

Lecture 23:

Simple User Interface Toolkits and End-User Programming for UIs; Low-Code / NoCode



05-431/631 Software Structures for User
Interfaces (SSUI)

Fall, 2021

Logistics

- HW6 due today

Overview

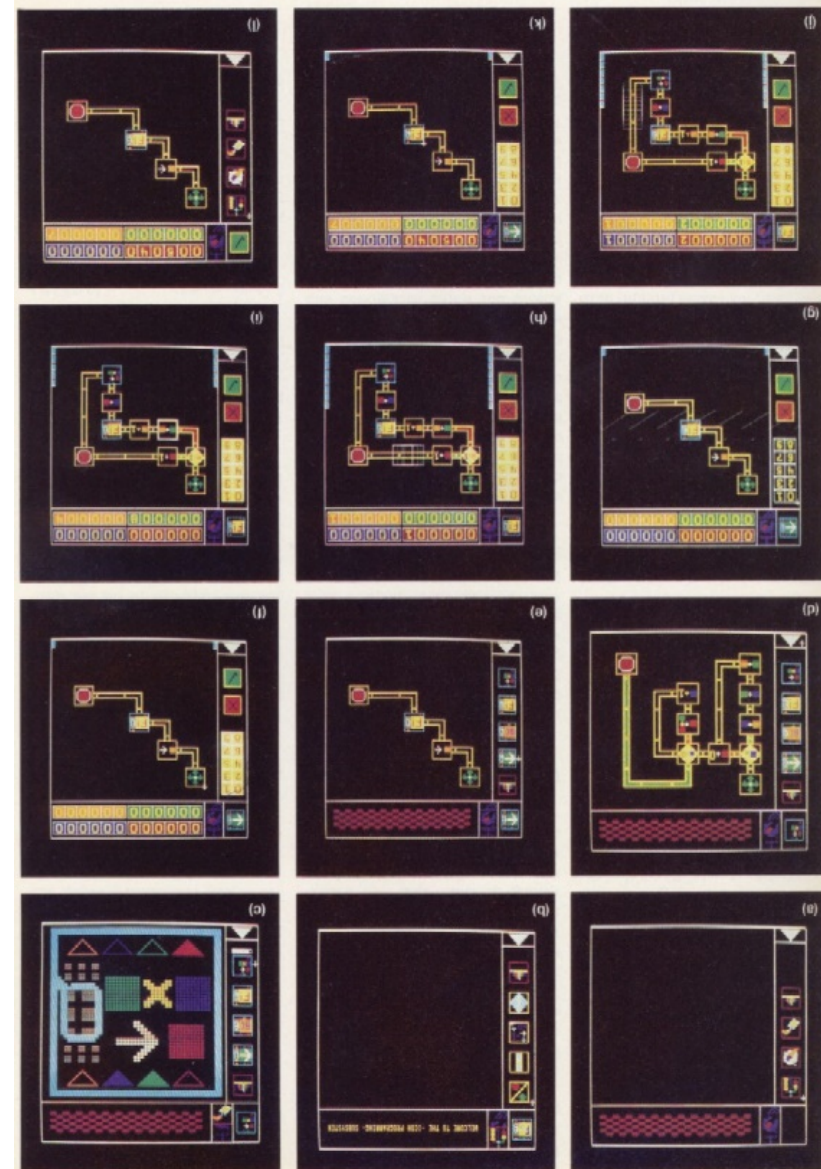
- Approaches to help novice programmers to be able to create dynamic interfaces
 - Static interfaces can just be drawn
- Typically, also easier to program in general
 - Most modern tools to make it easy to program focus on creating interactive software, like games, which have a UI
- EUP = end-user programmers
- Definition: **Visual Programming** = “Programming in which more than one dimension is used to convey semantics.” - [Myers, 1990]

New terms: Low-Code, No-Code

- “Low-Code” – create app by “graphical user interfaces and configuration instead of traditional programming” – *Wikipedia*
 - term coined in 2014
 - Often use visual programming
 - Require some coding expertise
- “No-Code” – theoretically no coding at all, but often the same as “low code”
 - Aim to allow business people to create the whole app
 - Often declarative “model-driven”, with fixed GUI

Older Approaches

- Older visual language systems did not necessarily help with UIs
- E.g., Pict from Ephraim Glinert, 1984 uses conventional flowcharts to program algorithms
- Goal: easier to learn programming



Some Examples

- LabVIEW (1991 - present)
 - See also OutSystems (2001- present)
- SUIT [Pausch, 1992]
- Alice [Pausch, 1995]
- HANDS [Pane, 2002]
- Yahoo! Pipes (2007 – 2015)
- Scratch (2003-present)
- AppInventor (2009-present)
- Lego Mindstorms (NXT) Robot kits

Historical trends



- AMBIT/G/L
- Grail
- GAL
- Graphical Program Editor
- Query by Example
- Pygmalion
- I/O Pairs
- Action Graphics
- FORMAL
- ThingLab
- Hi-Visual
- LabView
- PROGRAPH
- PIGS
- Pict
- Rehearsal
- SmallStar
- Forms
- Editing by Example
- PICT
- Lotus 1-2-3
- SIL-ICON
- VisiCalc
- HiGraphs
- Miro
- StateMaster
- Cube
- Cantata
- SchemePaint
- CODE 2.0
- Iconicode
- MViews
- AVS
- Mondrian
- ChemTrains
- Vampire
- VIPR
- SPE
- LOFI/HIPI
- FOXQ
- VMQL
- GXL
- Euler View
- Yahoo Pipes
- Popfly

1960

1980

1990

2000

Techniques

- Graphs
- Flowcharts
- Flowchart derivatives
- FORMS
- Demonstrational

Techniques

- Graphs
- Flowcharts
- Flowchart derivatives
- FORMS
- Demonstrational
- Data Flows
- Spreadsheets
- Matrices
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Petri nets
- Flowchart derivatives

Techniques/Goals

- 3D Rendering
- Visual Hierarchy
- Procedures
- Control Structures
- Programmable Graphics
- Animations
- Video Imagery Exploitation
- General purpose, declarative language
- Audio, video and image processing
- Graphical models from behavioral models
- Learning and Cognitive abilities in vision processes
- Handling Scalability, typing, and interactive editors
- Collaborative Software Development

Techniques/Goals

- Child Learning
- Xquery by FORMS
- Spreadsheet Analysis
- Visual Model Query
- Layouts
- Specification and Interchange
- Mashups
- Web-based design
- Programming for end-users (non-Professionals)

From: Vishal Dwivedi,
05-830 in 2013

LABView



- One of the most successful visual programming systems
- Started about 1991 on Macintosh, still going
 - <http://www.ni.com/labview/>
 - J. Kodosky, J. MacCricken and G. Rymar. "Visual programming using structured data flow," *Visual Languages, 1991., Proceedings. 1991 IEEE Workshop on, 8-11 Oct 1991, 1991.* pp. 34-39.
- Focused on scientists and lab equipment
- Wiring diagram backend with **front panel**
 - Drag and drop elements
 - Data flow programming

LabVIEW

- [Kodosky, 91]
- 2-view approach very influential

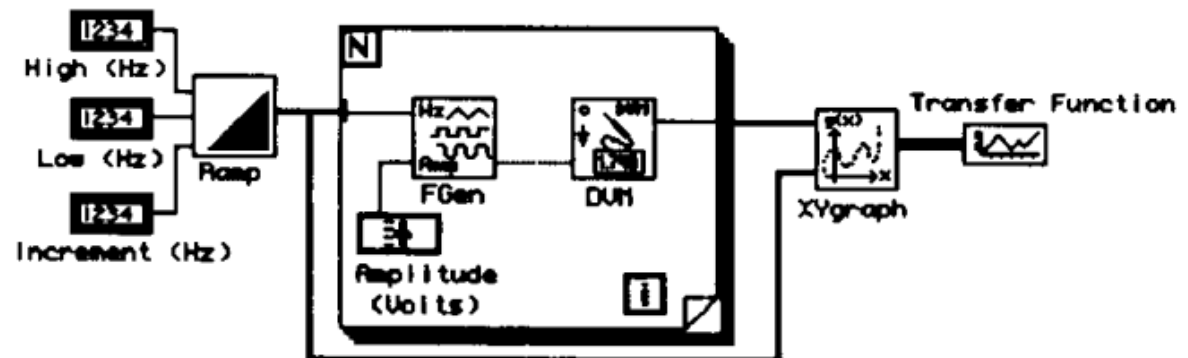
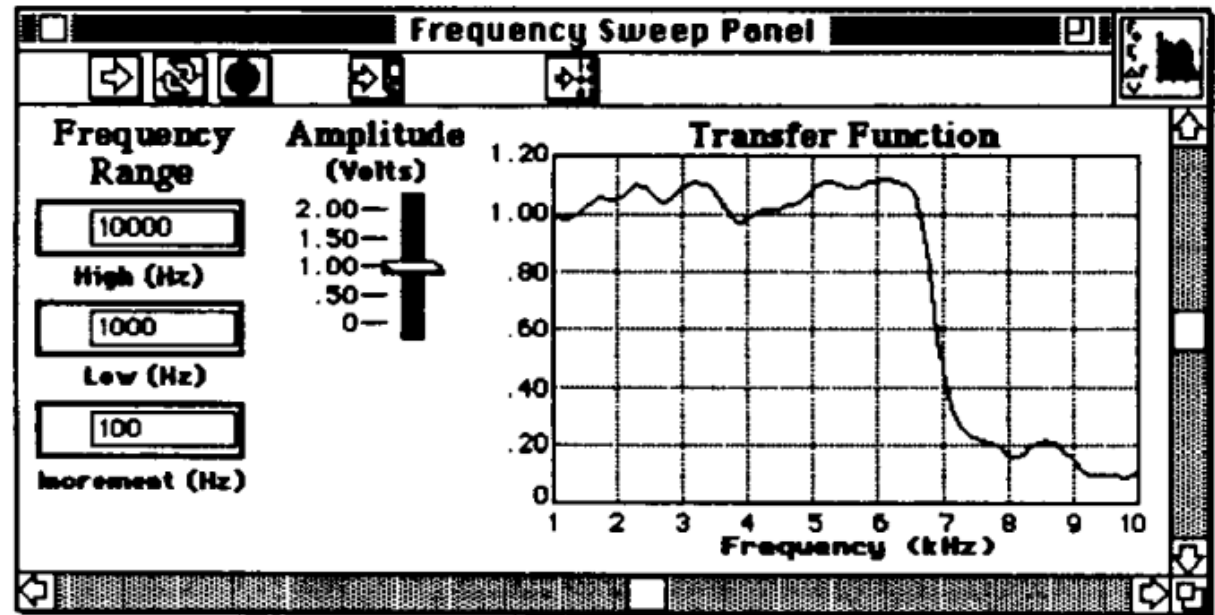
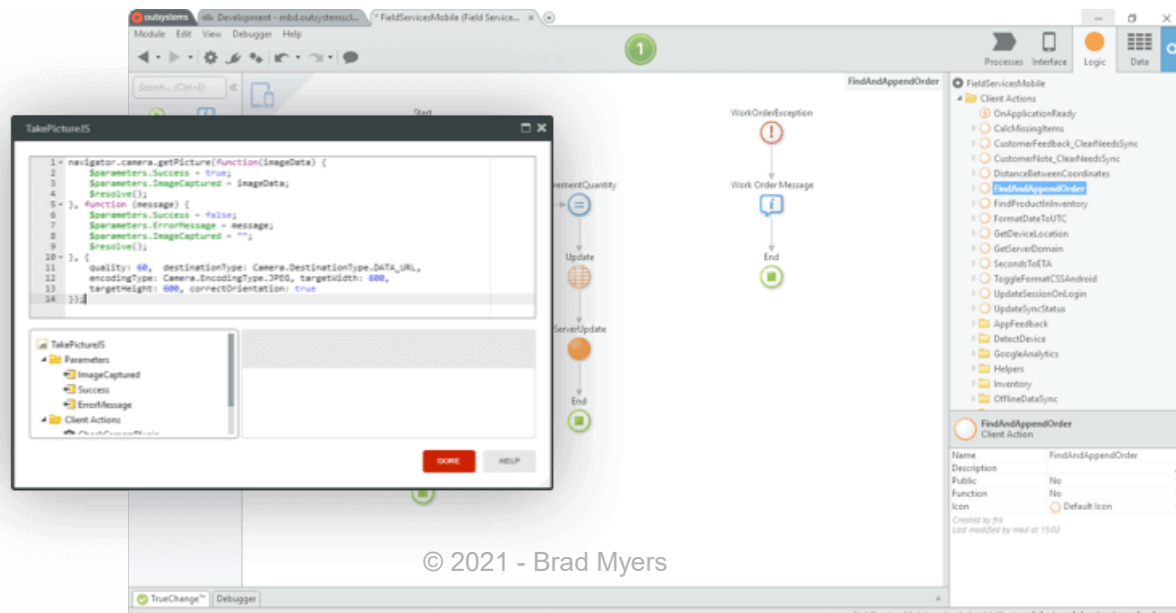


