

GO Corp

→ Lloyd Frink  
VSM 8/13/90

# Microsoft Memo

To: billg, darrylr, jeffr, mikemap, bradsi, jaleb, tonyw, gregw, tandyt, pradecps, marline  
Subject: GO Corp Info.  
From: lloydfr  
Date: 8/1/90

Attached is a packet of information I have collected on GO. There are some of GO's very preliminary specs, a slide show of theirs, two of my trip reports on GO, and some press information.

Essentially, GO has been going out and telling the world that you need a whole new OS and apps for portable, pen based computers. People seem to bite on this, especially when they see that IBM is a strong backer of the GO OS (GOOSE). They use their notebook shell and OO framework combined with gestures and handwriting recognition to show everyone that their platform is indeed very different from the standard Windows/Mac world. They say you can't "hack this into an existing OS."

Well, we know this isn't so, and the best way to prove them wrong is to do our own "notebook" app. The big constraint is that we get it done in a year. So this won't be the most beautiful thing, but it should serve as a stopgap measure until we do our Win 4 shell and have all of our OO stuff in place.

## GO Notebook Shell

When you turn on a GO computer, the user sees something that looks like a notebook. You can write directly on the page, probably do pictures as well. On a page you can open many document windows of any type. They use an object oriented approach to their OS, so opening up a document is just creating an instance of that class type. When I was down at GO, Carr talked a lot about embedded documents, but the screen shots we have don't actually show that. These guys are smart, so I'll bet they will make it possible. When you leave a page, and later return to it, all of the documents will be in the same state as when you left. (i.e. open/iconic, position). At the top of the screen is a menu bar with system-wide and generic document commands. If you want to create a new, blank document, you use the Create menu and choose the document type. Inside of each document are menus that correspond to that class.

Besides the many benefits of being OO, the thing which sets the GO notebook apart is the ease of navigation. On the side of each page are a set of "tabs" which correspond to folders, just a page in the notebook. Touch the tab and instantly you will go to a predefined workspace (similar to excel, but multiple document/object types). It is not clear if they are going to have only one level of folders, a "show all tabs" command, or some sort of hierarchy. The really nice thing about these tabs is that they are always visible and never get obscured by other windows. There are prev, next, and back buttons as well (the upper right hand corner). I suggested they add the ability push and pop of pages (hypercard). At the beginning of the notebook is a Table of Contents, which is a listing of the folder and page titles. At the end of the notebook is an Index of keywords the user has marked. Clicking on an item in either the TOC or index sends the user to that page. The user can also search for information in all documents and can create "goto" links (not really clear how they have implemented the latter). There are probably several other standard methods which can be applied to all objects.

This metaphor does have a few drawbacks. If they number every page by sequence, and you keep inserting pages, then your page numbers are always changing and lose some meaning. Since they seem to be avoiding very many levels of a hierarchy, what happens when you get tons of info? Does something like a piece of email belong on a page by itself, or with other email? What about rolodex cards? You kind of have next, prev, back navigational type issues within a window on a single page of a notebook. The notion of having a multiple page document, or a multiple record table in a window on a single page of a notebook might seem confusing.

But this metaphor has a lot of appeal, especially compared to our program/file manager combination. I think we can whip something up in a year that embodies some of these ideas. I'll think about this in more detail and write it down in the next few weeks.

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ALFA ROMEO Here is a message

ITEM	CATEGORY	TEXT	SORT	SELECTION
<p>The Spyder was purchased in 1984 for approximately \$17,000. It was sold to Bruce Merritt three years later for \$9,000. At that time it had been driven just over 40,000 miles, and had been in two accidents that resulted in minor dents. The serial number: JMH33620451A.</p>				

SELECTION

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SELECTION

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RHUBARBS, BEGONIAS, AND BUTTERFLIES					
REPORT					
TECHNOLOGY REFERENCE ITEM					
<p>North American Butterflies (continued)</p> <p>Amongst the Pierids America has some real gems. The <i>Colias</i>-like Dog Face butterflies are unique, and the true <i>Colias</i> are more numerous here than in Europe. There are some very attractive rare <i>Colias</i>, especially in the Arctic. The Orange Tips, <i>Anthocharis</i>, are not common, but there are some attractive species. <i>A. Sara</i> is widespread and occurs in many forms. The prettiest of all, <i>Anthocharis pima</i>, is illustrated in the appendices. There are several <i>Colopha</i>, of which <i>C. philea</i> is one of the finest in the world. Here too are <i>Eurema</i> species, similar to those found in the tropics, but some of the American species excel all others in size, shape, and richness of color, especially the pure orange species <i>E. Nicippe</i> and <i>proterpia</i>.</p> <p>American <i>Papilio</i>s are particularly interesting to the specialist and many of them are both large and attractive. There is a group of Tiger Swallowtails which are slightly kite-shaped and beautifully tailed, yellow with bars of black. The better-known ones in this group are <i>P. glaucus</i> and <i>rutulus</i>. <i>P. ajax</i> is a true Kite or Swordtail butterfly; it is rather a "local" species, not at all widespread. One <i>Aristolochia</i>-feeding Swallowtail is American, the Pipe Vine Swallowtail, <i>P. philenor</i>. <i>P. cresphontes</i> is a North American species very similar to <i>P. thoas</i> of the south: it is found in citrus orchards. In addition to these species and a couple of others not mentioned, there is an important group related to <i>P. machaon</i>.</p>					

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REPORT

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North American Butterflies (continued)

ITEM	CATEGORY	TEXT	SORT	SELECTION
ALFA ROMEO		Here is a message		
		The Spyder was purchased in 1984 for approximately \$9,000. It was sold to Bruce Merritt three years later for \$9,000. It had been driven just over 40,000 miles, and had that resulted in minor dents. The serial number: JMC		
		Mileage: 40,567 Insurance: State Farm, \$1,200 per year Body work: City Body, San Jose (W. Rinella) Maintenance: Alfa of Santa Clara Detailing: Exteriors of Marin, San Rafael		

*P. glaucus* and *rutulus*. *P. ajax* is a true Kite or Swordtail butterfly; it is rather a 'local' species, not at all widespread. One *Aristolochia*-feeding Swallowtail is American, the Pipe Vine Swallowtail, *P. philenor*. *P. cresphontes* is a North American species very similar to *P. thos* of the south: it is found in citrus orchards. In addition to these species and a couple of others not mentioned, there is an important group related to *P. machaon*.

