# Mobile and Context-aware Interactive Systems


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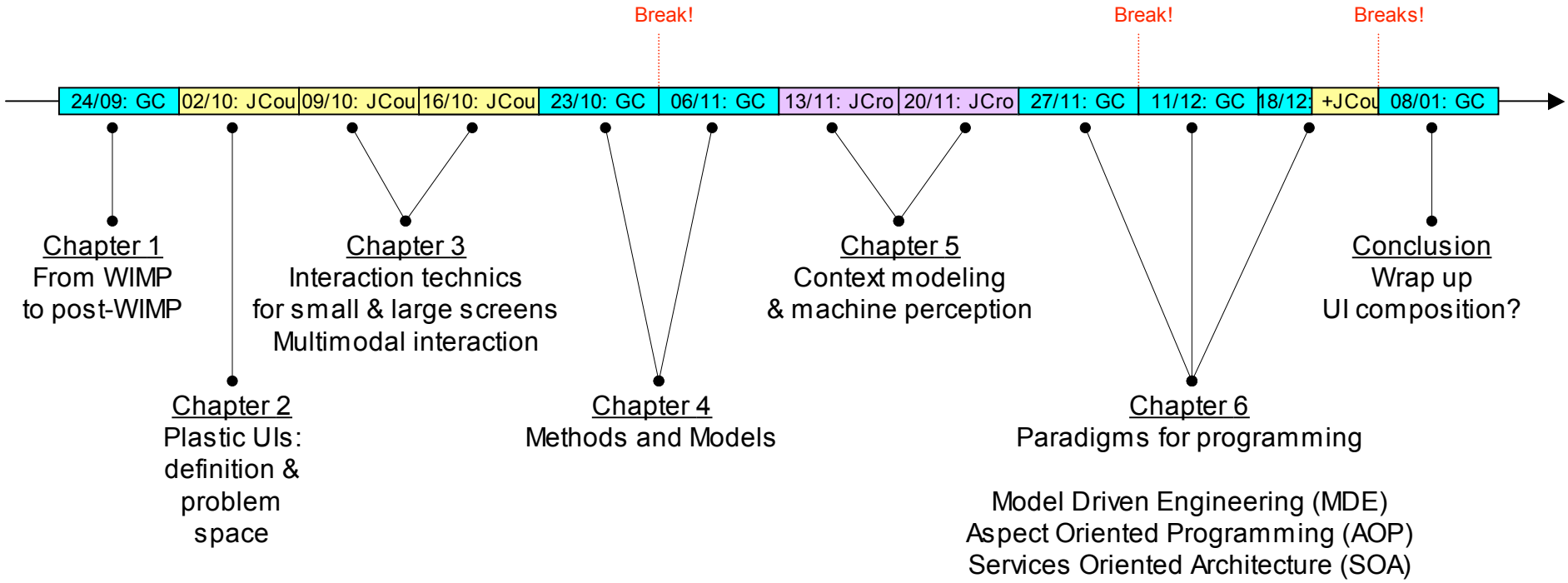
# Outline and schedule




GC: Gaëlle Calvary
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JCro: James Crowley

# Outline of Chapter 2

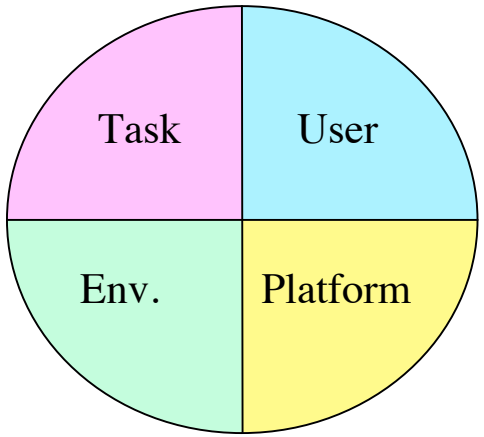
1. Introduction

2. Definitions (simplified)
   - User Interface (UI) plasticity
   - Context of interaction
   - Usability
   - Adaptation

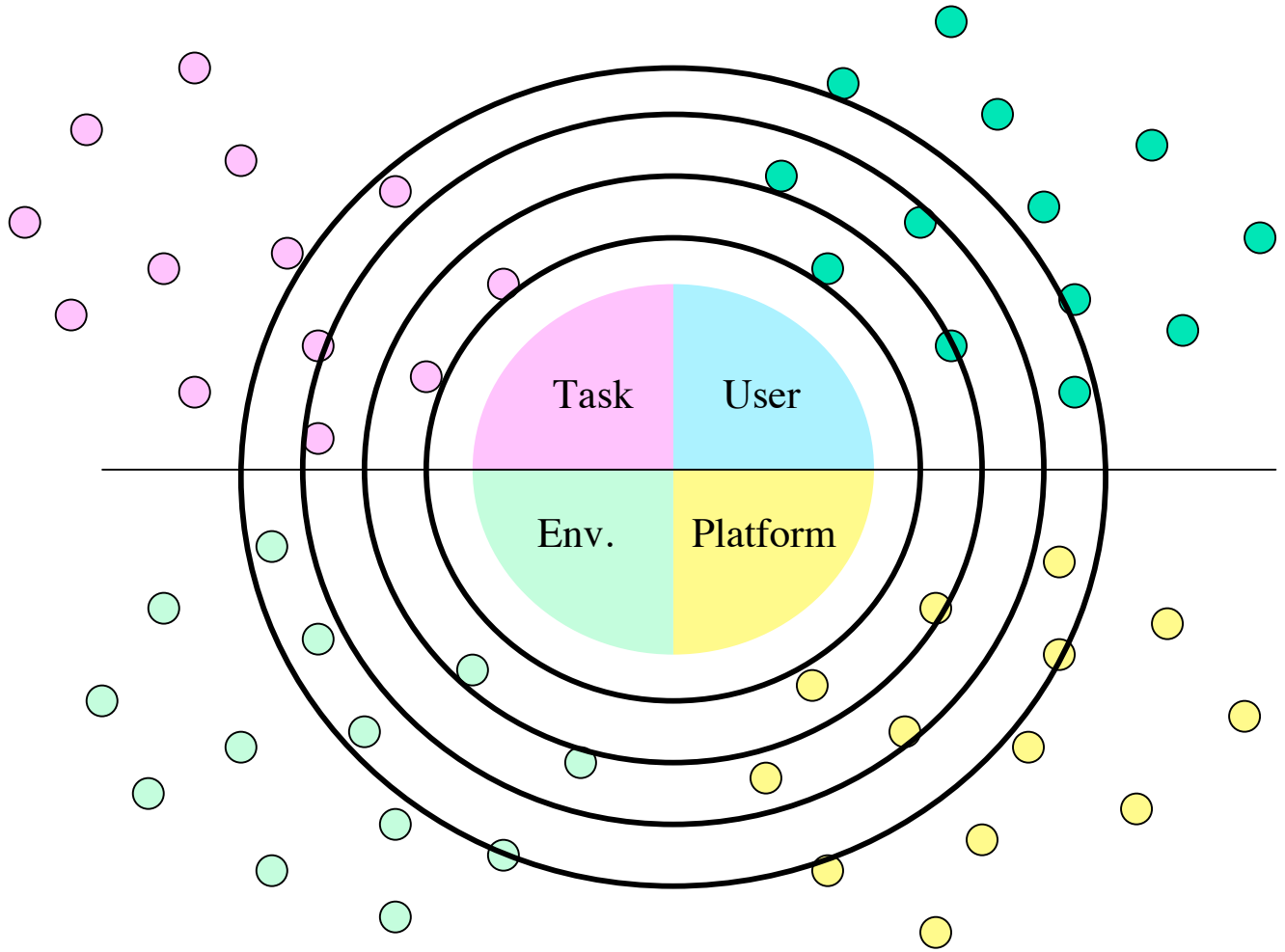
3. The problem space of UI plasticity

# introduction

- In conventional HCI: the problem space is bounded
  - The target user (e.g., an office clerk)
  - accomplishes a well-defined set of tasks (e.g., writing a report)
  - using a fixed class of devices (e.g., a workstation)
  - in a predefined set of environments (e.g., in the office)



- In ambient computing: the problem space is unbounded



# Introduction: how to address this problem?

- Approach1: to develop the systems on a case per case basis (ad-hoc manner)
  - Development cost and maintenance: very high!
  - Consistency problem between the various versions

