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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kinections is an email program designed for first time email users or those with little technical experience. It is designed to be appealing in particular to both younger and older members of our society who may not be comfortable using other traditional email programs.

The design of this program was undertaken as part of the requirements for SI682: User Interface Design. In determining the final design, many steps were taken to establish the most appropriate design for our target audience. These steps included brainstorming about functions our users would need and want and the appropriateness of various interface designs and layouts for young and older users. Our next step was to do a thorough competitive analysis of several major email programs to determine what functionality we wanted to emulate and what sorts of functions we needed to redesign. After this, we developed personas and scenarios to aid in our design and referred back to these often in the process of determining task flows and component designs. While doing this, we created thumbnails of initial design ideas, and later created rough sketches, mockups, prototypes, and finally finished screen layouts. Additionally, we developed a style guide describing the specific design elements of our interface.

The primary benefits to users of Kinections are its ease of use, inviting interface, and its unique capabilities to help users manage and view digital assets such as pictures and scanned items (drawings, photos, handwritten notes, etc.) in the Gallery.

Additionally, users are assisted in the management of their contacts and identification of who has sent email to them by a unique feature that associates a contact's photo (if available) with their email address. This makes for easy identification of the person(s) to whom a user is sending a message or from whom a user has received a message.

Future directions for Kinections include expanding features and functionality for users who are vision or motor impaired, such as greatly expanding the voice recognition and “read to me” capabilities of the program. Additional key deferred features for Kinections version 1.0 include Gallery features to allow for additional editing and display of digital assets, adding tablet/handwriting recognition features to aid users who prefer not to type, and communication management features such as a communications diary which would track a user’s communications with a contact to make it easy to (re)construct and track the history of a particular email conversation or multiple conversations.

PROJECT SCHEDULE & DIVISION OF LABOR

Date	Description	Action Item	Delegated to
October 6	Initial Project Meeting	Choose application & target audience	All
		Brainstorm/Research user needs and determine competitors to analyze	All
		Children's UIs	Sara
		Aging/ADA issues	Julie
		Voice/Pen interfaces	Tom
October 12	Interim Report meeting	Finalize planning and requirements	All
October 13	Establish project space on server	Email SIC	Tom
October 16	Deliverables for Interim report – final drafts due	Title Page	Sara
		TOC	Julie
		Schedule	Sara
		Target Audience & Platform (includes Persona & brief user description)	Tom
		Business & User Goals	Tom
		Usability objectives	Sara
		Competitive Analysis	
		Compiling & Formatting	Sara & Julie
		Pine/Hotmail	Julie
		SurfMonkey/Outlook & Express	Sara
		Netscape/Mulberry	Tom
Requirements Analysis	Julie		
October 16, 3 pm	Group meeting	Finalize and format deliverables for Interim Report	All
October 17	Interim Report Due		
October 24, 2 pm	Meeting w/ Tom Brinck	Discuss project	All
October 31	Task Analysis – completion target	Describe Primary User Tasks and chart in visio	Julie and Tom
	Begin storyboarding tasks	Draw next to Visio charts	Sara
	Begin Prototypes	Create Thumbnails	All
November 7	Principle Interface Components – completion target		Julie
November 16	Prototypes – completion target		Tom & Sara
November 26	Storyboards – completion target		Sara
	Screen Layout – completion target		Sara & Tom
December 11	Style Guide - completion target		All
	Finalize all deliverables		All
	Executive summary		Julie
December 12	Project due		

TARGET AUDIENCE & PLATFORM

Audience

The target audience for the Kinections email application is first-time email users and users with little email experience. This could include a wide range of ages, but specifically children ages eight to twelve and elderly adults. To illustrate the two age extremes of our audience, we will use two personas to assist us in design: a boy Telly, who lives with his parents in Kansas City, MO, and his grandmother Edith who lives in San Diego, CA.

Telly: Telly is a precocious ten-year-old who begged his parents, who are not computer users, for a home computer for several months. Finally, his parents Ted and Margarite capitulated and bought a lower end PC. Since his parents are not computer users and therefore cannot show him how to use the computer, Telly has been relying on his friend JoJo, age twelve (a neighbor from down the street), to show him a few things on the computer. He has heard how cool email is from JoJo and wants to begin emailing with friends and family members – especially extended family in California whom the family used to live near. He is especially close to his grandmother Edith who lived with the family for several years and took care of Telly while his parents were at work. Since his family moved to Kansas City for his father’s job, Telly has missed Edith greatly.

Edith: Edith is a spunky octogenarian who lives in an assisted living facility in San Diego. She is very involved in the facility’s various activities and groups, and recently joined the computer club. So far, she has learned to type letters in MSWord and navigate to a few interesting web sites. Though she doesn’t really understand how the computer works, she finds it fascinating. Some of her friends have told her that they email with their grandchildren and enjoy it a great deal – more so sometimes than talking on the phone with them because the grandchildren are more ‘themselves’ in emails than on the phone when their parents are nearby and listening to every word. Edith just found out that Telly, her beloved grandson, recently got a computer and is trying to learn how to email the family in California. She is eager to be in closer touch with him.

Target Platform

Kinections will be a stand-alone application running on the Microsoft Windows platform. A stand-alone program will allow us to include features that are difficult on the Web, such as a drag-and-drop photo gallery and a drawing pad.

BUSINESS & USER GOALS

Business Goals

Our target audience represents two very large markets for Internet software. As email has become a ubiquitous communication tool in our society, these two markets have mostly been ignored. By facilitating communication between the elderly and the younger generation, this product will make inroads into both markets simultaneously.

Revenue Model

The Kinections email program is one part of a larger ISP system. Users will pay a monthly subscription charge for the email as well as Web and chat functionality. The product will be pre-packaged with sub \$500 PCs and ISP connection kits. The centralized ISP model will allow for better email security features, such as SPAM filtering and privacy controls.

