A Visual Tour of Andrew

Snapshots of the Andrew system, a campus-wide computing network, a joint venture between IBM and Carnegie Mellon University.

Dan Boyarski Human Factors Group Information Technology Center Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 11.9.89

A Visual Tour of Andrew

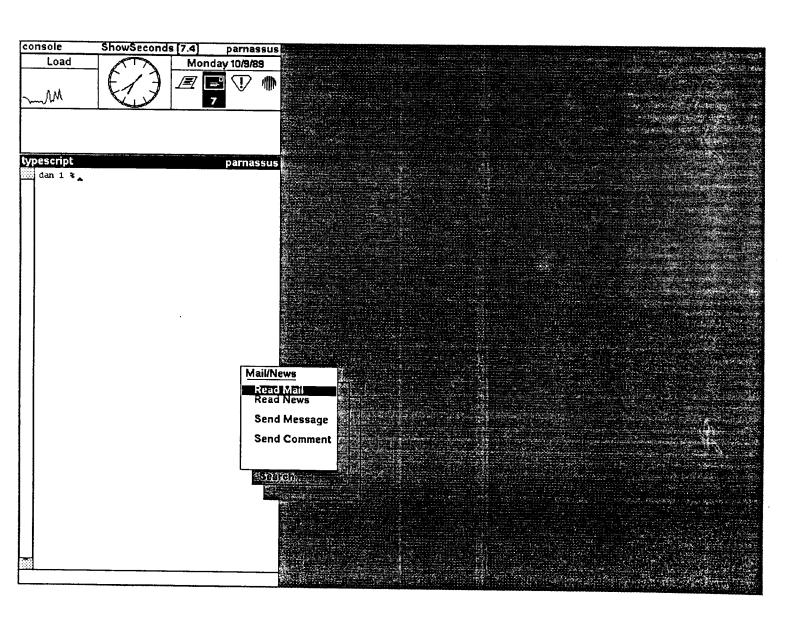
Notes on the following pages:

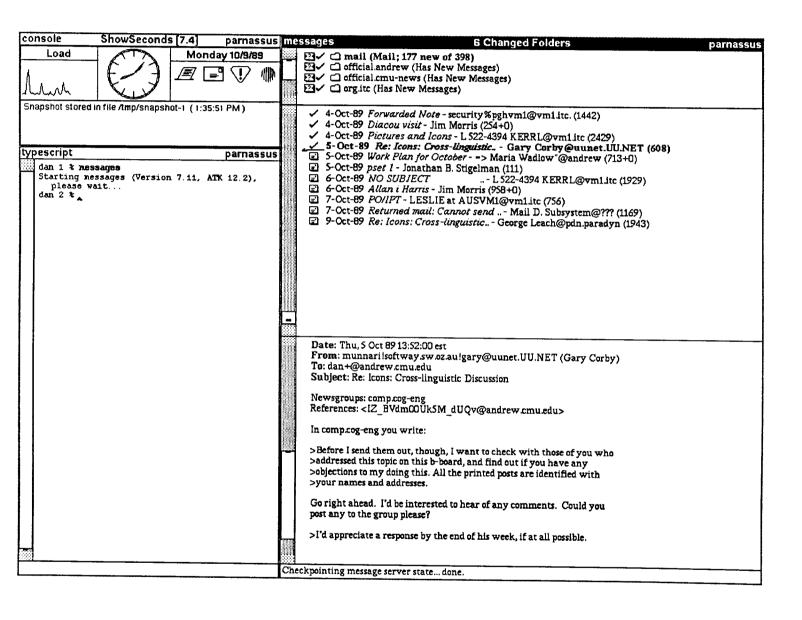
- 1. The opening screen for Andrew.
- 2. The default arrangement of windows and columns. The console window (upper left) indicates that I have 7 new pieces of mail. I invoke the Messages program by selecting Read Mail or Read News from the pop-up menus. I can also type messages in the typescript window, if I prefer.
- 3. Messages: default presentation of folders that I'm subscribed to, content titles of one selected folder, and the contents of one selected message. Icons in the middle panel indicate new mail and seen (saved) mail. Selection of a title or a folder is indicated with bold type.
- 4. Messages: I can delete a message by selecting it and using the menus.
- 5. Messages: the deleted message is indicated in the middle panel with a smaller point size and a "grey" mail icon. I now want to compose and mail a reply to the sender of a particular note, so I select Reply to Sender from the menus.
- 6. Messages: the Send Message window with the address information automatically filled in. With the reply completed, I select Send/Post from the menus. The program verifies addresses, then sends the message. The window's title bar and the message area below the window will indicate when a message has been posted.
