

# Prototyping & UI Software

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Spring 2007

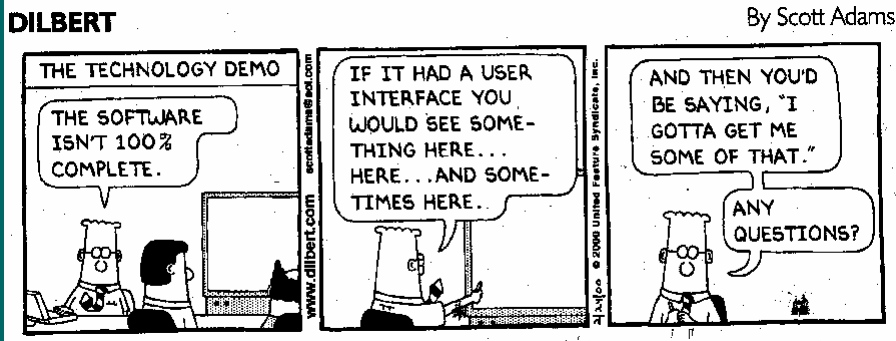
This material has been developed by Georgia Tech HCI faculty, and continues to evolve. Contributors include Gregory Abowd, Al Badre, Jim Foley, Elizabeth Mynatt, Jeff Pierce, Colin Potts, Chris Shaw, John Stasko, and Bruce Walker. Permission is granted to use with acknowledgement for non-profit purposes. Last revision: January 2007.

## Agenda

- Prototyping
  - Dimensions and terminology
  - Non-computer methods
  - Computer methods
- UI Software
  - Design tools
  - UI toolkits
  - GUI builder tools
- Poster session preview
- Exam preview



## Your Project Group



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## Design Artifacts

- How do we express early design ideas?
  - No software coding at this stage
- Key notions
  - Make it fast!!!
  - Allow lots of flexibility for radically different designs
  - Make it cheap
  - Promote valuable feedback

**\*\*\* Facilitate iterative design and evaluation \*\*\***

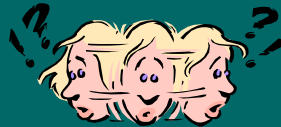
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## Dilemma

- You can't evaluate design until it's built
  - But...
- After building, changes to the design are difficult



- Simulate the design, in low-cost manner



## Prototyping Dimensions

- 1. Representation
  - How is the design depicted or represented?
  - Can be just textual description or can be visuals and diagrams
- 2. Scope
  - Is it just the interface (mock-up) or does it include some computational component?



## Dimensions (contd)

- 3. Executability
  - Can the prototype be “run”?
  - If coding, there will be periods when it can’t
- 4. Maturation
  - What are the stages of the product as it comes along?

Revolutionary - Throw out old one

Evolutionary - Keep changing previous design



## Terminology (1)

- Early prototyping
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Late prototyping



## Terminology (2)

- Low-fidelity prototype

Far from final form of system, such as paper, drawings, etc.

- High-fidelity prototype

Close to final form of system, much more realistic to actual application



## Terminology

- Horizontal prototype

Very broad, does or shows much of the interface, but does this in a shallow manner

- Vertical prototype

Fewer features or aspects of the interface simulated, but done in great detail



## Rapid Prototyping Methods

- Non-computer vs. computer-based



Typically earlier in process



Typically later in process



## Non-Computer Methods

- Goal: Want to express design ideas and get quick & cheap opinions on system
  
- Methods?



## 1. Design Description

- Can simply have a textual description of a system design
  - Obvious weakness is that it's so far from eventual system
  - Doesn't do a good job representing visual aspects of interface



## 2. Sketches, Mock-ups

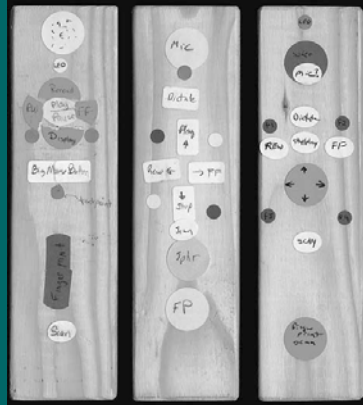
- Paper-based "drawings" of interfaces
- Good for brainstorming
- Focuses people on high-level design notions
- Not so good for illustrating flow and the details
- Quick and cheap -> helpful feedback



## Physical Mock-Ups

- Wooden blocks and labels - device control

(Three versions of  
a hand-held controller)



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## Physical Mock-Up

- Styrofoam and Buttons



Spring 2004 CS  
4750 project "Golf  
Caddy" by:

Chris Hamilton  
Linda Kang  
Luigi Montanez  
Ben Tomassetti

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### 3. Storyboard

- What is it?



Some slides taken from lecture by Khai Truong

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### Storyboarding

- Pencil and paper simulation or walkthrough of system look and functionality
  - Use sequence of diagrams/drawings
  - Show key snap shots
  - Quick & easy



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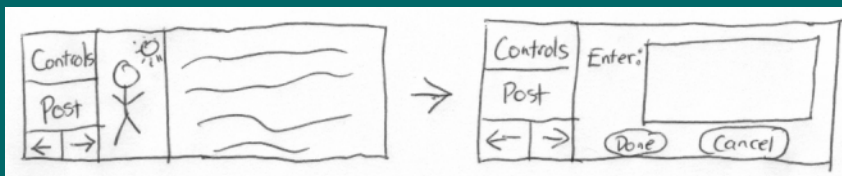
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## Uses / background

- Very similar in nature to:
  - Comic art / cartoons
- Used in:
  - Movie / multimedia design
  - Product / software development



## Example



Sketches solve two problems with use of more fully-developed prototypes

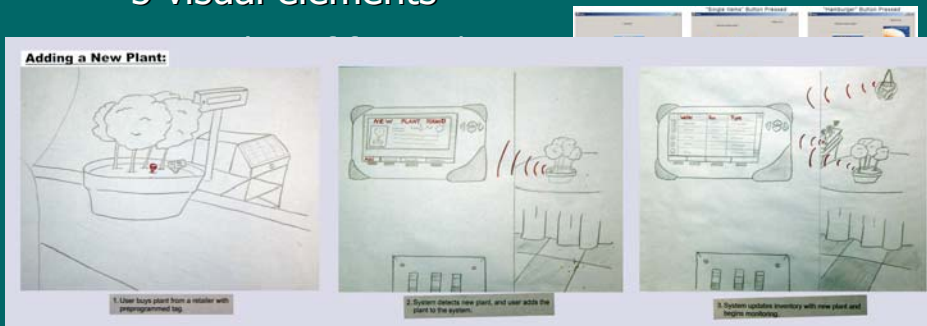
User reluctance to suggest changes to what might look like a finished product

User focus too much on details (graphic design, etc) of UI rather than big picture



## Elements of storyboard

- Graphical depiction of scenarios
- 5 visual elements



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## How is it done?

- **Novice designers' process**
  - Individual brainstorming about ideas
  - May do some quick initial sketches
  - Team meeting to discuss ideas / drawings
  - Decision on what to draw
  - Spend next ~8 hours together drawing
    - Co-location allows quick feedback
    - Can also glance at what others are drawing for inspiration

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## How is it done?

