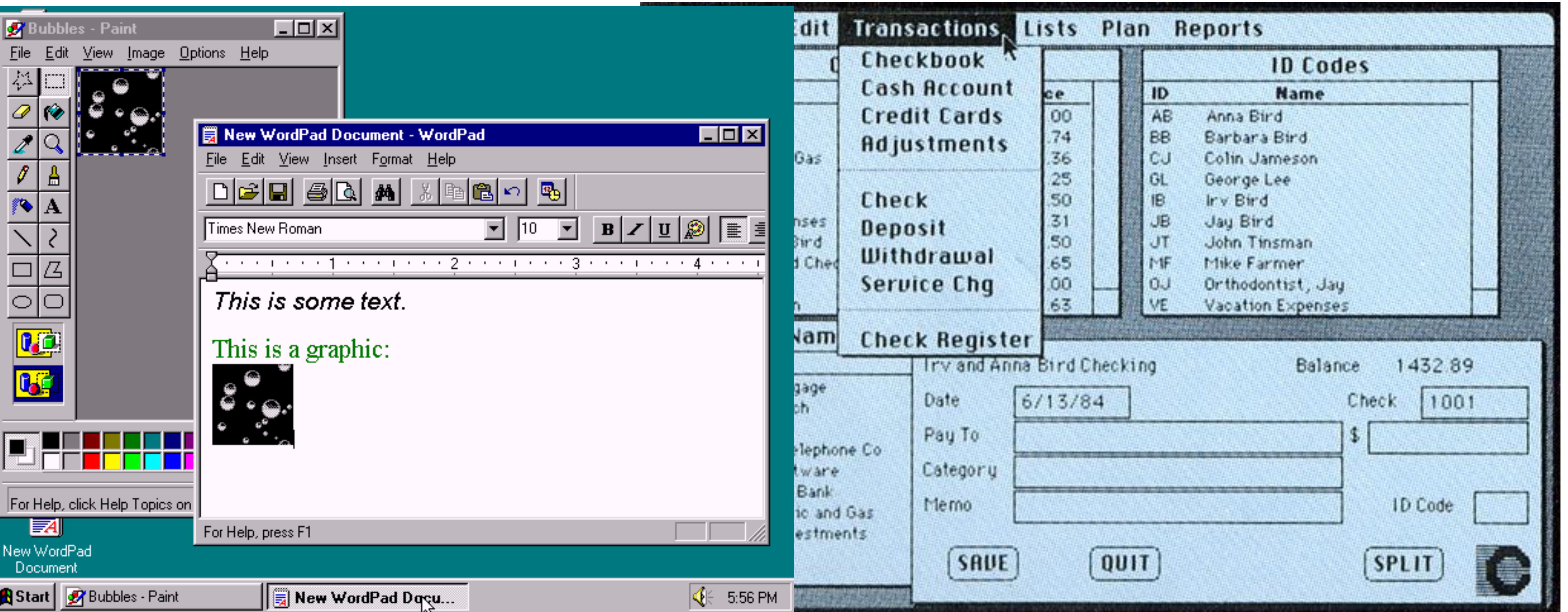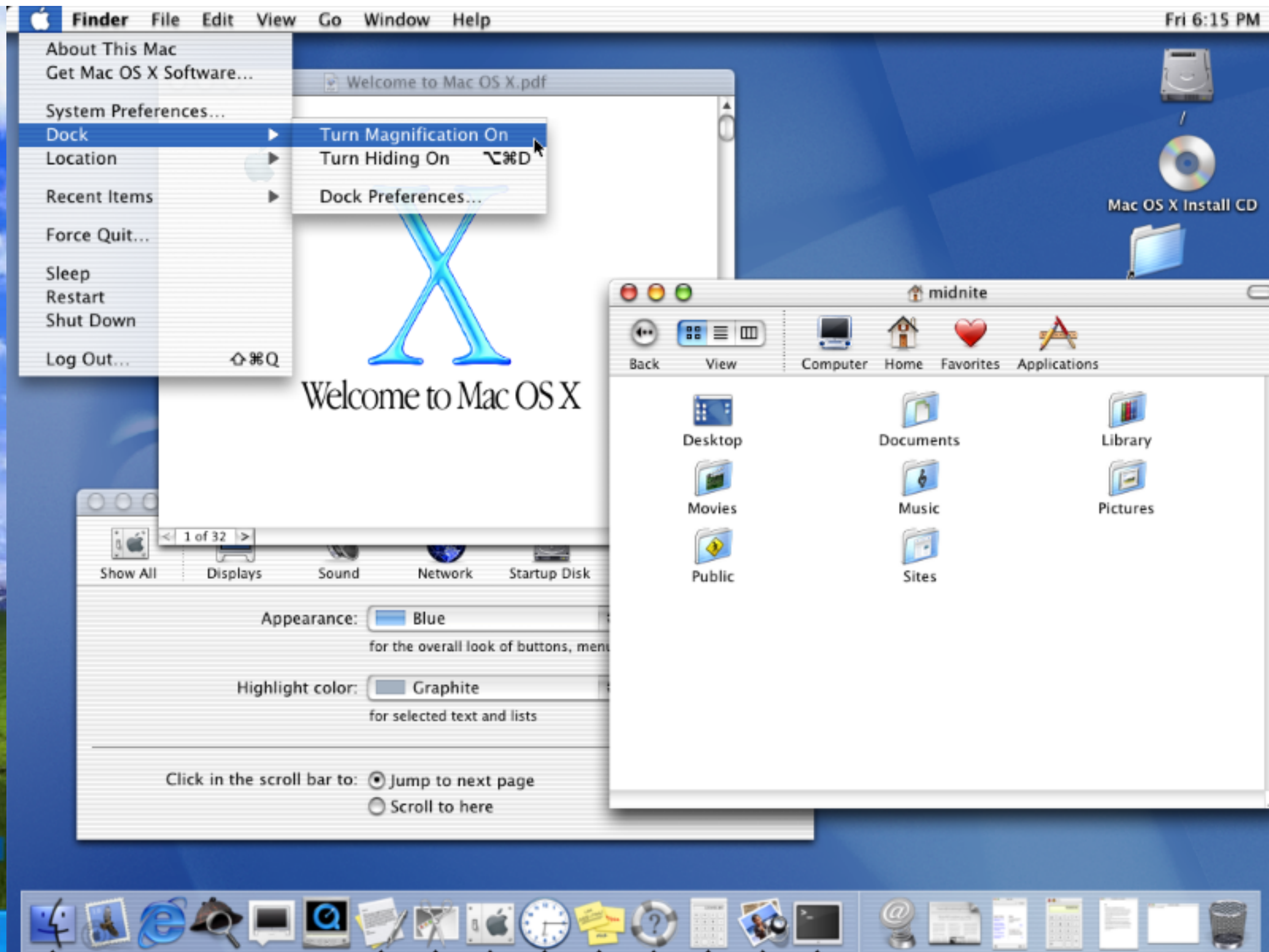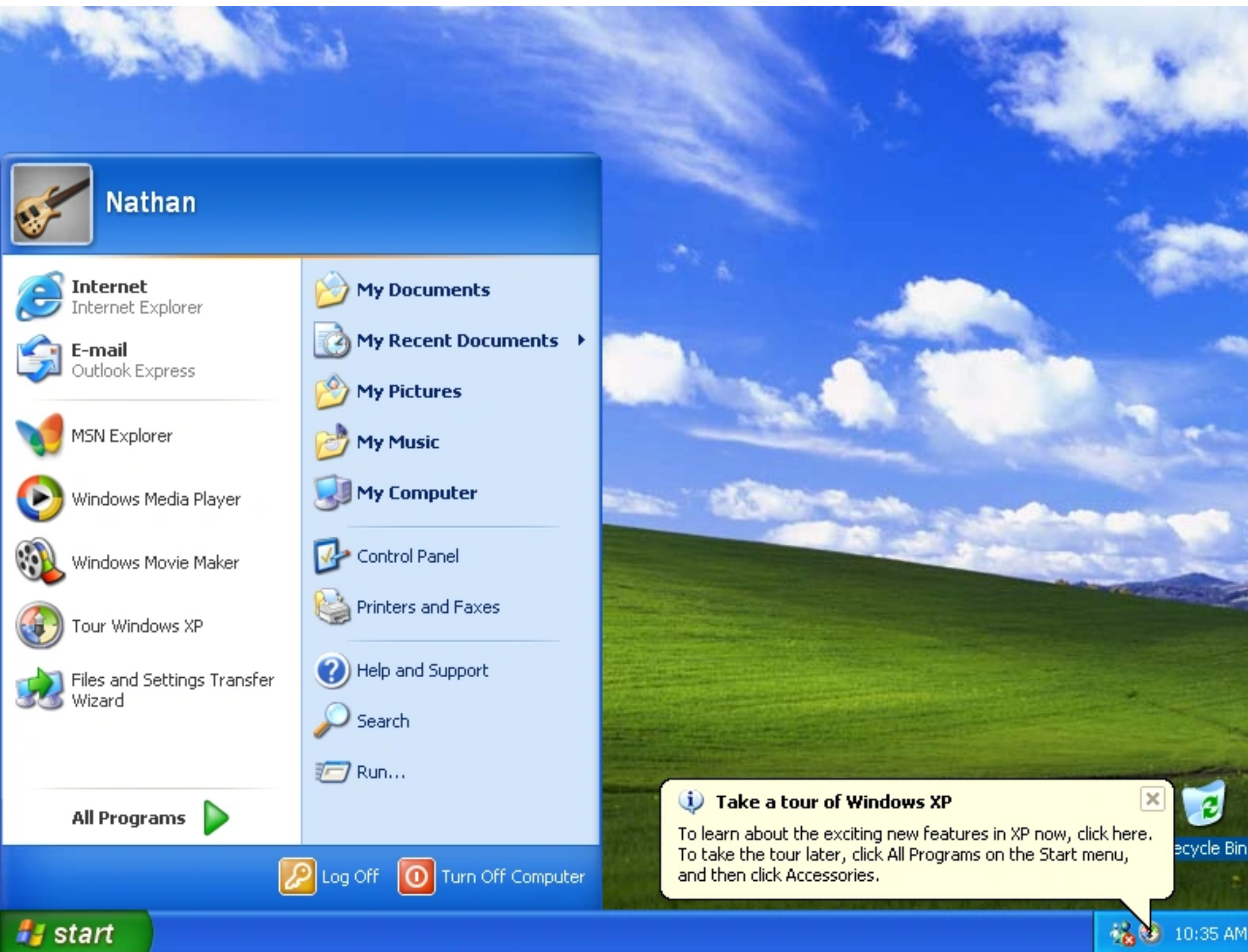# 