

GUI Bloopers

2010 revisions L.D. Nel

2005 J. Morrison

GUI Bloopers

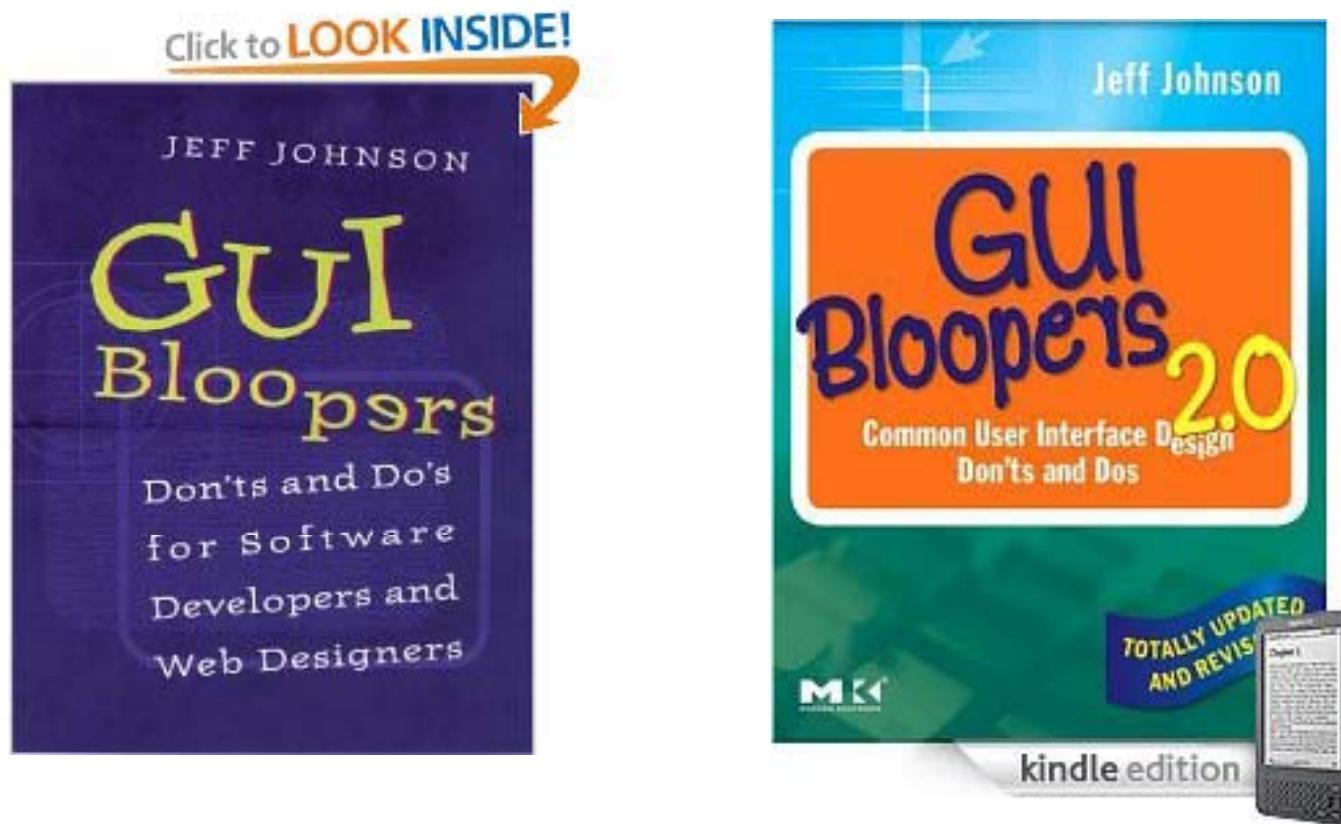
Very practical don'ts and do's for designing windows and dialogs

Basic guidelines for using typical controls consistently and as intended

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: using
GUI programming guidelines will not make
your interface right for your users (it will
however keep you from annoying them)

Source:

Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers 2.0”, Chapter 2.



GUI Components

Look at issues that arise using
components from typical GUI toolkits
(e.g. Java GUI library)

Components used as illustration mostly
buttons and menus. (Many errors occur
with other components as well.)

Mostly from Chapter 2 of GUI Blooper 2.0

GUI Components

Most GUI libraries don't:
Enforce a particular UI standard

You can use components as intended, or
have them behave unexpectedly

GUI toolkits seem more focused on
appearance than enforcing GUI
standard

GUI Components

Component miss-use issues most often arise out of:

Using the wrong component

e.g. using a button for a check box

Using a component wrongly

e.g. not enforcing mutual exclusion with radio buttons

GUI Bloopers

Screen shots used in GUI Bloopers are taken from existing applications –some that are in very common use

Can you guess which ones they come from ?

GUI Blooper Game

Throughout this presentation try to guess why the programmers implemented the blooper

Was it oversight?

Did they believe it would be a benefit?

Did they miss-understand the component?

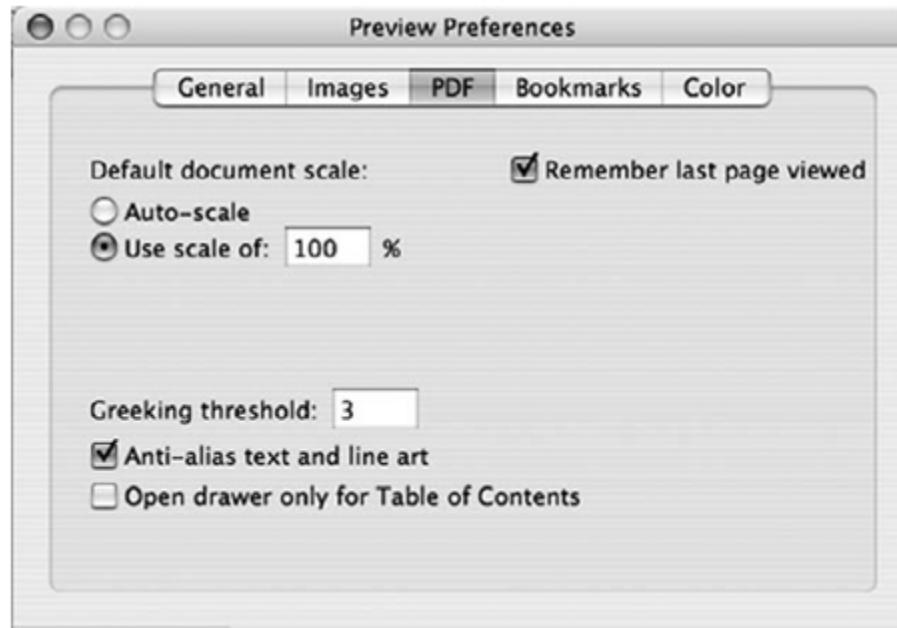
What was their motive?

Using The Wrong Controls

Using the Wrong Control

1. Confusing Check boxes and Radio Buttons
2. Using a Check Box for a non ON OFF setting
3. Using Command Buttons As Toggles
4. Using Tabs as Radio Buttons
5. Too May Tabs
6. Using Input Controls For Display Only Data
7. Over using Text Fields for Constrained Input

Blooper 1: Confusing Check boxes and Radio Buttons



Example dialog with both radio buttons and check boxes

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 1: Check Boxes and Radio Buttons



Select your ticket delivery preference

Electronic Tickets

Issue my ticket electronically at no additional charge By selecting this option I agree to the Terms and Conditions of Travel. I understand that I will receive neither a ticket nor a receipt in the mail, but will be able to access and print my receipt online. I am a resident of the United States.

Single radio buttons

If used to check-off an option Check box should be used instead

If options are dynamically created there might be just one

My Forrester Find Research Events & Teleconferences

Web Site Review Boot Camp

How To Evaluate And Fix Your Web Site
July 19-20, 2006
Cambridge, Mass.

REGISTRATION

Cost: \$0
All prices are in US dollars.

Attendee Information

Prefix Choose from list

First Name *

*image from: Jeff Johnson "GUI Blooper: Don'ts and Do's for Software Developers and Web Designers", Chapter 2.

Blooper 1: Check Boxes and Radio Buttons

Using Check Boxes
where Radio Buttons
should have been



For which term are you applying?

Fall Spring Summer Year

Do you wish dormitory accommodations? YES NO

Have you previously attended or applied to The Brooklyn Campus of L.I.U.? If yes, when?

Do you intend to apply for financial aid?
 YES NO

Are you a veteran of the United States Armed Forces?
 YES NO

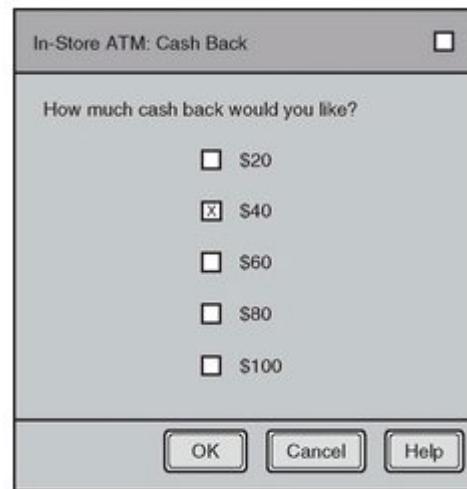


I wish to apply for entrance in :

Fall Spring Summer Year

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

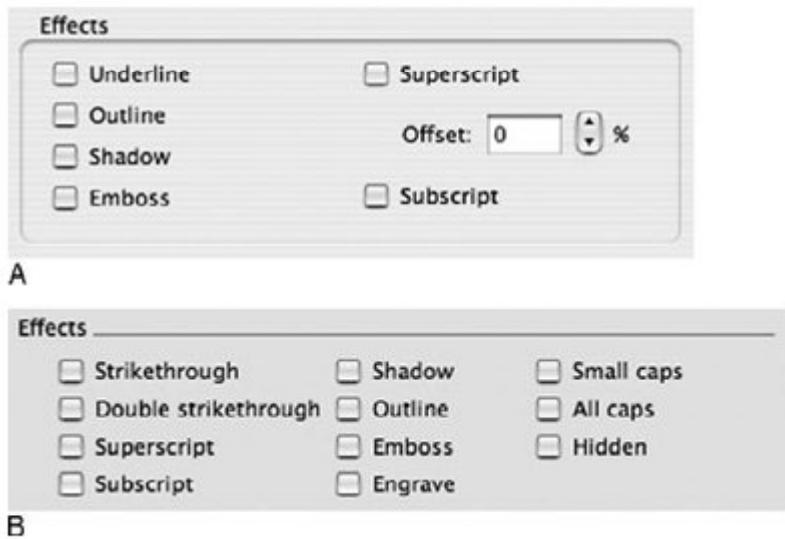
Blooper 1: Check Boxes and Radio Buttons



Mutually Exclusive
Checkboxes
Should have used
Radio Buttons

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 1: Check Boxes and Radio Buttons



Examples from MS Powerpoint and Word

Some checkboxes
Mutually exclusive,
Some have groups
of exclusive options

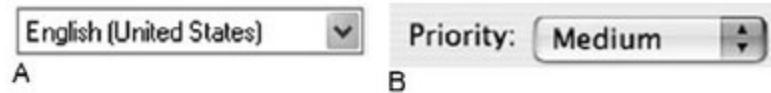
But: Interface looks
“better” because all
controls have the
same look

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

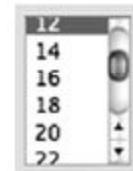
Blooper 1: Check Boxes and Radio Buttons



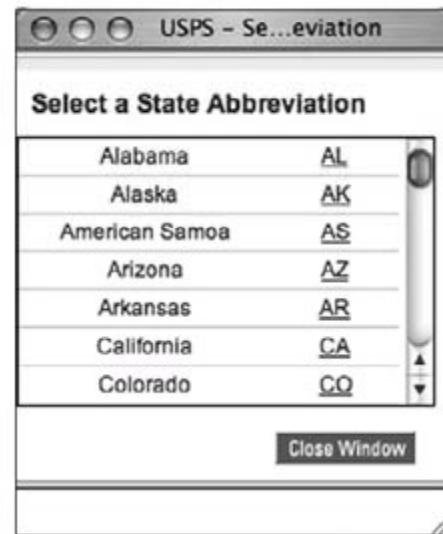
Radio buttons can take up a lot of space. Other options like drop down menus or scroll lists or spin boxes might be better



Dropdown menus. (A) Microsoft Windows Vista. (B) MacOS X.



