CPE/CSC 486: Human-Computer Interaction

Franz J. Kurfess

Computer Science Department
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA, U.S.A.

CAL POLY

Course Overview

- Introduction
- Cognitive Foundations
- Input-Output Devices
- Interaction Spaces
- Interaction Styles
- Interaction with Mobile Devices
- Speech-Based Interaction
- User Assistance
- Natural User Interfaces
- Case Studies
- Project Presentations

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Chapter Overview
Interaction Styles

- Motivation
- Objectives
- Terminology
- Batch Systems
- Command-Line Interfaces
- Full-Screen Interfaces
- Menus
- Forms
- Direct Manipulation Interfaces
- WIMPs
- User Assistance
- Interaction through Speech
- Interaction with Mobile Devices

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Interaction Styles in CSC 484

- **there is a similar chapter in the CPE/CSC 484 class**
  - follows the Rogers, Preece, Sharp textbook
  - see http://users.csc.calpoly.edu/~fkurfess/Courses/484/S12/Administration/Schedule.html, Week 3

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Logistics

- **Use of HCI Lab Facilities**
  - Morae
  - reservations for exclusive use of the lab
- **Open House: Fri, April 13 + Sat, April 14**
  - opportunity for usability evaluations and data collection
    - Fri ~2:30 - 4:00 pm: new students, parents
- **Loaner Devices Checkout**
  - iPads, XBox + Kinect, PS3 + Move, Qualcomm Android kits
- **Assignments**
  - A1 due today
    - project-related => TRAC Wiki
    - others => PolyLearn Assignment Submission
  - A2 published (same as 484 - A4)
- **Research Activity**
  - topic selected?
  - dissemination method discussed (paper, blog, video)
- **Term Project**
  - addition of students who enrolled late
  - contact and regular meetings with external customers

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Motivation

- the way interaction with computers is performed depends on available technology on one hand, but also on different methods and usage styles for a particular technology
- the change in interaction style from command-line to graphical user interface has contributed considerably to the popularity of personal computers
- for a given task and user population, different interaction styles may make the difference between success, acceptance, or failure of a product

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Objectives

- to know the advantages and drawbacks of the most often used interaction styles, in particular command-based vs. graphical user interfaces
- to be familiar with evaluation criteria for a comparison of different interaction styles
- to be able to select an appropriate interaction style for a specific task, environment, and user population
- to be exposed to emerging interaction styles like natural language, gestures, or intelligent agents

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Interaction

- exchange of information between user and system
- actions of the user that change the status of the system
- feedback to the user concerning actions of the system
- requires translation between the intentions of the user and the actions of the system

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Terminology

- **task**
  - actions to be performed in order to solve a problem in an application domain
- **goal**
  - desired output from a completed task
- **task analysis**
  - identification of the problems space
    - in particular domain, goals, intentions, specific tasks
- **user language (task language)**
  - describes the problem to be solved in terms familiar to the user
- **system language (core language)**
  - describes the functionality of the system in terms familiar to the designer or developer

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Interaction Model

- **execution**
  - establishing the goal
  - forming the intention
  - specifying the action sequence
  - executing the action
- **evaluation**
  - perceiving the system state
  - interpreting the system state
  - evaluation of the system state
    - with respect to goals and intentions

[Norman, Dix]

Interaction Styles

- **term covers all of the ways that users interact with a computer system**
  - also referred to as communication styles or dialog styles
- **represent alternative design strategies for the UI**
  - each style offers its own way of organizing the system's functionality, of managing the user's inputs, and of presenting information
    - e.g. display-based interfaces -> menus, mice, windows, widgets, icons, buttons, function keys, etc.
- **provide a behavioral view of how the user communicates with the system**
  - "look and feel"

Evaluation Criteria for Interaction Styles

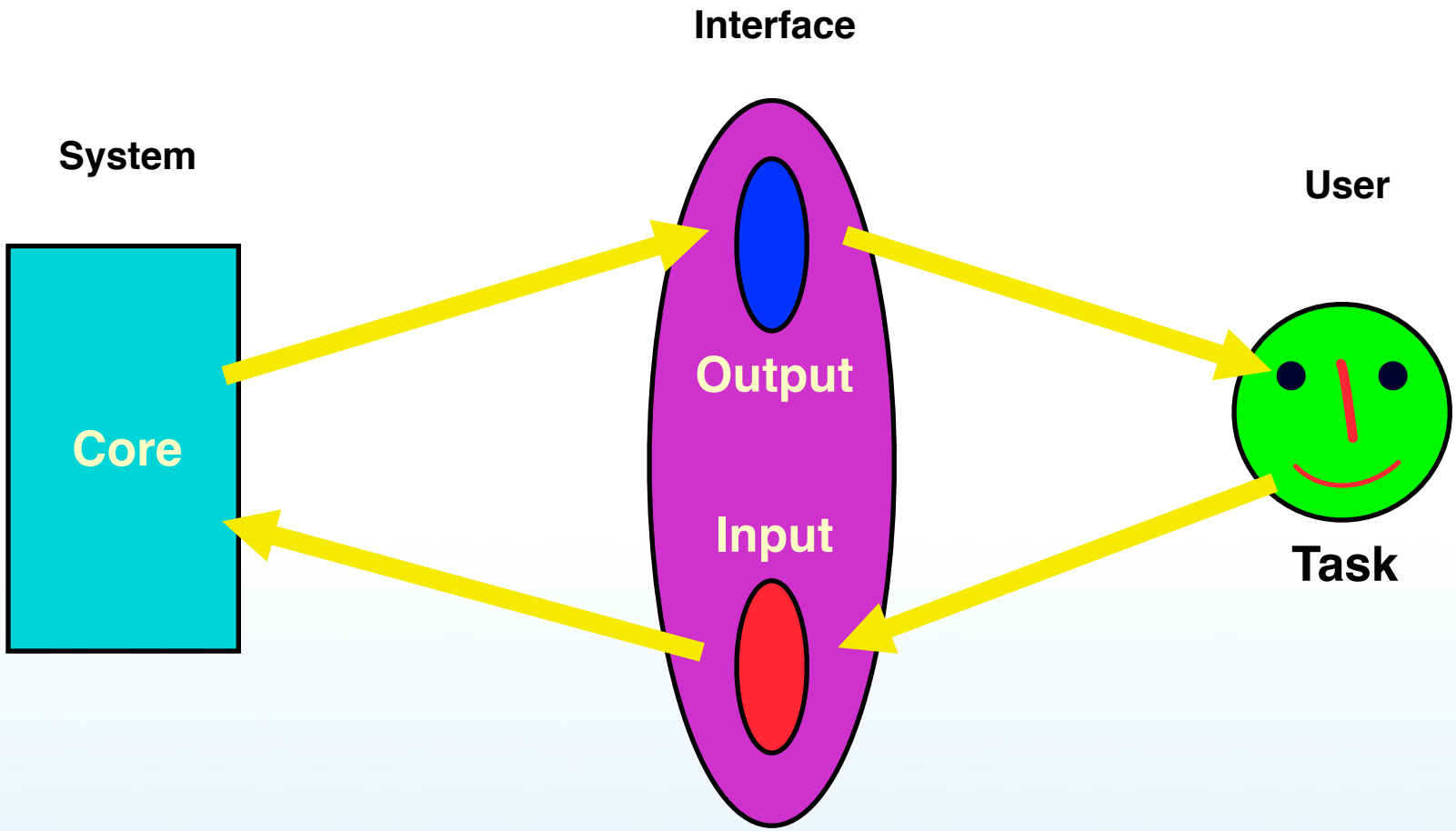
- **representational**
  - how a system "looks and feels" (graphical), or "sounds and feels" (speech)
- **operational**
  - how a system links sequences of operations together
  - maps the representations used onto its functions
- **navigational**
  - awareness of what users can do at each stage
  - how they can move through the system

Interaction Framework

- **components**
  - system user, input, output
  - input and output together form the interface
  - each of the components may have its own language to describe the objects and actions it is concerned with

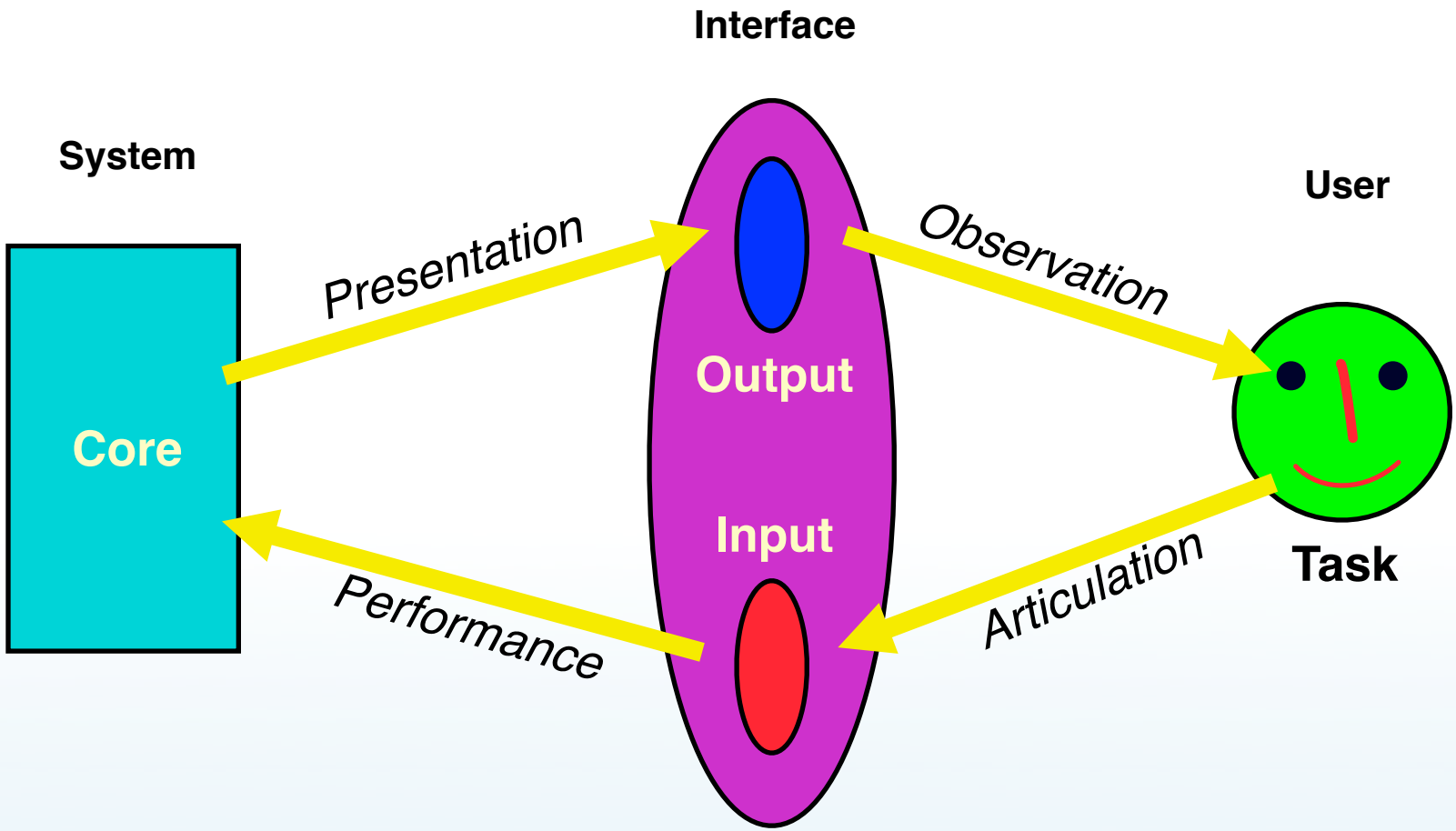
[Dix]

