

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

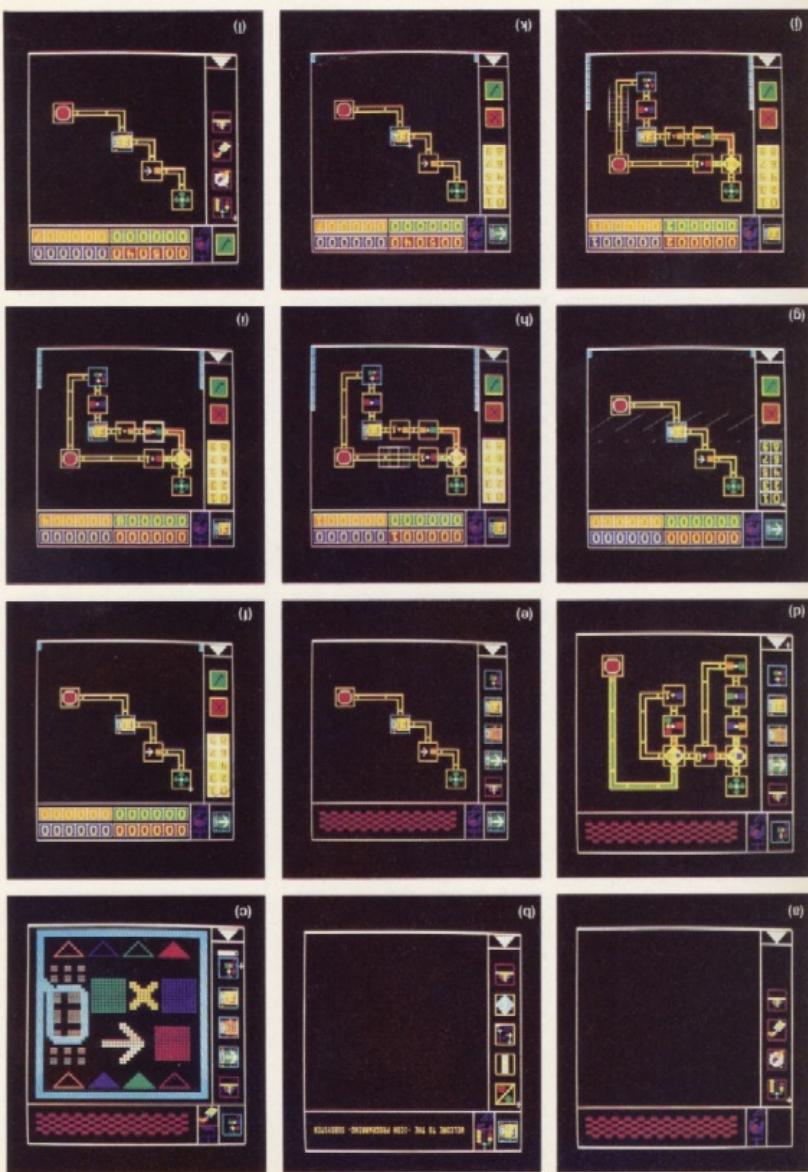
- Approaches to help novice programmers to be able to create dynamic interfaces
 - Static interfaces can just be drawn
- Typically, also easier to program in general
 - Most modern tools to make it easy to program focus on creating interactive software, like games, which have a UI
- EUP = end-user programmers
- 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

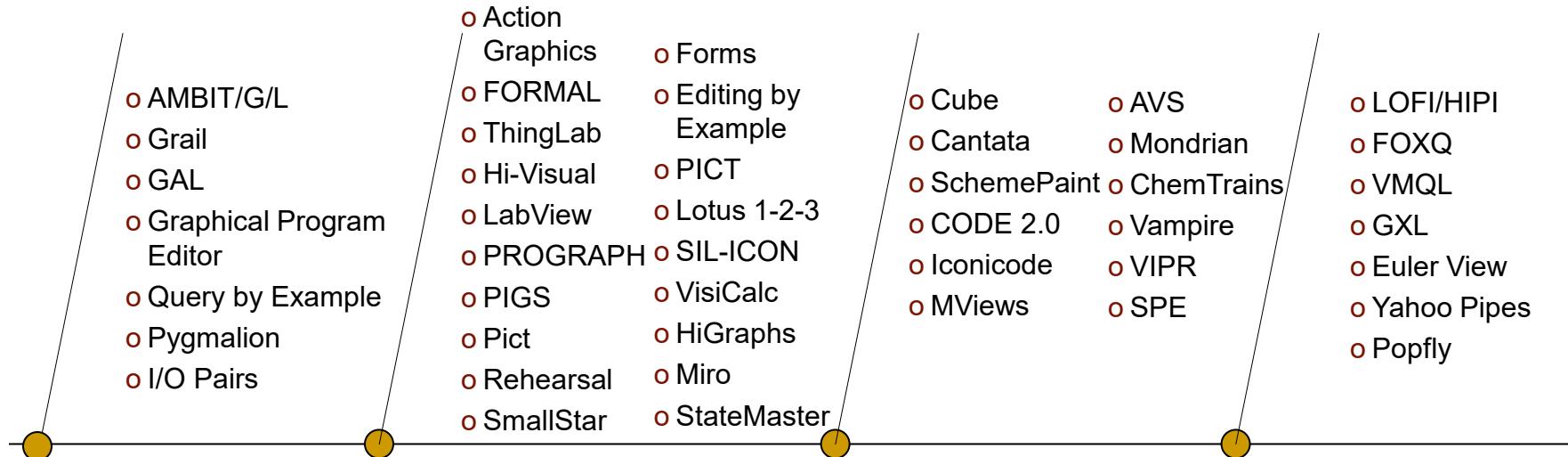
- Older visual language systems did not necessarily help with UIs
- E.g., Pict from Ephraim Glinert, 1984 uses conventional flowcharts to program algorithms
- Goal: easier to learn programming



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



1960

Techniques

- Graphs
- Flowcharts
- Flowchart derivatives
- FORMS
- Demonstrational

1980

Techniques

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

1990

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 imperative languages
- Collaborative Software Development

2000

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. MacCrisken 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

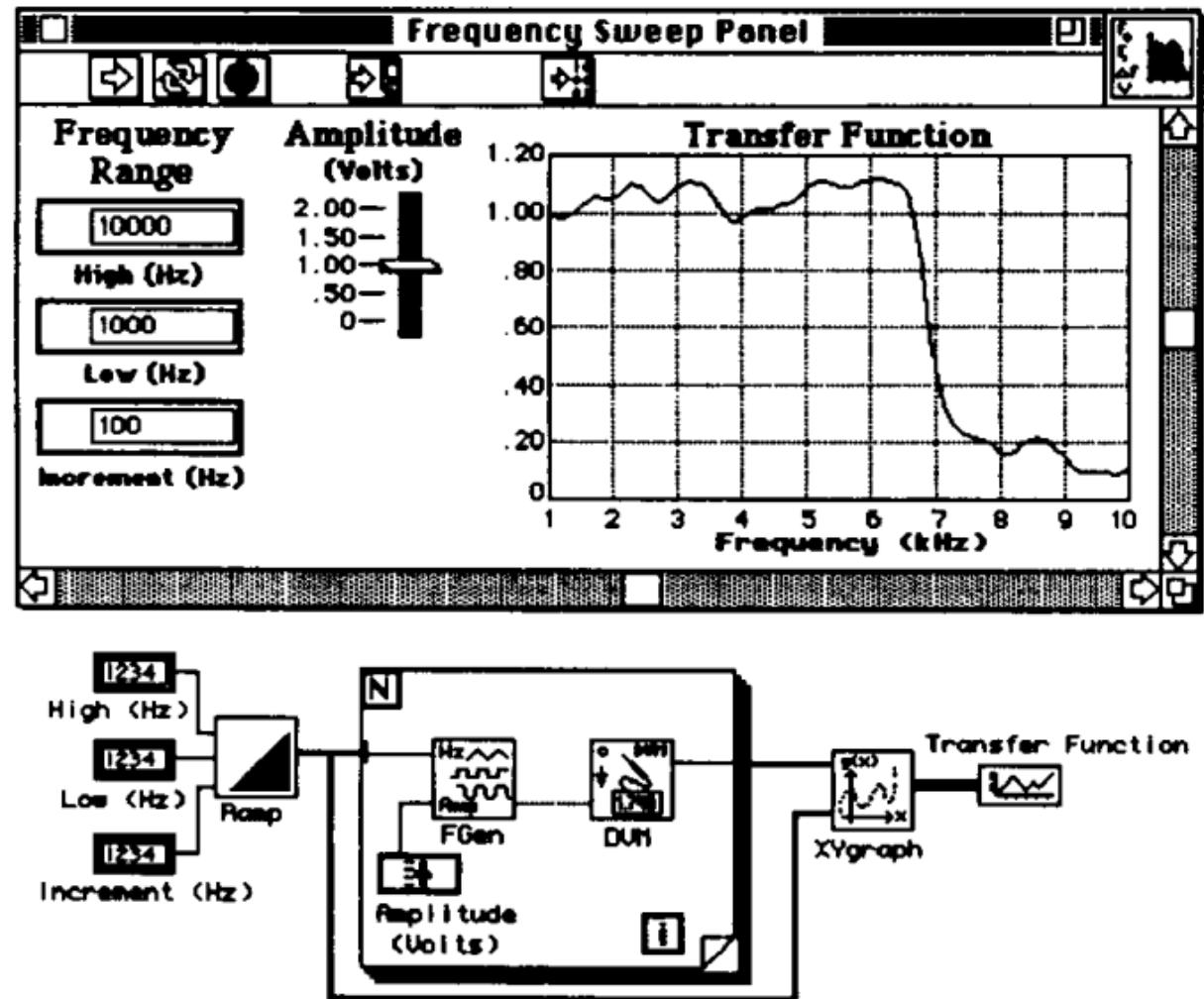
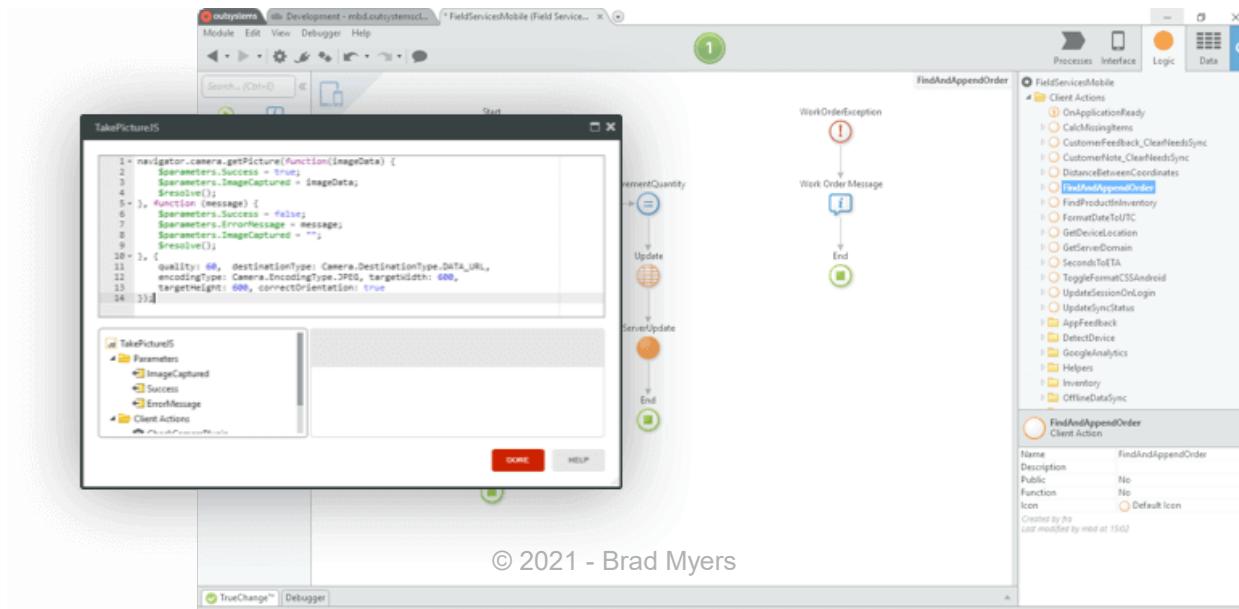


