

EtoileUI

FOSDEM 2011

<http://www.etoileos.com>

Smalltalk vs ObjC Memo

Smalltalk

tulip witherWithSpeed: 54

color: NSColor redColor.

Objective-C

[tulip witherWithSpeed: 54

color: [NSColor redColor]];

Étoilé

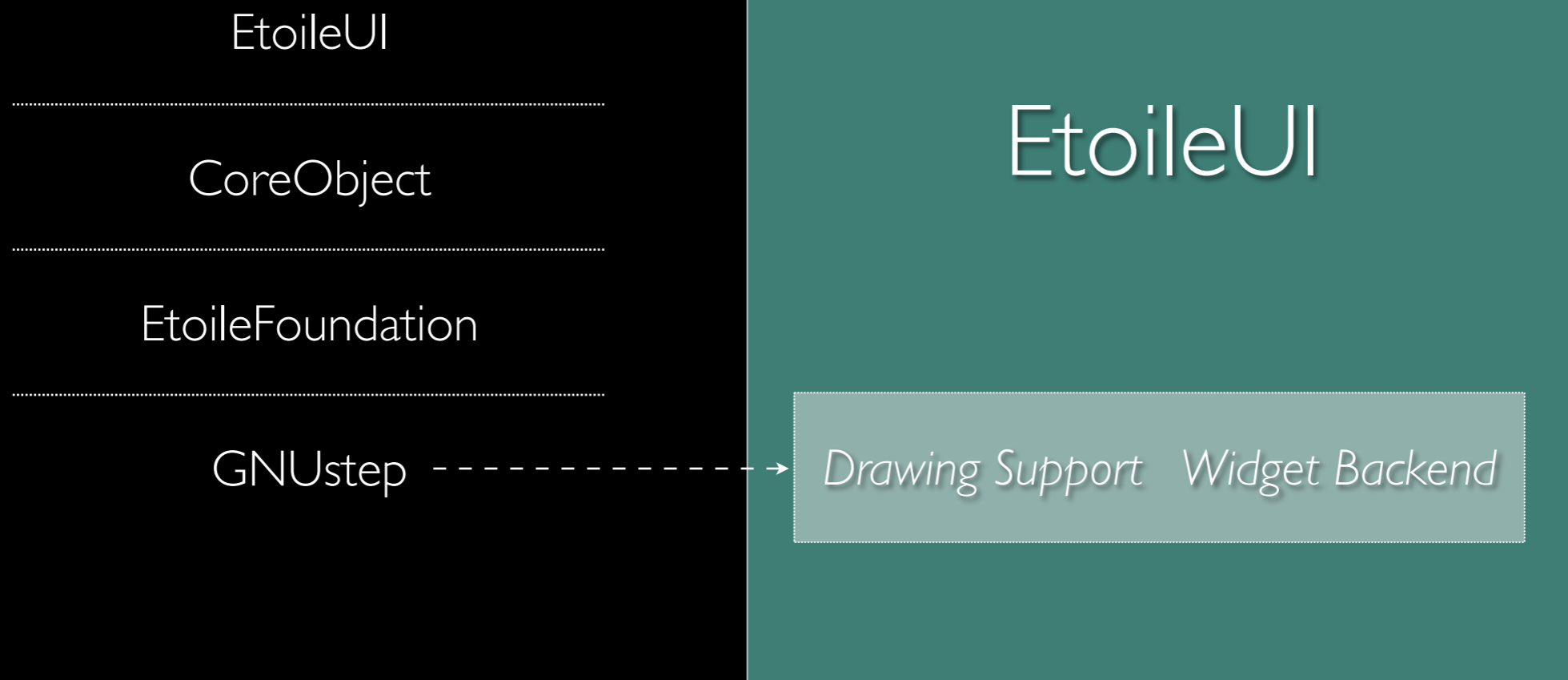
A desktop environment built around:

- Pervasive Data Sharing & Versioning
- Composite Document
- Collaboration
- Light & Focused Applications (1000 loc max per app)

Étoilé Today

- Well, presently more or less a development platform centered around
 - LanguageKit
 - CoreObject
 - EtoileUI

Bird View



Surprisingly Small

- Found on Digg (in 2007)...
- Konqueror itself is really a surprisingly small app: approx 40k lines of code. Not tiny, by any stretch of the imagination, but way, way smaller than people seem to think it is.
- 40x what is allowed in Étoilé :-/

