

## Test Your Tech

Blazing away is:

- A. The BBC drama about Charles Dickens.
- B. Learning a new software program without reading the manual.
- C. A fire burning out of control.

## Test Your Tech

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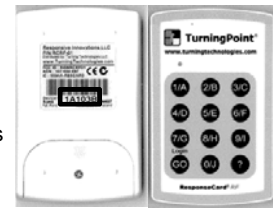
- A. The BBC drama about Charles Dickens.
- B. Learning a new software program without reading the manual.
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## Announcements

- 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.extrn.washington.edu/fitnessskillsconceptscapabilitiesdsfit7/>


## 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




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## 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



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## Standard Functionality


Most applications have File and Edit

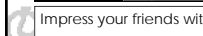
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## Standard Functionality

Most applications have File and Edit



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

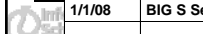


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## Example

- 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

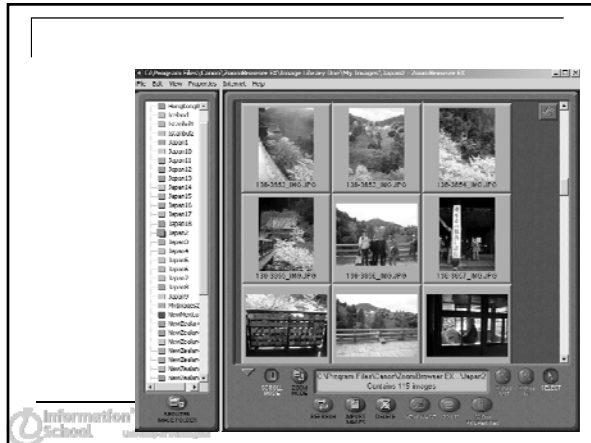
- To learn a new application, check it out by clicking around
  - Take a minute to ...
    - Look under all menus to see operations
    - Follow the “...” for menu operations
    - Try to recognize what the icons mean

Clicking around is exploration

## A New Application

### Find:

- consistent interface
- icons
- metaphor



## Metaphors

Net Point Video: Metaphors

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

## 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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- Implications ...
  - Know one word processor, learn others fast
  - SW differences: mostly glitz, convenience
  - Don’t accept lousy ... switch to other SW



## 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!