

#### **Getting Input from Users**

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## The Basics

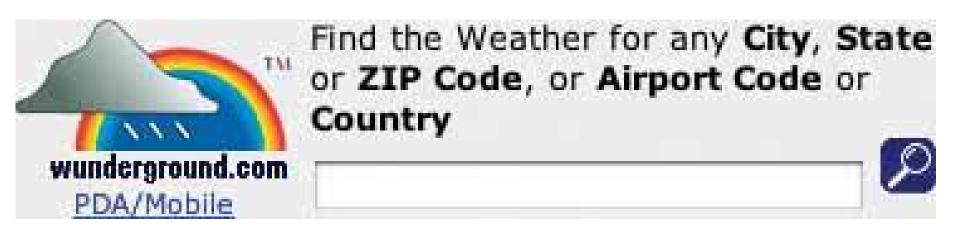
- Make sure the user understands what is asked for, and why
- If you can, avoid asking the question at all
- If possible, ask for a choice out of a set, rather than asking for text
- Beware of a literal translation from the underlying programming model
- Usability-test it
- The controls on the UI affect users' expectation of what is asked for

# The Patterns

- Forgiving format
- Structured format
- Fill-in-the-blanks
- Input hints
- Input prompt
- Autocompletion

- Dropdown chooser
- Illustrated choices
- List builder
- Good defaults
- Same-page error messages

# **Forgiving Format**



- Catch: turns an UI design problem into a programming one
  - UI designers and developers must work together

#### **Structured Format**



## Fill-in-the-blanks

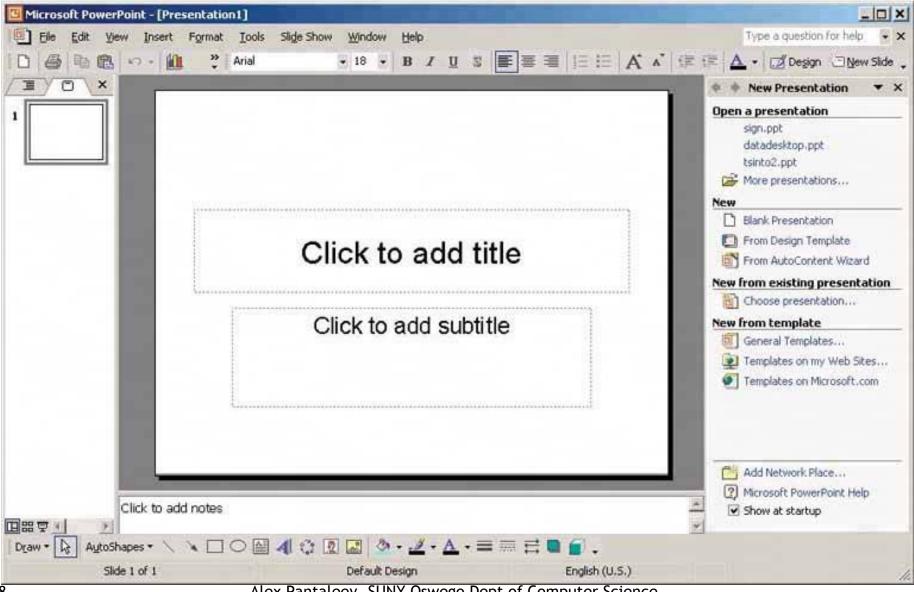
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Criteria						
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	ds	contains	outdoors			

 Catch: hard to localize for languages with different word order

## Input Hints

Name:	
	Example: Mary Jones
Short Name:	
	This is an alternate name for your account, used by some network services. Enter 8 lowercase characters or fewer with no spaces. Example: mjones

# Input Prompt

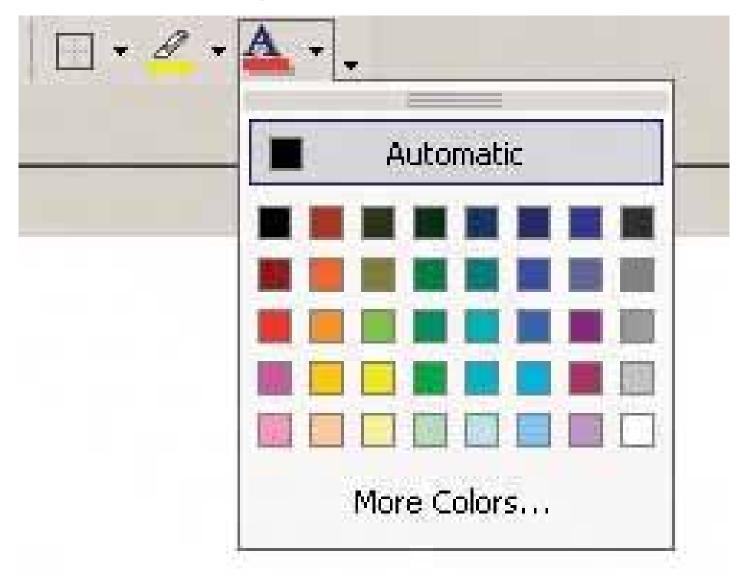


## Autocompletion



ask him, but are we out of m that we haven't found the tim Yours truly, Your

#### **Dropdown Chooser**



#### **Illustrated Choices**

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XY (Scatter) Area Doughnut Radar Surface Bubble Stock		]
	Clustered Column. Compares values acro categories. Press and Hold to <u>Vi</u> ew Sample	iss
Cancel	< Back Next > Einish	

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# List Builder

Show Fields					? 🔀
Available fields:			Show these field	ls in this order:	
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Contacts Conversation Created		<- Remove	Flag Status Attachment From Subject		Cancel
<ul> <li>Do Not AutoArchive</li> <li>Due By</li> <li>Follow Up Flag</li> <li>Junk E-mail Type</li> <li>Message</li> <li>Originator Delivery Reques</li> </ul>	te		Received		
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Properties Delete			Move Up	Move Down	
Select available fields from:					
Frequently-used fields					

## **Good Defaults**

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6.6	
Height: 364 pixels	
	Cance
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Height: 364 pixels 🛟	
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#### Same-Page Error Messages

