

User Interface Protocol



Stewart Smith (2nd Year)

Supervisor: Linda McIver

What's the Problem Doc?

- User Interface Application Programming Interfaces (UI APIs)
 - One for EVERY OS & UI Combination
 - Win32, MacOS, X-Windows, KDE, GNOME, WINGS, ncurses, Web etc
 - Too much trouble (for lazy buggers)
 - Have to rewrite code for each one.
 - It's not much fun writing the same thing 5 times.

So, We're Lazy. What's the Answer?

- Forty-Two
- A method to describe a User Interface (or at least what you want from it)
- Let the User Agent (running on Win32, MacOS etc) do most of the work
- Let us programmers get back to the task of multiplying six by nine instead of doing the same thing 10 times.

Protocol

- Need 2-way communication

Stuff Needed

- Object Model
- Language for 2-way communication

What's in the project?

- An example app that will process a text file and display something.
- A MacOS app
 - The MacOS doesn't suck
 - I've programmed it before
 - I'm too hardcore UNIX to use X
- A Lexical Analyser

Where Are They Now?

- Flipper became Sushi
- Mr Ed Loves Drag
- Lassi's a Transvestite

Where Are They Now?

- Lexical Analyser
- OO Model
- Client MacOS App