Figure 7. Frequency Response VI Panel and Diagram

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

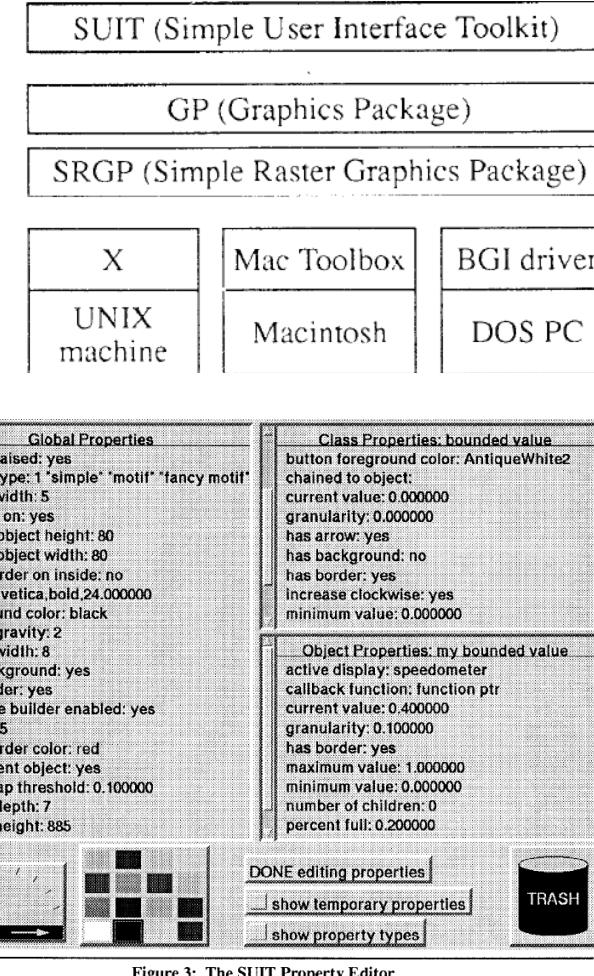


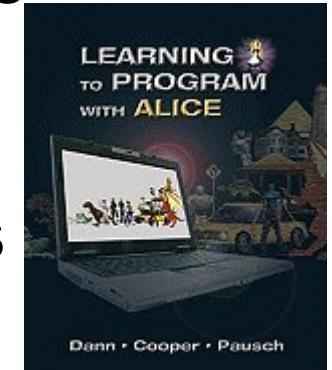
Figure 3: The SUIT Property Editor

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

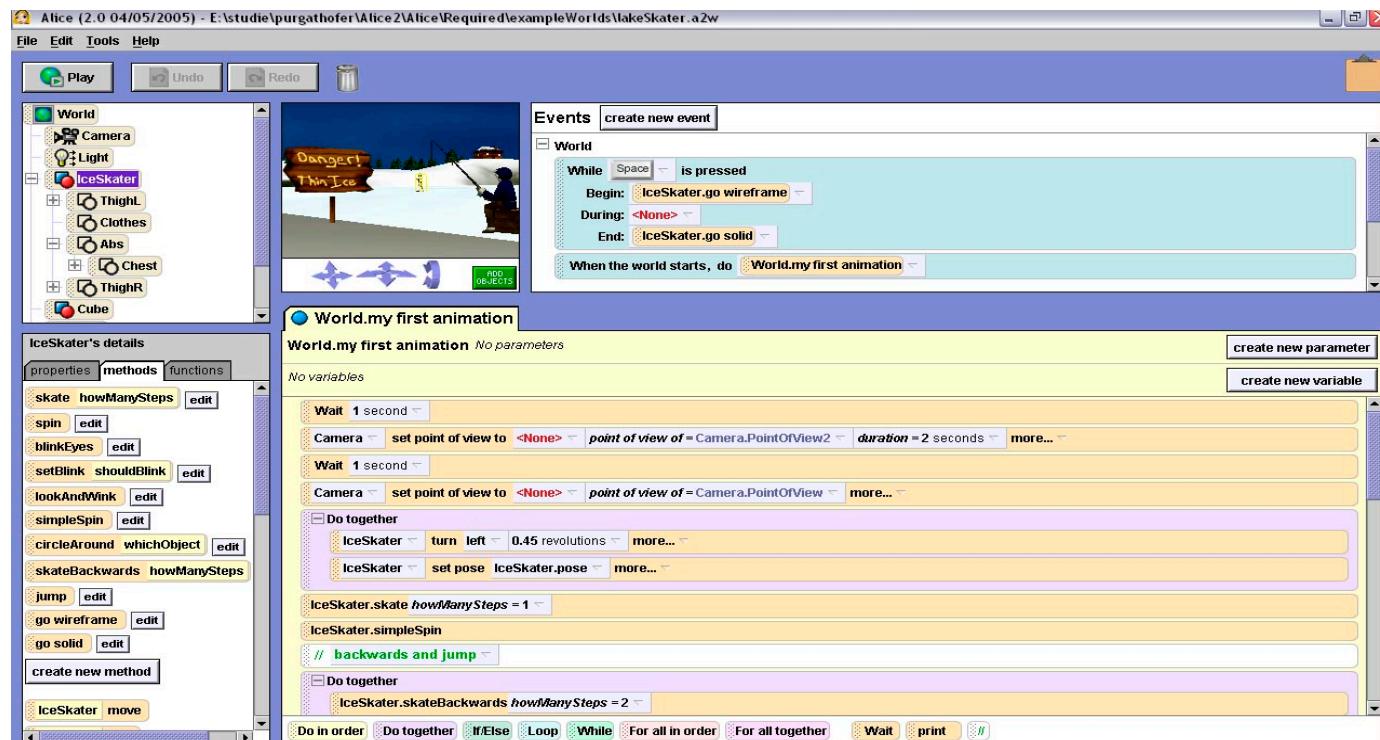
- Easy 3D with character-centered movement & rotation
 - “Bunny.move (up, 1)”, “Turn Around Once” “Bunny.move(forward, 1, speed=4)”
 - No matrices! No X, Y and Z
- Camera control
 - “Point Camera At”, “Get a Good Look At”
- Easy parallelism with “do-together”

```
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.

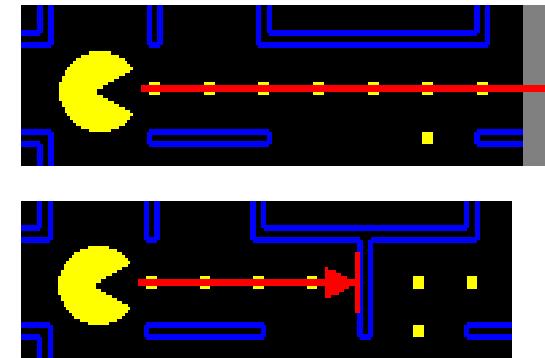
- Later versions: Avoid syntax issues with drag-and-drop editing
- Testing in classrooms showed significantly better learning and retention

- 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

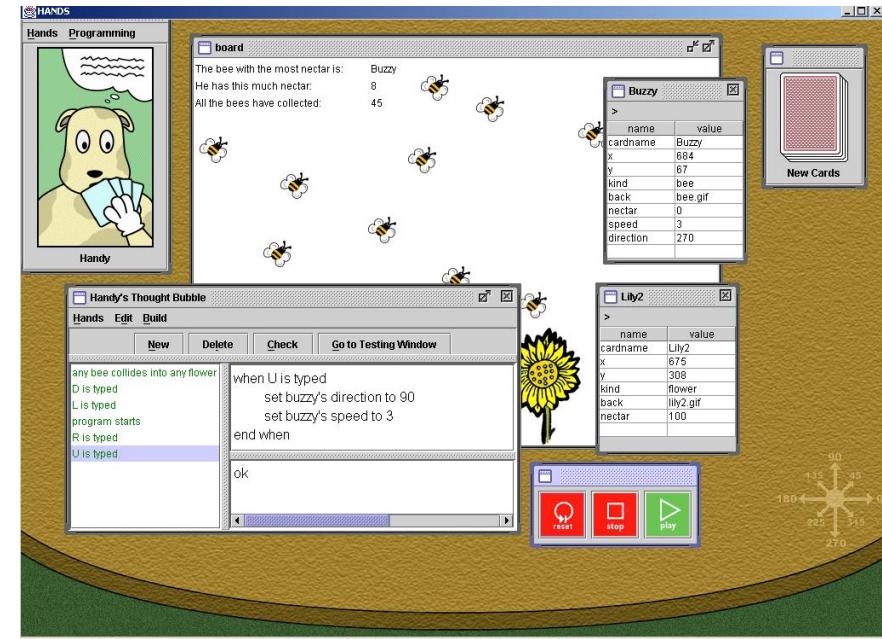


Examples of Results

- 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 \(7:36\)](#)

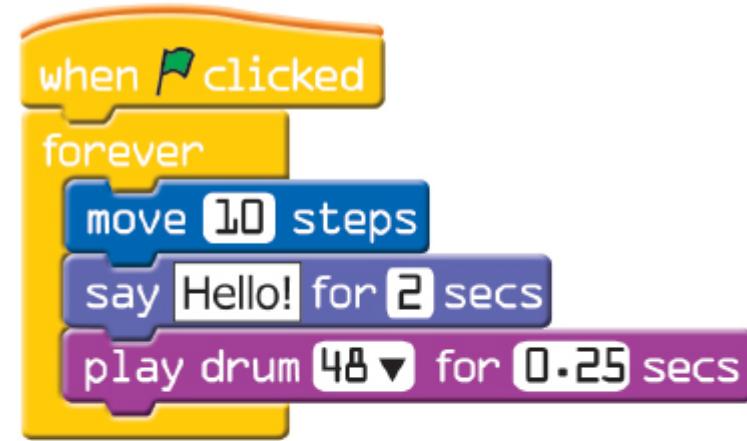


Scratch

- 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”

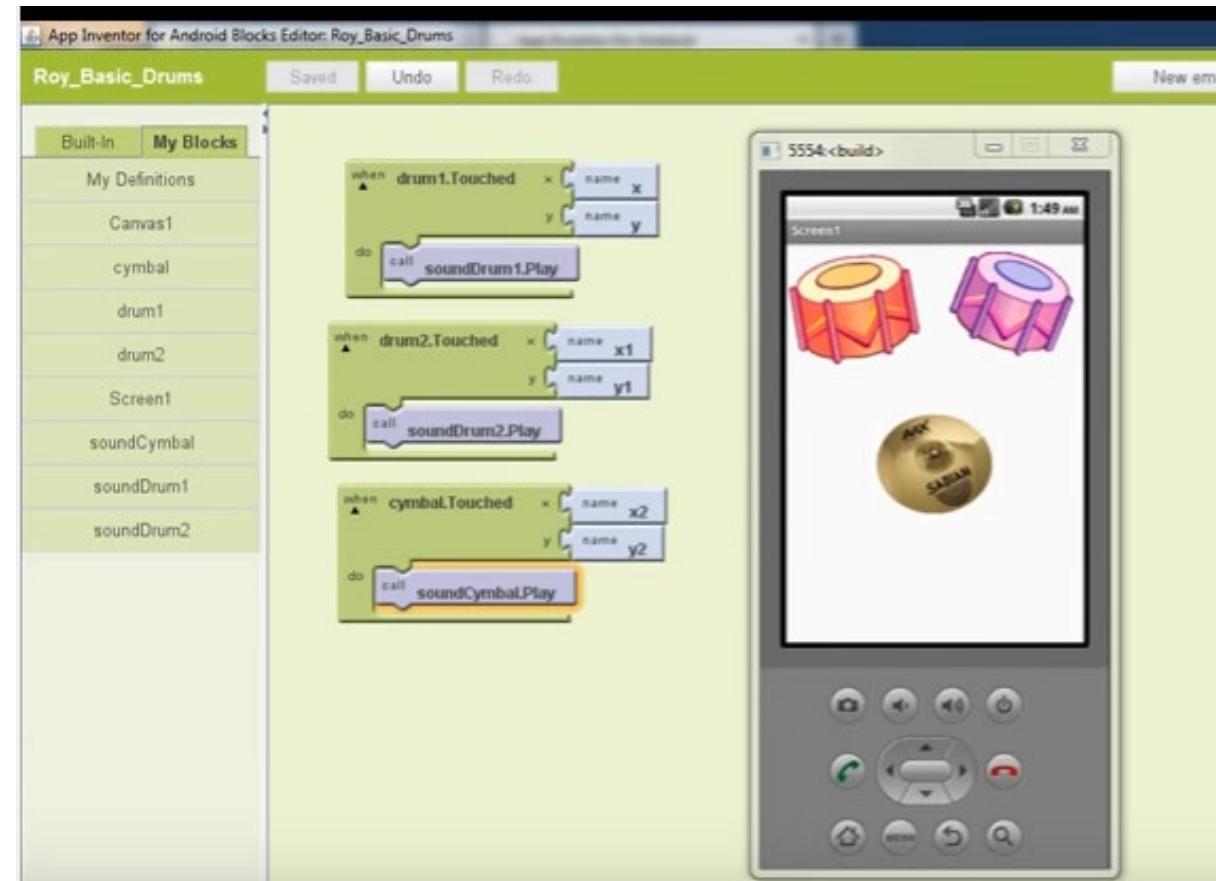
Scratch, cont.

- 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



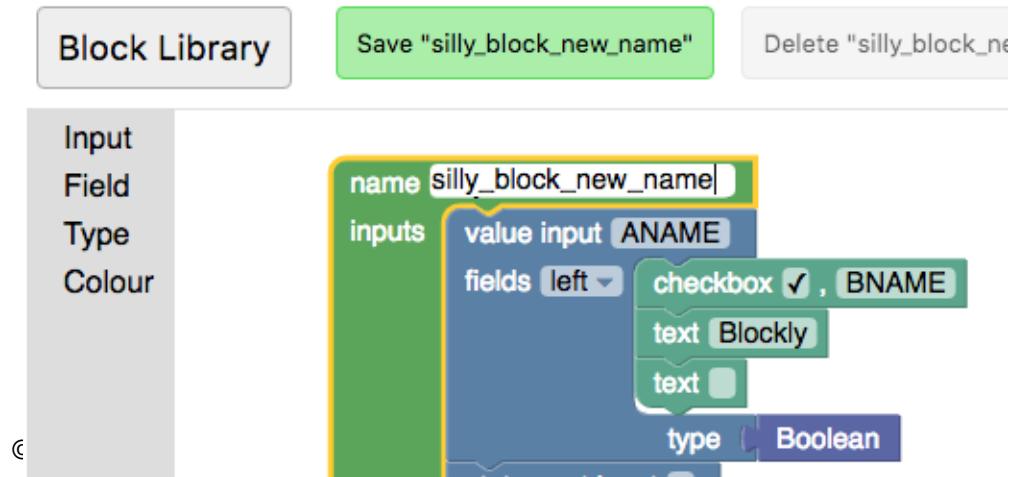
AppInventor

- 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”

