

11. A bit of Smalltalk

Oscar Nierstrasz



Roadmap



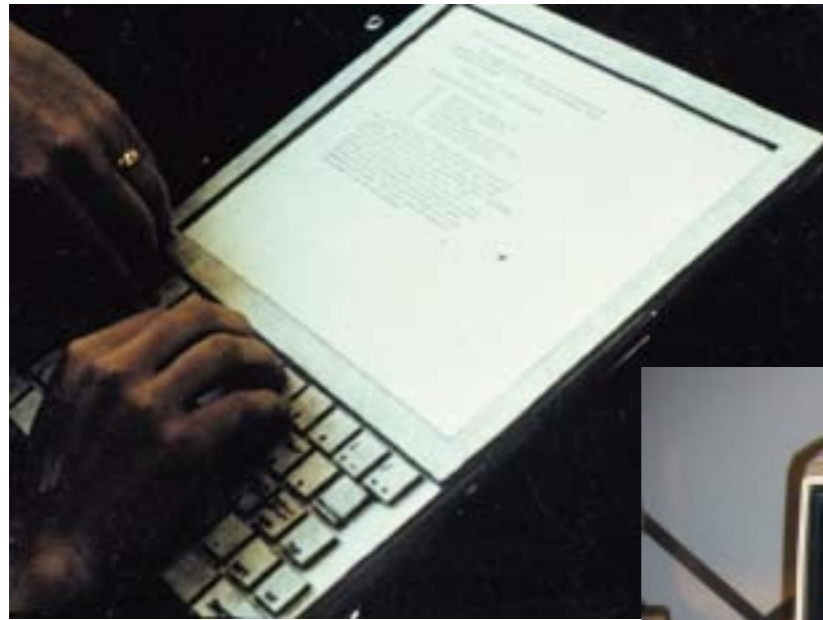
- > The origins of Smalltalk
- > What is Smalltalk?
- > Syntax in a nutshell
- > Seaside — web development with Smalltalk

Roadmap

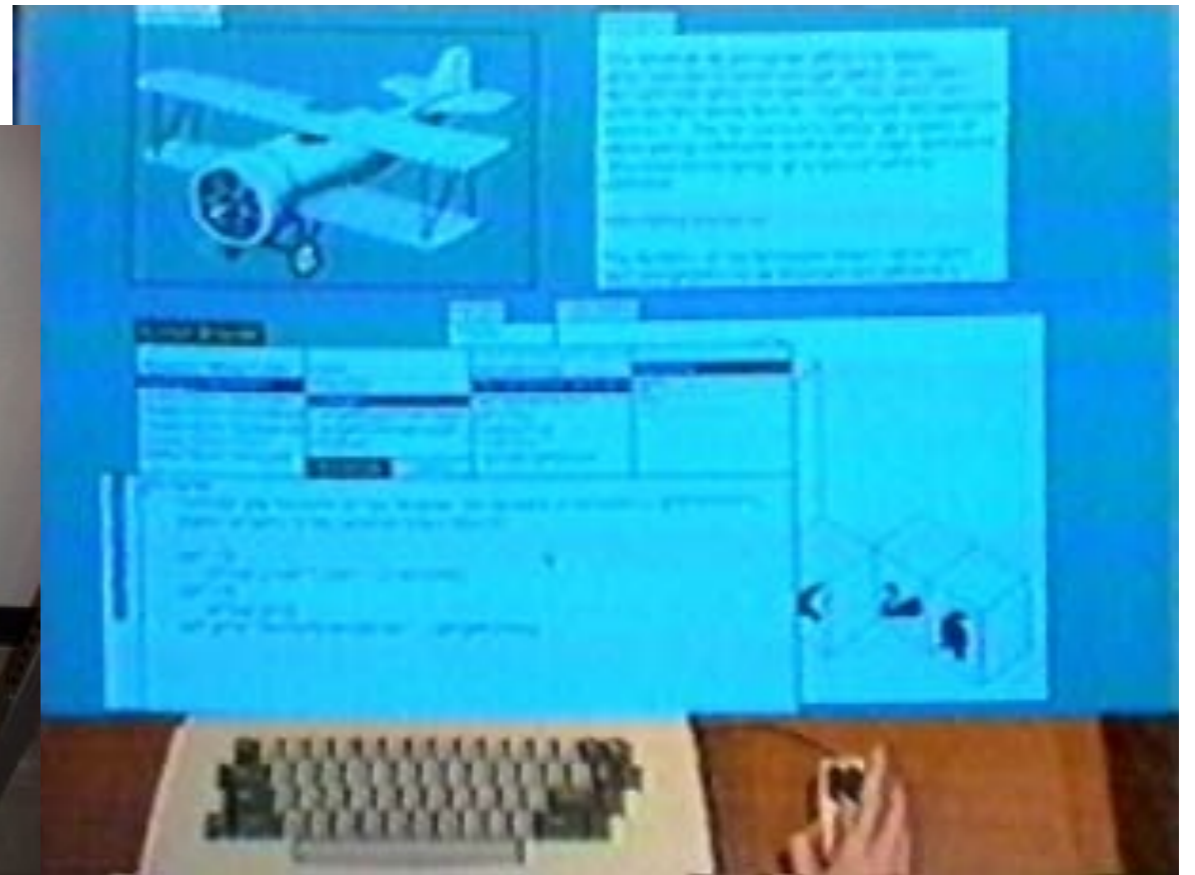


- > **The origins of Smalltalk**
- > What is Smalltalk?
- > Syntax in a nutshell
- > Seaside — web development with Smalltalk

The origins of Smalltalk



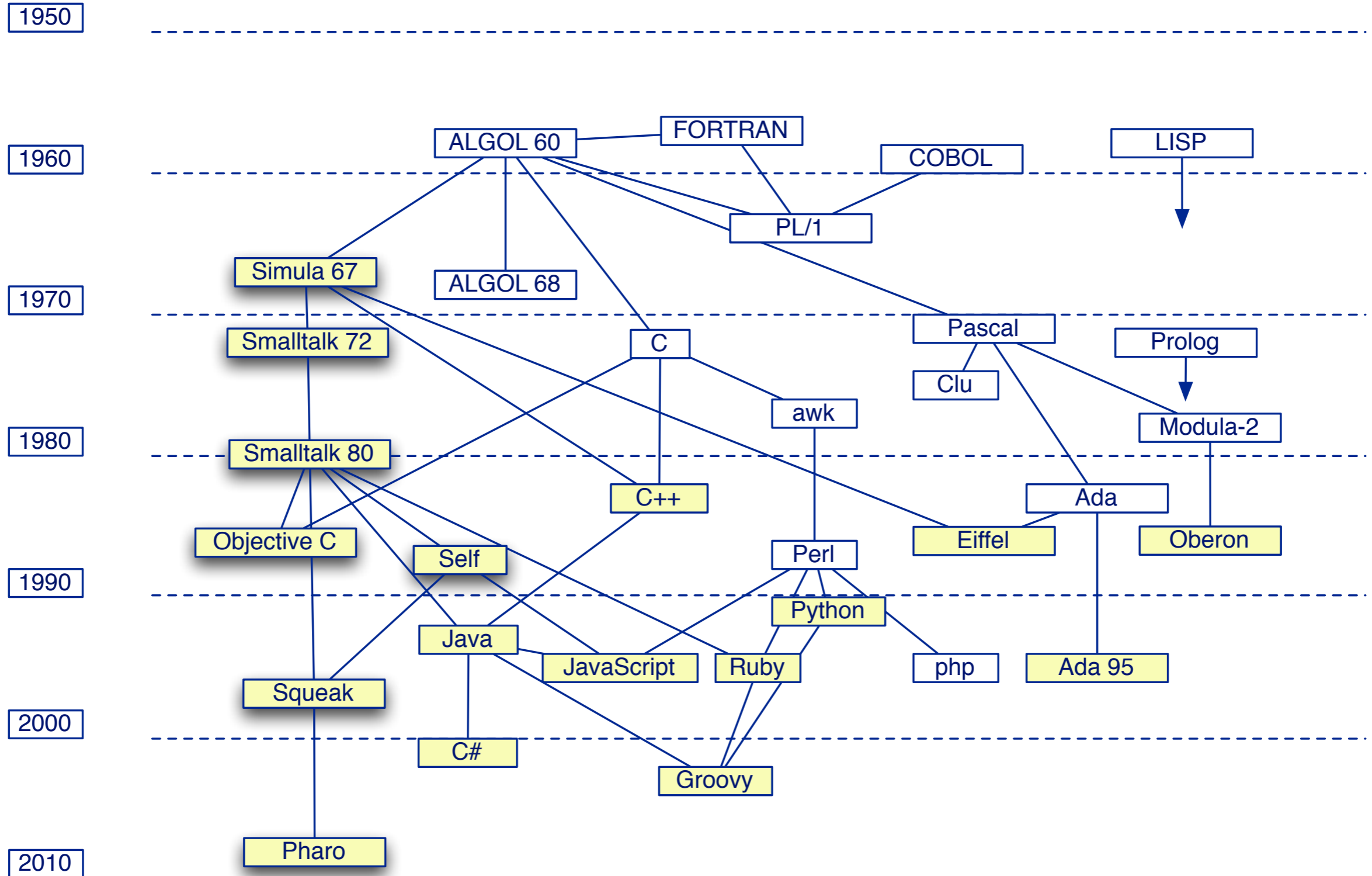
Alan Kay's Dynabook project (1968)