User Goals

The primary goal of Kinections is to bridge the communication gap between young children and their elderly family members and communities. This will be accomplished by making it easy to send and receive emails using a familiar, comfortable environment. The product will also allow easy storage and retrieval of emails, photos, drawings, and other artifacts. Over time, a family narrative will evolve, built around these objects. Kinections will allow this narrative to be easily accessed and enjoyed.

Our design will allow first-time email users to quickly learn and use email. The design will avoid the overly cartoonish look of most neophyte-centered software. Instead, we will focus on making the interface readable, friendly, and as familiar as possible. By designing to assist the decreased visual, memory, and motor skills of the elderly, we envision the application being widely accepted by the entire Internet community.

Primary User Goals Are To:

- Compose email
- Send email
- Read received email
- Sort received email and search for specific email(s)
- Display digital artifacts (received through email or otherwise obtained by user) in the Gallery area of Kinections
- Attach digital artifacts (from the Gallery) to outgoing emails
- Add and edit contacts in the address book area of Kinections (including adding photographs to contacts to aid in their recognition and recall)
- Access the help and tutorial features as desired or necessary

USABILITY OBJECTIVES

Overview:

- Simplicity will be emphasized throughout the program. To facilitate this, minimal features will be in the default feature set (the first time the user opens the program), with options and suggestions (to be tied, in part to the program's tutorial) for the user to add additional features, as they feel comfortable doing so.
- The program will be designed, in particular, to minimize problems that users with impaired vision (i.e., older adults) may have with reading on-screen content. To accommodate users who have decreased contrast sensitivity, careful attention will be paid to color scheme and fonts and, in general, text will appear larger than standard windows applications (or be adjustable to be bigger) and high contrast colors will be used. Script and decorative fonts will be avoided.
- The program will anticipate user needs (based on most commonly used tasks) and prompt/provide cues for how to do the tasks.
- The interface and program will minimize and prevent errors through clear instructions and intuitive buttons and metaphors; error messages will be easy to understand (i.e., no numeric error messages) and will always attempt to lead the user to an easy correction to errors encountered.
- Because the use and viewing of attachments is a major feature of Kinections – the major motivator of the “Fridge”/Gallery component (see Requirements and Features)– a high level of support will be provided to help users handle attachments. This will include obvious and intuitive indicators that attachments are included in messages received as well as automatic program recognition of file type/association.

The following specific learning time and task completion times are objectives in the design of Kinections:

- Learn how to compose and send email (with a digital artifact attachment) in 4 minutes
- Compose and send an email message in 2 minutes (with a digital artifact attachments)
- Learn how to retrieve new messages and view old messages in the inbox in 2 minutes
- Retrieve new messages and view old messages in the inbox in one minute or less
- Learn how to display digital artifacts received through email (or otherwise in possession of the user) in the Gallery in 5 minutes
- Display digital artifacts in the Gallery in one minute or less
- Learn how to add a contact to the address book (with photo) in 5 minutes
- Add a contact to the address book (with photo) in 2 minutes
- Learn how to edit a contact in the address book in 3 minutes
- Edit a contact in the address book in 1 minute or less
- Learn how to access and use the help and tutorial features within 1 minute of opening Kinections for the first time
- Access and use the help and/or tutorial feature in 30 seconds or less

COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS

We surveyed six email programs readily available to us (Hotmail, Pine, Mulberry, Outlook, Outlook Express, and Netscape Messenger). Additionally, we examined the email functionality of SurfMonkey, a web browser specifically targeted at children. From this extensive review, we emulated several features we felt were well executed in the programs reviewed. In particular, we felt Outlook Express was simple and easy to use, with its large buttons and limited but powerful function inventory. We also felt the tab feature in Hotmail was effective and sought to emulate it in our design. We also enjoyed the engaging interface of SurfMonkey and attempted to make our interface as engaging, though not as obviously geared toward children (because our program should appeal to young and older email users).

A summary chart of our competitive analysis that indexes major functions and features of the various programs we reviewed follows this discussion.

PINE ©UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Overview:

Pine is a text-based, non-graphical based mail program invented at the University of Washington. It is command driven and is accessed through a telnet prompt connected to a UNIX server.

Audience/User Base:

According to information about Pine at the University of Washington web site, there are more than 22 million Pine users worldwide, the majority of whom use .edu domain email addresses (indicating that the majority of users are located at universities and colleges). Pine's main appeal is its availability on any computer with a telnet prompt and Internet connection making it appealing to a certain sector of the population. Beyond that, its appeal dwindles, as evidenced by its lack of use by home/casual email users.

```

Telnet - login.si.umich.edu
Connect Edit Terminal Help
PINE 4.21  MAIN MENU  Folder: INBOX  171 Messages

?  HELP          -  Get help using Pine
C  COMPOSE MESSAGE -  Compose and send a message
I  MESSAGE INDEX -  View messages in current folder
L  FOLDER LIST   -  Select a folder to view
A  ADDRESS BOOK  -  Update address book
S  SETUP         -  Configure Pine Options
Q  QUIT         -  Leave the Pine program

Copyright 1989-1999.  PINE is a trademark of the University of Washington.

? Help
O OTHER CMDS > [Compose]  P PrevCmd      R RelNotes
N NextCmd                  K KBlock

```

Features:

There are a number of features available for personalization in Pine. However, due to the degree of difficulty in setting them (and the fact that local administrators of Pine may restrict the feature set), they will not be listed here as features.