Figure 7. Frequency Response VI Panel and Diagram

OutSystems

- 2001 – present
- <https://www.outsystems.com/> - see video
- “low-code” platform
- Drag and drop, visual programming
- Focus on enterprise



SUIT (1992)

- Pausch, R., Conway, M., & DeLine, R. (1992). Lesson Learned from SUIT, the Simple User Interface Toolkit. *ACM Transactions on Information Systems*, 10(4), 320-344.
- Simple User Interface Toolkit
- Implemented in C
 - Portable across UNIX, Macintosh, and DOS
 - Requires only basic C programming skills
- Used in many courses at UVA
 - Become productive in 2½ hours, vs. weeks
- Iterative user testing
- Table of objects
 - No inheritance – just global or local
 - Property sheets
- Uses CTRL-SHIFT to avoid run/build mode
- Retained object model
- Data-linkages (constraints) through drag-and-drop

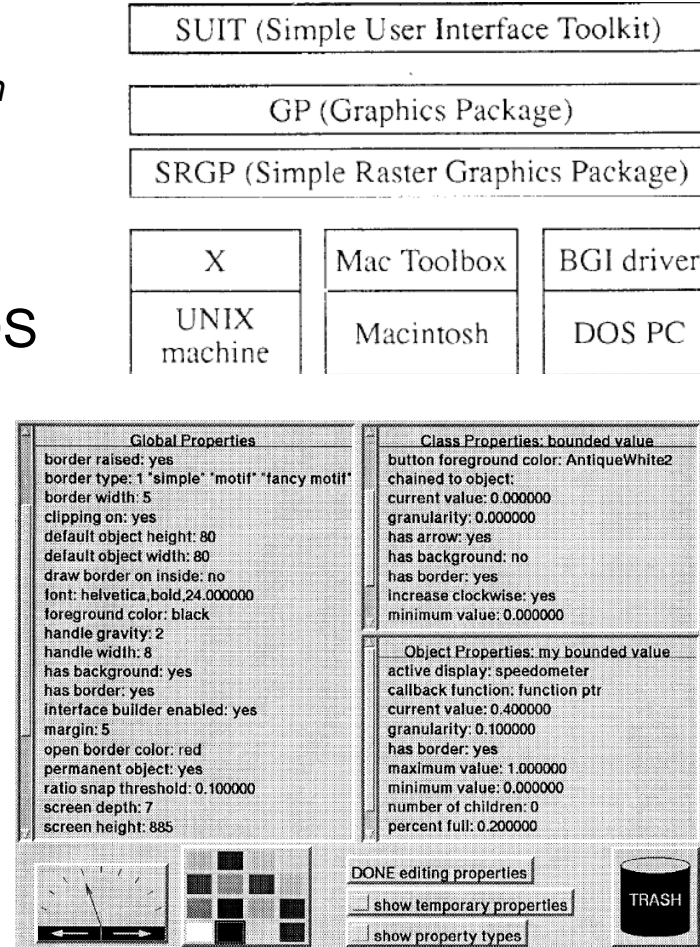


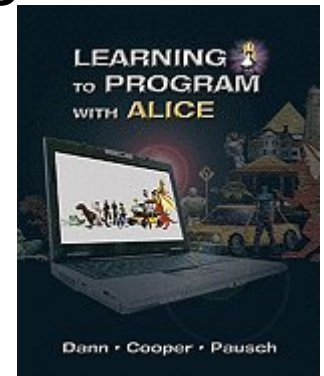
Figure 3: The SUIT Property Editor

Alice

Randy Pausch, Tommy Burnette, A.C. Capehart, Matthew Conway, Dennis Cosgrove, Rob DeLine, Jim Durbin, Rich Gossweiler, Suichi Koga and Jeff White. "Alice: A Rapid Prototyping System for 3D Graphics," *IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications*. 1995. 15(3). pp. 8-11. May.

Matthew Conway, Steve Audia, Tommy Burnette, Dennis Cosgrove, Kevin Christiansen, Rob Deline, Jim Durbin, Rich Gossweiler, Shuichi Koga, Chris Long, Beth Mallory, Steve Miale, Kristen Monkaitis, James Patten, Jeff Pierce, Joe Shochet, David Staack, Brian Stearns, Richard Stoakley, Chris Sturgill, John Viega, Jeff White, George Williams and Randy Pausch. "Alice: Lessons Learned from Building a 3D System For Novices," *Proceedings CHI'2000: Human Factors in Computing Systems, The Hague, The Netherlands, Apr 1-6, 2000*. pp. 486-493. <http://www.alice.org>

- Started as a 3D extension to SUIT
- PhD dissertation of Matthew Conway (1998)
- Grown to a large-scale system with books
 - Wanda Dann, Steven Cooper and Randy Pausch. *Learning to Program With Alice*. Prentice-Hall. August, 2003.
- Many more user studies of what students found easy and difficult



Alice

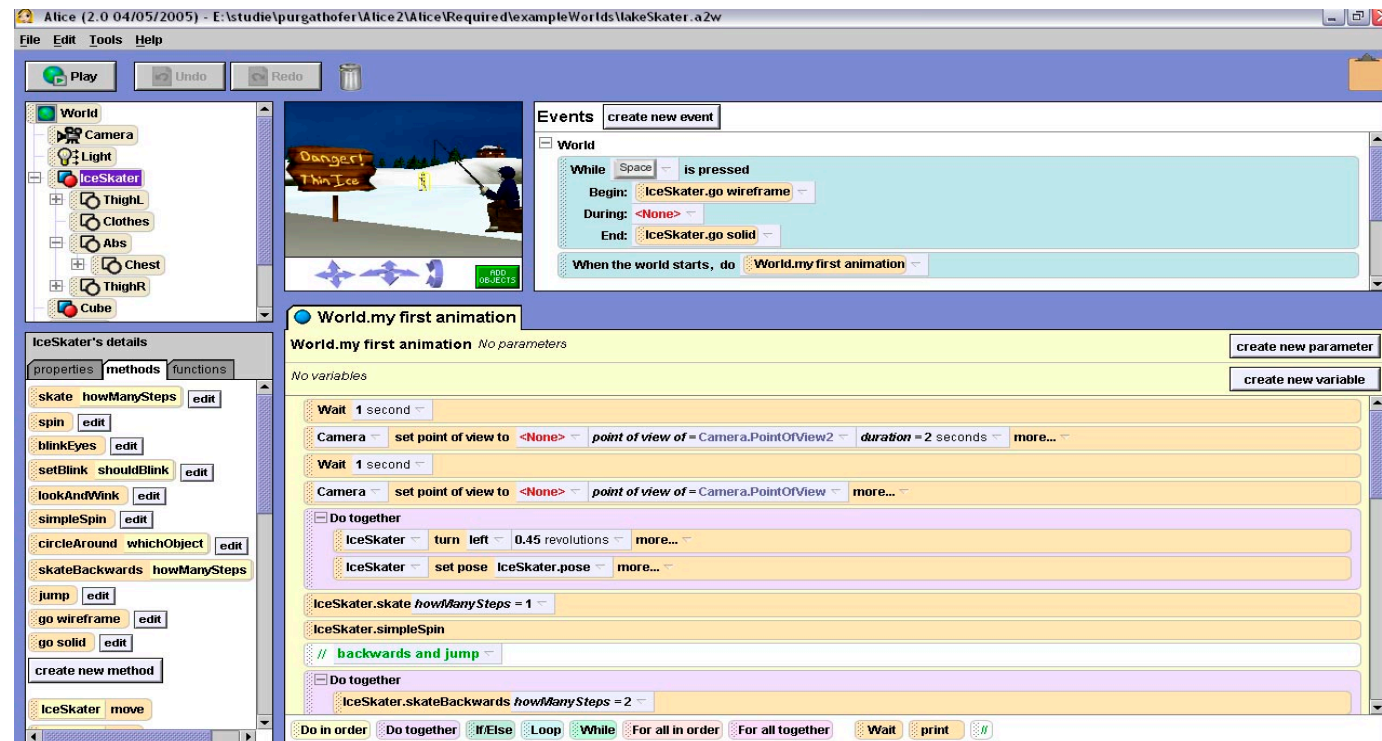
- Easy 3D with character-centered movement & rotation
 - “Bunny.move (up, 1)”, “Turn Around Once” “Bunny.move(forward, 1, speed=4)”
 - No matrices! No X, Y and Z
- Camera control
 - “Point Camera At”, “Get a Good Look At”
- Easy parallelism with “do-together”

```
ArmsOut = DoTogether(  
    Bunny.Body.LeftArm.Turn(Left, 1/8),  
    Bunny.Body.RightArm.Turn(Right, 1/8) )
```
- Create scene (by direct manipulation), then script
- All commands animated by default, so no sudden jumps, disappearing objects
- Early user of Python, switched to Java
- Lots of vocabulary fixes:
 - Resize, not Scale; Move, not Translate; Speed, not Rate; FrontToBack, not Depth:

Alice, cont.

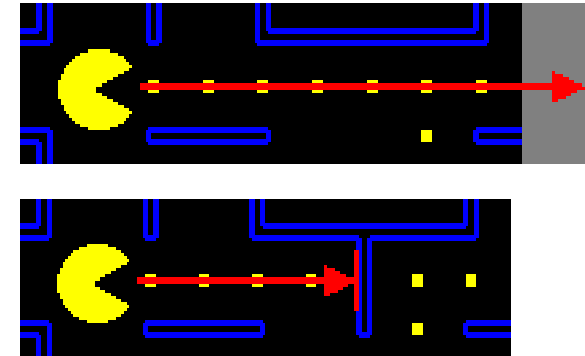
- Later versions: Avoid syntax issues with drag-and-drop editing
- Testing in classrooms showed significantly better learning and retention

- Tutorial video
(from 2013)
6:44



HANDS

- J.F. Pane, B.A. Myers and L.B. Miller. “Using HCI Techniques to Design a More Usable Programming System,” *IEEE 2002 Symposia on Human Centric Computing Languages and Environments (HCC 2002)*, Arlington, VA, September 3-6, 2002. 198-206.
- PhD 2002 of John Pane (now at Rand in Pgh)
- Studies:
 - How people naturally express programming concepts and algorithms
 - 1) Nine scenes from PacMan
 - 2) Transforming and calculating data in a spreadsheet
 - Specific issue of language design
 - 3) Selecting specific objects from a group (“and”, “or”, “not”)
 - Lots of interesting results



Examples of Results

- Rule-based style

“If PacMan loses all his lives, its game over.”

- Set operations instead of iterations

“When PacMan eats all of the dots, he goes to the next level.”

- “And”, “Or”, “Not” don’t match computer interpretation

- Most arithmetic used natural language style

“When PacMan eats a big dot, the score goes up 100.”

