
Test Your Tech

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- B. Learning a new software program without reading the manual.
- C. A fire burning out of control.

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Announcements

- Due tonight before 10pm:
 - HW 1
- For lecture Wednesday, read chapter 3 of *Fluency*

Announcements

- Clickers
 - ❑ Bring your clickers to Wednesday and Thursday labs
 - ❑ Register your clickers by Thursday at 10pm
 - ❑ Bring them to lecture Friday



Video

- Fitness: Skills, Concepts and Capabilities (5:38)
 - <http://uweoconnect.extn.washington.edu/fitnessskillsconceptscapabilitiesdsifit7/>

What the Digerati Know

Other people can teach you computer applications or you can figure them out for yourself

Learning New Tools

How do we learn to use new tools?

- Reading the owner's manual -- chain saw Be taught in their use -- car, bicycle
- Figure them out ourselves -- iPod

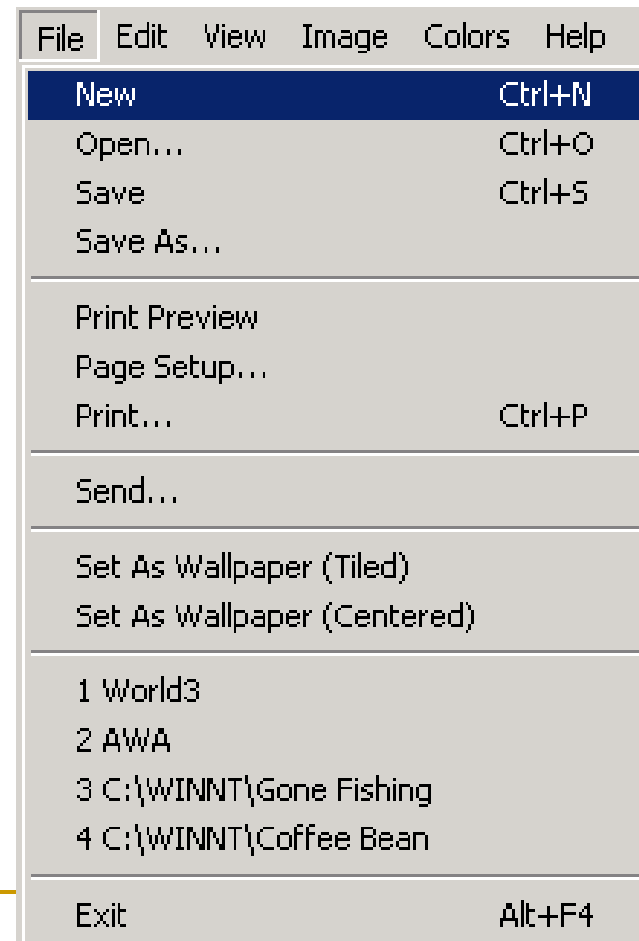
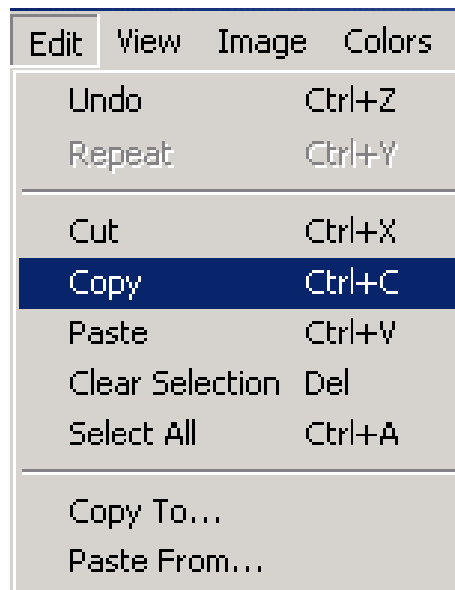
Learning New Tools

How do we learn to use new tools?