- **Expert designers' process**
  - Get assignment
  - Individual brainstorming about ideas
    - Determine the story
    - Includes a lot of sketches using pencil + paper
    - A very iterative process through a lot of initial drafts
  - Team meeting to discuss ideas / drawings
    - Share copies of drawings
    - Discuss what stories should be told
  - Repeat
  - Generate more polished art for presentation
  
  - Develop



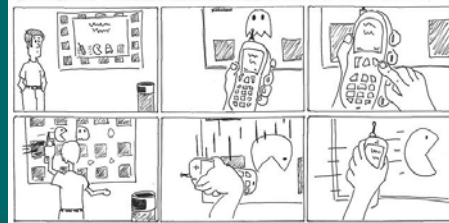
## Experts' advice on storyboarding

- Keep it short: 1 interaction/activity per storyboard
- More is not always better. Why?
  - May lose focus of story
  - May lose reader's attention
- Biggest challenge? Experts say:
  - Must be able to succinctly tell story



## Keep the drawing short

- Drawing more is not always needed...



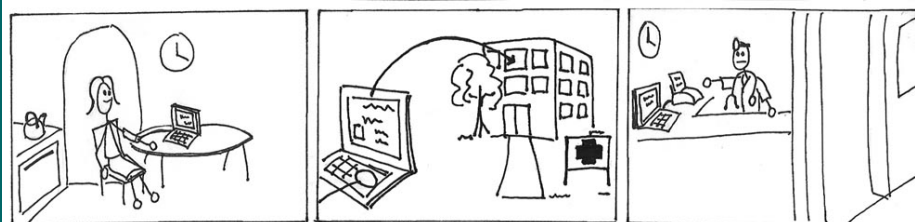
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## Use taglines / captions

- Keep it short



1. At home, Mary checks her blood pressure.

2. After a few simple key presses, her blood pressure readings get sent to a clinic.

3. The information is made available to her doctor.

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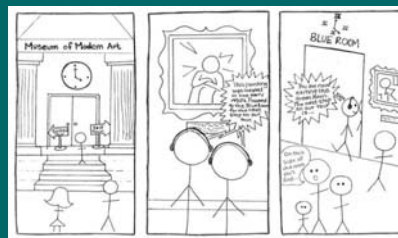
## Inclusion of actors and objects helps to create empathy

- *"The first thing users will want to know is why do I even care about this application?"*
- Can show how the user interacts with the system and how the system affects the user



## When to show time passing

- Time passing is implicit
- Only needed when gross changes or minute changes need to be explicit
- Readers bring own expectations of how much time passes into the storyboard



## Some advice

- Figure out your story
- Identify main points in the story
- Draw 3-5 frames/panes (to match the main points)
- Keep it simple...
- Add taglines / text to enhance understanding
- Pilot storyboards & iterate



## 4. Scenarios (aka Use Cases)

- Hypothetical or fictional situations of use
  - Typically involving some person, event, situation and environment
  - Provide context of operation
  - Often in narrative form, but can also be sketches or even videos



## Scenario Utility

- Engaging and interesting
- Allows designer to look at problem from another person's point of view
- Facilitates feedback and opinions
- Can be very futuristic and creative
- Can involve social and interpersonal aspects of the task



## 5. Other Techniques

- Tutorials & Manuals
  - Maybe write them out ahead of time to flesh out functionality
  - Forces designer to be explicit about decisions
  - Putting it on paper is valuable





## Computer-Supported Methods

- Simulate more of system functionality
  - Usually just some features or aspects
  - Can focus on more of details
  - Typically engaging
  - Can lead to “stale” design, can focus user (or customer) too much on the details of the interface, too early in the design process
  - Danger: Users are more reluctant to suggest changes once they see more realistic prototype



## Prototyping Tools

- 1. Draw/Paint programs
  - Draw each screen, good for look

A screenshot of a thin, horizontal prototype dialog box. It features a white border and a dark background. The text "IP Address" is followed by a rectangular input field. Below the input field are two buttons: "OK" and "Cancel".

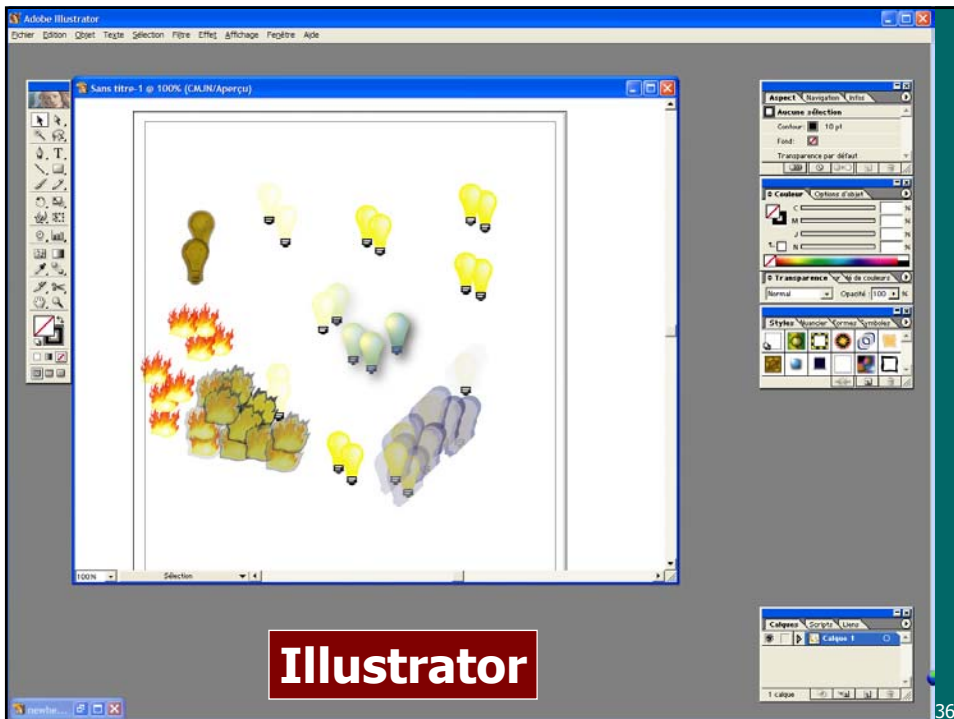
IP Address

OK Cancel

Thin, horizontal prototype

PhotoShop, Corel Draw,...





## Prototyping Tools

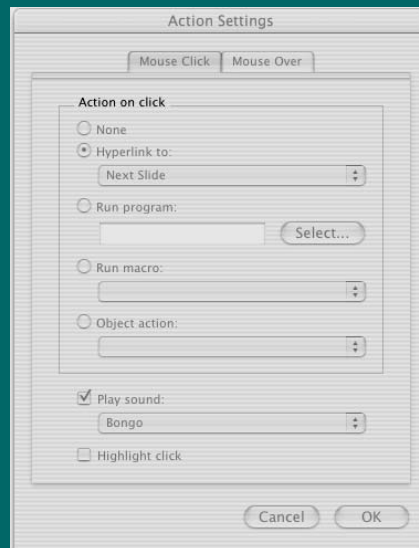
- 2. Scripted simulations/slide shows
  - Put storyboard-like views down with (animated) transitions between them
  - Can give user very specific script to follow
  - Often called *chauffeured prototyping*
- Examples: PowerPoint, Hypercard, Macromedia Director, HTML



## Powerpoint Transition Controls

### Mouse click actions:

- Next slide
- Previous slide
- First slide
- Last slide
- Last slide viewed
- End show
- Custom show
- URL
- File