- Operations suggest data as lists, not arrays

- People don’t make space before inserting

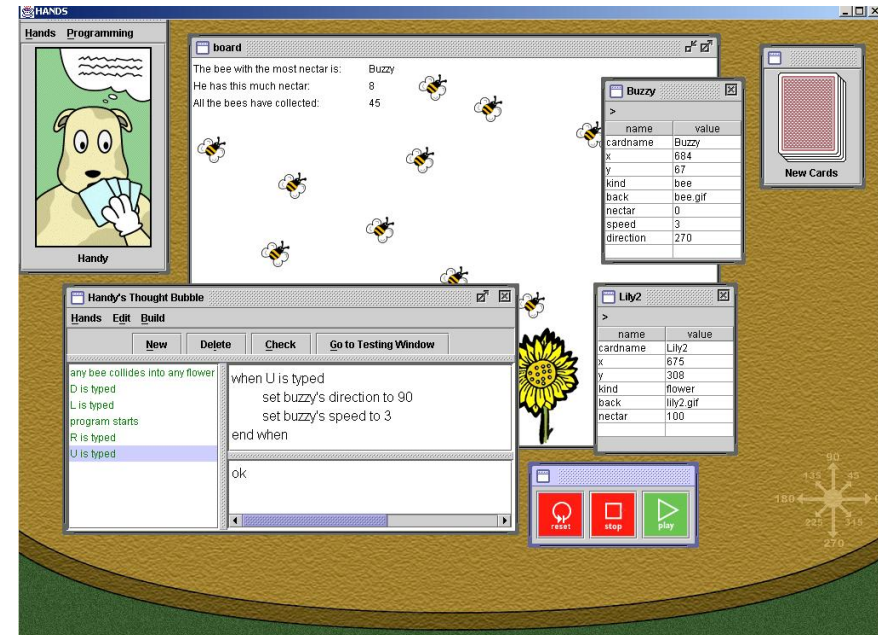
- Objects normally moving

“If PacMan hits a wall, he stops.”

- so objects remember their own state

New Language and System: HANDS

- Properties:
 - All data visible on *cards*
 - Metaphor of agent (Handy the dog) operating on cards
 - Natural language style for code
 - Domain-specific operations, like movement in a direction
 - All operations can operate on single items or sets of items
 - Sets can be dynamically constructed and used
 - “Set the speed of all bees to 0”
 - Event handlers: “when U is typed”
- See the video: [YouTube \(7:36\)](#)



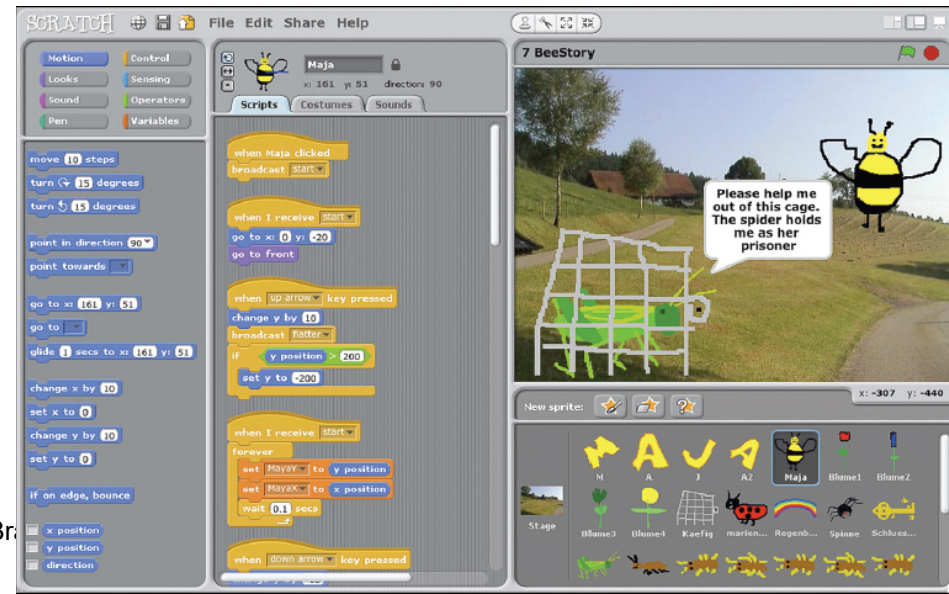
Scratch

- Mitchel Resnick, John Maloney, Andrés Monroy-Hernández, Natalie Rusk, Evelyn Eastmond, Karen Brennan, Amon Millner, Eric Rosenbaum, Jay Silver, Brian Silverman and Yasmin Kafai. “Scratch: Programming for All,” *Comm. ACM*. 2009. **52(11)**. pp. 60-67. **See also:** <http://scratch.mit.edu/>.
- MIT has long history of helping kids program
 - Logo (Seymour Papert, 1967)
 - Lego Mindstorms
 - “Constructionist” movement in education
- Scratch comes out of that program (MIT Media Lab) – started about 2003
 - <https://scratch.mit.edu/>
 - “Create stories, games, and animations
Share with others around the world”



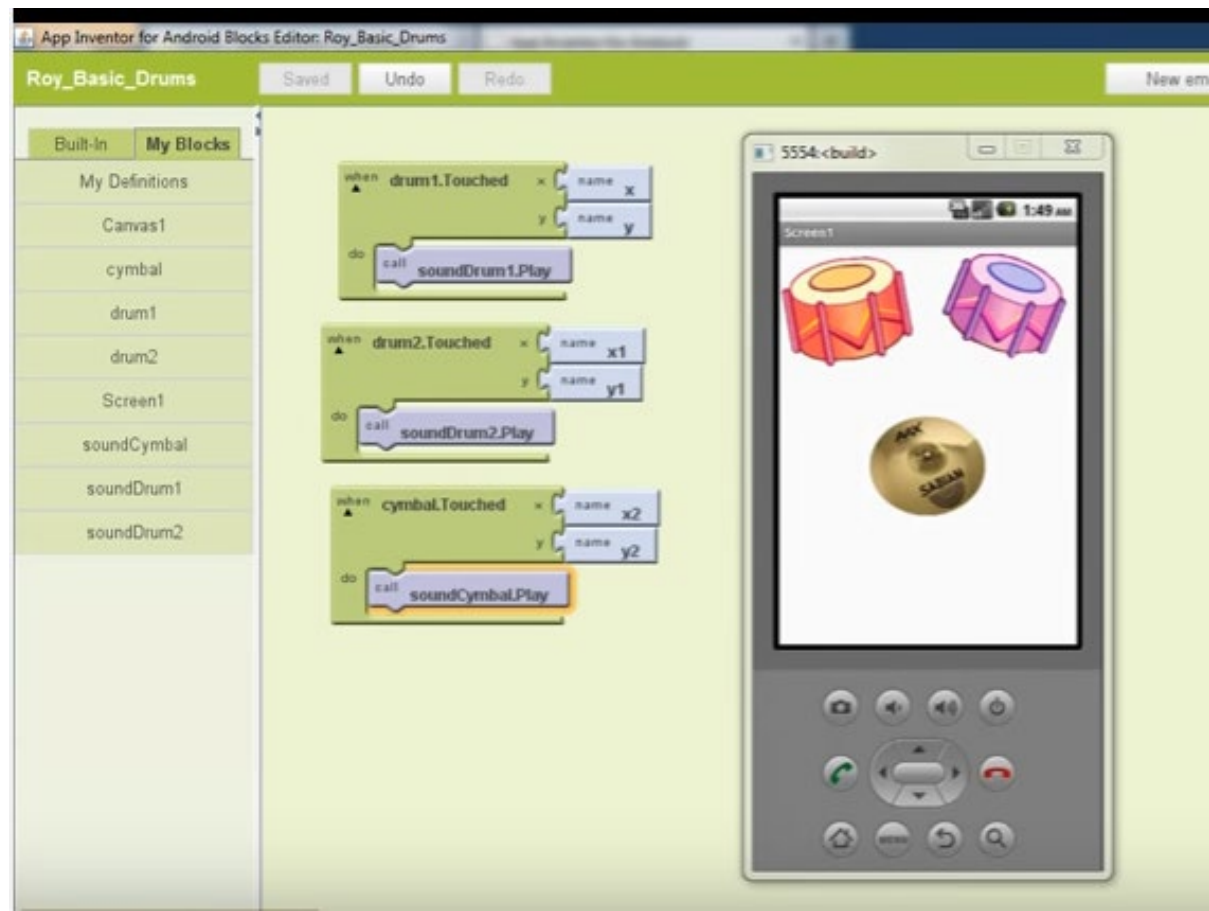
Scratch, cont.

- Metaphor of puzzle pieces with properties
 - Connectors shaped by type to eliminate type errors
 - Control structures wrap around
- Uses event handlers for behaviors
- <https://vimeo.com/65583694>, 1:37



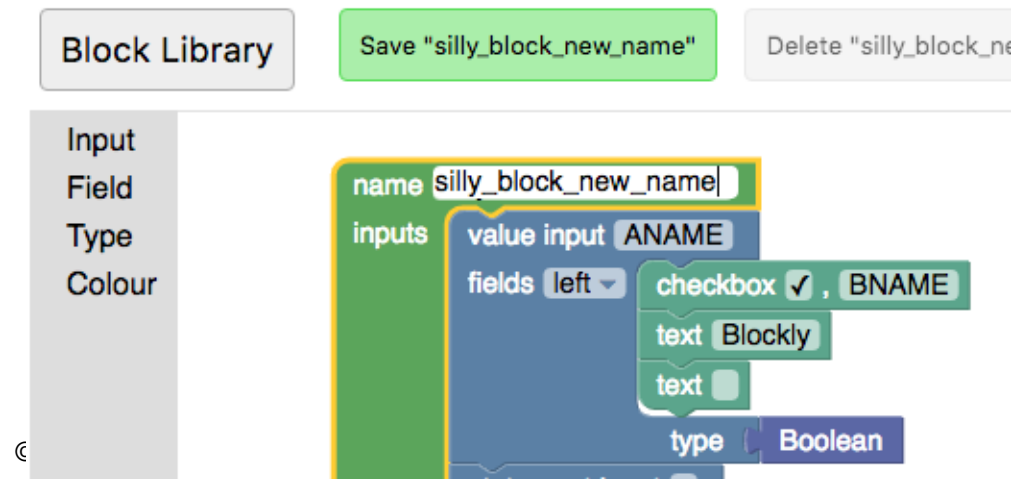
AppInventor

- Ideas from Scratch to build real Apps for Android phones
 - Briefly was a product from Google, while Hal Abelson was on sabbatical there (2009)
- <http://appinventor.mit.edu/>
- 2 panel view, like LabVIEW
 - Drag in elements for UI
 - Blocks view for code
 - event handlers using “when”

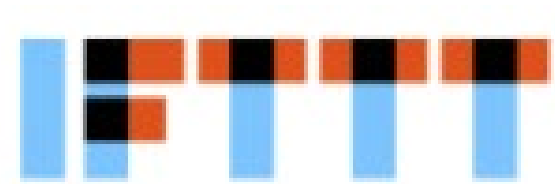


Many other “blocks” style languages

- Blockly Developer Tools from Google from AppInventor
- Used by Code.org, RoboBlockly, Wonder Workshop, etc.
- Define own set of primitive blocks