- Approach2: to improve the methods and tools in order to support
  - Portability
  - Reusability
  - Modifiability (please, make the distinction between adaptability and adaptativity)
  - Scalability in terms of
    - Computing resources
    - Services
    - Interaction techniques (multimodality, UI for small and large devices)

=> Plastic UI

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3. The problem space of UI plasticity

# plasticity

- Materials: capability to change their own shape while preserving usage, they do not break (within some limits, of course)
- Physiology: capabilities of tissues to rebuild themselves to recover from injuries (e.g., the brain)
- Animals, plants: they adapt to the environment to survive
- By analogy in HCI …

# Plasticity of an interactive system

- Capacity of the system to adapt to the context of use while preserving their own utility and usability

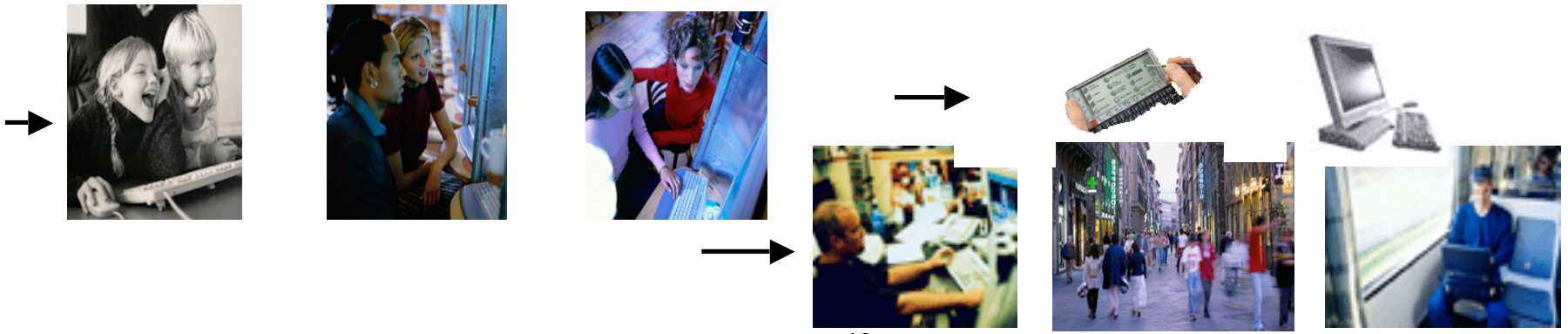
- Context of use …
- Adaptation …
- Utility and Usability …

# Context of use (simplified version)

- Context: it's complex! Generally speaking, it is an information space
  - that is shared between actors, dynamic, structured, and
  - that serves interpretation (by the actors)

- There is "no context without context" -> context of use

- Context of use: an information space
  - that is shared (between the software components of the interactive system and between the system and the users), dynamic, and structured into 3 sub-spaces:
    - The users
    - The platform (from an elementary platform such as a mobile phone to a cluster of elementary devices)
    - The physical environment (location, light-sound-heat and social conditions)
  - that supports the adaptation process to perserve the system utility and usability



# Plasticity of an interactive system

- Capacity of the system to adapt to the context of use while preserving their own utility and usability

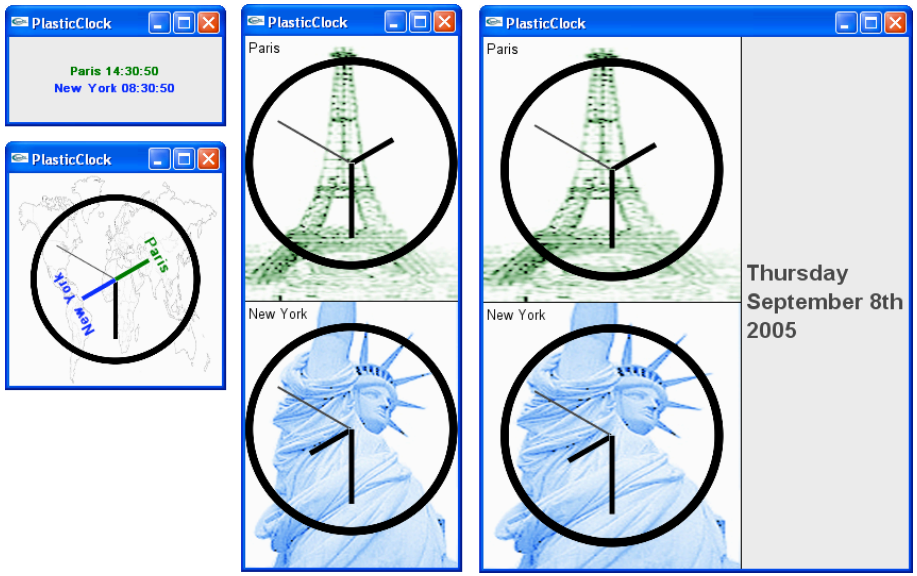
- Context of use …
- Adaptation …
- Utility and Usability …

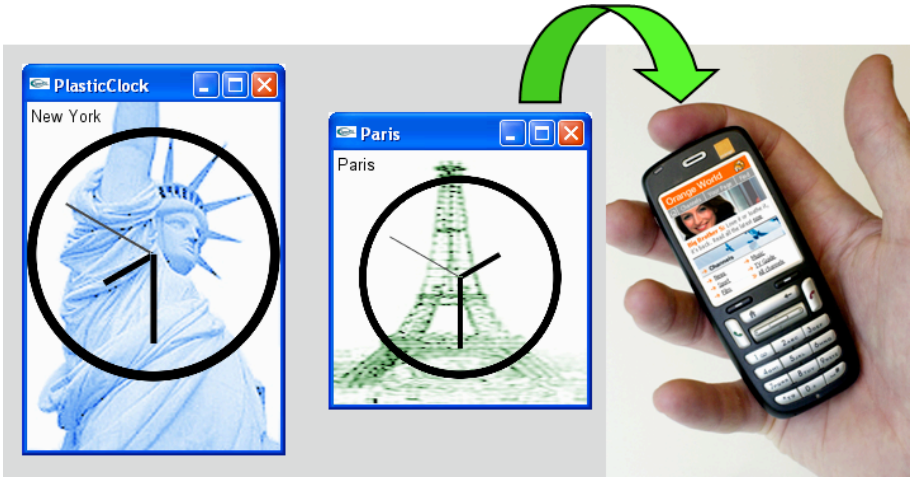
# Two means for UI adaptation

- Remolding (reshaping)
- Redistribution

# UI remolding (reshaping)

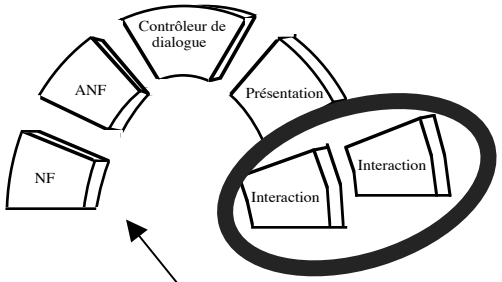
- Example: Plastic Clock



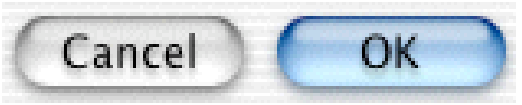




# UI remolding (reshaping)

- Physical Presentation level (PP)




NSButton :




Button :

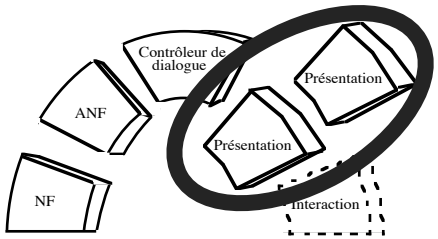

JButton :


The classes of widgets are maintained but their behaviour (possibly, their spatial and temporal layout) has changed

*NB: Arch model (see readings)*

# UI remolding (reshaping): may cover multiple levels of abstraction

- Logical presentation level (LP)




Label + TextField :

Month : November

Label + ComboBox :

Month : November

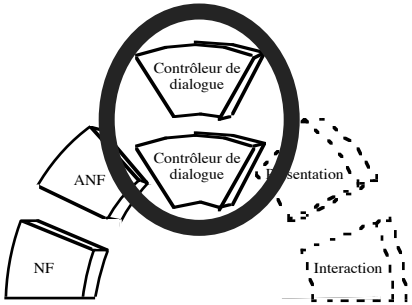
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December

Substitution of widgets

LP Modification -> PP Modification

# UI remolding (reshaping)

- Dialogue Control level (DC)

