Making Computers Suck Less

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Overview

• Obsolete UI Models
• New Concepts
• Étoilé Design Overview
Obsolete UI Models
Files

- Saving state to a disk
- Good in memory-constrained systems
  - Pre-date virtual memory
  - Pre-date multi-tasking
- Useful for interchange
Applications

- Originate with single-tasking systems
- Modes - very bad
- Duplicate functionality - inefficient
New and Modified Concepts
Stateful Workspaces

- Project as a top-level object
- Documents inside the project
- State maintained on exit
- Flash mock-up
Indexed Data Store

• Based on PostgreSQL
• Full automatic undo
• ‘Checkpoint’ and ‘Publish’ - no ‘Save’
• Indexed for fast searching
• Intermediates cached if possible
Component Design

- Components manipulate objects
- Components can be loosely associated
- Components may use other components
Circular Menus

- Pop-up menus
- Mouse-gestures for free
- Good motor-memory
Floating Shelf Later

• Inspired by Apple’s Dashboard
• Shelf floats above desktop, and can be hidden with a key press (e.g. F12)
• Arbitrary objects can be placed on the shelf
Étoilé Architecture
Built On GNUstep

- New Theme, Nesedah
- Services
- Scripting
- Rapid development
Questions / Discussion