Pros:

- availability anywhere with telnet prompt and connectivity
- text basis reduces bandwidth requirements and delays due to attachments (which do not display, they must be downloaded separately)

Cons:

- text basis is visually unappealing
- viewing of attachments extremely difficult and non-intuitive
- high cognitive load due to command line driven format

- difficult and annoying to compose messages due to crude editing features

```

Telnet - login.si.umich.edu
Connect Edit Terminal Help
PINE 4.21 MESSAGE TEXT Folder: UI Design Message 6 of 10 TOP

Date: Sat, 13 Oct 2001 11:57:03 -0400
From: Sara Ulius <pitzel@thegrid.net>
To: genem@umich.edu
Subject: New product name...
Parts/Attachments:
  1 Shown   24 lines  Text (charset: Unknown)
  2         44 KB    Application
-----
[ The following text is in the "Windows-1252" character set. ]
[ Your display is set for the "US-ASCII" character set. ]
[ Some characters may be displayed incorrectly. ]

Well, I think I stumbled on our product name!

What to you think about "Kinnections" (kin-connections, mashed together)? I
also played with alternate spellings: Kinnections, K'nections, etc.
I thought it was pretty clever (and probably better for marketing than
Gezermail).

[Already at start of message]
? Help      < MsgIndex  P PrevMsg   - PrevPage  D Delete   R Reply
O OTHER CMDS > ViewAttch  N NextMsg   SpC NextPage  U Undelete  F Forward

```

HOTMAIL

© MSN <<http://www.hotmail.com>>

Overview:

Hotmail is an Internet based email program hosted and served by Microsoft. It is currently free to users and is available from any computer that has an Internet connection and web browser. Hotmail is part of MSN (Microsoft Network) “Passport” – a system that allows users to use the same login name and password on email (Hotmail), a variety of MSN sites, as well as a number of e-commerce sites without having to provide relevant information again. The larger Passport service as has a calendar feature and appointment reminder service.

Audience/User Base:

While we were unable to locate specific information about the user base of Hotmail, our analysis is that it appears to be geared toward mobile, technology comfortable individuals because of it’s fairly rich feature set (see below). While new-to-email-users can certainly use hotmail, as the interface is reasonably straightforward (if not cluttered by advertising and advertised services), it does appear to be trying to appeal to individuals who want a wide variety of services in association with and in addition to basic, text email.

Features:

- options for forwarding to/from POP mail clients
- option for notification of new messages through pagers or text messaging devices
- several levels of filtering for junk mail, including blocking from specific addresses
- availability of automatic filtering to specific folders messages from specific addresses
- available in a variety of languages
- sent mail receipt confirmation
- “on board” address book
- options to sign up for MSN and affiliate electronic newsletters

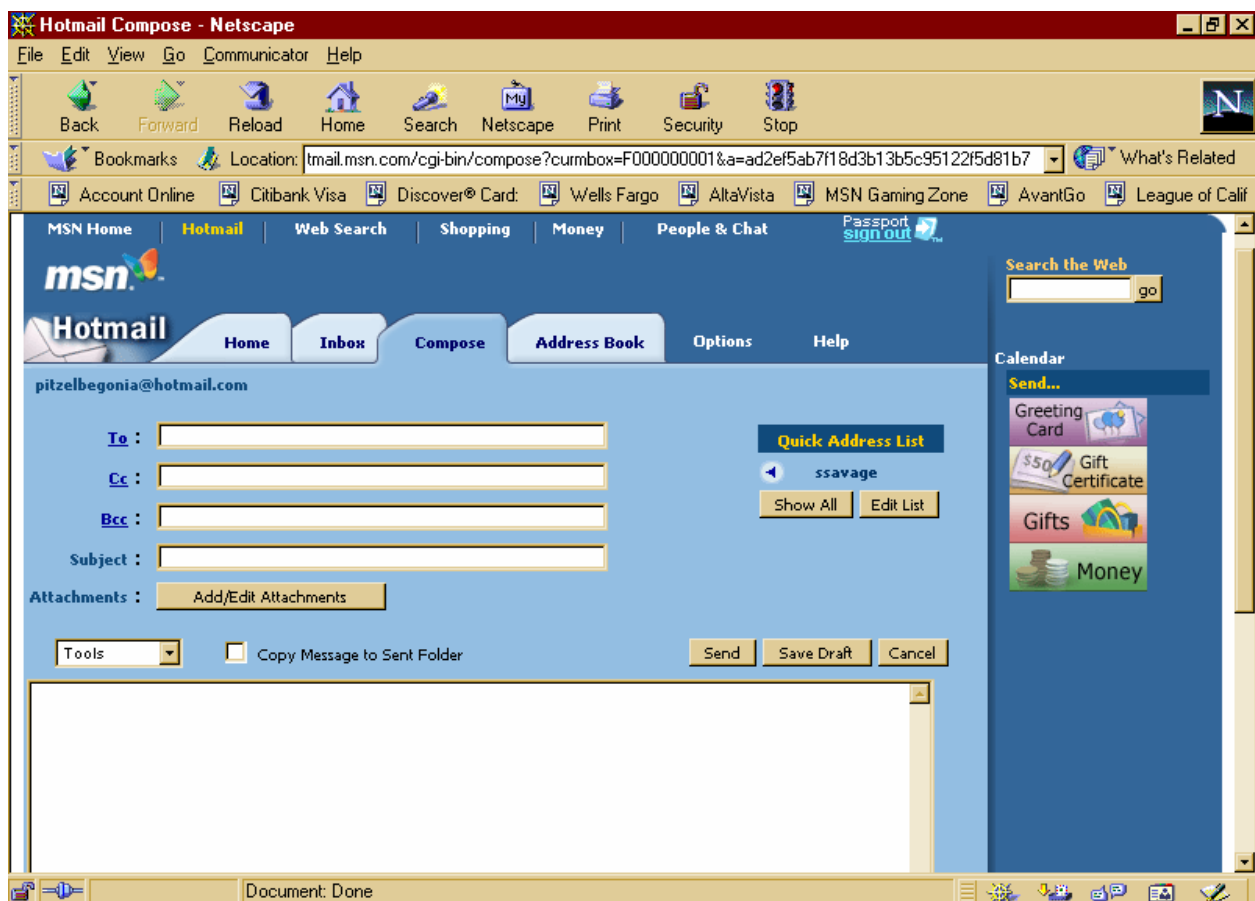
- option to initiate automatic session expiration
- extra “security” options for users who login using a shared/public computer

Pros:

- free
- “everywhere” access
- pleasant interface
- fairly sophisticated SPAM filtering options

Cons:

- Service can be unreliable; frequent outages reported
- bombardment of offers of MSN services can be annoying
- Even with filters on, a significant amount of SPAM still gets through to inboxes



NETSCAPE MESSENGER 4.5

© NETSCAPE

Overview:

Messenger is a full-featured email application that comes bundled in the Netscape Communicator package. This product is one of the earliest standalone email packages, growing up with Eudora and Outlook. The application is free and packed with features, making it the best value in the stand-alone email application market.