🌈 Form control colors 🌈

Tim Nguyen

A bit of design history

1995

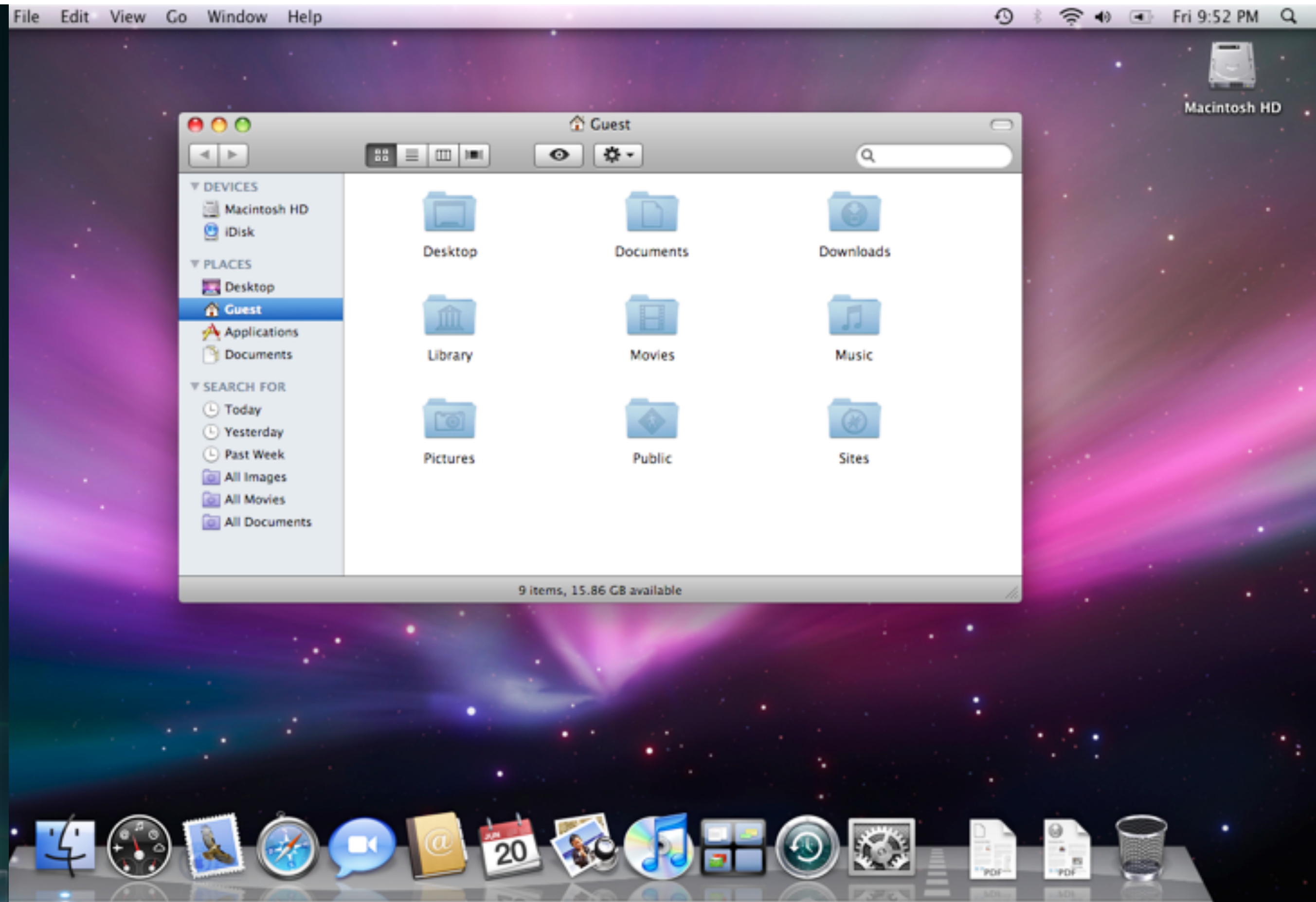