- Reading the owner's manual—chain saw Be taught in their use—car, bicycle
- Figure them out ourselves—iPod
- Software designers wanting you to learn their tool ASAP, try for 'intuitive'
 - Consistent Interfaces—build on experience
 - Suggestive icons—bypass terminology
 - Metaphors—exploit analogous reasoning

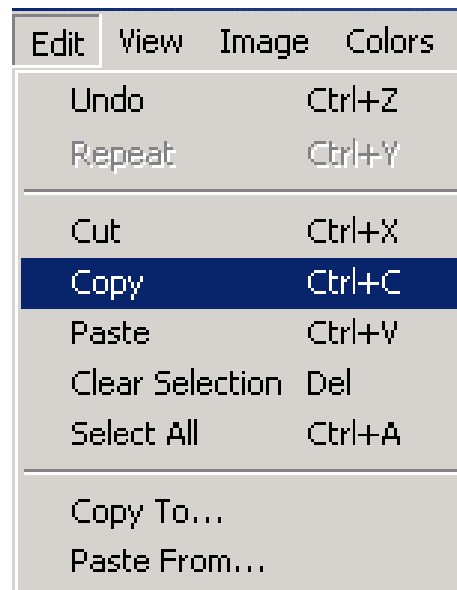
Standard Functionality

Most applications
have File and Edit



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Impress your friends with your knowledge of Japanese

What does 'New' Mean?

'New' means create a 'blank instance'

To understand 'blank instance' know that information has properties as well as content which are all stored in a table with a place for everything

Document: Date created, date modified, creator, fonts, content, diagrams, pictures, tables, ...

A 'blank instance' is simply the structure without any of the content

Example

- Checkbook register
 - A blank line is a new instance
 - Same structure
 - Column headings: date, payee, reconciled, withdrawal, deposit, balance
 - Data types for each column: date, text, y/n, currency, currency, currency

DATE	PAYEE	Rec	WD	DEP	BAL
12/31/07	Rentals R Us		750.00		1235.00
1/1/08	BIG S Season Pass		499.00		736.00

“Click Around”

Software designers use standard ideas to make applications intuitive

- To learn a new application, check it out by clicking around
 - Take a minute to ...
 - Look under all menus to see operations
 - Follow the “...” for menu operations
 - Try to recognize what the icons mean

