

eComStation User Interface

Speaker: **Eugene Gorbunoff**



Why to improve the User Interface?

- This is the main thing which makes OS/2 different from other OSes
- Good/simple UI + good toolkits => quick development of new apps

(We already have good UI:

- * Responsiveness + as intuitive as possible
- * Good documented UI (API)



=



+ PM-front-end/WPS/REXX

The hardware is changing..

1) Monitors:

15" -> 9" and 22"

22" -> No need to maximize windows

9" -> Adjust dialogs, compact windows

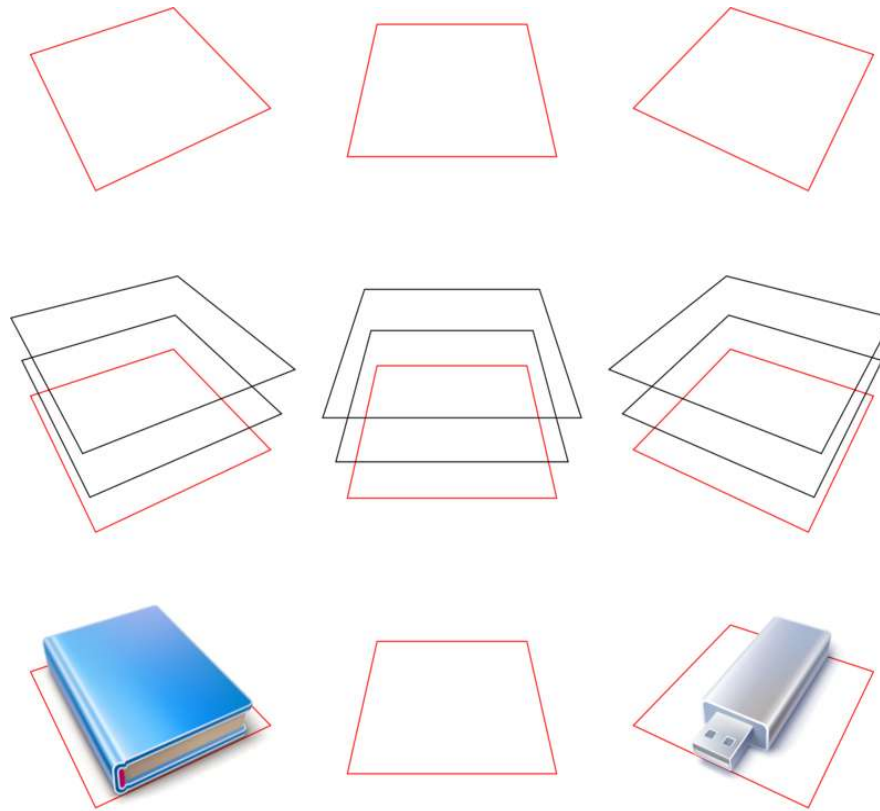
2) Multi-touchpad

-> Update applications

3) Touchscreens

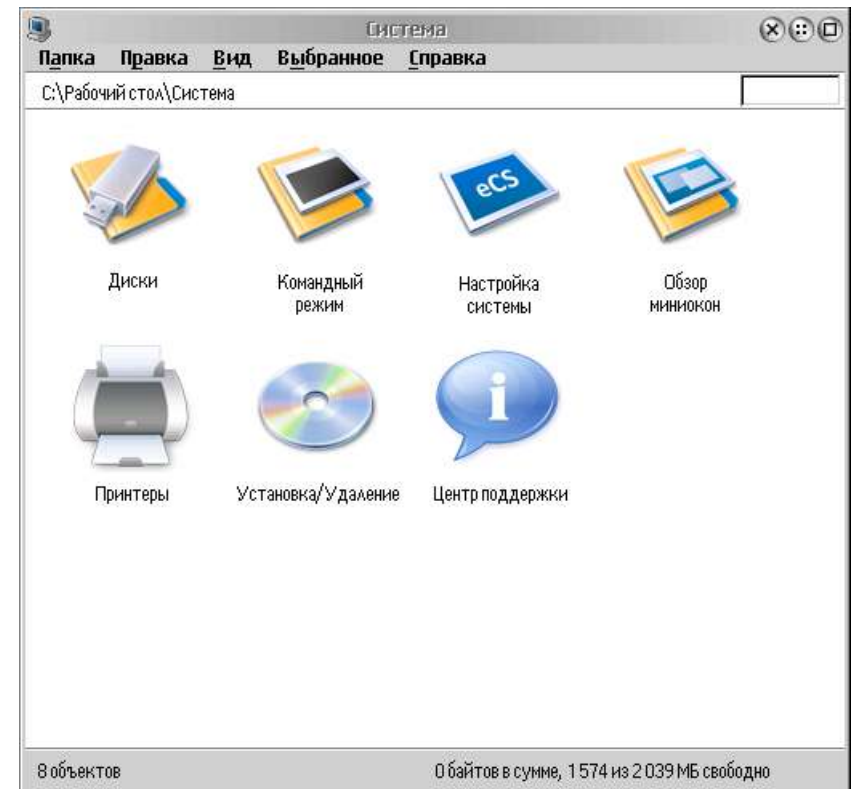
-> round buttons?

Icons



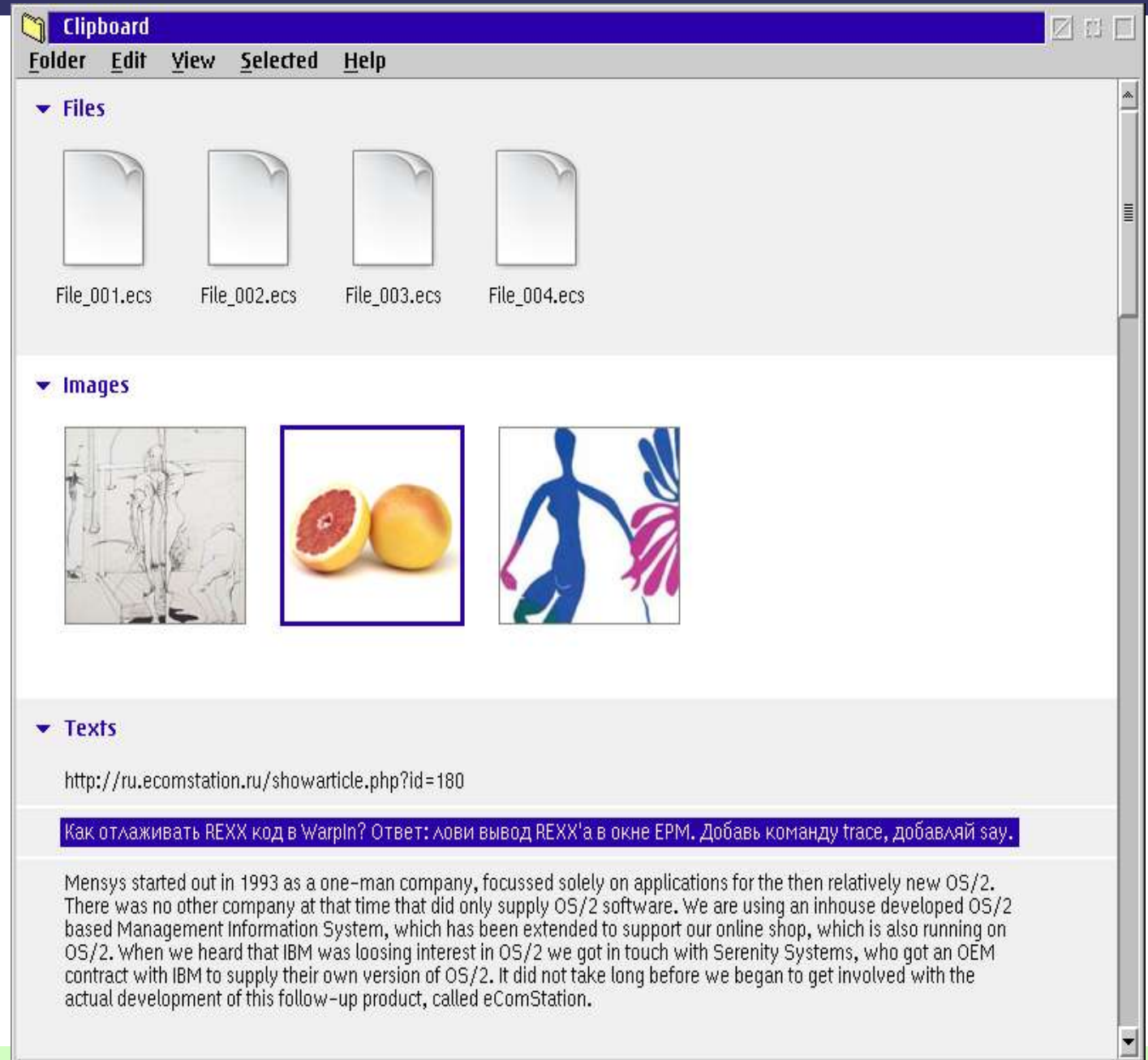
WorkPlace shell (fix stupid bugs)

- 1) Copy/Move operations are not reliable
- 2) Integrate zip to WPS
- 3) Multimedia classes
- 4) Add different View -> Icon (matrix)



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WPS Clipboard



WorkPlace shell

What is the role of WorkPlace Shell?