# Scripting Example

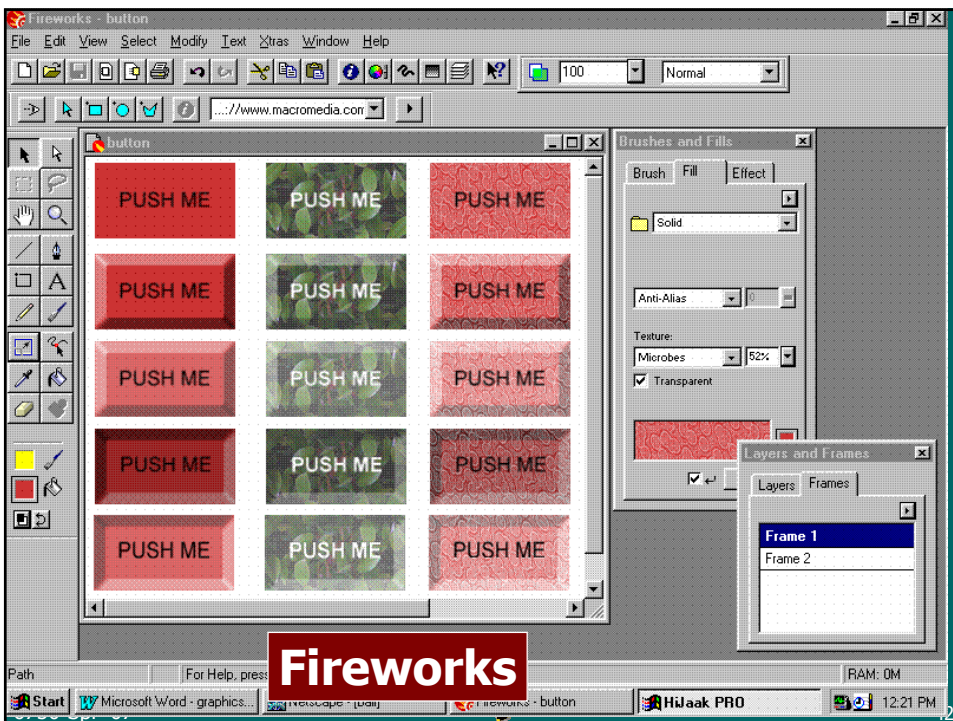
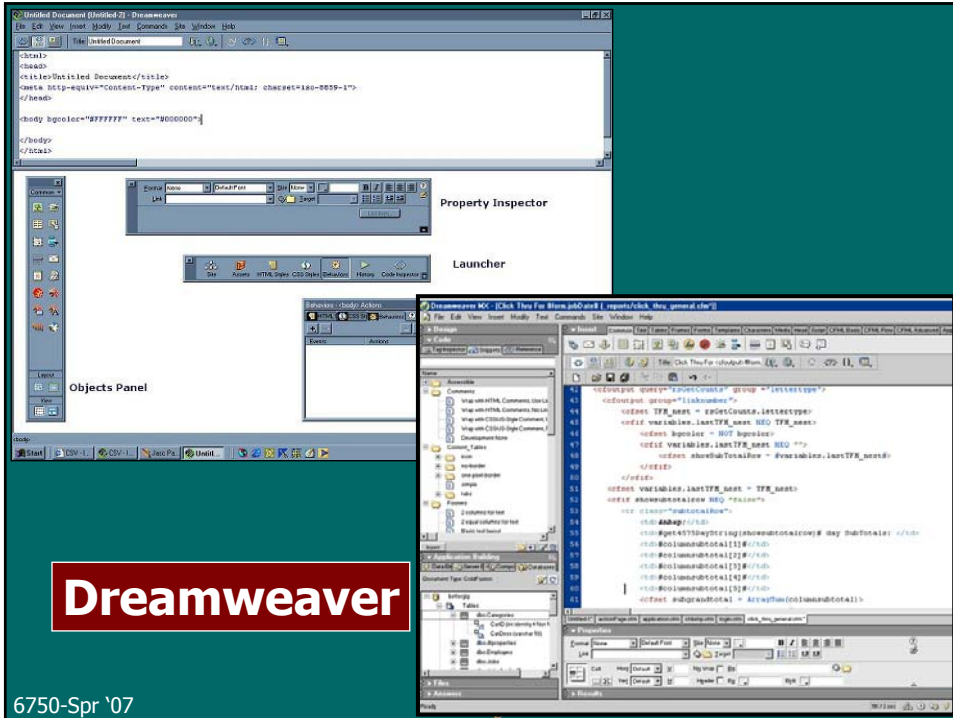


Ctrl-p



# But Beware!





## Apple Hypercard

- Once a very popular prototyping tool for simulating UI
- Allows control of simple card transitions
- More complex behaviors

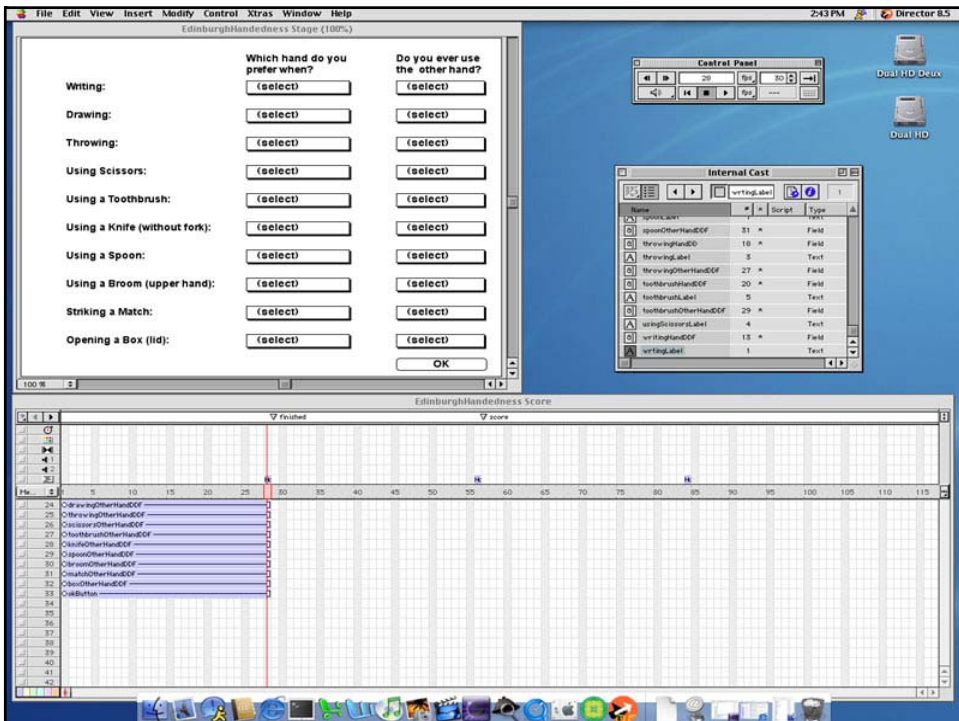
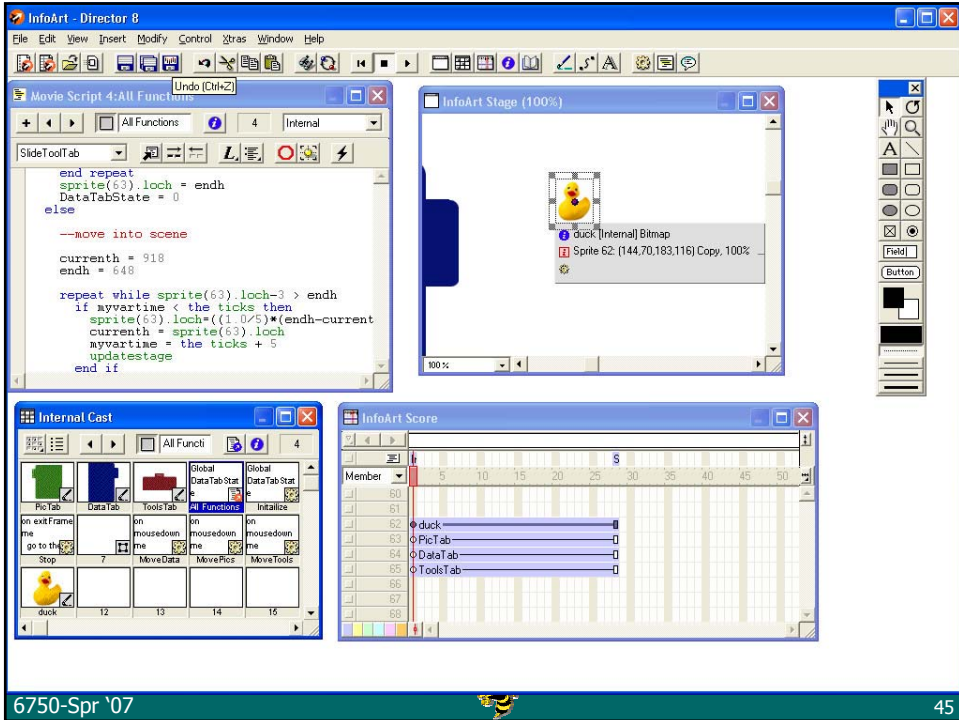
```
on mouseUp
  play "boing"
  wait for 3 seconds
  visual effect wipe left very fast to black
  click at 150,100
  type "goodbye"
end mouseUp
```