- 7. Messages: because I had previously instructed it, the Send Message window automatically hides itself after posting the note. The Messages window then reformats itself to fill in the entire right-hand column. (If I had to hide the SendMessage window by hand, the Messages window would not reformat itself. It would remain in position, unchanged.) Here, I'm reviewing the contents of another folder, this one a bulletin board. As with mail, icons are used to indicate the difference between "new" and "seen" postings.
- 8. Messages: I can print out the contents of a particular posting by selecting it and using the menus.
- 9. The Console window now indicates that there is one document waiting to be printed. A new window has been created in the right column, this one called ez, which is the editor for text and multi-media documents.
- 10. ez: I can preview my document before sending it to the printer.
- 11. ez: this preview window shows me exactly how the document will look when printed. From there, I can print the document by using the menus.
- 12. The printed page from a laser printer.
- 13. Displaying a raster image is possible in one of the bulletin boards. Andrew allows the user to scan in an image and imbed it in a document or display it behind widows (see some of the next pages).
- 14-19. Sample screens collected on a walk through several public Andrew clusters. Most of the users represented here were Computer Science or Engineering students, those very familiar with the system and who knew how (and wanted) to customize their working environments. In general, students in other majors tended to keep the default Andrew settings and went about their work. Page 18 has the new Motif interface, running on X.