Audience/User Base:

The initial user base seems to be new or existing Netscape users. Netscape has created an integrated suite of Internet tools including web browser, email, instant messaging, and newsgroup. Since being acquired by AOL, the Netscape suite seems more geared towards new Internet users. However, the GUI layout is very dense with many icons, which could be quite intimidating to the first-time email user.

Features:

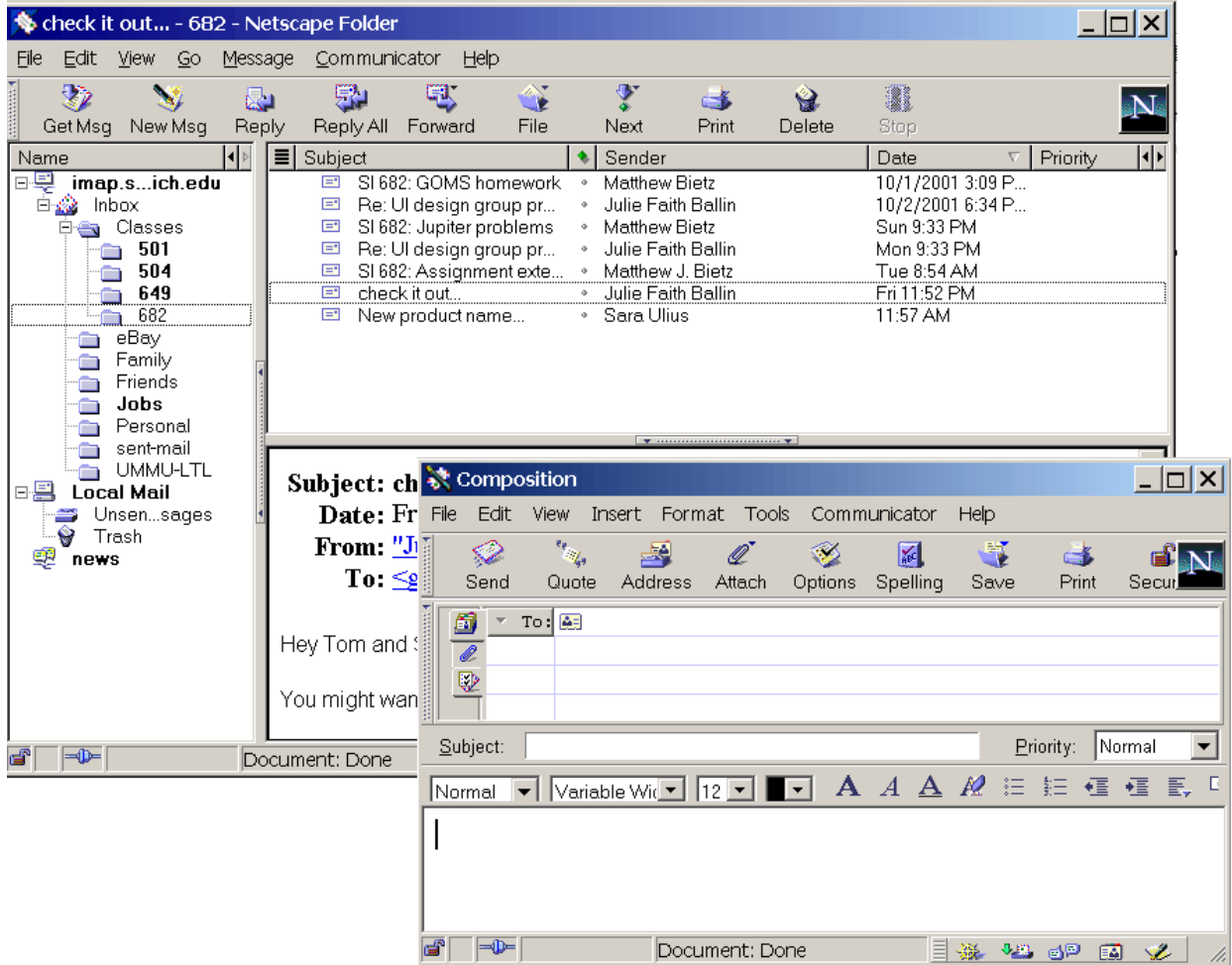
- Very well integrated with the Web browser, newsgroup reader, and AOL instant messenger features.
- Extensible with other mail programs. It will import messages from Outlook, Outlook Express, Eudora, or a text file.
- Standard word processing features available from message window (bold, italics, font styles, etc.)
- Displays replied and forwarded message in a threaded hierarchy.
- Search feature includes searching subfolders and multiple parameters (body, subject, address, etc.).
- Built in encryption feature
- Support for both IMAP and POP email protocols.

Pros

- Free
- Extensible
- Encryption security
- Well integrated with Netscape Communicator suite
- Robust Message searching

Cons

- The mail-to bar is modal. User must pull down menu to choose To, CC, BCC, Group, or Reply To.
- You cannot access the address book directly from the message window.
- There are three modes in the message window: Address, Attachments, and Options. When in either of the latter two modes, the mail-to address bar vanishes. It is not immediately clear how to get it back.