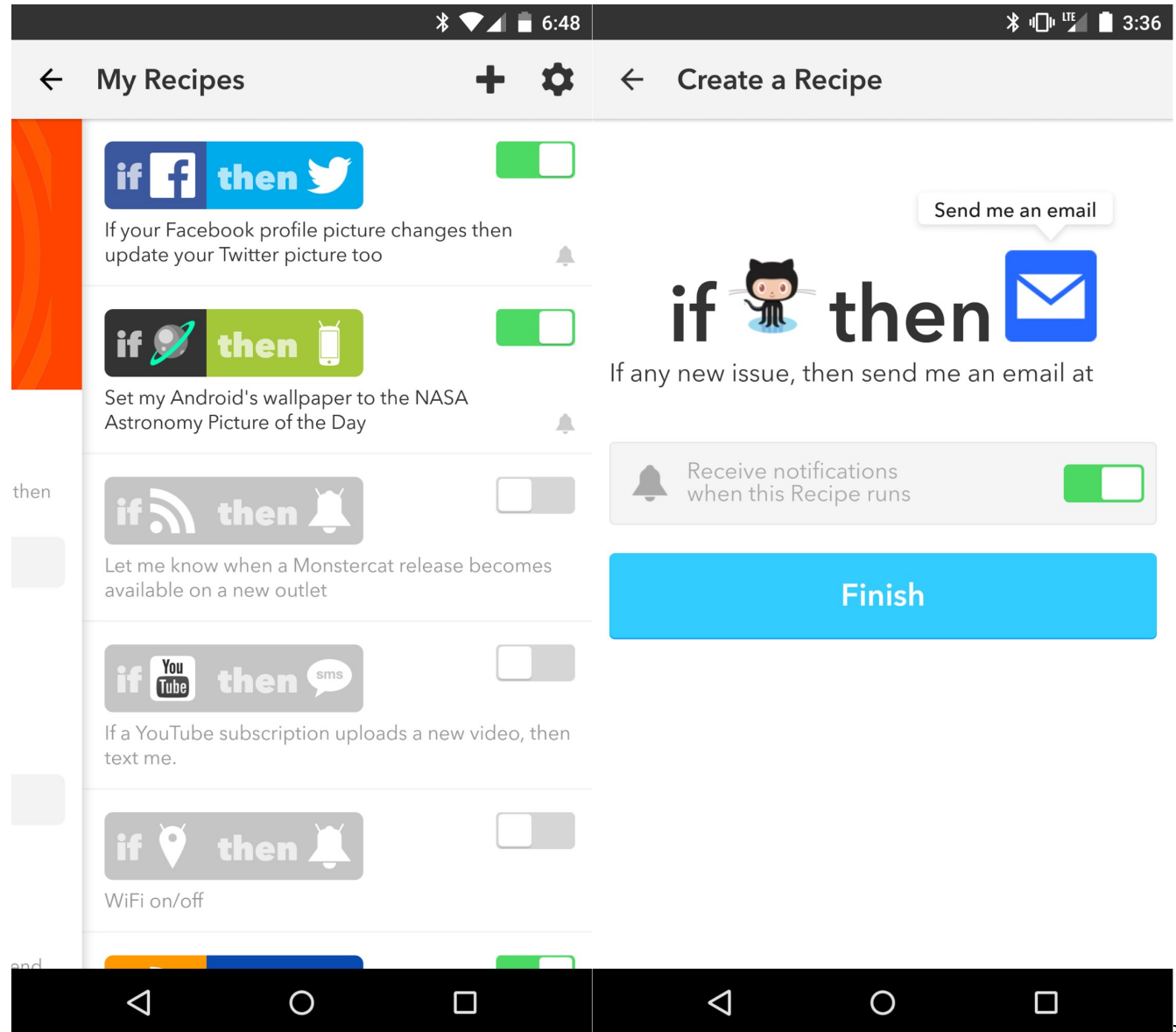


IFTTT.com



- Founded 2011
- “If this then that”
 - Condition-action rules (same as stimulus-response)
 - Web-based conditions
 - Often used with Internet of Things (IoT), “smart home” appliances
 - New services added with Ruby programming
- Single condition and action

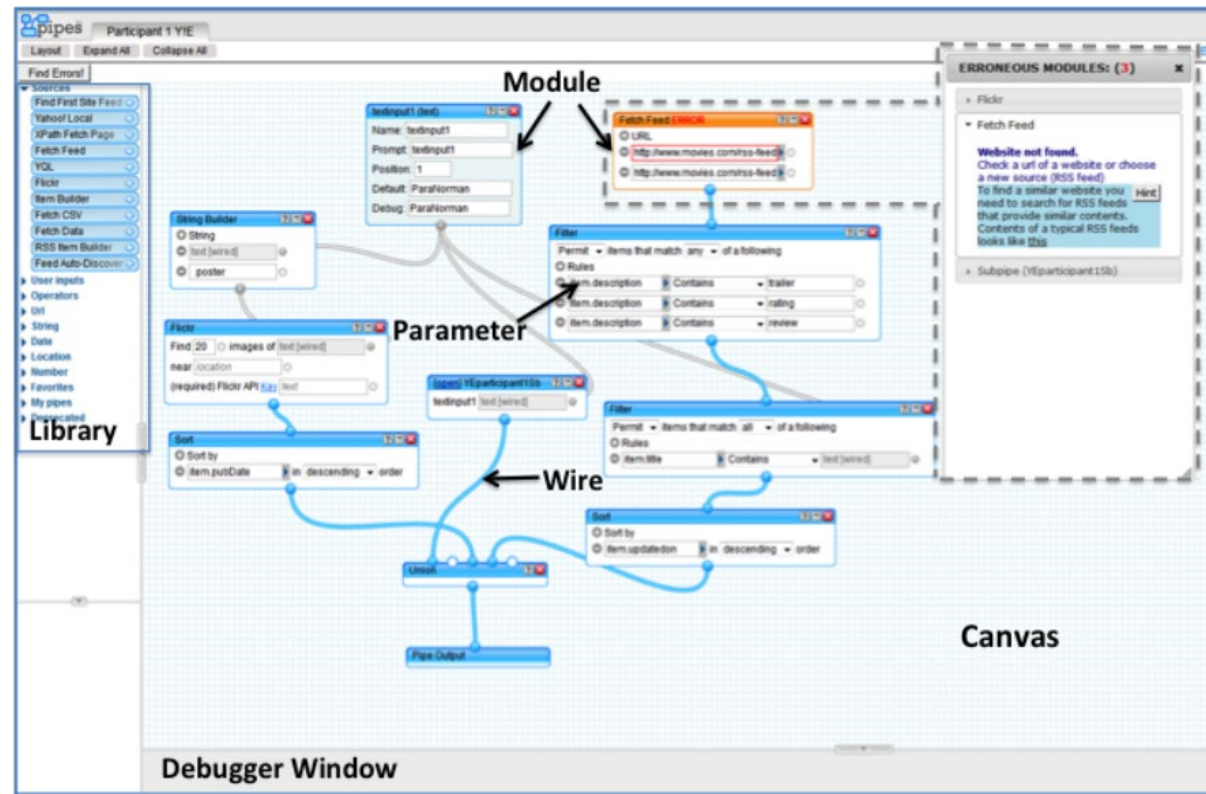
IFTTT



Yahoo! Pipes (2007 – 2015)

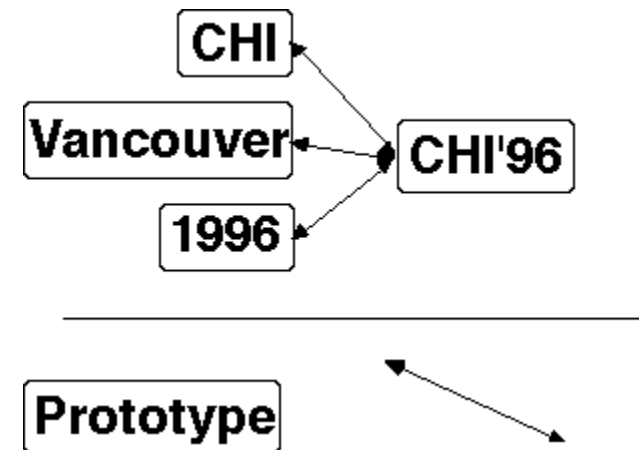


- Was a web application to process data feeds on the web
 - Originally focused on “RSS feeds”
- Visual data flow architecture, like LabVIEW
- Studies showed wasn't easy for non-programmers to use
- Sandeep K Kuttal, A. Sarma, and G. Rothermel, "Debugging Support for End-User Mashup Programming", in *Proceedings of Computer and Human Interactions - CHI*, Paris, France, pages 1609 - 1618, April 2013.[\[pdf\]](#)
- Issues with connections, parameters, debugging, etc.
- [Video \(1:50\)](#) or [tutorial \(5:15\)](#)



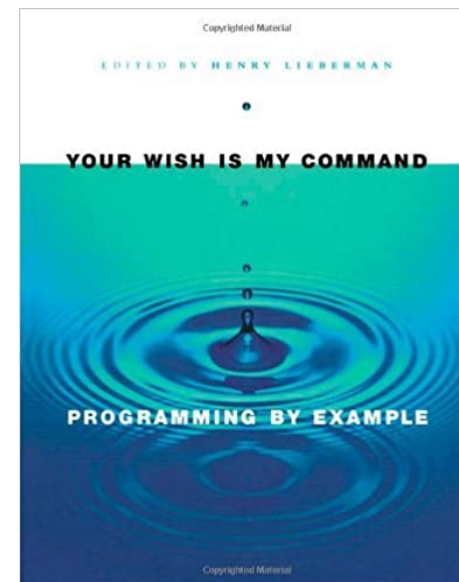
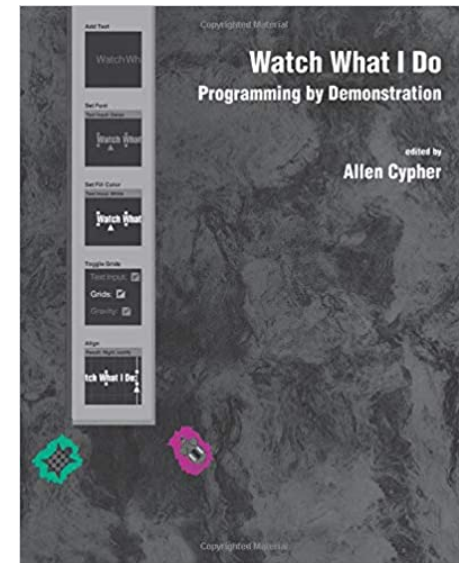
Another Approach: PBD

- Programming by Demonstration (PBD)
 - Also: Programming by Example (PBE)
- Give *examples* of desired input and output
 - Or of desired behavior
- For example:
 - Learns that size of boxes should match text from these examples
 - Arrows stay attached
- Like Machine Learning (ML) but only a few examples
 - E.g., gesture learning from 15 examples



Demonstrational Interfaces

- "Classic" Reference: Allen Cypher, ed. *Watch What I Do*, MIT Press. 1993.
- Later book: Henry Lieberman, ed. *Your Wish is My Command*. 2001: Morgan Kaufmann.
- My group has chapters in both

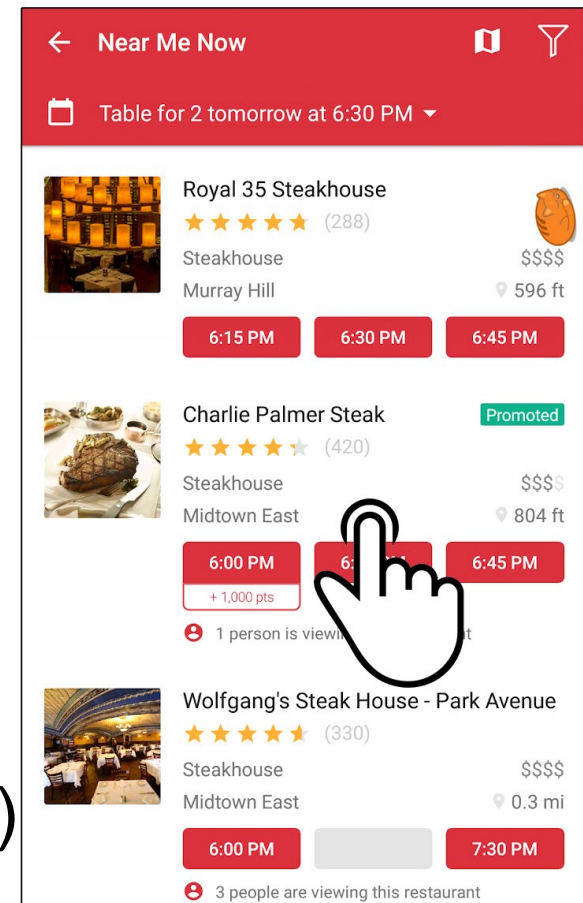


Motivation

- Demonstrational techniques expand how much of the interface can be specified interactively.
- And Interactive editors are much faster to use than programming with toolkits
 - Frameworks improve productivity by factors of 3 to 5, interactive tools by factors of 10 to 50!
 - It might take an hour to draw an interface interactively, compared to days to program it.
 - Because they are faster, this promotes rapid prototyping
- It is much more natural to specify the graphical parts of applications using a graphical editor.
- Because they do not require programming skills, graphic designers can design the graphical parts of the interface.

