the many faces of

consistency

VirginiaTech

Why Consistency is Not Everything, and Seamless Task Migration is Key

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Consistency

- Data
- Functionality
- Interaction
- Behavioral
- Context
- *Definitions?*
- *also,*
- Task Disconnects
- Seamless Task Migration
- *A brief introduction*

Examples

- Features, not products
- Certain forms of consistency present
- Others, absent
- What makes it good?
- ... Or bad?

Consistency
? Data
? Functionality
? Interaction
? Behavioral
? Context

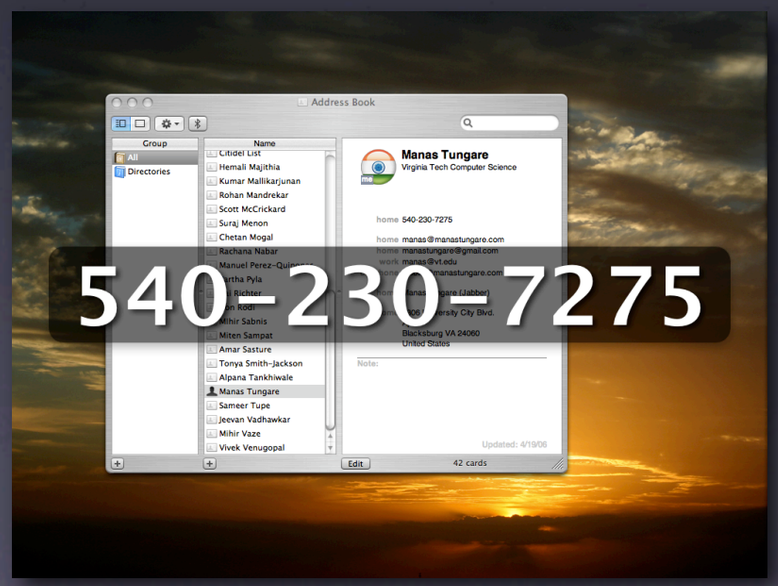
iTunes + iPod

- iPod Shuffle
- Podcasts

Consistency
✔ Data
Functionality
✘ Interaction
Behavioral
Context

Address book

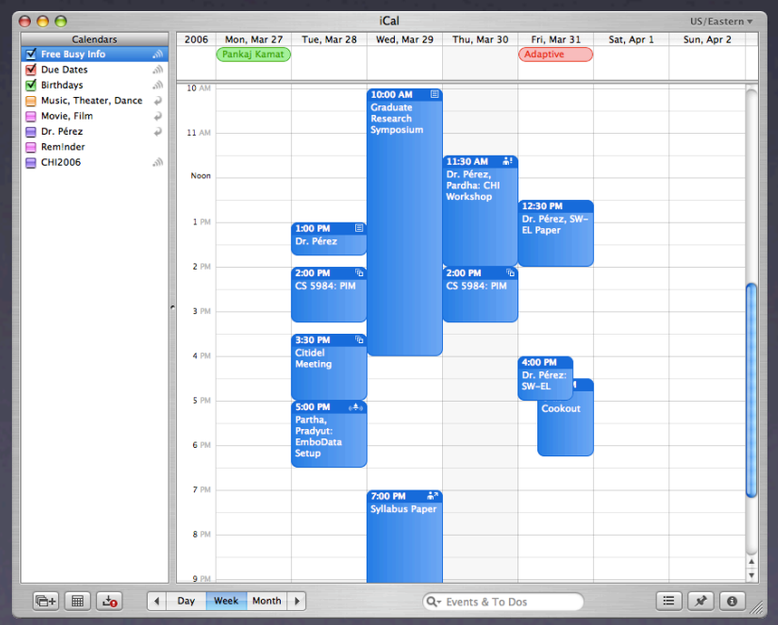
- Search / browse
- Large type vs. ‘Call’



Consistency
✔ Data
Functionality
✘ Interaction
Behavioral
Context

Calendar

- Cellphone UI
- Voice access



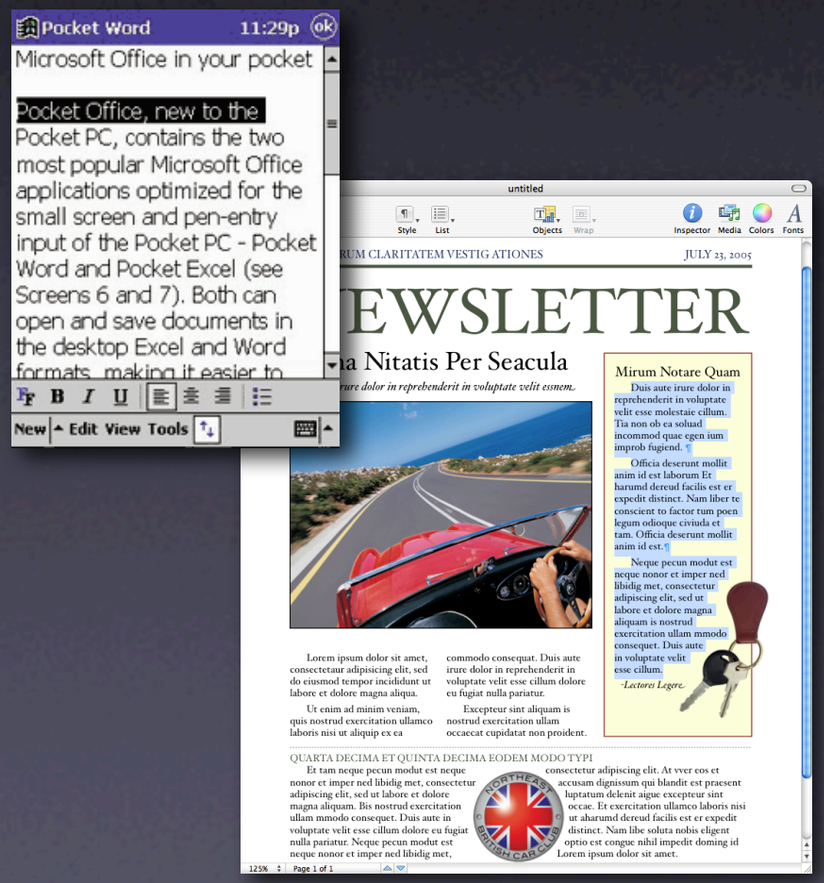
Consistency
✘ Data
✔ Functionality
✘ Interaction
Behavioral
Context

Alarms

- Chaos
- Support for Task Migration?

Consistency
* Data
Functionality
✘ Interaction
✔ Behavioral
Context

Maintaining context



- Resume playback
- Resume editing (e.g. vi)

Consistency
✔ Data
✘ Functionality
✘ Interaction
Behavioral
✔ Context

Task Disconnects

- The break in continuity that occurs due to the extra actions outside the task at hand that are necessary when a user attempts to accomplish a task using more than one device.

Design Issues

- Holistic Interaction Design
  - ... for an ecosystem of devices
- Task & data partitioning
- Minimize planning activity & cognitive effort

Conclusion

Seamless Task Migration
as a higher goal than consistency
for successful
Multiple User Interfaces

Questions & Discussion