

Groove2 - Rearranging the puzzle

By Nakra, V. Pinney, M, Ramarosan, H.

Groove is an all in one collaborative tool as it allows file sharing, chat, and emails, and integrates MS Office tools. However several features were modified, based on recent studies by (Yvonne C. Earnshaw, Sujatha Krishnamoorthy, Vishal Nakra, Mary E. Pinney, and Rob StClair). Several re-wording of buttons were deemed necessary to fit the easily accessible common schemas (Aronson et al., 1994). This category of change concerns includes the “password” at login, “Group Calendar”, “Personal Calendar”, “Delete” button constitutes valuable visual cues that facilitates interactions.

Furthermore, the layout of the different tools offered by Groove needs to be re-designed to allow customization by the users. Although the applet configuration is helpful when various tools are available, the possibility of having “Files tool” window and the “Review Document” window appear in the same Groove space increases the user’s knowledge of the changes made. Indeed, all changes can be notices at a glance, and can justify the elimination of pop up notifications on the Windows System tray. In the same line of thought is the possibility to view and resize several sketches in the same window.

The availability of Help files locally is a design feature that is helpful, but can deteriorate the system performance. Speed is a deciding metric since Groove is already fairly slow.