## Macromedia Director

- Combines various media with script written in Lingo language
- Concerned with place and time
  - Objects positioned in space on "stage"
  - Objects positioned in time on "score"
- Easy to transition between screens
- Can export as executable or as Web Shockwave file





## Prototyping Tools

- 3. Interface Builders

- Tools for laying out windows, controls, etc. of interface

- Have build and test modes that are good for exhibiting look and feel
- Generate code to which back-end functionality can be added through programming

- Examples: Visual Basic, Delphi, UIMX, ...



## Visual Basic

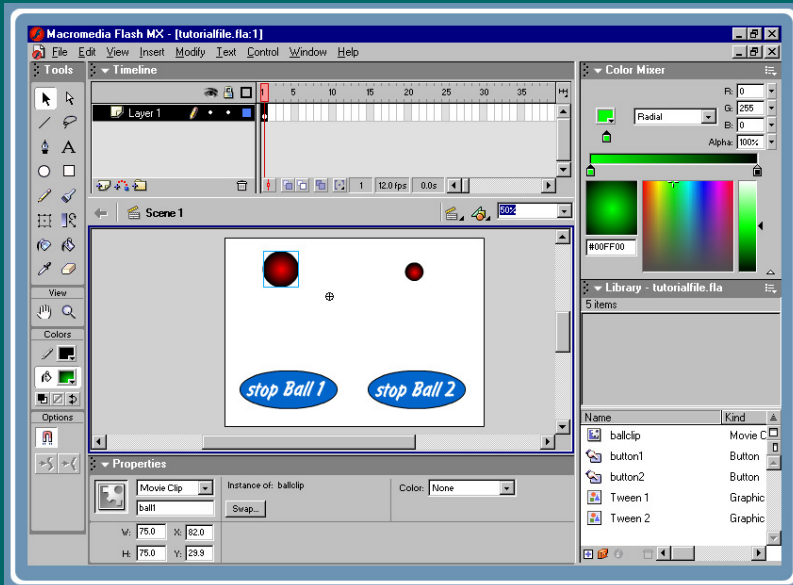
More to come later today

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Visual Basic IDE. On the left is the 'UI Controls' palette. In the center is the 'Design area' containing a form with a 'Welcome' label, a text box with 'Text1', and a 'Go?' button. On the right is the 'Control properties' window, which lists various properties for the selected 'Text1' control, such as Name, Appearance, BackColor, BorderStyle, and Font.





## Flash - A category of its own



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## True Programming

- Less useful for rapid prototyping, but can save re-coding time down the road
- More constrained in look and feel
- Constrained to traditional interaction styles and methods
  - Hard to think outside the box
- More to come in a few minutes...

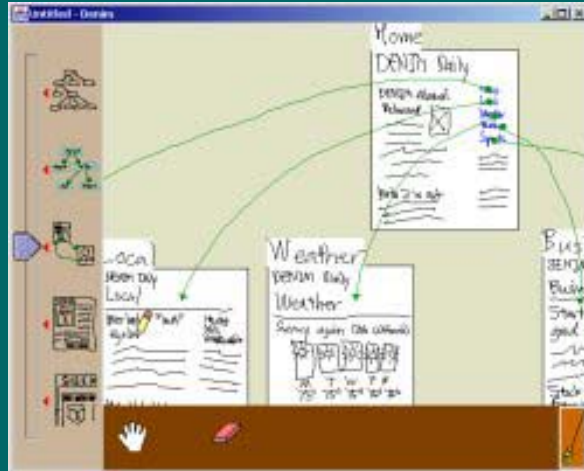
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## Other Prototyping Tools

- Denim



<http://guir.berkeley.edu>

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## Audio Interface (Telephony) Builder Tools

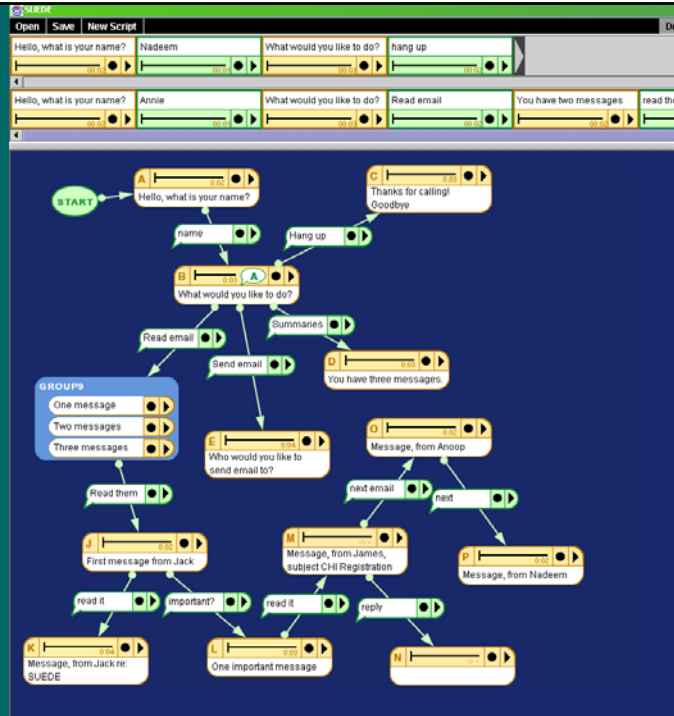
- SUEDE - Flow-chart for speech interface
  - Landay et al, UC Berkeley (now U Washington)
- Used for wizard-of-Oz studies
- Could be used to drive real system
- [guir.berkeley.edu/projects/suede/index.shtml](http://guir.berkeley.edu/projects/suede/index.shtml)

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# Suede



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## Prototyping Technique

- Wizard of Oz - Person simulates and controls system from "behind the scenes"
  - Use mock interface and interact with users
  - Good for simulating system that would be difficult to build



Can be either computer-based or not

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## Wizard of Oz

- Method:
  - Behavior should be algorithmic
  - Good for voice recognition systems
- Advantages:
  - Allows designer to immerse oneself in situation
  - See how people respond, how specify tasks



## Prototyping Tools

- Good features
  - Easy to develop & modify screens
  - Supports type of interface you are developing
  - Supports variety I/O devices
  - Easy to link screens and modify links
  - Allows calling external procedures & program
  - Allows importing text, graphics, other media
  - Easy to learn and use
  - Good support from vendor



## Prototyping

*Early*

*Late*

Low-fidelity

Medium-fidelity

High-fidelity

Sketches, mock-ups

Slide shows

System prototypes

Scenarios

Storyboards

Simulations



## Prototyping Summary

- Tradeoffs of simplicity, manageability
- Veracity
- Interactiveness
- Up-front costs vs. down the road costs
  
- Key: Don't let the prototyping environment drive or constrain your creativity!!