Key Challenges

- “Data description problem”
 - What does the reference mean?
 - Charlie Palmer Steak
 - The least expensive steakhouse near me
 - The closest one in Midtown East
 - The one with 1,000 bonus points
 - A promoted restaurant
 - The second restaurant in the list
 -
- (Operator is usually easy – like “click”)
- Control structures
 - Conditionals and loops

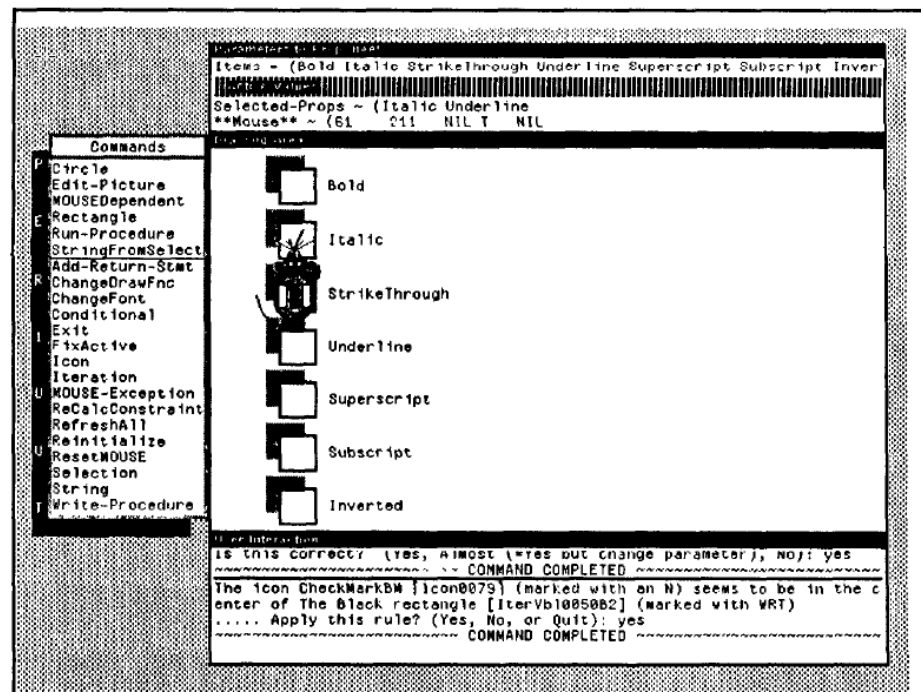
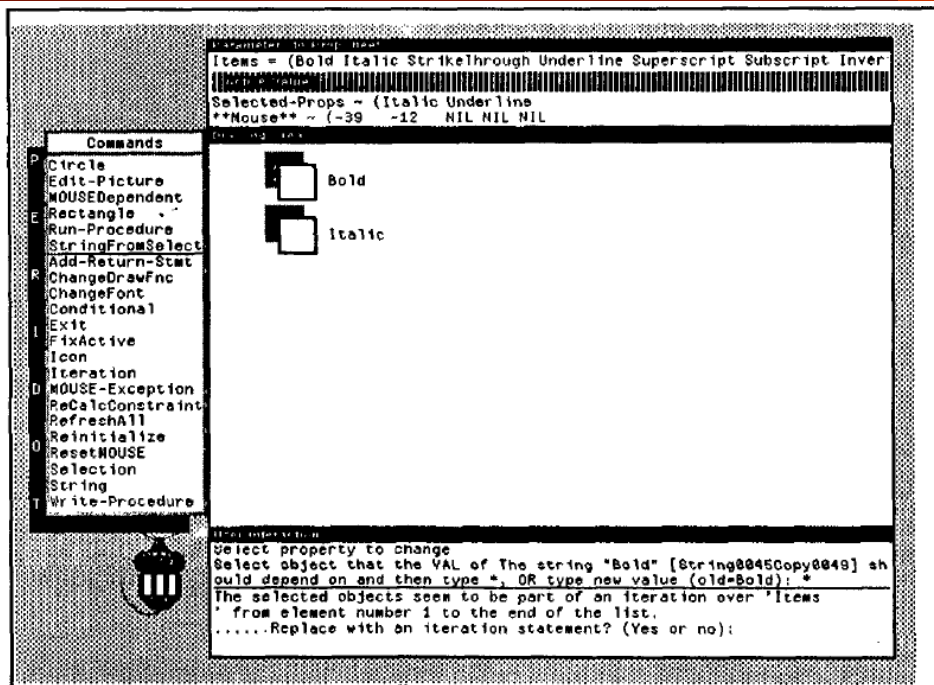


Examples (of uses to create UIs)

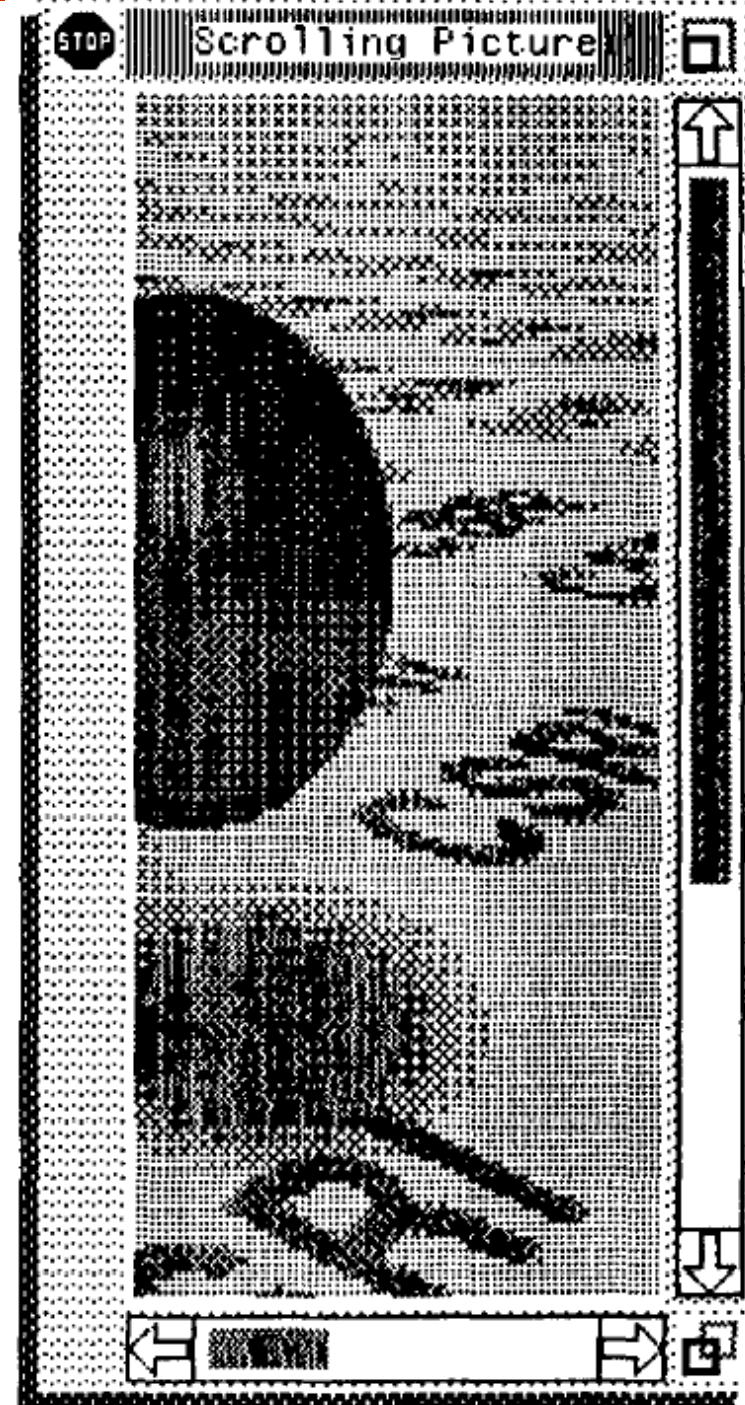
- (chronological order)

Peridot (1986-88)

- Myers B. "Creating User Interfaces Using Programming-by-Example, Visual Programming, and Constraints," ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems. vol. 12, no. 2, April, 1990. pp. 143-177. (Peridot)
- Myers B., Creating User Interfaces by Demonstration, Academic Press, San Diego, 1988.
- Myers B., "Creating Interaction Techniques by Demonstration," IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications, Vol. 7, No. 9, IEEE, September 1987, pp. 51 - 60.
- First demonstrational tool, and it used by-example techniques to allow the creation of new widgets.
- From the drawings, it infers:
 - Graphical constraints among the objects, such as that the boxes should be the same size as the text.
 - control structures such as iteration over all the items in a menu
 - how the mouse affects the graphics, such as that the check mark should follow the mouse.
- feedback: question and answer
- [video \(8 min\)](#)



Myers

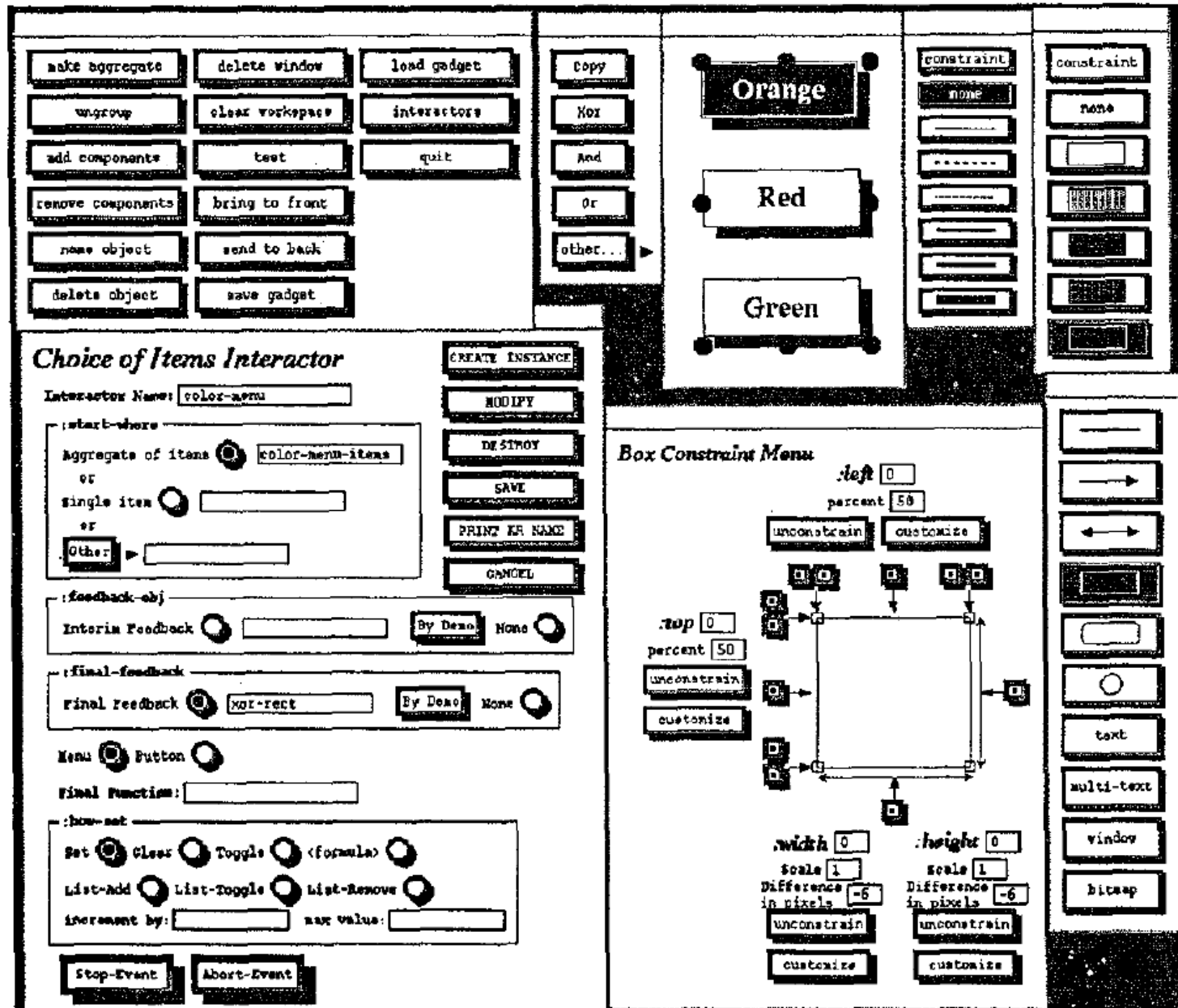


Lapidary (1989-1993)