Interaction Framework



[Dix]

Interactive Cycle



[Dix]

Translations Between Components

- **articulation**
  - user translates task intentions into the input language
- **performance**
  - input language is translated into stimuli for the system
- **presentation**
  - system activities are translated into output language
- **observation**
  - output language is translated into the user's task model

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Example: Light in a Room

- **controlling the lighting in a room**
  - articulation: “I’m going to bed now, so I better turn off the light in the living room. To do this, I need to flip the switch.”
  - task language: turn lights on/off
  - input language: flip switch
  - system language: close/open circuit for light bulbs
  - output language: lights on/off

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Example (cont)

- **translations**
  - articulation
    - user decides to turn on the light, and flips a switch
  - performance
    - flipped switch closes the circuit
  - presentation
    - light bulb emits light
  - observation
    - user notices that the light is on
- **frequent problem**
  - multiple switches in large rooms

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Practical Exercise: Digital vs. Analog Clocks

- **Describe and compare the languages and translations used for setting digital and analog clocks. What are frequent problems with the two device types and their languages or translations?**
- **languages**
  - task language: set time to a certain value
  - input language: wheel vs. buttons
  - system language: mechanical movement vs. ICs
  - output language: minute and hour hands vs. LCD display

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Practical Exercise (cont.)

- **translations**
  - articulation
    - turn wheel / press buttons
  - performance
    - clock translates input actions into modified display
  - presentation
    - new time setting is displayed
  - observation
    - user translates hand positions or numbers into time

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Exercise: Select Example

- **Identify an activity or scenario to illustrate interaction styles**
  - languages
    - task, input, system, output
  - translations
    - articulation, performance, presentation, observation
  - problems

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Practical Exercise (cont.)

- **problems**
  - which way do you turn the wheel
  - which button do you press, how often, in which combination
  - turning the time “back” on a digital clock is frequently impossible

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Batch Systems

- **first generation of user interfaces**
- **interaction restricted to a single point in time**
  - submission of a batch job as a single unit
- **user commands have to be specified before the result of any of them is made known to the user**
- **work well for repetitive jobs (e.g., payroll processing, billing, etc.), and are still used today**
  - Examples: Revenue Canada, Canada Post, Bell Canada.
- **drawbacks**
  - not interactive
  - inflexible

Personal History

- the images in the following slides represent computer systems I used early in my career

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Example Batch Systems: Telefunken TR 440

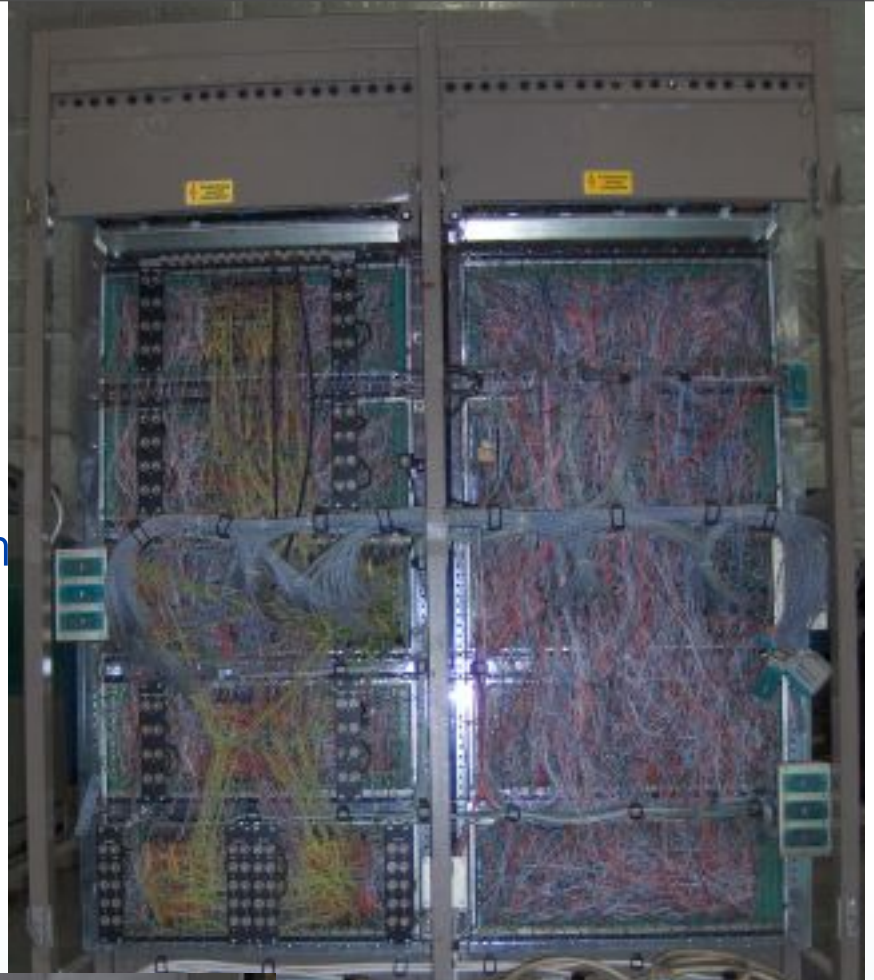
http://www.uni-saarland.de/typo3temp/pics/a3b60e2be1.jpg

Example Batch Systems: Telefunken TR 440

http://www.uni-saarland.de/typo3temp/pics/a3b60e2be1.jpg

http://www.vaxman.de/historic_computers/telefunken/tr440/tr440.jpg

- **TR440**
  - mainframe,
  - communication cabinet
  - console



http://archive.computerhistory.org/resources/physical-object/telefunken/102667999.5.lg.jpg?rand=668344533

http://archive.computerhistory.org/resources/physical-object/telefunken/102668025.1.sm.jpg

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http://www.qslnet.de/member/dj4kw/lt440.jpg

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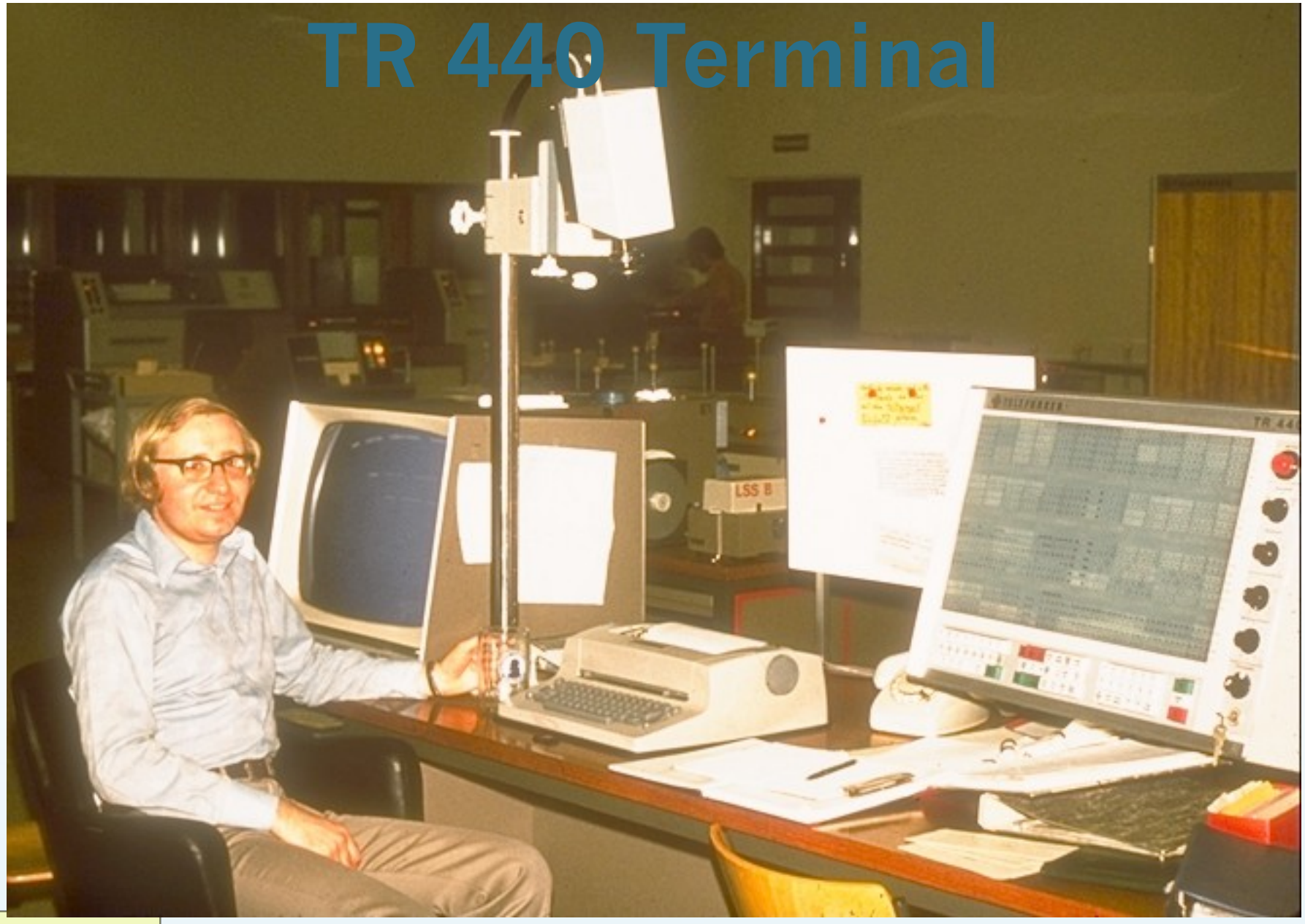
http://www.qslnet.de/member/dj4kw/lplat.jpg