## Tutorials

### Photoshop/Illustrator:

<http://www.absolutecross.com/tutorials/photoshop/>

<http://www.planetphotoshop.com/tutorials.html>

<http://thetechnozone.com/bbvc/Illustrator.htm>

<http://studio.pinnacle-elite.com/tutorials/aitut01.html>

### Dreamweaver/HTML:

<http://www.cbtcafe.com/dreamweaver/>

<http://www.sitebuilder.ws/dreamweaver/tutorials/>

### Fireworks:

<http://www.cbtcafe.com/fireworks/index.html>

### VB:

<http://www.vbtutor.net/vbtutor.html>

<http://juicystudio.com/tutorial/vb/>

[http://webpace.dialnet.com/paul\\_pbcoms/vb/tutor.html](http://webpace.dialnet.com/paul_pbcoms/vb/tutor.html)

### Flash:

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/accc/seminars/flashintro/index.html>

<http://www.absolutecross.com/tutorials/flash/>

### Director:

<http://www.herts.ac.uk/lis/mmedia/directortutorial/>

<http://www.tutorialfind.com/tutorials/macromedia/director/>

<http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/learning/director/>



## UI Software & Programming

- OK, let's return to what we were talking about earlier
- The final level up...building the actual application



## User Interface Software

- What support is provided for building graphical user interfaces?
  - UI toolkits
  - GUI builder tools
- Let's examine some background...

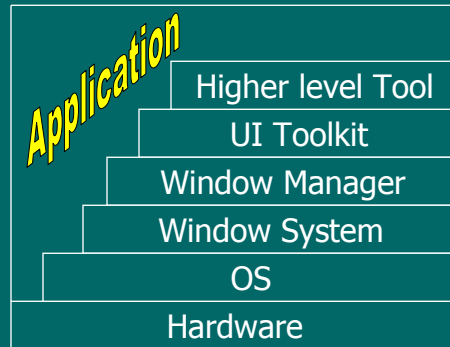


## GUI System Architecture

What does it look like?



## Layered Architecture



## Window System

- Allocates and manages
  - Regions of display to application programs, keeps programs out of each other's way
  - Input devices (keyboard, mouse) to application, routes input events
- Called by application program to
  - Create/delete windows (ie, allocate resource)
  - Operate on windows (move, resize, bring to top, hide, give name, clear)
  - Enable input devices
  - Get input from user via interaction devices



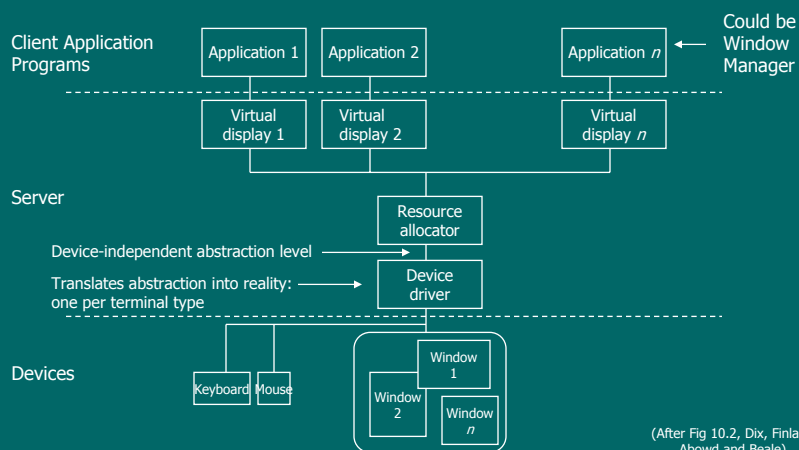


## Key Windowing Concepts

- Server/client
- Window manager  $\neq$  window system
- Virtual display/input device abstraction
- Window hierarchy
- Event notification: queue vs. callback
- User actions
- Input focus
- Consequences of server actions (redraw)



## Client-Server Window System



(After Fig 10.2, Dix, Finlay, Abowd and Beale)

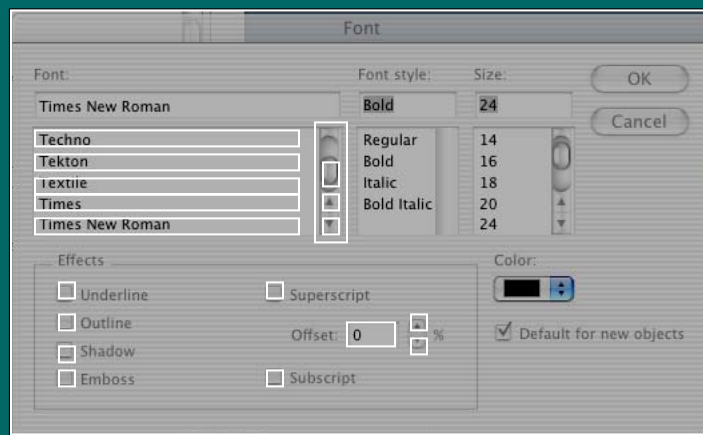


## Client- Server

- "Policy-free" server, not seen by user
- A *Window manager* client gives the "look and feel", not the *window system* (server)
- Multiple clients, each seen by user on terminal
- Linux/Unix WMs built on the X Window System include
  - LVWM - Open LookVirtual Window Manager
  - FVWM - Feeble Virtual Window Manager
  - MWM - Motif Window Manager
  - AfterStep
  - GWM - Generic Window Manager



## Window Hierarchy



## Event Notification

- Event types
  - User actions - mouse movements/button clicks, keyboarding, enter or leave window
  - Server actions, such as making window visible - client may need to redraw window
- Event queue – program examines the queue, calls an action routines, determined by event type and screen object under cursor
- Callback – the window system *notifier* is told which action routine to call for each type of event for each object on screen



## Input Focus

- To which client do events go?
- Not always where the cursor is located
- Dynamic dragging outside of window
- Type into one window while "mouse" in another



## Separation of Concerns

- Application
  - Core functionality
  - Operations
  - Data
- Interface
  - Interface components
  - Graphics
  - I/O

Should these be separated  
architecturally and in code?

Why or why not?



## How Does a Toolkit Work?

- What exactly does it provide?
- How is it organized?



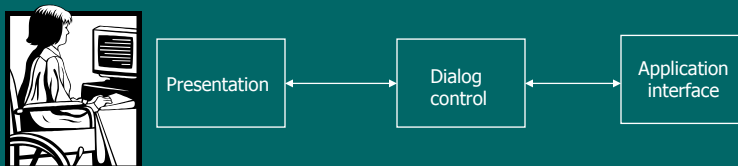
## Toolkit Workings

- User takes actions, interacts with interface
- Those actions must be delivered to application in meaningful ways
- Application takes appropriate actions, perhaps updating display



## Seeheim Model

Conversational model



Dominant model for long time



## Object Model

- UI is collection of interactor objects (often called widgets)
- User directly manipulates them
- Objects responsible for transmitting user actions to application in meaningful ways



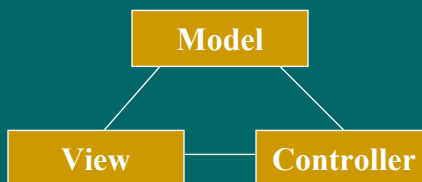
## Model-View-Controller (MVC)

- Developed for Smalltalk (Alan Kay)
- A refined object model:  $V+C = UI$
- Used in JAVA's Swing UI widget library