A



B

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 1: Check Boxes and Radio Buttons



- A
- Center Image
 - Scale to Fit

Show these items on the Desktop:

- Hard disks
- CDs, DVDs, and iPods
- Connected servers

B

Vote for up to four candidates:

- G.W. Shrub
- Sally Bleedinghart
- John Q. Redneck
- Lucille Incumbente
- Estelle Radical
- Leroy Middleroad

Good use of check boxes

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Using the Wrong Control

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2. **Using a Check Box for a non ON OFF setting**
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Blooper 2: Using a Check Box for a non ON OFF setting



Application options were “Red” and “Green”. Checked means Red, unchecked means Green

Check boxes should be for two opposite values

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 2: Using a Check Box for a non ON OFF setting



What is the opposite
of “LeftText”?



Label position: Left Right

Label position: of checkbox

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 2: Using a Check Box for a non ON OFF setting



Type-in Mode: Insert vs. Overstrike

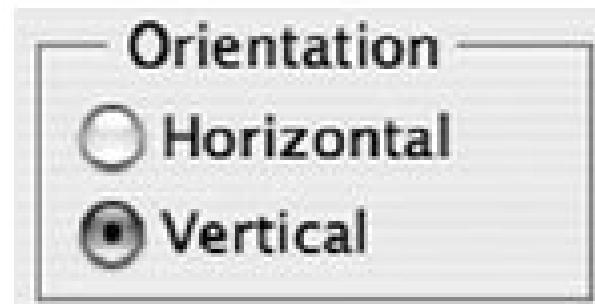
Which option does the “X” mean?

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 2: Using a Check Box for a non ON OFF setting



Check boxes with clear opposites

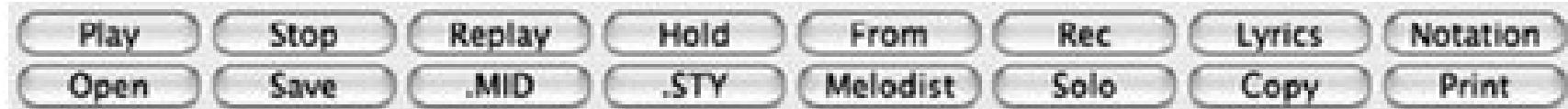


*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

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Blooper 3: Command Buttons as Toggles



“Lyrics” and “Notation” are toggles to display items or not (from Band In A Box)

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 3: Command Buttons as Toggles



“Two Page” button is toggle that changes label to “One Page” when clicked



*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

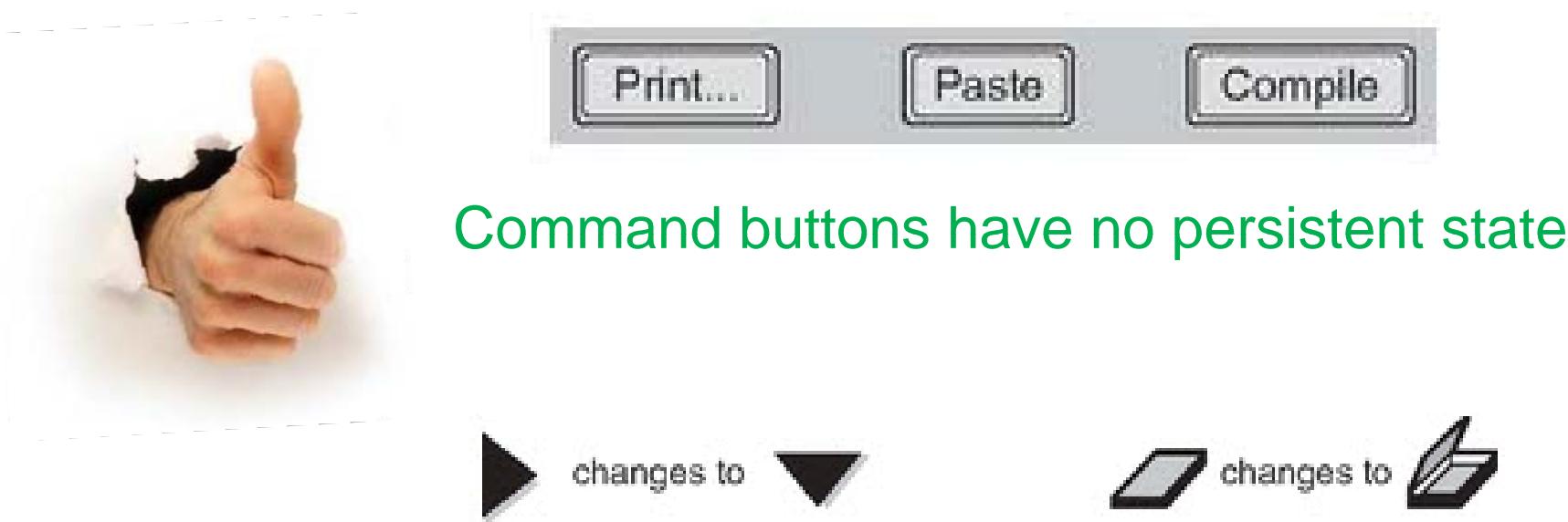
Blooper 3: Command Buttons as Toggles



“Play” button is toggle that changes label to “Pause” when clicked (Do they indicate state or command?)



Blooper 3: Command Buttons as Toggles



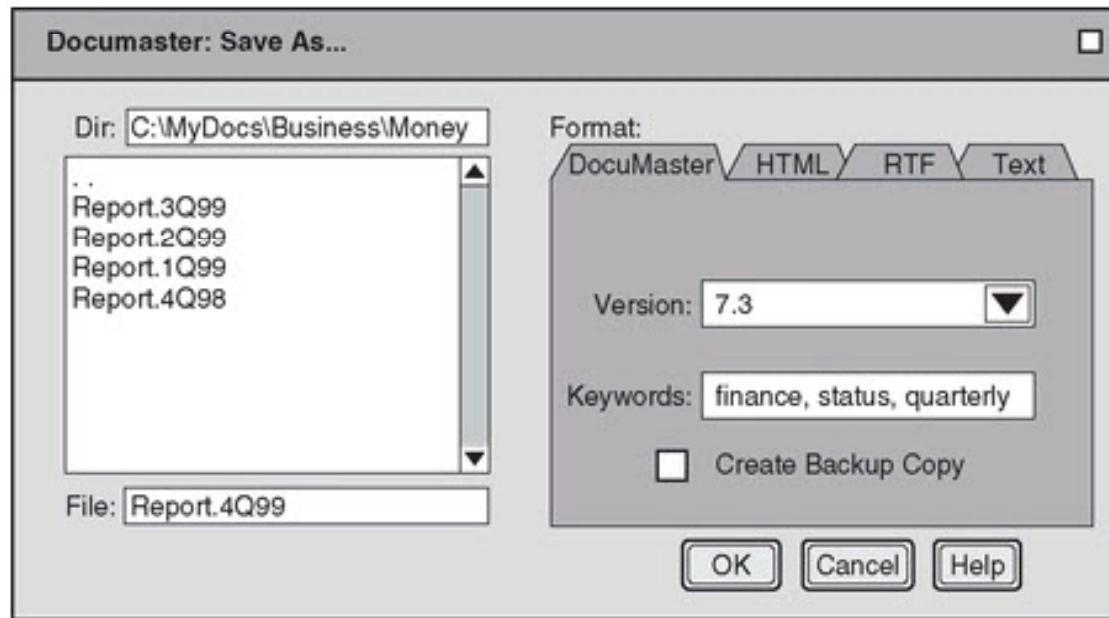
Use Special Purpose Toggle Controls

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

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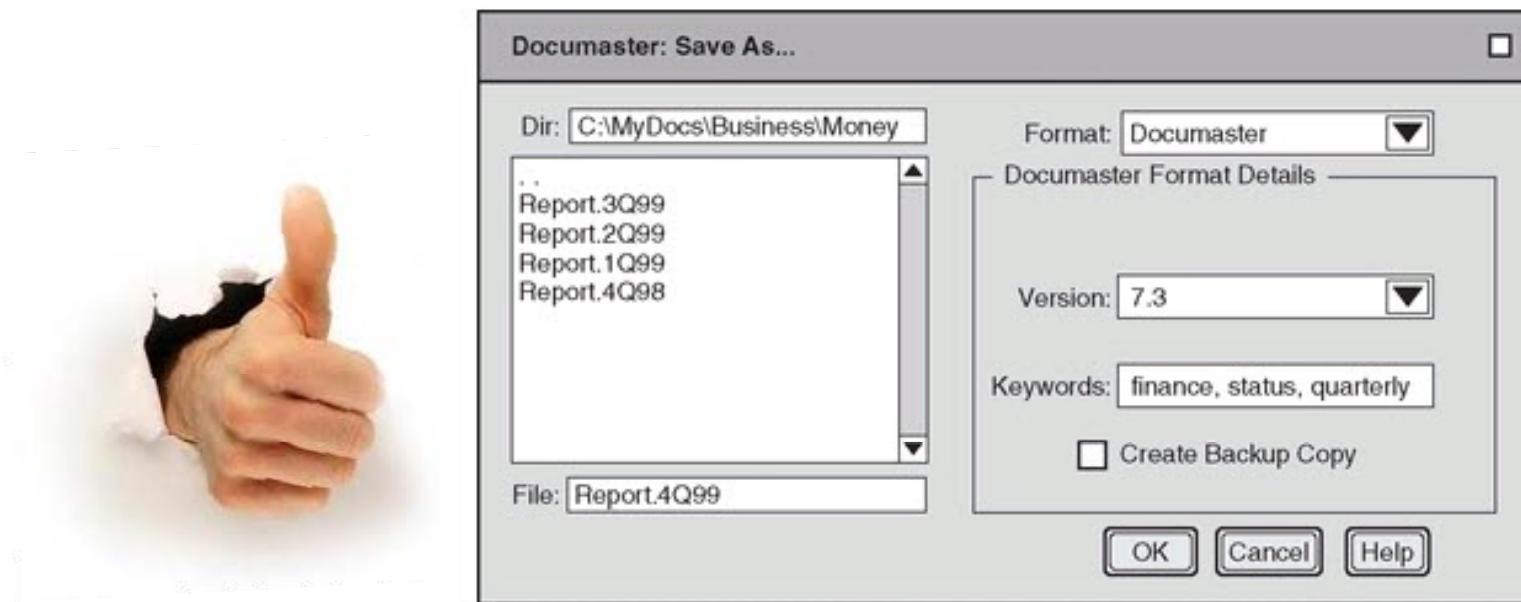
Blooper 4: Using Tabs As Radio Buttons



Tabs used as radio buttons, but users will think tabs are just for setting format details, not for picking the “Save As” format

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 4: Using Tabs As Radio Buttons



Use control that user associates with settings instead (e.g. drop down menu)

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 4: Using Tabs As Radio Buttons



The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of a user interface. Both screenshots feature a horizontal row of radio buttons labeled 'Font Size:' followed by options '8', '10', '12', '16', '18', and 'Other'. In the top screenshot, the '12' radio button is selected. In the bottom screenshot, the 'Other' radio button is selected, and a text input field is visible next to it, with an arrow pointing from the text 'Other:' to the input field.