Alto — Xerox PARC (1973)

gagne.homedns.org/~tgagne/contrib/EarlyHistoryST.html

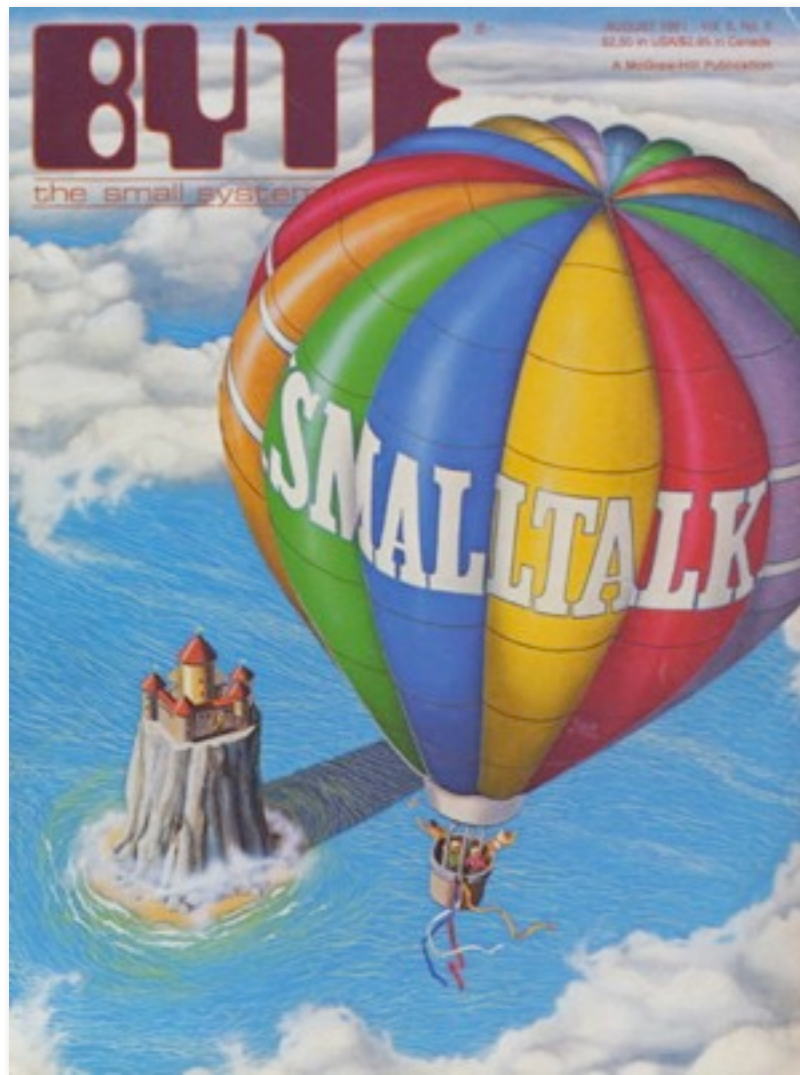
Object-oriented language genealogy



Smalltalk vs. Java vs. C++

	<i>Smalltalk</i>	<i>Java</i>	<i>C++</i>
<i>Object model</i>	Pure	Hybrid	Hybrid
<i>Garbage collection</i>	Automatic	Automatic	Manual
<i>Inheritance</i>	Single	Single	Multiple
<i>Types</i>	Dynamic	Static	Static
<i>Reflection</i>	Fully reflective	Introspection	Introspection
<i>Concurrency</i>	Semaphores	Monitors	Some libraries
<i>Modules</i>	Categories, namespaces	Packages	Namespaces

Smalltalk-80 and Pharo



- Everything is an object
- Everything is there, all the time
- First windowing system with mouse
- First graphical IDE

What are Squeak and Pharo?

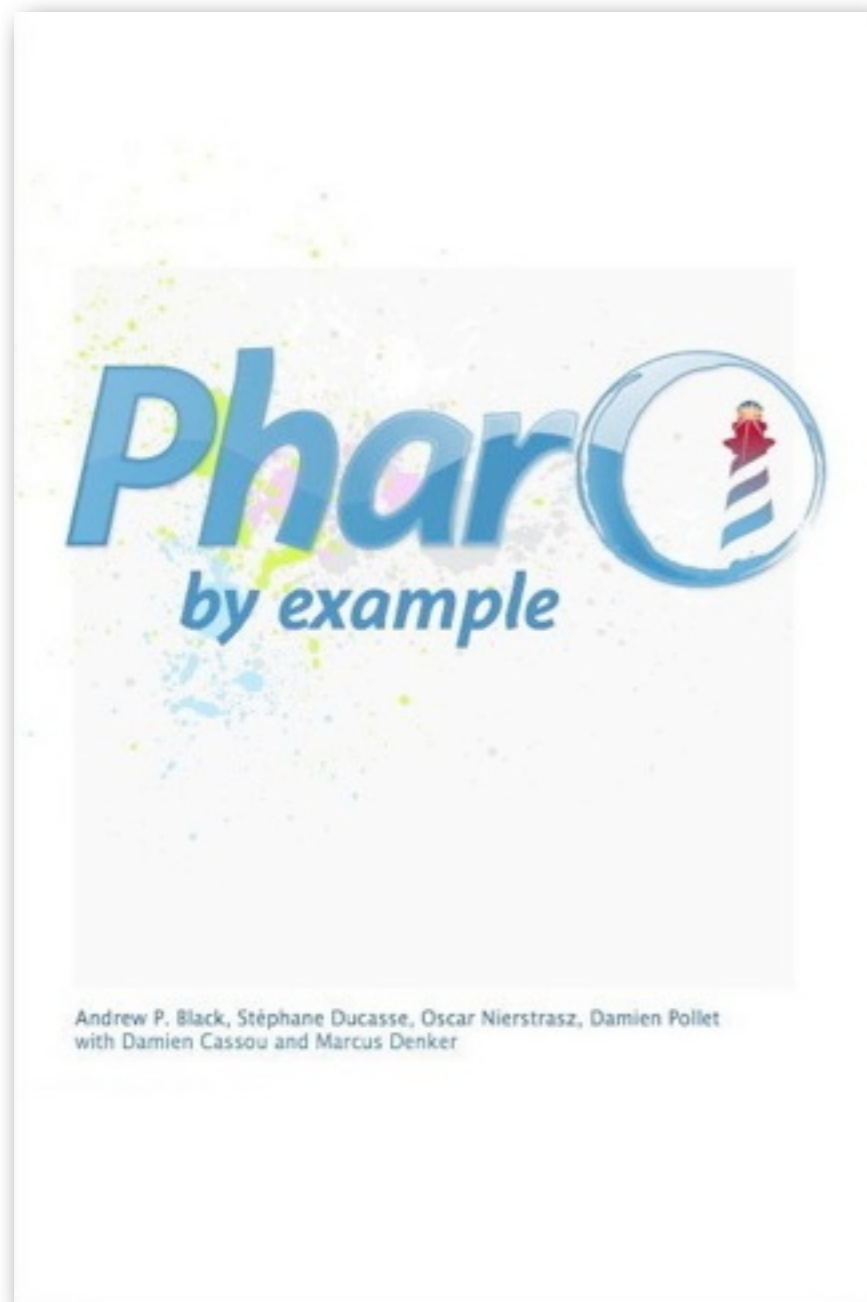
- > Squeak is a modern, open-source, highly portable, fast, full-featured Smalltalk implementation
 - Based on original Smalltalk-80 code