OUTLOOK 2000

© MICROSOFT

Overview:

Bundled with the Microsoft Office Suite, Outlook is a complete personal information management tool. In addition to email, Outlook includes a calendar, task list, contacts database, and several collaboration and scheduling tools.

Audience/User Base:

Geared more towards business and advanced users, Outlook is powerful and feature intensive. Outlook combines the functionalities of multiple smaller programs and integrates seamlessly with other Microsoft Office programs, including Word and Excel.

Features:

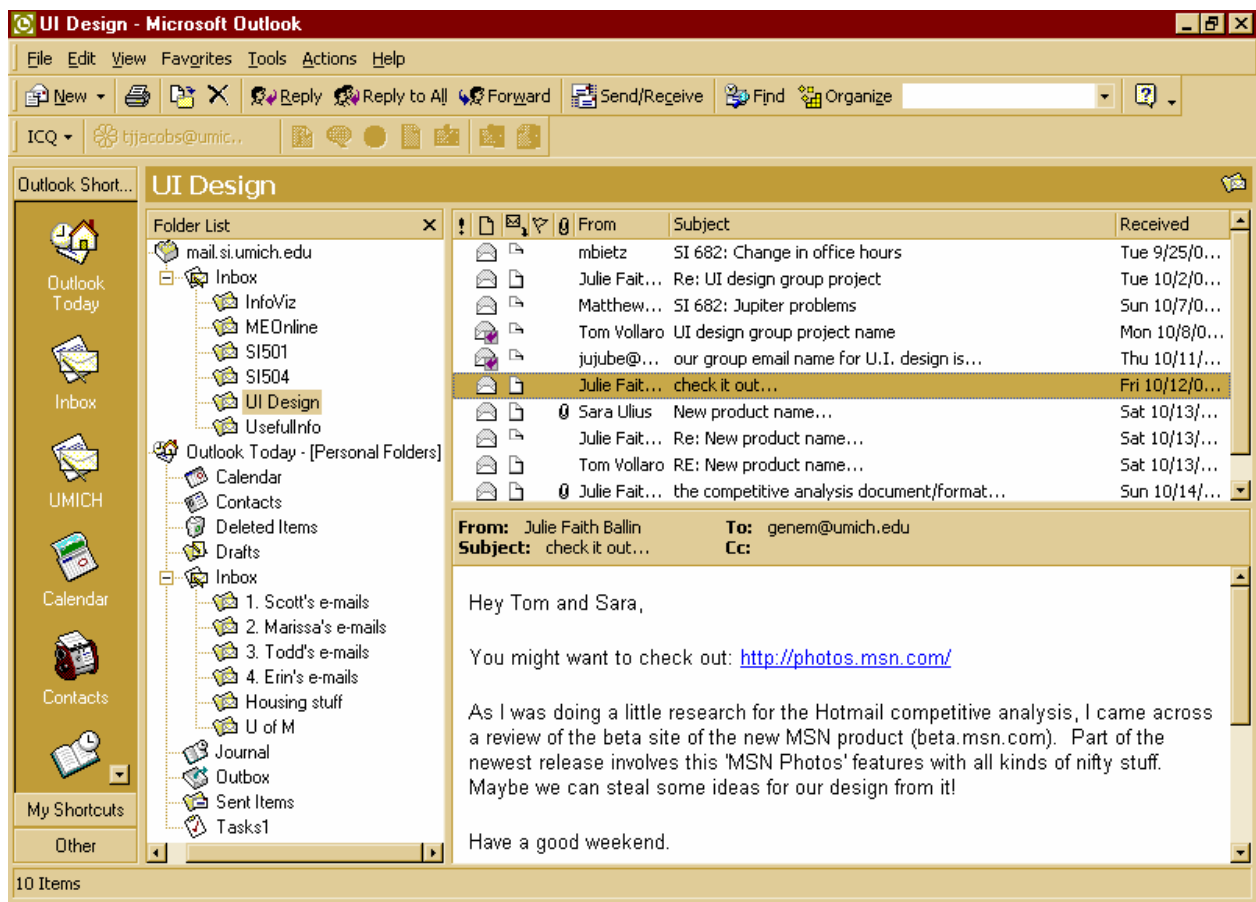
- Support for multiple email accounts
- Support for multiple folders
- Rules: automatic color coding, sorting, and filtering based on content or sender
- Web integration through “favorites” list
- Integration with other Microsoft Office products
- Robust search capabilities
- Integration with ICQ for chat and instant messaging capabilities
- Message encryption
- Support for both POP and IMAP mail protocols
- Spell check and text formatting

Pros:

- Highly customizable views
- Mousing over icons reveals both a text description and a keyboard shortcut
- Automates the processing of large numbers of incoming emails

Cons:

- Feature Laden: Many functions are buried under 2-3 layers of submenus.
- Interface may be intimidating to first time users
- Setting up email accounts can be cumbersome
- Addressing email directly from address book is difficult and confusing
- Customization of individual folders may lead to inconsistencies in appearance and function



OUTLOOK EXPRESS

© MICROSOFT

Overview:

A simple email and newsgroup access tool, Outlook Express pares down many of the features available in the more professional Outlook. Multiple wizards help new email users get started and assist existing email users with address and message migration from other email programs.

Audience/User Base:

Although originally a Windows only product, Outlook Express has expanded its market to include Mac and UNIX platforms as well. The simple interface appeals both to novices as well as experienced users who prefer its efficient handling of email over that of more complicated programs. Bundled with Internet Explorer 5.5, Outlook Express is both free and widely available.