Font Size:	8	10	12	16	18	Other:
Font Size:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Font Size:	8	10	12	16	18	Other:
Font Size:	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>				

Radio buttons can control the visibility of other elements (e.g. the text field only appears when “other” radio button is picked)

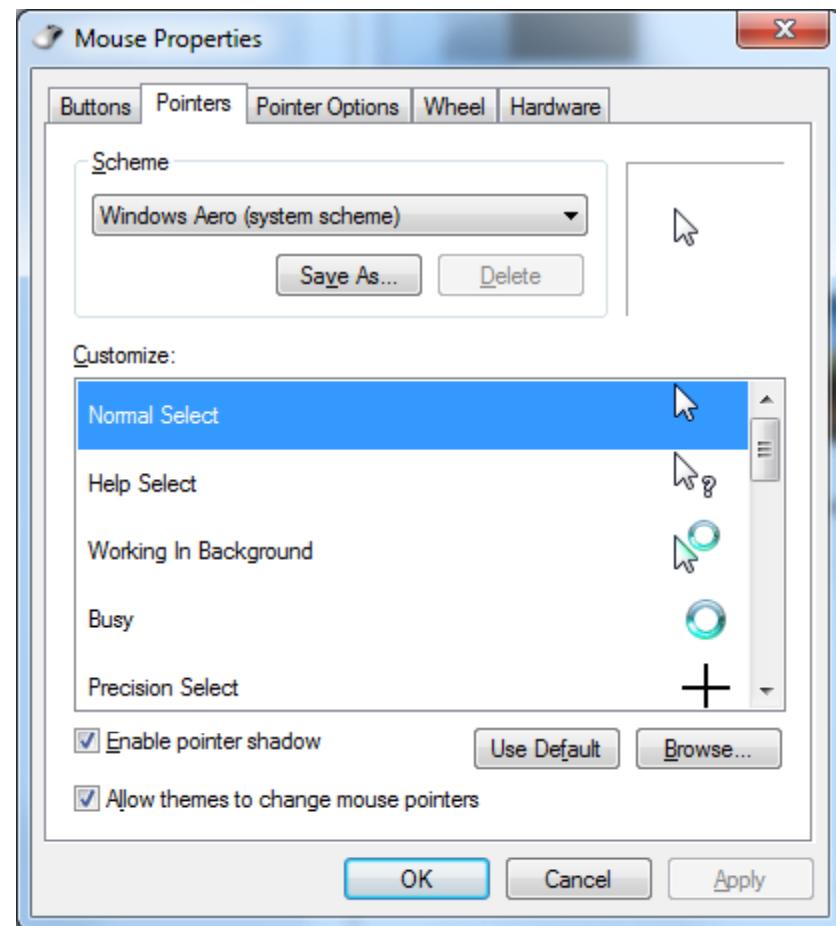
Like info unmasked by a tab

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 4: Using Tabs As Radio Buttons



Tabs should be used for navigation only and not for settings

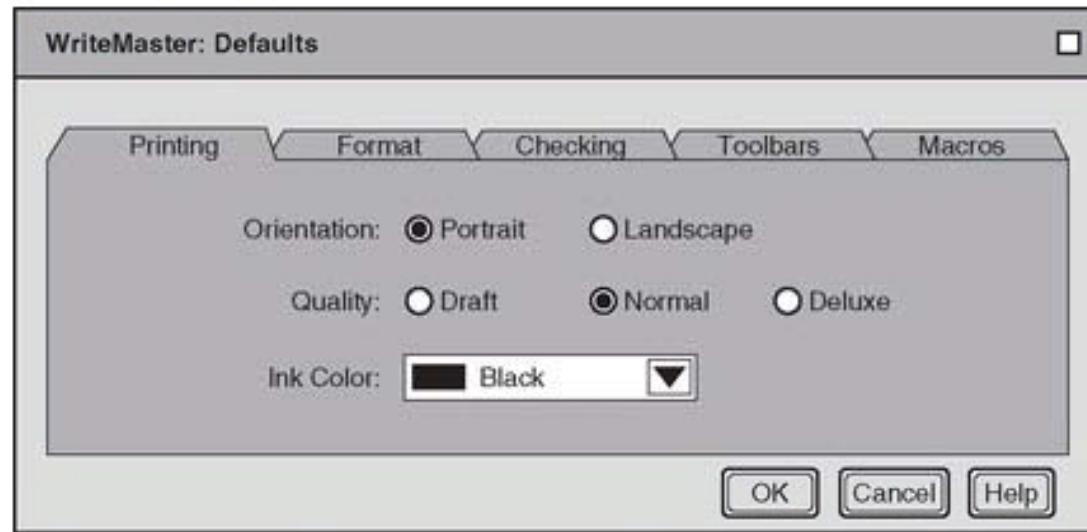


*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

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Blooper 5: Too Many Tabs



Too many tabs makes
panels too big for their
contents

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper: Too many tabs

Blooper:

Tabs are stacked several rows deep, around all sides, on top and bottom

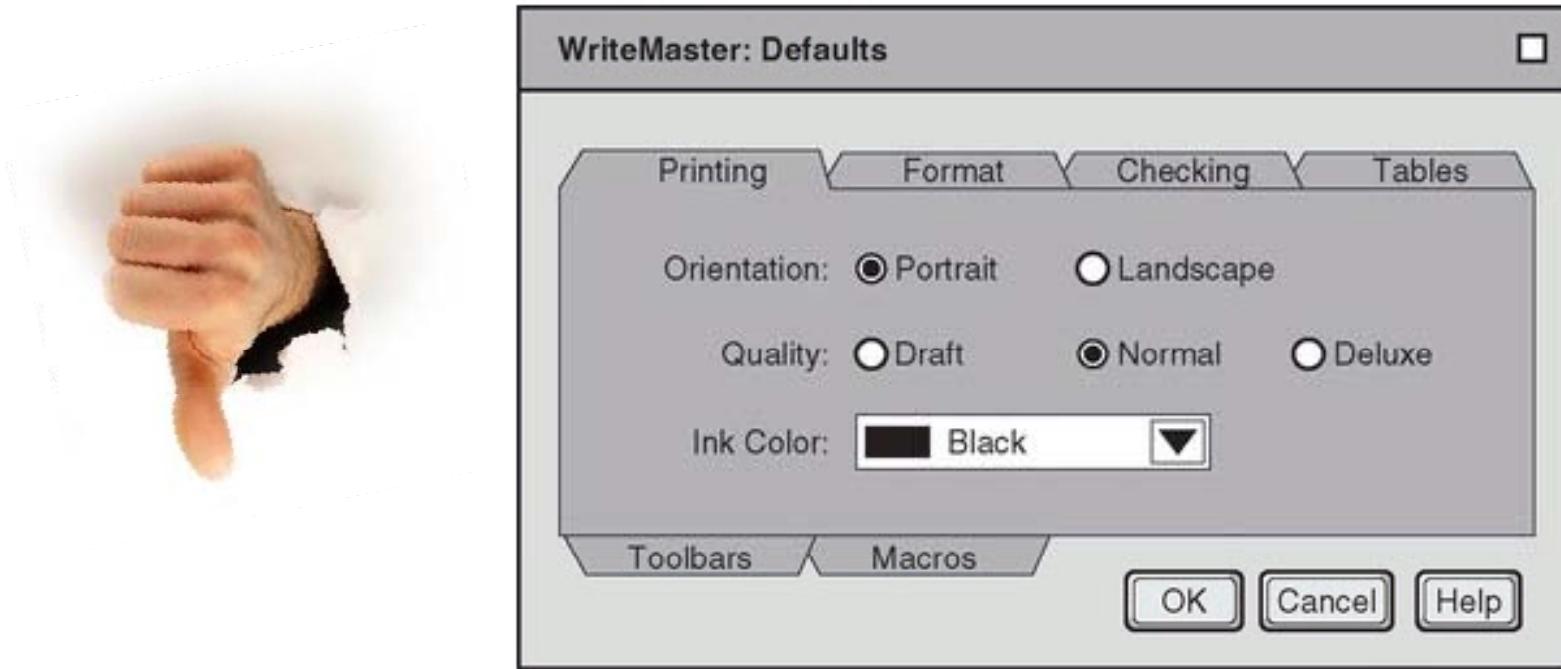
Developer Motivation:

Don't change panel size and use lots of tabs

Result:

Difficult to use hard to find needed tab

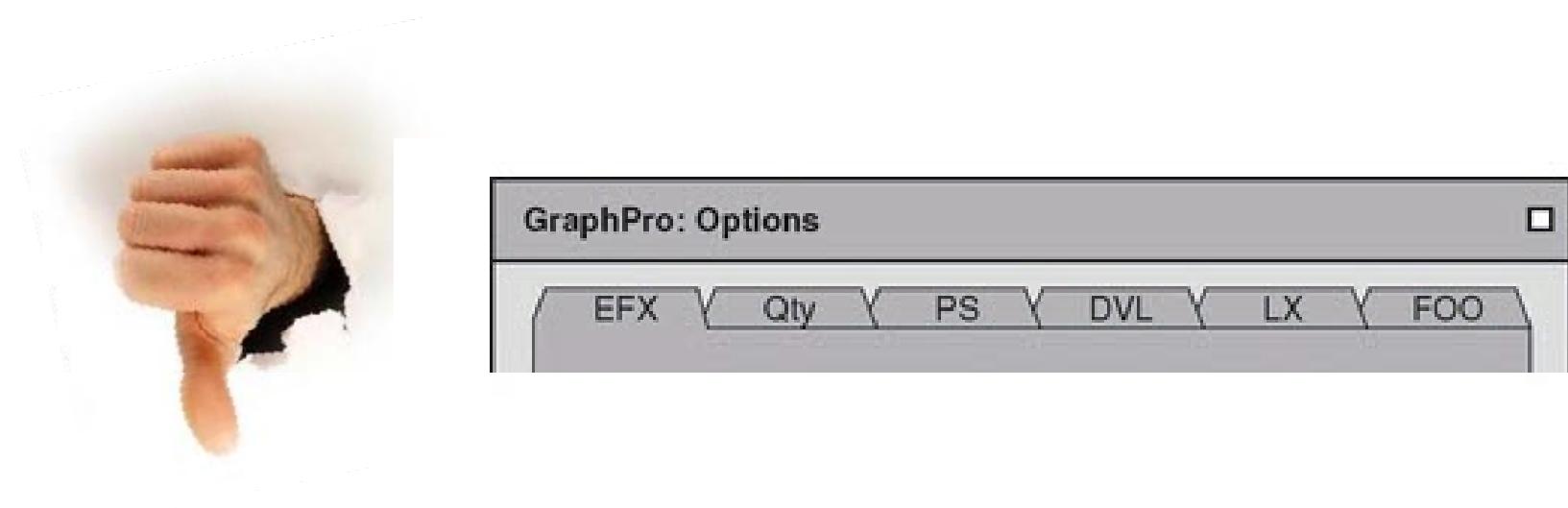
Blooper 5: Too Many Tabs



Tabs the left, tabs to the right ... -even worse

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

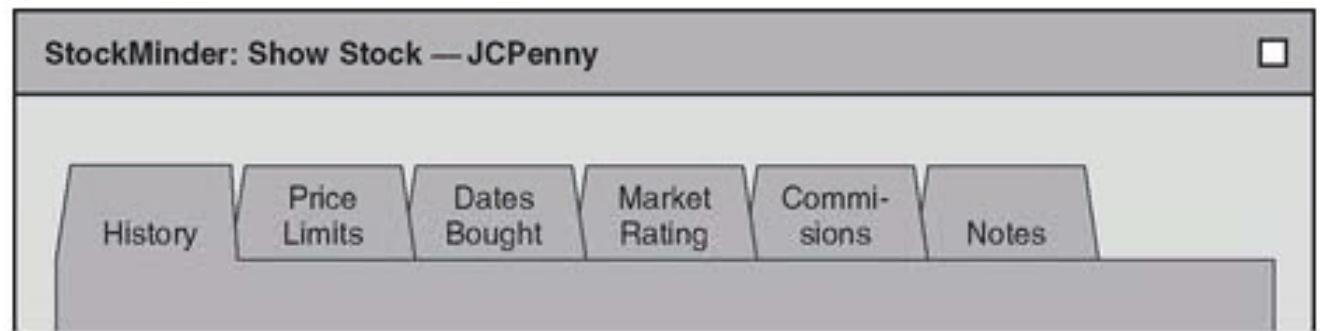
Blooper 5: Too Many Tabs



Short Lbls make tabs hard to understand and use

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 5: Too Many Tabs



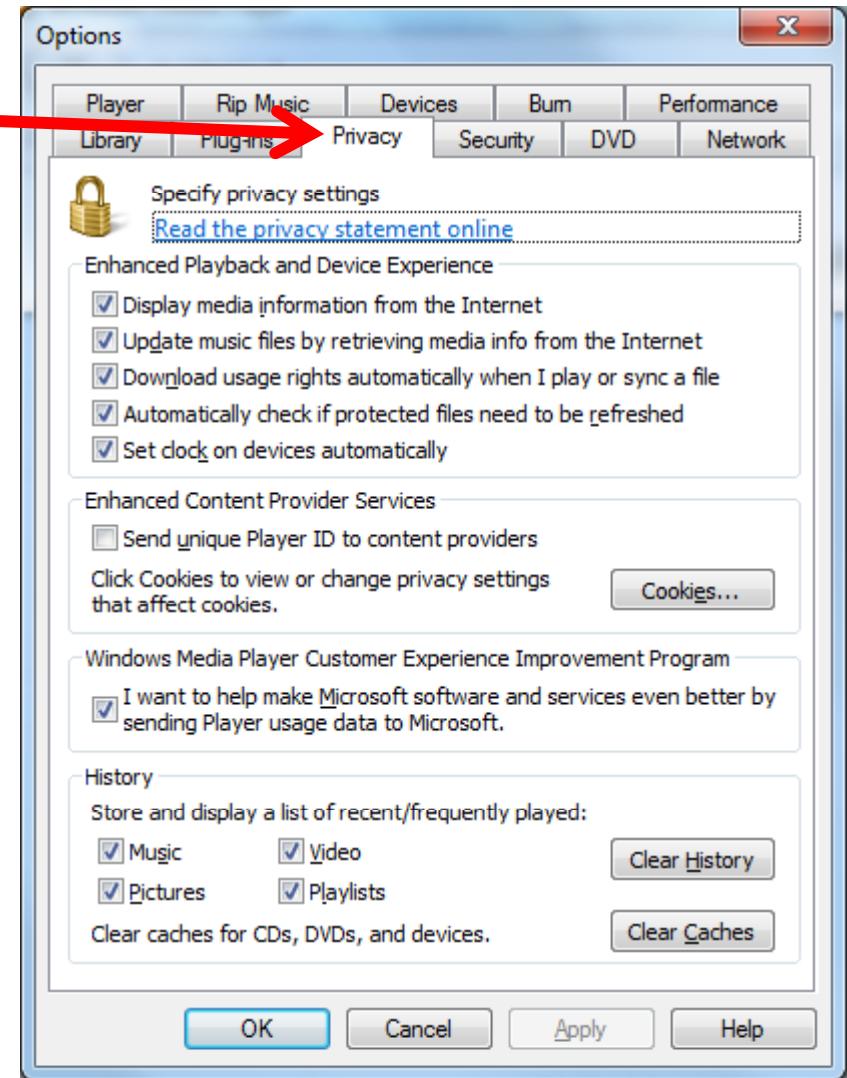
Too many tabs so some
tabs end up with two-line
labels

