

LIS-5411

Access

Which is “primitive?”

```
Last login: Fri Aug 17 16:33:00 on ttys000
Valkyrie:~ whitsongordon$ sh top10.sh
Example Commands:
10. top
9. ifconfig /all
8. chmod +x newtop10.sh
7. ssh -l whitsongordon@192.168.0.12
6. wget http://lifehacker.com
5. vim todo.txt
4. grep top 10
3. ...
2.
1.

Valkyrie:~ whitsongordon$
```



Controversial idea:

The mouse is the worst thing to ever happen to computers.

Why command line/text?

Because you can very quickly say/relate complex concepts in a concise way, by combining a series of simple symbols.

You know, like talking. Or writing.

Command line is the act of literally talking to the computer....unlike...

This is cool



This is cool



Utterly inefficient and kind of stupid for the task, I mean, Google Maps is literally already MUCH better than this today, but cool.

What's so bad about the mouse and touchscreens, etc?

“Caveman interface.”

- Pre-linguistic/animal-like
- “Point and grunt”

(Tablets and even “Minority Report” etc, are cool and fun...but why is Charades a game?)

Intelligence requires Language

Buttons and gestures are frequently convenient for repetitive tasks...

...but to do anything intelligent, you need LANGUAGE.

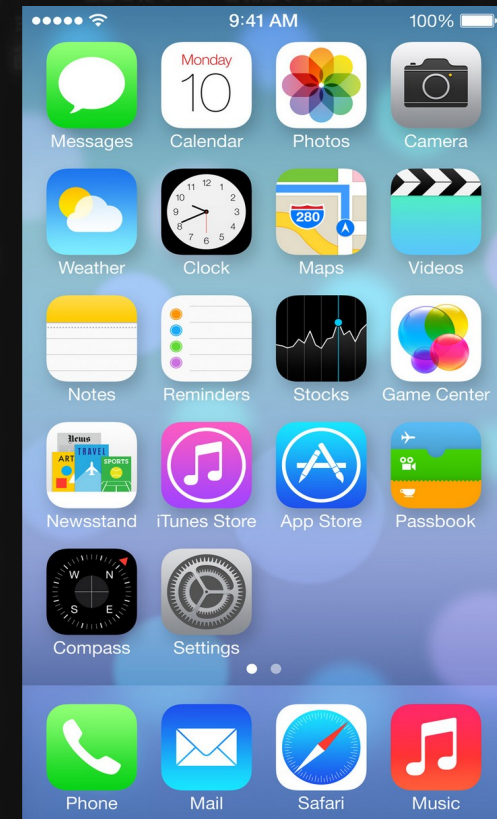
TEXT. Numbers and Letters.

So again...

```
Last login: Fri Aug 17 16:33:00 on ttys000
Valkyrie:~ whitsongordon$ sh top10.sh
Example Commands:
10. top
9. ifconfig /all
8. chmod +x newtop10.sh
7. ssh -l whitsongordon@192.168.0.12
6. wget http://lifehacker.com
5. vim todo.txt
4. grep top 10
3. ...
2.
1.

Valkyrie:~ whitsongordon$
```

literal infinity
bounded only by the limits
of all language and math



the 12 or so things the little
buttons it allows you to do

It's so easy, even...



The Good and Bad (and Bad) of "post Microsoft" GUIs



Fine, it's not all terrible :)

The (first) bad, by way of an aside...

Flat Design v. Skeuomorphism Which is better?

Flat Design



A flat design calendar for August 2014. The header is a dark blue bar with white text and navigation arrows. The days of the week are abbreviated in a dark blue bar. The dates are in a white grid with a light blue highlight on the 12th.

August 2014						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Skeuomorphism Design



A skeuomorphic design calendar for September 2013, styled like a red binder. The header is a red bar with white text and navigation arrows. The days of the week are in a green bar. The dates are in a white grid with various highlights and a red dot on the 18th.

September 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Flat Design v. Skeuomorphism

Which is better?

There are lots of professionals out there with very serious and thought out answers to this questions; and one can get quite far by being engaged with it...

Flat Design v. Skeuomorphism

Which is better?

There are lots of professionals out there with very serious and thought out answers to this questions; and one can get quite far by being engaged with it...

..and I'm not one of them.
My somewhat-serious answer is

WHO **TF** CARES.

Flat Design v. Skeuomorphism

Which is better?

I do have a serious answer though:



Specifically: Who/what is preventing you from having a choice?

No, seriously, people. This is stupid.



No, seriously, people. This is stupid.

It is probably true that, for example, too much bright light in your face at night messes with your sleep

- it's definitely true that it's annoying
- it's definitely true that dark backgrounds with light text is **trivially** easy to implement. 30 year old operating systems had multiple ways of doing this.

and yet. Where are we with night modes?

They giveth and they taketh away

The false presumption:

Good / Easy GUIS **MUST** result in fewer options for the user.

They giveth and they taketh away

Finally, I think I can call this fact:



So, “text”

- sane
- predictable
- simple
- infinitely useful and portable

...and formerly not sexy at all
it's coming back, though...

So, “text”

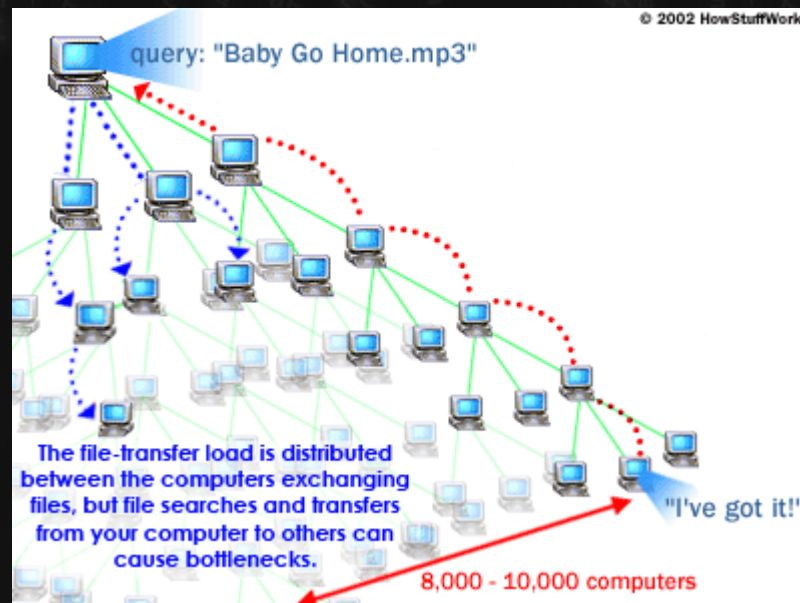
Infinitely portable.

On one hand, we have e.g.

So, "text"

Infinitely portable.

On one hand, we have e.g. - Bittorrent



So, “text”

And yet, also.

Literally TODAY.

My wife wanted to borrow my library card,
to take out an e-book.