- Myers B., Vander Zanden B. and Dannenberg R., "Creating Graphical Interactive Application Objects by Demonstration," *Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology, UIST'89*, Williamsburg, November 1989, pp. 95 - 104.
- Brad Vander Zanden and Brad A. Myers. "Demonstrational and Constraint-Based Techniques for Pictorially Specifying Application Objects and Behaviors," *ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction*. vol. 2, no. 4, Dec, 1995. pp. 308-356.
- Extends Peridot to allow the creation of application-specific graphical objects, like nodes in a graphics editor.
- Uses less inferencing and more dialog boxes
- Is "real" and you get it as part of the Garnet distribution
- Problems:
 - can only demonstrate "syntactic" parts of application
 - hard to set up correct constraints
- [video \(12 min\)](#)

Lapidary dialog boxes



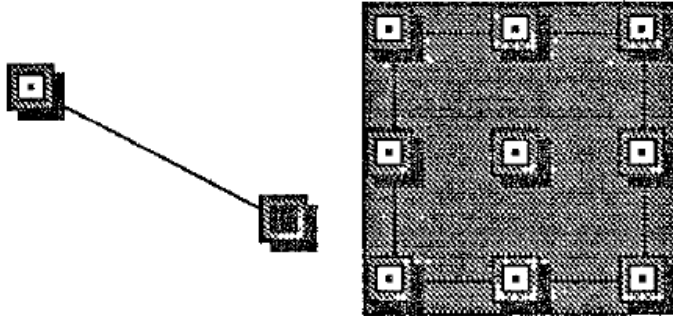
line constraints

Line Constraint Menu

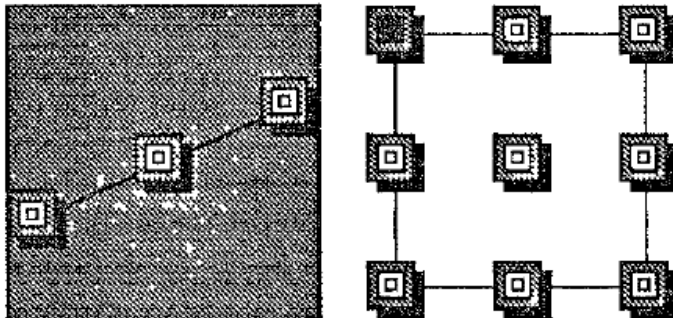
Show Constraints

OK

obj-to-constrain



obj-to-reference



unconstrain

x-offset

0

x1

40

y-offset

0

y1

20

x2

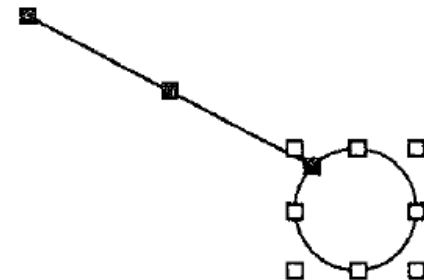
152

y2

79

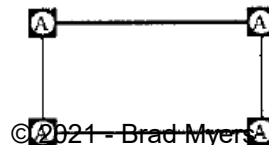
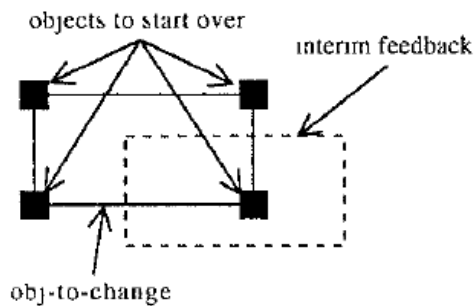
customize

Drawing Window 4



Lapidary, cont.

Lapidary, cont.



Move/Grow Interactor

Move/Grow Interactor

Interactor Name:

Start-where

Object to Press Over ☐

or

One of This Aggregate ☒ BOY-SELECTION-HANDLES

or

Other Type restriction ☐

Line ☐ Box ☐ <Formula> ☐

Grow ☐ Move ☐ <Formula> ☐

MOVE PARAMETERS

Change Left ☐

Change Top ☐

Change Left and Top ☐

<Formula> ☐

obj-to-change

Result of start-where ☐

Change this object ☐

<Formula> ☐

Final Function:

feedback-obj

Interim Feedback ☐ DASHED-LINE-RECT Change Original ☐

<Formula> ☐

attach-point

☐ Nearest Point ☐ <Formula> ☐

Start-Event ☐ Stop-Event ☐ Abort-Event ☐

CREATE INSTANCE
MODIFY
DESTROY
SAVE
CUT
CANCEL

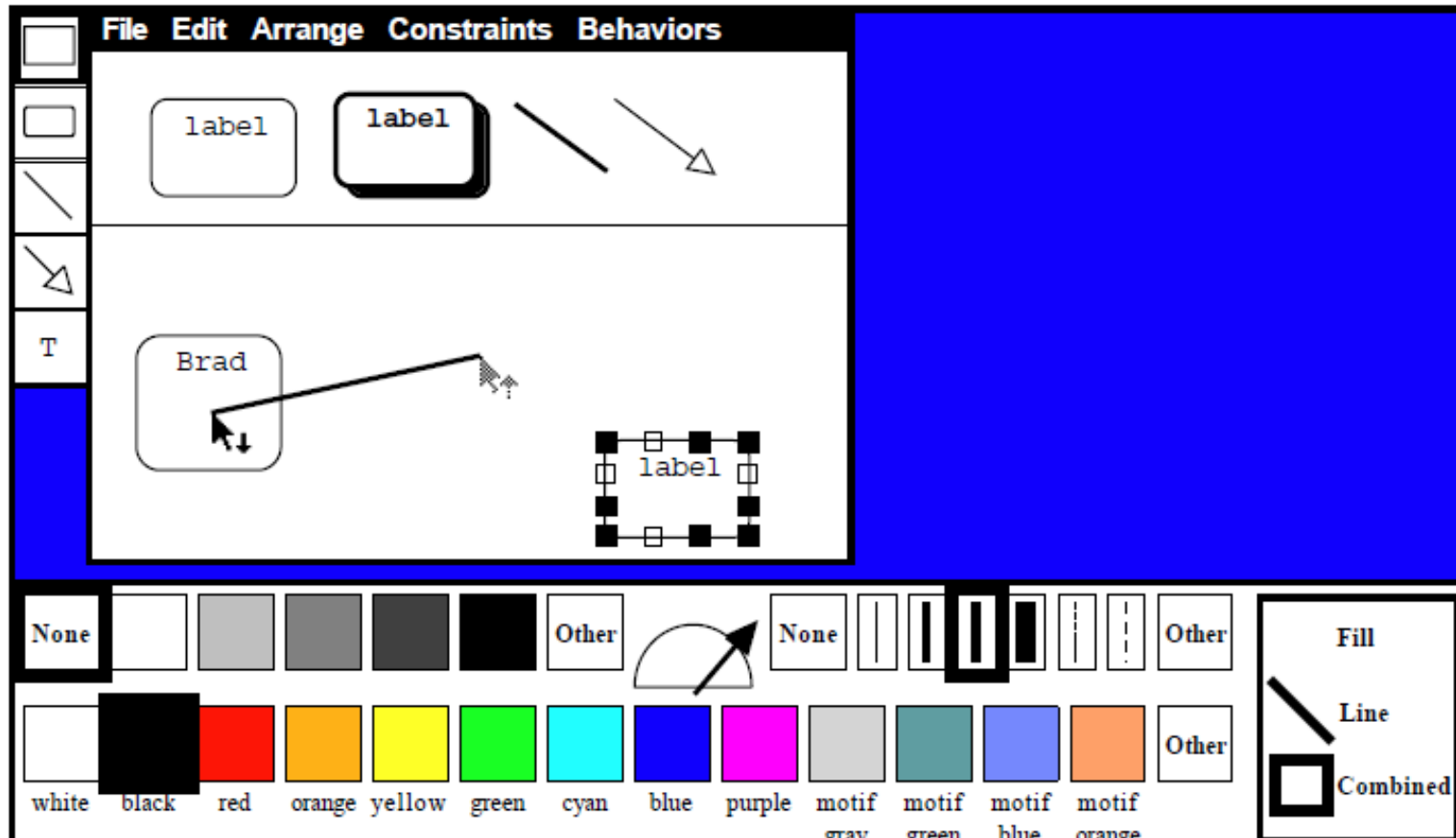
Marquise (1993-1994)

- Myers B., McDaniel, R. and Kosbie, D.. "Marquise: Creating Complete User Interfaces by Demonstration," *Proceedings CHI'94: Human Factors in Computing Systems*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands, April 24-29, 1993. pp. 293-300.
- Go back to doing more by demonstration, and just show the way that the interface should operate.
- In particular, demonstrate *when* the behaviors should start and what the feedback looks like.
 - mouse button does one of 10 things, depending on where press and global mode.
- Demonstrate both behavior and conditions
- Built-in support for palettes and modes.

Marquise windows



Add Edit Display		
System Modes:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Created Object	DASHED-LINE-4102
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Selected Object	NIL
User Modes:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Create Palette 1	:LINE <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Line Style Palette	Solid <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Color Palette	Blue <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	User Mode	:FRIENDLY <input type="button" value="v"/>



Marquise feedback window

- video (12 min)

Select Edit

Behavior Name: Creating-A-Line

Objects:

↑ The object Dashed Line is an instance of LINE-2212 with properties:

▲ Slot :Line-Style is Constant Dashed

Placement is constant End1 = Mouse Down Point

End2 = Mouse Move Point Edit Placement

▼ The object Line is an instance of LINE-2212 with properties:

▼ Placement is constant End1 = Mouse Down Point

▼ End2 = Mouse Up Point Edit Placement

Events and Actions:

↑ The relevant mode(s) are:

▲ Create-Palette-1 has value :Line

When the left mouse button is pressed with no modifier over the specific object The Work Window