From: http://digg.com/linux_unix/Nautilus_vs_Dolphin_vs_Konqueror

Code Compression

- Étoilé Generic Object Manager
 - *700 loc*
- Étoilé Model Builder
 - *1000 loc*

Main Menu	Model
Info	▶ Add Entity
Package	▶ Add Property
Edit	▶ Add Operation
View	▶
Model	▶ New Instance
Repository	▶
Windows	▶ Check Validity
Hide	#h
Quit	#q

Window

Metamodel (M2) Properties

Add Remove Model Layer Entity View Filter

name	Name	Item Identifier	Derived	Container	Multivalued
ETEntityDescription	parent		0	0	0
ETPackageDescription	propertyDescript		0	0	1
NSUInteger	root		1	0	0
NSNumber	owner		0	0	0
BOOL	abstract		0	0	0
NSDate					
ETPropertyDescriptor					
ETModelElementDescription					
Boolean					
float					
ETPrimitiveEntityDescription					
NSValue					
NSInteger					
NSObject					
NSString					
ETCPrimitiveEntityDescription					

Window

Metamodel | List Save Check Filter

View

Name	Type
Anonymous	Package
ETEntityDescription	Entity
ETPackageDescription	Entity
owner	Property (ETEntityDescription)
propertyDescriptions	Property (ETPropertyDescriptor)
entityDescriptions	Property (ETEntityDescription)
NSUInteger	C Primitive Entity
NSNumber	Primitive Entity
BOOL	C Primitive Entity
NSDate	Primitive Entity
ETPropertyDescriptor	Entity
owner	Property (ETEntityDescription)
opposite	Property (ETPropertyDescriptor)
composite	Property (BOOL)
multivalued	Property (BOOL)
derived	Property (BOOL)
package	Property (ETPackageDescription)
container	Property (BOOL)

Model Builder

Editing a package & browsing a repository

EtoileUI

- Post-WIMP Toolkit
- Inspired by Morphic, HotDraw, Taligent and OpenDPI
- Kinda related to CoreAnimation, Clutter, GEGL, WPF, HTML etc.

Post-WIMP?

- No special assumptions about the UI
- EtoileUI doesn't require:
 - windows
 - menus
 - a mouse or a keyboard

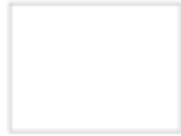
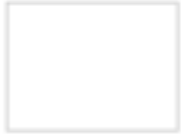
Post-WIMP?

- From the whole screen to a single row in a list view...
- It's just an uniform tree structure
- No special window, list or row node

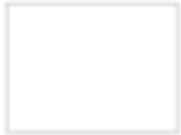
Visual Search

Fog Vision





expense repor|



expense report 2005]

Visual Search Demo

Table Example

- Copy Window
- Paste Window twice (Don't use Edit > Paste)
- Click last window background and Inspect
- Switch to Browser
- Close Inspector

- Visual Search
- First 'Red'
- Then 'NS'
- Then 'ñ'
- Finally Nothing

Why?

- An existing application should be easy to retarget
 - personal computer
 - mobile phone
 - tablet
 - web

How it began

- Why UI in Photoshop and IDE are so rigid?
- Why UI development is getting easier on the Web than on the Desktop?
- Why not make UI programming really easy ;-)

Why a “new” UI toolkit?

- Everything can be changed at runtime
- Simple, compact and highly polymorphic API
- Write less code and develop faster
- Feeling of manipulating real objects

Collage

- Switch window group to Free
- Move things around
- Ungroup the items that represent windows
- Move subitems between windows
- Switch back to Window layout

Screen Layout Demo

Collage & Markup Editor Example

Markup Editor

- Open some documents
 - Switch window group to Master Detail
 - Navigate a bit
- (Don't switch back to Window layout)

What does it solve?