Features:

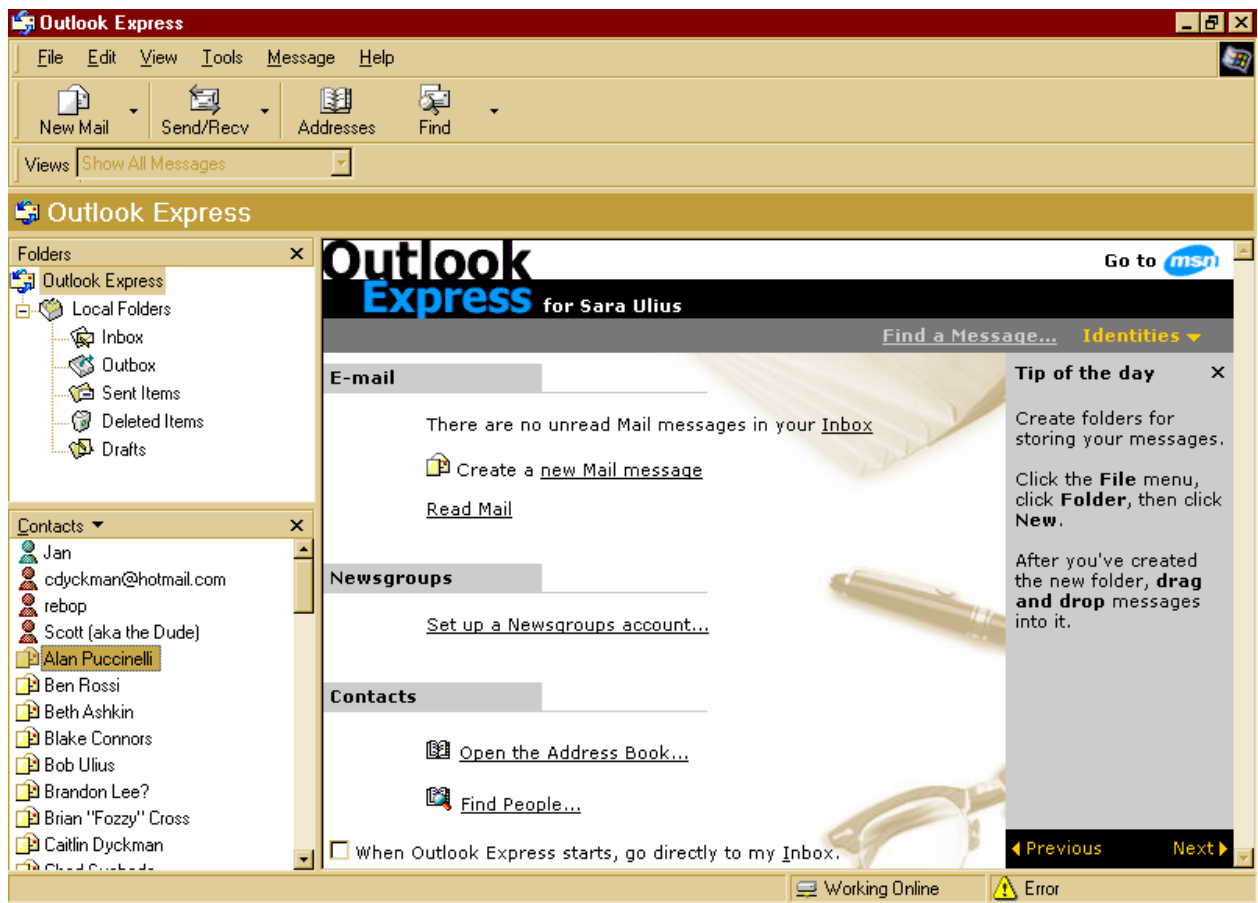
- Simple, email addressing by clicking address book
- Integration with MSN Messenger for chat and instant messaging capabilities
- Support for multiple email accounts and multiple identities
- Ability to share address book between users
- Graphical stationery for messages
- Email blocking by sender's address
- Integrated with Hotmail email services
- Spell check and text formatting capabilities
- Daily tips and in depth tutorials

Pros:

- Easy to use the first time: The default view prompts users for common tasks, such as creating and reading email
- Customizable views and tool bars so that experience users can place frequently used features within reach

Cons:

- Limited find capabilities
- Creating and editing folders is often confusing – Under the file menu, the convention for new email messages is to select new>email. For a new folder, the convention is to select folder>new.
- View customization may lead to folder-to-folder inconsistencies.



MULBERRY 2.0.8

Overview:

Mulberry is a well-developed email program built primarily around the IMAP protocol. This allows for email to be stored on a server, making it popular with educational and mobile users. It does support POP3 as well, for standard ISP based email users.

Audience/User Base:

Mulberry is available on both the MAC and Windows platforms and seems targeted at Netscape users. Due to its early development at Cambridge and Carnegie Mellon, Mulberry has a primarily university user base.

Features:

- Multi-window layout: Mailbox folders, mailbox contents, address book, and messages.
- Search feature includes searching subfolders and multiple parameters (body, subject, address, etc.). Very similar to Netscape search feature.
- Cabinets: Folders that allow grouping of multiple mailboxes and 'wildcard' macros for copying large sets of messages between folders.
- Highly customizable preferences including accounts, display colors, mailbox options, access control lists and even multiple 'identities'.