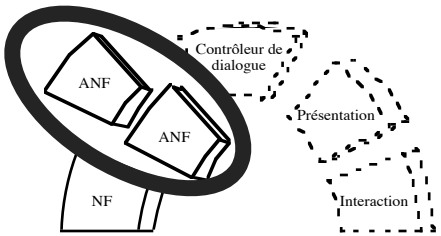



Tasks are maintained but their ordering has changed

DC Modification -> LP modification -> PP modification

# UI remolding (reshaping)

- Functional Core Adaptator level (FCA)




**Livre** (sur station de travail)
- titre
- auteurs
- résumé
- mot clefs
- …

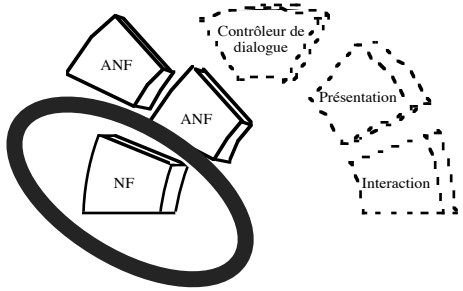
**Livre** (sur PalmPilot)
- titre
- auteur principal
- mot clefs

Tasks and domain-dependent concepts may be added/suppressed

FCA Modification -> DC modification -> LP modification > PP modification

# UI remolding (reshaping)

- Functional Core level (FC)




The nature of the services of the functional core has changed (cf. very last course on UI composition)

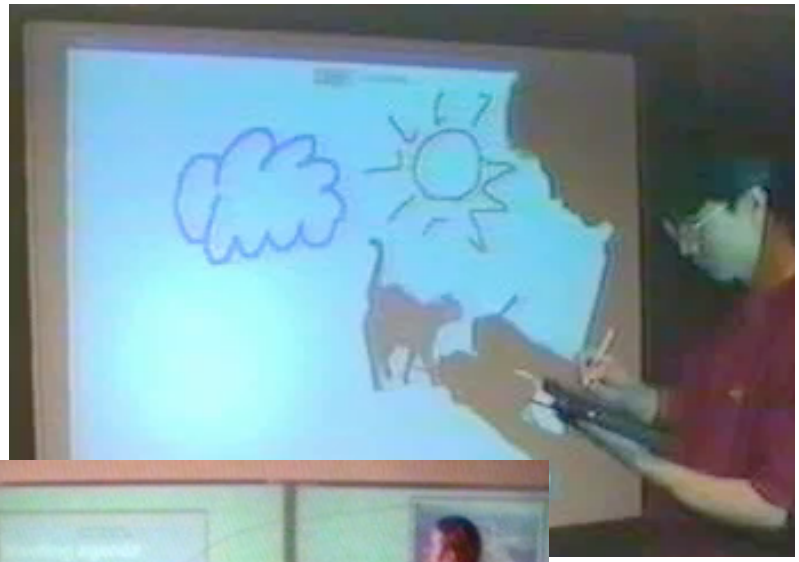
FC modification ->FCA Modification -> DC modification -> LP modification > PP modification

# UI Redistribution

- The UI uses interaction resources that are distributed over multiple elementary platform (distributed UI)
- UI redistribution may be static or dynamic
- Dynamic redistribution => on-the-fly migration of the UI
  - Migration may be total: the UI releases (frees) all of the interaction resources currently used and migrates entirely to other interaction resources
  - Migration may be partial: only portions of the UI migrate -> what is the granularity for UI migration?
    - Workspace level
    - Pixel level

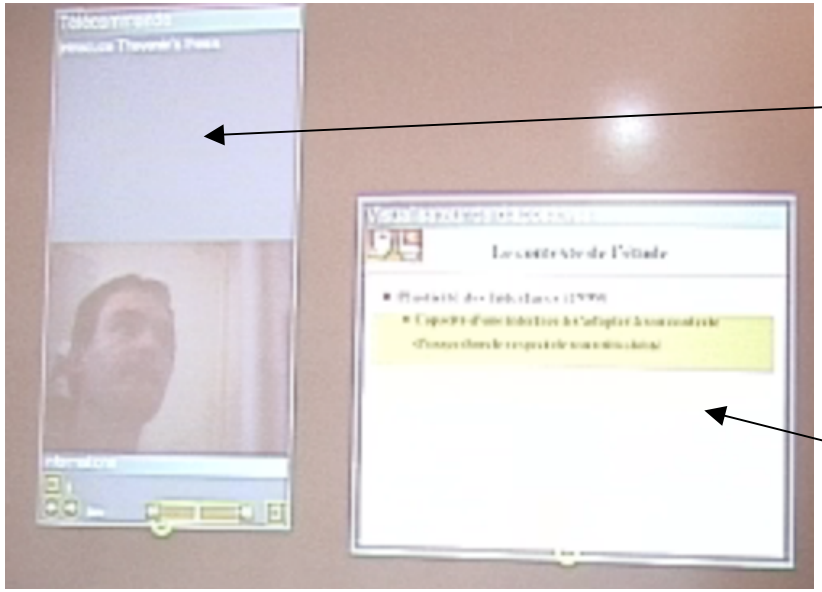
# UI Redistribution

- Rekimoto's "pick and drop"
  - Distribution is static
  - Distribution at the workspace level
  - No remolding
- i-LAND
  - Distribution is dynamic
  - Distribution at the pixel level
  - No remolding