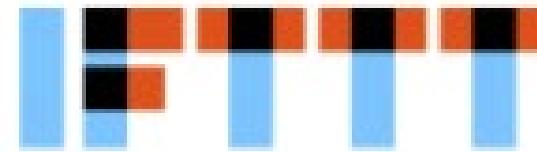


Many other “blocks” style languages

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

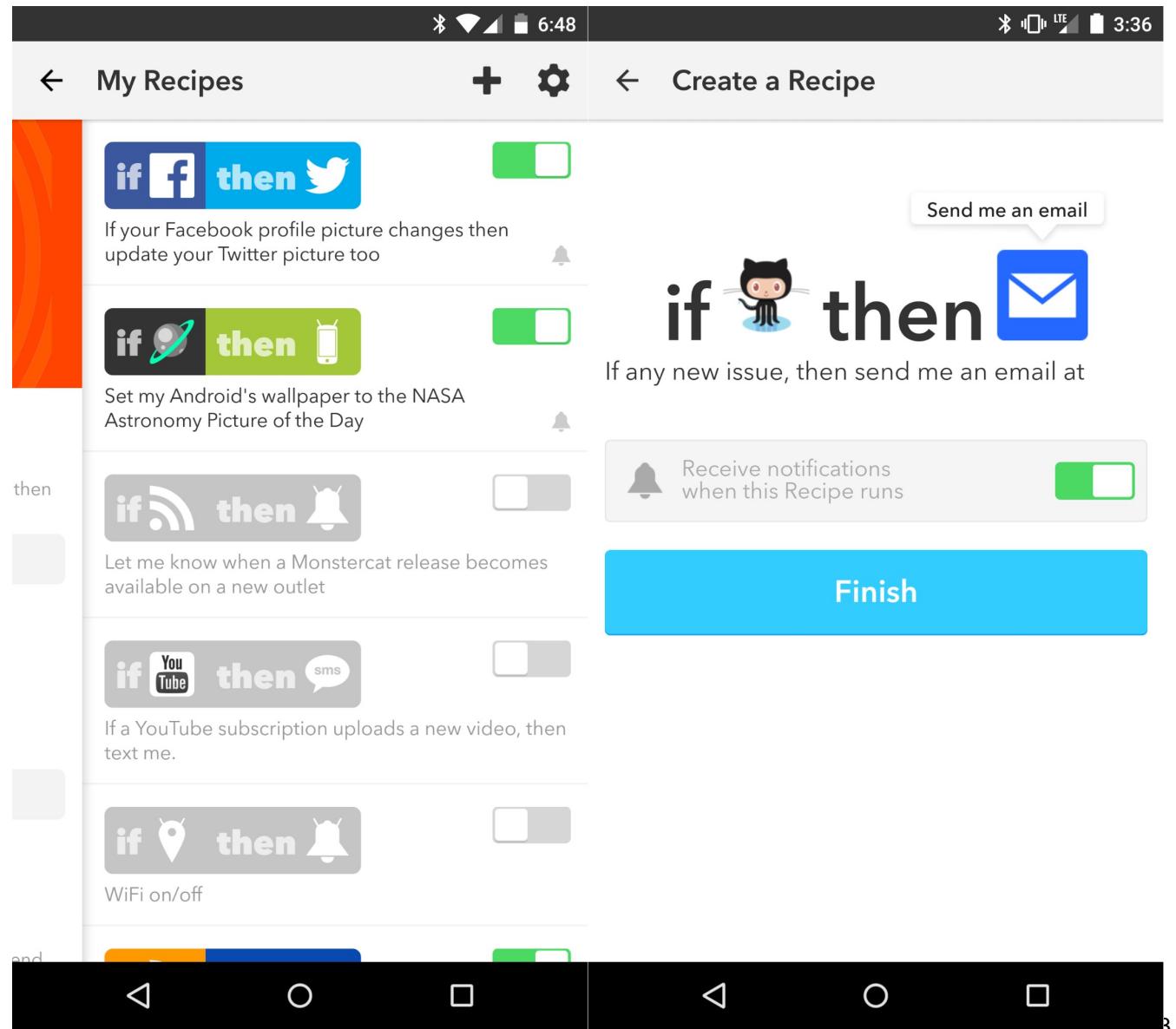


IFTTT.com



- 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



The image shows the IFTTT mobile application interface. The top navigation bar has a back arrow, the text "My Recipes", a plus sign for creating a new recipe, a gear icon for settings, and a back arrow for the "Create a Recipe" screen. The status bar shows signal strength, battery level, and the time (6:48).

My Recipes Screen:

- Recipe 1:** if  then  If your Facebook profile picture changes then update your Twitter picture too
- Recipe 2:** if  then  Set my Android's wallpaper to the NASA Astronomy Picture of the Day
- Recipe 3:** if  then  Let me know when a Monstercat release becomes available on a new outlet
- Recipe 4:** if  then  If a YouTube subscription uploads a new video, then text me.
- Recipe 5:** if  then  WiFi on/off

Create a Recipe Screen:

Send me an email  if  then 

If any new issue, then send me an email at

Receive notifications when this Recipe runs

Bottom Navigation Bar:

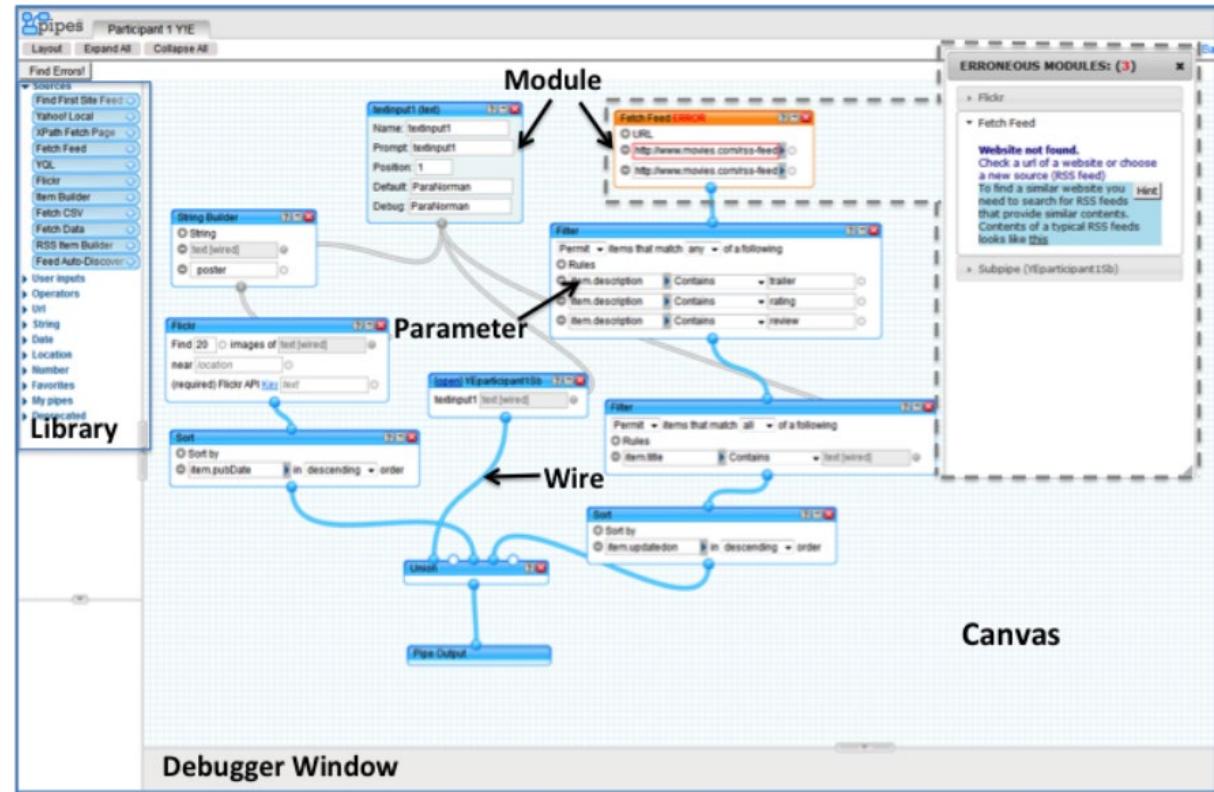
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Yahoo! Pipes (2007 – 2015)

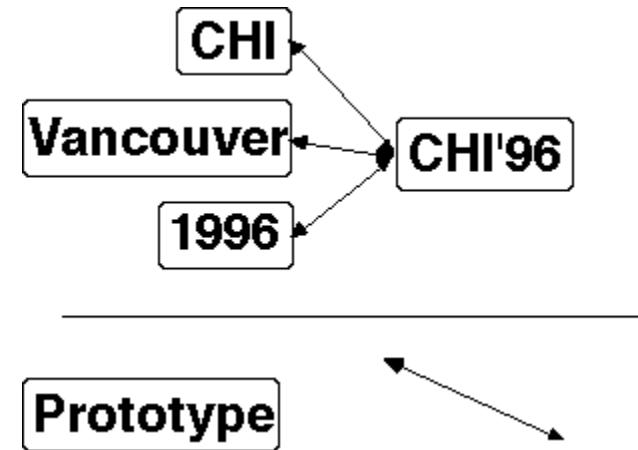


- Was a web application to process data feeds on the web