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 5: Too Many Tabs



Dancing Tabs in
Windows Media
Player



Blooper 5: Too Many Tabs



Keep number of tabs small
and fitting comfortably in the
space available

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 5: Too Many Tabs



Amazon 1999 had only 8 categories of products, still worked as tabs

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 5: Too Many Tabs



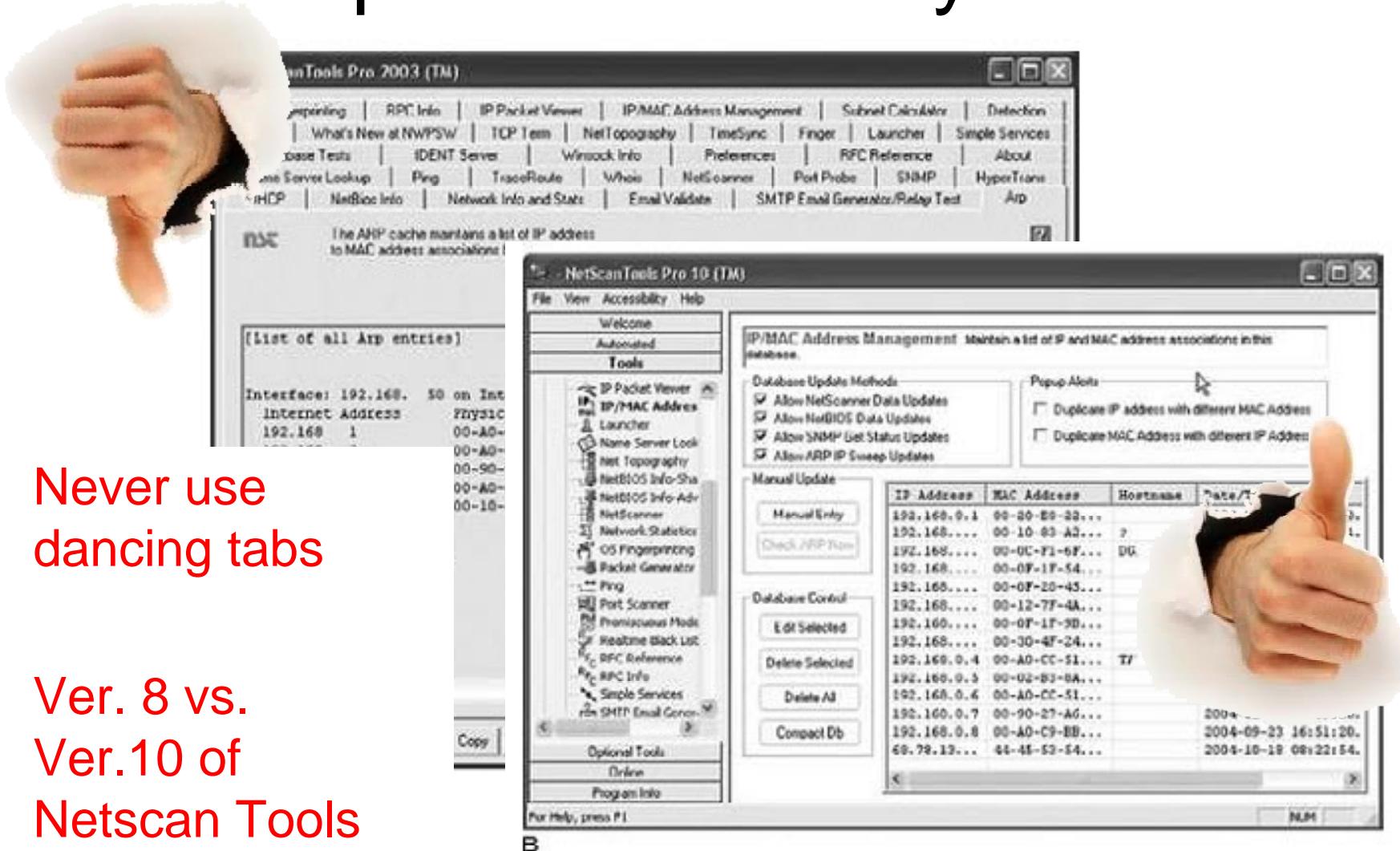
Amazon 2010
uses solution
other than tabs
as categories
grow

The screenshot shows the Amazon.com homepage. At the top, the Amazon logo is followed by a greeting: "Hello, Louis nel. We have [recommendations](#) for you. ([Not Louis?](#))". Below the greeting are links for "Louis's Amazon.com", "Today's Deals", "Gifts & Wish Lists", and "Gift Cards". A search bar is present with the placeholder "Search All Departments". To the right of the search bar, there is a promotional banner for the Kindle: "Shopping from Canada? Magasinez-vous depuis le Canada ?" Below the search bar, a sidebar titled "Shop All Departments" lists various categories with arrows: Books, Movies, Music & Games, Digital Downloads, Kindle, Computers & Office, Electronics, Home, Garden & Pets, Grocery, Health & Beauty, Toys, Kids & Baby, Clothing, Shoes & Jewelry, Sports & Outdoors, Tools & Home Improvement, and Automotive & Industrial.



*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 5: Too Many Tabs



Never use dancing tabs

Ver. 8 vs.
Ver.10 of
Netscan Tools

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

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Blooper 6: Input Controls For Read Only Data



Input field displaying non-editable text,

Check boxes to mark required fields

Email Us

Emailing uBid is a quick and easy way to receive a prompt response to your inquiry. Simply below and click the "submit" button.

1. Select your Subject:

- Bidding/Account
- Shipping/Order Problems
- Website Questions
- General
- Product Problems
- Billing Inquiries
- Feedback

Then, select a Request:

- Feedback

2. Please provide your information:

First Name:	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Last Name:	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Email Address (twice for verification):	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Login:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Order Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lot Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Request/Coupon Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Instructions:

We would like to hear the things that aren't working or need improvement, and the things that you really enjoy. If you are making suggestions or comments that do not require a response, you may not receive a reply (though we try our best to get back to

3. Enter your message in the box below:

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

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- Billing Inquiries
- Feedback

Then, select a Request:

- Feedback

2. Please provide your information:

First Name:	<input type="text"/>	Required
Last Name:	<input type="text"/>	✓
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>	✓
Email Address (twice for verification):	<input type="text"/>	✓
Login:	<input type="text"/>	
Order Number:	<input type="text"/>	
Lot Number:	<input type="text"/>	
Service Request/Coupon Number:	<input type="text"/>	

Special Instructions:

We would like to hear the things that aren't working or need improvement, and the things that you really enjoy. If you are making suggestions or comments that do not require a response, you may not receive a reply (though we try our best to get back to

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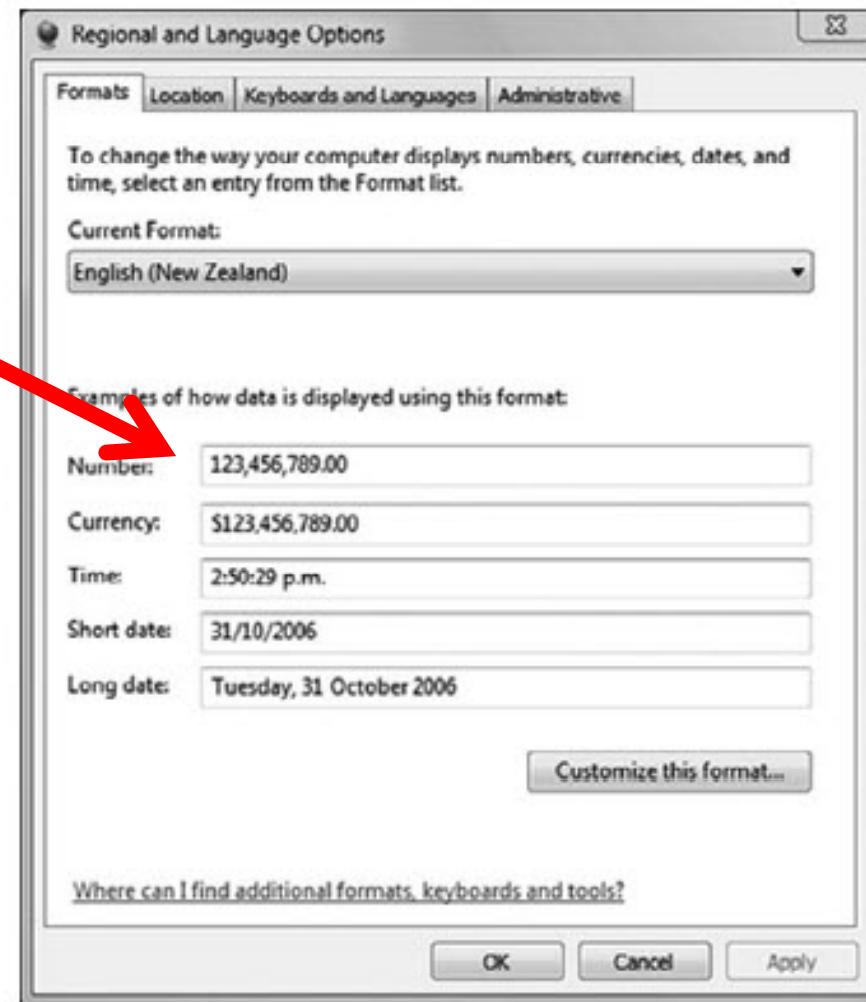
*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 6: Input Controls For Read Only Data



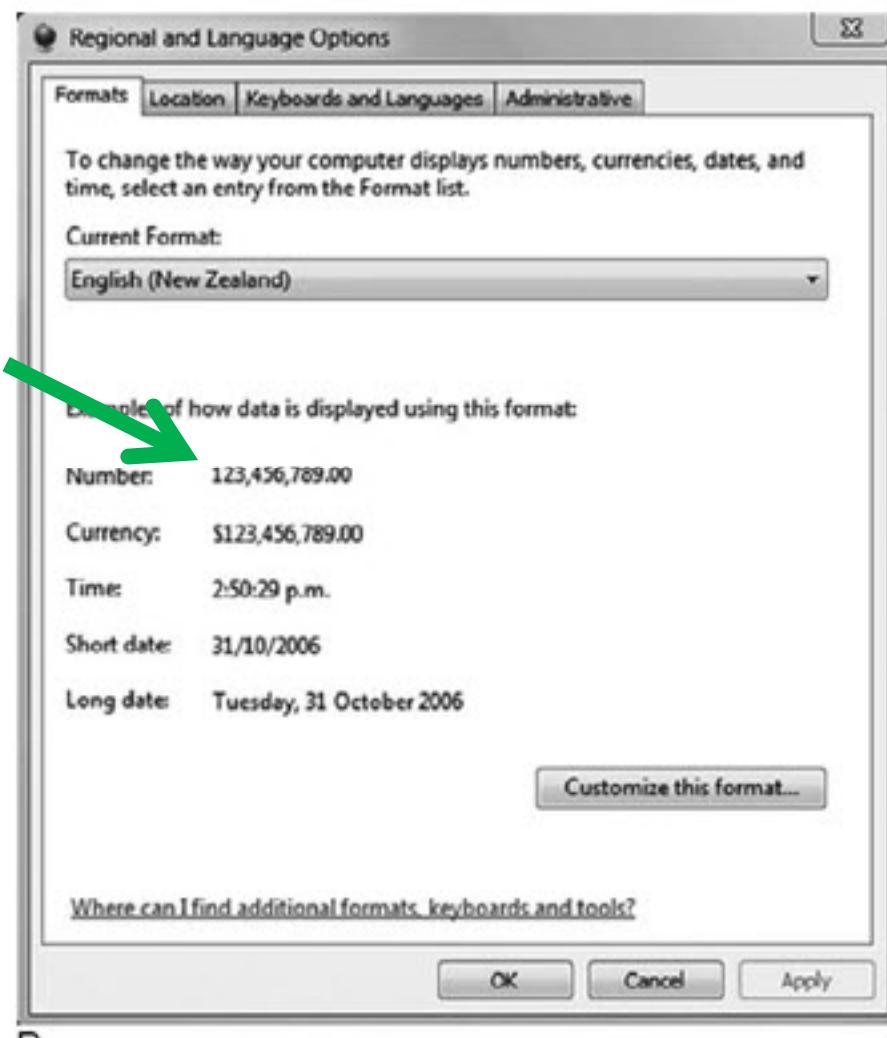
Non Editable Sample
data displayed in text
input field

(Window's Language
Preferences Dialog)



*image from: Jeff Johnson "GUI Blooper: Don'ts and Do's for Software Developers and Web Designers", Chapter 2.