- Generic protocol for Structured Document
- Building blocks for Graphics Editor
- Custom widget development
- As little code as possible
- Plasticity

Separation of Concerns

- No monolithic view/widget, but rather...
- UI aspects
 - Styles, Decorators, Layouts
 - Tools, Action Handlers
 - Widgets
 - Model Objects, Controllers

- Cut Red in Top Left
- Paste in Bottom Left
- Drag Icon from Bottom Left to Top Right
- Move Icon back to Bottom Left

- Click window background then Inspect button
- Switch main item to Outline
- Drag Top Left into Icon (of Bottom Left)
- Switch main item back to Fixed
- Show Top Left in Icon
- Drag Top Left on window background

- Click Bottom Left background
- Copy Bottom Left
- Paste it into Bottom Left
- Grow the Window
- Switch Bottom left to Free
- Rearrange items in Bottom Left (to show the subitem using Outline)
- Switch Bottom Left from Free to Browser
- Navigate a bit

Drop Demo

Example

Turtles all the way down

- Many things are just items
 - selection rectangle
 - handles
 - shapes
 - windows
 - layers

Collage Demo

Composite Layout

- Packaging entire UI as a component
 - reusable on an arbitrary item
- Basic Idea
 - Wrap an item tree in a layout
 - Inject this item tree when the layout is used
 - Undoable at any time

Composite Layout Features

- Arbitrary nesting
- Content routing
 - e.g. to the item that represents a source list
- Delegating top item arrangement to a positional layout
 - ETFlowLayout, ETFixedLayout etc.

Basic Example

```
ETLayout *originalLayout = [mainItem layout];
```

```
// Make mainItem looks like a Markup Editor
```

```
// Can be usable or not based on the model bound to mainItem
```

```
[mainItem setLayout: [ETMarkupEditorLayout layout]];
```

```
// Restore mainItem original UI
```

```
[mainItem setLayout: originalLayout];
```

Why is possible?

The two first points are important to dispatch actions from menu.

- Each item is pretty much a black box
 - Controllers are clearly owned
 - Items must not interact with parent item aspects
- Force the developer to
 - organize the objects around the item tree
 - use strict ownership rules

Pane-based UI

- Tabs
- Two Panes
 - Master Detail
 - Master Content
- Slideshow
- Drilldown
- Wizard

Pane Taxonomy

- Two Panes
 - Tabs, Master Detail, Master Content
- One Pane (*implicit pane*)
 - Slideshow (photo source list)
 - Drilldown (path)
 - Wizard (step list)

Pane Layout

- Provides various pane-based UI patterns
- ETCompositeLayout subclass
 - Easy to apply and revert with `-setLayout:`
 - Ability to route content between panes
 - Package a item tree with two nodes

Pane Layout

- Two pane items
 - bar item
 - content item
- Internal layout control
 - bar thickness
 - bar position
- Navigation actions (go to item, go back etc.)

Three Panes?

- Three Panes (or more) can be built by nesting Two Panes

```
[mainItem setLayout: [ETPaneLayout layout]];
```

```
[[[mainItem layout] contentItem]
```

```
    setLayout: [ETPaneLayout layout]];
```

```
// We could continue to nest panes more deeply
```

Collage

- Create some nested item groups
- Select a subgroup
- Switch it to Master Detail layout
- Select the top group item (window level)
- Switch it to Master Detail
- Navigate a bit

Pane Demo

- Compile without `THREE_LAYOUT_PANES`
- 'MarkupItemFactory'
- Open a document
- Don't click anything
- Inspect Item
- Switch second subnode to Master Content
- Switch the content item (first child) to Table
- Play a bit
- Switch the content item to Text Editor and back to Table
- Switch the content item (first child) to Master Content
- Switch the subcontent item (first child) to

Markup Editor Example

What's New?

- Cover style to draw on top
- True Automatic Layout
- Semantic Separator at layout level
- Template support at controller level
- Document Controller
- Nib Integration

Automatic Layout Previously

- Triggered by
 - item insertion or removal
 - a layout change
- Layout updates were all
 - immediate
 - recursive
 - never coalesced

Automatic Layout Now

- Triggered by
 - a geometry change too
- When the current event handling ends, layout updates are
 - coalesced
 - reordered (to ensure children are sized)
 - executed

What does that mean?

- An item can be resized by its layout transparently
- No redundant layout updates
- No `-updateLayout` use

```
[itemGroup setWidth: 300];
```

```
[itemGroup updateLayout];
```

Nib Example 1

```
- (void) applicationWillFinishLaunching: (NSNotification *)notif
{
    // Turn the nib views and windows into layout item trees
    [ETApp rebuildMainNib];
}
```


Nib Example 2

```
ETLayoutItemGroup *windowGroup =  
    [[ETLayoutItemFactory factory] windowGroup];  
ETNibOwner *nibOwner = [ETNibOwner new];  
  
[NSBundle loadNibNamed:@''test'' owner:nibOwner];  
[nibOwner rebuildTopLevelObjectsWithBuilder:  
    [[ETEtoileUIBuilder builder]];  
[windowGroup addItem: [[nibOwner topLevelItems] firstObject]]];
```