# UI Redistribution

- CamNote, a slide viewer



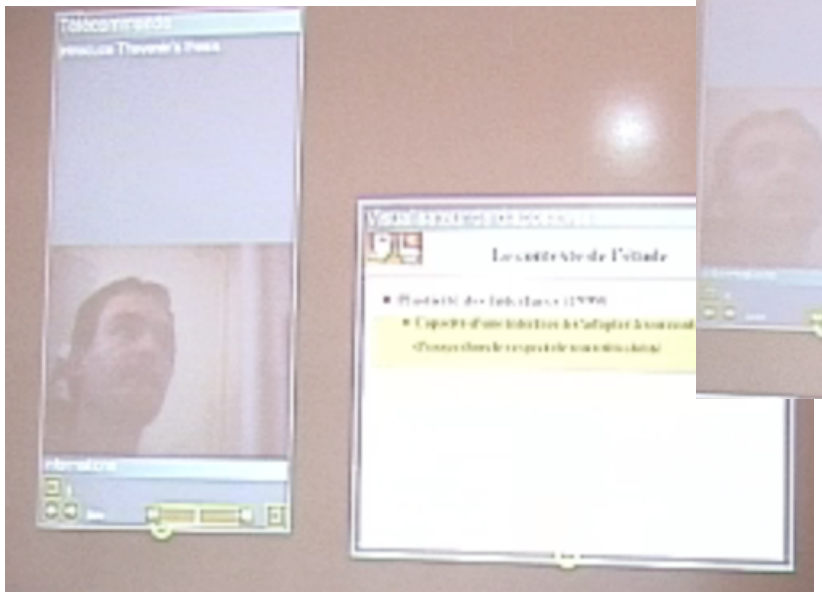
**workspace for the control panel**

**workspace for the slides**

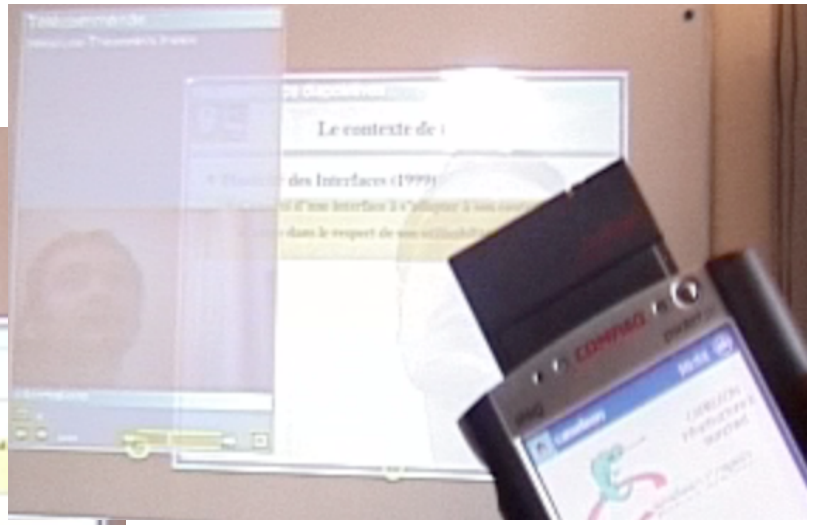
**1. PC only: centralized UI**

# UI Redistribution

- CamNote



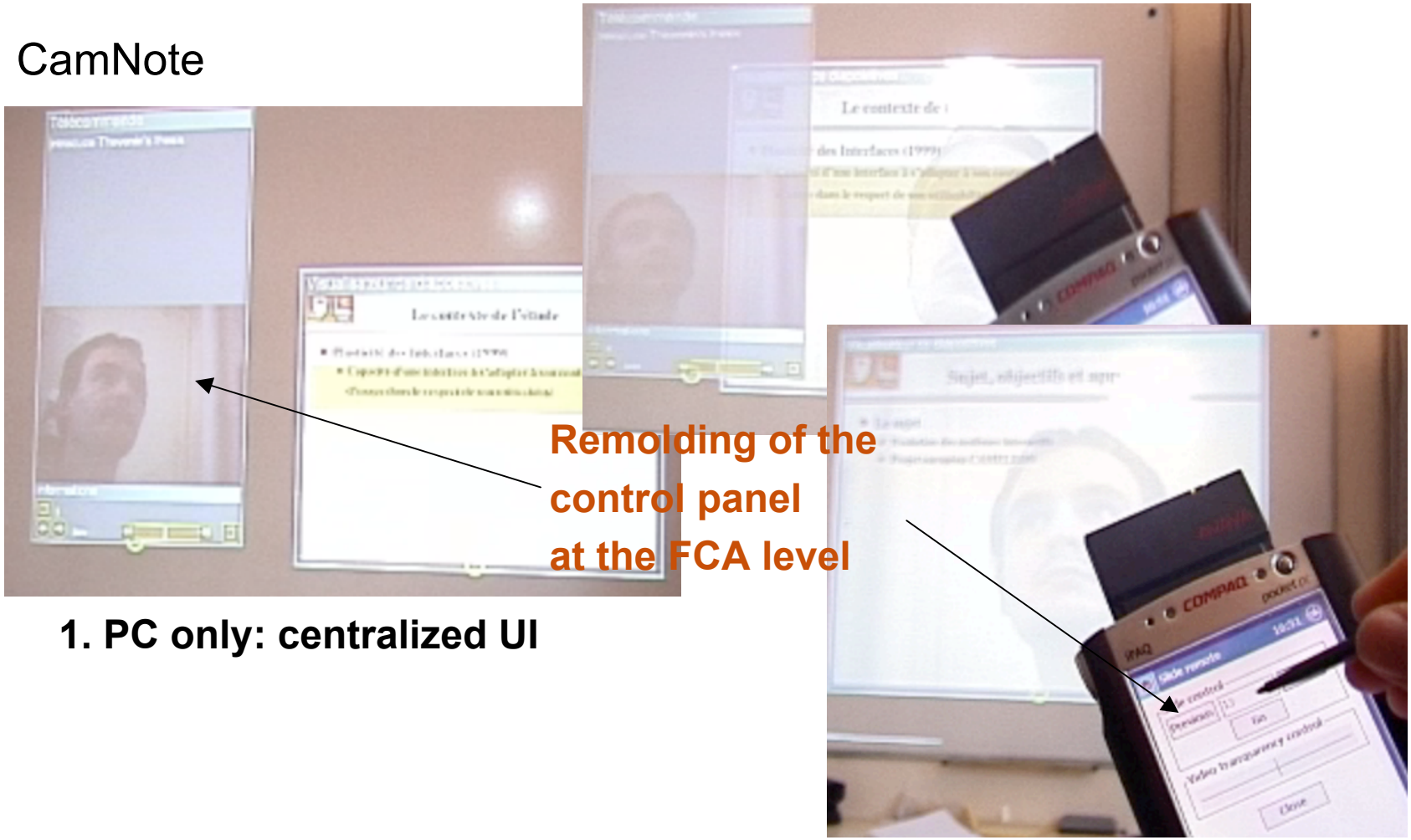
1. PC only: centralized UI



2. Arrival of the PDA: UI partial migration

# UI Redistribution

- CamNote




**1. PC only: centralized UI**

**2. Arrival of the PDA: UI partial migration**

**3. Distributed UI (PC and PDA) + remolding**

# UI Redistribution

- CamNote

# Plasticity of an interactive system

- Capacity of the system to adapt to the context of use while preserving their own utility and usability

- Context of use …
- Adaptation …
- Utility and Usability …

# Utility of an interactive system

- Capacity of the system to provide the target users with the appropriate functions/services (not less, not more)
- Appropriate = in conformity with users'need (not with designers' and developers' needs!)
- How to elicit the appropriate services?
  - Talking to users is not a luxury, it is mandatory!
  - Questionnaires, focus group, persona, evaluation, rapid prototyping (low-fidelity), observation of users in their daily activities, etc.
  - In short: user-centered design

# Usability of an interactive system: many faces!

- To make it simple: Capacity of the system to allow the target users to access and manipulate the services provided by the interactive system in conformity with their cognitive, motor and perceptual capabilities
  - Cognitive is the hard part ! Knowledge, pleasure, emotion, mood come into play!

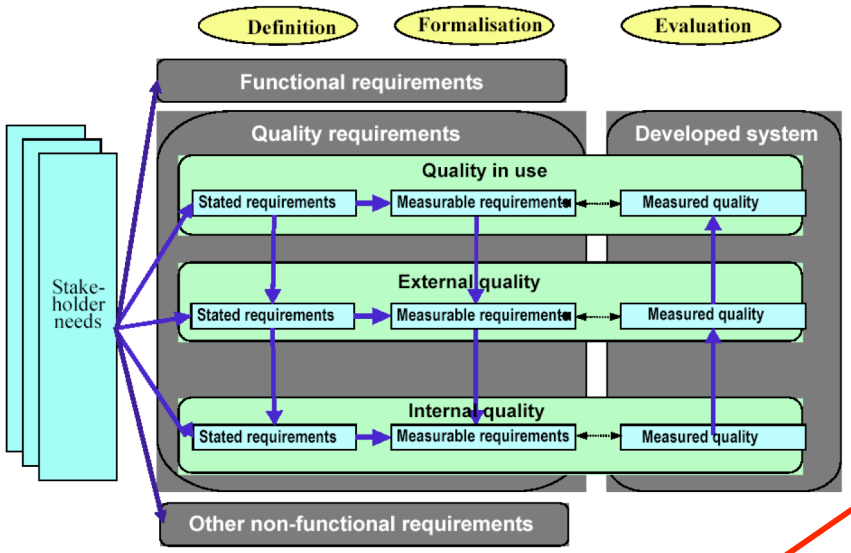
- How to develop a usable system?
  - Use theory-based knowledge (e.g., Fitts law, etc. = another course)
  - Apply ergonomics rules (another course)
  - Design, evaluate with the end-user and iterate

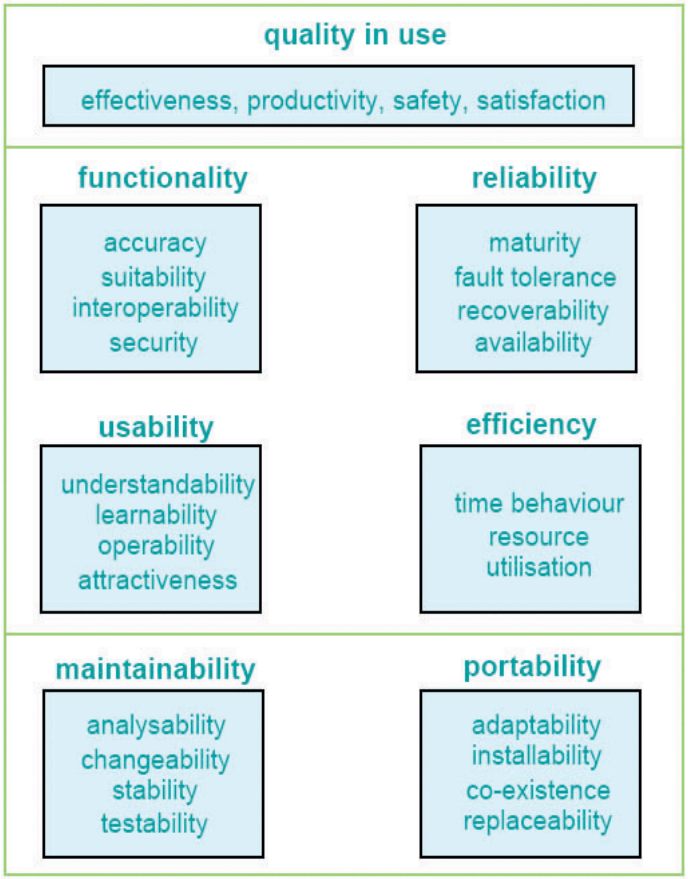
## Utility and Usability are not intrinsic to a product!
## It depends on the context of use