TR 440 Terminal



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http://www.qslnet.de/member/dj4kw/ljim.jpg

Example Batch Systems

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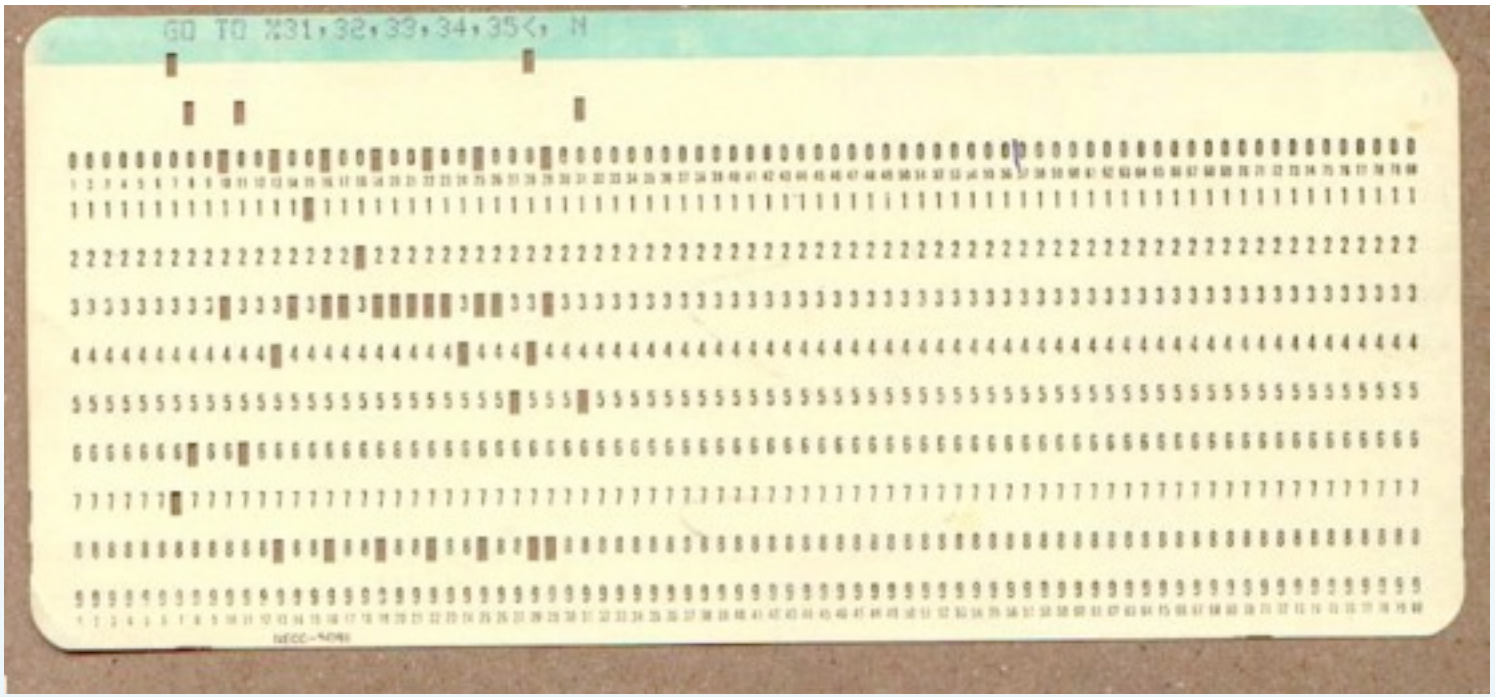
Example Batch Systems



http://www.epa.gov/athens/learn2model/part-one/career/images/card3.jpg

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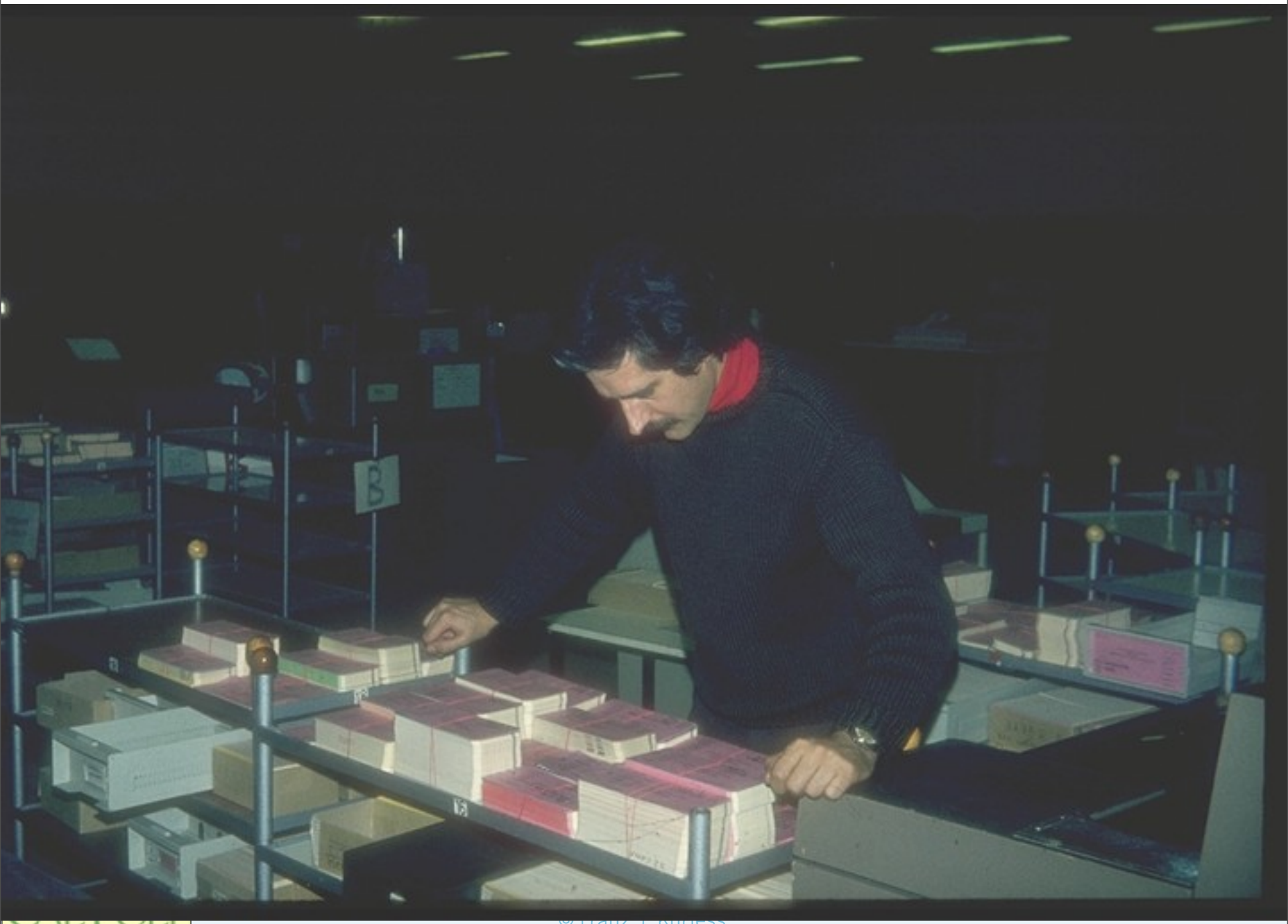

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http://www.qslnet.de/member/dj4kw/lcard.jpg

© Franz J. Kurfess
http://www.qslnet.de/member/dj4kw/loink.jpg

Command-Line Interfaces

- **also referred to as Command-Language or Line-Oriented Interfaces**
- **A new user's first view of almost all command-line interfaces: ">"**
- **one-dimensional**
  - user interacts with a system on a single line that serves as the command line
  - once the user hits the return key, the input can no longer be modified
- **typical of many early computer systems, but remain common even today**
  - e.g., MS-DOS, UNIX

Command-Line Interfaces (cont.)

- **responsibility for navigation is on the user**
  - user has to know what the allowable commands are
  - needs to have a clear idea of the function to be performed
- **difficult for novice users to learn**
  - once mastered, command languages often represent the quickest form of communication
    - abbreviations, function keys, keyboard shortcuts,
- **query languages represent a special case of command languages**
  - allow users to request information

Example 1
Command-Line Interface

- N

```
BLS Pascal Version 1.2
Copyright (C) 1981
Poly-Data microcenter
>L
File CUBUS found
0000 0A00 . 0100 0900 . 0200 0800 . 0300 0700 .
0400 0600 . 0500 0500 . 0600 0400 . 0700 0300 .
0800 0200 . 0900 0100 . 0A00 00B1 .
>C
Compiling  OK
Text: $4000 $4AB1 < 2737>
Code: $4AB2 $543F < 2445>
>R
```


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Example 1
Command-Line Interface

- N

```
BLS Pascal Version 1.2
Copyright (C) 1981
Poly-Data microcenter
>L
File CUBUS found
0000 0A00 . 0100 0900 . 0200 0800 . 0300 0700 .
0400 0600 . 0500 0500 . 0600 0400 . 0700 0300 .
0800 0200 . 0900 0100 . 0A00 00B1 .
>C
Compiling  OK
Text: $4000 $4AB1 < 2737>
Code: $4AB2 $543F < 2445>
>R
```


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http://www.myplace.nu/nascom/images/simfull.jpg

Example 2
Command-Line Interface

```
C > A:

A > dir

Not ready error reading drive A
Abort, Retry, Ignore? _
```

[Mustillo]

