MindXpres - An Extensible Cross-Media Presentation Tool

Due to the nature of slides, content in presentations is often static and limited by spatial boundaries. Furthermore, the authoring tools of existing slideware (e.g. PowerPoint) make it clear that the focus lies on styling and aesthetics and not on creating high quality content. Our MindXpres presentation platform was born from the idea that current presentation tools lack the *extensibility* required to implement innovative solutions overcoming these shortcomings.

MindXpres provides a *plug-in architecture* that allows users to add or replace any functionality. At the most basic level this includes the supported media types such as videos, source code or simulations. However, plug-ins also influence how content is displayed and navigated, for example, via a zoomable user interface. The core presentation engine provides commonly used functionality such as content and input processing, graphical features and connectivity, which allows plug-in developers to focus on innovative presentation concepts.

Furthermore, MindXpres lets the presenter focus on the content and does layouting and styling automatically. The author provides the content and the corresponding plug-in for a given media type turns it into an aesthetically pleasing and possibly interactive part of the presentation. MindXpres also aims to step away from monolithic presentation files and rather stores content in a central repository enabling the *reuse and sharing of content*.

MindXpres presentations are driven by web technology making them *highly portable* and viewable on any device with browser support, including tablets and smartphones. Further, the built-in communication module allows presentation instances to connect and form networks that allow plug-ins to provide *audience-driven functionality* such as polls, collaborative exercises or presentation mirroring. This also enables the integration of arbitrary devices such as clickers or digital pens which can be used for input and navigation.

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WEB & INFORMATION SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

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