State and behavior of **M**odel

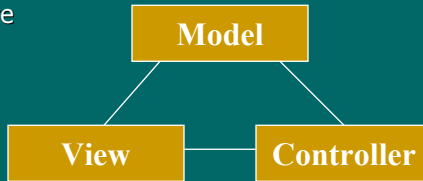
Create and update a **V**iew of the model

Control/manage user interaction with the model



## MVC Example - a Push Button

- Model - a boolean - on or off
- View - a drawing - in each possible state
- Controller - tell model to change state, and view to change view
- Note - most buttons have more complex behavior than this

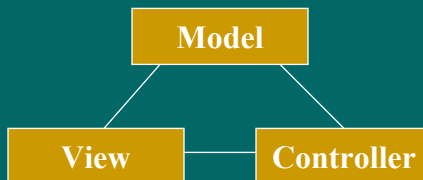


See <http://www.javaworld.com/javaworld/jw-04-1998/jw-04-howto.html>



## MVC Flexibility

- Clear separation of concerns makes changes easy
  - Want a different button appearance? Change the view, nothing else.
  - Want mouse\_over rather than mouse\_down to change state?

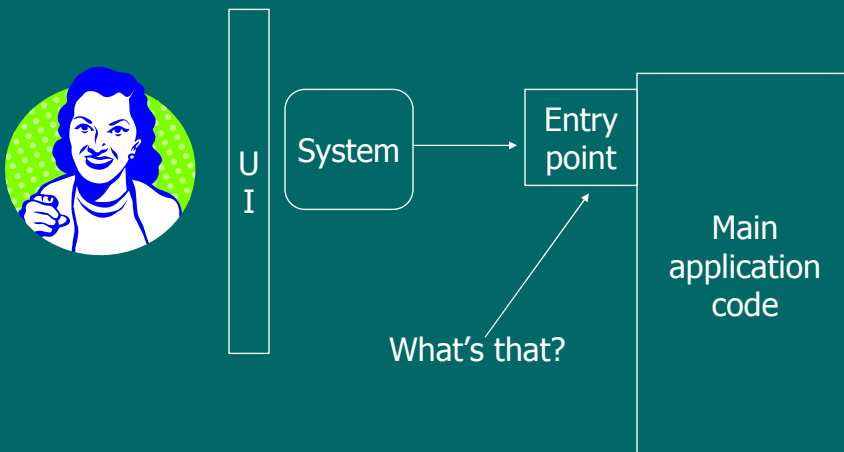


## Locus of Control

- “Traditional” software
  - Control is in system, query user when input needed
- Event-driven software
  - Control is with user (wait for action)
  - Code reacts to user actions
  - More difficult to write code this way, harder to modularize, etc.



## Classical Event-Driven Program



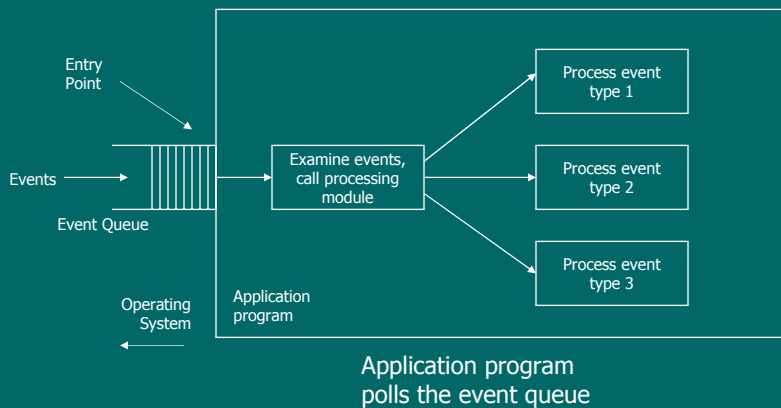


## UI Toolkit

- What application programmer typically programs with
- Combination of interface objects and management behaviors
- Usually object-oriented now
- Library of software components and routines that programmer puts together
  - X Windows: X Toolkit & Motif
  - Macintosh: Mac Toolbox, MacApp
  - Windows: Windows Developers' Toolkit
  - Java: Swing



## Classical Approach to Input Event Dispatching – Not so Good



## Classical Event-Driven Program

- Initialize display & system
- Repeat
  - Wait for and get next user action
  - Decipher action
  - Take appropriate action
  - Update display
- Until Done

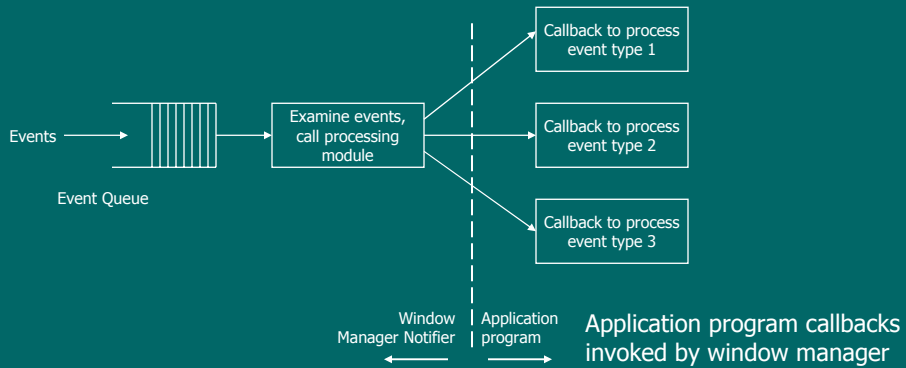


## Callback Routine – Way to go

- Software procedure, part of application
- Invoked when particular action occurs to UI component, such as pressing a PushButton
- Procedure is invoked with event parameters



## Window Approach to Input Event Dispatching - Good



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## Widgets are Source of Events

- Widgets are typically structured as objects
- JAVA's Swing uses MVC model
  - Each widget has three parts

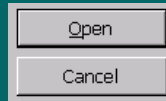
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## Windows Widgets

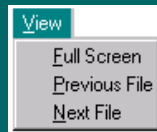
- Buttons (several types)



- Scroll bars and sliders

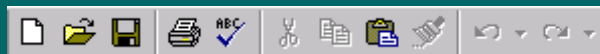


- Pulldown menus

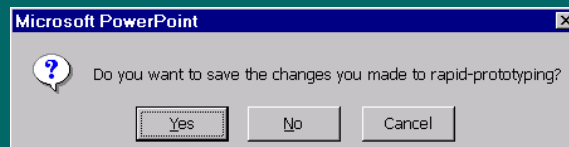


## More Windows Widgets

- Palettes



- Dialog boxes



- Windows and many more...



