

Window Systems



Goals: Virtual Devices



- Virtual display abstraction
- Multiplex physical input devices
- Simulated or higher level "devices"
- Limited resource management

Goals: Interface Uniformity (UI and API)

- UI
 - Provides consistent “look and feel”
- API
 - Provides virtual device abstraction
 - Performs low level ops

2 Views of the Window System

- User Interface
- Application Interface
 - Imaging model
 - Input model

Imaging Model

- Typically close to the hardware
 - Raster
 - Positive integer coords
- Primitives put values in frame buffer
 - Explicit bit pattern
- Low level view creates some problems

Problem #1: Dynamics e.g. Rubber-banding a line

Application Data

- Line drawn with standard techniques
- How to "undraw" when moved?

Solutions



1) Redraw

2) "Save-unders"

Solutions



3) Bit manipulations

- | Colors are bits in FB
- | Don't draw with line color, XOR with it
 - | $L \wedge P =$
- | XOR again to "undraw"
 - | $L \wedge P \wedge P =$
- | Problems?

Solutions



4) Simulate bit planes

Problem #2: Color map (CLUT)



- Small # hardware color maps
 - share between windows/apps
 - each would like full power provided

- No real good solutions.
 - use 24 bits of color!
 - Other suggestions?

Solutions



- 1) dynamically switch color maps
- 2) no (direct) color map access
- 3) sharing schemes

Higher Level Imaging Models e.g. Postscript-based



- e.g. NeWS & NeXT [AKA OpenStep]
- Real valued coordinate system
- Support for full transformations
 - e.g., scale & rotate
- Richer primitives
 - e.g., Curves
- Stencil and paint model

Higher Level Imaging Models



- Advantages
 - Resolution/device independent
 - Can support full transformations
- Disadvantages
 - Slower
 - Harder to implement
 - For opaque model, some effects hard (XOR)

Other issues in imaging model



- Exposing/hiding facts of overlap

- Hierarchy
 - Windows within windows

Input models



- Handling input devices tedious
 - Want an abstraction for input
 - As disks, etc. are to file systems
- The "uniform event" input model
 - An event is a record of an input action
 - Events placed in a queue
 - processed asynchronously
 - "producer/consumer" between system/user

An event record



- What caused the event
 - e.g., left mouse button went down
- Where was the mouse
- When did the event occur
- Value associated with device action
 - e.g. ascii value of key, position of knob
- Additional Context
 - e.g. modifiers

Example



- The Java 1.2 MouseEvent

<http://java.sun.com/products/jdk/1.2/docs/api/java.awt.event.MouseEvent.html>

Higher level events



- Not a simple input device action
- e.g.

Using events: Return of basic paradigm



```
Main_Event_Loop()
  Set_input_mask();
  repeat
    Wait_for_event(E)
    case E of
      ...
      dispatch event E
      ...
    end;
    redraw_screen();
  until done;
```

Synchronization Issues



- Events are asynchronous
=> User asynch with program
- How to deal with this?

- Implication?

Example: drawing overshoot



Synchronization Issues



- Separate queues don't help
- Each thread needs one unified queue
 - Can be one per thread