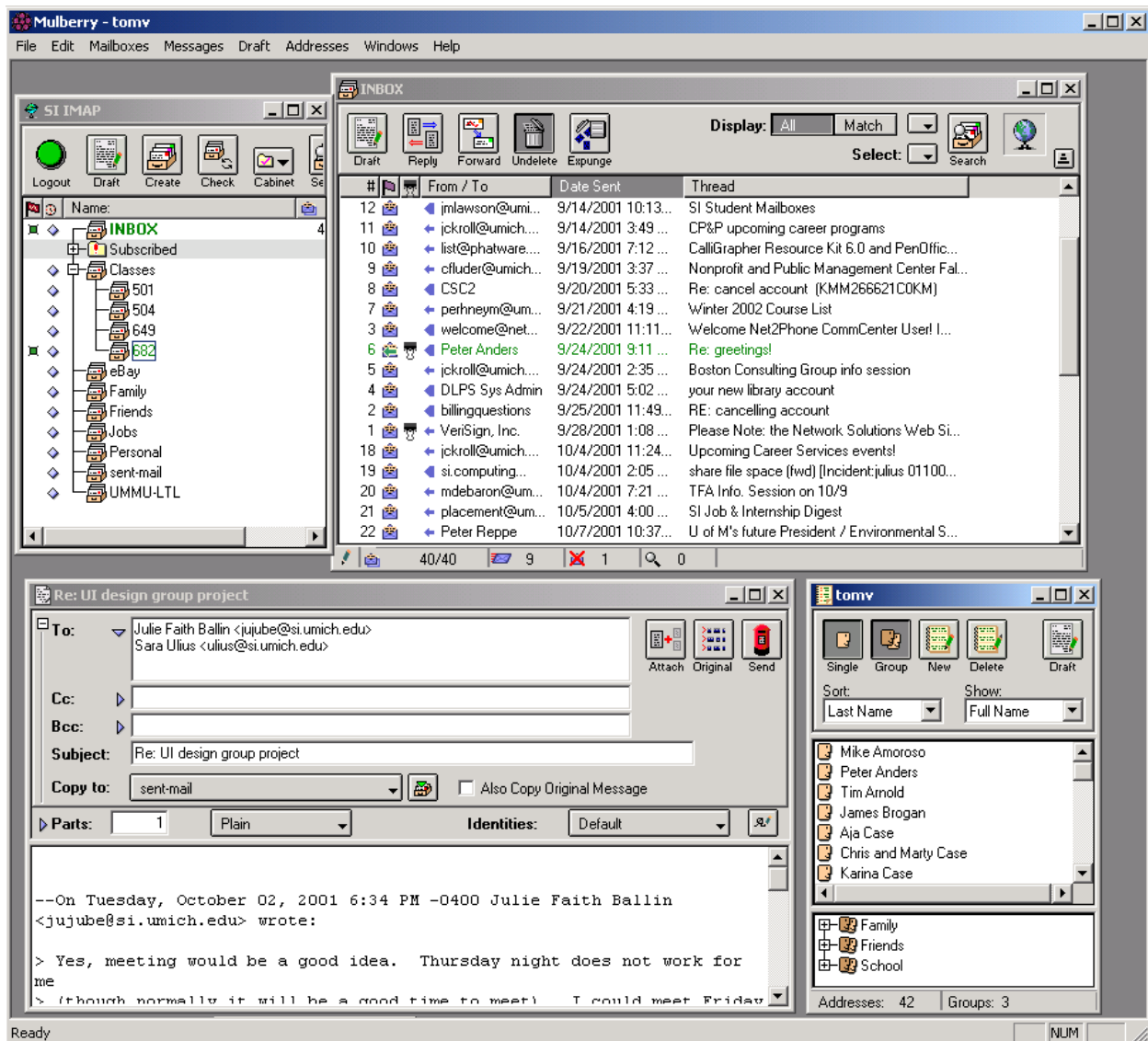
Pros:

- Customizable preferences are powerful, but clearly intended for more advanced users.
- The message list display can be filtered and customized (all seen, unseen, recently deleted, etc.)

Cons:

- Attachments are not displayed clearly. A sub-menu must be pulled-down to access attachment icons.

- Many unlabeled icons. Mouse-over does not show label.
- There is no way to auto-filter incoming messages. This has been added to a new release, but was not available at the time of this analysis.
- Reply-to default is set to Reply-to All, which could be confusing to new users.
- Multi-window layout makes it difficult to find features such as address book, outgoing queues, etc.



SURFMONKEY KIDS EMAIL STATION

AVAILABLE AT <<http://www.surfmonkey.com>>

Overview:

SurfMonkey is a children's only web browser with integrated email and messaging capabilities. Part of a paid subscription service, SurfMonkey prides itself on its Safety Center that limits the content and messages that a child is able to view. Agents present content that is age and gender appropriate for each user.

Audience/User Base:

SurfMonkey's cartoonish look seems to appeal to preteens and technologically savvy youngsters. The fun interface engages kids with animated guides and integrated games (such as the ability to "slime" the screen with green goo). Parents are an important component of SurfMonkey's product, however, as they have ultimate control over what their children are able to view online.

Features:

- Animated guides
- A detachable communicator that functions as a floating toolbar for communication functions
- High security functions: Messages and web sites can be blocked by either content or sender's address. Individual words can be redacted for content, or, if forbidden content is high enough, the entire message can be blocked.
- Parental security features: For younger children, parents can select only those individuals their child is allowed to interact with online. Messages from unauthorized senders may be unblocked with a parental password. For older children, parents can opt for an opposite approach by only designating prohibited sites and senders.
- Address book
- Support for attachments
- "Read to me" feature provides text to speech capabilities.

Pros:

- Interface is simple: Functions are stripped down to their essential components.
- Web interface allows children to access their email from any Internet connection.

Cons:

- No support for multiple folders
- No trash folder – No way to undelete a message
- Experienced users may be frustrated by the lack of customization
- Older users may find interface to be too “cute”





SUMMARY COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS

REQUIREMENTS

Look and Feel

- The Kinections interface will be visually entertaining and engaging to satisfy needs and appeal to both children and adults who may have little to no experience with email programs. To this end, there will be several “skins” available with which users can customize the look and feel of their email workspace if they wish.
- To the extent possible, the interface will imitate real world metaphors for the tasks they do in Kinections. For example, there will be a “Fridge” (complete with digital magnets) or Gallery feature in which to display photos, digitized drawings and other digital objects exchanged with family members and acquaintances. This will be done to simulate the exchange of photos and drawings that users may not have a chance to do on a regular basis if they do not live nearby to those with whom they are exchanging messages/assets.