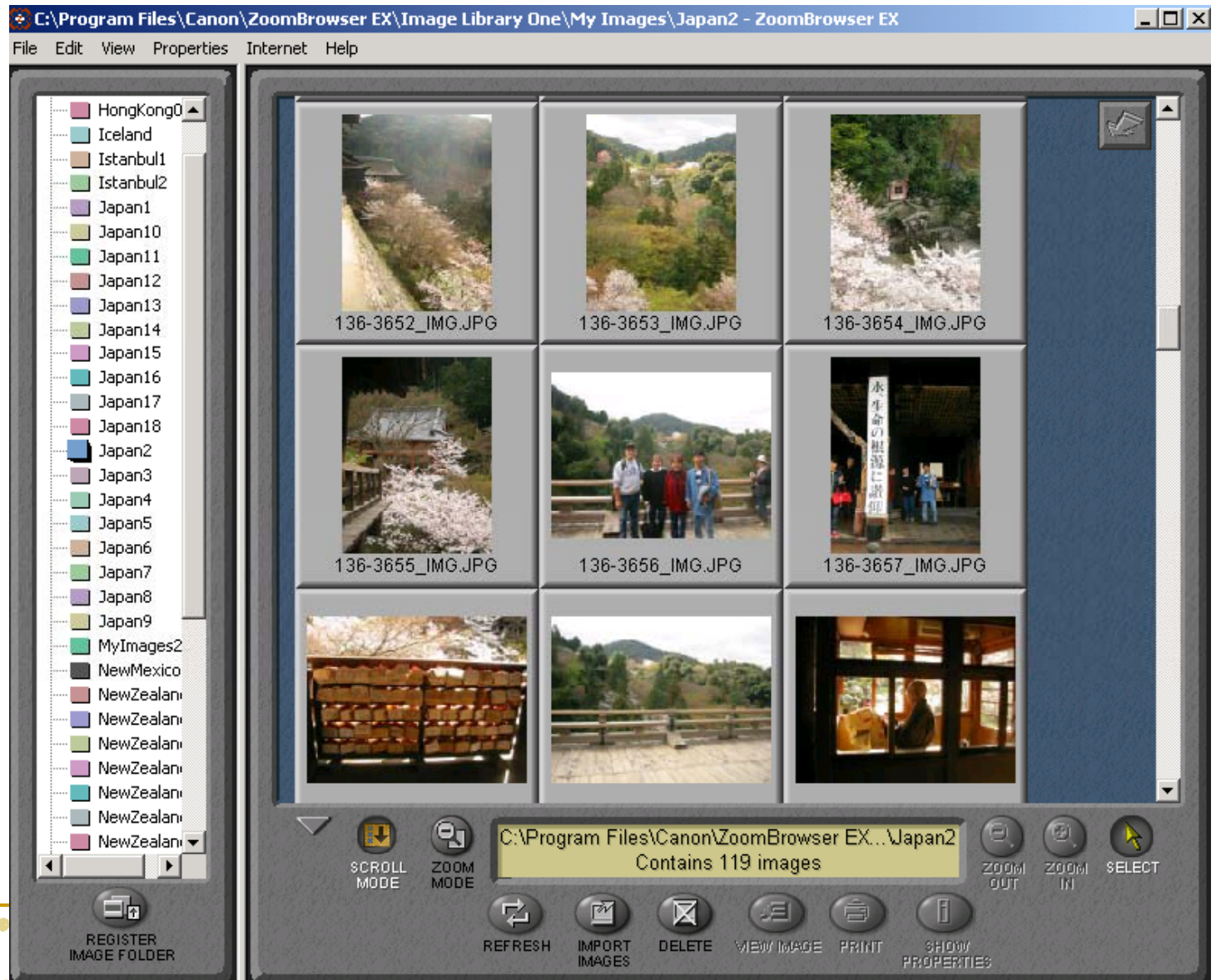
Clicking around is exploration

A New Application

Find:

- consistent interface
- icons
- metaphor





Metaphors

Net Point Video: Metaphors

<http://uweoconnect.extn.washington.edu/metaphorsdsifit7/>

Metaphors

- How do we evaluate the success of a metaphor? It's successful when users immediately understands what it means. Successful icons are contagious! They replicate themselves across the Web. When something works, programmers use it. These successful icons are carried from program to program, from Web site to Web site, helping you to make sense of the computer world.

Metaphor Exercise

- Identify common metaphors in programs and Web sites,
- Investigate metaphors in the real world and decide if they hold through the entire task or action, and
- Suggest new metaphors for the Web.

Metaphor Exercise

- What kinds of sites do you visit on the Web?
 - Music
 - Sports
 - Travel
 - Shopping
- Pick a category where you frequently visit several sites.
- List a common metaphor that is used across all the sites in that category

Metaphor Exercise 2

- Pick one experience in your everyday life and identify a metaphor for it.
 - Is the metaphor successful?
 - Does it hold true throughout the entire task or action?

“Blazing Away”

Learn an application fast by trying it

- Beginning with a new instance, assertively try menu items
 - *Expect to fail* and make a mess
 - Exit the application, and if you are asked “Save?” reply “No”
 - Try repeatedly until becoming familiar

If you are trying to achieve some goal, keep your eyes on the prize

To Learn A New Tool

Software systems build on a consistent interface, standard metaphors, etc.

- ❑ Expect to teach yourself applications
- ❑ Do so by familiarizing yourself with the features ... “Clicking Around”
- ❑ Assertively try out the features, “Blaze Away,” watching what they do
 - Be efficient -- stay focused, don’t type a lot when you expect to exit

If all else fails ...