- > Pharo is a lean and clean fork of Squeak
 - www.pharo-project.org



Pharo by Example



<http://pharobyexample.org/>

- Free download
- Open-Source
- Print-on-demand

Don't panic!

New Smalltalkers often think they need to understand all the details of a thing before they can use it.

Try to answer the question

“How does this work?”

with

“I don't care”.

Alan Knight. Smalltalk Guru

Roadmap



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Two rules to remember

Everything is an object

**Everything happens by
sending messages**

What is Smalltalk?

Image

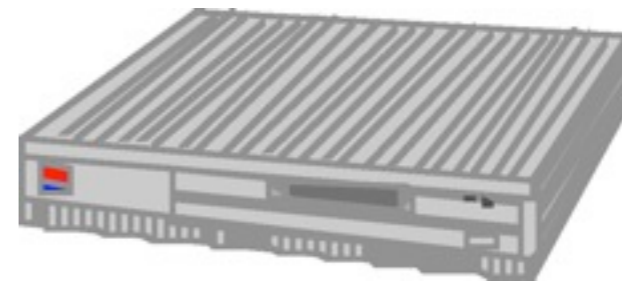


+

Changes



Virtual machine

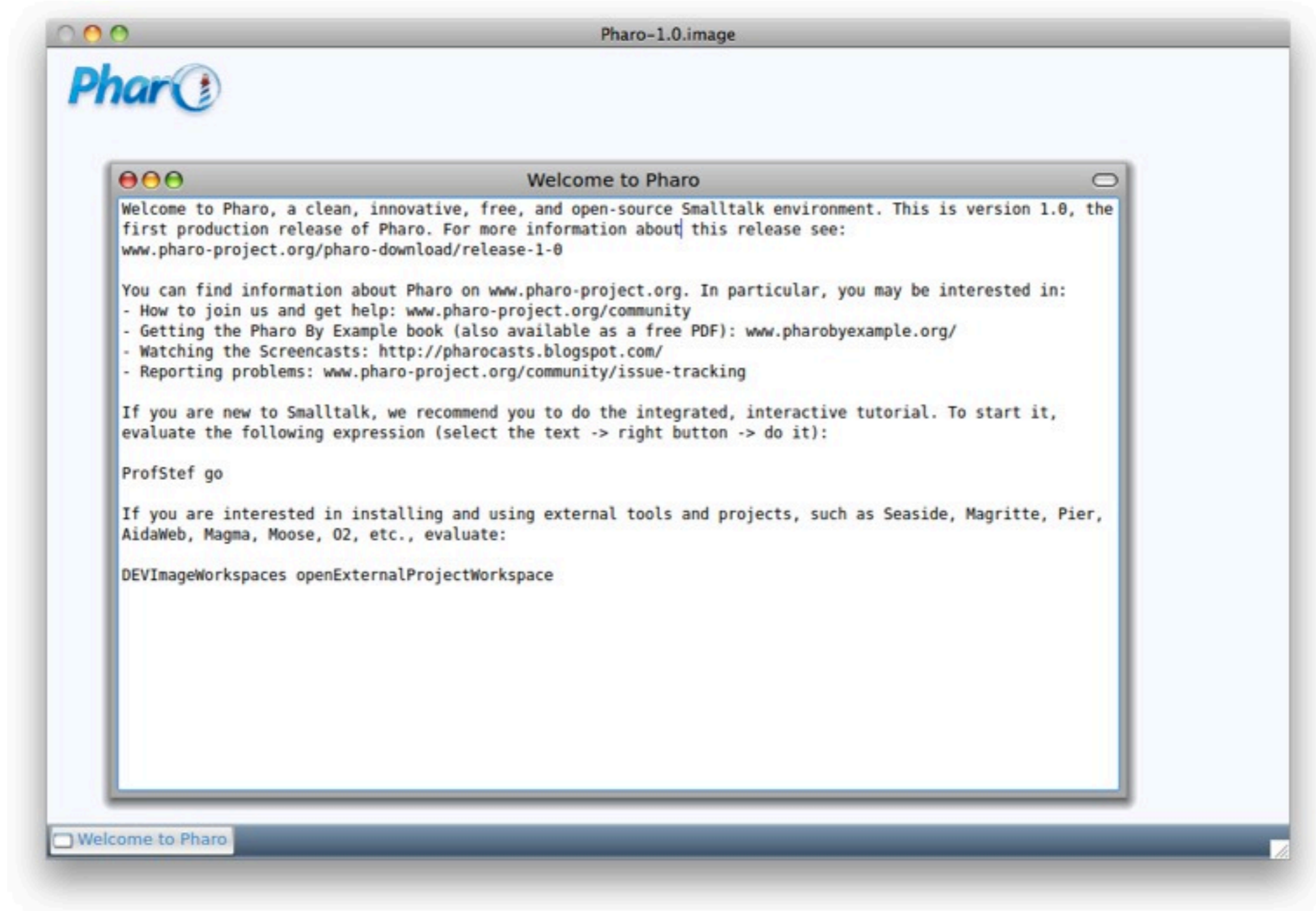


+

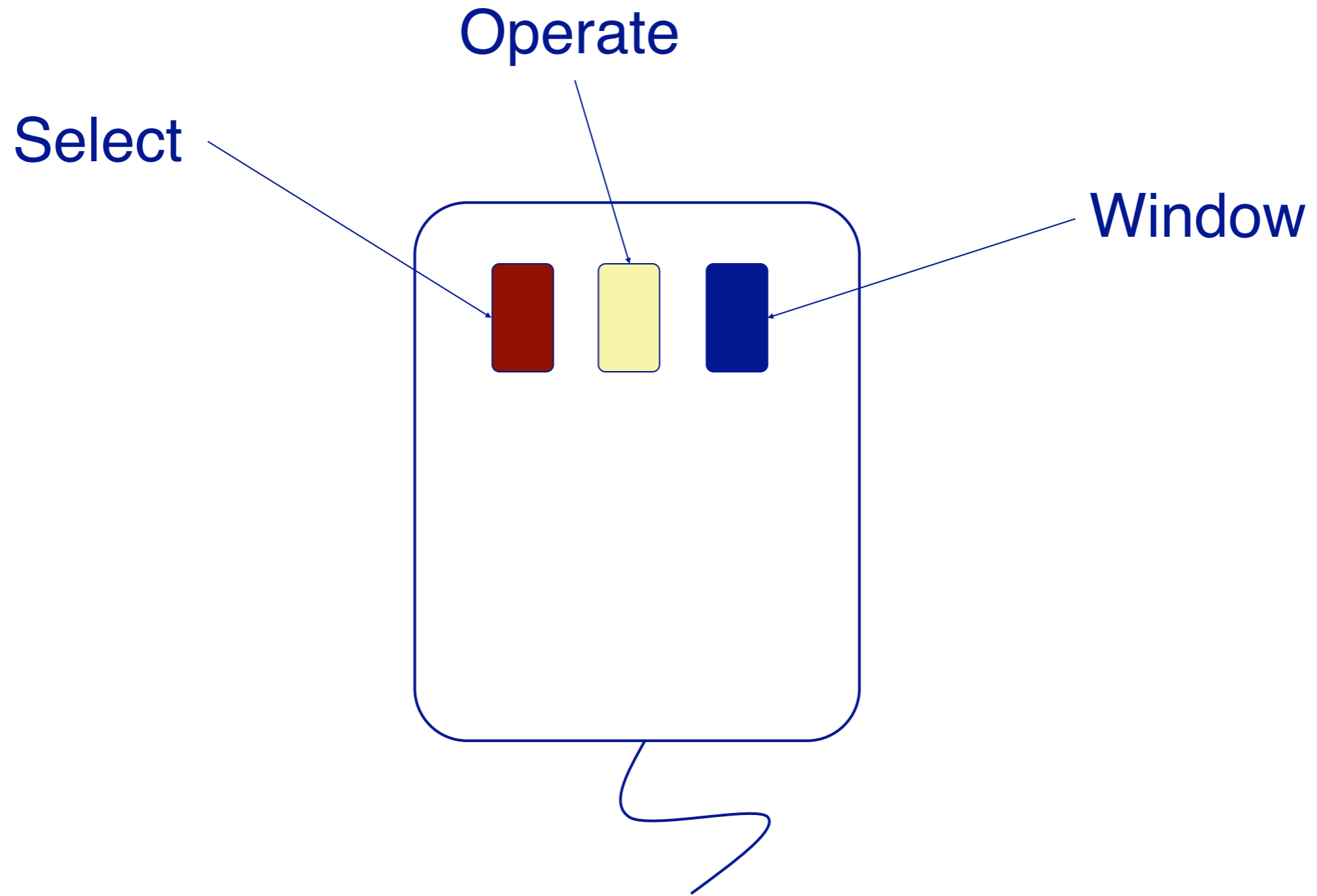
Sources



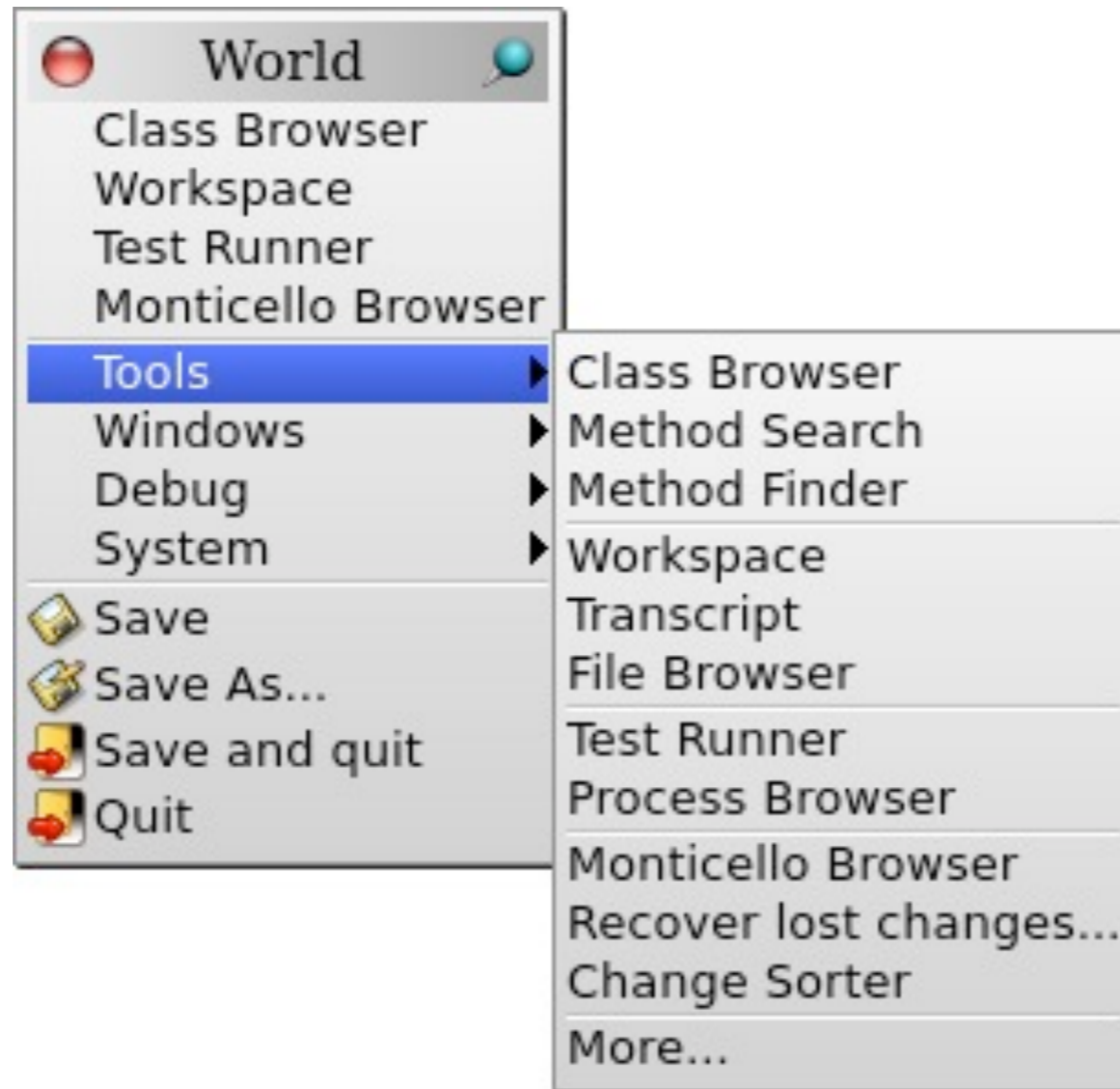
Demo: Running Pharo



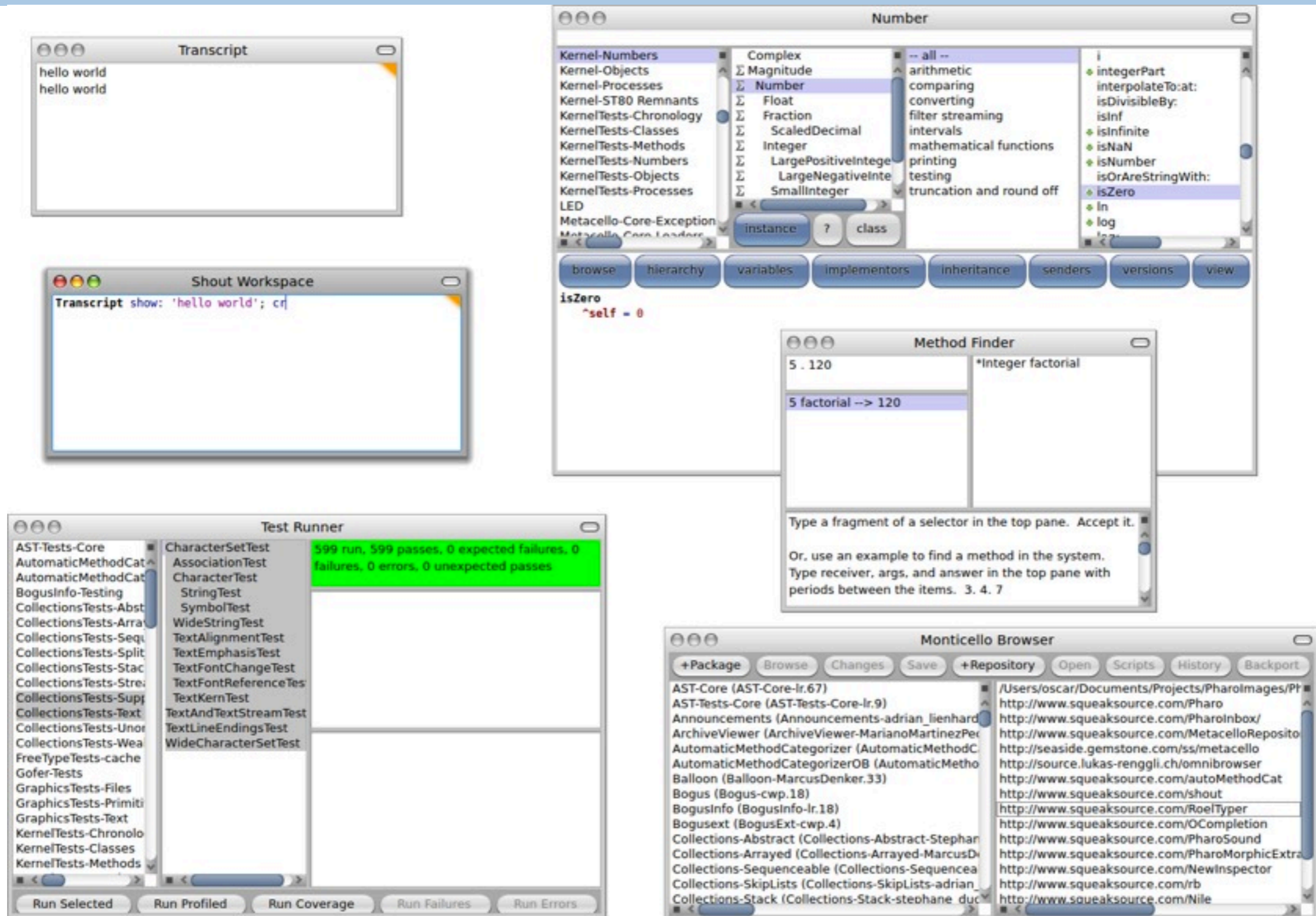
Mouse Semantics



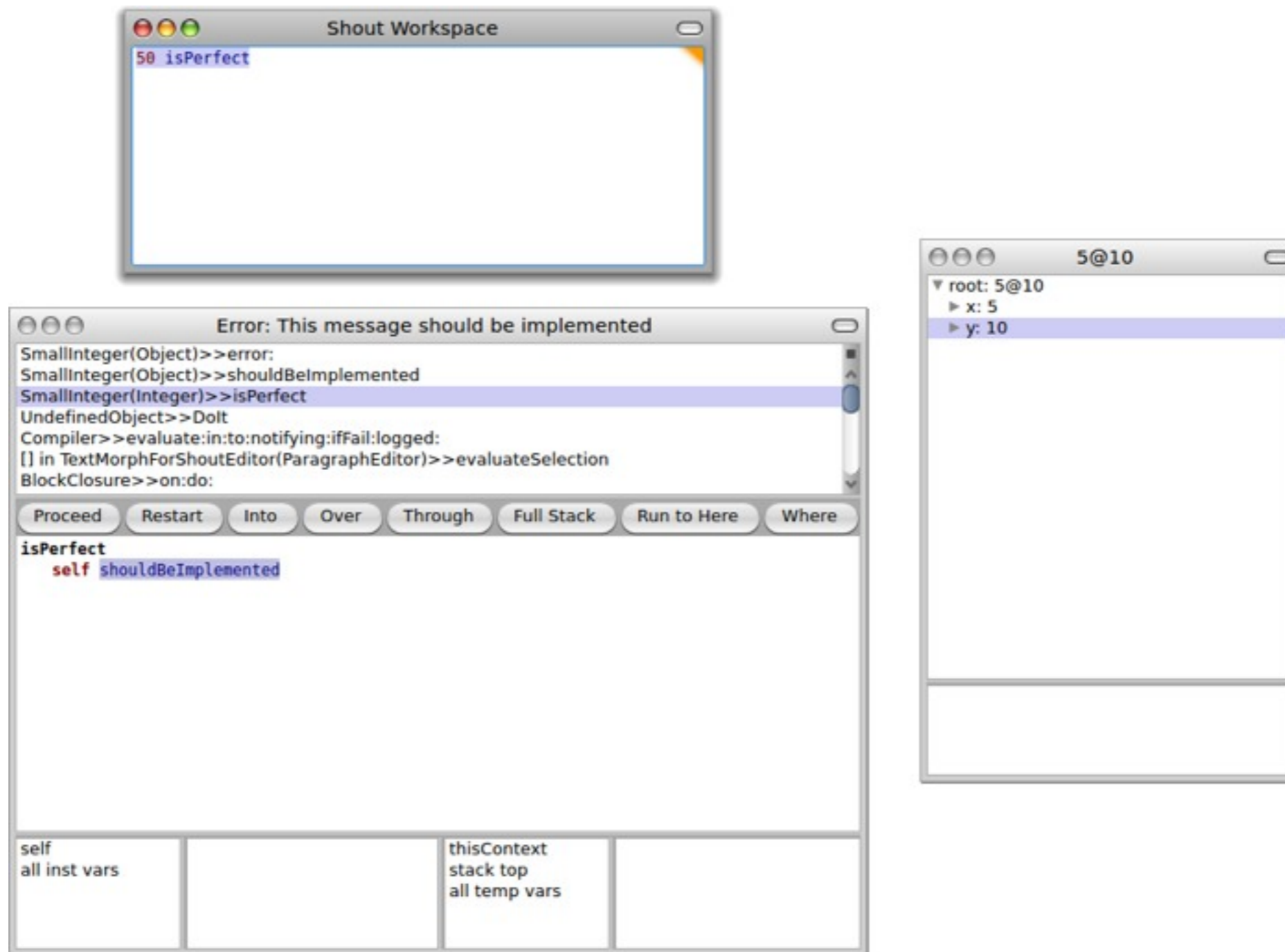
World Menu



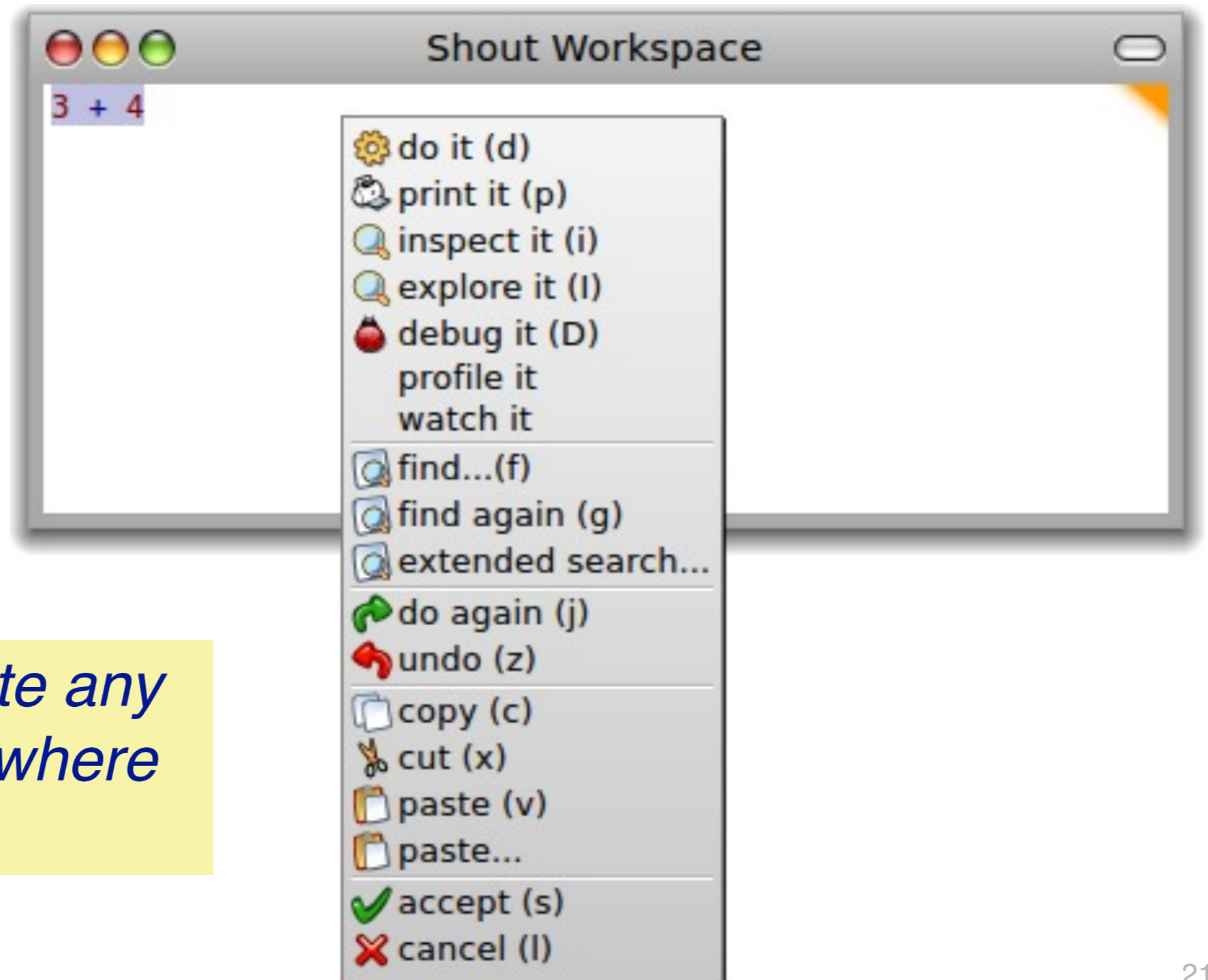
Standard development tools



Debuggers, Inspectors, Explorers



Do it, Print it, ...



You can evaluate any expression anywhere in Smalltalk.

Roadmap



- > The origins of Smalltalk
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- > **Syntax in a nutshell**
- > Seaside — web development with Smalltalk

Three kinds of messages

> *Unary messages*

```
5 factorial  
Transcript cr
```

> *Binary messages*

```