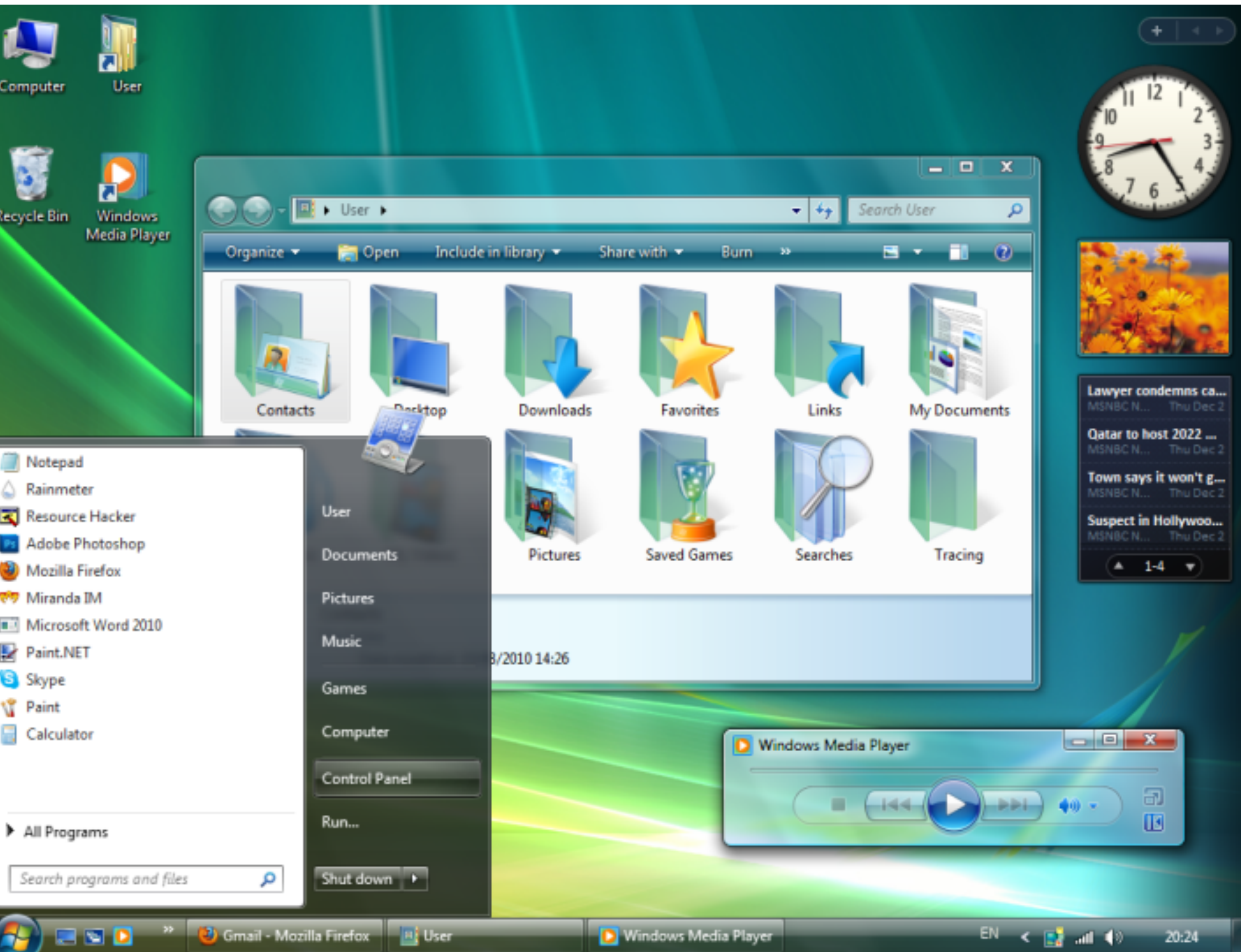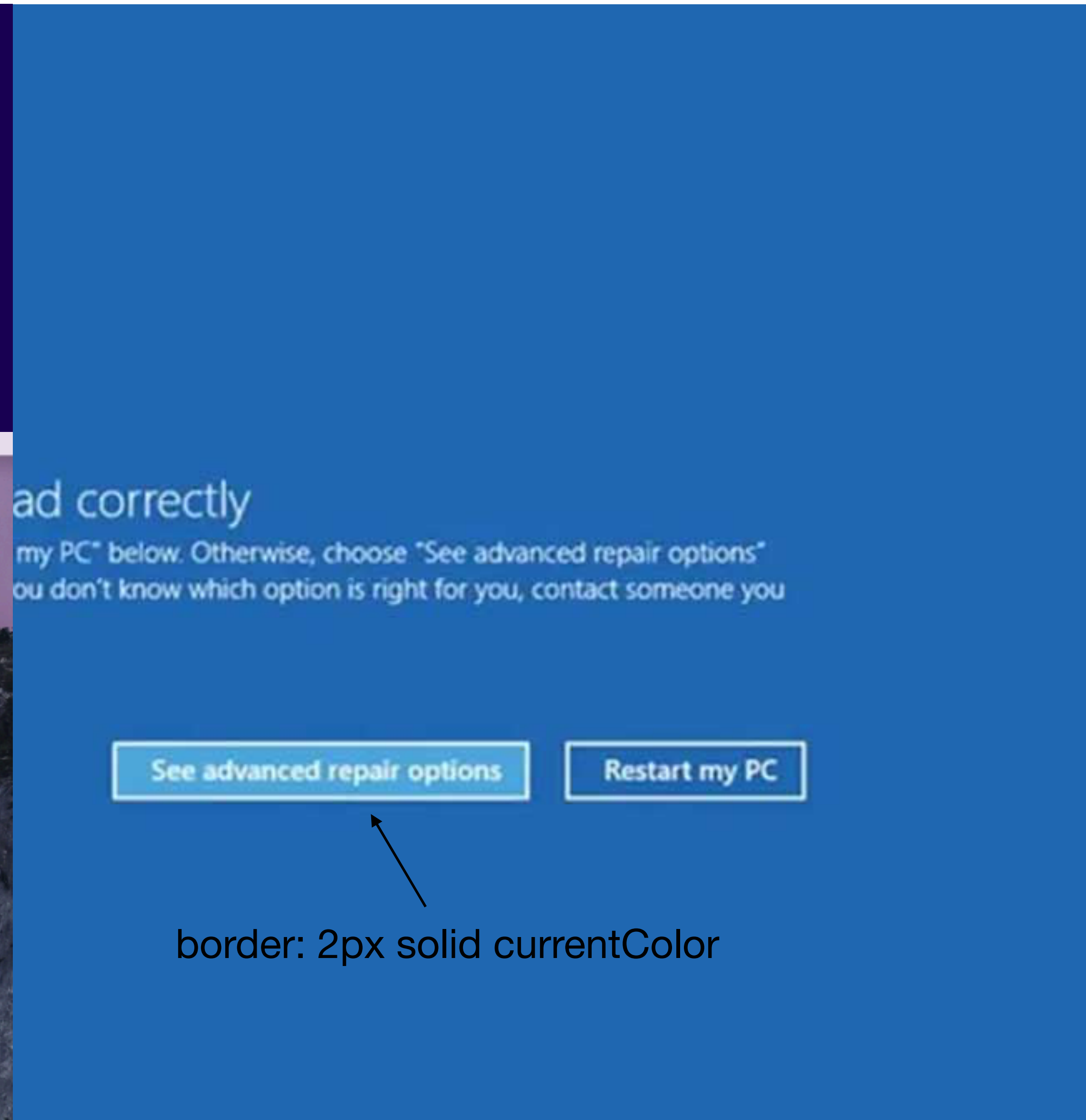