- File operations (move, rename, combine)
- WPS – is a large global File shell

Windows:

eComStation

Application centric desktop

Document centric desktop

Step 1: Start application

Step 1: User finds the document

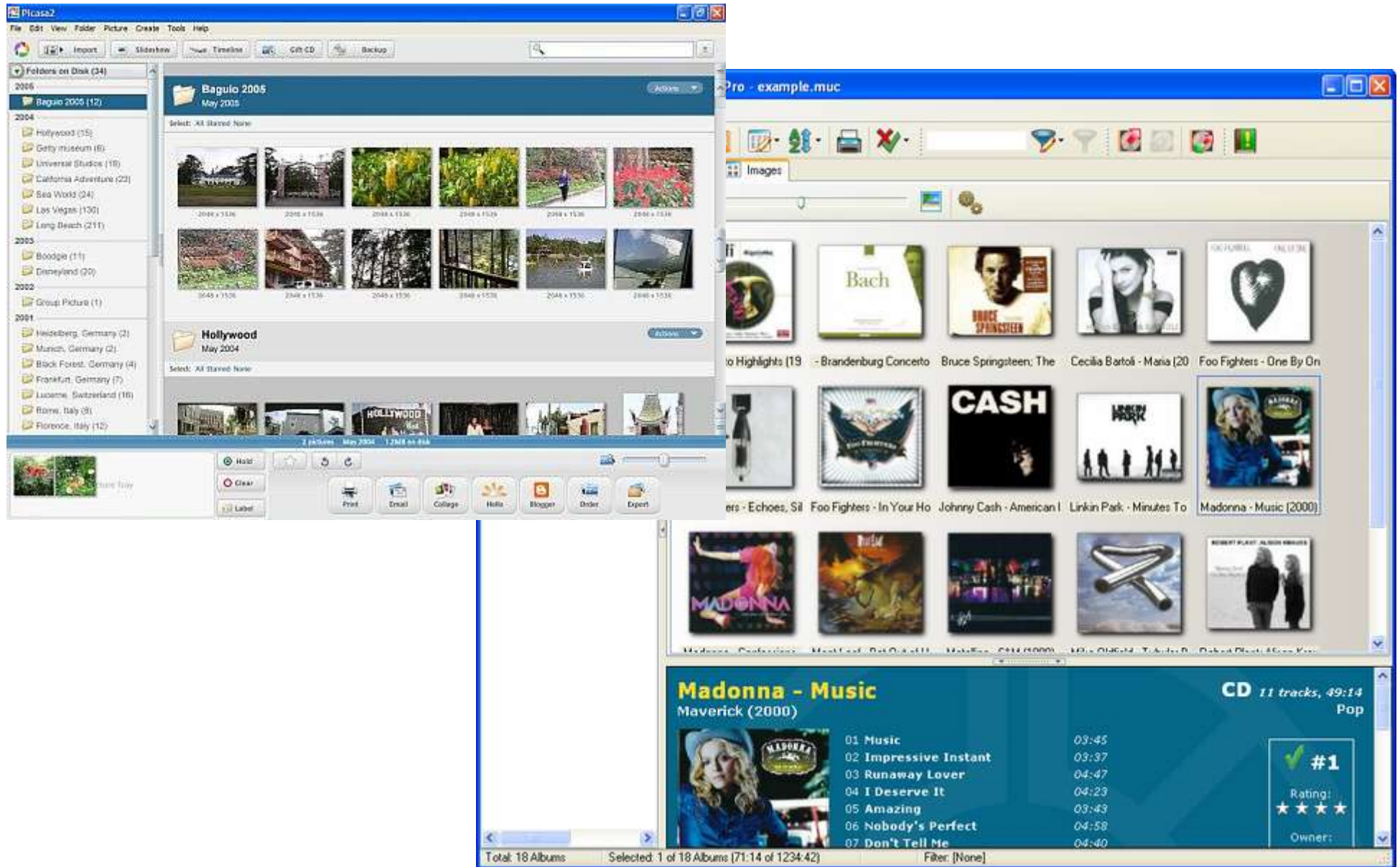
Step 2: Load a document

Step 2: Click

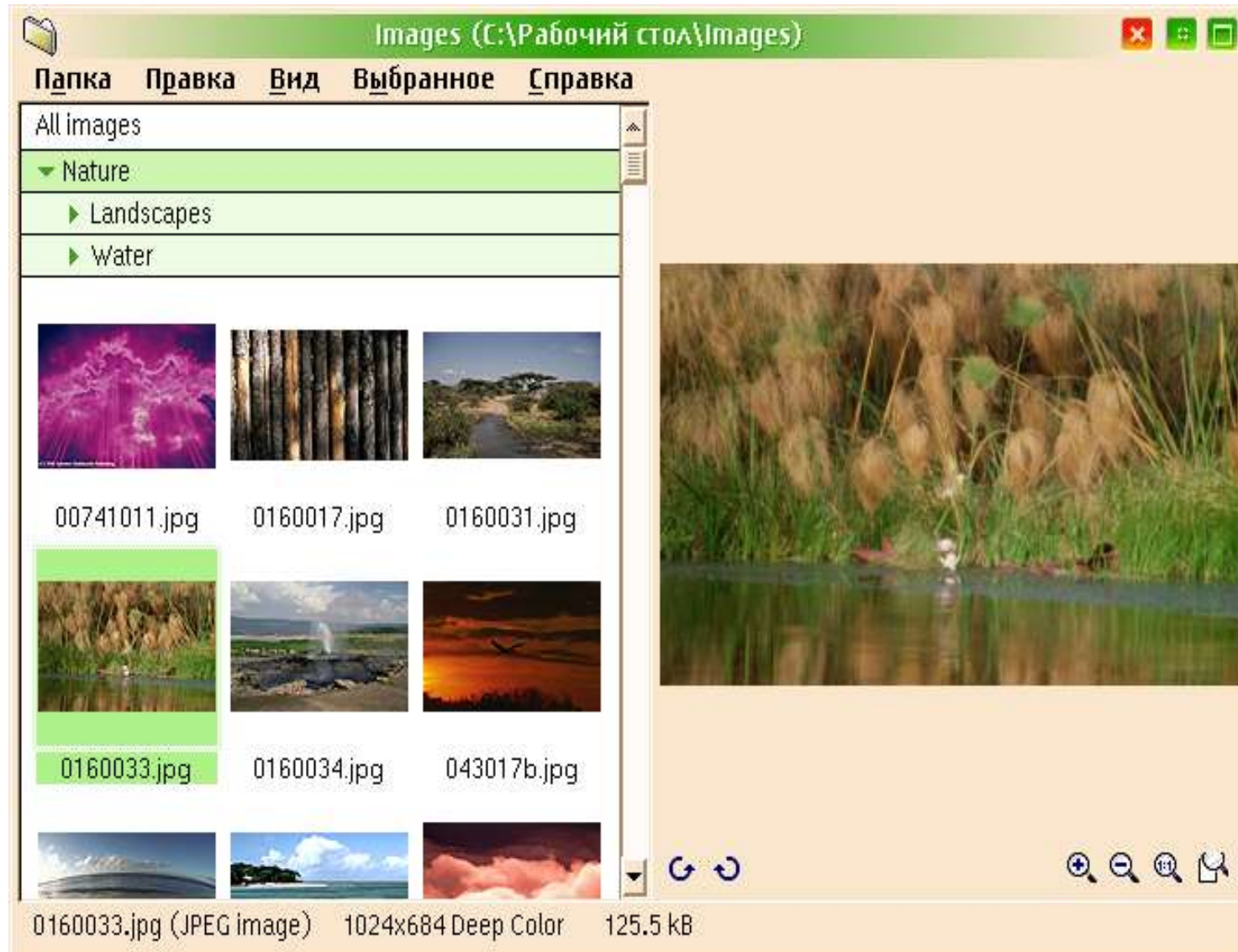
Step 3: Edit/view

Step 3: Edit/view

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Integrate to Desktop:

1) **Notepad**

(PCM, MySafe)

2) **System Scheduler**

(events as files, edit via Properties)

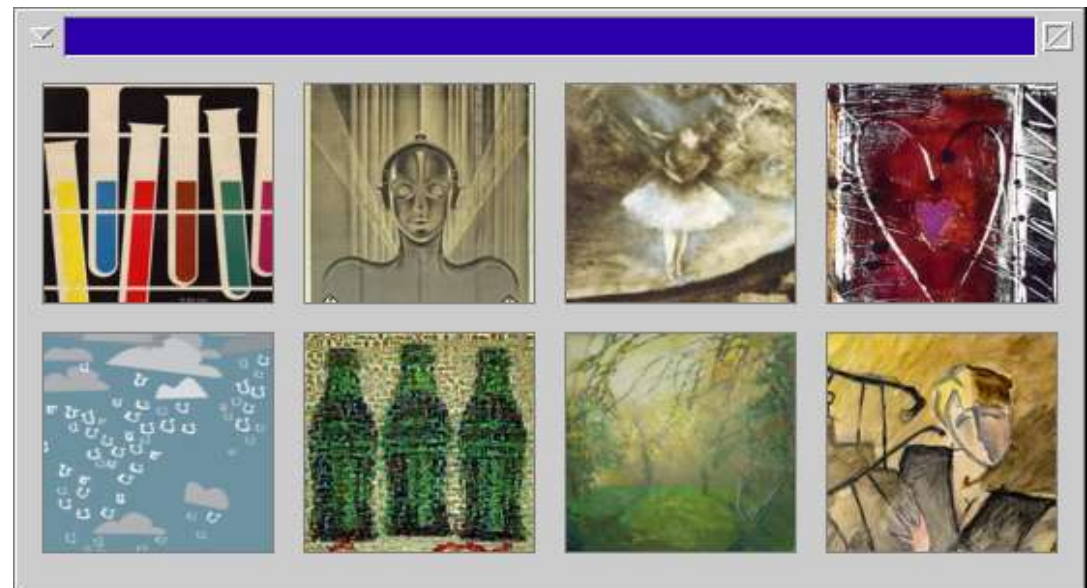
3) **Mediafolder**

New control: movie editor

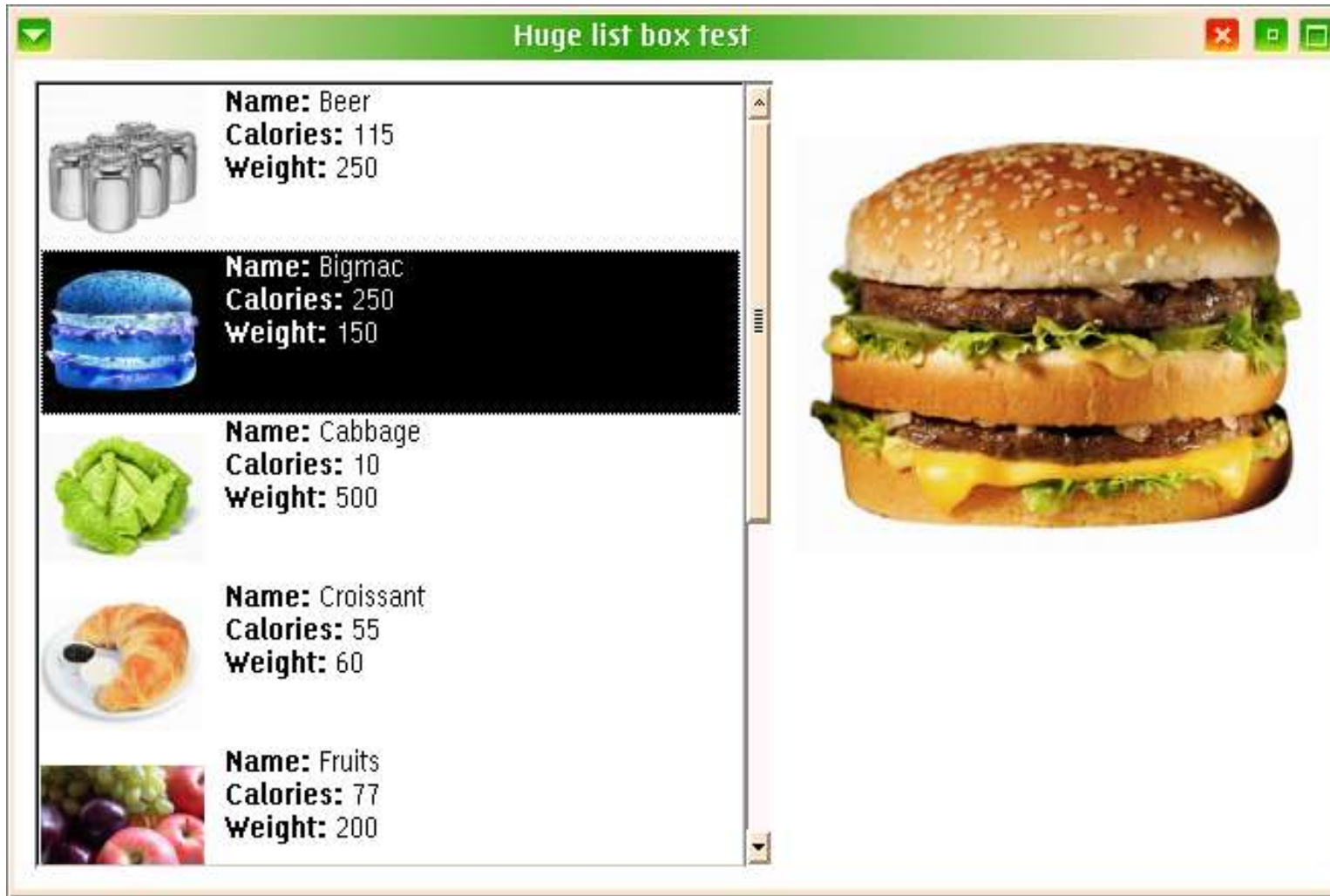


Useful for:

- * Movie editors
- * TV/FM-tuner apps
- * Sort pictures
- * Automation of processes



New control: Vivid listbox (pictures + text)



More pics
on desktop

extend existing
apps, create new

New control: Message Box



Refreshes the desktop

- * Logo: 64x64, 80x80
- * Area with long text and short question
- * Buttons: Action, not “OK”, “Cancel”
- * Read Guidelines

New control: Date & time input



We need

- * Calendar window class
- * Compact input of date & time

Demand:

- * small databases
- * organizers
- * schedulers
- * calendars

New control: Image

Influence:

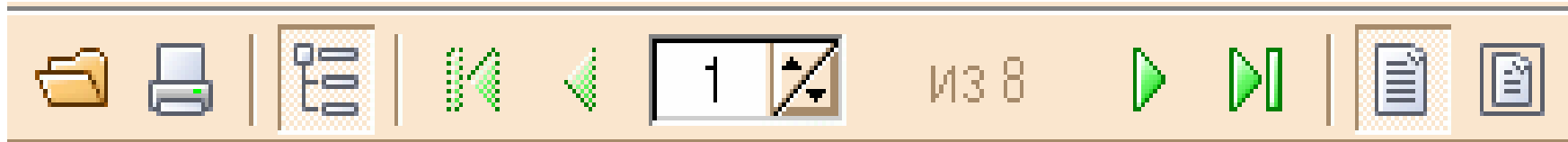
+ Makes to use Drag&drop



2008: we should show more graphics,
Area to show/accept pictures

- * Quality visualization of pictures (photos/logos)
- * Easy change of picture in the window
- * I/O Proc support