- Utility and usability depend on the “values” that the user associates to the system
- The “values” depend on the context of use
- Example: possible values for a heating control system that may depend on the context of use
  - Money saving
  - Sustainability
  - Comfort

# Usability within the Software Engineering community

- Properties are translated into metrics: ISO9126-1 quality model. That's good because this is done in HCI as well, but …



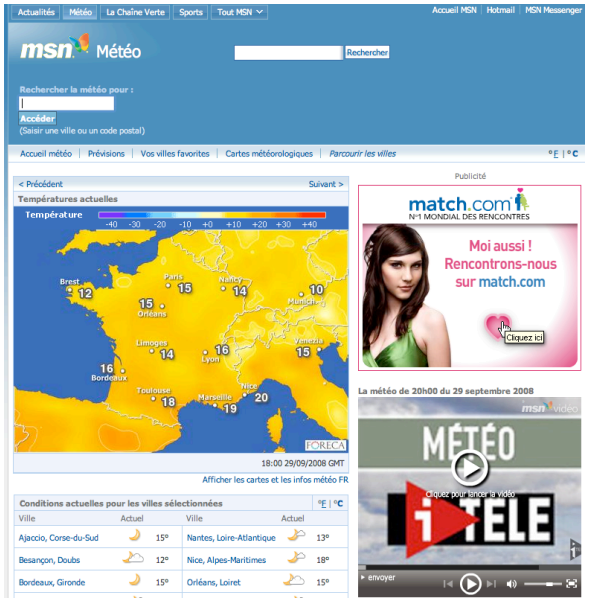

**Utilisability is considered as a quality that is independent from the rest**
**Thus, temptation is high to assimilate usability as cosmetic criteria!**

# To sum up …

- UI Plasticity = UI adaptation to the context of use while preserving utility and usability
- Adaptation of all or portions of the UI in two complementary ways that can be compbined: remolding (reshaping) and redistribution (migration)
- Examples
  - Plastic clock: remolding only, up to the FCA level
  - Pick and Drop: no remolding, static UI distribution at the workspace level
  - I-LAND: no remolding, dynamic UI redistribution at the pixel level
  - CamNote: remolding up to the FCA level, dynamic UI redistribution at the workspace level

# Exercice

- Caracterize the UI plasticity of the following interactive system (meteo)