As the mouse is moved over the specific object The Work Window

Show internal object Dashed Line

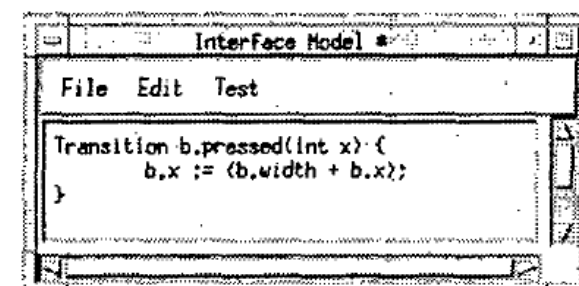
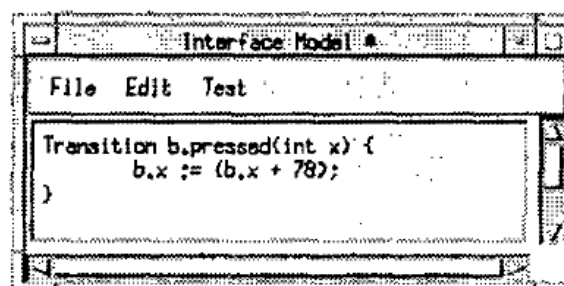
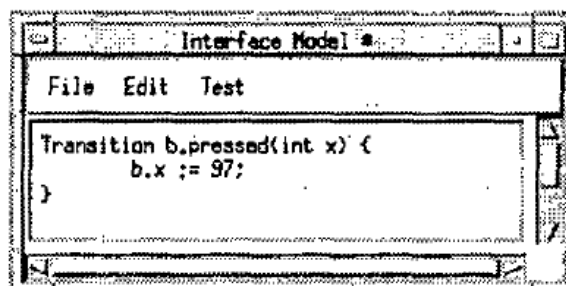
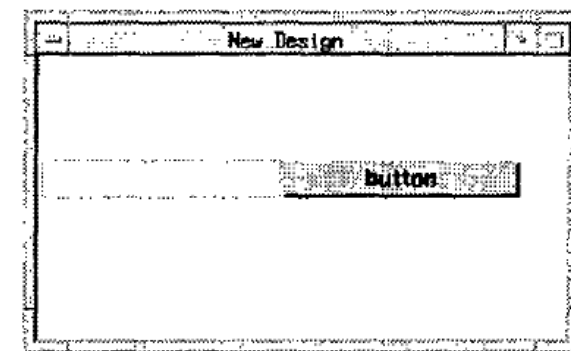
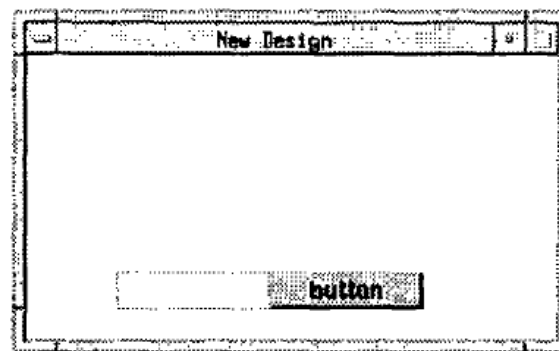
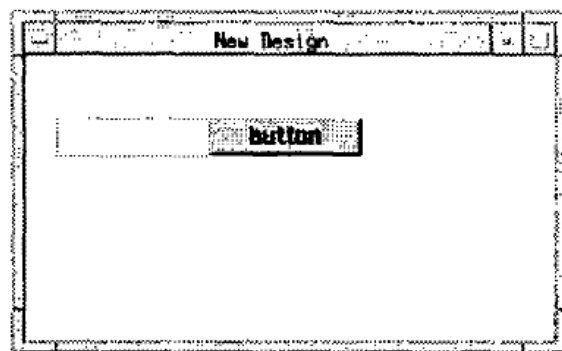
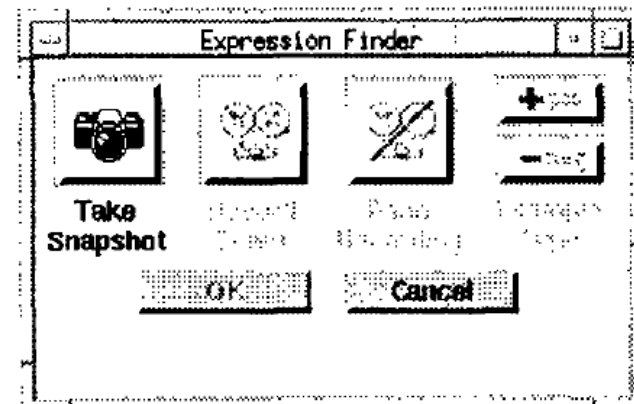
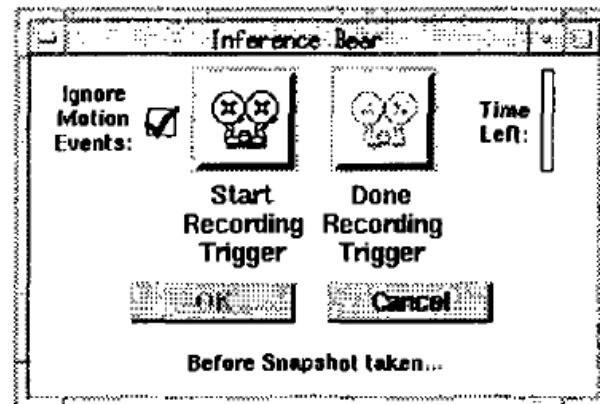
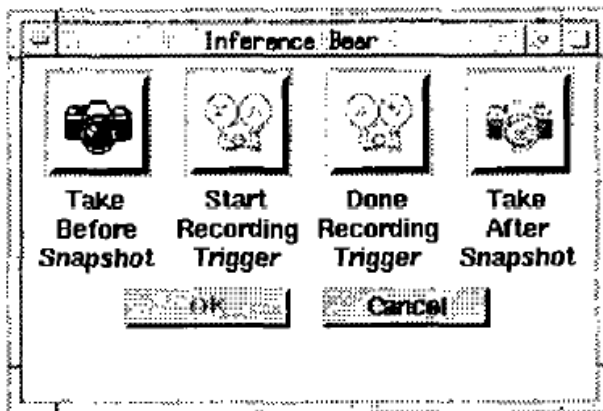
When the button is lifted over the specific object The Work Window

Create internal object Line

InferenceBear & Grizzly Bear (1994-1996)

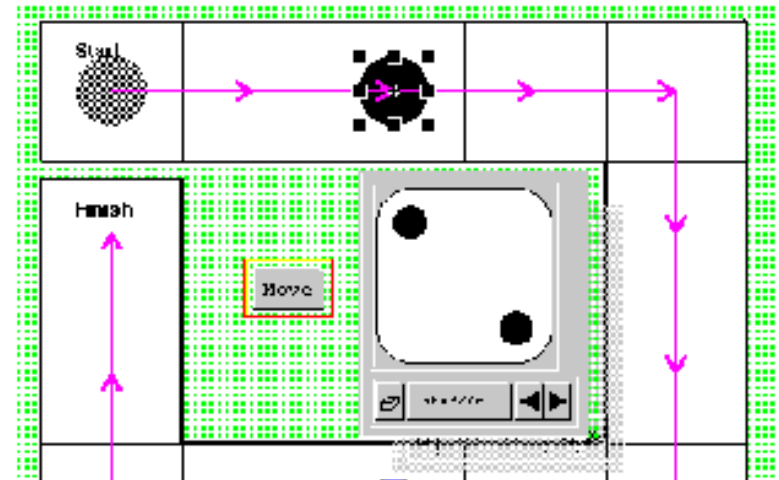
- Martin R. Frank, Piyawadee "Noi" Sukaviriya, James D. Foley. "Inference bear: designing interactive interfaces through before and after snapshots," DIS'95. Ann Arbor, Michigan, pp. 167 – 175. [pdf](#)
- Martin Frank, Model-Based User Interface Design by Demonstration and By Interview. PhD Thesis, Georgia Tech, 1996.
- (Discussed his "Elements, Events & Transitions (EET) language in the event-language lecture)
- User control through dialog boxes, edit using textual language: EET
- Snapshots of before and after
- Multiple examples
 - More positive examples to cause generalization
 - Negative examples to specify exceptions
- Pictures – next slide

InferenceBear Pictures



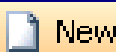




Gamut (1996 - 1999)

- PhD thesis of Rich McDaniel.
- Richard G. McDaniel and Brad A. Myers. "Building Applications Using Only Demonstration," IUI'98: 1998 International Conference On Intelligent User Interfaces, January 6-9, 1998, San Francisco, CA. pp. 109-116. [pdf](#)
- Richard G. McDaniel and Brad A. Myers, "Getting More Out Of Programming-By-Demonstration." Proceedings CHI'99: Human Factors in Computing Systems. Pittsburgh, PA, May 15-20, 1999. pp. 442-449. [ACM DL Reference](#)
- Domain: "board games" and educational software
- Goal: new interaction techniques so can infer more complex behaviors
- E.g., how a piece can move in Monopoly / Chess
- Reduce number of modes
- New interaction techniques to provide hints
 - "Do Something!", "Stop That", Hint highlighting, Temporal Ghosts, Guide objects, Deck of Playing Cards, etc.
- Better inferencing algorithms
- [video \(4.5 min\)](#)



Topes (2004-2009)

- Chris Scaffidi's PhD thesis: 2009
 - Christopher Scaffidi, Brad Myers, Mary Shaw, "Topes: Reusable Abstractions for Validating Data." *ICSE'2008: 30th International Conference on Software Engineering*, Leipzig, Germany, 10 - 18 May 2008. pp. 1-10. [IEEE DL pdf](#)
- "topes" = user-level types for end-user programming (EUP)
- Create parsers, data-transformations
 - Infers topes from a list of examples
- Patterns in text input
 - Phone numbers, addresses, social security numbers, etc.

Validation:  New  Load  Edit  Whitelist Flag all possible validation errors  Reformat								
A1	phone number							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	phone number							
2	333-211-3030							
3	(777) 555-4444							
4	(808) 484-2020							
5								
6								
7								

Topes, cont.

- Inferred pattern

The can match any of the following variations:

808
area code

-

484
exchange

-

2020
local

OR

(

808
area code

)

484
exchange

-

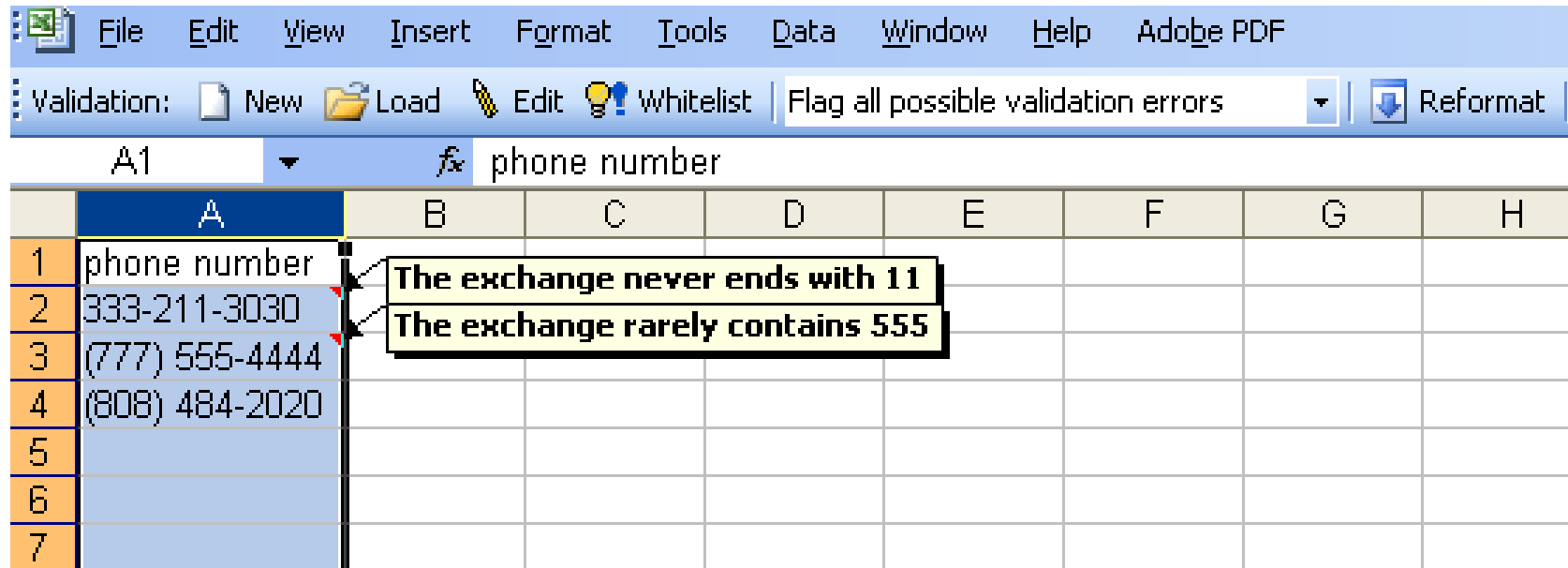
2020
local

Description	Repetition	Whitelist		Number
<p>The <input type="text" value="exchange"/> is a number that</p> <p>... is always in the range <input type="text" value="200-999"/></p> <p>... never has a decimal point</p> <p>... does not need to be padded with leading zeroes</p> <p>... never ends with a number from this list: <input type="text" value="11"/></p> <p>... rarely contains a number from this list: <input type="text" value="555"/></p>				

+
x
x

Topes, cont.