New control: Toolbar with square buttons



Unify the UI: Icons for toolbars

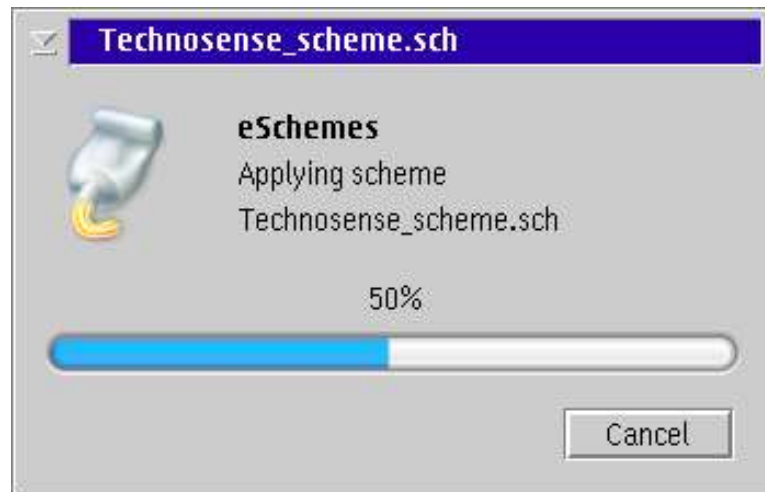
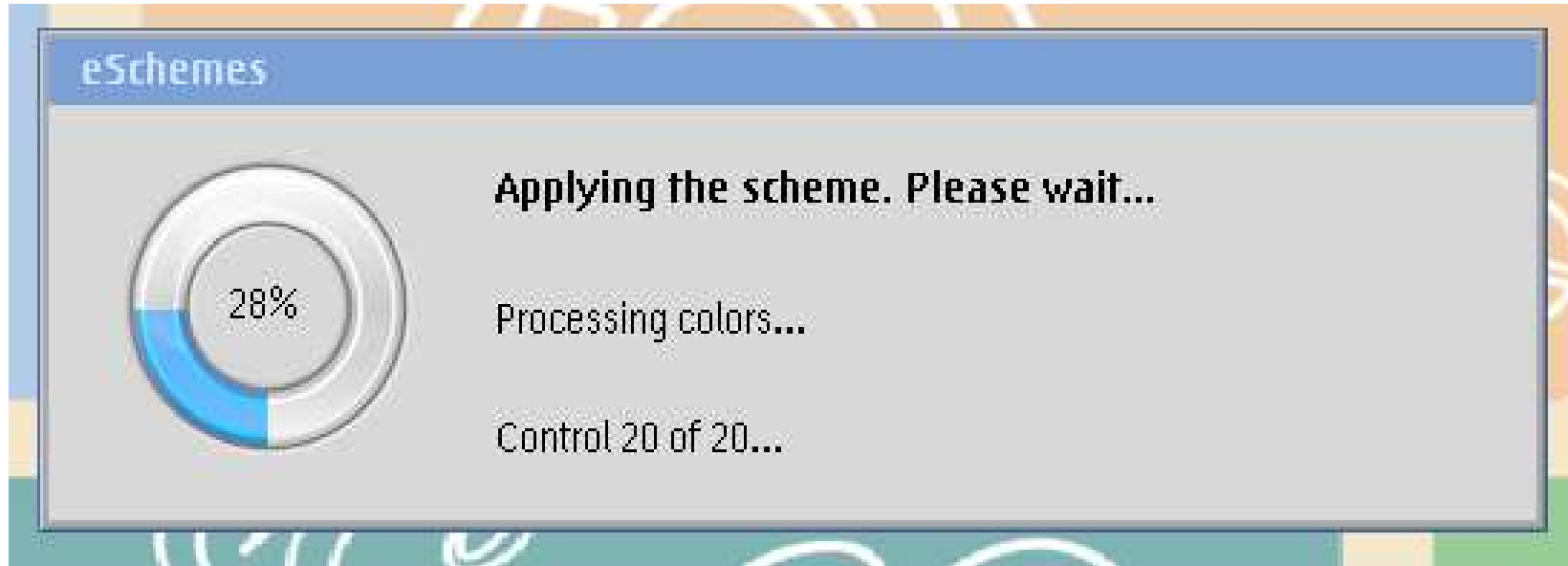


/////

Pay attention to anti-aliased icons on the toolbar.

Let's change the desktop today! We can draw anti-aliased pictures now, there is FT2LIB to draw text.

New Progress bar



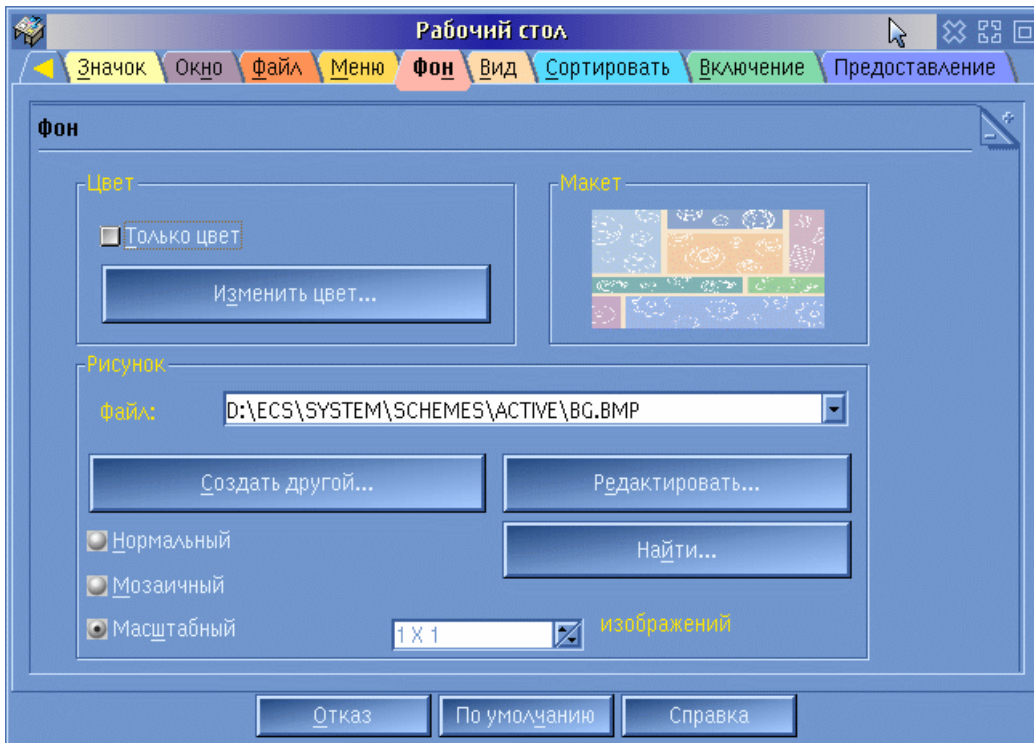
Influence
+ We increase responsiveness

New template: Merlin / XML

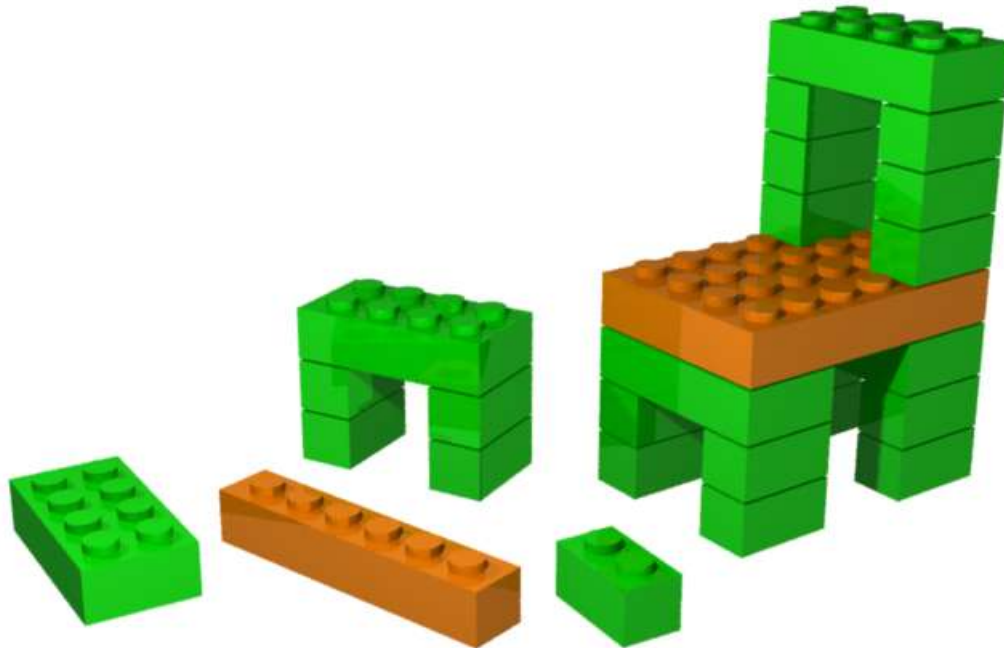
Easy to create settings notebooks

Influence:

- + Enforce multimedia applications
- + Enforce shareware applications



Why to create new controls?!

