

Übung 5 – Mensch-Maschine-Interaktion

Theme: New Desktop Interface Concepts

In current operating systems and window managers most desktop elements are static. A few newer concepts involve a dynamic behavior according to some underlying information. An example are dynamic icons, like the paper bin (see figure 1) and thumbnail views (see figure 2). The first example is conveying abstract information of state, whereas the second is giving a preview of a document.



Figure 1

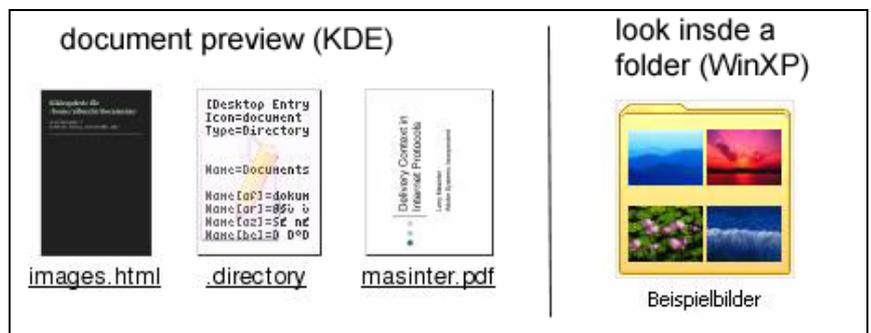


Figure 2

Another example is a menu bar which dynamically hides all menu points which have not been used for a certain amount of time.

Part 1: Design a new dynamic desktop concept

Design a new concept for the desktop using dynamic adaptation to the change of information.

Examples for such a new concept are dynamic folder icons. They can e.g. convey information about some of the following properties:

- disk size used by the folder
- further folders contained in the folder
- number of documents contained in the folder
- security/privacy settings and ownership of the folder
- when the object was accessed / changed

It is required to find balance between information transported and the risk to overload the icon. As an example, we will discuss in the exercise proposals how to fill out table 1.

You either can build up on the given example or alternatively provide a concept for any other kind of desktop element. Appropriate tools for the task may be paper and pencil or a graphics editor.

	< 2 MB	2 MB – 200 MB	200 MB – 2 GB	> 2GB
< 20 files				
20 – 200 files				
> 200 files				

Table 1

Part 2: Prototype Implementation

Implement a prototype of your concept, e.g. in Flash/ActionScript or HTML/JavaScript. Use screenshots from existing desktops as a basis. Don't be concerned with how to implement the integration of your concept into existing operating systems.

Deliverable:

- For part 1: Briefly description of your concept as PDF (text and optional some sketches).
- For part 2: executable files and sources of your prototype implementation.

You may solve the task in teams of three or four students. **Submit** your solution for **part 1 and part 2** until **12th of January** as a zip file by mail to **andreas.pleuss@ifi.lmu.de**. Please name the zip file with the names of the team members.