
24	Button	Playlist	Jump to Playlist screen
30	Button	-	Search field buuton, will either be 'Genre' or 'Select Filter Field...'
31	Button	-	Search field buuton, will either be 'Last.Fm Tag' or 'Select Filter Field...'
32	Button	-	Search field buuton, will either be 'Style' or 'Select Filter Field...'
33	Button	-	Search field buuton, will either be 'Tone' or 'Select Filter Field...'
34	Button	-	Search field buuton, will either be 'Composer' or 'Select Filter Field...'
35	Button	-	Search field buuton, will either be 'Keyword' or 'Select Filter Field...'
37	Label	-	Displays the total artists and videos selected (localized)
50	Facade	-	Facade control - List supported

Exposed Skin Properites

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.SmartDF.Mode	Set to either 'Mode: Match' or 'Mode: Filter'

Selected item skin properties

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.#mvCentral.ArtistName	Set to the Artist Name **(v1.0.2)**
#mvCentral.#mvCentral.TrackInfo	Set to the full text of the track description **(v1.0.2)**
#mvCentral.#mvCentral.Track.Rating	Set to rating value for the track between 0 and 9 **(v1.0.2)**
#mvCentral.#mvCentral.Composers	Set to the composer(s), if more than 1 composers are seperated by a comma **(v1.0.2)**
#mvCentral.#mvCentral.Duration	Set to the playtime of the track in the format MM:SS or HH:MM:SS if longer than 1hr **(v1.0.2)**
#mvCentral.#mvCentral.ArtistName	Artist name for selected item on Facade list **(v1.0.2)**
#iswatched	Set to **yes** if the track has been previously played or **no** if not. **(v1.0.2)**
##mvCentral.Watched.Count	Set to the number of times the video has been watched **(v1.0.2)**

DialogMvMultiSelect.xml

Custom Multi Select Dialog, there is not much that need to be changed with this file as uses std dialog images as per DialogSelect.xml.

Play Properities

This secion list the properties that are set when a video starts to play, currently playing video and next video in playlist properties are provided.

mvCentral specific current play properties

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.isPlaying	Set to **true** if mvCentral is playing a video
#Play.Current.mvArtist	Set to the artist name of the currently playing track
#Play.Current.mvAlbum	Set to the Album name the track is from or blank in no assoicated album
#Play.Current.mvVideo	Set to the video title
#Play.Current.Video.Thumb	Set to the video thumbnail

Standard current play properties

Skin Property	Description
#Play.Current.Title	Set to the Video title
#Play.Current.Thumb	Set to the path full resolution Artist image
#Play.Current.Genre	Set to Artist genre (**v1.0.2**)
#Play.Current.Runtime	Set to Runtime of the playing track (**v1.0.2**)
#Play.Current.Rating	Set to the current track rating (between 0 and 9) (**v1.0.2**)
#Play.Current.Plot	Set to the full track description
#Play.Current.IsWatched	Set to **yes** if the track has been previouly played or **no** if not. (**v1.0.2**)

Video and Audio Media Details as extracted and reported by MediaInfo

Skin Property	Description
#Play.Current.AspectRatio	Set to*fullscreen**or**widescreen(**v1.0.2)
#Play.Current.VideoCodec.Texture	Set to the video codec (**v1.0.2**)
#Play.Current.VideoResolution	Video resolution 720p, 1080i, 1080p etc (**v1.0.2**)
#mvCentral.Current.videowidth	Set to the video width
#mvCentral.Current.videoheight	Set to the video height
#mvCentral.Current.videoframerate	Set to the video framerate
#Play.Current.AudioCodec.Texture	Set to the audio codec (**v1.0.2**)
#Play.Current.AudioChannels	et to the number of audio channels

mvCentral specific current play properties

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.isPlaying	Set to **true** if mvCentral is playing a video
#Play.Next.mvArtist	Set to the artist name of the currently playing track
#Play.Next.mvAlbum	Set to the Album name the track is from or blank in no assoicated album
#Play.Next.mvVideo	Set to the video title
#Play.Next.Video.Thumb	Set to the video thumbnail

Standard current play properties

Skin Property	Description
#Play.Next.Title	Set to the Video title
#Play.Next.Thumb	Set to the path full resolution Artist image
#Play.Next.Genre	Set to Artist genre (**v1.0.2**)
#Play.Next.Runtime	Set to Runtime of the playing track (**v1.0.2**)
#Play.Next.Rating	Set to the current track rating (between 0 and 9) (**v1.0.2**)
#Play.Next.Plot	Set to the full track description
#Play.Next.IsWatched	Set to **yes** if the track has been previouly played or **no** if not. (**v1.0.2**)

Video and Audio Media Details as extracted and reported by MediaInfo

Skin Property	Description
#Play.Next.AspectRatio	Set to*fullscreen**or**widescreen**(**v1.0.2)
#Play.Next.VideoCodec.Texture	Set to the video codec (**v1.0.2**)
#Play.Next.VideoResolution	Video resolution 720p, 1080i, 1080p etc (**v1.0.2**)
#mvCentral.Next.videowidth	Set to the video width
#mvCentral.Next.videoheight	Set to the video height
#mvCentral.Next.videoframerate	Set to the video framerate
#Play.Next.AudioCodec.Texture	Set to the audio codec (**v1.0.2**)
#Play.Next.AudioChannels	Set to the number of audio channels

Video info pop-up on Video Start (v1.0.2)

Property |#mvCentral.Play.Started| |:----------------------|

Possible Values | true | For the first 5 secs (Default) when a video starts |
|:-----|:--| | false | Set when timeout expires, this is 5 seconds by default but can be changed in configuration |

Using the above property you can provide an info pop-box each time a video starts, the image below is from StreamedMP.

Example code (only single control shown, full file can be found HERE)

```
<control>
  <description>Movie/File Status Icons group</description>
  <type>group</type>
  <dimColor>ffffffff</dimColor>
  <visible>!window.isosdvisible+string.equals(#mvCentral.Play.Started,true)</visible>
  <animation effect="fade" time="300" delay="300">VisibleChange</animation>
  <animation effect="slide" start="600,0" end="0,0" tween="quadratic" time="500"
delay="100">VisibleChange</animation>
  <control>
   <description>background</description>
   <type>image</type>
   <id>0</id>
   <posX>700</posX>
   <posY>530</posY>
   <width>585</width>
   <height>192</height>
   <texture>mpinfo_filmbox.old.png</texture>
  </control>
  .
  .
  .
  .
</control>
```

Some things to be aware of when using animations inside videoFullScreen.xml, do not use animation types WindowOpen or WindowClose as these will cause MediaPortal to crash. I have used VisibleChange type - I have not tested other types.

Skins Supporting Video Info Pop-up

StreamedMP

[aMPed](#)

Latest Added Music Video Support

mvCentral will check for the last 3 added music vidoes and if found will set 3 skin properities for each music video found.

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.latest.enabled	Set **true** if there are latest videos

Skin Property	Description
#mvCentral.Latest.ArtistX	X = 1, 2 or 3 - Artist Name
#mvCentral.Latest.ArtistImageX	X = 1,2 or 3 - Full path to Artist Image
#mvCentral.Latest.TrackX	X = 1,2 or 3 - Track Name