Nib Example 3

```
// In 'test' nib, the controller mainContent outlet is connected
```

```
// to a view or window
```

```
ETController *controller = [ETController new];
```

```
[NSBundle loadNibNamed:@"test" owner:controller];
```

```
[windowGroup addItem:[controller content]];
```

Document Controller

- Adding, removing documents on screen is the same than adding, removing anywhere else
- No document architecture
- No UI expectations
 - such as each document is a window

What is this Controller then?

- ETDocumentController is a tiny ETController subclass
 - 150 sloc
 - less than 15 methods
- Open and save in addition to New
- Managing items by URL

Document Controller

- Usually bound to the window group
- But can be bound to any item group
 - Single window document editor or related
- Should be extendable to manage items downwards in the item tree
 - Tabbed documents in multiple windows

Document Controller Example

```
ETItemTemplate *template =  
    [PListItemTemplate templateWithItem: [itemFactory editor]  
                                     objectClass: mutableDictClass];  
  
[self setTemplate: template forType: plistUTI];  
[self setCurrentObjectType: plistUTI];  
  
// self is the Document controller instantiated in the nib  
[[itemFactory windowGroup] setController: self];  
  
[self newDocument: nil];
```

PListItemTemplate Code

```
- (ETLayoutItem *) contentItem {  
    return [[self item] itemForIdentifier:@"documentContent"];  
}  
  
- (ETLayoutItem *) newItemReadFromURL: (NSURL *)URL  
options: (NSDictionary *)options {  
    // Reading plist file (six lines omitted)  
    return [self newItemWithRepresentedObject: plistNode  
options: options];  
}
```

Subcontroller Code

```
// In -initWithNibName:bundle:  
  
ETItemTemplate *template =  
    [ETItemTemplate templateWithItem: item  
                                     objectClass: mutableDictClass];  
  
[self setTemplate: template forType: [self currentObjectType]];
```


Document Demo

- Compile with `THREE_PANES_LAYOUT`
- Launch
- Show the code and play a bit
- Recompile without `WINDOWGROUP_DOCUMENT_CONTROLLER`
- Open some documents
- Navigate a bit

Markup Editor Example

Work-in-progress

- Form layout
 - including Model-driven item tree generation
- Viewpoints
 - to create custom “views” on object graphs
 - to model content flow
- Automatic reload
 - when a model collection is mutated

What's Next?

- Aspect Repository
- Object Graph Styling
- Generic Template Picker and Object Palette
- Compound Document Editor
 - can be used as a UI builder
- CoreObject Integration

Compound Document Editor

- Can be reduced to
 - Inspectors + Object Palettes
- Inspectors
 - Aspects + Metamodel
- Object Palettes
 - Aspect Repository + Object Picker Layout

Long Run

- Constraint Solver
- Additional Backends
 - Web, GTK, UIKit, OpenGL etc.
- Minimal EtoileUI packaging a tiny AppKit subset

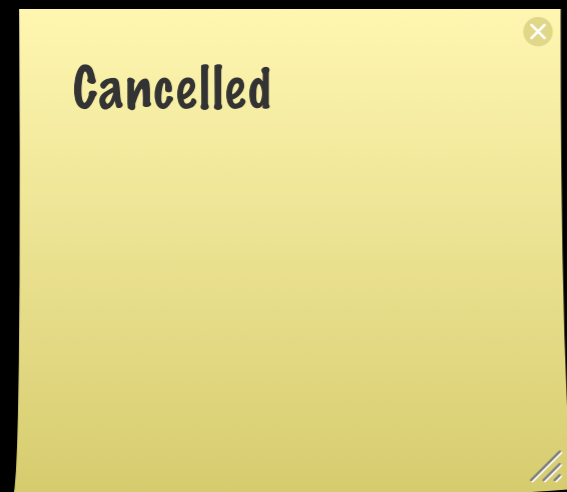
Long Run continued

- Animation (CoreAnimation probably)
- Diagram editing
- Hybrid vector and bitmap editing (EtoilePaint)
- Generative Art a la Processing, Field, Nodebox etc.

<http://etoileos.com/etoile/features/etoileui/>

Composite Demo

Markup Editor Example



Code Compression continued