Specific Functionality/Features

- *Contact Management*: The address book will allow users to identify and sort their contacts not only with text names and address; they will have the option to put a photograph or other digital object in the address/contact book in association with email addresses to identify to whom they wish to send a message/digital objects.
- *Tutorial/“Kinections University”*: To engage the user with the program and to encourage them to use more features, there will be an ongoing “smart” tutorial that knows what the user already knows how to do in the program and makes suggestions for next steps (and also keeps track of which sections of the tutorial the user has already gone through). The user will also be able to jump around to various topics at will.

- *Text Reader/Voice Recognition:* Supports to users who are visually impaired (generally older adults) or are unable to read (some children) will include a text reader that will read messages aloud at the click of a button (specifically, a “read to me” button that will likely be included on the control panel). Additionally, support will be built in to the program to provide the option to record a voice message (in conjunction with the appropriate hardware in the user’s system and peripherals) to send to other Kinections users. There will also be voice recognition options available for users to specify certain tasks/commands (e.g., “compose”, “spell check”, “send”, “open attachment”, etc.). Because this will require additional hardware on the users end, it will not be a default feature, but will be easily initiated.
- *Gallery:* This feature will allow users to store and attractively display the digital assets they acquire from their use of Kinections email or otherwise obtain. It will be also the holding area for the photos of users’ contacts.
- *Scanned objects Support:* A high level of support will be built in to assist users in scanning and sending photos, drawings, etc.

Edit/Search Features: Basic word processing features, such as spell check and search capabilities will be provided. The search feature will be universal. It will search entire messages (address, subject, body, header, etc.) in order to reduce time spent hunting for a particular message/thread.

Key Deferred Functionality and Features

The following features and functions will be considered for inclusion in future versions of Kinections:

- *Tablet/Handwriting Recognition Support:* Similar to support for other peripheral inputs (scanned objects, voice messages, etc.), Kinections will have support for a digital handwriting tablet for users who prefer to write than type.

- *Communication “Diary”*: To reduce cognitive load and the need to recall from memory (especially as an aid to older users), there will be an easily accessible “diary” or history/log feature that will aid users in determining when they last sent a message to a contact and vice versa.
- *Multiple Identities/User Recognition*: In anticipation of multiple family members using Kinections email within the same household, multiple identities (with user recognition) will be available. This will enable each member to have privacy in their communications as well as to learn the program features (and go through the tutorial) at varying speeds.
- *SPAM handling*: A high level of support will be built in to help users cope with unwanted messages. Several types of filtering options will be available and users will be able to easily specify from what addresses they will and will not accept email.
- *Enhanced Closed Network Functionality*: The program will recognize whether users are exchanging messages (and other assets) with other Kinections users (based on email address and/or profile) and enable certain features if the user is exchanging with other Kinections users. This is similar to many instant messaging programs that provide specific functionality to a closed network of users.

PROTOTYPES

The following pages illustrate our prototyping process including the production of thumbnails, roughs and mockups.

INTERFACE COMPONENT INVENTORY

Menus

- File
 - Save
 - Save-As
 - Print
 - New Folder
 - Exit
- Email
 - Write
 - Reply
 - Forward
 - Delete
 - Check Mail
 - Attach a file
- Tools
 - Spell Check
 - Read to me
 - Dictate
 - Speak
 - Find messages
 - Open Address Book
 - Open Gallery
- Help
 - Tips
 - Kinections University
 - How Do I...?

Buttons

- Top bar
 - Check Mail
 - Write
 - Spell check
 - Speak
 - Find Email
 - Read to me
 - Print
- Message Window
 - Forward (grayed out when writing new message)
 - Reply (grayed out when writing new message)
 - Delete
 - Send
- Attachments
 - Save to Gallery
- Inbox
 - New Folder

Tabs

- Help & Tips
- Gallery
- Addresses

TASK ANALYSES/STORYBOARDS

To aid in the design process and understanding of how to make primary user tasks most intuitive to users, task analyses and storyboarding of primary tasks are placed side by side. These analyses and storyboards follow.

FINAL DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

The following pages illustrate our final design specifications, including the final screen layout and the Kinctions style guide.

STYLE GUIDE

General

The layout of Kinections will follow a grid system. See attached grid diagram for major line/section locations. To reduce chromostereopsis and eye stain, sections will be outlined and separated with black lines.

Color

The basic color scheme for Kinections is a combination of slate blue (R125 G132 B173), goldenrod (R247 G213 B109), and soft red (R209 G102 B102).



Specifically, the main toolbar will be pale blue; message backgrounds will be goldenrod, and the inbox background will be soft red.

The tab section will be soft red with white text areas/boxes. Font on the tabs will be black with the exception of the active tab, which will have black text (and the color will darken slightly on the body of the tab when it is selected).

The inbox will have a left bar of softred with white text and blue folder icons. The message area of the inbox will have a white background with black text.

Buttons

All buttons in the main toolbar are pillow embossed; buttons in the message and tabs area are embossed

All buttons in the message area will be oval with white font. Send and To buttons will be green. Delete button will be red. Forward and Reply will be grayed out unless there is a message open in the window which can be replied to or forwarded.



Buttons in the main toolbar will be white with black and/or gray outlining. When buttons in the main toolbar are rolled over they will take on a glow.



Additionally the background of the “Speak” and “Read to Me” buttons will display a green background if selected (on mode) and a red background if not selected (off mode).



Sliders

Sliders will have a solid bar color with black arrows at the top and bottom and a ridged texture on the slider.



Vocabulary

Identical features in buttons and menus will have consistent terminology.

Font/Text

The default font throughout Kinnections is Verdana.

Font size:

- Icon font size is white, 9.5 pt.
- Message text font is black, 10 pt
- Tab header font is black, 12 point
- Inbox folder font is white, 12 pt
- Inbox text font is black, 9.5 pt
- Menu font is black, 12 pt.