

ART 282 Lecture 2 Notes, September 16, 2002

Assistant Prof. Timothy Nohe, Department of Visual Arts, UMBC

The ubiquity of computer interfaces:

Coffeemakers

Cars

Jets

Interface as *extension of body into dataspace*

Interface as *gestural*

What is Hypertext?

Hypertext is the presentation of information as a linked network of nodes which readers are free to navigate in a non-linear fashion. It allows for multiple authors, a blurring of the author and reader, extended works with diffuse boundaries, and multiple reading paths.

Vannevar Bush: *Memex*, described in a key essay published in 1945 called *As We May Think*. Bush envisaged a device, which could create links between related topics in different research papers.

Ted Nelson: coined the term **hypertext** to mean "non-sequential writing." Nelson envisaged a system he calls Xanadu, a global information Web to which individuals will contribute information and be paid royalties when their contributions are read by others.

Selected artists' projects:

STEIM research center, Amsterdam, alternative music interfaces (video)

David Rokeby: *The Very Nervous System* (video)

Tiffany Holmes: *Nosce Te Ipsum* (video)

Camille Utterback: *Text Rain* (video)

Jim Campbel: *Piece for Heisenberg* (video)

Christa Erickson: *dataskins* (video)

Teri Rueb: *The Choreography of Everyday Movement* (www site)

Practicum: demos

Making your website “public” at gl.umbc.edu

Your website “path”:

http://userpages.umbc.edu/~your_user_name/BunnyEars/index.html

The “public” nature of your academic computer accounts.

Security

Trust

Shared information

Fetch, an FTP (file transfer protocol) program to move files from a Macintosh desktop to a server

Fetch Tutorial Online: http://www.research.umbc.edu/~nohe/FETCH_DEMO/index.html

Basic UNIX skills: <http://www.ee.surrey.ac.uk/Teaching/Unix/index.html>

General syntax of the UNIX Operating System:

command *option(s)* *filename(s)*

whoami what is the username of the person logged into this “shell”

date what’s today’s date?

ls list all of the files and folders in this directory

 ls -l list long, tell me what files and folders are here + “permissions”

 ls -a list all of my files, even hidden ones

mkdir make a directory

cd change directories

pwd print working directory... where am I in the directory structure?

pico a simple word processor

cp copy

rm remove

pine a UNIX-based email program

clear clear the shell that I’m working in

logout safely sign-off this computer account