 - Originally focused on “RSS feeds”
- Visual data flow architecture, like LabVIEW
- Studies showed wasn’t easy for non-programmers to use
- Sandeep K Kuttal, A. Sarma, and G. Rothermel, "Debugging Support for End-User Mashup Programming", in *Proceedings 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)



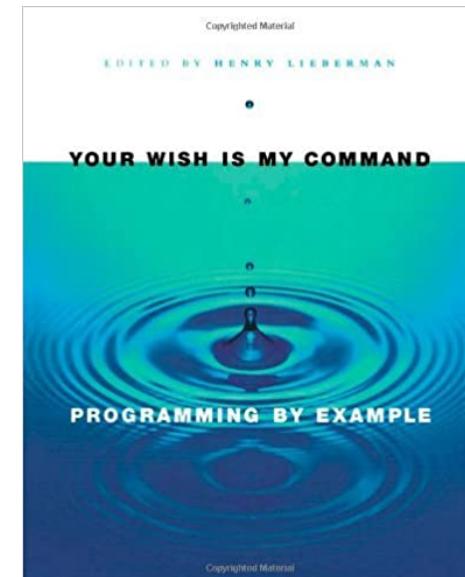
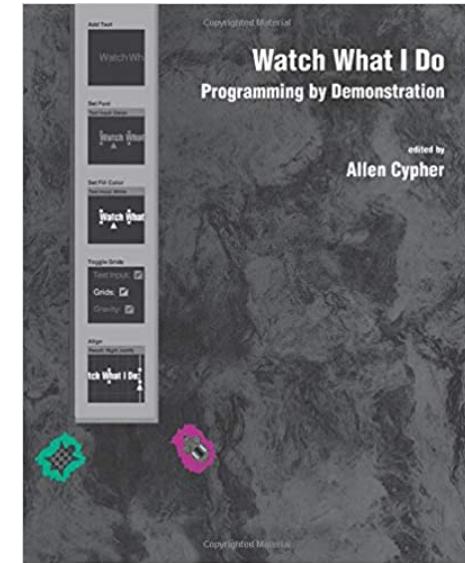
Another Approach: PBD

- 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

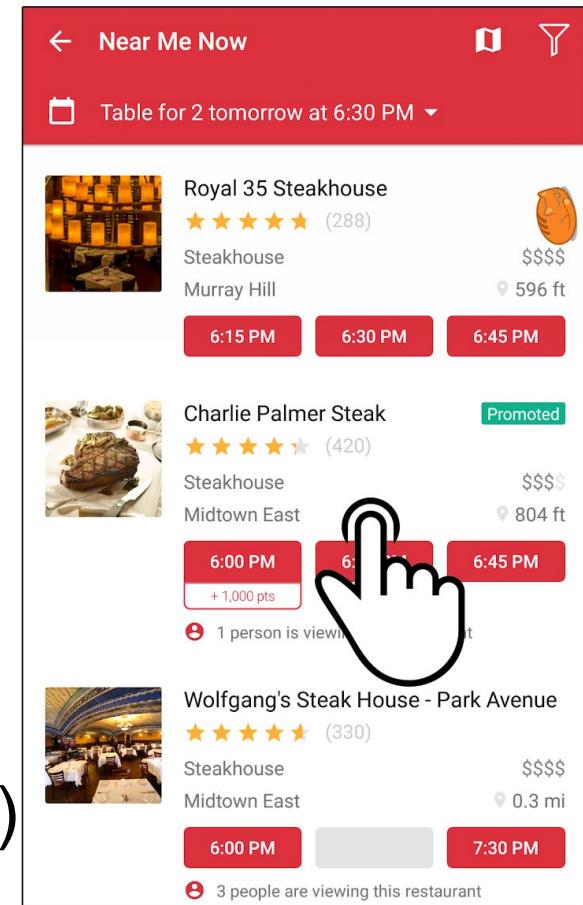


Motivation

- 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

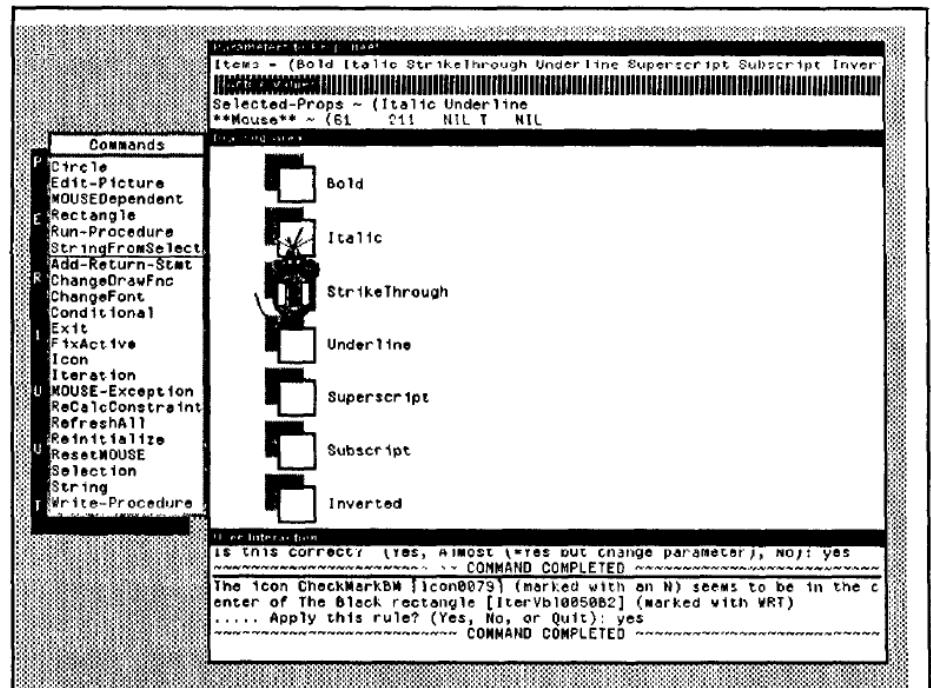
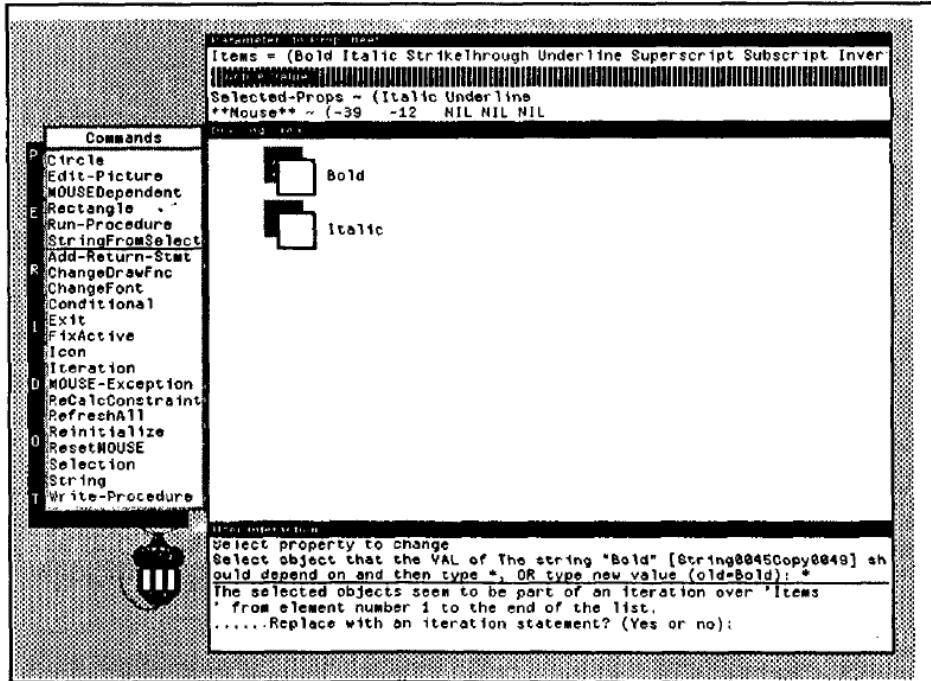


Examples (of uses to create UIs)

- (chronological order)

Peridot (1986-88)

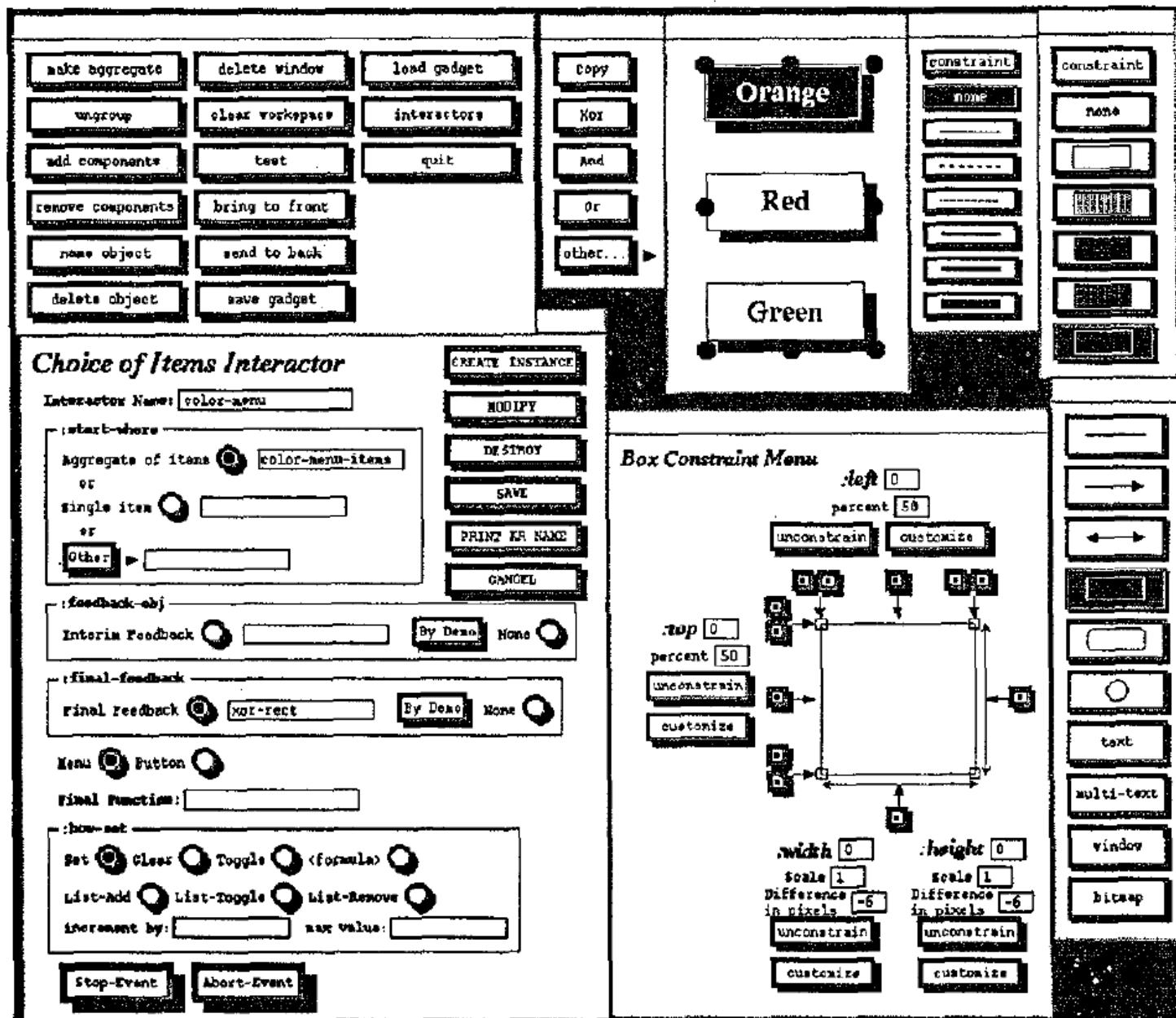
- Myers B. "Creating User Interfaces Using Programming-by-Example, Visual Programming, and Constraints," ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems. vol. 12, no. 2, April, 1990. pp. 143-177. (Peridot)
- Myers B., Creating User Interfaces by Demonstration, Academic Press, San Diego, 1988.
- 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)



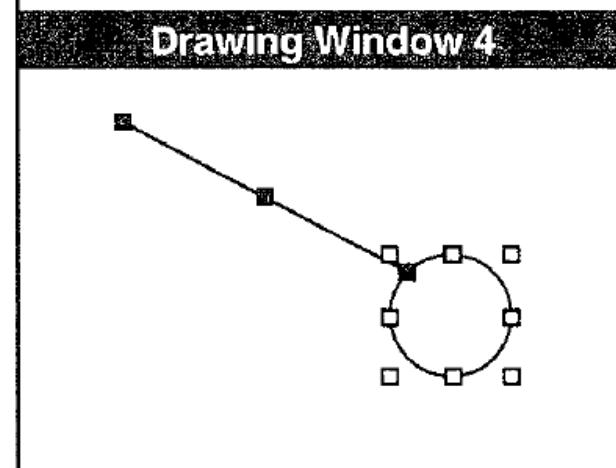
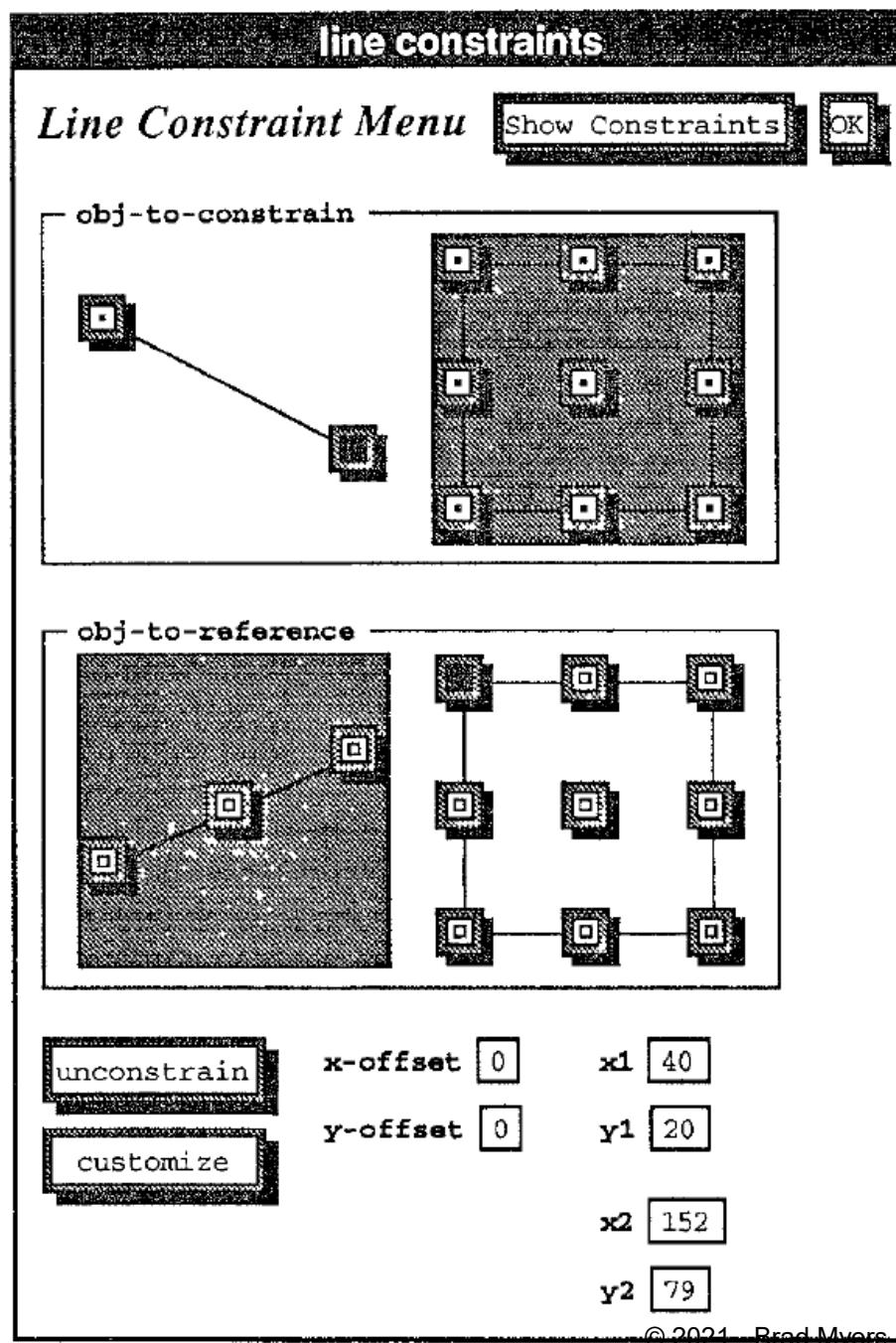
Lapidary (1989-1993)

- 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)

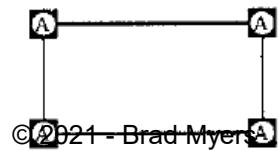
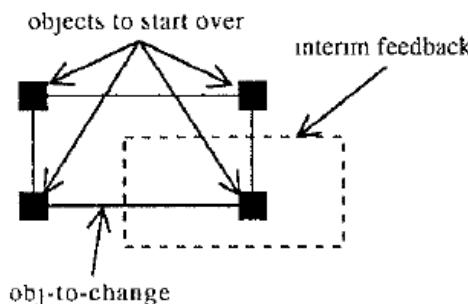