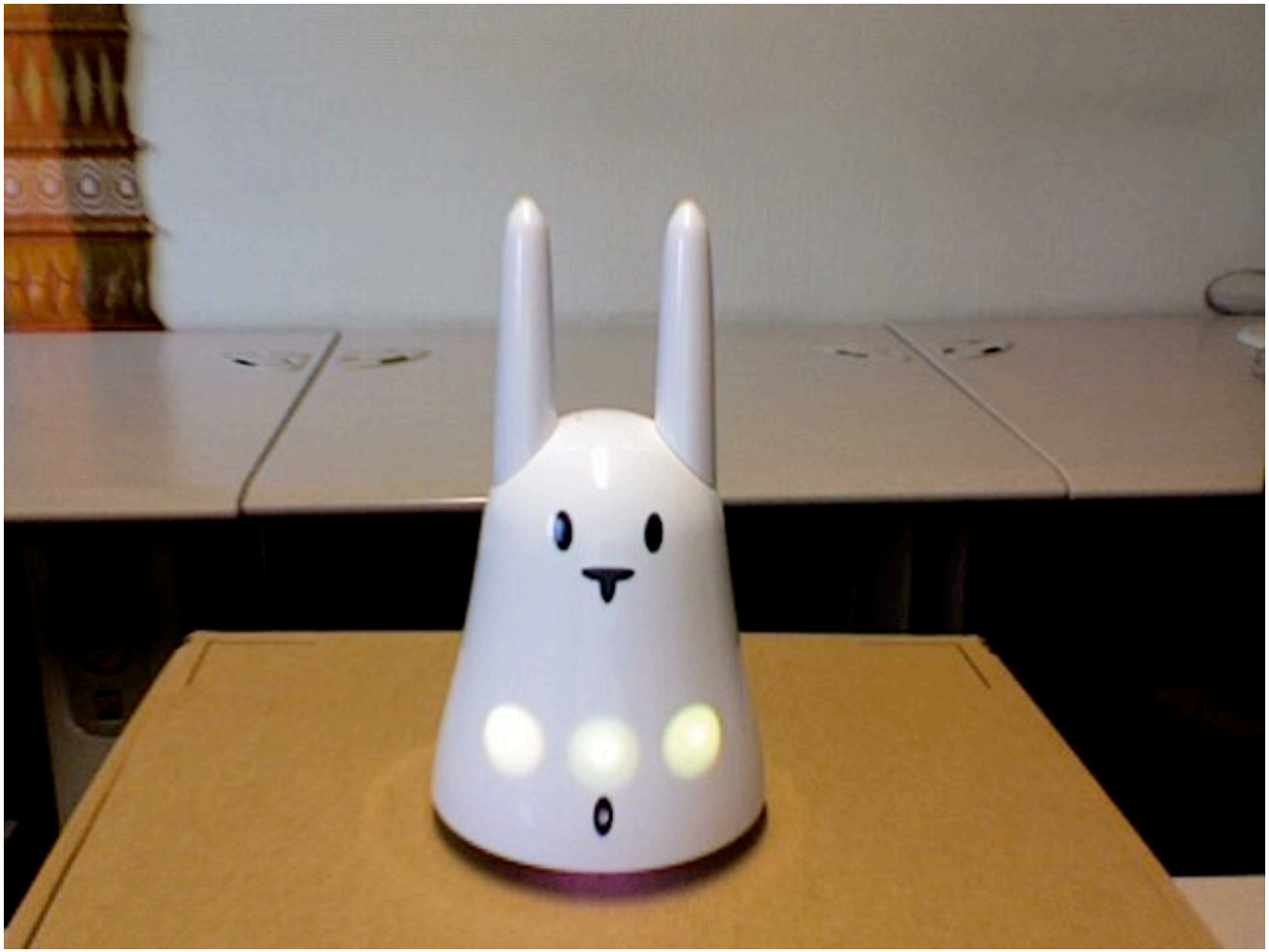



PC

Nabaztag


PDA

# Exercice



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2. Definitions (simplified)
   - User Interface (UI) plasticity
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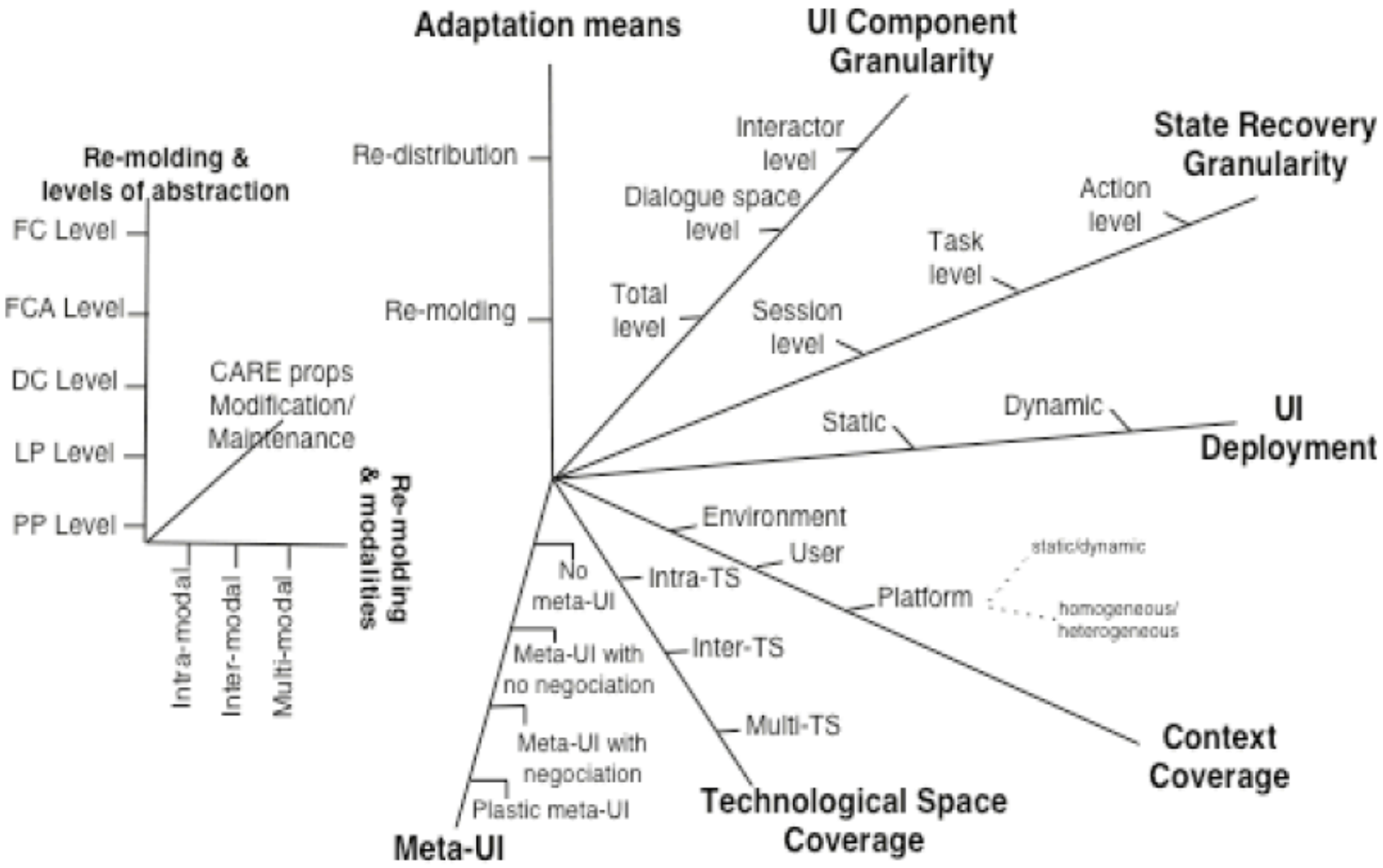
   - Usability
   - Adaptation

3. The problem space of UI plasticity

# The problem space of UI plasticity (see readings)

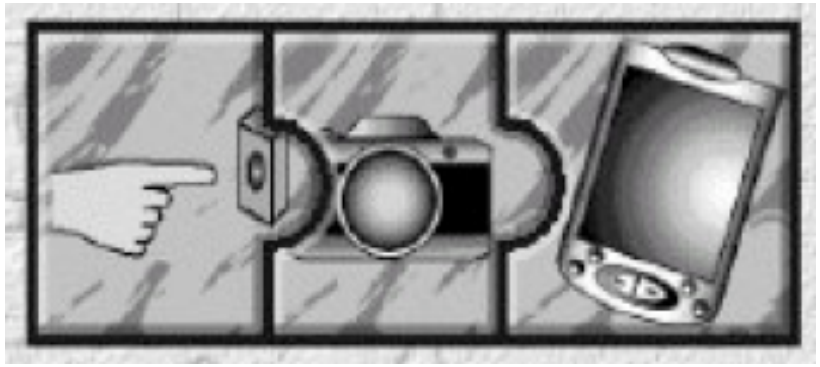


# Meta-UI

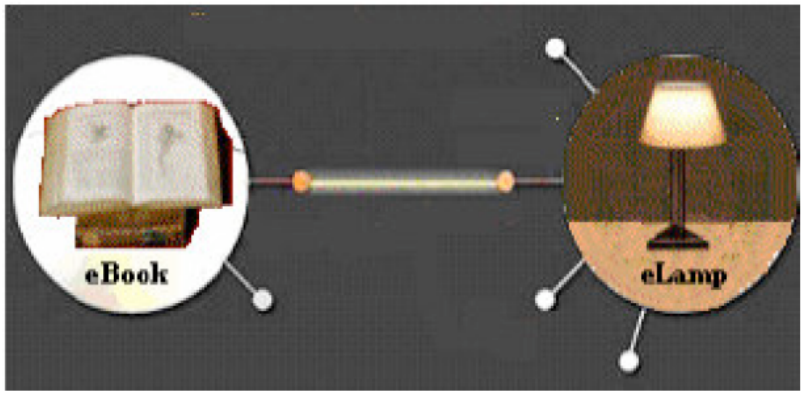
- A meta-UI is an interactive system that covers the services and their UI that are necessary and sufficient to allow the user to configure, control and evaluate the state of the interactive system (up to the ambient space)
  - *Meta*: it is on top of/in addition to the domain-dependent services that are available in the ambient space
  - *UI*: it permits the user to configure, control, and evaluate the state of that space
- A meta-UI is the « to-morrow desktop' for ambient spaces
  - It has to be invented!
- Meta-UI is about *end-user programming*

# Examples of meta-UI

- Assembling services



Jigsaw [Rodden 04]

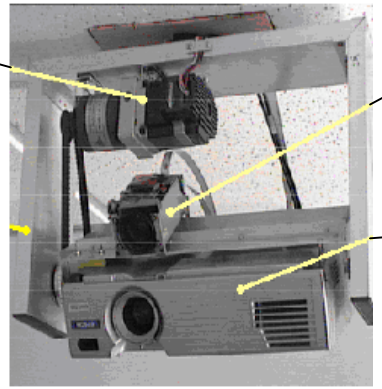



E-gadget [Marcopoulos 04]

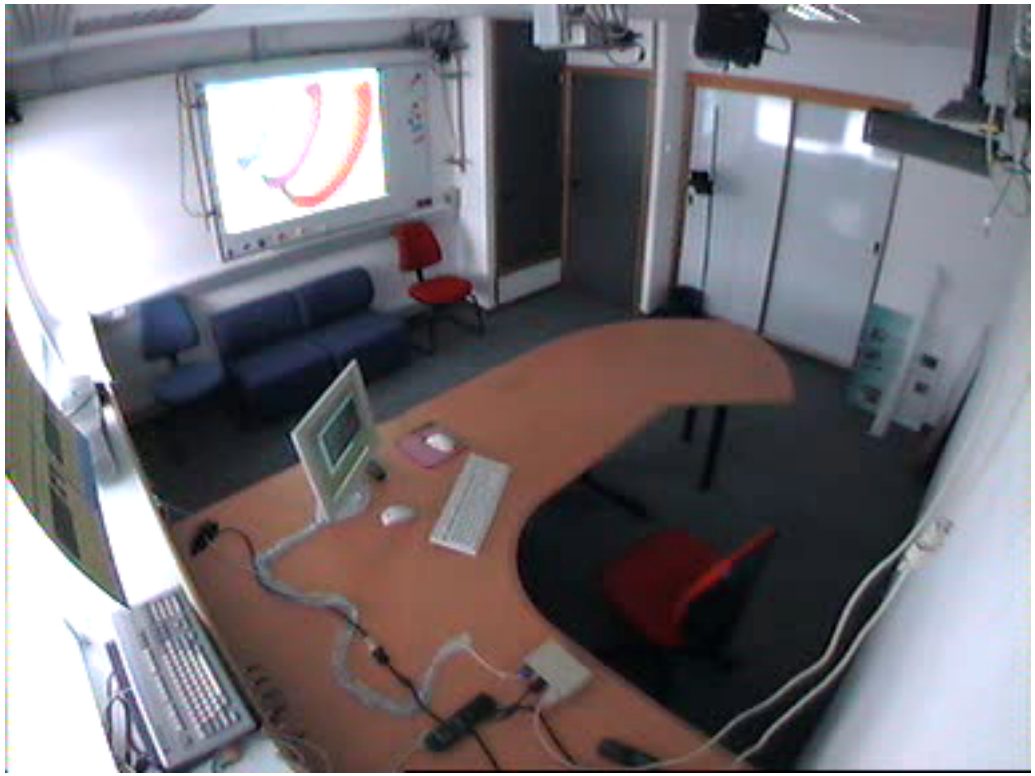
See also, Rekimoto's data tiles (chap 1)