*It is rare to observe butterflies that are members of this group outside of Florida and some parts of California and Texas.*

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<p>North American Butterflies (continued)</p> <p>Amongst the Pierids America has some real gems. The <i>Colias</i>-like Dog Face butterflies are unique, and the true <i>Colias</i> are more numerous here than in Europe. There are some very attractive rare <i>Colias</i>, especially in the Arctic. The Orange Tips, <i>Anthocharis</i>, are not common,</p>	
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<p>Document name:</p> <p>◀ Report on Covert Activities ▶</p> <p>Author name:</p> <p>◀ ▶</p> <p>Creation date:</p> <p>◀ ▶</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><span>TRANSLATE</span> <span>CANCEL</span></p>	
<p>Properties of:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Character <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph</p> <hr/> <p>Style:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Plain <input type="checkbox"/> Bold <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Italic <input type="checkbox"/> Underline</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strike through <input type="checkbox"/> Double Underline</p> <p>Case:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mixed case <input type="checkbox"/> All capitals <input type="checkbox"/> Small capitals</p> <p>Font Size:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 14 <input type="checkbox"/> 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 24 <input type="checkbox"/> 36 <input type="checkbox"/> 48</p>	

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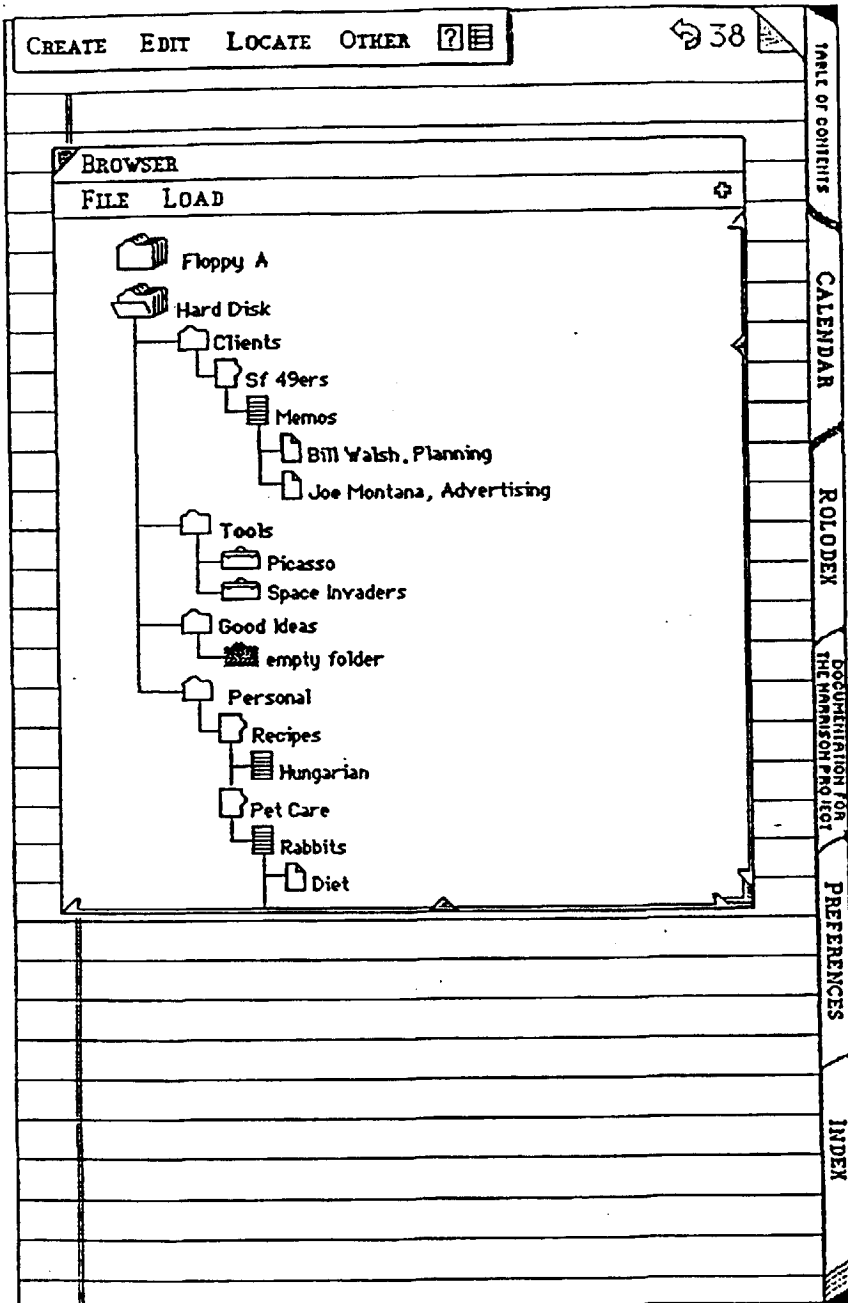
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"Browsers are used to move sections, pages, and documents to the 'outside world'; i.e. disks and other computers" - 60 presentation

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
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