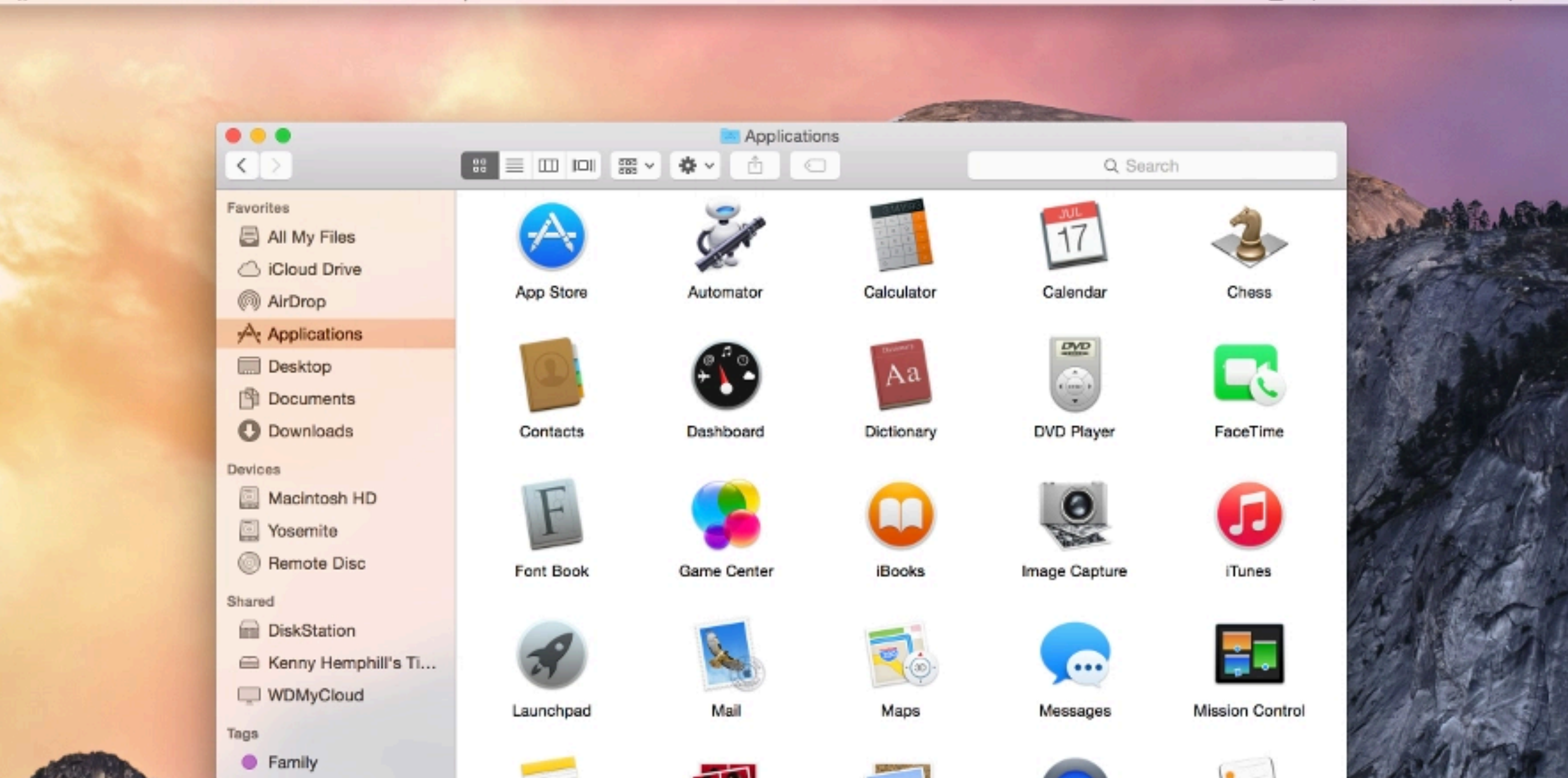# 2001: wow colors

2006: lets do skeuomorphism

2012: lets make everything flat