3 + 4
```

> *Keyword messages*

```
3 raisedTo: 10 modulo: 5
```

```
Transcript show: 'hello world'
```

Precedence

First unary, then binary, then keyword:

```
2 raisedTo: 1 + 3 factorial
```

Same as:

```
2 raisedTo: (1 + (3 factorial))
```

Use parentheses to force order:

```
1 + 2 * 3  
1 + (2 * 3)
```


Precedence

First unary, then binary, then keyword:

```
2 raisedTo: 1 + 3 factorial
```

```
128
```

Same as:

```
2 raisedTo: (1 + (3 factorial))
```

Use parentheses to force order:

```
1 + 2 * 3
```

```
1 + (2 * 3)
```

Precedence

First unary, then binary, then keyword:

2 raisedTo: 1 + 3 factorial

128

Same as:

2 raisedTo: (1 + (3 factorial))

Use parentheses to force order:

1 + 2 * 3

1 + (2 * 3)

9 (!)

Precedence

First unary, then binary, then keyword:

2 raisedTo: 1 + 3 factorial

128

Same as:

2 raisedTo: (1 + (3 factorial))

Use parentheses to force order:

1 + 2 * 3

1 + (2 * 3)

9 (!)

7

A typical method in the class Point

```
<= aPoint
```

```
"Answer whether the receiver is neither  
below nor to the right of aPoint."
```

```
^ x <= aPoint x and: [y <= aPoint y]
```

A typical method in the class Point

Method name

`<= aPoint`

"Answer whether the receiver is neither below nor to the right of aPoint."

`^ x <= aPoint x and: [y <= aPoint y]`

A typical method in the class Point

Method name

Argument