Lapidary dialog boxes



Lapidary, cont.



Lapidary, cont.



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Move/Grow Interactor

Interactor Name: **MYMOVEINTER**

start-where

Object to Press Over or
One of This Aggregate **BOX-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 Functions

feedback-obj

Interim Feedback **DASHED-LINE-PCT** Change Original
<Formula>

attach-point

Nearest Point <Formula>

Event Buttons

Start-Event Stop-Event Abort-Event

CREATE INSTANCE

MODIFY

DESTROY

SAVE

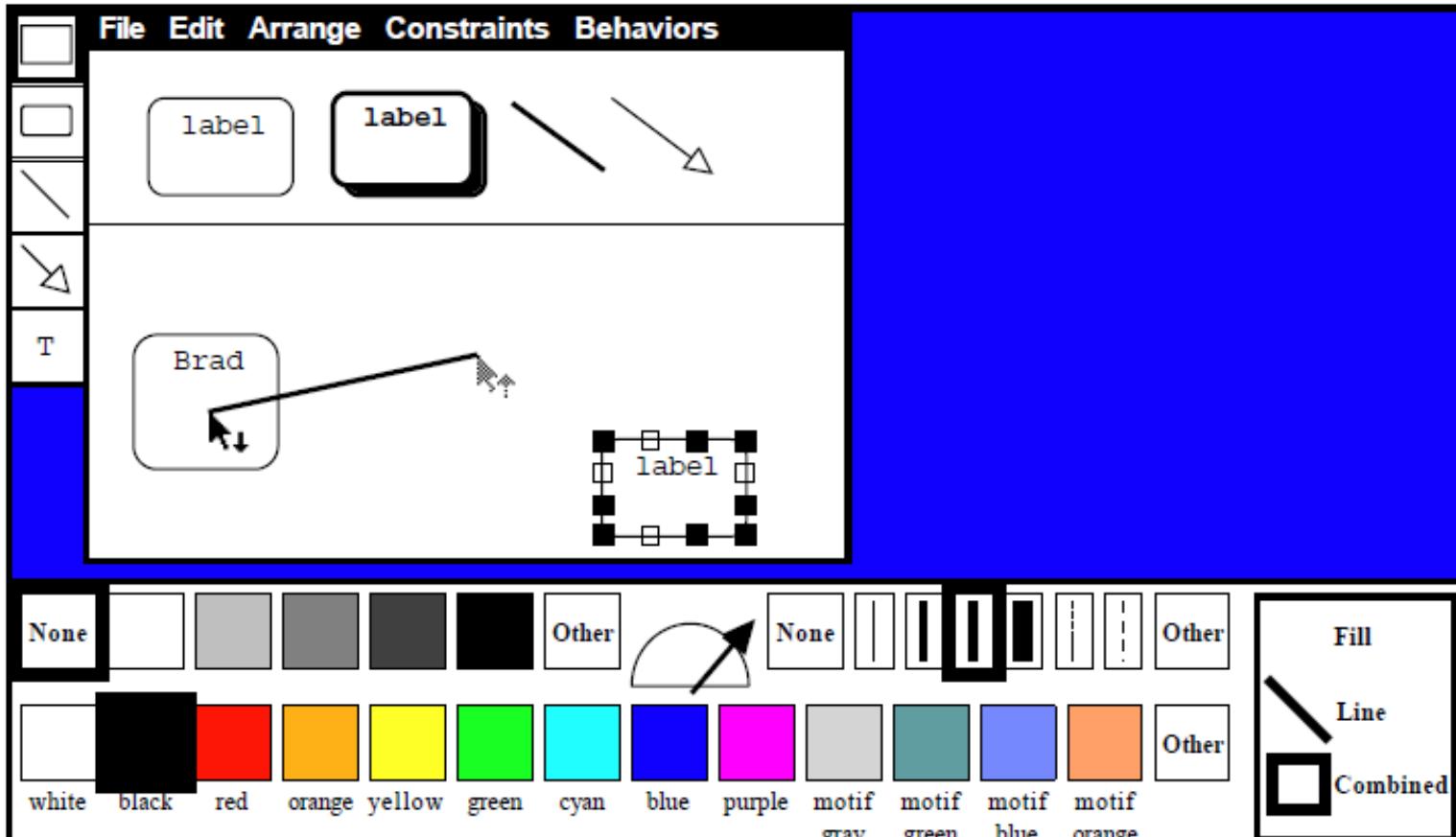
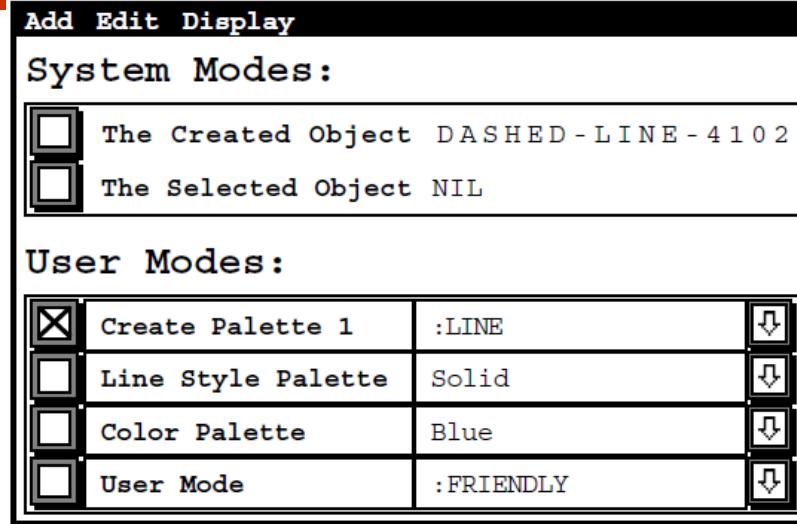
CLOSE

CANCEL

Marquise (1993-1994)

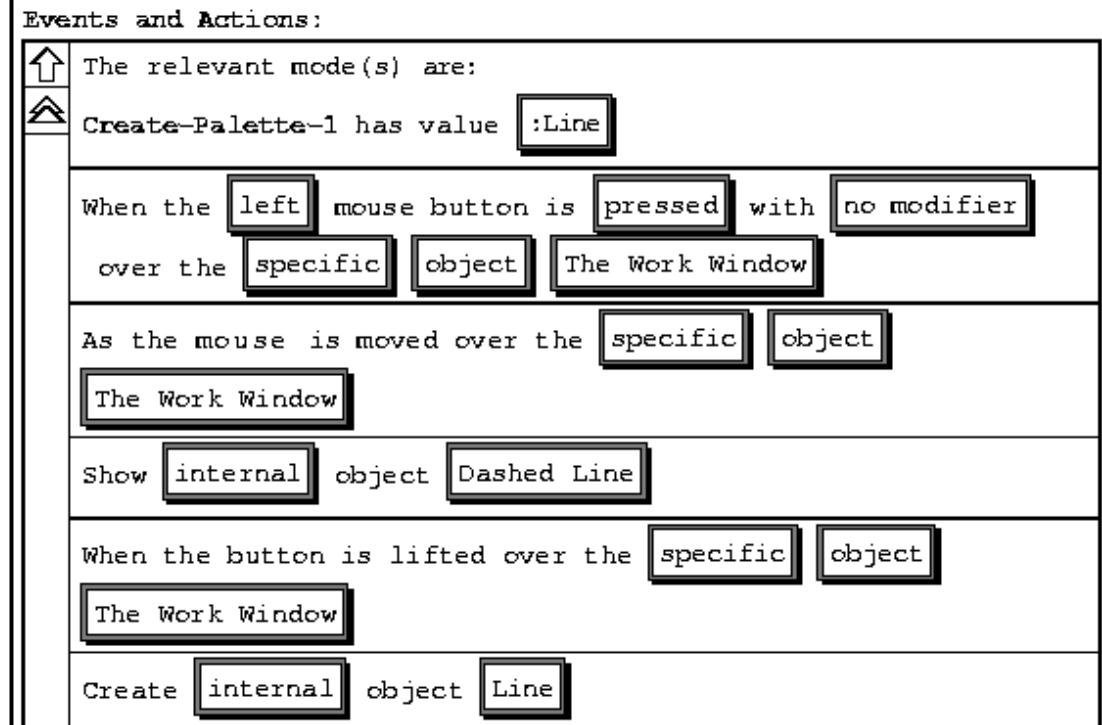
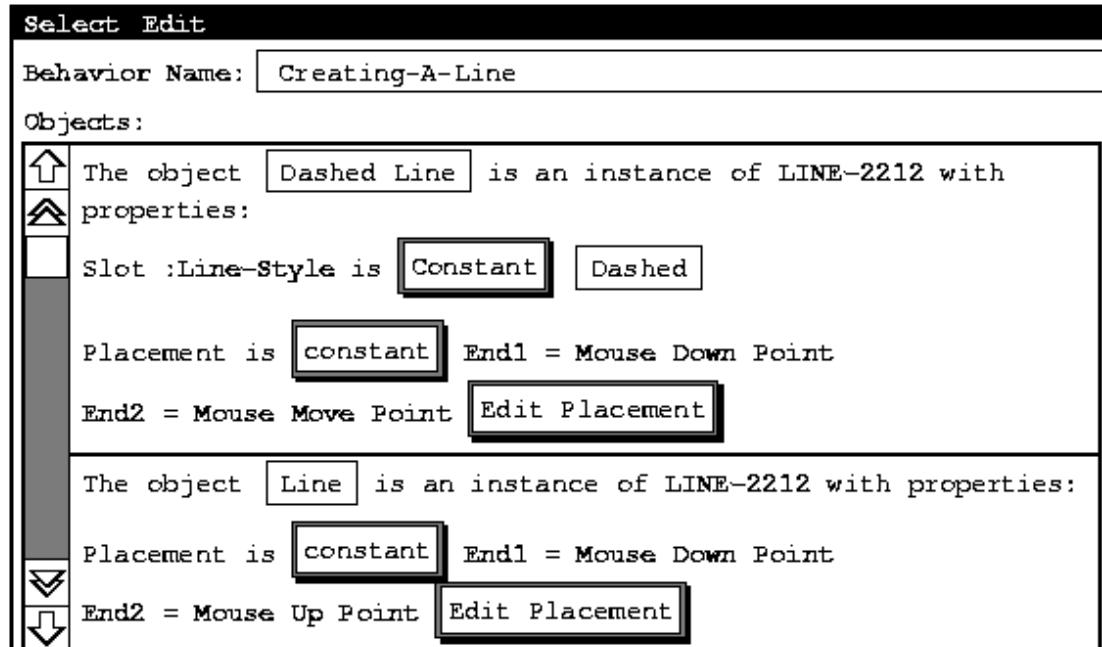
- Myers B., McDaniel, R. and Kosbie, D.. "Marquise: Creating Complete User Interfaces by Demonstration," *Proceedings CHI'94: Human Factors in Computing Systems*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands, April 24-29, 1993. pp. 293-300.
- Go back to doing more by demonstration, and just show the way that the interface 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



Marquise feedback window

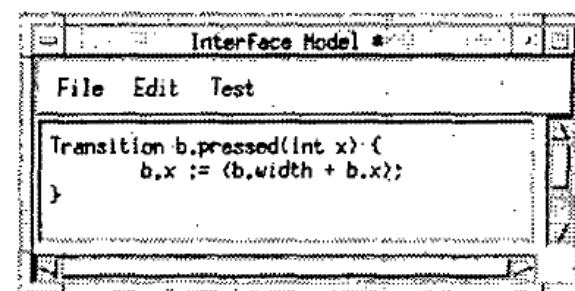
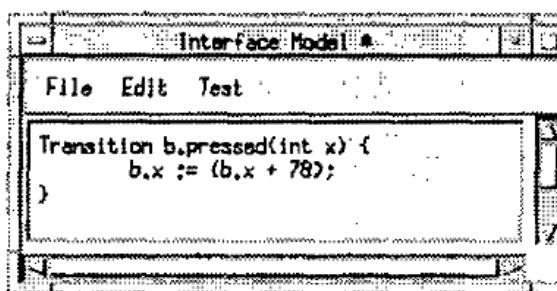
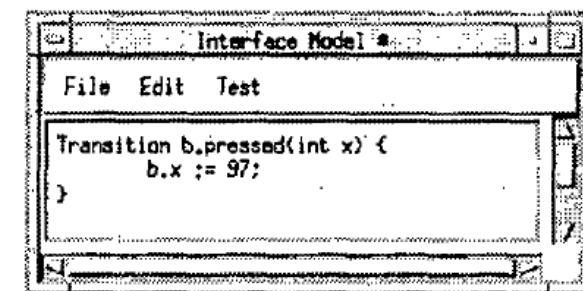
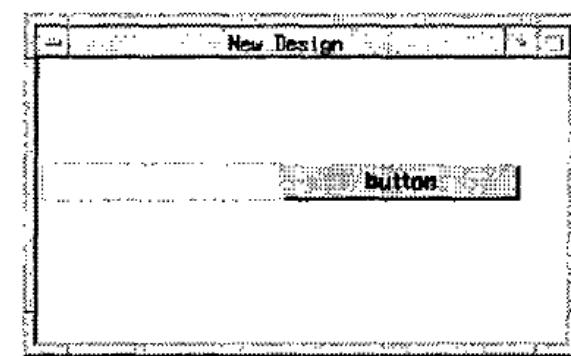
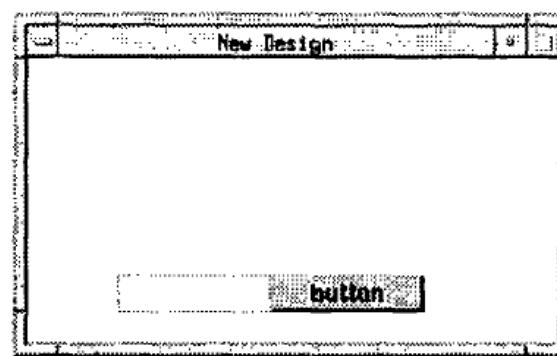
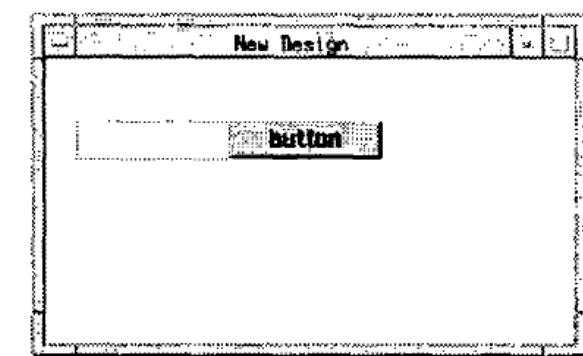
