

A group of people are seated at long tables in a bright, modern office or co-working space. They are viewed from behind, working on laptops. Large windows in the background let in natural light, showing green trees outside. The overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

*Feeds, Synchronization
and the Free Software
Desktop*

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Computer vs. Network

- Computers stand alone
 - Most applications treat “My Computer” as the only resource to store and retrieve information with
 - People forget backups because they're simply too much of a bother
- However,
 - Computers are more and more a social interaction instead of data processing tool
 - ...and this pushes users towards web-based services

Computer vs. Network

- GNOME could do better here
- Native interface can be much faster and usable than a website
- Native interface can provide off-line access
- Website provides access from Internet Cafés and other locations

Synchronization principle 1

*Users are consumers and producers of information.
Apps should support both*



Synchronization principle 2

*Users want to share things
with friends and colleagues.
Make it easy*



Synchronization principle 3

*Neither desktop or a Web 2.0
service is really a backup
solution.
Combine the two*

Synchronization principle 4

*Internet access isn't
always available.
Keep a local copy*



Pieces of the puzzle

Desktop and the
mobile device

Social web
service

Backup

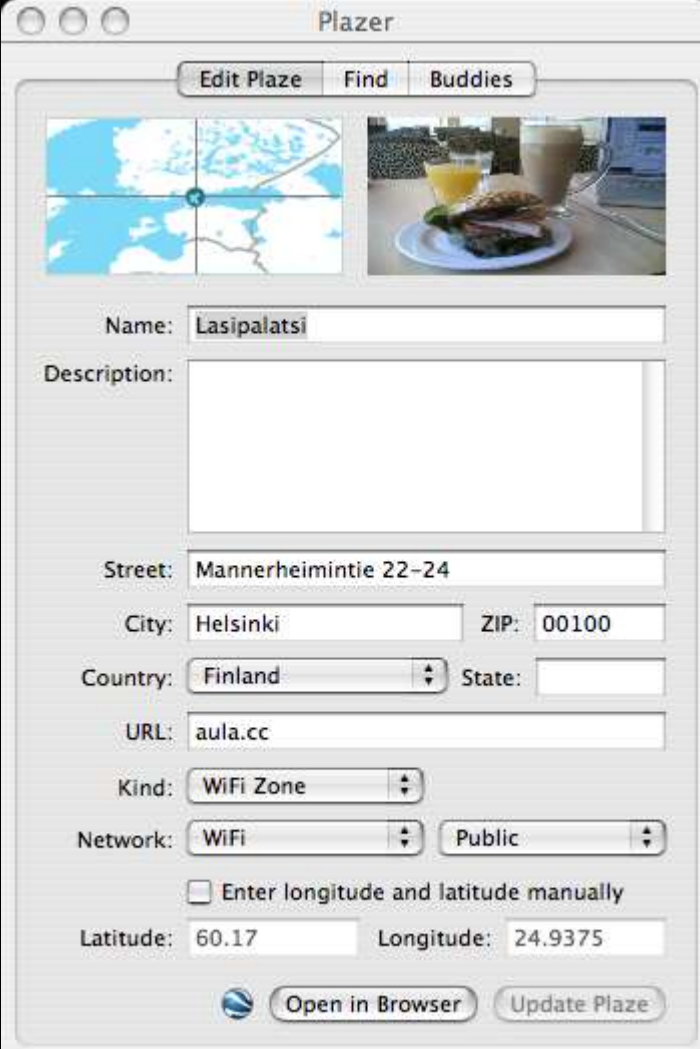


Desktop is you

- It already contains your friends, calendar, conversations, ...
 - It knows what happened and when
- ...but it has no idea where

Putting desktop in place

- Position information would allow switching of network settings, availability settings and other things
- Position information should be centralized service usable by many applications
- Multiple sources for position: Plazes, GPS, manual setting, ...
- Location sharing could be possible via Plazes, gpsd or Jabber pub-sub