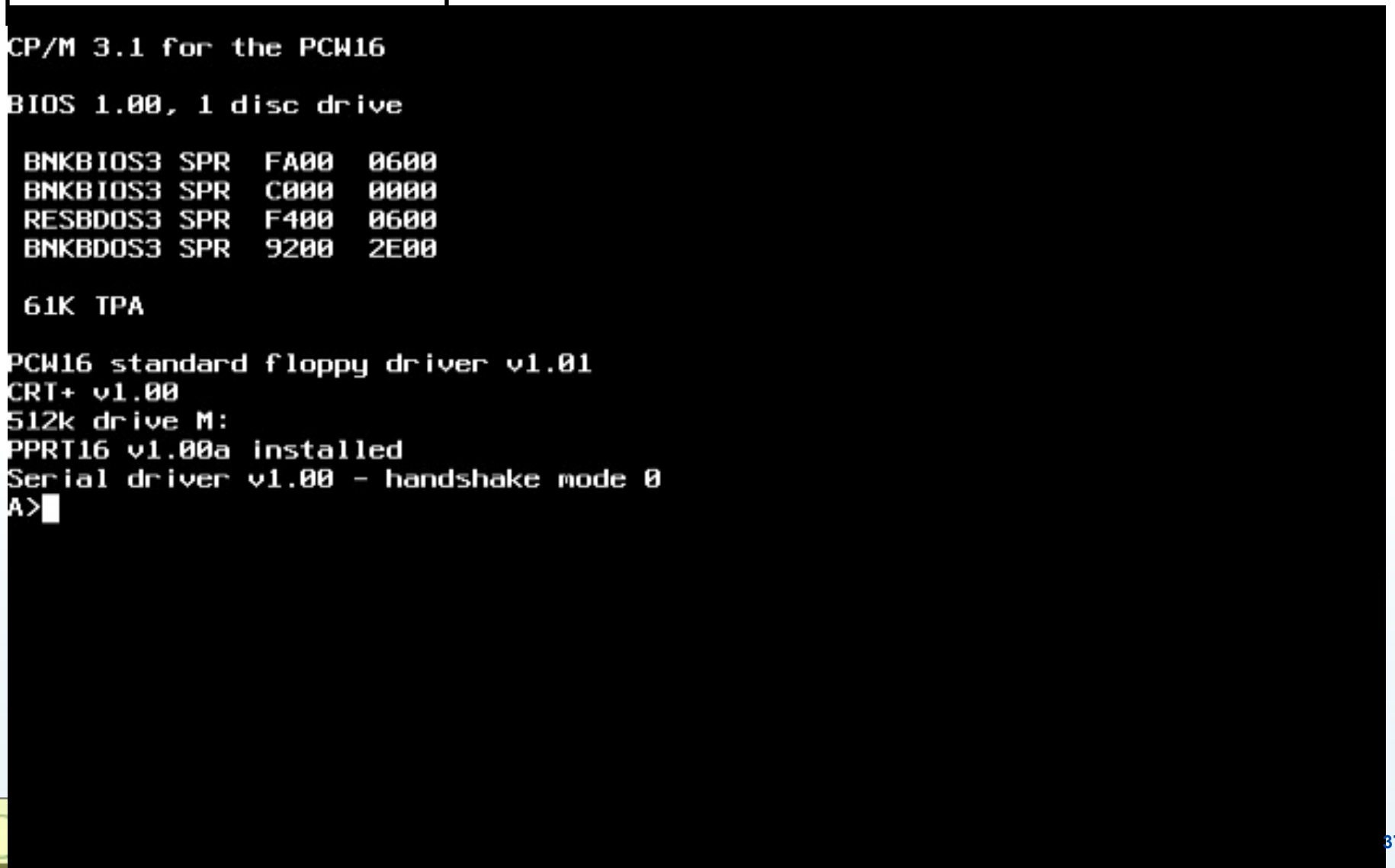
Example 2
Command-Line Interface

```
C > A:

A > dir

Not ready error reading drive A
Abort, Retry, Ignore? _
```

A typical dialog using an MS-DOS system

[Mustillo]

Example 3
Command Line Interface



Example 3
Command Line Interface

```
CP/M 3.1 for the PCW16

BIOS 1.00, 1 disc drive

 BNKBIOS3 SPR  FA00  0600
 BNKBIOS3 SPR  C000  0000
 RESBDOS3 SPR  F400  0600
 BNKBDOS3 SPR  9200  2E00

 61K TPA

PCW16 standard floppy driver v1.01
CRT+ v1.00
512k drive M:
PPRT16 v1.00a installed
Serial driver v1.00 - handshake mode 0
A>
```

Example 4
Command-Line Interface

```
HP-UX bmtlh730 A.09.05 A 9000/755 (ttyw0)

login: fkurfess
Password: **********
Please wait...checking for disk quotas

mtlh730:~> cokol
Enter EDMX password:

mtlh730:~> exit
```

Example 4
Command-Line Interface

```
HP-UX bmtlh730 A.09.05 A 9000/755 (ttyw0)

login: fkurfess
Password: **********
Please wait...checking for disk quotas

mtlh730:~> cokol
Enter EDMX password:

mtlh730:~> exit
```

A typical dialog using a UNIX system (Telnet session)

[Mustillo]

Advantages Command-Line Interfaces

- **powerful**
  - commands can be stringed together, automated scripts can be run, macros can be used, commands can be executed repetitively)
- **flexible, user controlled**
  - users can do anything in any order
- **fast, efficient**
  - requires more typing than other interaction styles, but is probably the fastest, most efficient of all interaction styles
  - very fast and efficient for expert, high-frequency users)
- **use minimal screen space**
  - only one line at a time

Drawbacks Command-Line Interfaces

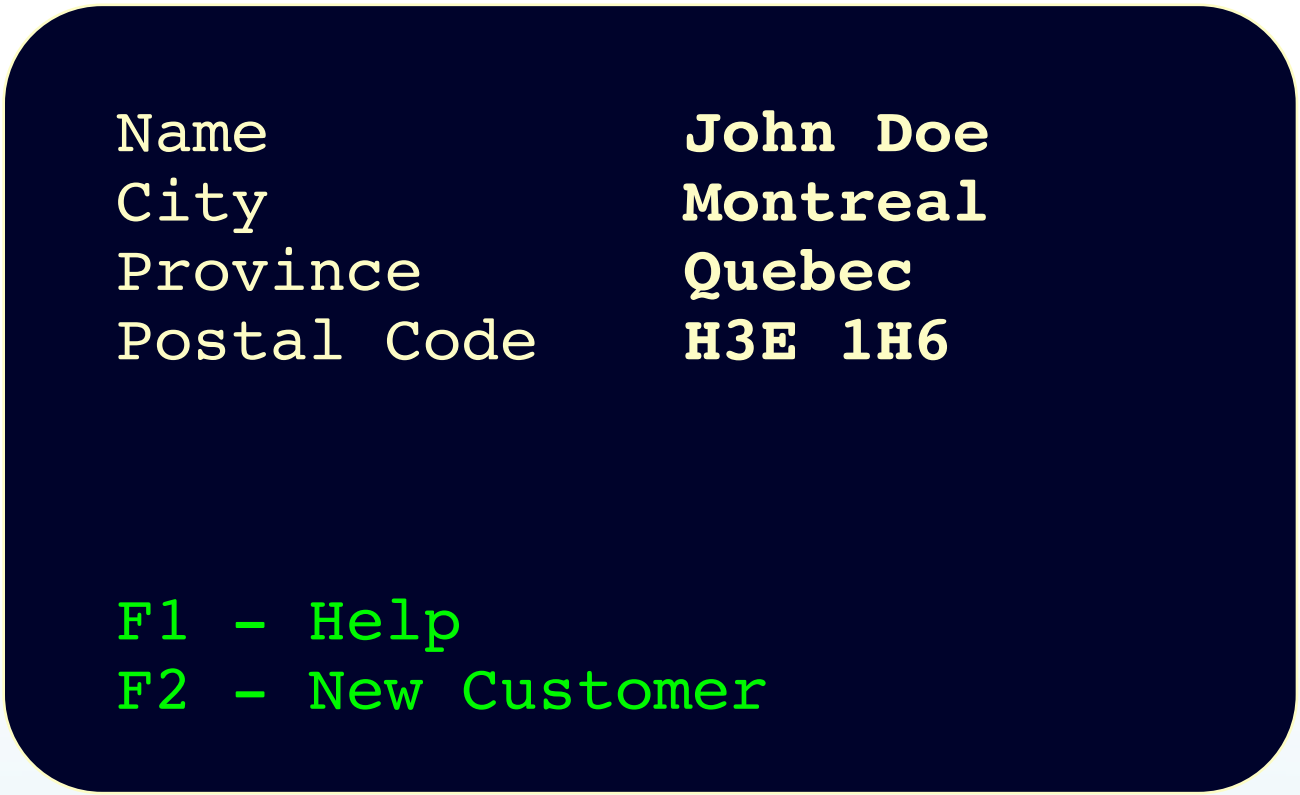
- **operating system or program exposed to the user**
- **difficult to learn**
  - very cryptic, use of arbitrary syntactic delimiters, require rote memorization
- **difficult to remember**
  - especially for infrequent users
  - rely totally on recall
- **inflexible**
  - commands need to be expressed using a precise syntax
  - any variation represents an error
- **susceptible to errors, poor error handling**

[Mustillo]

Full-Screen Interfaces

- **two-dimensional**
  - user is no longer limited to a single command line, but can move around the screen along two dimensions
    - e.g. form-filling application, in which the user is presented with a number of labeled fields that can be edited in any sequence.
- **many full-screen interfaces use function keys, enumerated choices, or the first characters of a menu item as the primary interaction style**

Example Full-Screen Interfaces



Example of a full-screen interface

[Mustillo]

Menus

- mechanism that allows the user to make a selection from a limited set of options
- one of the most popular interaction styles
- the user does not have to remember the name or abbreviation of a command
  - recognize it from a list of available options
- names of options, contents of the icons, descriptions of buttons should be self-explanatory

Menu Building Blocks

- **menus can consist of**
  - textual descriptions of the available functions
  - icons
    - small graphic images that represent different aspects of an interface metaphor
  - buttons
    - horizontal or vertical
  - boxes