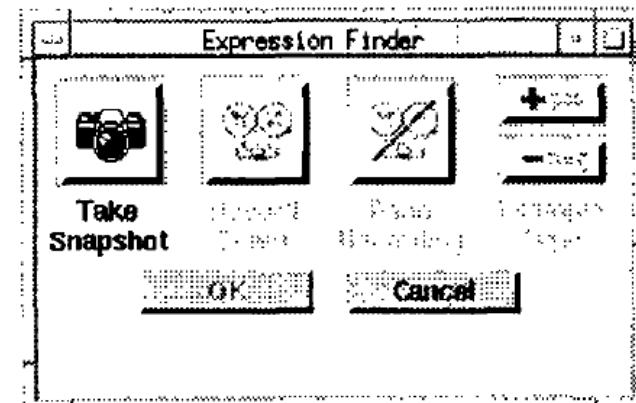
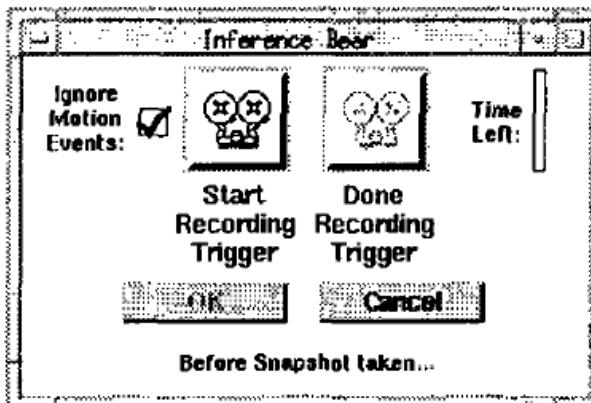
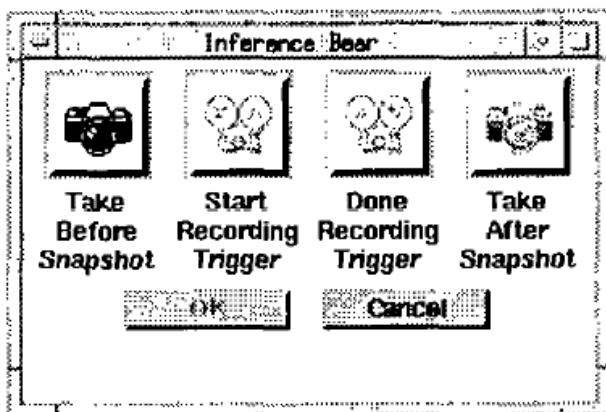
- video (12 min)



InferenceBear & Grizzly Bear (1994-1996)

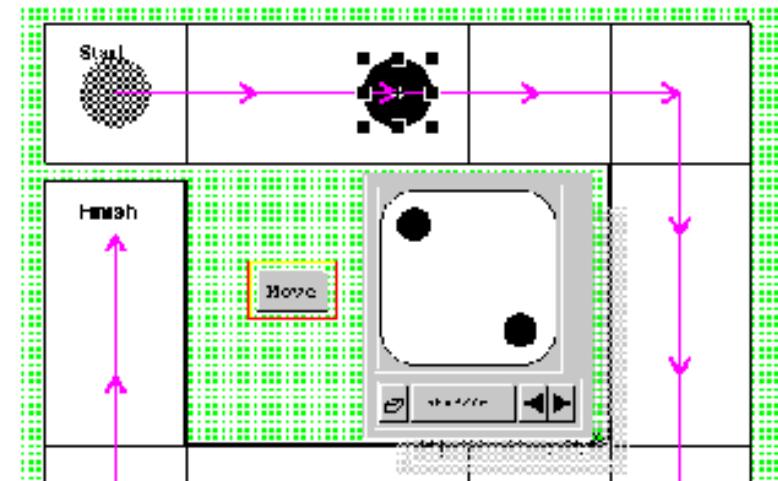
- Martin R. Frank, Piyawadee "Noi" Sukaviriya, James D. Foley. “Inference bear: designing interactive interfaces through before and after snapshots,” DIS’95. Ann Arbor, Michigan, pp. 167 – 175. [pdf](#)
- Martin Frank, Model-Based User Interface Design by Demonstration and By Interview. PhD Thesis, Georgia 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



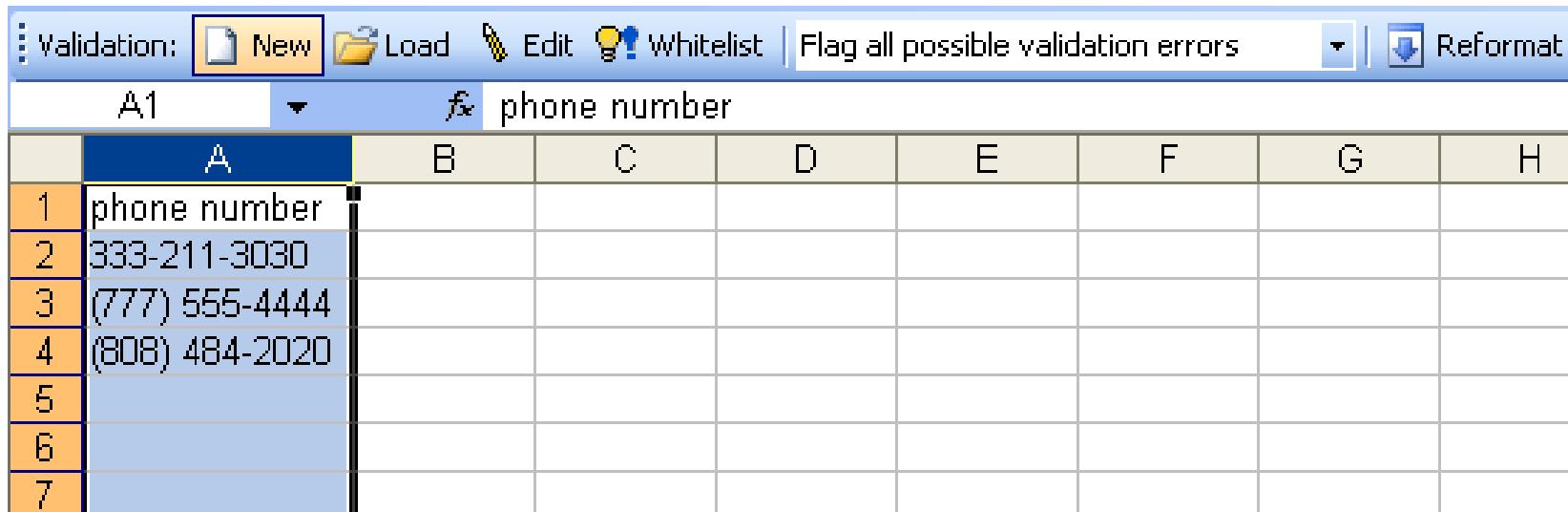
Gamut (1996 - 1999)

- 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.



The screenshot shows a software interface for validating data. The top menu bar includes "Validation", "New", "Load", "Edit", "Whitelist", "Flag all possible validation errors", and "Reformat". The main area is a spreadsheet with columns labeled A through H. Row 1 contains the header "A" and "phone number". Rows 2 through 7 contain data entries: "333-211-3030", "(777) 555-4444", "(808) 484-2020", and empty cells for rows 5, 6, and 7. The "Validation" tab is selected in the top bar.

| | 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:

OR

Description **Repetition** **Whitelist** **Number**

The is a number that

... is in the range

