

Toolbars & Dialogs

Lecture 16

Outline

- Dialogs
 - Reasons for Dialogs
 - Dialog Design
- Toolbars
 - Toolbar design
 - Exercise

Dialogs

- What is a dialog?

Dialogs

- What is a dialog?
- What design principles apply?

Dialogs

- What is a dialog?
- What design principles apply?
 - Dialog is navigation, limit navigation
 - Eliminate excise wherever possible
 - Enable user to direct, don't force them to discuss
 - Provide modeless feedback
 - Don't ask users for permission
 - ...

Dialog Types

- Modal Dialog
 - Stop the application – until dialog finishes
- Modeless Dialog
 - Program can continue

Four Reasons for Dialogs

- Property Dialogs
- Function Dialogs
- Process Dialogs
- Bulletin Dialogs (Alert Dialogs)

Four Reasons for Dialogs

- Property Dialogs
 - Font Dialog – change properties of typology in a document
- Function Dialogs
- Process Dialogs
- Bulletin Dialogs (Alert Dialogs)

Four Reasons for Dialogs

- Property Dialogs
- Function Dialogs
 - Print Dialog – pages, single-sided, double-sided, print later, 2 up/4 up ...
- Process Dialogs
- Bulletin Dialogs (Alert Dialogs)

Four Reasons for Dialogs

- Property Dialogs
- Function Dialogs
- Process Dialogs
 - State of the Application – a printer is not responding, the network has timed out ...
- Bulletin Dialogs (Alert Dialogs)

Four Reasons for Dialogs

- Property Dialogs
- Function Dialogs
- Process Dialogs
- Bulletin Dialogs (Alert Dialogs)
 - Error message

Dialog Design Techniques

- Tabbed Dialogs
- Dialog Expansion
 - Expand to show more complex or “advanced” controls
- Cascading Dialogs
 - Control or option in one dialog, opens yet another dialog

Toolbars

- What is a toolbar?

Toolbars

- What is a toolbar?
- What design principles does a toolbar satisfy?

Toolbars

- What is a toolbar?
- What design principles does a toolbar satisfy?
 - Keep tools close at hand.
 - Eliminate excise (decrease navigation).

Basic Toolbars

- Office Toolbars



Basic Toolbars

Finder Toolbars



Basic Toolbars

Finder Toolbars



Basic Toolbars

- What's in a toolbar?



Basic Toolbars

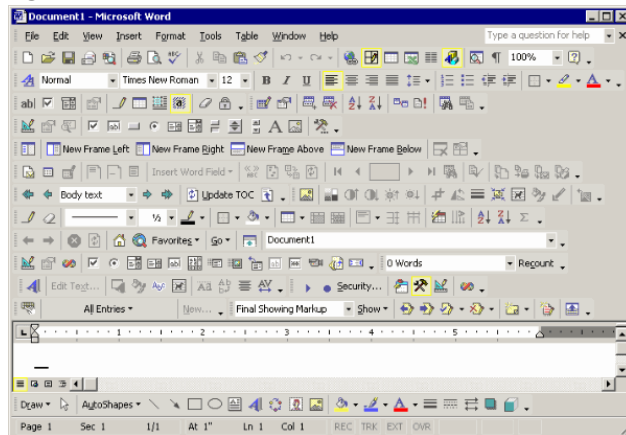
- What's in a toolbar?



- Butcons
 - Often two states on/off
- Selection Controls
- Separators
- Icon+Text (butcon+text)

Toolbar Overload

- Toolbars can get out of hand.



<http://www.codinghorror.com/blog/2006/02/sometimes-a-word-is-worth-a-thousand-icons.html>

Basic Toolbar Design Principles

- Explain Icons/Buttons
 - Tool tips, or text
- Disable controls when not applicable
- Indicate state of control

Advanced Toolbar Design Principles

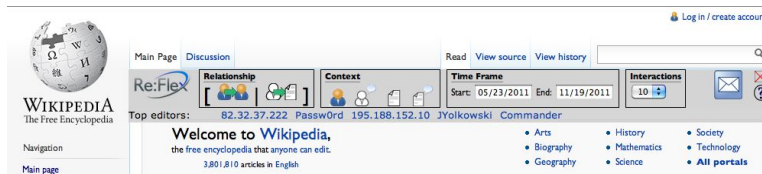
- Toolbar placement
 - Allow the user to change location, placement
- Allow the user to customize
 - Allow selection of controls in the toolbar

Demo

- Re:Flex Toolbar
 - Controls for observing Wikipedia relationships

Demo

- Re:Flex Toolbar
 - Controls for observing Wikipedia relationships



Exercise

- Design a toolbar for Wikipedia
 1. What is the scope?
 - All of Wikipedia (general, belongs on every page) or specific to a particular set of pages
 2. What kind of toolbar?
 - Is this for “navigating” or “finding” or “collaboration” or “editing” or ... what?
 3. Sketch the toolbar
 - For each butcon, name the function, explain the function
 4. Put your names on the paper!