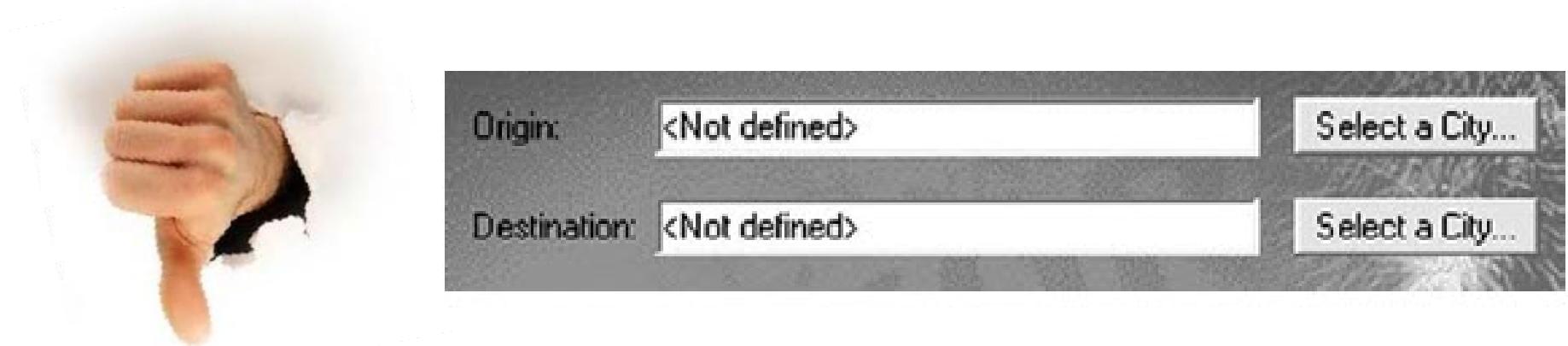
Blooper 6: Input Controls For Read Only Data



B

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 6: Input Controls For Read Only Data



Origin and Destination fields seem editable, but are only indirectly so via the “Select a City” button
(National Geographic Trip Planner)

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 6: Input Controls For Read Only Data



A diagram illustrating three types of input controls for read-only data:

- A**: Active text field. Shows a text input box with the value "Johnson" and a black border, indicating it is currently active and editable.
- B**: Inactive text field. Shows a text input box with the value "Johnson" and a thin gray border, indicating it is currently inactive and non-editable.
- C**: Noneditable text. Shows a text input box with the value "Johnson" and no border, indicating it is non-editable.

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 6: Input Controls For Read Only Data



Good use of
editable vs.
non-editable
text

A

General		Summary	Statistics	Contents	Custom
Title:	Blank document				
Subject:					
Author:	Jeff Johnson				
Manager:					
Company:	UI Wizards, Inc.				

B

General		Summary	Statistics	Contents	Custom
Created:	Saturday, September 16, 2006 10:34 AM				
Modified:	Wednesday, September 20, 2006 10:23 PM				
Printed:	Monday, September 13, 1999 9:15 PM				
Last saved by:	Jeff Johnson				
Revision number:	51				
Total editing time:	417 Minutes				

(MS Office)

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 6: Input Controls For Read Only Data



Exception?

Is there a nice solution for large amount of non-editable text?
Placing it in scrollable text input area is a common solution –
but is it good?

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

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Blooper 7: Text Fields For Constrained Input



General Text
Input fields for
constrained data
invites error

A

Address Line 1	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 2	<input type="text"/>
City	<input type="text"/>
State/Province	<input type="text"/>
Postal/ZIP Code	<input type="text"/>

B

Address:	<input type="text"/> *
Address2:	<input type="text"/>
Address3:	<input type="text"/>
City:	<input type="text"/> *
State/Prov:	<input type="text"/>

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 7: Text Fields For Constrained Input



Old prompt-based UI

% Create Appointment	<i>User invokes function.</i>
Enter appt. name >	
Enter starting time >	<i>Prompts appear one by one after user types response to previous prompt and presses RETURN.</i>
Enter duration >	
Enter reminder >	
Enter reminder lead-time >	
Enter visible to >	
Appointment created.	<i>Function signals that it's done.</i>
%	

New TTY GUI

Create Appointment	<i>Displayed when command invoked</i>
Appointment:	<input type="text"/>
Start time:	<input type="text"/>
Duration:	<input type="text"/>
Location:	<input type="text"/>
Reminder:	<input type="text"/>
Reminder Lead-Time:	<input type="text"/>
Visible to:	<input type="text"/>
OK	Cancel

Often arise out of “GUI-fying” a TTY command line interface

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 7: Text Fields For Constrained Input

Instead of:

Birthdate:

Telephone Number:



Use:

Month Day Year

Birthdate:

Telephone: -



Further constrain input

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 7: Text Fields For Constrained Input

Instead of:

Appt. Time: 11:30 am

Use:

Appt. Time: 11 ▼ : 30 ▼ am pm

or

Appt. Time: 11 ◆ : 30 ◆ am pm

State: Oklahoma

State: Oklahoma ▼



Use more constrained, specific, controls

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 7: Text Fields For Constrained Input

Structured
Controls



Quick and Easy Registration

First Name: [Text Field] **Last Name:** [Text Field]

Email Address: [Text Field] **Re-enter Email Address:** [Text Field]

Daytime Phone: [Text Field] [Text Field] [Text Field] **Evening Phone:** [Text Field] [Text Field] [Text Field]

Create your uBid.com login ID:

Login ID: [Text Field]
5 character min, email address is allowed.

Password: [Text Field]
5 character min, cannot contain your login ID.

Re-enter password: [Text Field]

Shipping Address:

Street 1: [Text Field]
Please enter full street address

City: [Text Field]
Full spelling. No punctuation or numbers

Street 2: [Text Field]

State: [Text Field] **Zip code:** [Text Field]

Date of Birth: [Month] [Day] [Year]
--Month-- --Day-- --Year--

Gender: Male Female

Promo Code: [Text Field] [Promotion terms & conditions](#)
If you have a special promotion code, please enter it here

[Check here for FREE Magazines!](#)
[More Details](#)

Fields in Bold are required for Registration

A

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 7: Text Fields For Constrained Input



Structured
Controls

A

Fare Finder EasyCheck-in Flight status

Flight search results from 1000+ airlines. Many more!