...

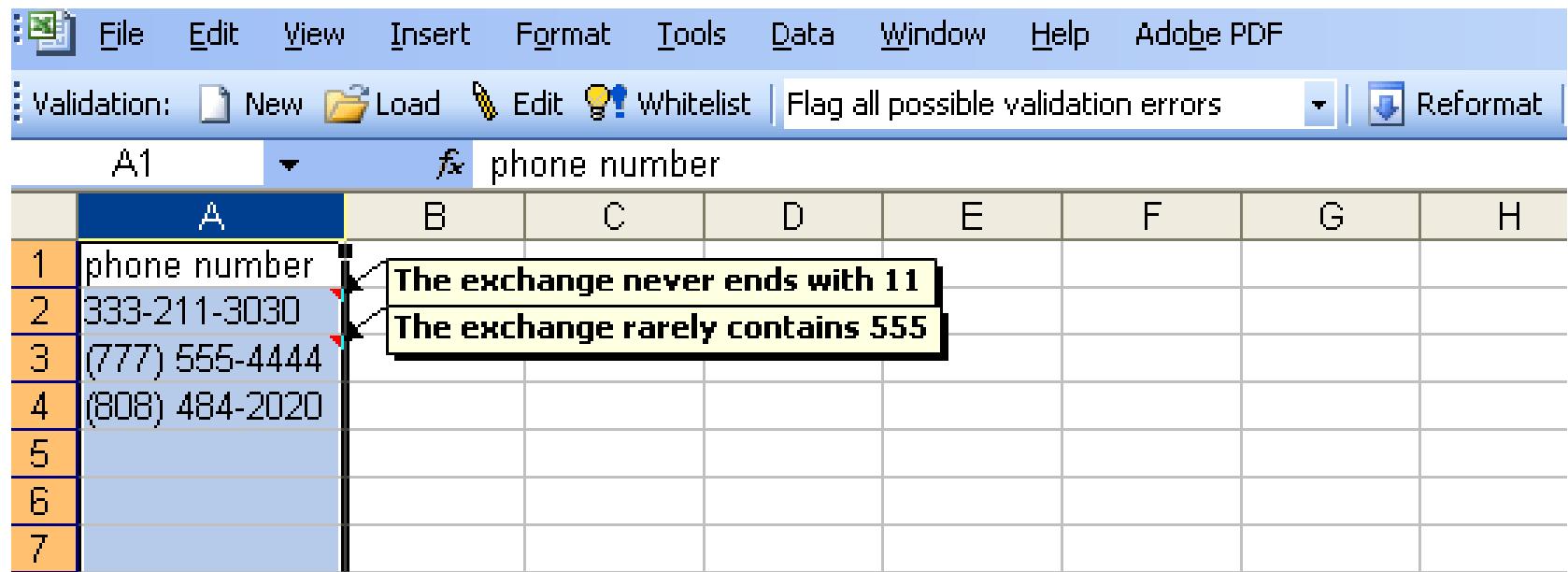
...

...

...

Topes, cont.

- Validator – never vs. rarely



The screenshot shows a spreadsheet application with a menu bar and a toolbar. The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Tools, Data, Window, Help, and Adobe PDF. The toolbar includes Validation, New, Load, Edit, Whitelist, Flag all possible validation errors, and Reformat. The spreadsheet has columns A through H and rows 1 through 7. Cell A1 is selected and contains the text "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 | | | | | | | | |

Validation errors are shown in a callout box over cell A1. The errors are:

- The exchange never ends with 11
- The exchange rarely contains 555

Topics, cont.

- Converter

The screenshot shows a spreadsheet application with a context menu open over the cell A1, which contains the text "Employee Name". The menu includes options like Cut, Copy, Paste, Paste Special..., Format As..., Insert, Delete, Clear Contents, Column Width..., Hide, and Unhide. A sub-menu for "Format As..." is open, showing categories: COMPANY NAME, PERSON FIRST NAME, PERSON LAST NAME, and PERSON NAME. The "PERSON NAME" category is highlighted. A second-level submenu for "PERSON NAME" is open, listing "Something Else" and a list of names: Hugo Martinez, Hugo MARTINEZ, HUGO Martinez, HUGO