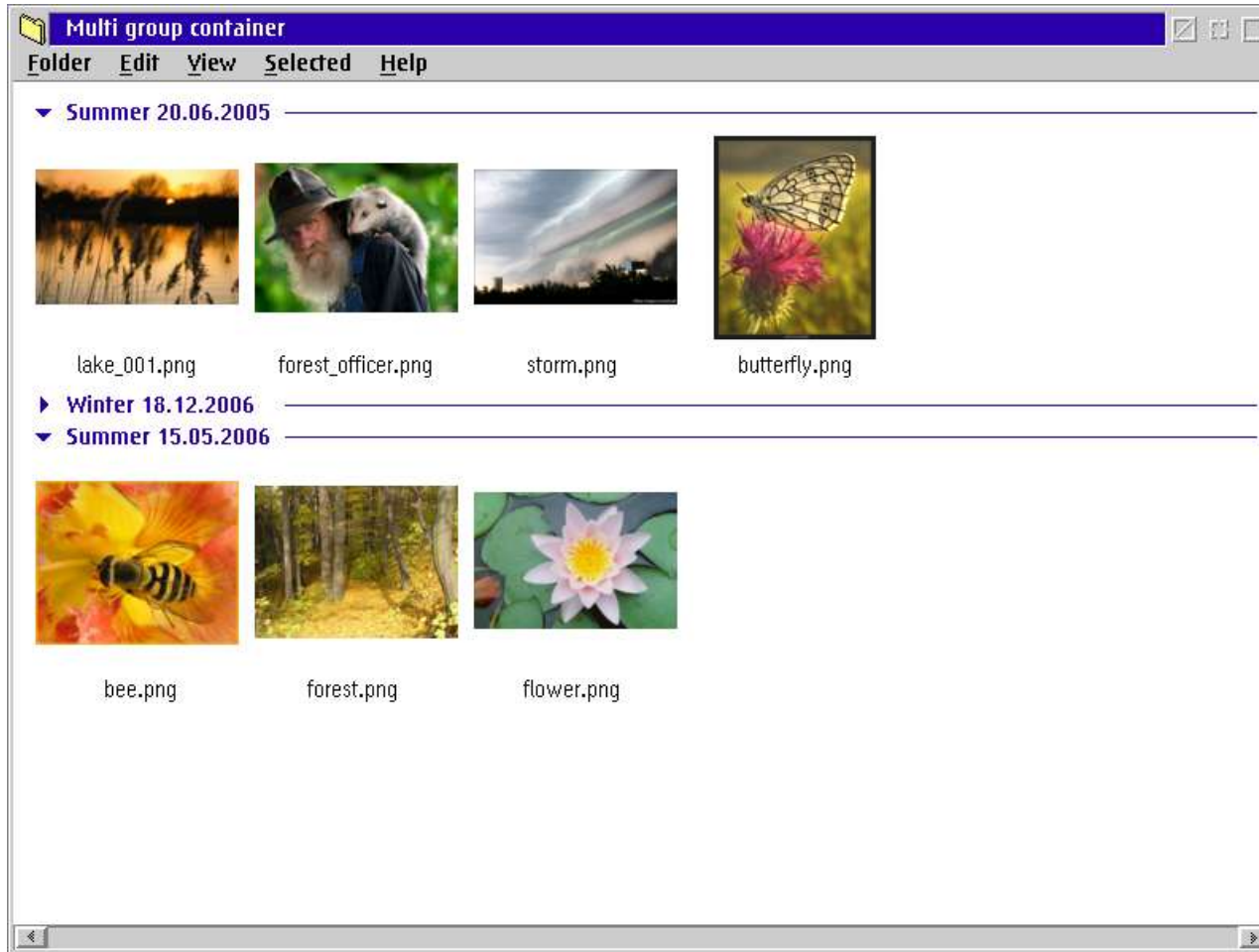


Main goal:

* developers can create apps without the knowledge of PM.

Imagine, there is device driver developer. He knows asm, but he has 0 interest in PM. How to help him?

TODO: New multi group container



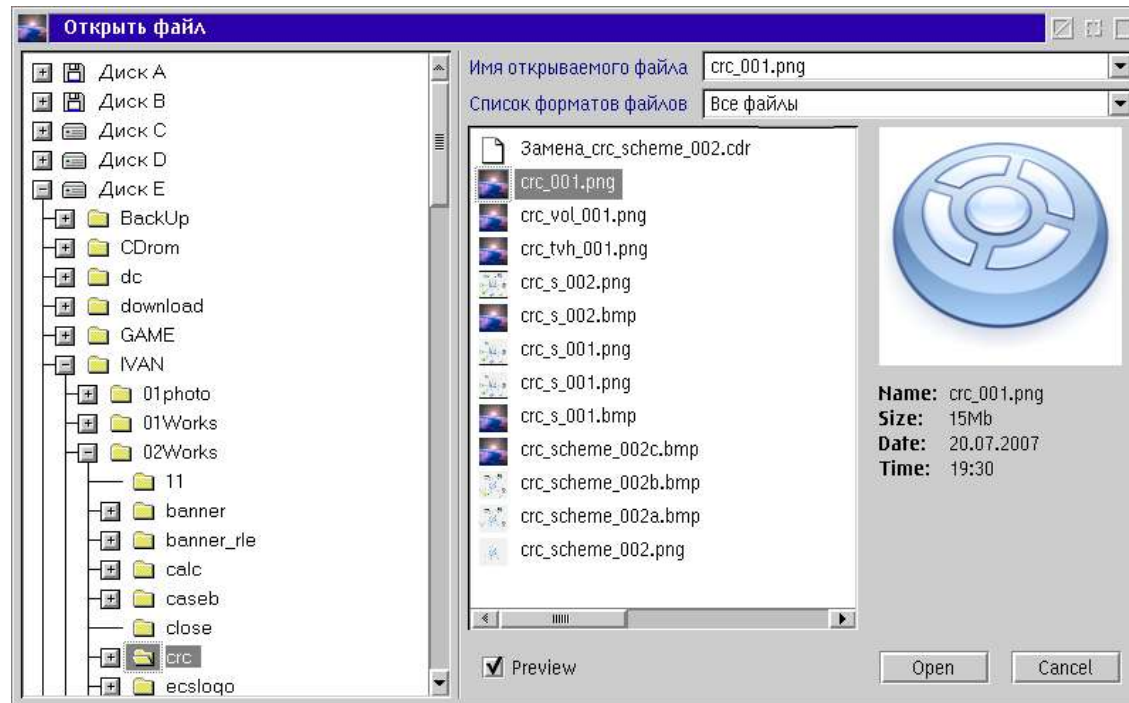
Advantages:

- + allows visualize more data
- + simplifies search
- + show more complex data

TODO: File Open Dialog

Status:

- * External specification is published
- * Parts of code are collected



TODO: Grid (aka Table)

File	Size	Download	%
1sdgffg.png	11 678	11 678	100 %
gfgf.zip	886	64	8 %
hyefyh.zip	355	355	100 %
rsgfufu.exe	14 898	14 898	100 %
jyergerygf.jpg	275	275	100 %
jyergeryjfgy.arj	12 864	12 864	100 %

Advantages:

- * Different colors, fonts
- * Resize of columns

this is important for existing apps

TODO: Toolbar with round buttons

* task is published

* 0% progress



3 PNG files + description of buttons

Influence:

- + Enforce multimedia applications
- + Enforce shareware applications

Demand:

- * Multimedia players
- * apps for children

TODO: Image -> Movie/Animation window



KMP player

TODO: Select Me



TODO: Mini media player

Mini audio-player

- * task is published
- * 0% progress



One player – 100 applications
and utilities

in demand:

- * Converters
- * Multimedia applications

TODO: Dialog windows (still not resolved)

Describe control elements like .html?