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`<= aPoint`

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`^ x <= aPoint x and: [y <= aPoint y]`

Return

A typical method in the class Point

Method name

Argument

Comment

`<= aPoint`

"Answer whether the receiver is neither below nor to the right of aPoint."

`^ x <= aPoint x and: [y <= aPoint y]`

Return

Instance variable

A typical method in the class Point

Method name

Argument

Comment

`<= aPoint`

"Answer whether the receiver is neither below nor to the right of aPoint."

`^ x <= aPoint x and: [y <= aPoint y]`

Return

Binary message

Instance variable

A typical method in the class Point

Method name

Argument

Comment

`<= aPoint`

"Answer whether the receiver is neither below nor to the right of aPoint."

`^ x <= aPoint x and: [y <= aPoint y]`

Return

Binary message

Keyword message

Instance variable

A typical method in the class Point

Method name

Argument

Comment

```
<= aPoint
```

```
"Answer whether the receiver is neither  
below nor to the right of aPoint."
```

```
^ x <= aPoint x and: [y <= aPoint y]
```

Return

Binary message

Block

Instance variable

Keyword message

A typical method in the class Point

Method name

Argument

Comment

```
<= aPoint
```

```
"Answer whether the receiver is neither  
below nor to the right of aPoint."
```

```
^ x <= aPoint x and: [y <= aPoint y]
```

Return

Instance variable