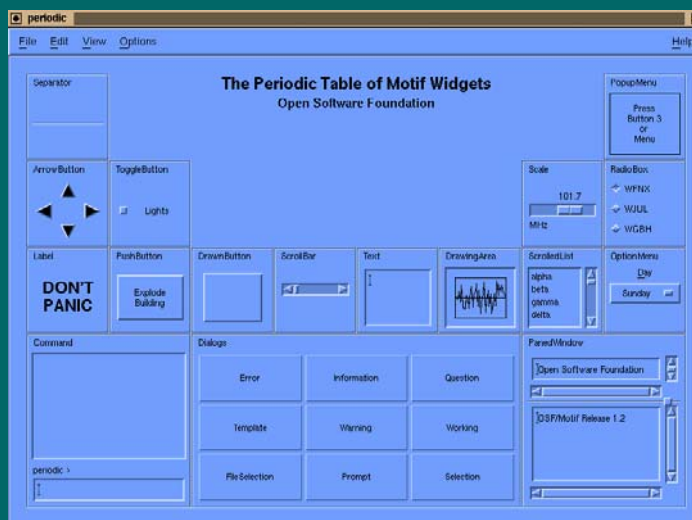
## Example – X & Motif

- Object-oriented hierarchy of UI interactors called widgets
  - Associate callback routines in your code with them
- Interface is built up by putting child widgets “onto” parent widgets



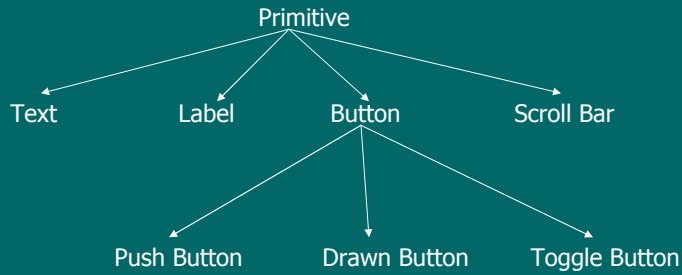
## Widget

Graphical user interface interactor object



## Widget Hierarchy

- Widgets organized into inheritance hierarchy



## Widget

- Visual appearance
- Set of tailorable attributes

```
PushButton {  
    Color Background;  
    int MarginLeft;  
    int MarginRight;  
    int BorderWidth;  
    Pixmap ArmPixmap;  
    Boolean FillOnArm;  
    CallbackList ActivateCallback;  
}
```

- Interactive behavior

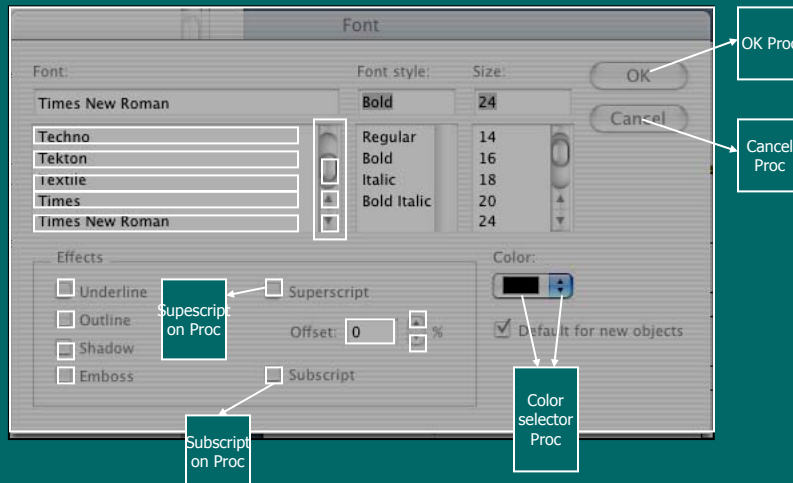


## Widget Use

- Set up widget attributes
- Create widget object (as child of parent widget)
- Define callback or event procedure for widget



## Callbacks associated with objects and events



## Multiple Callbacks per Object

- Example - button object with 5 callbacks
  - Mouse enter - (1) highlight
  - Mouse button down - (2) additional highlighting
  - Mouse leave while button down - (3) remove highlight
  - Mouse button up - (4) remove highlight, (5) perform action



## Widget and Callback

```
n = 0;
xmstr = XmStringCreate("Color", XmSTRING_DEFAULT_CHARSET);
XtSetArg(args[n], XmNlabelString, xmstr); n++;
XtSetArg(args[n], XmNbackground, red); n++;
colorbut = XtCreateManagedWidget("colorbutton",
    xmPushButtonWidgetClass, focusrowcol, args, n);
XtAddCallback(colorbut, XmNactivateCallback,
    colorChangeCB, id);

void
colorChangeCB(Widget w, XtPointer userdata, XtPointer evtdata)
{
    // Actions
}
```





## Main Program Event Loop

```
void CheckXEvents ()
{
    XEvent xev;

    while (XtAppPending(_context)) {
        XtAppNextEvent(_context, &xev);
        XtDispatchEvent(&xev);
    }
}
```



## OO Systems

- Java's GUI programming done with AWT and Swing
- More distributed model (separate threads)
- Primary action here is dispatching events to objects (widgets) as messages
- Delegation important
  - Can make particular objects responsible for event handling



# Example - Java AWT

```
public void mouseReleased(MouseEvent e) {  
    System.out.println ("Changing color");  
    if (bHighlight)  
        frame.setBackground(highlight);  
    else  
        frame.setBackground(normal);  
    bHighlight = !bHighlight;  
}
```

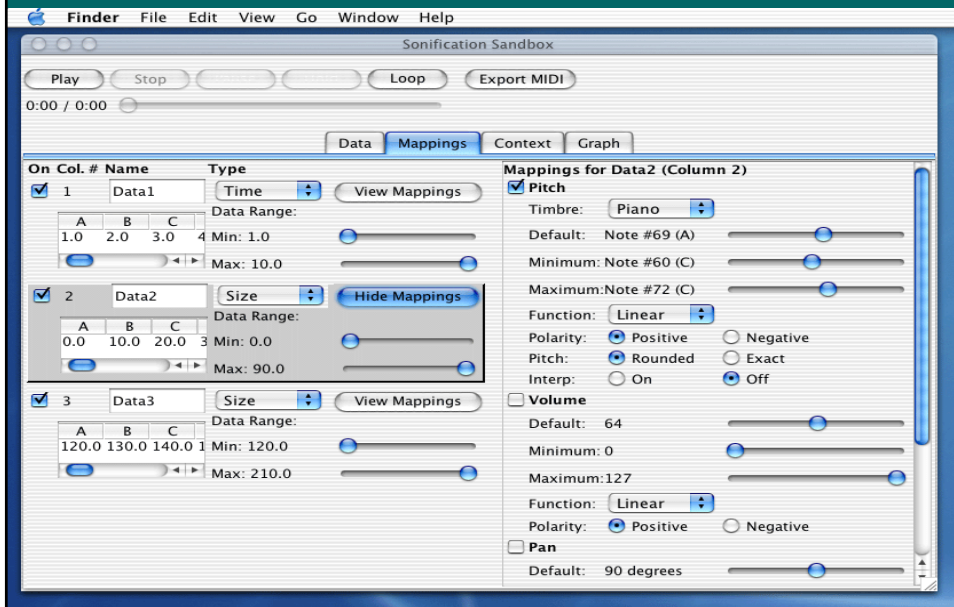
6750-Spr '07



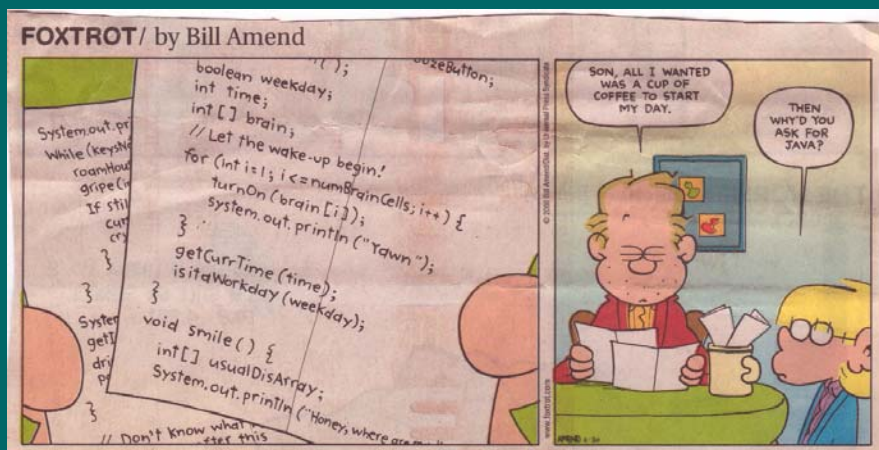
99

The screenshot shows the Eclipse IDE interface. The main editor window displays the source code for 'SandboxFrame.java'. The code includes imports for various Java AWT and Swing classes, and the implementation of the 'mouseReleased' method. The left sidebar shows the Package Explorer with the project structure. The right sidebar shows the Outline view. The bottom status bar displays 'Java'.