- Validator – never vs. rarely



The screenshot shows a spreadsheet application with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Tools, Data, Window, Help, Adobe PDF) and a validation toolbar. The toolbar includes buttons for 'New', 'Load', 'Edit', 'Whitelist', and a dropdown menu set to 'Flag all possible validation errors', along with a 'Reformat' button. The spreadsheet has columns A through H and rows 1 through 7. Column A is labeled 'phone number'. The data in column A is as follows:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	phone number							
2	333-211-3030							
3	(777) 555-4444							
4	(808) 484-2020							
5								
6								
7								

Two validation error messages are displayed as callouts on the right side of the spreadsheet:

- The exchange never ends with 11** (pointing to row 2)
- The exchange rarely contains 555** (pointing to row 3)

Topes, cont.

• Converter

Data Validation: New Load Edit Whitelist Flag all possible validation errors Reformat Clear Help

A1 Employee Name

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Employee Name		Address	City	State	Zip			
2	Hugo Martinez		mercantile Lane	San diego	CA	92101			
3	Victor Rodriguez		11 Lark St	MARTINEZ	Ca	94553			
4	Mendoza, Miguel		Highland Ave.	Pittsburgh	PA	15213			
5	CHARLIE THOMAS		Pennsy Trail	Smithfield	MA	1107			
6	Chris Thornburg				ahoma	74840			
7	Chavez, Amaelia				issiana	71220			
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									

Context Menu:

- Cut
- Copy
- Paste
- Paste Special...
- Format As...
 - COMPANY NAME
 - PERSON FIRST NAME
 - PERSON LAST NAME
 - PERSON NAME
 - <<< Something Else >>>
- Insert
- Delete
- Clear Contents
- Column Width...
- Hide
- Unhide

Format As... PERSON NAME Preview:

- Hugo Martinez
- Hugo MARTINEZ
- HUGO Martinez
- HUGO MARTINEZ
- Martinez, Hugo
- Martinez, HUGO
- MARTINEZ, Hugo
- MARTINEZ, HUGO
- <<< Edit Description of PERSON NAME >>>

Draco, Skuid

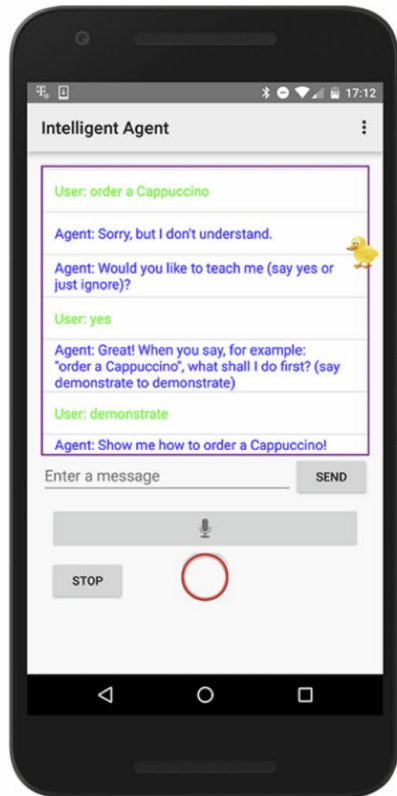
- Rubaiat Habib Kazi, Fanny Chevalier, Tovi Grossman, Shengdong Zhao, and George Fitzmaurice. 2014. Draco: bringing life to illustrations with kinetic textures. In *Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (CHI '14). 351-360. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2556288.2556987>
- Sketch to show animations and movements
- Augmented with dynamic animation effects
- Commercialized by AutoDesk
- [Video](#) (4:57)!



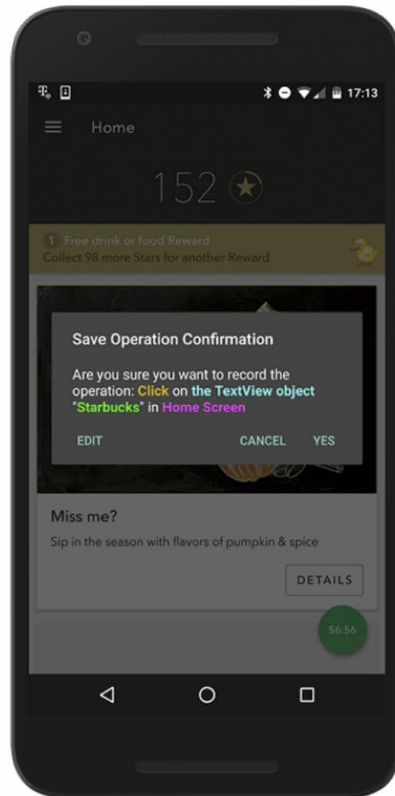
Toby Li's Sugilite

- Toby Li, Amos Azaria, and Brad Myers. "SUGILITE: Creating Multimodal Smartphone Automation by Demonstration", *Proceedings CHI'2017: Human Factors in Computing Systems*, Denver, CO, May 6-11, 2017. To appear. [preprint pdf](#) and [video](#). **Best paper Honorable Mention award.**
- Programming by example for Android
- Scripts (macros) of common or repetitive tasks
- Uses the Android accessibility API
- Invoke using Speech or GUI
- Generalizes based on other menu items seen
- Currently, uses multiple examples only when script fails
 - Can replace or add fork
- [Video](#) (6:48)

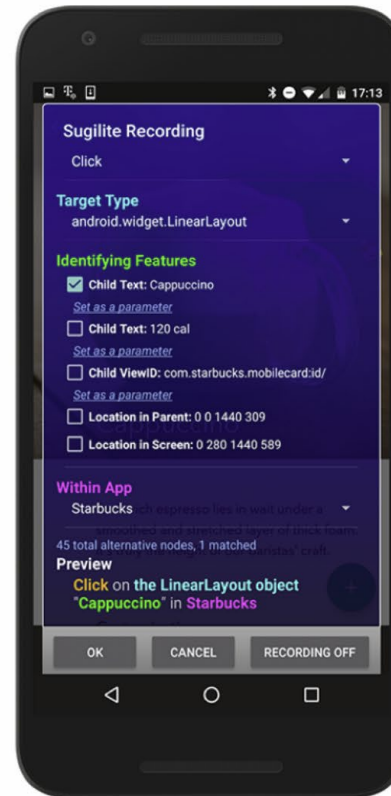
Sugilite pictures



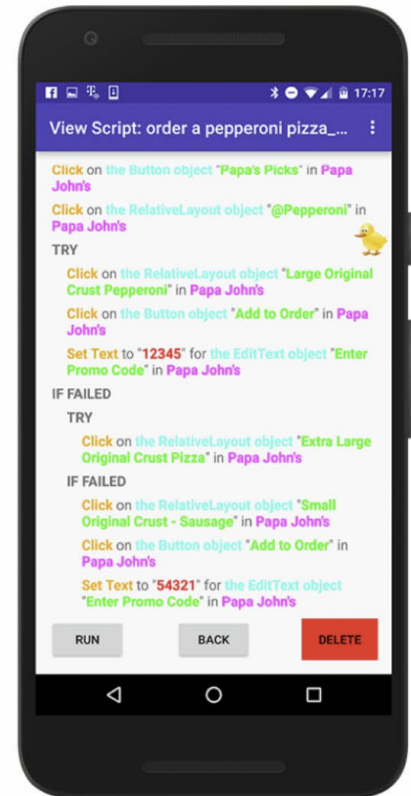
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Commercial Systems

- Excel Flashfill
- Adobe Catalyst
 - Create menus by giving examples of the items
 - Scroll bars by indicating the parts (thumb, track, etc.)
 - But discontinued ☹️
- Adobe XD
 - Repeat grid
 - Component behaviors ??
- What else?

General Disadvantages of PBD

- People are actually **not** very good at coming up with concrete examples
 - examples tend to show the system the same thing over and over
 - people can't think of the edge cases and negative examples
- People need to be able to **edit** the code, so need a representation they can understand

Open Issues with PBD

- Sometimes examples are harder than specifying
 - “and” vs. “or”
- How intelligent is enough?
 - Predictability
 - AI problem
- Techniques for feedback and editing
- Combining inferencing with direct editing of the code
- A “really” successful product using this technology

Some newer systems

- Claim to be: “Low code” or “No code”
 - Examples (all founded in 2012!):
 - AirTable – based on a spreadsheet model
 - Bubble.io – visual programming
 - Zapier – move data between web applications (automate repetitive tasks)
 - Like Yahoo! pipes!

























Airtable

• From Wikipedia:

< Home Restaurant Field Guide MOBILE HELP

Restaurants Cuisines Special Diets City Districts +

Main View Hide columns Add filters Apply sort SHARE

	Name	Pictures	District	My Rating	My Notes	Menu	Status	Cuisine	Cost	...
1	Slider Bar		Castro	2 - Great	We loved this place, nice ...		Regular	Fusion Burgers	\$	
2	Gialina Pizzeria		Glen Park	3 - Good			Maybe	Italian Pizza	\$\$	
3	Pork Store Cafe		Haight				Need to Try	American Diner	\$	
4	Balboa Cafe		Marina	2 - Great			Visited	Fancy American Steak	\$\$\$	✓
5	Greens Restaurant		Marina	1 - Amazing			Reservation ...	Fancy American Fusion	\$\$	✓
6	Big Lantern		Mission					Chinese Dim Sum	\$	
7	Spicy Bite		Mission	3 - Good			Maybe	Indian	\$\$	
8	Farm:Table		Nob Hill				Need to Try	Fancy American	\$	
9	Thee Parkside		Potrero Hill	1 - Amazing			Reservation ...	American Diner Burgers	\$	✓
10	SOMA Restaurant & Bar		SOMA	2 - Great			Visited	Italian Burgers Pizza	\$	✓
11	Rolling Out Cafe		Sunset	2 - Great			Visited	Pastry American Diner	\$	
12	Bang San		Tenderloin				Need to Try	Thai	\$	
13	Little Delhi		Tenderloin	1 - Amazing			Regular	Indian	\$	✓
14	Ino Sushi		Western Addition				Reservation ...	Sushi	\$\$	

14 rows

Bubble.io

b Page: Index ▼ Pick an

Design UI Builder Responsive

▼ Visual elements

- Text
- Button
- Icon
- Link
- Image
- Shape
- Alert
- Video
- HTML
- Map
- Built on Bubble
- Install more...
- Containers
- Group

Workflow

Data

Styles

Plugins

Settings

Logs

Button Log out

Appearance Conditional Transitions

When This Button is hovered

Properties defined in the style Standard Button

When This Button is pressed

Properties defined in the style Standard Button

When This Button isn't clickable

Properties defined in the style Standard Button

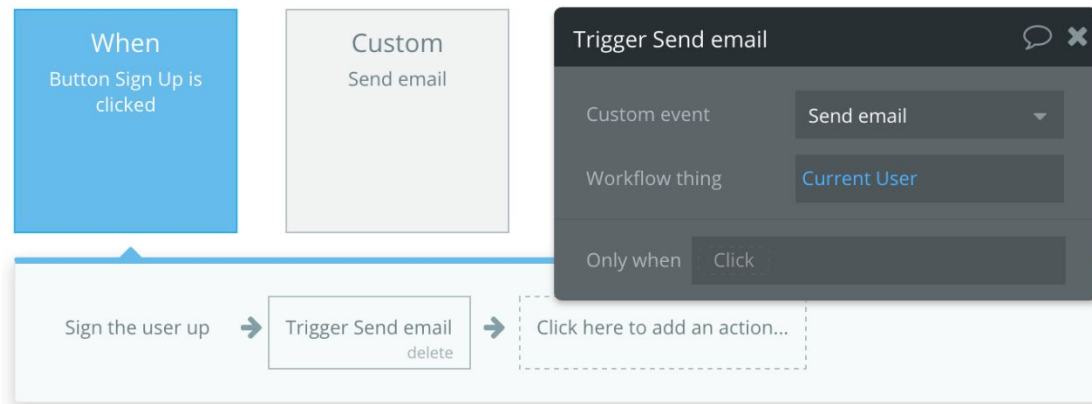
OFF remove condition

When Current User isn't logged in

This element is visible

Select a property to change in this state

+ Define another condition



Zapier