Binary message

Keyword message

Block

```
(2@3) <= (5@6)
```

A typical method in the class Point

Method name

Argument

Comment

```
<= aPoint
```

```
"Answer whether the receiver is neither  
below nor to the right of aPoint."
```

```
^ x <= aPoint x and: [y <= aPoint y]
```

Return

Binary message

Block

Instance variable

Keyword message

```
(2@3) <= (5@6)
```


```
true
```

Statements and cascades

```
| p pen |  
p := 100@100.  
pen := Pen new.  
pen up.  
pen goto: p; down; goto: p+p
```

Statements and cascades

Temporary variables



```
| p pen |  
p := 100@100.  
pen := Pen new.  
pen up.  
pen goto: p; down; goto: p+p
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Statements and cascades

Temporary variables

```
| p pen |  
p := 100@100.  
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```

Assignment

Statements and cascades

Temporary variables

Statement

Assignment

```
| p pen |  
p := 100@100.  
pen := Pen new.  
pen up.  
pen goto: p; down; goto: p+p
```

Statements and cascades

Temporary variables

Statement

```
| p pen |  
p := 100@100.  
pen := Pen new.  
pen up.  
pen goto: p; down; goto: p+p
```

Assignment

Cascade

Literals and constants

<i>Strings & Characters</i>	'hello' \$a
<i>Numbers</i>	1 3.14159
<i>Symbols</i>	#yadayada
<i>Arrays</i>	#(1 2 3)
<i>Pseudo-variables</i>	self super
<i>Constants</i>	true false