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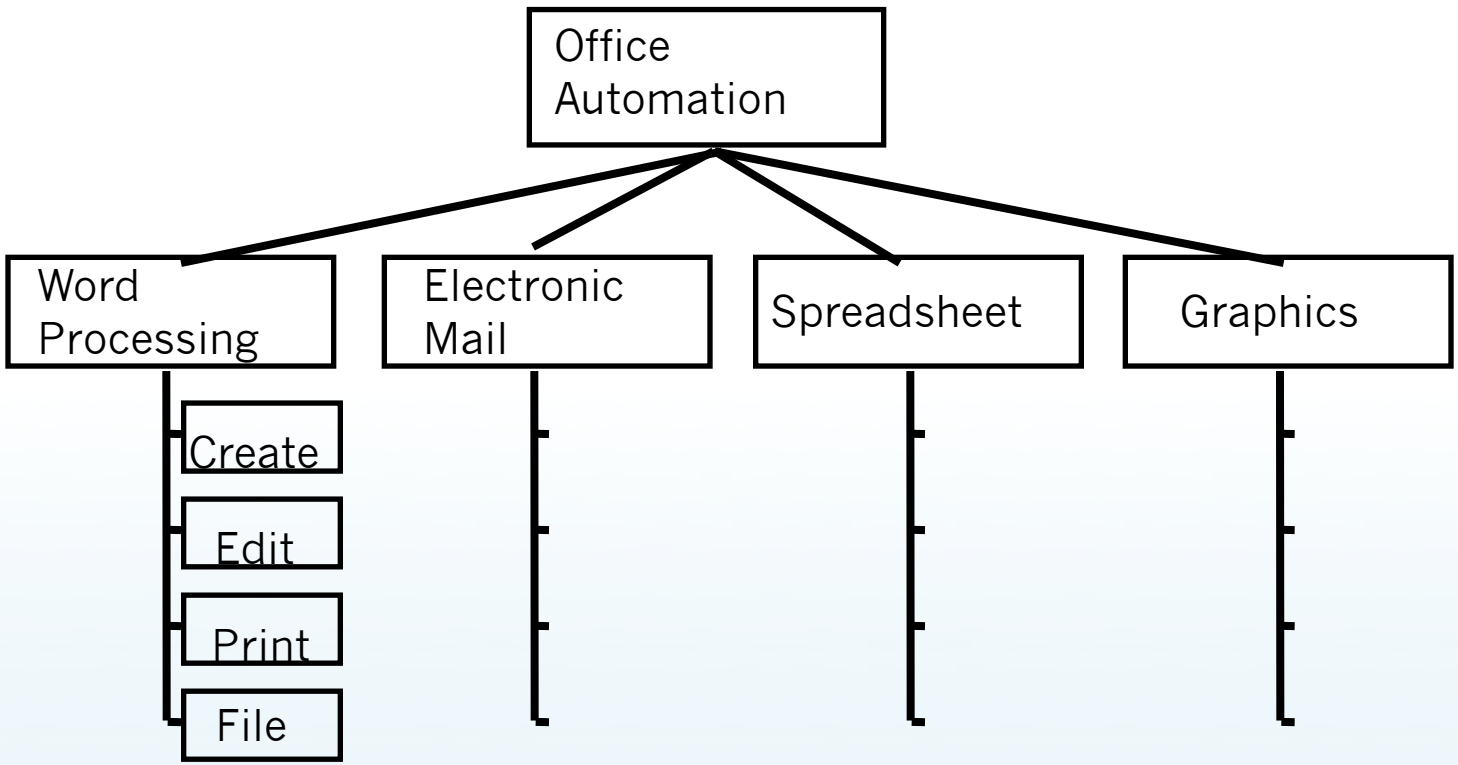
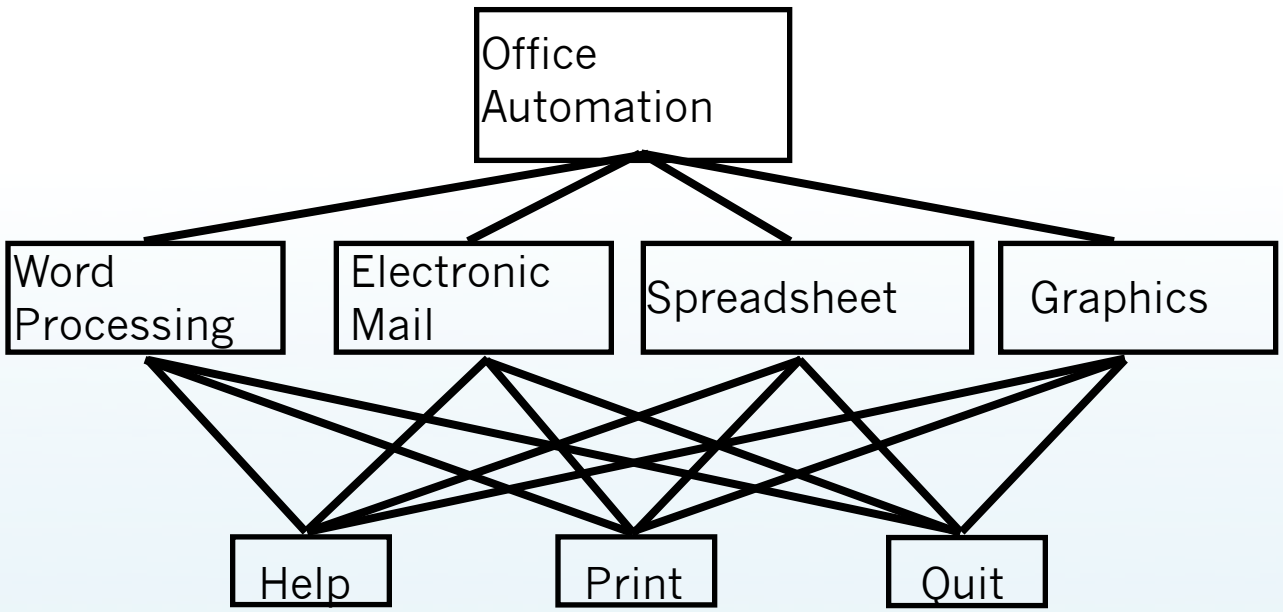
Hierarchical Menus

- most frequently used form of menus



Networked Menus



[Mustillo]

Menu Types

- fixed menus
  - remain in place until the option is selected
- pull-down menus (drop-down menus)
  - dragged down from a menu bar at the top of the screen, an item is selected, and the menu automatically returns back to its original title
- pop-up menus
  - appear when a user clicks on a particular area of the screen, which may be designated by an icon
  - menu remains in place until the user instructs it to disappear, usually by clicking on a “close” box in the border of the menu’s window
- cascading menus
  - display all options chosen one after the other in a cascading fashion

Design Considerations for Menus

- **order of items**
  - alphabetically, by category, or by frequency
  - some functions should be kept apart (e.g., 'create' option should not be placed next to the 'delete' option)
- **selection of items**
  - number or letter corresponding to the required option
  - pointing at the option using a pointing device
  - highlighting the item through cursor control keys
- **navigation through a series of menus**
  - hierarchically-structured menus
    - main menu with a series of sub-menus to make further selections

[Mustillo]

Advantages of Menus

- **self-explanatory**
  - require little training or learning
- **require little human memory**
  - easy to remember, recognition rather than recall
- **indicates when parts are not relevant**
- **interaction under user control**
- **fast, efficient interface for experienced users**
  - shortcuts to mouse actions
- **few keystrokes, which reduces errors**
- **easy error handling**
- **enhancements and changes are visible**

Problems with Menus

- **not appropriate or efficient for some users and tasks**
  - may slow down frequent or expert users
- **users may get lost in menu hierarchies**
- **menu names may not be meaningful to users**
- **inflexible**
  - unless highly networked, the user is forced through set sequences of steps
- **impractical for numerous choices**
  - good for a limited number of valid inputs at any given time
- **use lots of screen space**
- **most effective with a pointing device**
  - mouse, trackball, touch screen

Fill-in Forms

- **similar to a paper fill-in form**
  - presented on a computer screen instead of paper
- **formatted structure containing fields, in which the user inputs data**
  - each field has a label or caption that indicates the type of data to be entered in that field
- **organization and layout are important aspects**

Example Fill-in Forms

```
Type in the information below.
Press TAB to move the cursor to the next field.
Press ENTER when done.

Name:                                  Phone: (___) ___-____
Address:
City:                  Province:       Postal Code:

Catalog No.  Quantity          Catalog No.  Quantity
```

A fill-in form interface design for a department store

[Mustillo]

Advantages Fill-in Forms

- **self-explanatory**
  - little training or learning required
- **require little human memory**
  - rely on recognition rather than recall
- **efficient use of screen space**
  - multiple fields can be presented on one screen
- **parameters with many possible input values**
  - e.g., names, street names, city names, postal codes, etc.
- **provide context**
  - context information from other fields
- **enhancements and changes are visible**

[Mustillo]

Problems Fill-in Forms

- **assume knowledge of valid inputs**
  - e.g., catalog numbers, part numbers, etc.
- **assume typing skills**
- **users need to know how to use TAB to move to the next field, BACKSPACE to correct**
- **resent opportunities for making errors**
- **inflexible**
  - input order cannot be changed

Direct Manipulation

- **describes the interaction between user and object**
  - directly connects an action to an observable response from an object
- **follows an object-action paradigm**
  - user performs tasks by selecting an object (e.g., icon, window, or text), and then selects an action (e.g., move, close, underline) to perform on that object
- **permits users to control their environment**
  - by directly manipulating graphical objects and controls similar to those that they encounter in real life
  - push button starts an action
  - slider is used to select an analog setting, etc.
  - mapped onto affordances

Principles of Direct Manipulation

- **visible objects of interest**
  - representing an object with an icon
- **continuous representation of objects and actions of interest in a meaningful metaphor**
- **objects and actions are shown**
- **rapid, reversible, incremental actions**
- **immediate visibility of results of actions**
- **direct manipulation of the object of interest instead of a complex command language syntax**
  - typing is replaced with pointing and selecting

[Mustillo]

Indirect Manipulation

- in many industrial applications, objects on the computer screen stand for devices in the real world
- manipulation of the screen objects may not directly constitute an identical manipulation of the real-world objects
- feedback is required on two levels
  - directly from the user interface
  - indirectly, but more relevant from the real-world devices

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Direct Manipulation Interfaces

- **powerful**
  - expert users can work quickly, wide range of tasks
- **novice users can learn basic functionality quickly**
  - either through self exploration or through a demonstration by a more experienced user.
  - no need to learn and remember complex commands
- **goal-oriented**
  - users can see immediately if their actions are helping them realize their goals
  - if not, they can simply change the direction of their activity
- **error messages are rarely needed**

[Shneiderman, Mustillo]

WIMP Interfaces

- **direct manipulation interfaces are characterized by**
  - windows
    - to divide the screen into areas
  - icons representing objects
    - can be moved around the screen
  - mouse (or another pointing device)
    - used to manipulate objects on the screen
  - pop-up or pull-down menus
    - display the available options

WIMP Advantages

- **system as a whole is easily visible**
  - objects are represented by icons
  - available menu options can be inspected by pulling down menus
- **basic actions are consistent across systems**
  - opening, closing, copying, deleting, scrolling, etc.
  - makes learning easier
- **users are free to explore different aspects of the system**
  - most actions can be 'undone' (reversed) if it does not have the desired or required effect

GUIs and Direct Manipulation

- **GUIs rely heavily on direct manipulation**
  - have become synonymous with the WIMP interface
- **in addition to having all of the characteristics of DM and WIMP interfaces, GUIs are also strongly graphical**
- **the primary interaction style is direct manipulation**

[Mustillo]

Advantages of Direct Manipulation

- easy to learn and remember
  - rely on recognition, not recall
- comprehensible, predictable, and controllable
  - users experience less anxiety
  - users feel in control
- visual: WYSIWYG
- flexible, reversible actions
  - undo -> you can always choose to de-select a menu item
- provide context, and instant visual feedback
- exploit human use of visual-spatial cues
  - “a picture is worth a thousand words!”
- less prone to errors
  - low typing requirement, visual feedback
  - less need for error messages