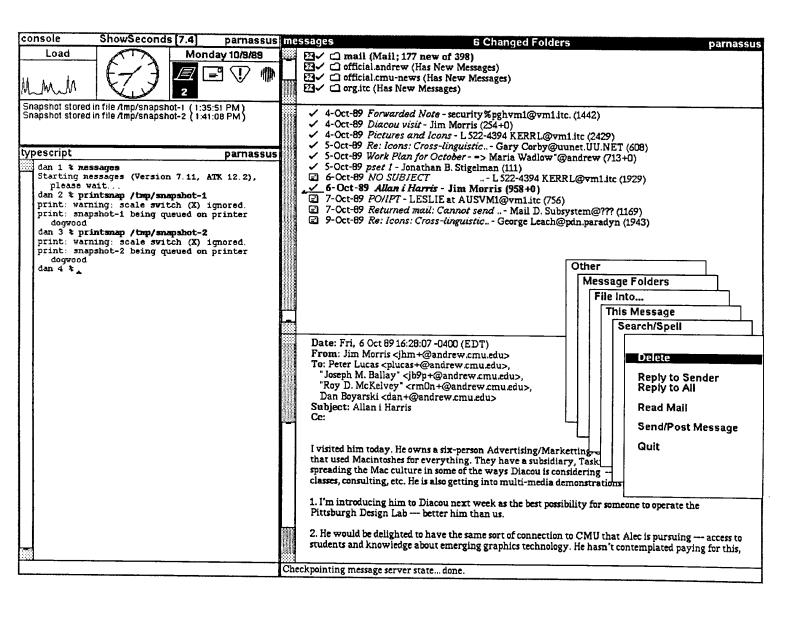
Welcome To

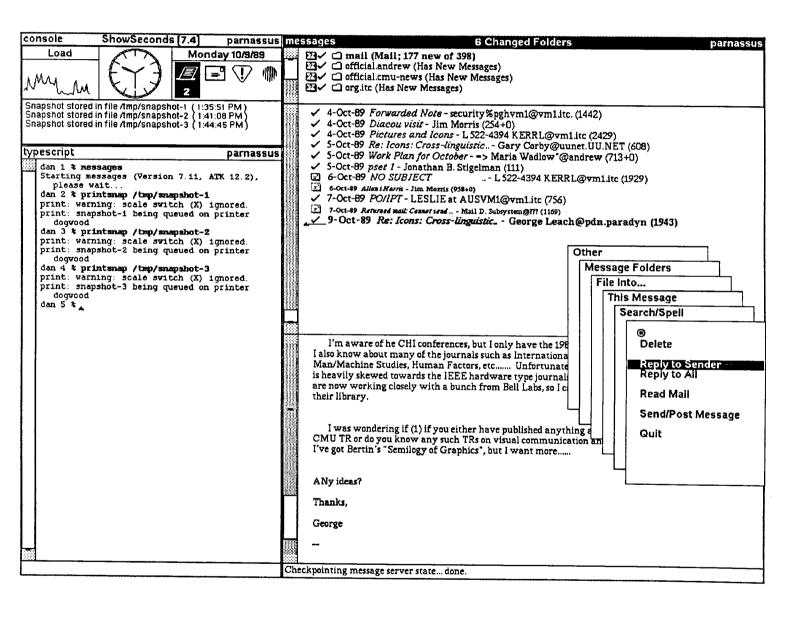
Andrew

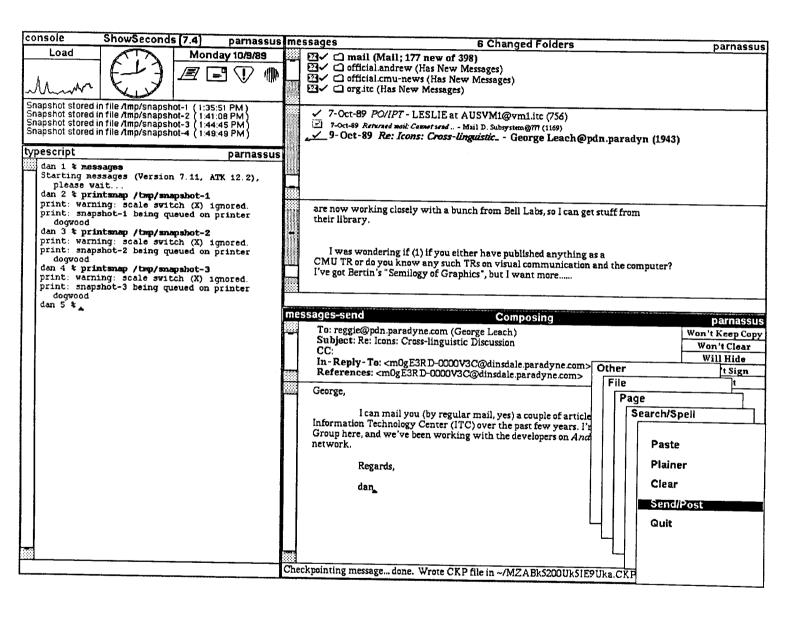
An experimental system produced by the Information Technology Center, a joint project of CMU and IBM.