Variables

- > *Local variables* are delimited by `| var |`
Block variables by `: var |`

```
OrderedCollection>>collect: aBlock  
  "Evaluate aBlock with each of my elements as the argument."  
  | newCollection |  
  newCollection := self species new: self size.  
  firstIndex to: lastIndex do:  
    [ :index |  
      newCollection addLast: (aBlock value: (array at: index))].  
  ^ newCollection
```

Variables

- > *Local variables* are delimited by `| var |`
Block variables by `: var |`

```
OrderedCollection>>collect: aBlock  
  "Evaluate aBlock with each of my elements as the argument."  
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  ^ newCollection
```

```
(OrderedCollection with: 10 with: 5) collect: [:each| each factorial ]
```

Variables

- > *Local variables* are delimited by `| var |`
Block variables by `: var |`

```
OrderedCollection>>collect: aBlock  
  "Evaluate aBlock with each of my elements as the argument."  
  | newCollection |  
  newCollection := self species new: self size.  
  firstIndex to: lastIndex do:  
    [ :index |  
      newCollection addLast: (aBlock value: (array at: index))].  
  ^ newCollection
```

```
(OrderedCollection with: 10 with: 5) collect: [:each| each factorial ]
```

```
an OrderedCollection(3628800 120)
```

Control Structures

> *Every control structure is realized by message sends*

```
max: aNumber  
  ^ self < aNumber  
    ifTrue: [aNumber]  
    ifFalse: [self]
```

```
4 timesRepeat: [Beeper beep]
```


Creating objects

> *Class methods*

```
OrderedCollection new  
Array with: 1 with: 2
```

> *Factory methods*

```
1@2
```

```
1/2
```

```
a Point
```

```
a Fraction
```

Creating classes

> Send a message to a class (!)

```
Number subclass: #Complex
  instanceVariableNames: 'real imaginary'
  classVariableNames: ''
  poolDictionaries: ''
  category: 'ComplexNumbers'
```

Demo: Defining classes and methods

The screenshot shows the Pharo IDE interface. The main window is titled "pharo.image" and displays the Pharo logo. A smaller window titled "PostOfficeTest" is open, showing a class browser for the "PostOffice" class. The browser displays the following structure:

ToolsTest-MessageTally	Customer	-- all --	testPostOffice
ToolsTest-PointerFinder	• PostOfficeTest	as yet unclassified	
Traits-Composition			
Traits-Kernel			
Traits-Kernel-Traits			
TrueType-Fonts			
TrueType-Support			
VB-Regex			
VB-Regex-Exceptions			
PostOffice			

Below the browser, there are buttons for "instance", "?", and "class". At the bottom of the browser, there are buttons for "browse", "hierarchy", "variables", "implementors", "inheritance", "senders", "versions", and "view".

The "testPostOffice" method is defined as follows:

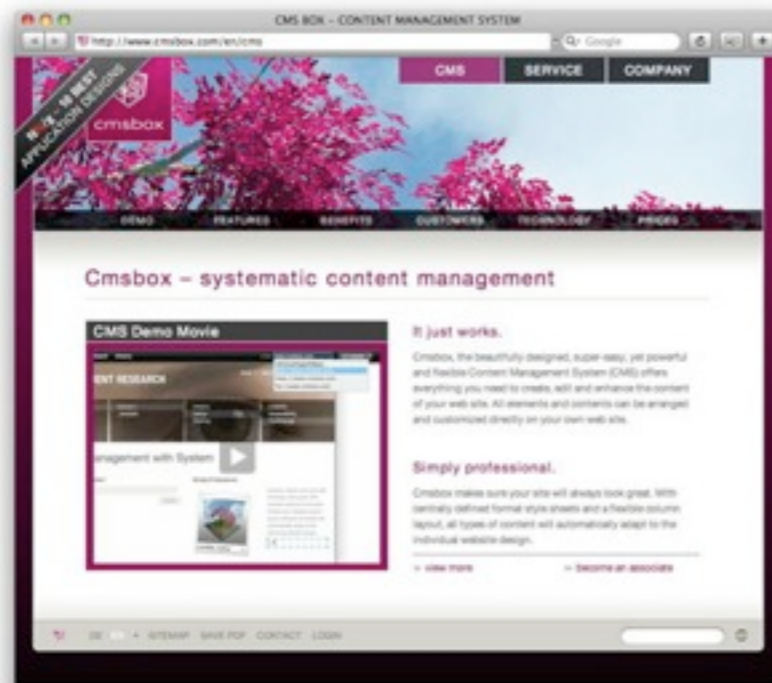
```
testPostOffice
self assert: postoffice isEmpty.
(Customer named: 'jack') enters: postoffice.
self assert: postoffice waiting = 1.
(Customer named: 'jane') enters: postoffice.
self assert: postoffice waiting = 2.
(Customer named: 'jill') enters: postoffice.
self assert: postoffice waiting = 3.
self assert: postoffice serveCustomer = 'jack'.
self assert: postoffice waiting = 2.
self assert: postoffice serveCustomer = 'jane'.
self assert: postoffice waiting = 1.
self assert: postoffice serveCustomer = 'jill'.
self assert: postoffice waiting = 0.
self assert: postoffice serveCustomer = nil.
```