border: 2px solid currentColor
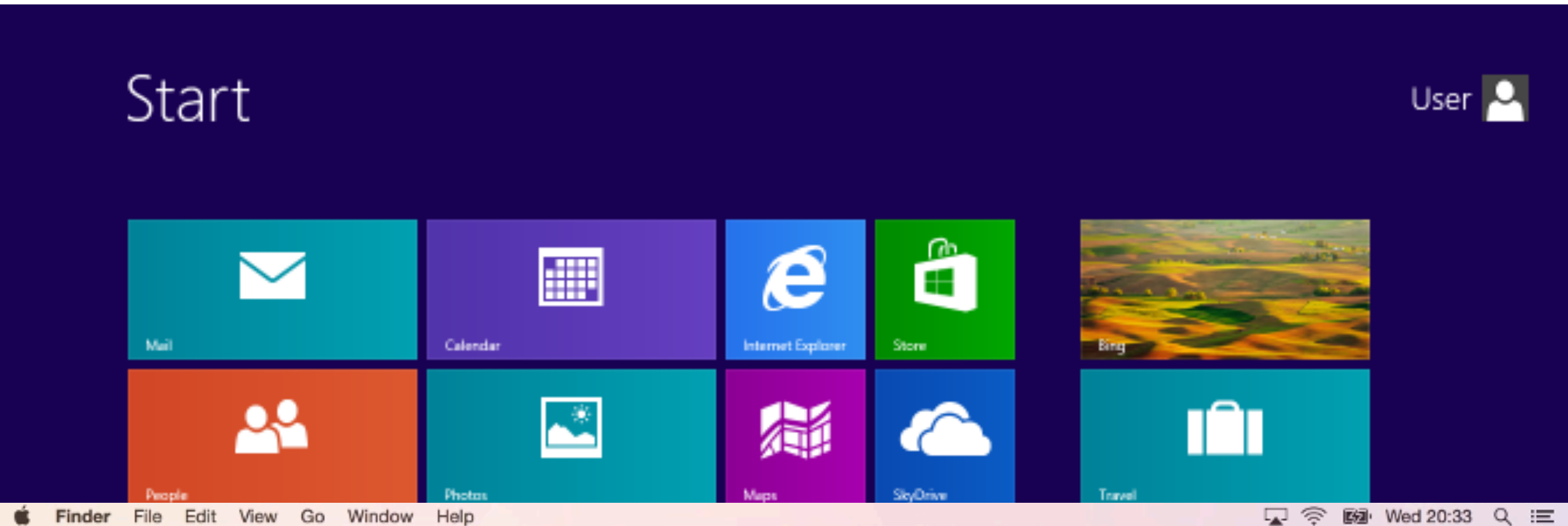
2024: lets find the right amount of flat