[Mustillo]

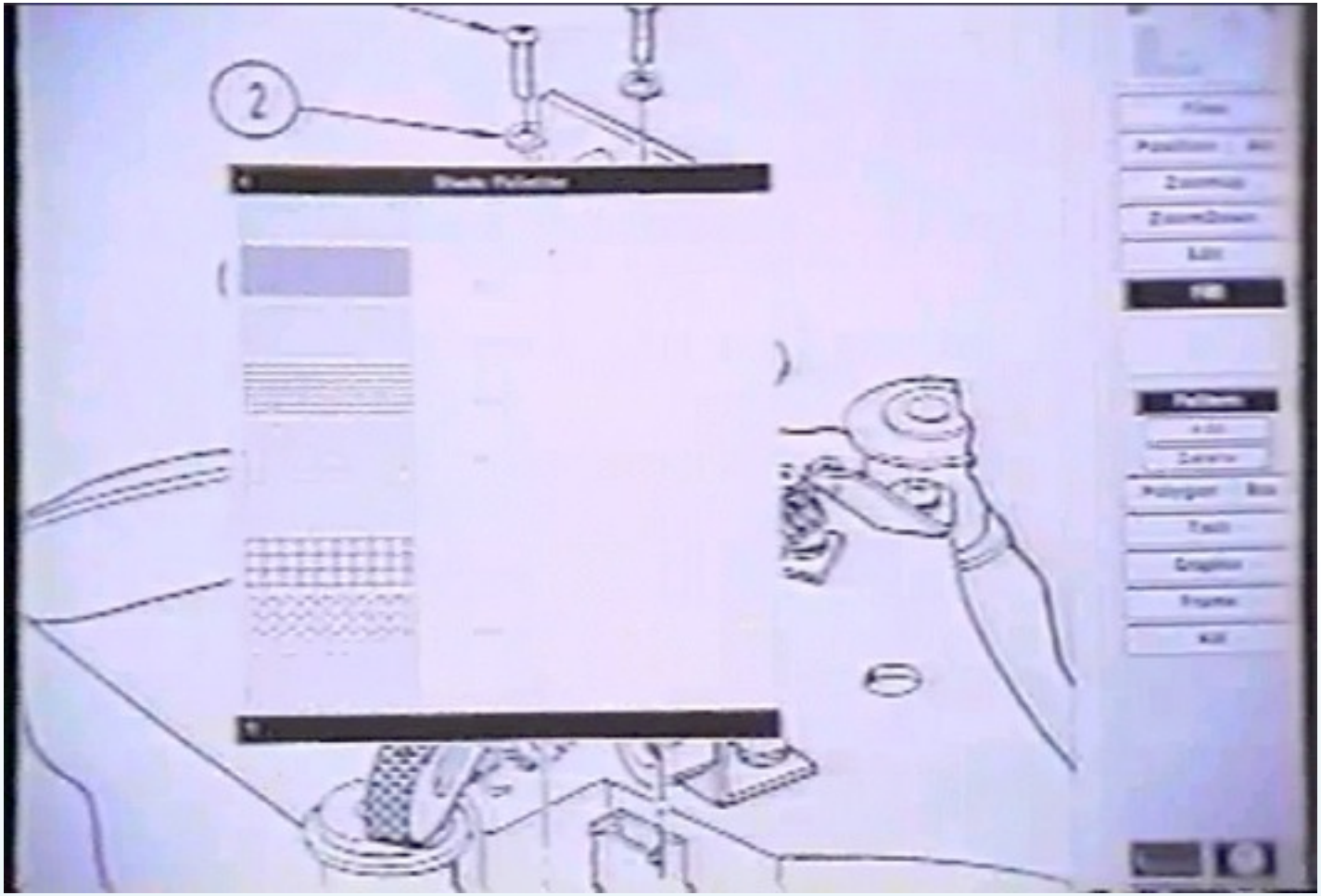
Problems with Direct Manipulation

- not self-explanatory
  - not necessarily intuitive or obvious to first-time users
  - users must learn meaning of the visual representation
- can be inefficient for high-frequency users
  - same tasks much faster/ more efficient with command languages
- moving a mouse and pointing slower than pressing keys
- repetitive tasks
  - users need a macro or scripting mechanism to handle repeated manipulations
- limited accuracy
  - pointer system may not be accurate enough or sufficiently controllable for some tasks

[Mustillo]

GUI Example 1

- ICL/Three River PERQ workstation



http://toastytech.com/guis/perqintranvid3.jpg

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Movie: Advanced GUI, ca 1980

- **a marketing movie for the INTRAN software package for scientific design on the PERQ2 workstation**
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fap-mXY80Is&feature=gv&hl=en
    - computer stuff starts around the 2:00 min mark

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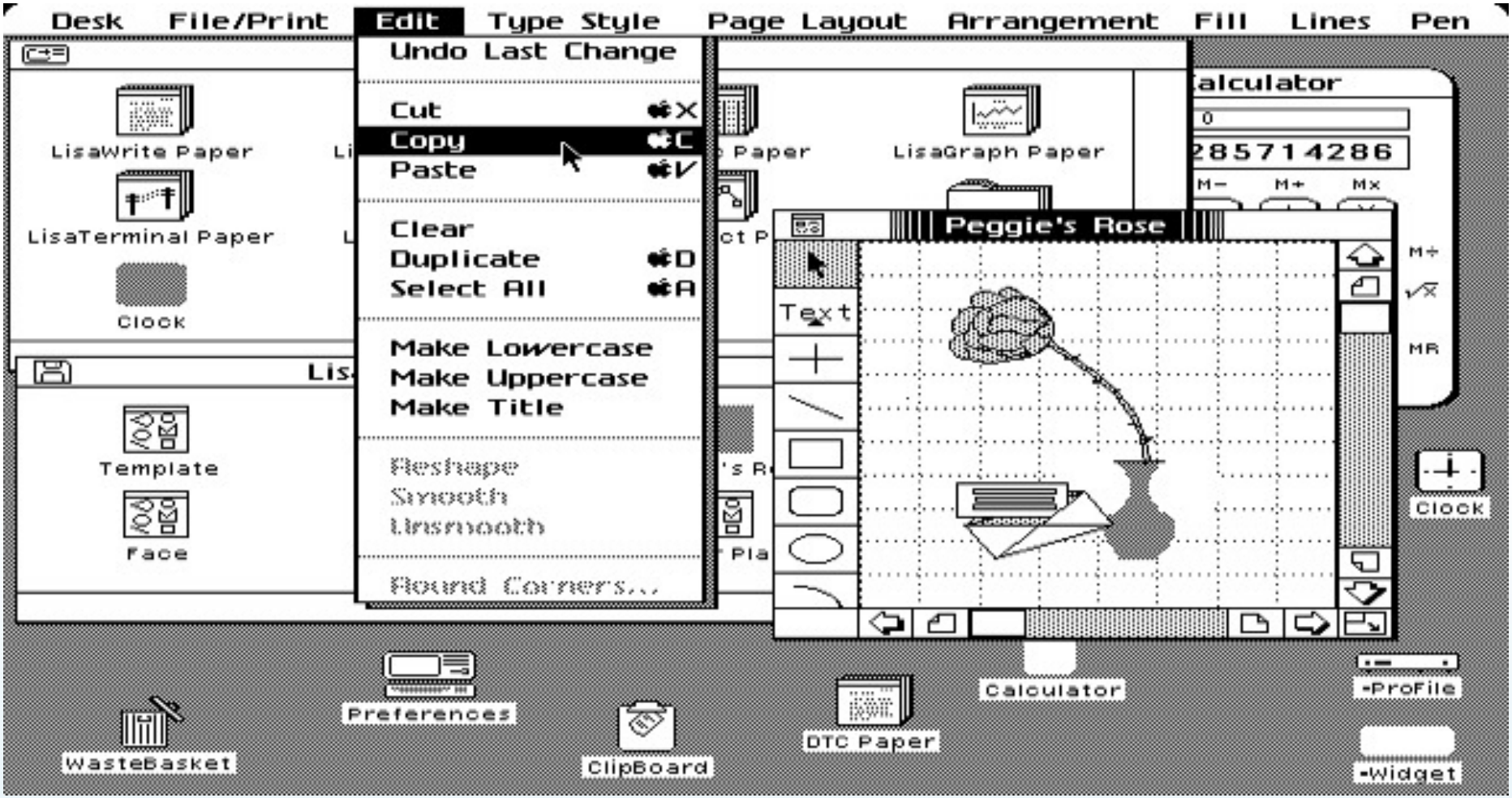
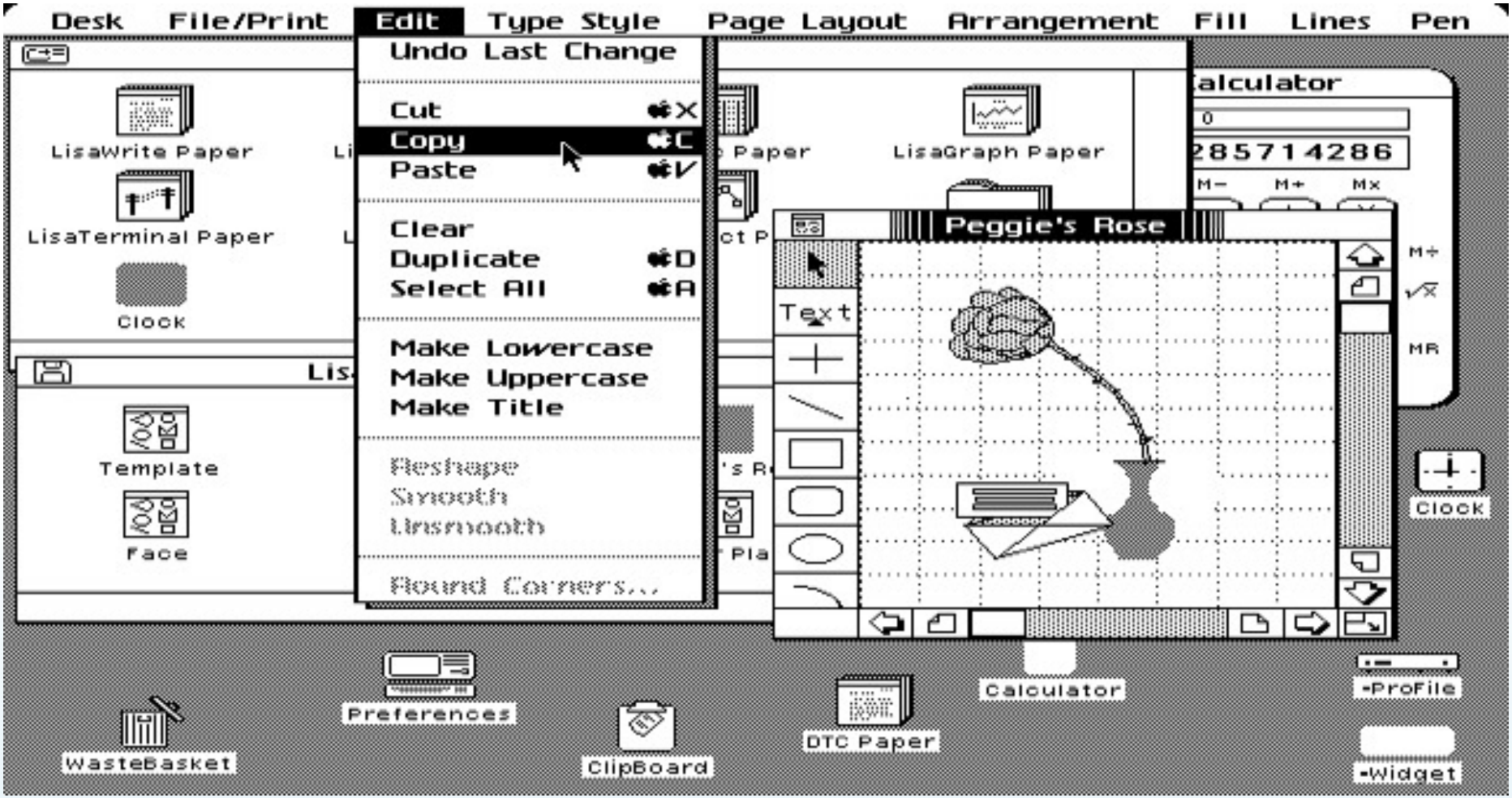
GUI Example 2



