mudibo
multiple dialog boxes for multiple monitors

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“Expanding the Desktop: Transforming Personal Computing through Large Pixel-Space Displays”
“on top” dialog box

“to the side” dialog box

Grudin, CHI 2001
Videos
“on top” dialog boxes
“to the side” dialog boxes
IM windows... good or bad? ... or “it depends?”
“answer questions” when they are relevant (avoid surprises)
avoid “traps”
Potential Advantages

Replace system decision with low-cost user selection
Interaction time is the same or less than usual
Visual search time is the same or less than usual
Avoids straddled placements
Relieves application designer from placement issue

Potential Disadvantages

Could cause disorientation
Could be an unwanted interruption
Some situations simply may not call for replication
The point is to change “the question” ...

Replication, especially coupled with automation, should be considered in designing for multiple monitor applications, even if for no other reason than to spur creativity and analyze how the additional space can be exploited.
Read the paper for...

- more related work
- implementation details (this actually works on Windows XP)
- implementation shortcomings

Let’s skip to the reviews!
“What the authors are really doing here is dancing around the core issue, which is that the system has no context for window usage and therefore can't infer much useful information about window placement. While the real research agenda is around trying to build a model of window context that would actually solve the problem, the authors are asking a perfectly fair and reasonable question: can we do something quick and dumb that might solve the problem...?” [emphasis added]

Really? OK, here’s a challenge to the community:

Develop a context-aware or otherwise adaptive system that costs less money to build, costs less time to build, uses fewer system resources, and always makes a “better” decision, whether that is in reducing navigation time, reducing visual search time, reducing annoyance, or any reasonable measure, as related to the status quo and to mudibo (or let’s try to figure out how to best marry the two ideas).
mudibo

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