More search options

From To

Round-trip One-way Multi-city

Departure date Oct 19 1 Morning 19

Return date Oct 19 10 Morning 19

Search by Schedule Price

Electronic certificate or promotion code More info

Passengers 1 Search

Book Award travel My itineraries

B

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Using Controls Wrongly

Using Control Wrongly

8. Dynamic Menus

9. Intolerant Data Fields

10. Input Fields And Controls With No Default

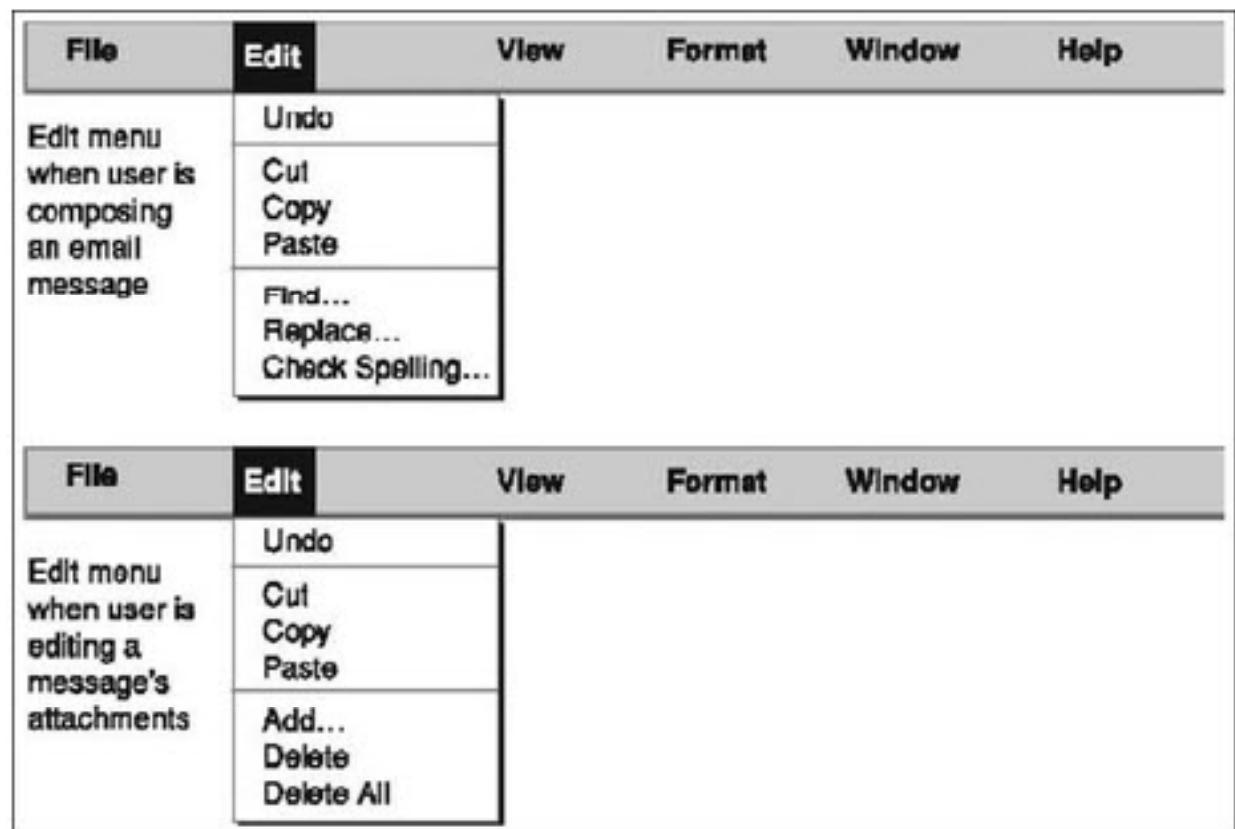
11. Poor Defaults

12. Negative Checkboxes

Blooper 8: Dynamic Menus



Menus whose contents or positions change

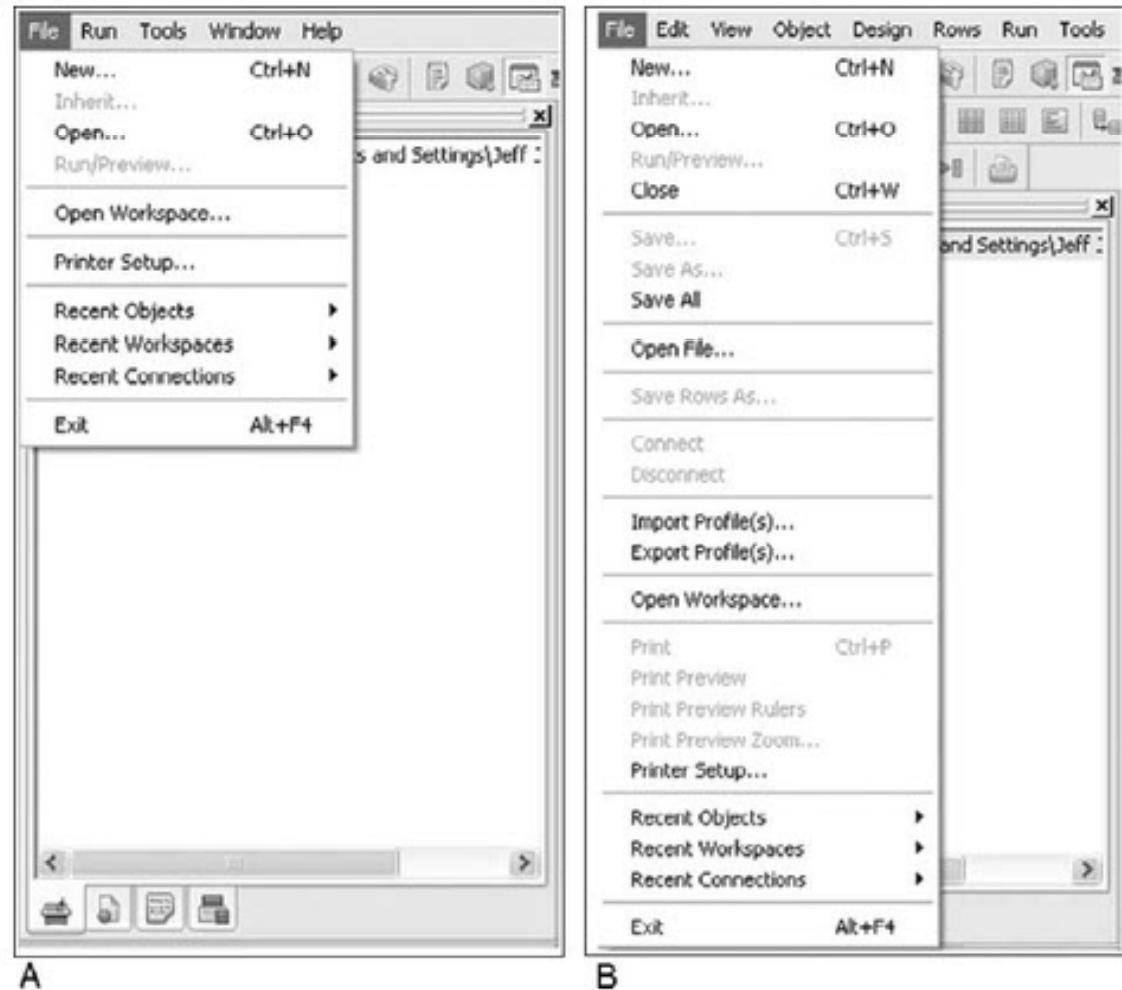


*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 8: Dynamic Menus



Menus whose contents or positions change

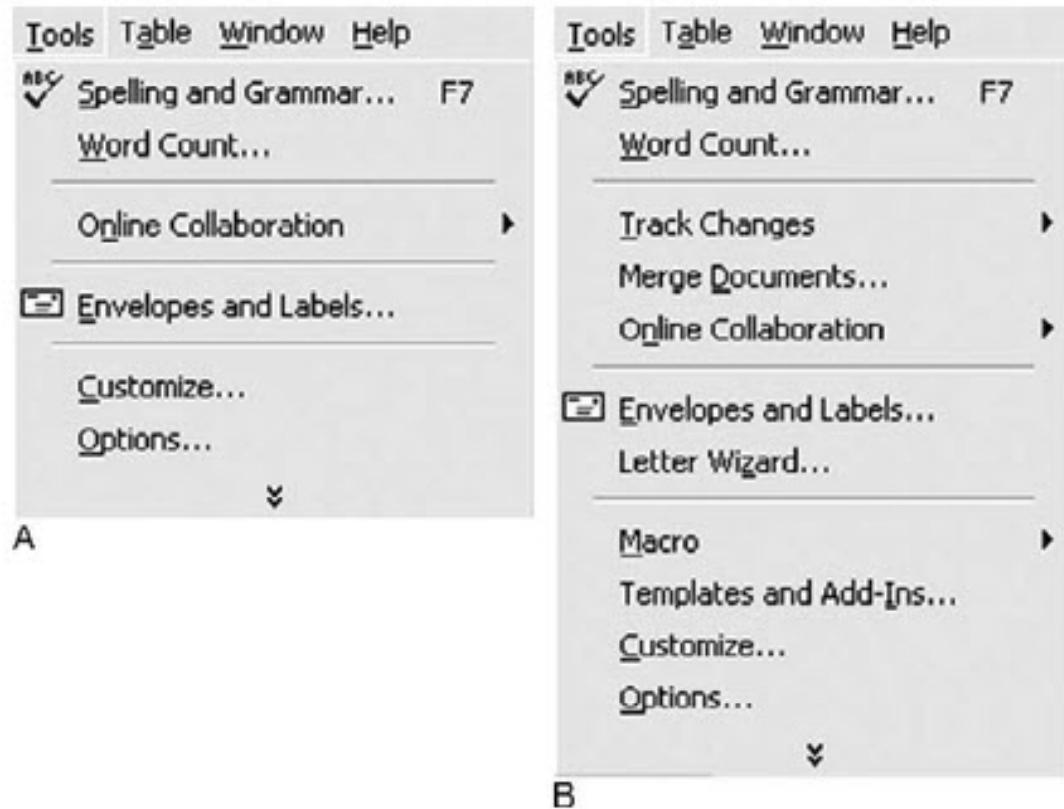


*image from: Jeff Johnson "GUI Blooper: Don'ts and Do's for Software Developers and Web Designers", Chapter 2.

Blooper 8: Dynamic Menus



Microsoft Office
“smart menus”
Change based
on recent use



*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 8: Dynamic Menus



Disable options
that are not
available in the
current context

File	Edit	View	Format	Window	Help
Edit menu when user is editing a message's attachments	Undo Cut Copy Paste Add... Delete Delete All Find... Replace... Check Spelling...				
Edit menu when user is composing an email message	Undo Cut Copy Paste Add... Delete Delete All Find... Replace... Check Spelling...				

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 8: Dynamic Menus



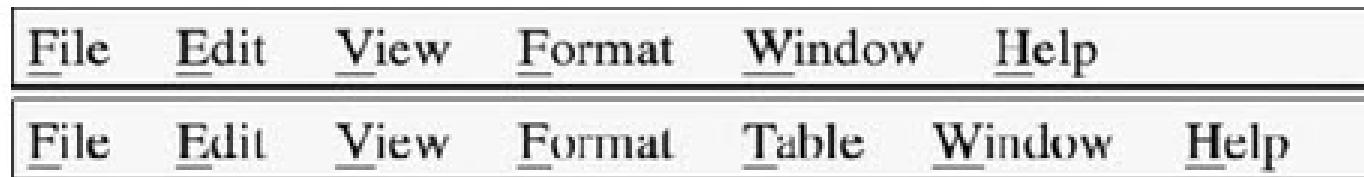
Exceptions?

Changing menu of open files, or recently edited files

Many applications, e.g. Photoshop, allow third party plug-ins which want to add their contributions to existing menus

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 8: Dynamic Menus



Add and remove
menus rather
than menu items

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Using Control Wrongly

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Blooper 9: Intolerant Data Fields

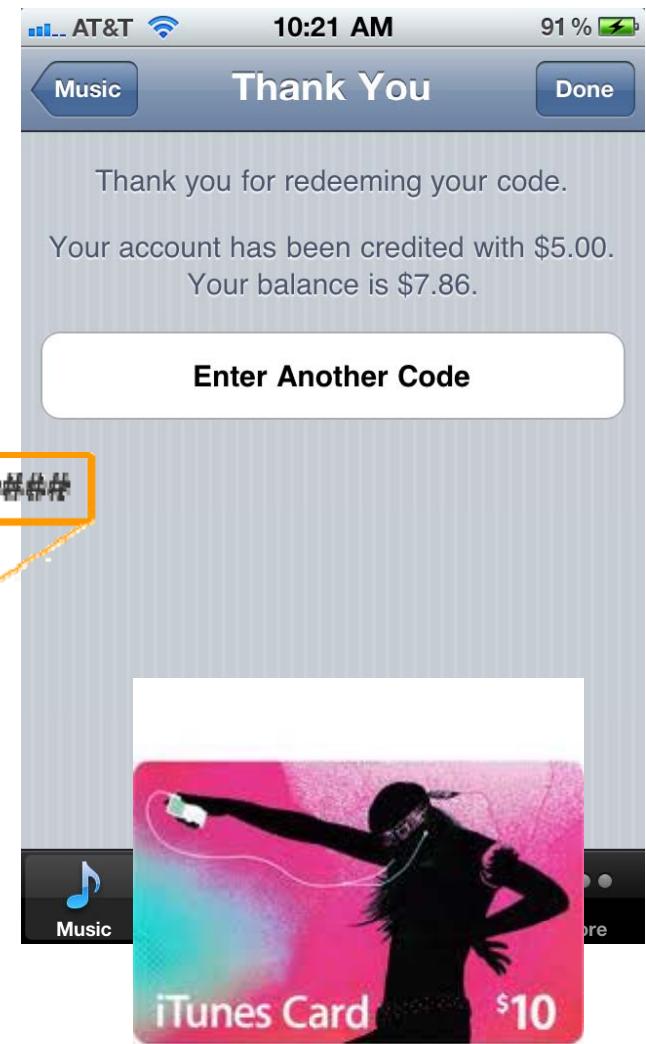


Mileage rejected
because of
spaces in the
data field

The image consists of two parts, A and B. Part A shows a 'Mileage Plus® login' window. The 'Mileage Plus # or email address' field contains the value '00123 456 789'. Below it, the 'Password' field contains several asterisks. There is a 'Remember me' checkbox, a 'Start in' dropdown set to 'Mileage summary', and a 'Login' button. An arrow points from this window to part B. Part B shows a modal dialog box with the URL 'http://www.united.com' at the top. The text 'Please Supply the Following:' is followed by an error message: 'The Mileage Plus number or the email address you have entered is invalid. Please check the number or email address and resubmit.' At the bottom right of the dialog is an 'OK' button.

*image from: Jeff Johnson "GU, Bloopers, Doh's and Do's for Software Developers and Web Designers", Chapter 2.

Blooper 9: Intolerant Data Fields



Problems redeeming iTunes gift cards
because some scratch off codes had
like format but UI
wanted ##### ##### ##### ##### #####

Blooper 9: Intolerant Data Fields



Payment Options

Credit Card

(* Please, do NOT use spaces or dashes. Example: 4321432143214321)

Stuffit.com site rejects credit card numbers with spaces (like they appear on the card!)

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 9: Intolerant Data Fields



Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)		
<input type="text"/>	/	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	/	<input type="text"/>

Provides pattern for the data to match

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Using Control Wrongly

8. Dynamic Menus
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- 10. Input Fields And Controls With No Default**
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Blooper 10: No Defaults



NWA site
requires users to
enter 0's for
places they have
not visited

Please make sure to supply an answer to each option. Enter zero for none.

nwa
NORTHWEST AIRLINES®

How many paid roundtrips have you taken on any airline in the past 12 months

	Pleasure	Business
Central/South America	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Europe/Middle East/Africa/Indian Subcontinent	1	<input type="text"/>
Asia/Australia/South Pacific	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Sum	Sum

NEXT

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 10: No Defaults



• Would you like us to respond to your comments?