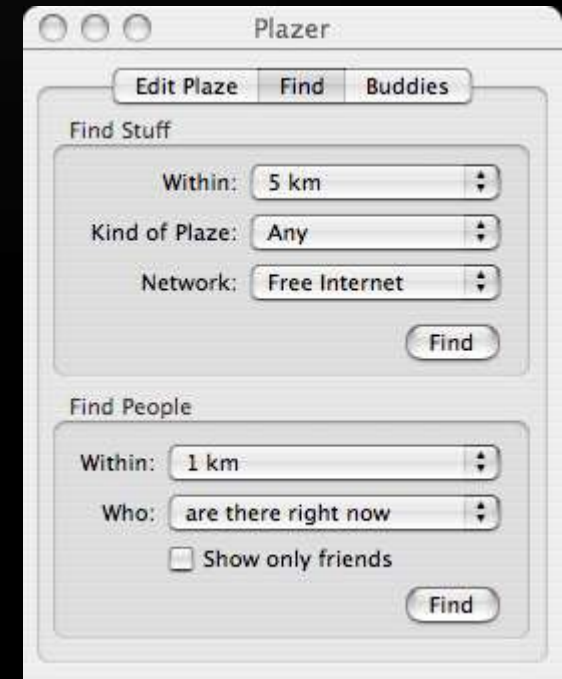
The screenshot shows the 'Plazer' application window. At the top, there are three buttons: 'Edit Plaze', 'Find', and 'Buddies'. Below these are two images: a map on the left and a photo of a plate of food on the right. The main form contains the following fields:

- Name: Lasipalatsi
- Description: (empty text area)
- Street: Mannerheimintie 22-24
- City: Helsinki ZIP: 00100
- Country: Finland State: (empty)
- URL: aula.cc
- Kind: WiFi Zone
- Network: WiFi Public
- Enter longitude and latitude manually
- Latitude: 60.17 Longitude: 24.9375

At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Open in Browser' and 'Update Plaze'.

Making use of location

- Location-based information is available: free WiFi networks nearby, Wikipedia pages, ...
 - Find information about an interesting building
- Location can enrich user's data like photos and blogs
 - Photo EXIF tags
 - Generating Google Maps of travel photos
 - Find photos taken near this picture



Position-aware services

Plazes:

Location based on network
www.plazes.com

Placeopedia:

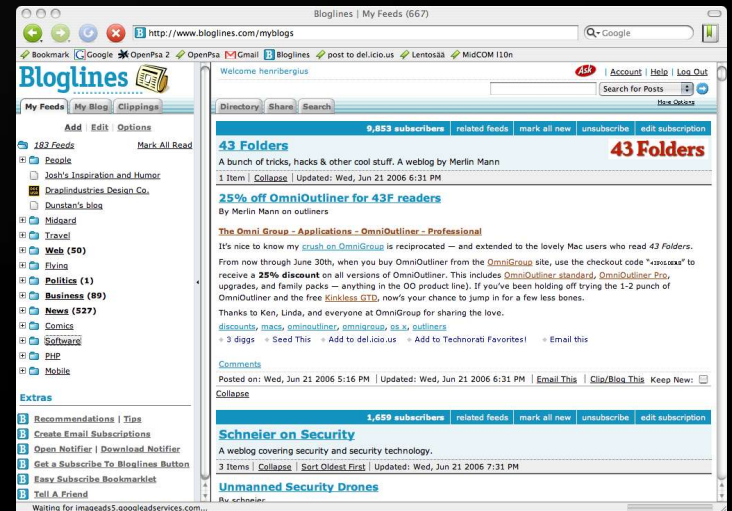
Wikipedia pages on map
www.placeopedia.com

Synchronization HOWTO

- Identify what people use
 - Flickr, del.icio.us, Orkut, Gmail, Google Maps ... Your friends are there already
 - Services exist for almost any type of data
 - Use the provided integration API
 - Try to synchronize both ways
- Allow subscribing to information from friends
 - RSS, Podcasts, Photocasts, ...
 - Jabber is also good protocol, see Mugshot

Synchronization and blogs

- Blog postings come and go
- Synchronize read/unread status between devices
 - Bloglines as an example: centralized web-based reader, and client for 770 and desktop
- Backup only subscription list
 - Interesting posts can be preserved via bookmarks or Mozilla Scrapbook
- Relevant formats: RSS, OPML and Attention.xml



Bookmarks

- Bookmarks are pointers to semi-permanent information
 - Google Cache, Internet Archive or Mozilla Scrapbook integration could help making bookmarks more permanent
- Bookmarks must be easy to categorize and share
- However, bookmark sharing shouldn't be a distraction

Principles, again

- Users are consumers and producers of information.
 - Apps should support both
- Users want to share things with friends and colleagues.
 - Make it easy
- Neither desktop or a Web 2.0 service is really a backup solution
 - Combine the two
- Internet access isn't always available
 - Keep a local copy

Wrapping up

- Social web apps are here
 - And their APIs are maturing
 - Similarly, position-based services and data are *finally* here
- Users are beginning to expect easy sharing
 - There are excellent free software apps for desktop and server, but they don't communicate
 - We need cross-project collaboration
- Backup and off-line access is still a problem
- RSS and Jabber/XMPP are becoming ubiquitous