# Examples of meta-UI

- Controling UI distribution (smart room, PRIMA): using gesture

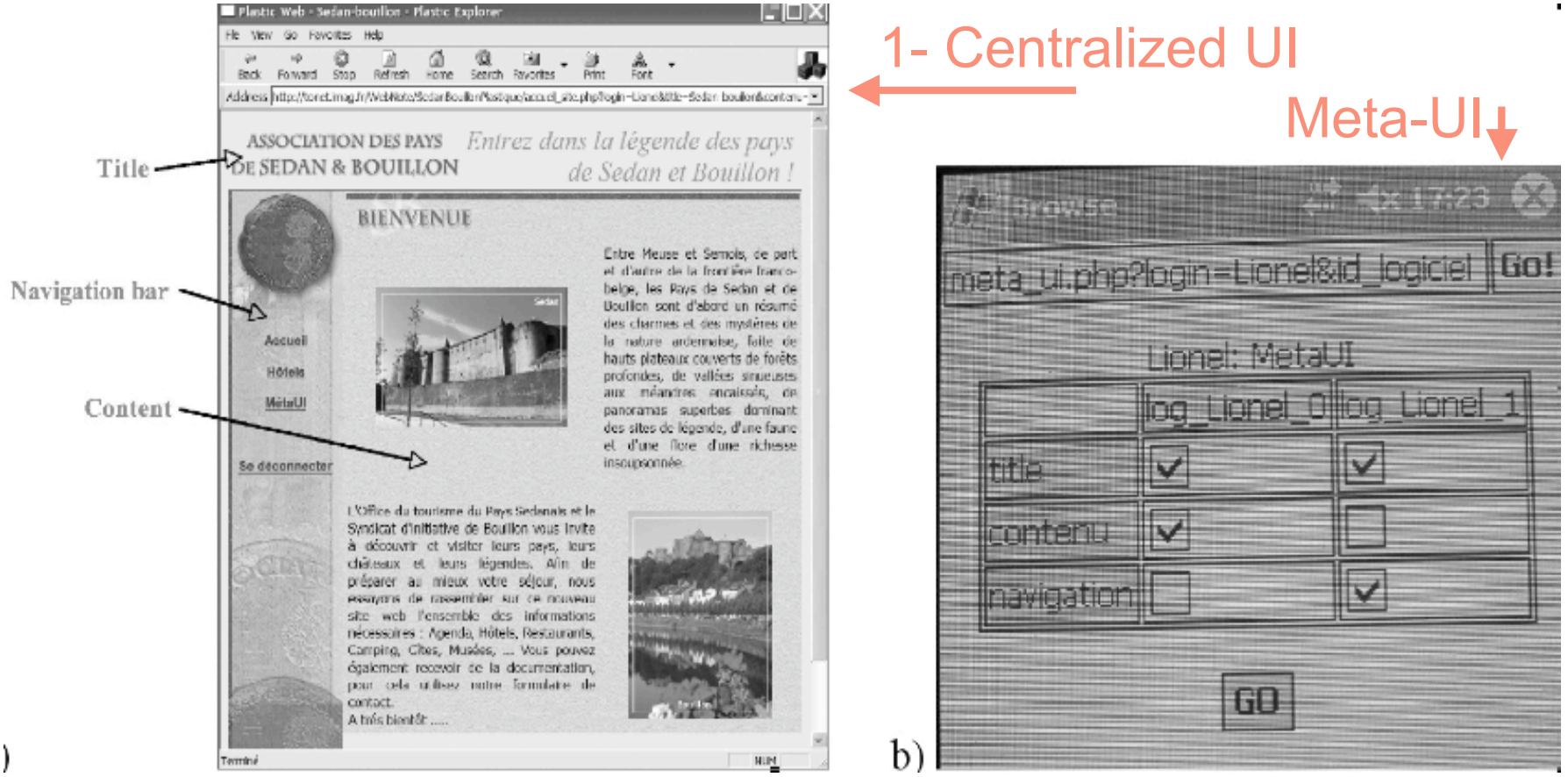



[Borkowski 06]



# Examples of meta-UI

- Controling UI distribution: Web site (IIHM)



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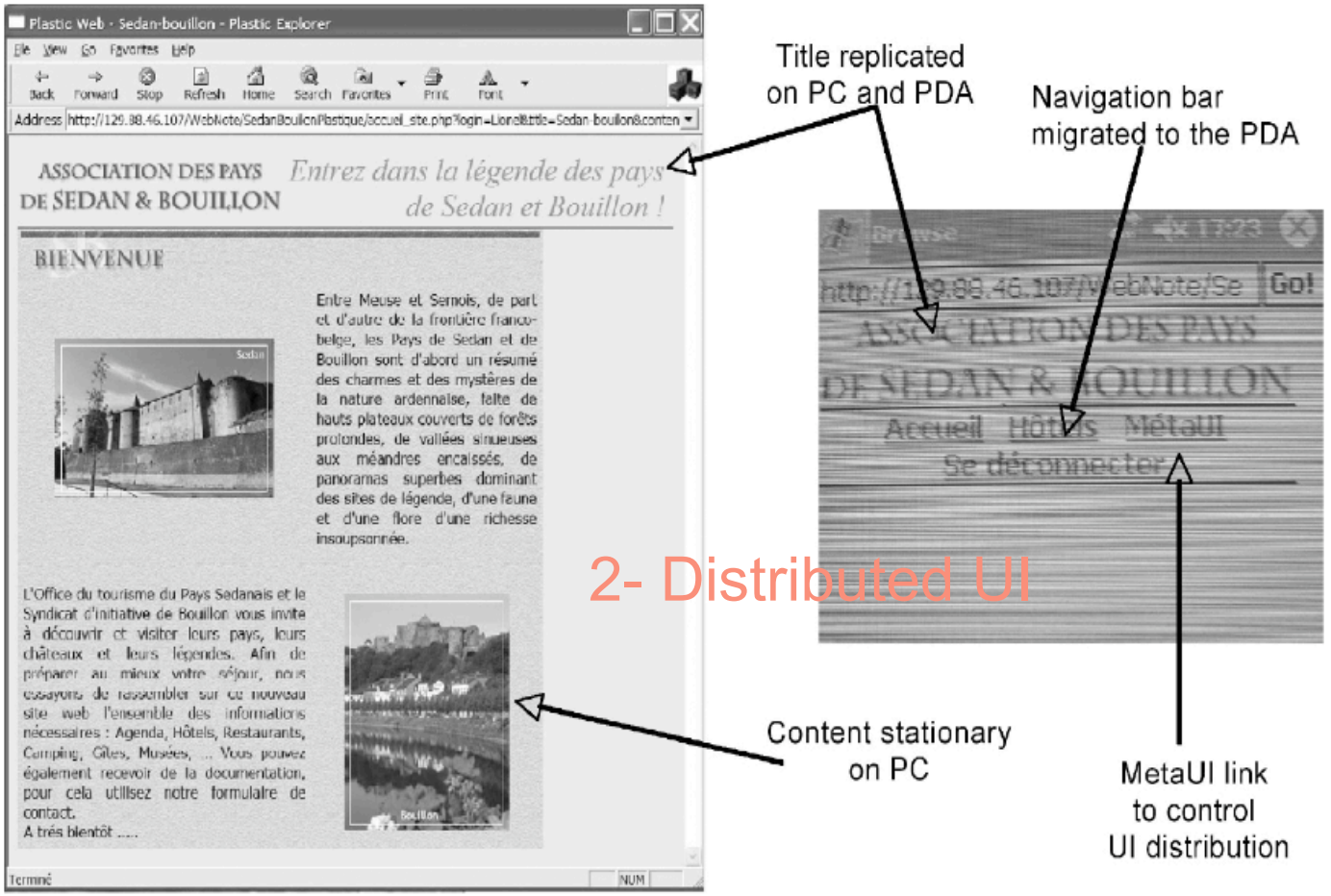