No, a response is not necessary.
 Yes, please respond to:

◦ Your Name:

◦ Email Address:

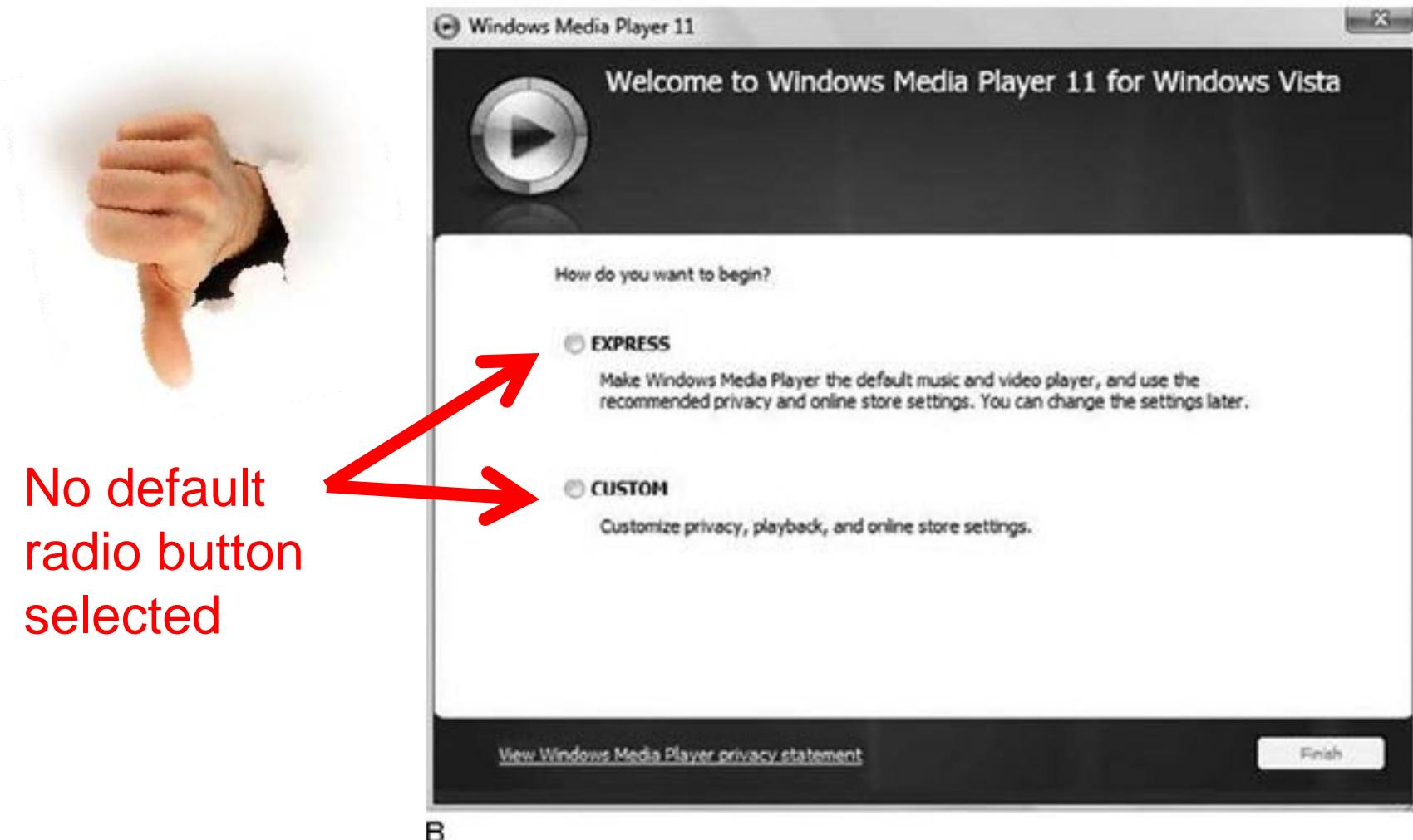
Telephone:

A red arrow points from the word "A" at the bottom left towards the "Yes" radio button in the form.

No default radio button selected

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 10: No Defaults



*image from: Jeff Johnson "GUI Bloopers. DOTS AND DUS TO SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS AND Web Designers", Chapter 2.

Blooper 10: No Defaults



New or Used Textbook Availability:

We are committed to providing used books when used books are requested. However, in the case of new editions or out of stock situations, used books are not always available. Should this situation arise, may we substitute new books for used or used books for new if your first choice is not available?

Checkout

A

Please choose... ▾

✓ Please choose... ▾

Yes
No

B

A red arrow points from the text "Drop Down Menu with no default" to the dropdown menu labeled "Please choose..." at point A.

Drop Down Menu with no default

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 10: No Defaults

A screenshot of a Google search results page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Web, Images, Groups, News, Scholar, and more. Below the search bar, a list of recent searches is displayed: "christchurch \"new zealand\" meteor", "christchurch bus", "christchurch early music", "christchurch gondola", "christchurch metro", "christchurch weather", and "christchurch, new zealand". The "christchurch \"new zealand\" meteor" entry is highlighted with a dark grey background, and a button labeled "I'm Feeling Lucky" is visible next to it. Below the search history, there is a snippet of search results for "christchurch bus" showing "1000+ pages from New Zealand".

Web Images Groups News Scholar more »

chri

christchurch "new zealand" meteor I'm Feeling Lucky

christchurch bus

christchurch early music

christchurch gondola

christchurch metro

christchurch weather Business Solutions - About Google - Go to Google.com

christchurch, new zealand

Google search provides recent searches with a default on selected

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 10: No Defaults

Cheese: Mozzarella Jack Swiss

Radio buttons with default

Cheese: Mozzarella Jack Swiss None

Radio buttons none selected yet default

Cheese: Mozzarella Jack Swiss

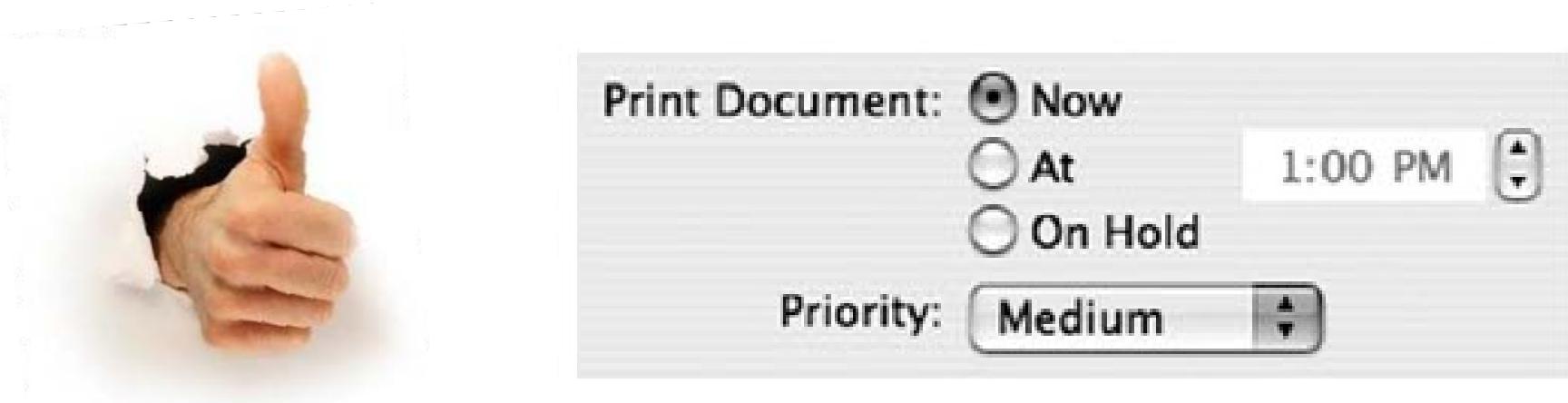
Radio buttons with “activate” check box

How's this book? No opinion yet
 Great!
 OK
 Awful!

Radio buttons with unbiased default

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 10: No Defaults



Use menus rather than radio buttons when there is no default

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Using Control Wrongly

8. Dynamic Menus
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- 11. Poor Defaults**
12. Negative Checkboxes

Blooper 11: Poor Defaults



City	State/Province
<input type="text"/>	Alabama <input type="button" value="▼"/>
ZIP/Postal Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	United States <input type="button" value="▼"/>

Stanford bookstore has default state of
“Alabama” for customers from Stanford
California

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Blooper: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 11: Poor Defaults



1st Seattle Hotels

1st Seattle Hotels : directory of hotels in Seattle - Washington !!!

Thanks to our Seattle hotels directory, book a property near the center of Seattle or on the outskirt of the town, Bellevue, Renton or Kent. Our Seattle hotels directory is updated every day and will provide you with the most accurate information about more than 50 properties and hotels in Seattle. Browse through our website and book online !!!

CHECK by AVAILABILITY

Lots of deals and discounts. Check all availabilities and get FREE nights and up to 25% DISCOUNT !!!

Check-in Date	Check-out Date	Adults	Children
14 Oct 2004	15 Oct 2004	1	0

[More search options](#)

Year menu defaults to 2004 -even now

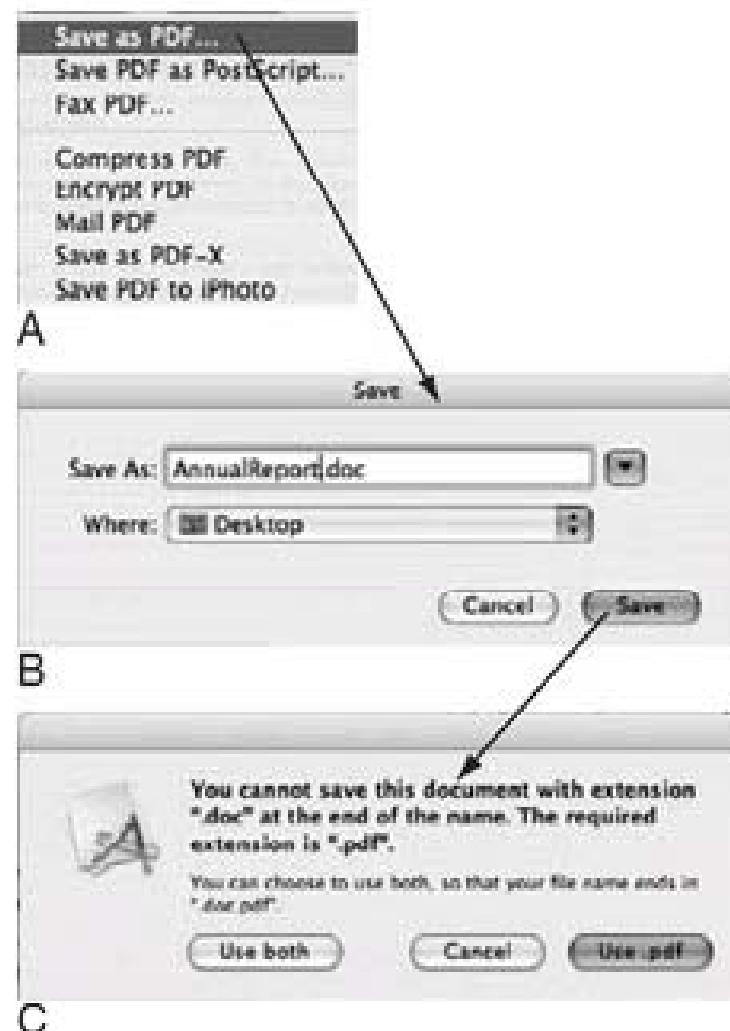
*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 11: Poor Defaults



(MS Office)

Wrong .doc default
set when printing as
.pdf



*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 11: Poor Defaults



City*	<input type="text" value="San Francisco"/>
State*	<input type="text" value="California"/>
Zip*	<input type="text" value=" "/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>

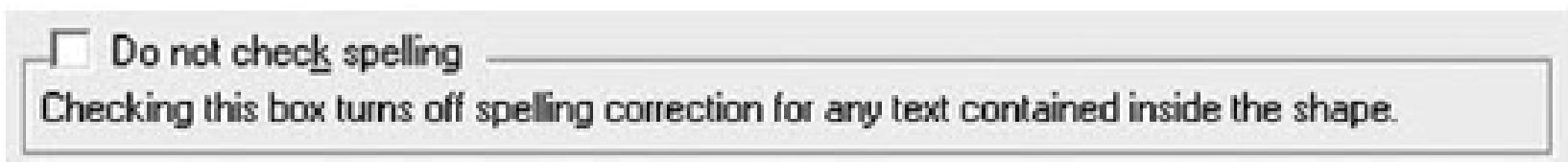
State defaults to that of the customer's location