- + no need to define coordinates, simply define the grid where to place elements
- bad for complex dialog windows

Or

The coordinates and dimensions are described as formulas and variables

- + Very flexible, it's possible to describe any dialog
- + Existing applications may be visualized using such system
- requires more efforts from developer to define the formulas

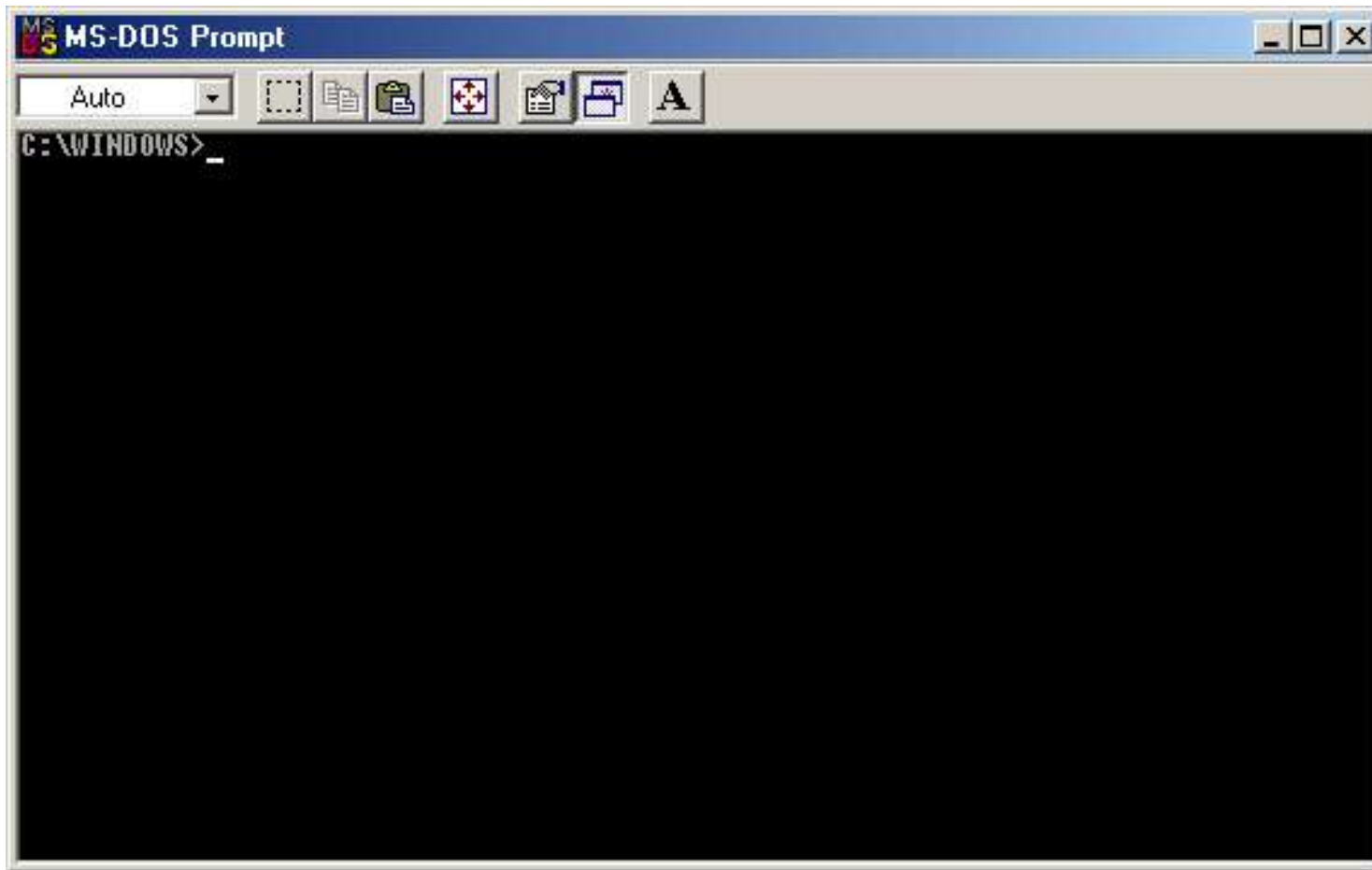
New controls should support:

- Change of font Ctrl- Ctrl + (elements Zoomable User Interface)
- Unicode

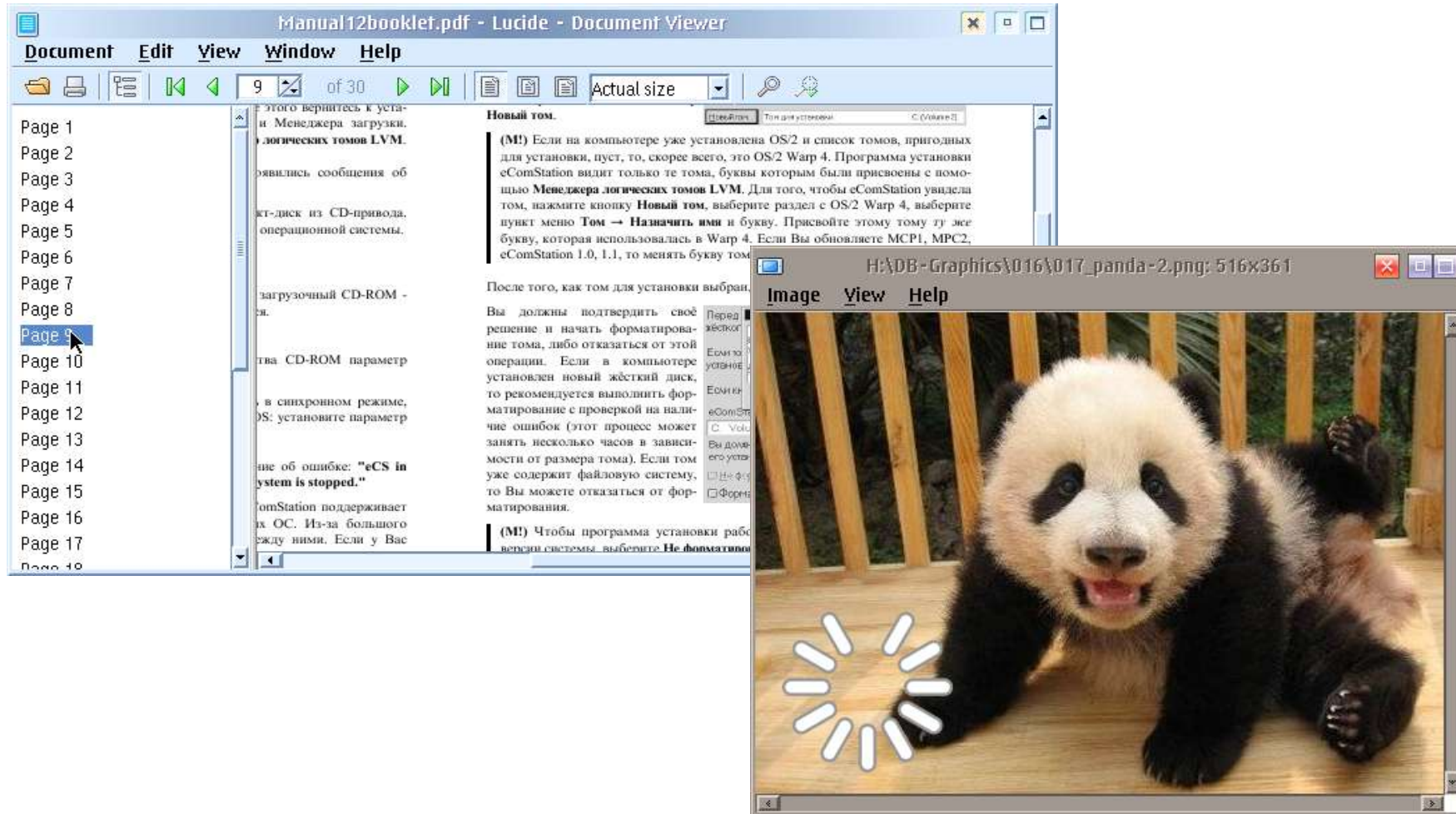
TODO: remake All standard PM controls

To support Unicode

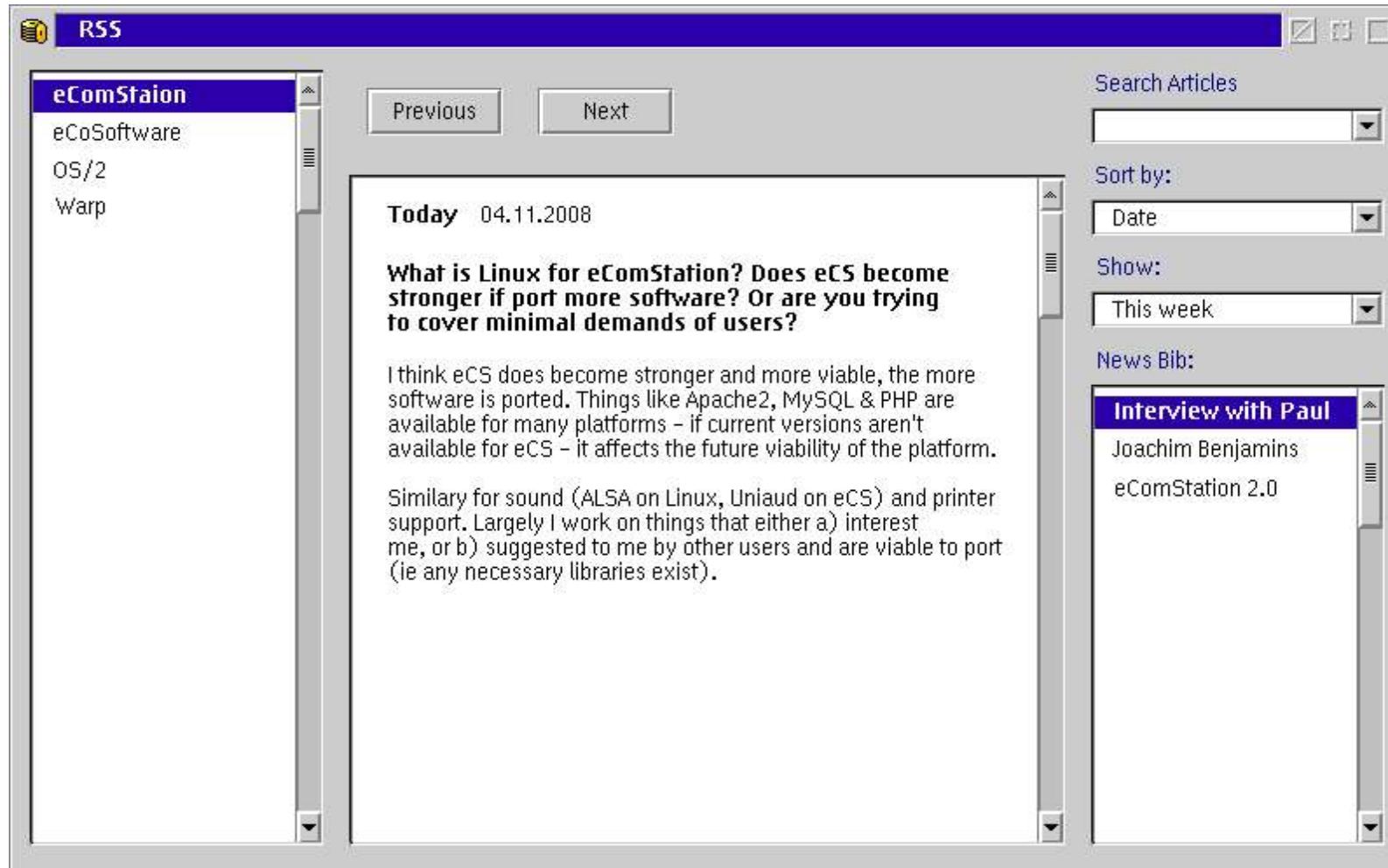
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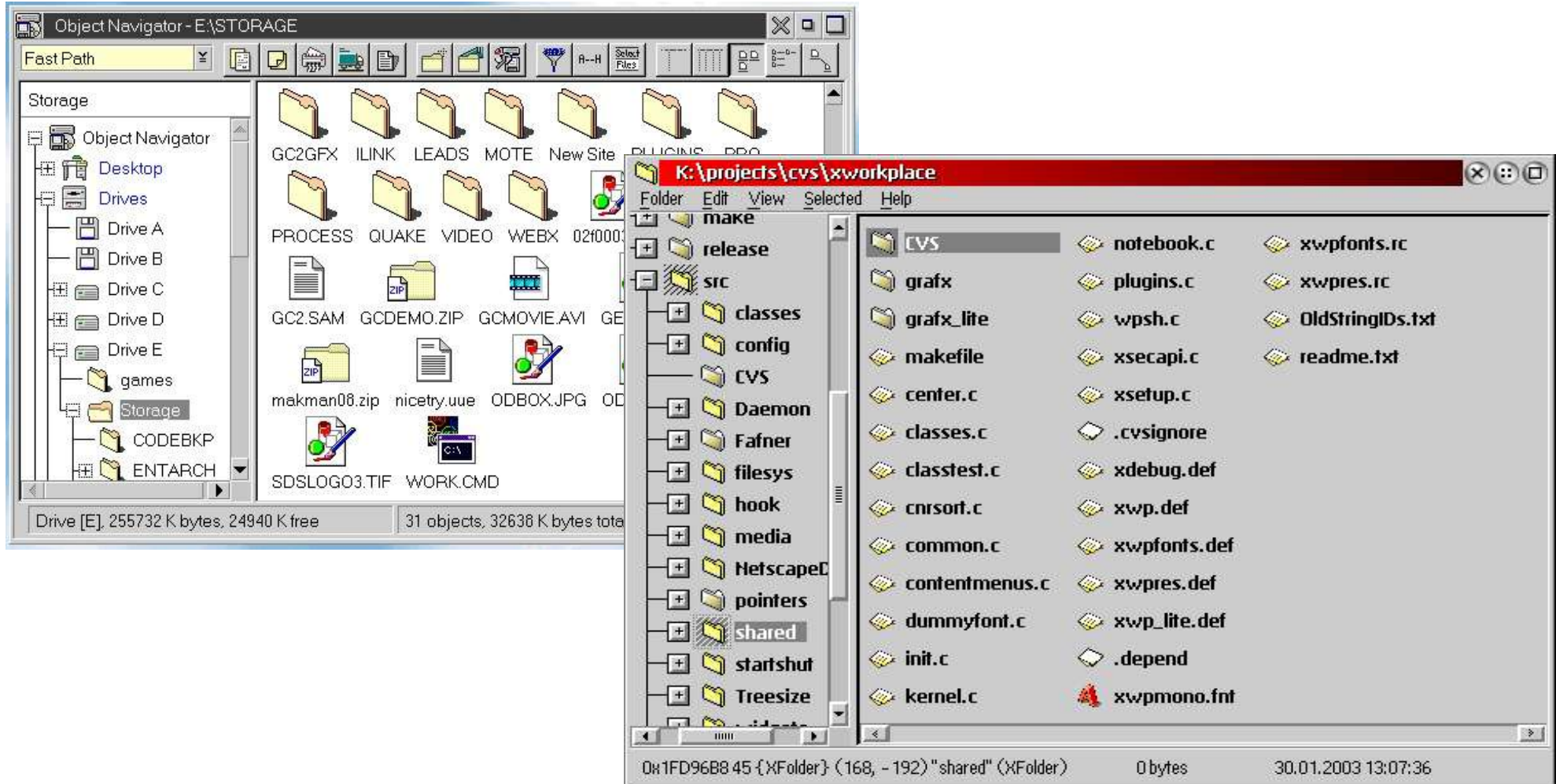
Data visualization



Data visualization



Navigation on desktop



Remote desktop

VNC remote desktop

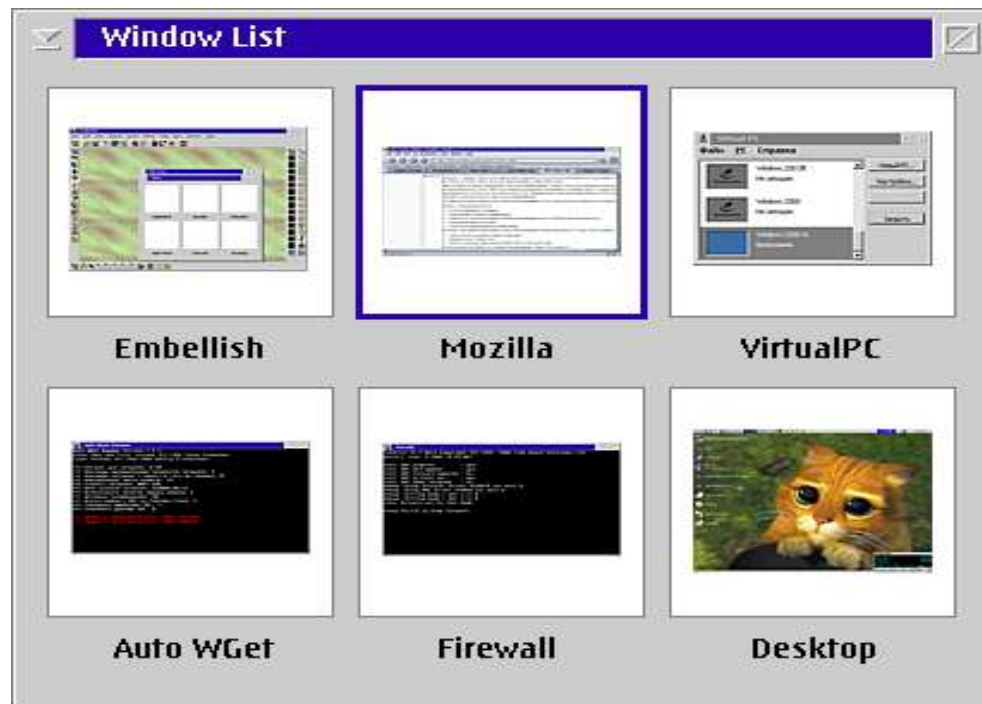
Todo:

Small web-server, Listboxes

(Address book, Passwords, files)

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Desktop: Task list



Classification/Indexation/Categorization

Classification, Pack to compact form: L,45;421:6;253:f.44'N5



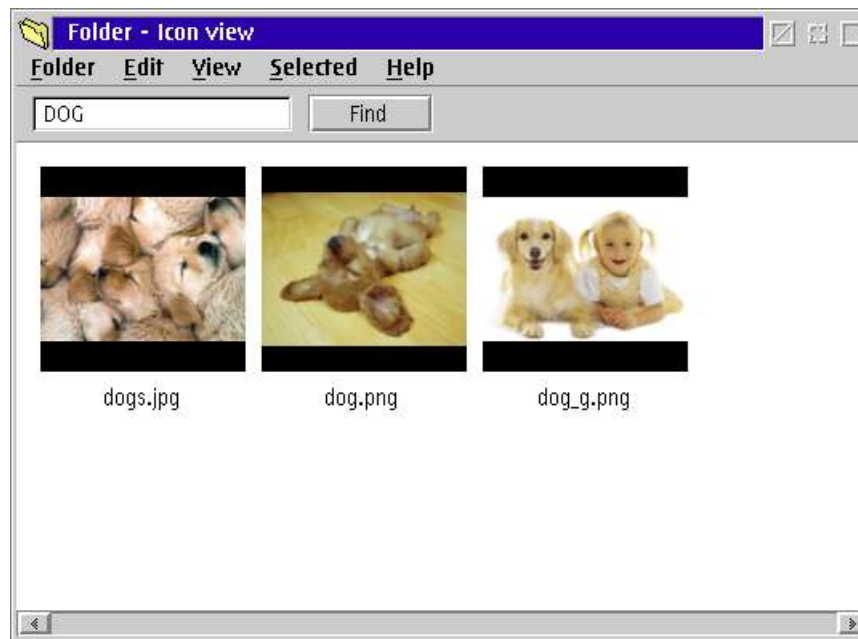
The screenshot displays two overlapping windows from the eComStation software interface. The top window, titled "Jug.jpg - Properties", shows a thumbnail of a white ceramic jug. To its right, there are three dropdown menus: "Images", "Jug", and "Water". Below these is a "Comments" field containing a string of random characters. The bottom window, titled "05-A_Shot_In_The_Dark.mp3", shows a thumbnail of a man playing a saxophone. To its right, there are three dropdown menus: "Music", "MP3", and "Jazz". Below these is a "Comments" field with a detailed text block about John Zorn, and a "Keywords" field containing the word "Jazz".

Desktop: Search on Desktop

Step 1: Create more WPS applications,
offer better WPS navigation, push users from CMD and FC to WPS

(to be included in eCS 2.1)

Recoll
(Yuri Dario)



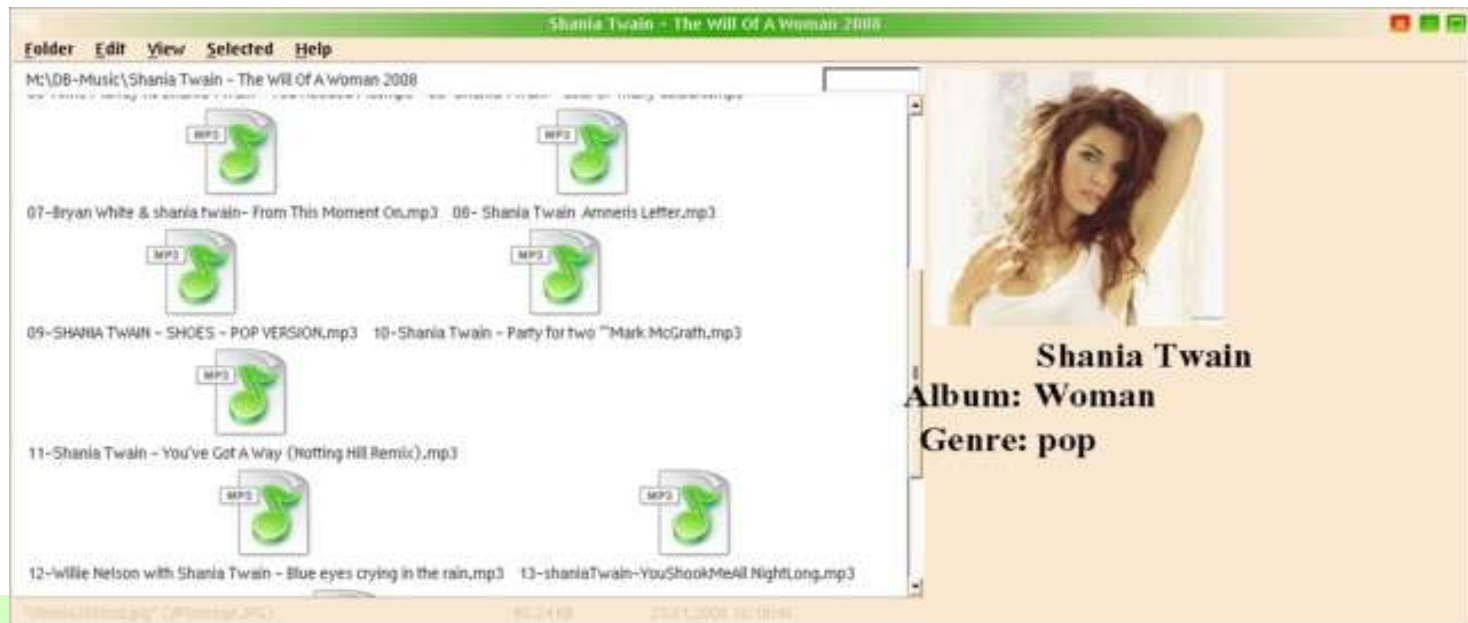
eComStation User Interface

Imagination – preview of documents

- * such extensions improve usability of Desktop
- * PDF, Pictures
- * Todo: OpenOffice 2.0 classes



eComStation User Interface



Indicators / banners / monitors



Indicators:

- * widgets/indicators on Desktop
- * widgets on eCenter
- * widgets on eCenter with auto-hide feature

Banners



eCenter

Problems:

- 1) eCenter shows small icons, novice users can't find the application in task list.
- 2) More and more widgets
- 3) eCenter and widgets should use SYSCLR_ colors

Widgets

There are many widgets for eCenter: <http://ecomstation.ru/?e=37>

Let's create 50 new widgets in 2009!

- * Indicators of system parameters
- * Quick input of data (suddenly)
- * Info from Internet: temperature, ..

Todo:

- MP3 player
- Temperature
- Uniaud mixer
- D-Day

Users are lacking widgets

- * You want keep the log of all your mini-expenses (ticket, cola, ..)
- * Small scheduler, planner of work
- * “Urgent” sound recorder
- . * ..

Operating System setup



Integrate Samba to WorkPlace Shell

How to organize System setup folder?

Fonts



We have Zero experience how to draw/use fonts.

- ECS 2.0 is equipped with additional fonts
- FT2Lib for anti-aliasing

Current plan:

Create library to draw anti-aliased texts on banners.

How to update MLE, Entry field?

Refuse other ideas

- 1) Application menu in the top of screen (the same movements of mouse)
- 2) System information of wallpaper
the desktop is full of windows
- 3) Dashboard (separate screen)
OR Dashboard OR Desktop
- 4) Names of objects painted in different colors
useful if we have categories of files
- 5) Some users create many temporary directories everyday
better use FileCommander

What is “new desktop”? “New User Interface”?

All innovations (in previous slides) – are extensions.. utilities..

If pack all this add-ons to PM-toolkit, WPS-toolkit then we get new User Interface. The developers will start to use this new features of New desktop.

Your participation

Let's use the method:

- Criticize existings applications
- Make the developers use standard controls
- Help to the developers follow the Guidelines
- Which new controls are needed?
- Every developer may participate in Guidelines preparation

Improve existing applications => New fresh view => attract new users

What to expect after UI improvement?

- * Economize efforts of developers.
 - * Unify UI
 - * This is the only way to pass new controls, new means to developers
 - * for UMPC
-
- * Improved controls -- Developers will update their applications
 - * New controls -- new powerful applications
 - * More templates – more new small applications

Hasta la vista!

Authors: Eugene Evstigneev, Yuri Prokushev,
Aleksej Kozlov, Ivan Smirnoff, Joseph Shrago,
Yuri Proniakin, Eugene Gorbunoff