# Examples of meta-UI

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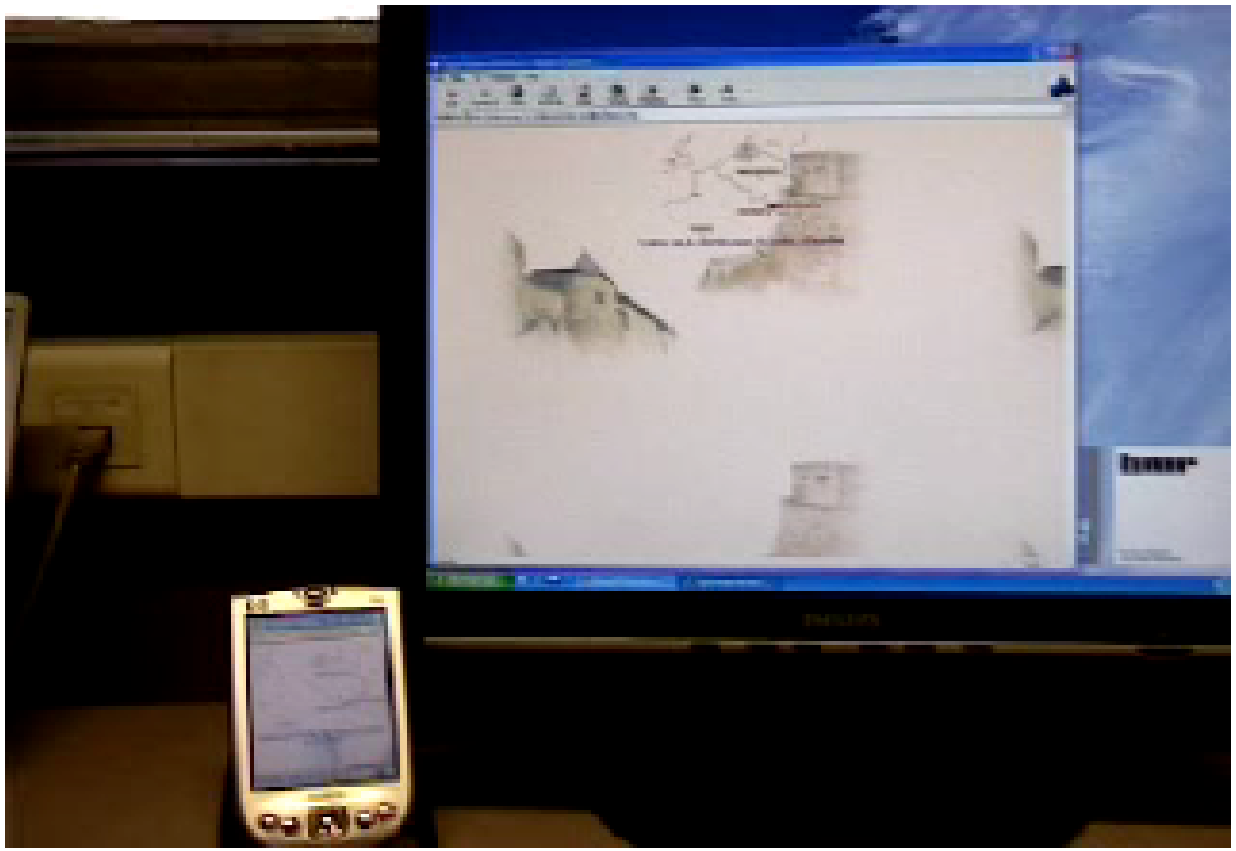
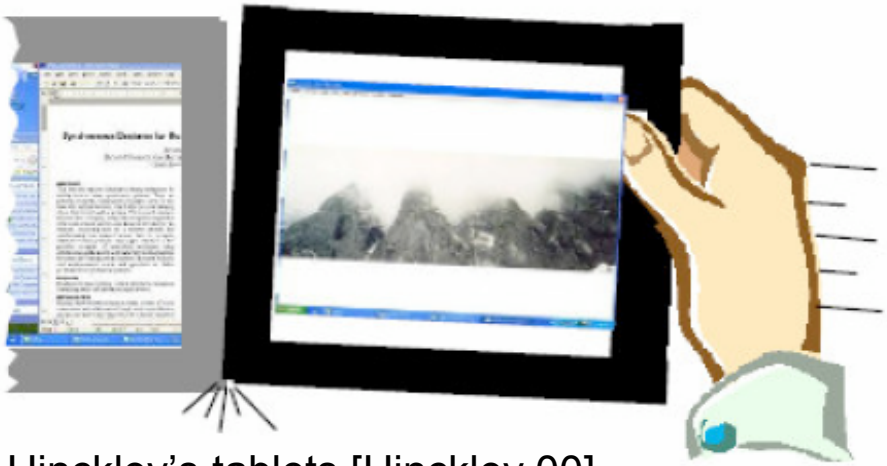
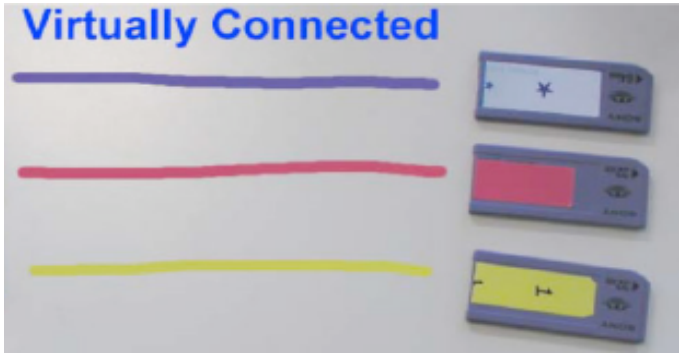


# Examples of meta-UI

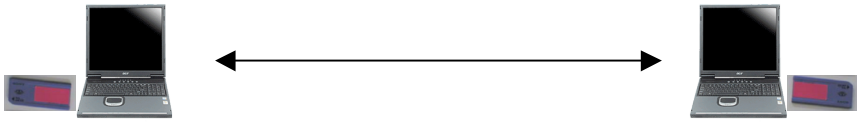
- Configuring the platform



Hinckley's tablets [Hinckley 00]

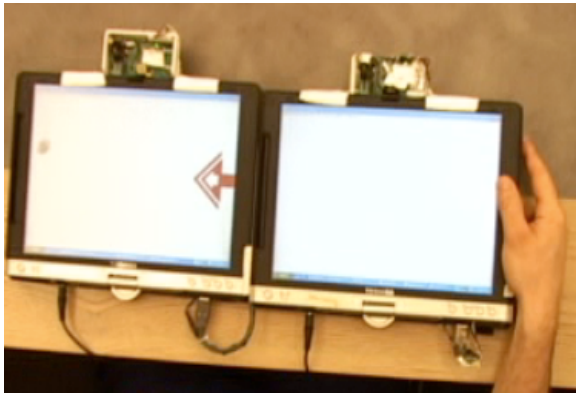



tranSticks [Rekimoto 05]



New-York

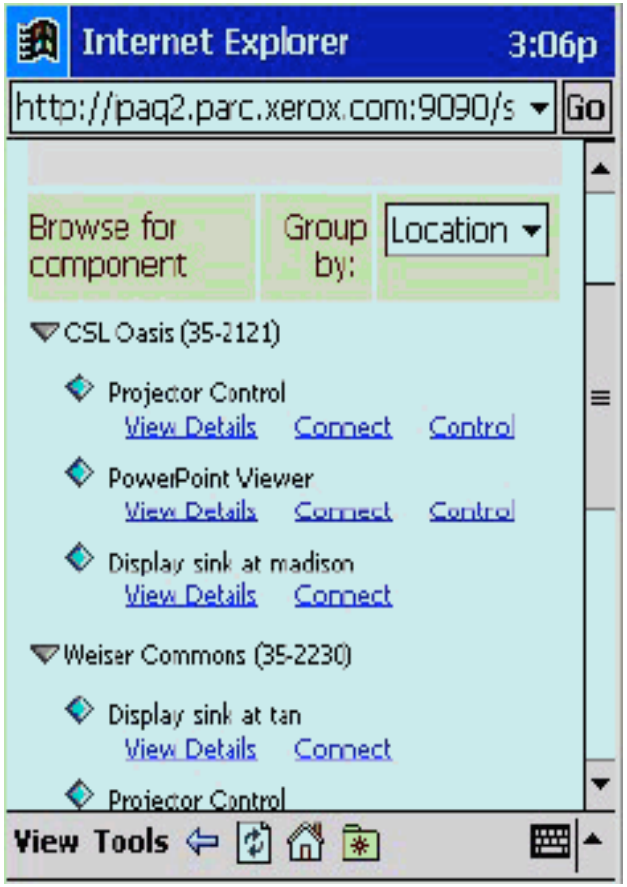
- Configuring the platform: the result depends on the gesture (synchronized gesture): The set of gestures is a programming language



Hinckley's tablets [Hinckley 00]

# Examples of meta-UI

- Discovering and using interaction resources (configuring the ambient space)




Speakeasy [Newman 02 ]

# Exercice

- Apply the problem space of UI plasticity to your ambient university