GUI Example 2



Apple Lisa

http://www.minitrue.nl/essays/vanfresconaarjpeg/graph/lisa2.gif

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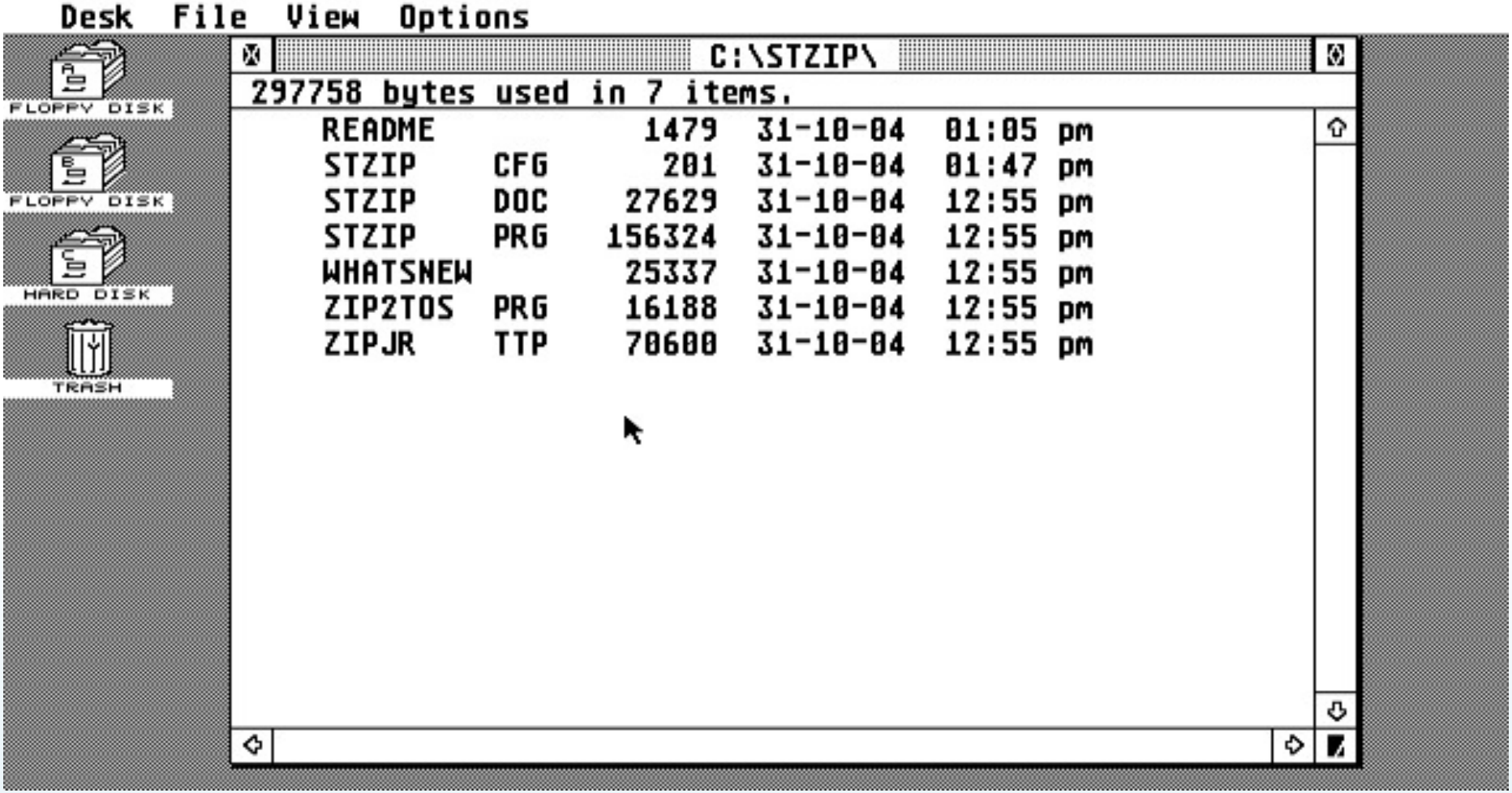
GUI Example 3



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/0/07/ST_Desktop.png

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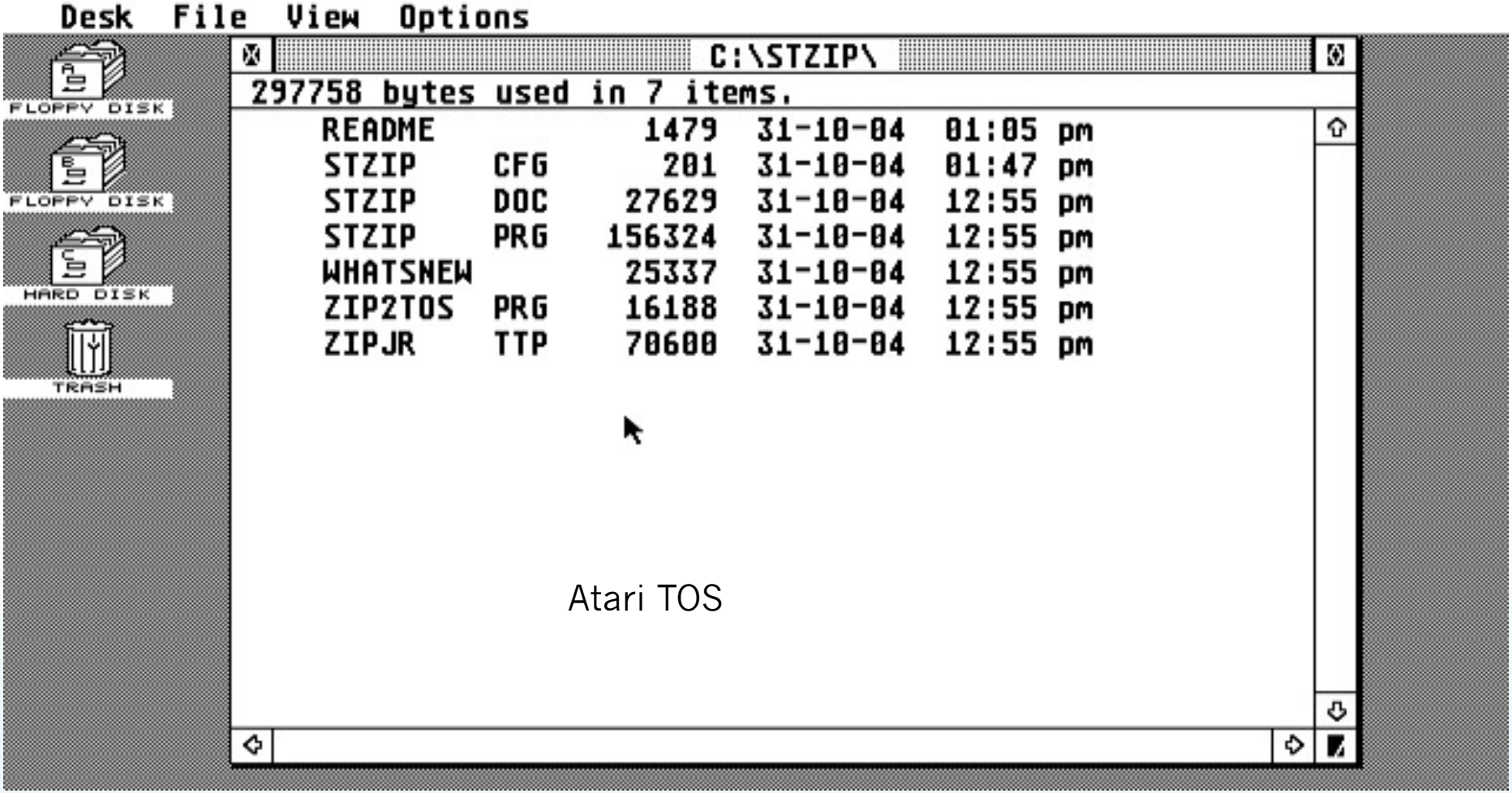
GUI Example 3



