



Context management in AtGentive

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October 2006





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Context management

Context: Everything that is related to a specific task.

⇒ software, documents, selection, input, history...

The idea is to manage activities at the upper level, by allowing the user to organize his « tasks » instead of « applications » and « documents ».

Status

- evolution from current desktop tools on UNIX systems (virtual screens, session manager...)
- strong interest for new way of working on big screen and huge collection of data
- still in development (open source communities, Apple, Sun, Novell, Microsoft)



Academics

There are plenty of studies on modern interfaces,

but no major work regarding usability of
context based interfaces in e-learning.

⇒ So a need to investigate.



We structure the activity

- clear separation of tasks \Rightarrow better metacognition
- more transitions and feedback \Rightarrow lower cognitive load
- new metaphors for computer environment \Rightarrow more possibility to conceptualize work



We implement the mind prosthesis approach

- zooming facilities
- possibility of building different organizational patterns
- continuous navigation
- tracking the history of the user actions
- redundancy in the audiovisual cues in the peripheral zone for the actions and responses
- screening out the data not relevant for the task at hand
- complying to the capacity of the human short term memory
- avoiding elements that interrupt the ongoing user activity



Plan for the future

- improving the interconnections between the interfaces and AtGentive
- improving the interfaces for managing the tasks (save, restore, switch)
- developing new methods for providing direct manipulation