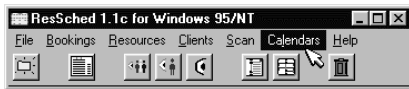# Widget Mistakes

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Sources

- IArchitects' *Interface Hall of Shame*
  - www.iarchitect.com/mshame.htm
- Personal experience

Menu Miscues
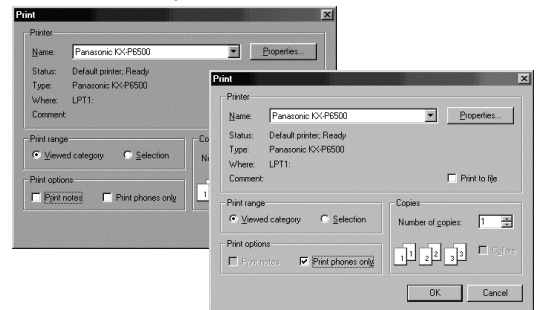

Menu brings up a dialog

"Menus" activate commands

Palm Desktop Print Options

- Note Print options

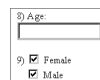

Palm Desktop Print Options

- A better design: vertical checkboxes:
  - Print phone numbers
  - Print addresses
  - Print notes
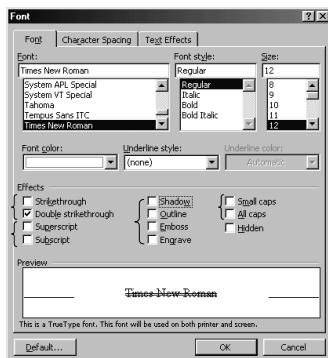

Radio Buttons vs. Checkboxes

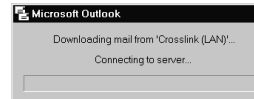Use checkboxes (or just refresh both without asking)
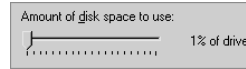
Hermaphrodites welcome

MS Word 2000

Braces show mutually exclusive choices

Always shows 0% or 100%

For IE cache.
Basically a good design, but note:
1% of 10 Gig = 100 Meg!

Click and Print

Select an award style using the scroll bar. When you've found a style that suits you, press OKAY to create that award and open the editor.
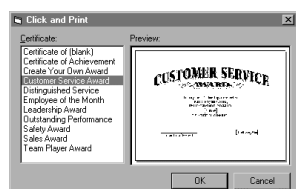
Problems with Previous Dialog

- Instructions in title bar
- Right justified text
- Cancel before OK
- Reference to "OKAY" button
- Ugly green color
- Only way to see or select styles is to use the scrollbar to go through linearly
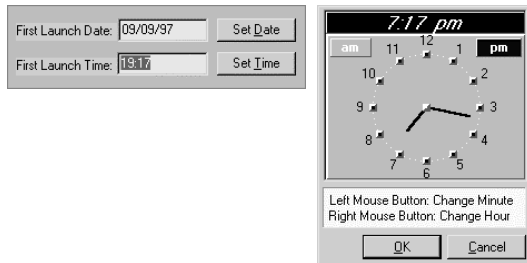
IArchitects' Improvement

More from Click and Print

- Clicking on first three checkboxes brings up a dialog
- Box is checked when user chooses OK in dialog
- Clicking Print prints the certificate

2

Automate Pro

- You can select text, but you can't type it
- You must bring up the clock dialog

First Launch Date: 09/09/97   Set Date
First Launch Time: 19:17   Set Time

7:17 pm
Left Mouse Button: Change Minute
Right Mouse Button: Change Hour

OK   Cancel
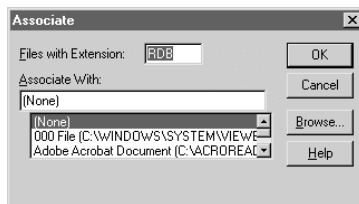
13

Scrolling Abuse

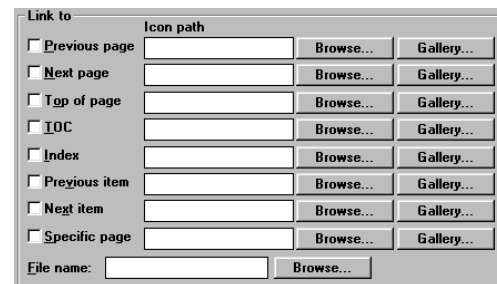Horizontal scrolling is generally bad

Scrolling a GUI screen is always bad
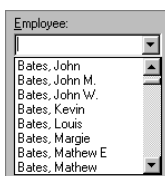
14

Only three items displayed (list box contains 133).

15

Too many buttons.
Alternative??

16

Thousands of entries in a list.
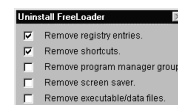How *do* you provide a choice from thousands of names?

"Don't let the user make a mistake" taken to extremes.
(How about a GOMS KLM analysis of this?)

17

Too many radio buttons cause visual clutter, even if space is available.

A list with, say, 10 visible entries would be fine.

These check boxes accept input, but are used as output widgets to show progress.

18

3

Only way to change months is via scrollbar. Each arrow click = 1 month.

Use the thumb? Since the range is 1800-9999, each pixel is 51 years.

Also: days of week are not selectable.

19

Too Many Tabs

20

Bad Button Labels

"No" does *not* mean "Don't delete"
Place text on buttons.
Or better: don't have arbitrary limitations.

21

Text over Icons

The lack of lines destroys the tab metaphor.

The designers realized that the tab icons were unclear, so they provided a glossary (shown).

Text labels would have been better.

22

4