Differences & Similarities

Different vendors will produce similar software for the same task

- Superficially, the GUIs use similar features
- Fundamentally, the task largely determines how the software must work ... they *must* be similar

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- Superficially, the GUIs use similar features
- Fundamentally, the task largely determines how the software must work ... they *must* be similar
- Implications ...
 - Know one word processor, learn others fast
 - SW differences: mostly glitz, convenience
 - Don't accept lousy ... switch to other SW

Mac or PC???

Which is better—Mac or PC?

- Arguments create only heat, no light
 - They are more alike than different
 - Any Fluent person can use both

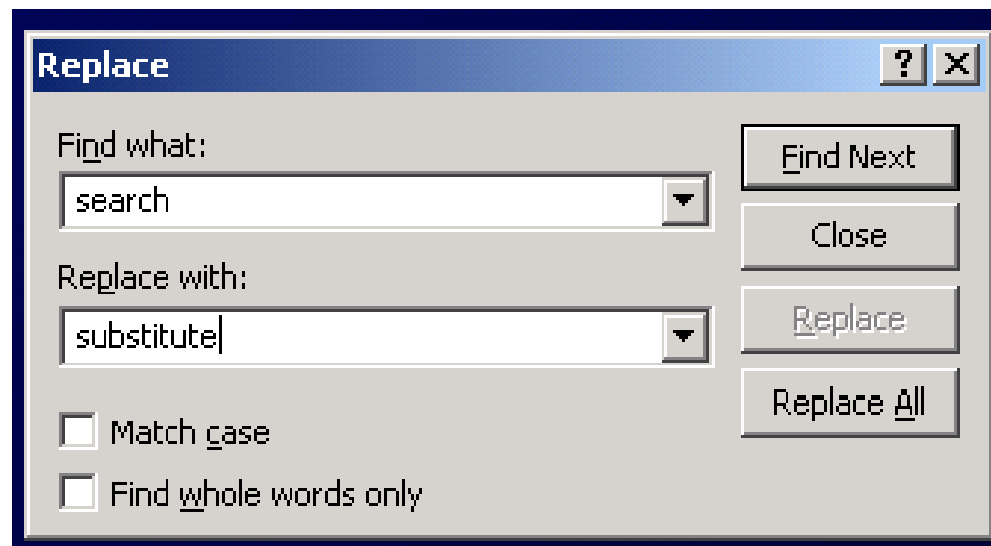
Homework 2: Find a Macintosh computer on campus, e.g. MGH 1st floor or OUGL labs. Try out the Mac and see what you find familiar and what is different. Locate the browser, and check the class web page. Hand in a list *describing* in a sentence or two five features you find different, and five that are the same.

Another Implication

If SW is similar at its core, computations can be taught without learning a specific vendor's SW ...

Replacement

Two strings are required: search string and substitution string



- Adopt a notation: **search * substitute**

Notation Example

Illustrating the use of the notation

- Using the replacement `Clinton` \times `Bush`

The sentence

`"At the White House President Clinton said ..."`

Becomes

`"At the White House President Bush said ..."`

- It's easy to express substitutions

To show deletion use epsilon, ϵ , as in: word \times ϵ

Summarizing

Humans must learn to use tools

- Software designers want you to learn easily
- SW uses consistent interface, metaphors, ...
- Teach yourself applications by “Clicking Around,” and “Blaze Away”
- SW for a task must share core features
- Learn applications independently of vendor

For Monday

- Lab 2, HW1 are due before noon
- Read Chapter 3 of *Fluency*
- Review for next week's pop quiz

Next Week

- Pop quiz next week in Lab
 - Online like the last one
 - Ten questions
 - True/False
 - Multiple Choice

Next Week

■ Review

- ❑ Study questions at end of each chapter
- ❑ Study answers to odd-numbered questions in back of book
- ❑ Lecture notes
- ❑ Videocasts of lectures
- ❑ Flash cards

Next Week

- Have a good weekend!