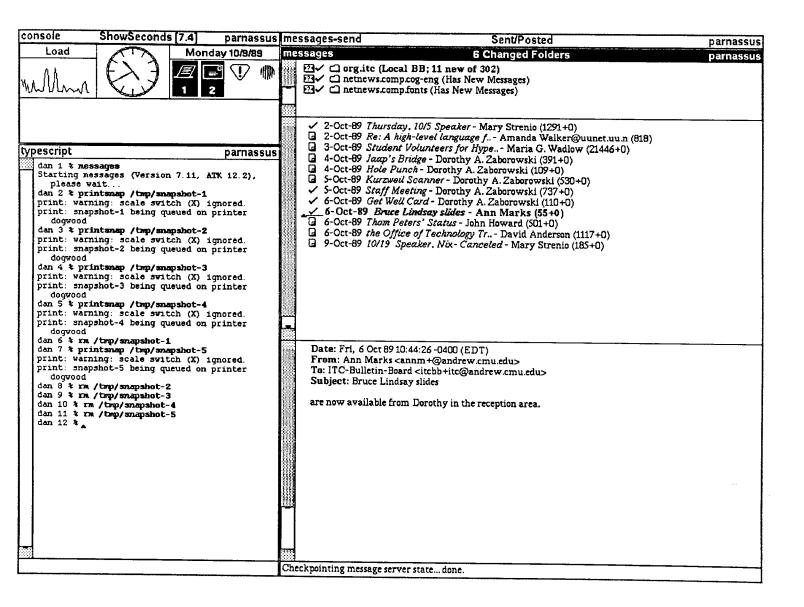


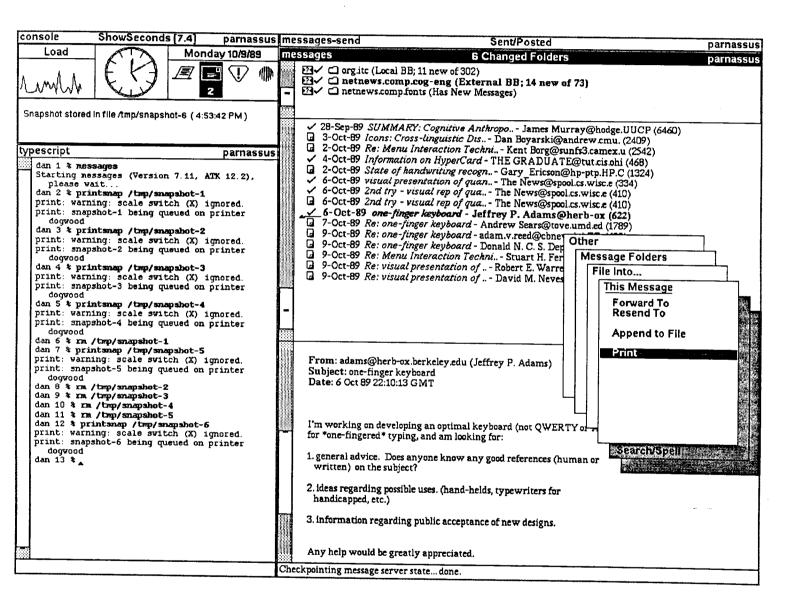


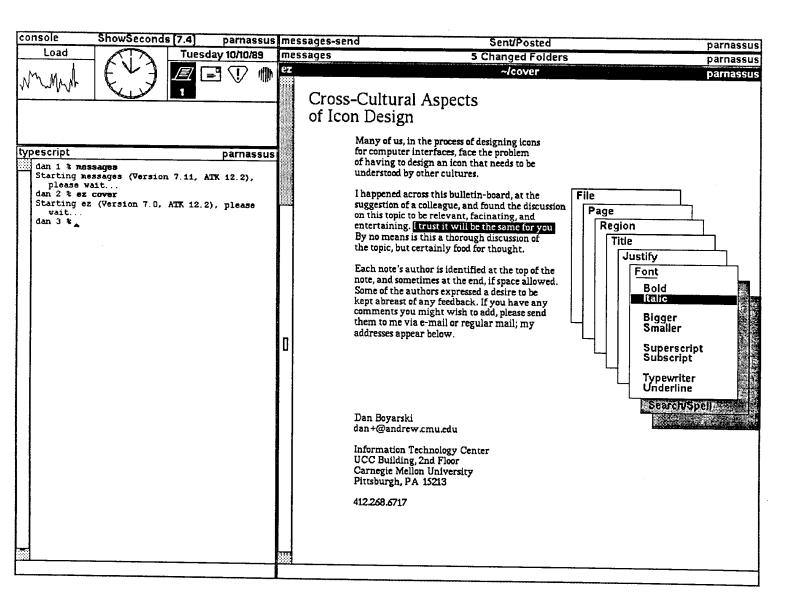


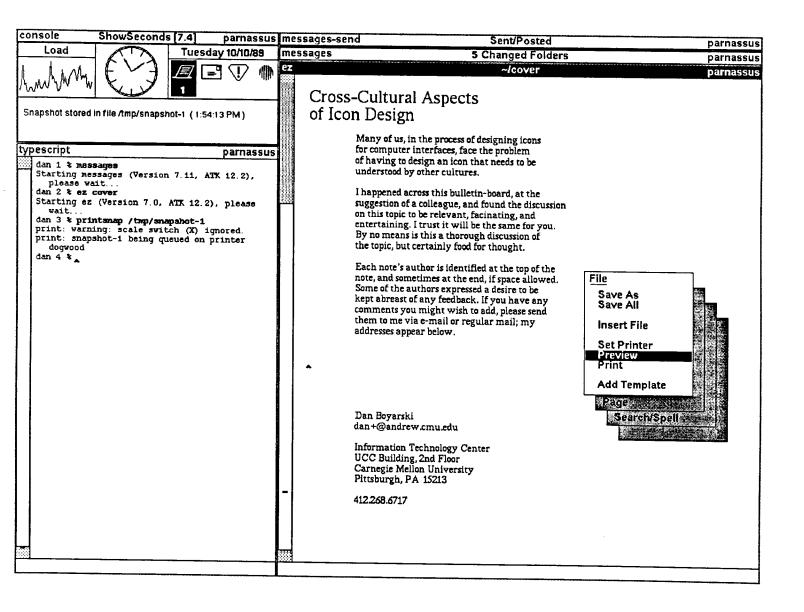


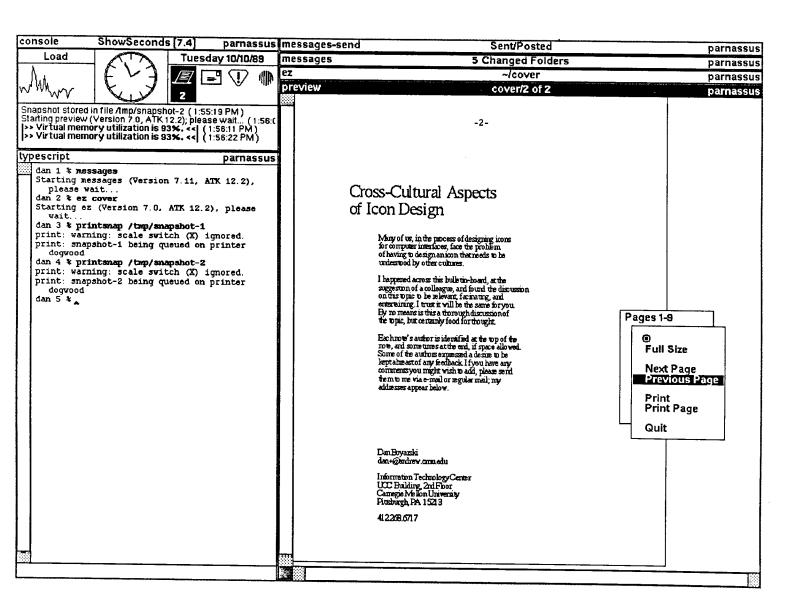












Cross-Cultural Aspects of Icon Design

Many of us, in the process of designing icons for human-computer interfaces, face the problem of having to design an icon that must be understood by other cultures.

I happened across this bulletin-board, at the suggestion of a colleague, and found the discussion on this topic to be relevant, fascinating, and entertaining. I trust it will be the same for you. By no means is this a thorough discussion of the topic, but certainly food for thought.

Each note's author is identified at the top of the note, and sometimes at the end, if space allowed. Some of the authors expressed a desire to be kept abreast of any feedback. If you have any comments you might wish to add, please send them to me via e-mail or regular mail; my addresses appear below.

Dan Boyarski dan+@andrew.cmu.edu

Information Technology Center UCC Building, 2nd Floor Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA 15213

412.268.6717