MARTINEZ, Martinez, Hugo, Martinez, HUGO, MARTINEZ, Hugo, and MARTINEZ, HUGO. At the bottom of this list is a link: <<< Edit Description of PERSON NAME >>>. The spreadsheet table has columns A through I and rows 1 through 22. Column A contains names, and columns C through I contain address, city, state, and zip code information.

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

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)!



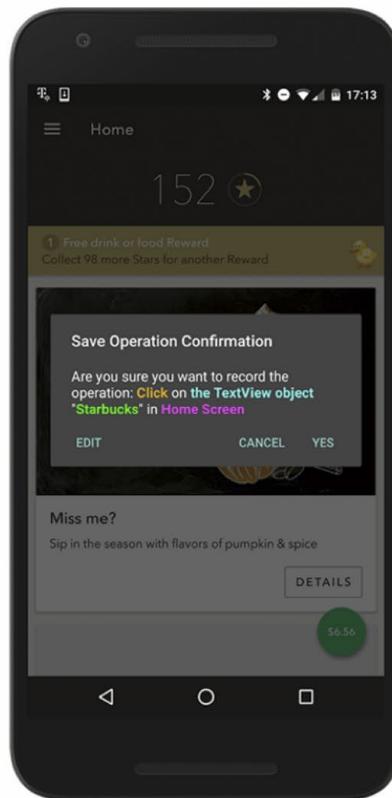
Toby Li's Sugilite

- 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)

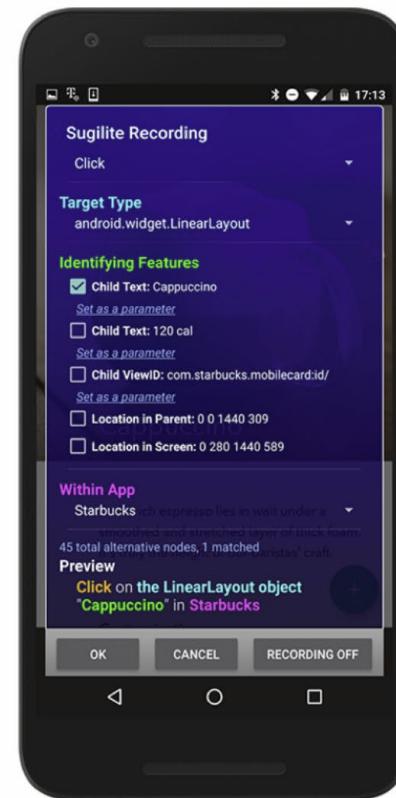
Sugilite pictures



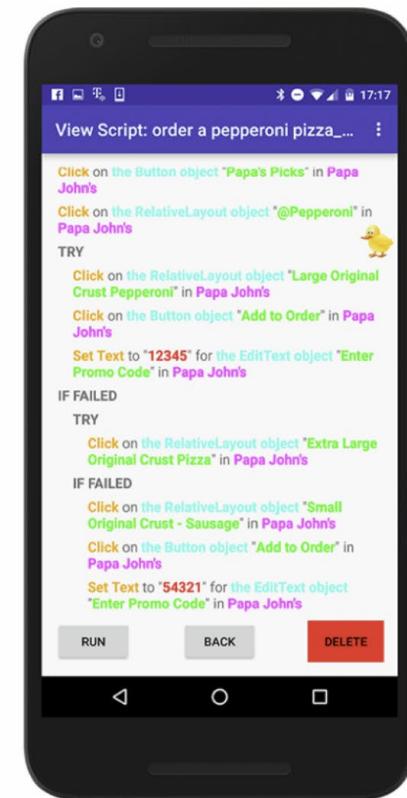
(a)



(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  

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 E \$\$\$ ✓

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

Page: index

UI Builder Responsive

▼ Visual elements

- T** Text
- CLICK** Button
- FLAG** Icon
- LINK** Link
- IMAGE** Image
- SHAPE** Shape
- ALERT** Alert
- VIDEO** Video
- HTML**
- MAP**
- BUILT ON BUBBLE**
- INSTALL MORE...**
- CONTAINERS**
- GROUP**

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

When Button Sign Up is clicked

Custom Send email

Trigger Send email

Custom event: Send email

Workflow thing: Current User

Only when Click

Sign the user up → Trigger Send email → Click here to add an action...

Zapier