# Java Output



# Get What You Ask For



## Higher Level Tools

- Provide assistance or some automation in developing UIs
- Four types
  - Language - high-level programming language
  - Application framework - for specific application domain
  - Model-based systems - driven by UML or DB Schema
  - Interactive GUI Builders - by far the most prevalent and accessible



## GUI Builder Tools

- Why build graphical (visual) interface with textual commands?
- Why not show what you want it to look like?
- Visual builder tools: Visual Basic, Visual C++, Borland Delphi, Symantec Café, NetBeans

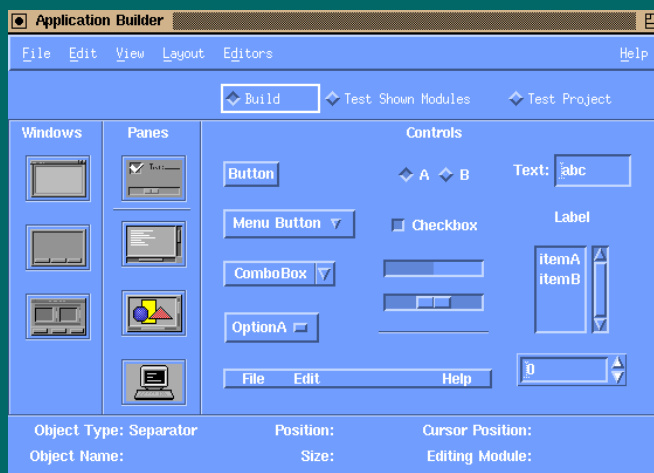


## Tool Methods

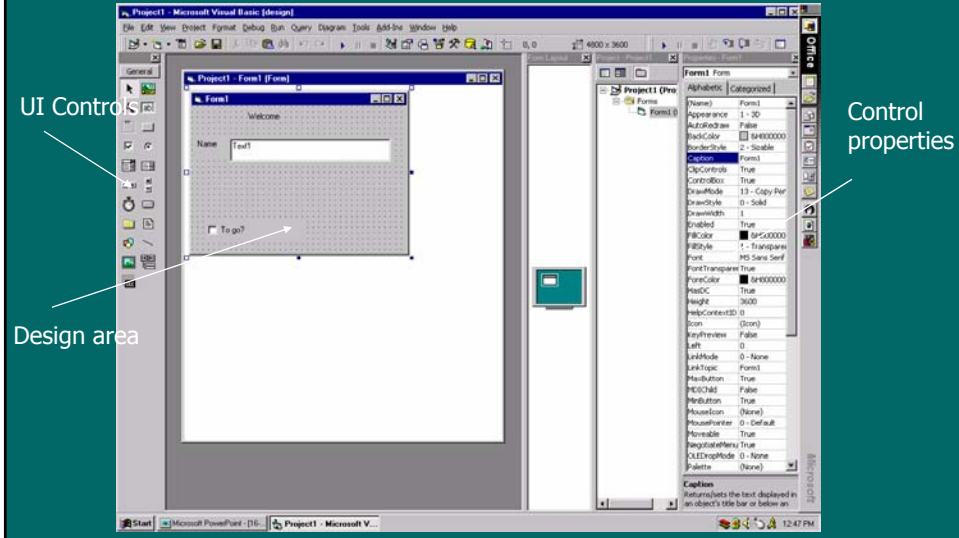
- Work area (interface being built)
- Drag and drop interactors/widgets onto work area
- Specify position, color, look, etc.
- Often provide Build/Test modes



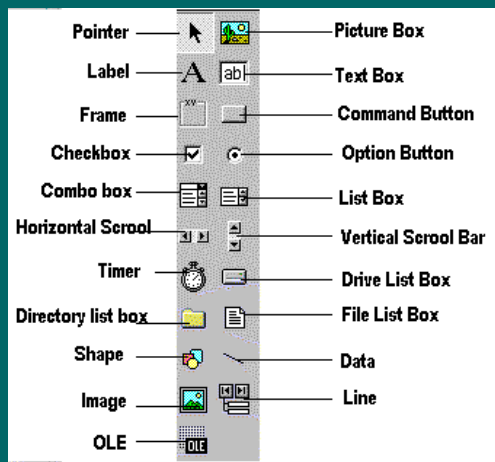
## Example: dtbuilder (Motif)



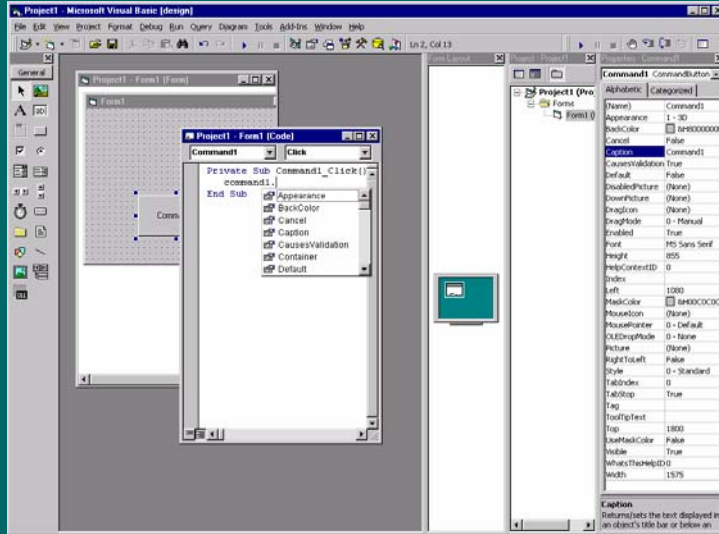
# Example: Visual Basic



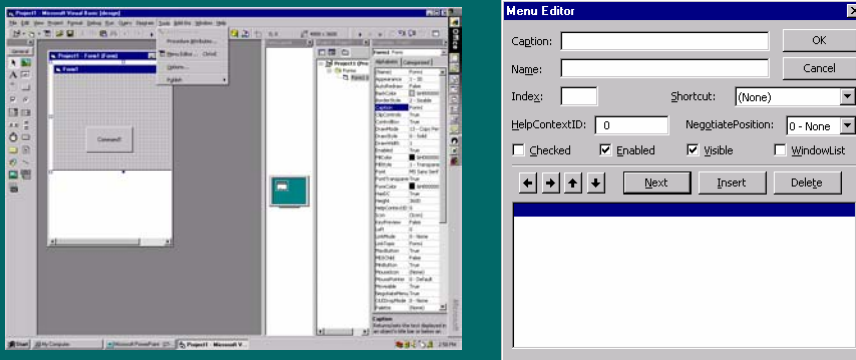
# Widgets in VB Toolbox



# Connecting Code to Widgets



# Making Menus



## Interested in This?

- Take CS 6456, Principles of UI Software
- Should have a good programming background



## MidTerm Exam

- Next Tuesday
- Short answer style questions
  - Know your definitions, terms, concepts
  - Material from lecture & book





## Poster Session

- Thursday during class
- Buy a poster board (bookstore)
- Display your design ideas
  - Lots of pictures
  - Explanatory text
- Get some good feedback



## Upcoming

- **Mid-term Exam**
- Poster Session
- Dialog styles