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Using Control Wrongly

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Blooper 12: Poor Defaults

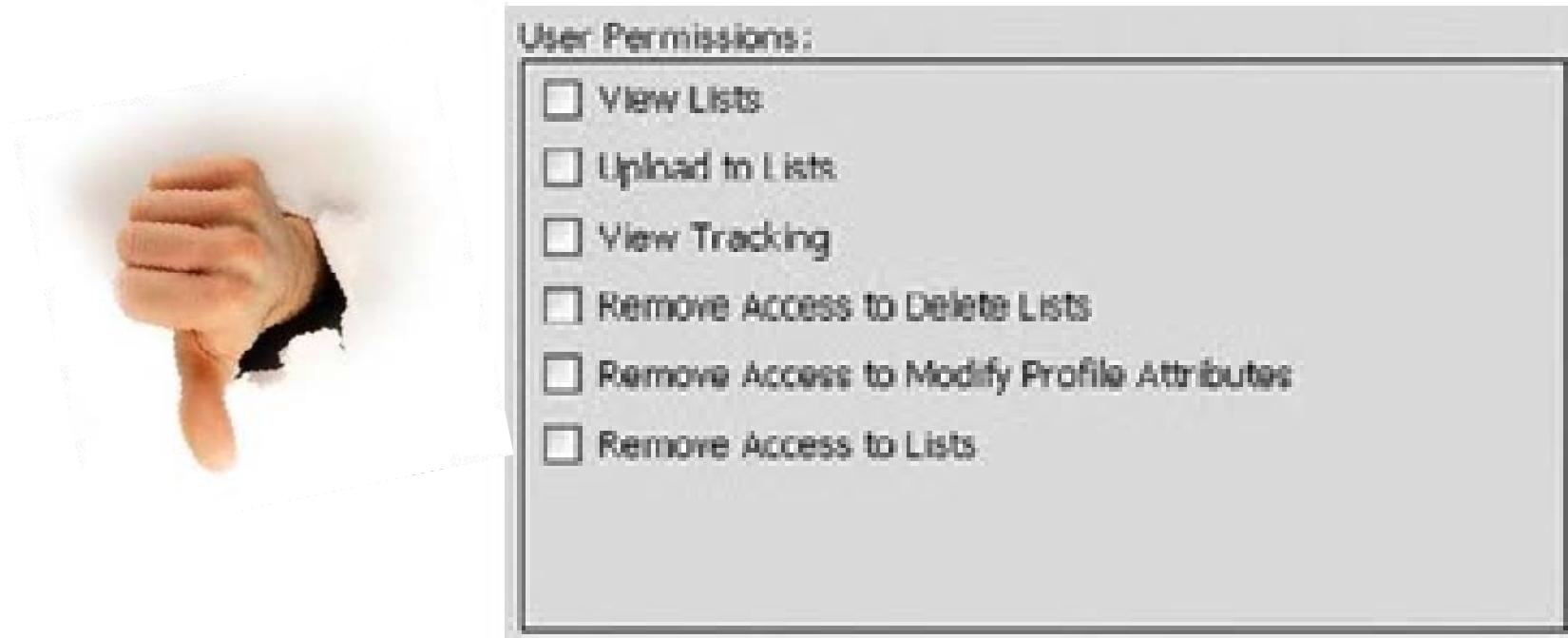


Checking the box turns spelling OFF



*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

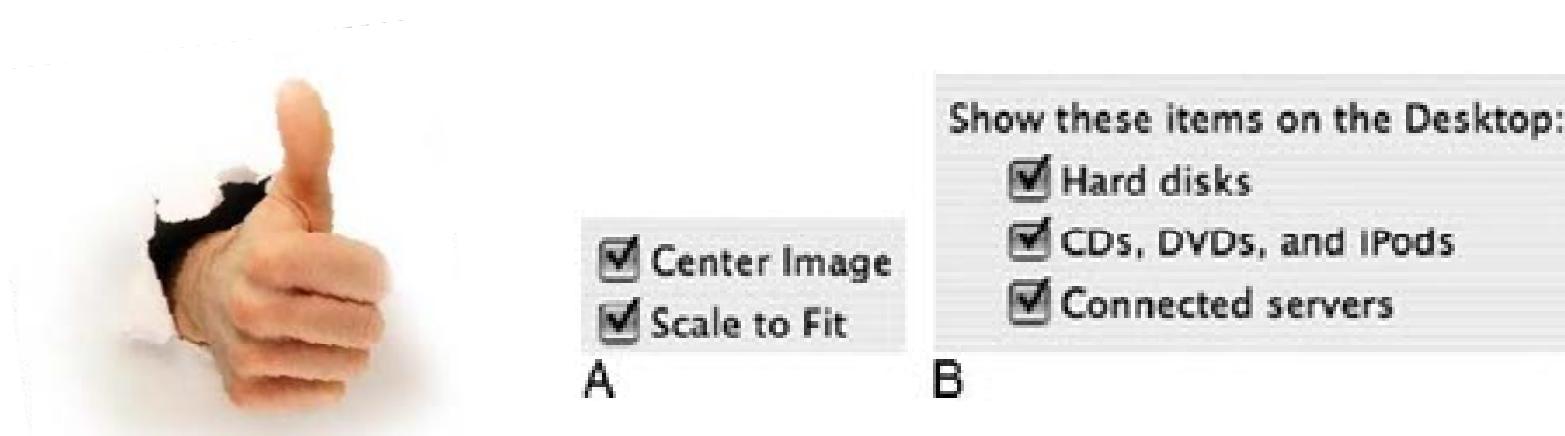
Blooper 12: Negative Defaults



Set user permissions UI include items that remove permissions

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Blooper 12: Negative Defaults



Positive checkboxes -good

*image from: Jeff Johnson “GUI Bloopers: Don’ts and Do’s for Software Developers and Web Designers”, Chapter 2.

Using Control Wrongly

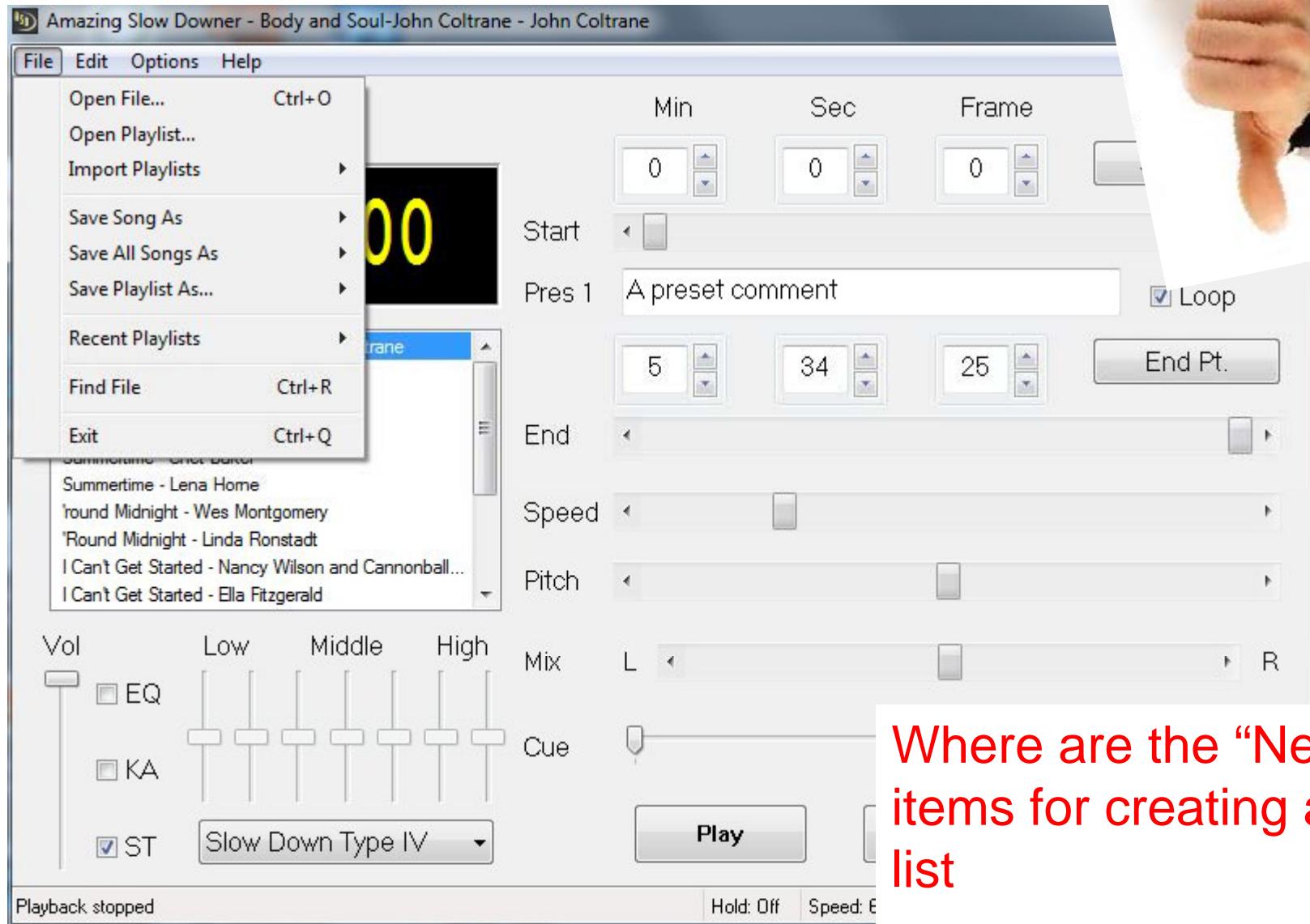
8. Dynamic Menus
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Additional

(Not from Jeff Johnson's GUI Bloopers)

13 Missing Menu Items

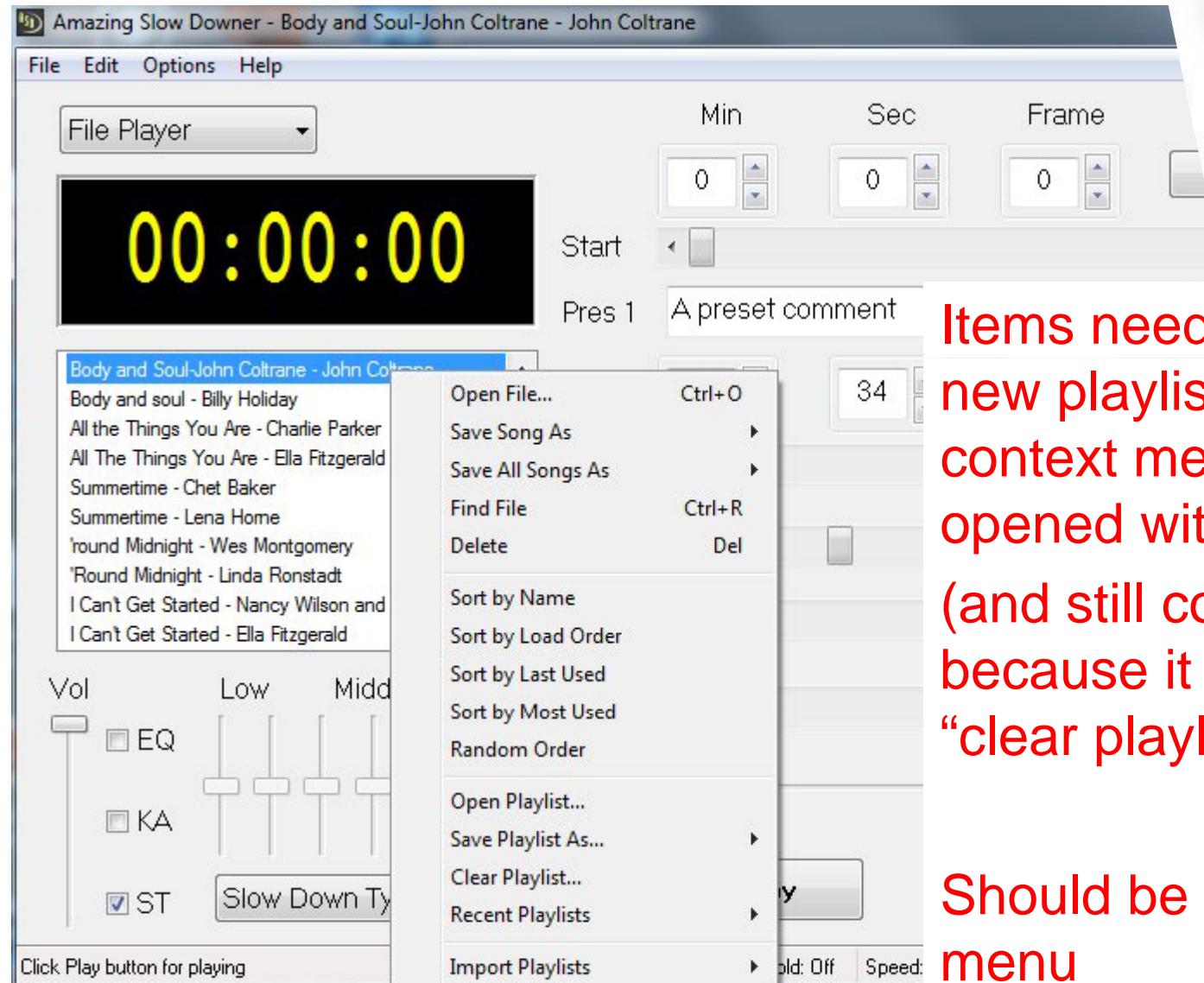
(13) Missing Menu Items



Where are the “New” items for creating a play list

*screen capture: Amazing Slow Downer v3.2.5

(13) Missing Menu Items



Items needed to create new playlist buried in context menu that must opened with a right click (and still convoluted because it involves using “clear playlist”)

Should be items in the File menu

*screen capture: Amazing Slow Downer v3.2.5