

# Semantic Window Compositing a Summer Code Finland 2006 project

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# The ultimate goals

- To turn technology into usability
- Freedom from simulating an office desk of the 1970s
- To replace “files” with a connected **network of information**
- To replace “applications” with **various views and tools** on information

# What I have today

- Much remains to be done
- Video demonstration
  - Normal desktop
  - The *Whirl* mode
  - Firefox extensions
  - Information from Firefox visualized in the mode
- Top-to-bottom vertical coverage



# *Window Compositing*

- Use for modern graphics cards
- A technical leap in windowing systems
- We can now treat any window as if it was an image or a texture
- Enables zooming, animating, transparency, perspectives, ...

# Compiz plug-in:

## *Whirl*

- Lift-off and landing with a key press
- A **non-desktop** effect
- Documentation on Compiz and plug-ins
- Encouraging any implementations of window management ideas and research

# *Semantic*

- More than pixels and files
- People are interested in:
  - the real world
  - its relations
- Needs a form that the computer processes
  - URI “addresses” (Uniform Resource Identifiers)
  - <http://coss.fi/> <links to> <http://openmind.fi/>



# Firefox extension: *Window Metadata*

- Web browsing is a key task
- Tabbed browsing is treating the symptoms
  - Although it certainly saves my day!
- Window management can treat the cause
- An example of a Firefox extension with native code

# Considerations

- + Hardware utilization
- + Adoption through eye-candy
- + Open, de-centralized architecture
- + Integration of contemporary software
- Cannot just copy from competitors
- Need of low-level programming



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  - the hypertext research
  - the semantic desktop research
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# Thank you for listening!

- Questions?
- Comments?
- More demoing?
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