

The Cultures of Computing



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FIT 100 Course Housekeeping

- ❖ No extra credit
- ❖ Missed quizzes
 - No valid excuse? No credit
 - Valid excuse? Stay tuned
- ❖ Only one lab next week (lab 3)
- ❖ Slides not loaded until after lecture

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FIT 100 Getting socialized, acculturated

- ❖ Where am I?
- ❖ What can I expect?
- ❖ What can I or should I do?
(What rules of conduct apply?)

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FIT 100 Getting socialized, acculturated

- ❖ How can I tell if my behavior is appropriate?
(What features of the environment give me feedback?)
- ❖ How can I recover if I've made a mistake or been inappropriate?
- ❖ Who am I talking to?

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FIT 100 Who am I talking to?

To: dmlevy@u.washington.edu
Subject: hey

My name is . . . I just wanted to open up the lines of communication so if you want to contact me my address is . . . MyUW wasn't working to well tonight so i had to e-mail you from my aol account, but i will only use this address for friends and family stuff. Hope to talk to ya soon.

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FIT 100 The cultures of computing

Let's go online . . .

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FIT100 How do we become acculturated?

- ❖ By watching others
- ❖ By analogy with other environments
- ❖ By trying things
(and learning from what happens -- including mistakes!)
- ❖ ...

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FIT100 Learning by analogy



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FIT100 Learning by analogy



Real Jukebox has added more features, but notice the basic design (from a previous slide) remains

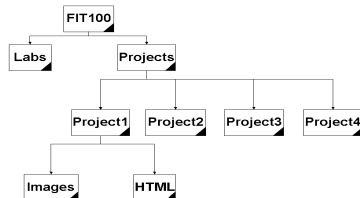
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FIT100 Which cultures are better?

- ❖ Consider GUIs vs. Command Line interfaces (e.g., SSH vs. command line)
- ❖ On the surface, the GUI looks more intuitive than command line interface
 - Visual
 - Spatial
 - Less to remember
- ❖ But, it depends on what you mean by better...

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FIT100 GUI vs. Command Line Interface?



With a GUI, how many mouse clicks?

With a command line interface, how many commands?

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FIT100 Which Interface is More Efficient?

- ❖ GUI: 4 clicks
 - Click FIT100
 - Click Projects
 - Click Project1
 - Click HTML
- ❖ Command line interface: 1 command
 - `cd FIT100/Projects/Project1/HTML`
- ❖ If you do this same action again and again and again, which interface would you rather use? Why?

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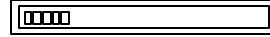
FIT 100 Some More Insight on Technology Cultures

- ❖ Some environments you enter are better at informing you of appropriate behavior than others
 - Think of the GUI in SSH when you successfully change into another directory vs. the command line prompt in Tera Term
- ❖ Discovering how each environment will deliver feedback is important.
- ❖ Some environments will give obvious feedback. Others require more initial alertness on your part.

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FIT 100 Computer Culture Feedback

- ❖ How can you distinguish between a case when the computer or program is busy working on your task and the case when it is patiently idling, waiting for you to give it another command?



Well-designed computer tools will always give you feedback indicating their state of activity, the task they are performing, alternatives, etc.

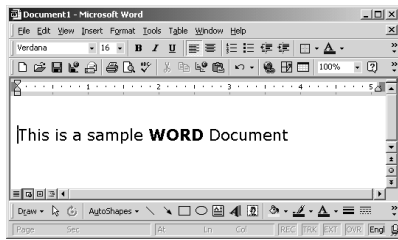
- ❖ Watch for color or shadow change, icon change, title change, motion, etc.
 - Think of the rotating world image in Internet Explorer

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FIT 100 Some Behaviors are Cross-Cultural

- ❖ Current GUIs are built using some standard behaviors
- ❖ MS Word illustrates many of these behaviors

Buttons
Sliders
Arrows
Icons
Close



FIT 100 Computer Cultures Share Many Common Behaviors

- ❖ Menus present the functionality of an application
- ❖ There are pull-down menus and pop-up menus
- ❖ There are standard behaviors that should always be applicable in certain activities

File	
New	Ctrl+N
Open ...	Ctrl+O
Close	
Save	Ctrl+S
Save As ...	
Page Setup ...	
Print ...	Ctrl+P
Print Preview	
Exit	

Edit	
Undo	Ctrl+Z
Repeat	Ctrl+Y
Copy	Ctrl+C
Cut	Ctrl+X
Paste	Ctrl+V
Clear	
Select All	Ctrl+A

Notice the ellipsis (...) and the shortcut (Ctrl+X)

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FIT 100 Explore the Environment

- ❖ When starting to use a new piece of software, like any new culture, take a moment to explore
- ❖ With the expectation that much of the culture can be observed and tested, check out the environment



Ironically, though most beginners think they should read the manual, it's most useful to an expert

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FIT 100 Explore, Experiment, Interact!

- ❖ Fundamental Rule of IT:
You can't break the computer unless you drop it out the window!!!!
- ❖ The way to learn the operation of an application is to try it out, so **EXPLORE!**
- ❖ Though nothing will break, things can get into a horrendous mess -- beginners and experts alike can really screw up software!
- ❖ There is no value in the mess, so it doesn't have to be undone ... Throw the mess away
- ❖ Be prepared to throw work out
 - = Work on copies
 - = Don't expect to do it all right the first time, work in stages
 - = Go out, and come back in

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For Monday

- ❖ Read Chapter 8 of the FIT course pack
 - Chapters 5 and 6 are for Wednesday

- ❖ First Quiz: Next Friday at beginning of class
 - Short - 3 to 4 questions
 - High discrimination questions-if you've been reading and doing labs, you'll be fine if you review material