Atari TOS

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/0/07/ST_Desktop.png

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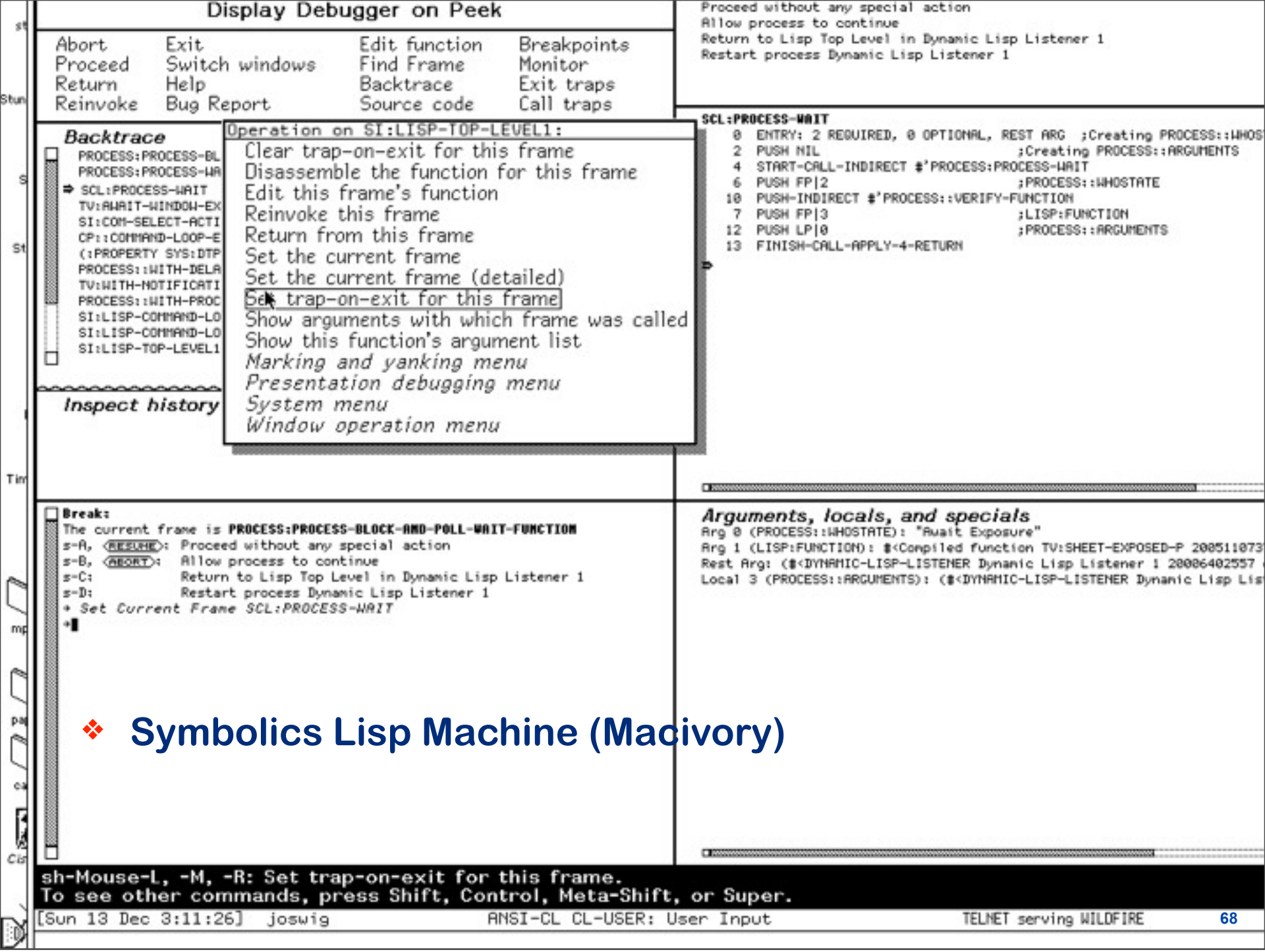
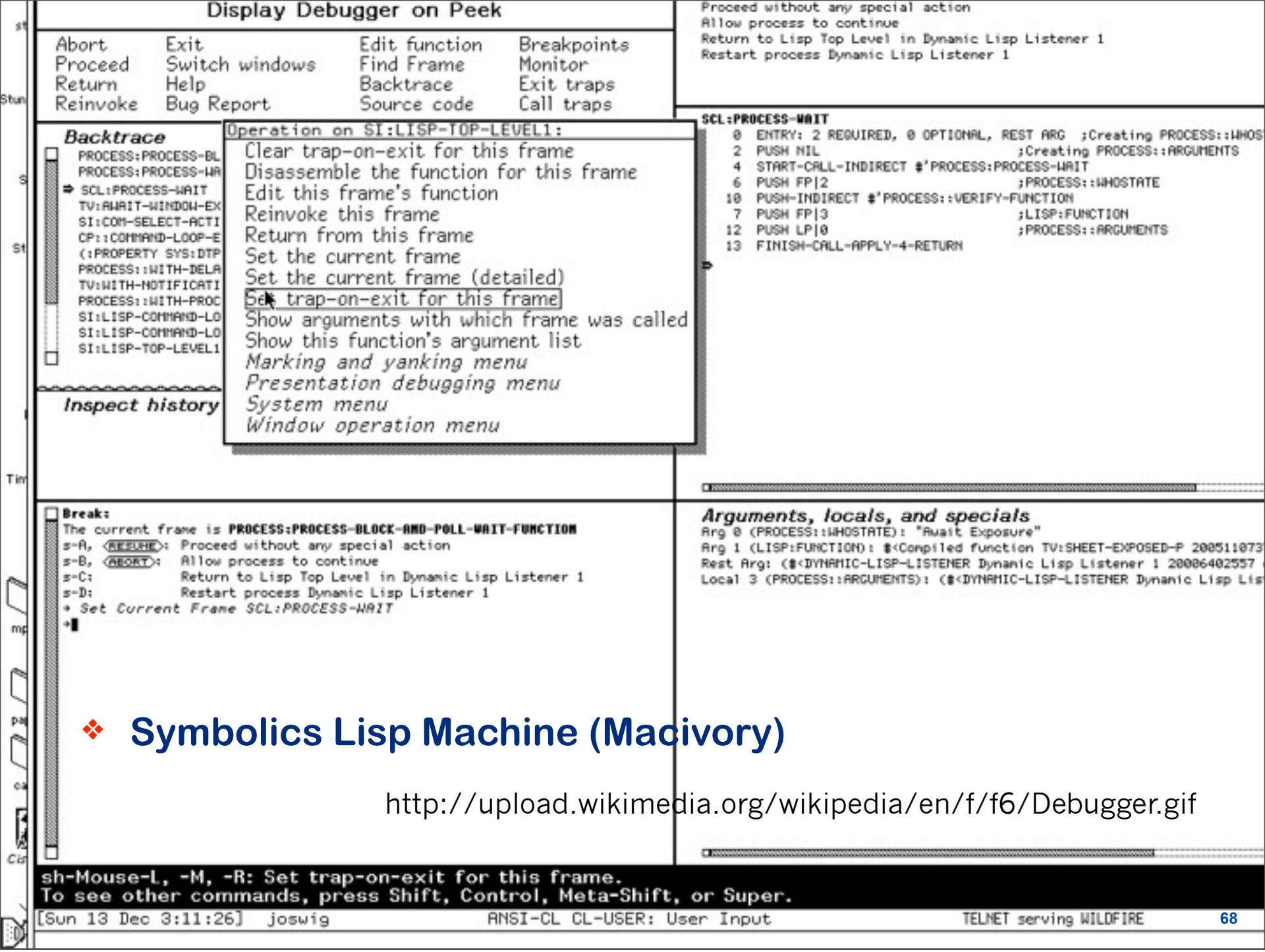


- **Symbolics Lisp Machine (Macivory)**



- **Symbolics Lisp Machine (Macivory)**

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/f/f6/Debugger.gif

Intelligent Agents

- **user conveys intentions**
  - goals
  - critical parameters
- **computer handles mundane and tedious activities**
  - repetitive
  - easy to automate
- **less, but more effective interaction**
- **computer acts more autonomously**

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Mobile Devices

- Usage
- Capabilities
- Advantages
- Limitations

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Mobile Devices - Usage

- **often closer proximity to users**
  - with the user most of the time
  - easy to carry
- **often multi-purpose devices**
  - mobile phone, music player, camera, hand-held computer
- **essential professional or personal device**
  - connectivity (phone, text messaging, email, Web)
  - organization (calendar, to do list, contacts, directions)
  - pleasure (music, photos, videos, e-books)

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Mobile Devices - Capabilities

- **I/O capabilities**
  - input
    - control and navigation (buttons; no mouse; cursor keys or limited pointing device; touch screen; gyroscope or accelerometer)
    - text (keyboard missing or small)
    - speech (microphone/head set)
  - output
    - visual: small screen
    - audio: small speaker, headphones
    - haptic: vibration
- **computational capabilities**
  - limited memory, processing
- **connectivity**
  - wired (USB)
  - wireless (cellular, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Infrared)

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Mobile Devices - Advantages

- quick & easy access
- multiple functions in one device

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Mobile Devices - Limitations

- **input and output constraints**
  - buttons, keyboard, navigation
  - screen size
- **functional constraints**
  - available functions are often not very sophisticated
- **proprietary or unusual interaction methods**
  - touch gestures, (virtual) keyboard arrangement
- **synchronization with other devices**
  - computer, home phone, car, ...

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Ubiquitous and Pervasive Computing

- Usage
- Capabilities
- Advantages
- Limitations

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Ubiquitous Computing – Usage

- **task-specific devices with computing capabilities**
  - entertainment systems
  - home security
  - phone
  - car navigation systems
- **core functionality augmented by computational capabilities**
  - connectivity
  - additional functionality
  - better interaction

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Ubiquitous Computing - Capabilities

- **core capabilities defined by the application are or task**
  - often very limited
  - sometimes augmented for better functionality or interaction
- **Input**
  - often buttons, remote control
- **Output**
  - screen, audio, actuators (performing specific functions)
- **computational capabilities**
  - often embedded microprocessors

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Ubiquitous Computing - Advantages

- familiar devices and tasks
- added functionality for such devices
- better interaction with devices
  - e.g. Tivo vs. VCR
- connectivity between computers and household or personal devices

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Ubiquitous Computing - Limitations

- limited computational capabilities
- limited interaction methods
- coordination and synchronization

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Important Concepts and Terms

- batch system
- command-line interface
- contextual task analysis
- desktop
- direct manipulation
- forms
- full-screen interface
- goal
- graphical user interface (GUI)
- heuristic evaluation
- hierarchical menu
- human-machine interface
- intelligent agent
- interaction style
- menu
- mouse
- natural language
- networked menu
- system language
- task
- task analysis
- usability
- user-centered design
- user interface design
- user language
- user requirements
- What You See Is What You Get" (WYSIWYG)
- WIMP
- window

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Chapter Summary

- practically all current interaction styles are variations of command-based interfaces
- the currently predominant interaction style is the WIMP interface
  - windows, icons, mouse, pull-down menus
- the selection among various possible interaction styles depends on user background, task requirements, technology, and economical factors
- emerging technologies like natural language processing or intelligent agents may cause a shift towards non-command interfaces

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