Roadmap

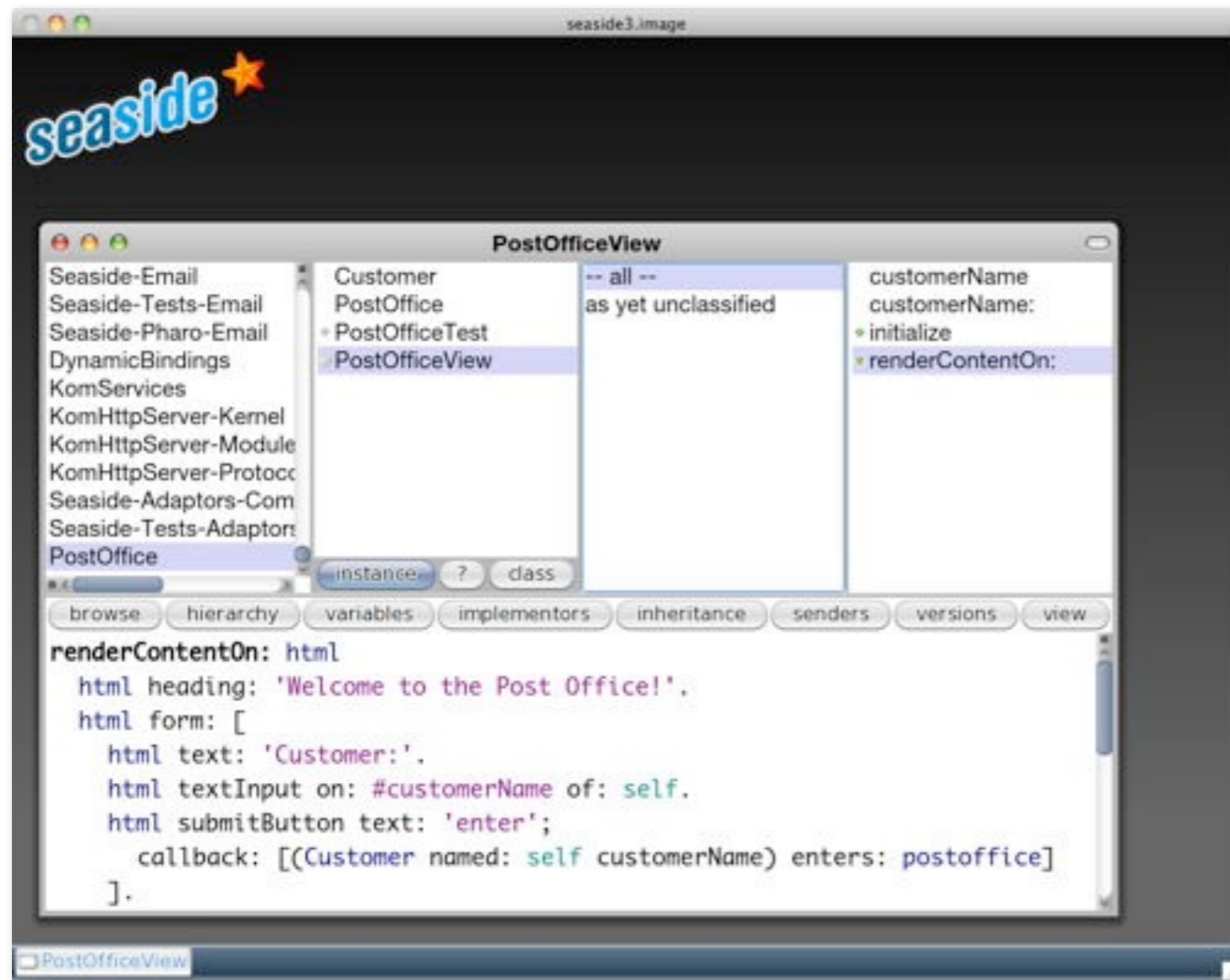


- > The origins of Smalltalk
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- > Syntax in a nutshell
- > **Seaside — web development with Smalltalk**

Seaside – a Smalltalk web development platform

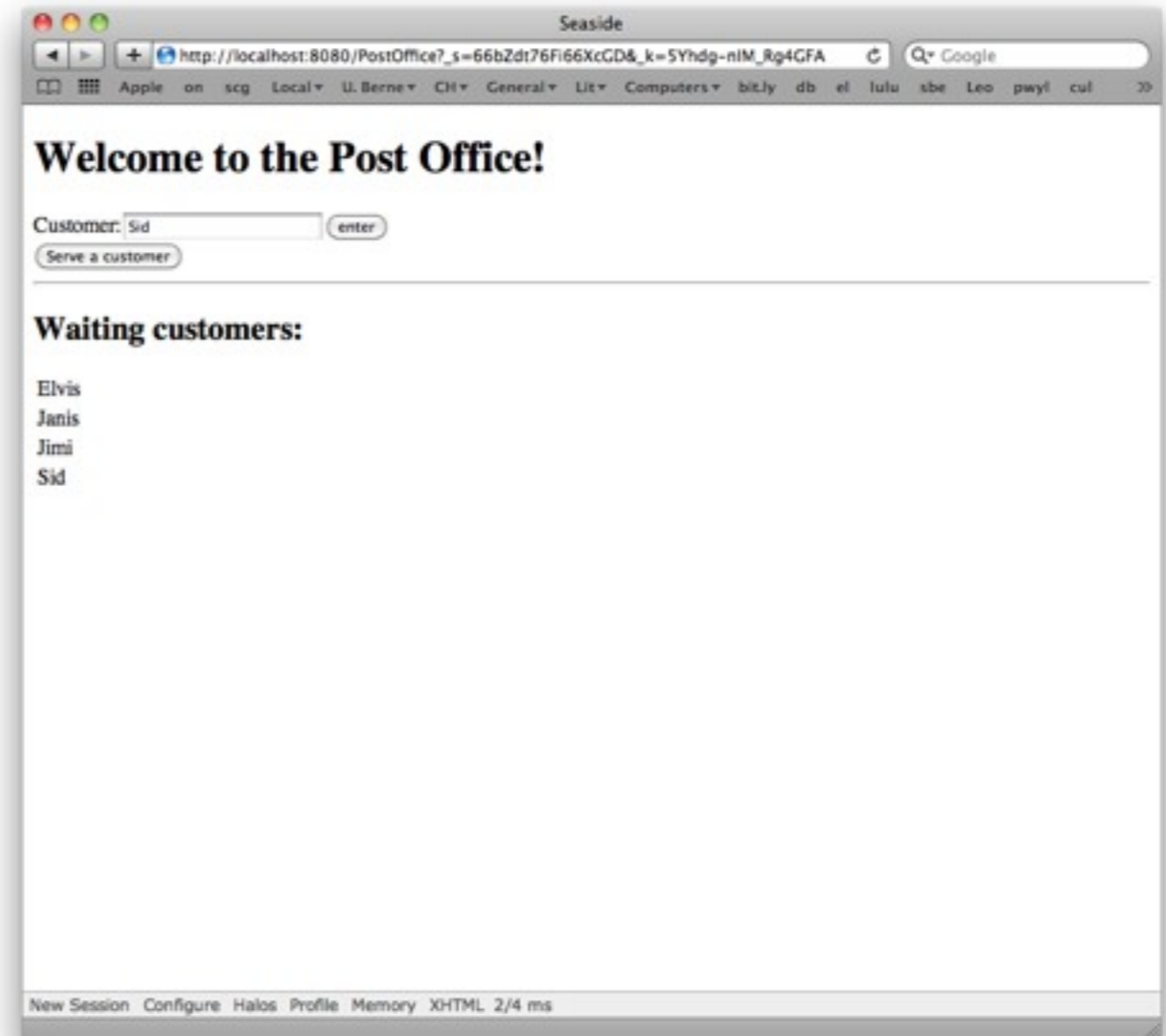


Demo: PostOffice in Seaside












The screenshot shows the Seaside IDE interface. At the top left is the "seaside3.image" logo. The main window displays the "PostOfficeView" class definition. The class hierarchy on the left includes "Seaside-Email", "Seaside-Tests-Email", "Seaside-Pharo-Email", "DynamicBindings", "KomServices", "KomHttpServer-Kernel", "KomHttpServer-Module", "KomHttpServer-Protoc", "Seaside-Adaptors-Com", "Seaside-Tests-Adaptor", and "PostOffice". The class "PostOfficeView" is selected, showing its superclass "PostOffice" and its superclass "as yet unclassified". The class methods are listed as "initialize" and "renderContentOn:". Below the class definition, the "renderContentOn:" method is expanded to show its implementation in HTML:

```
renderContentOn: html
  html heading: 'Welcome to the Post Office!'.
  html form: [
    html text: 'Customer:'.
    html textInput on: #customerName of: self.
    html submitButton text: 'enter';
    callback: [(Customer named: self customerName) enters: postoffice]
  ].
```



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Seaside" with the URL "http://localhost:8080/PostOffice?s=66b2dt76Fi66XcGD&k=5Yhdg-nIM_Rg4GFA". The browser displays the "Welcome to the Post Office!" page. The page has a form with a text input field containing "Sid" and an "enter" button. Below the form is a "Serve a customer" button. The page also displays a "Waiting customers:" section with a list of names: "Elvis", "Janis", "Jimi", and "Sid". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "New Session Configure Halos Profile Memory XHTML 2/4 ms".

What you should know!

-  *What are the key differences between Smalltalk, C++ and Java?*
-  *What is at the root of the Smalltalk class hierarchy?*
-  *What kinds of messages can one send to objects?*
-  *What is a cascade?*
-  *Why does $1+2/3 = 1$ in Smalltalk?*
-  *How are control structures realized?*
-  *How is a new class created?*
-  *What are categories for?*
-  *What are Factory methods? When are they useful?*

Can you answer these questions?

- ✎ Which is faster, a program written in Smalltalk, C++ or Java?*
- ✎ Which is faster to develop & debug, a program written in Smalltalk, C++ or Java?*
- ✎ How are Booleans implemented?*
- ✎ Is a comment an Object? How would you check this?*
- ✎ What is the equivalent of a static method in Smalltalk?*
- ✎ How do you make methods private in Smalltalk?*
- ✎ What is the difference between = and ==?*
- ✎ If classes are objects too, what classes are they instances of?*



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