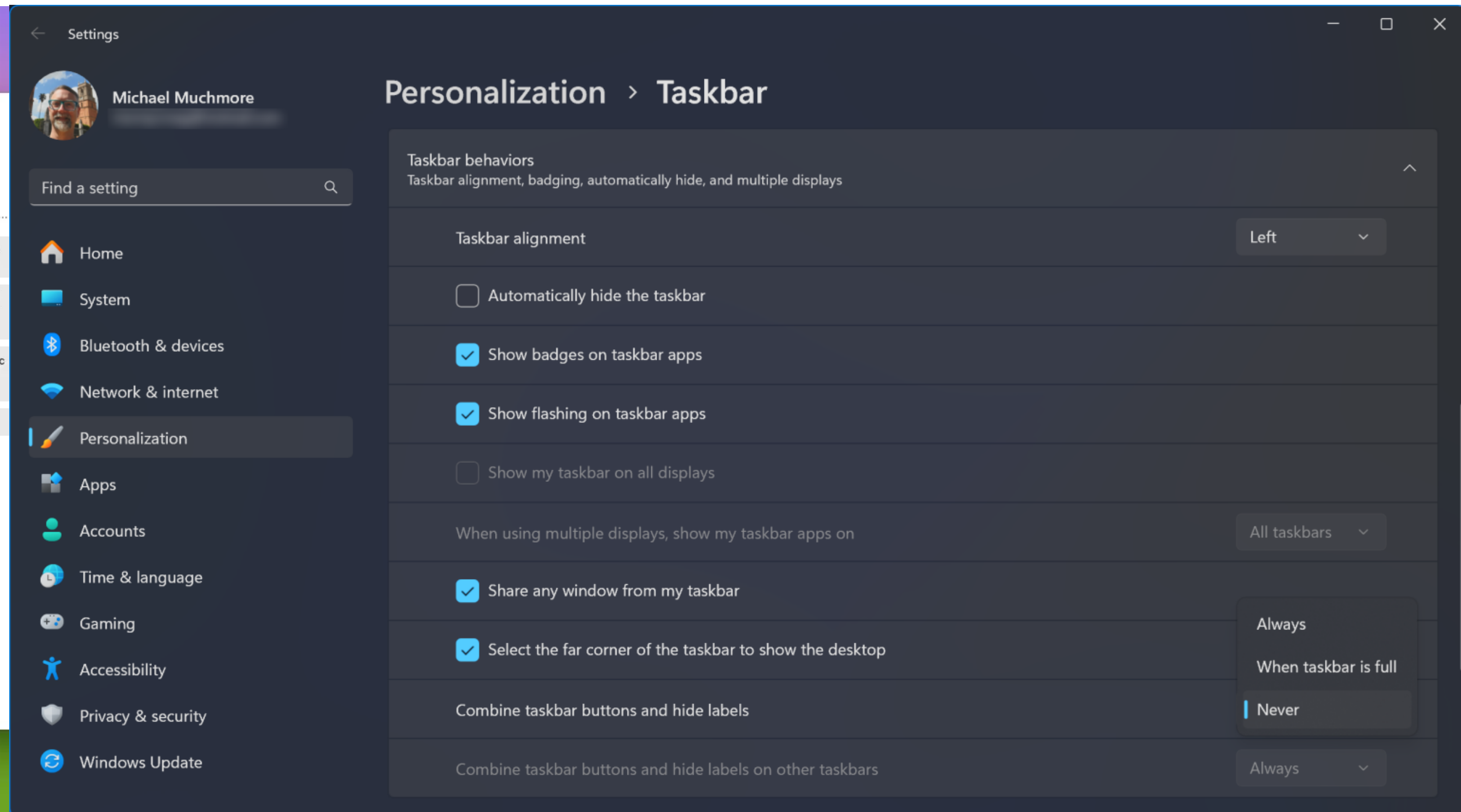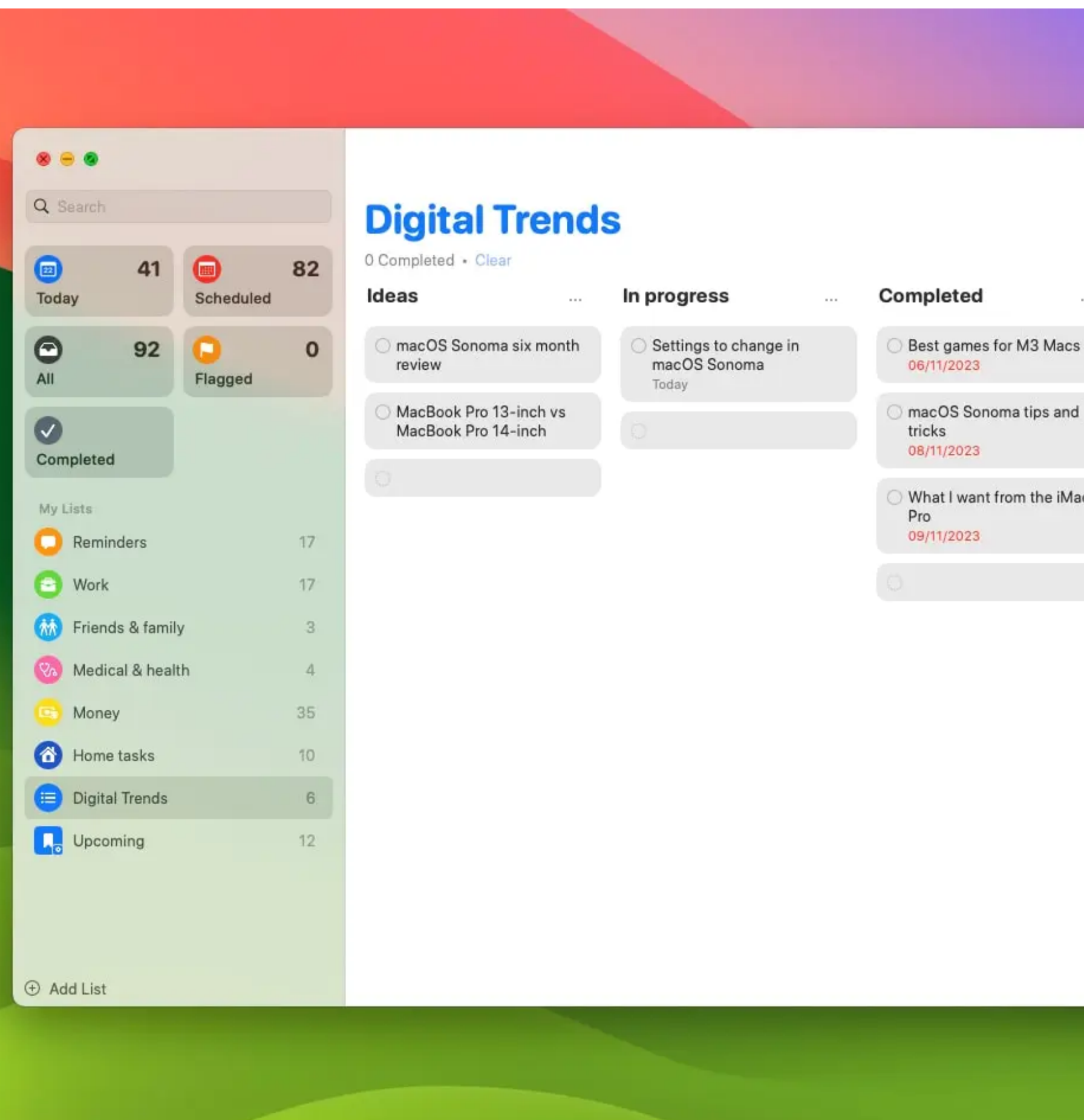
design is not timeless

appearance: base

goal: design pretty defaults (?)

~~goal: design pretty defaults~~

goal: provide sensible defaults

Two main options
Colors go in foreground & background color pairs

- currentColor for all foreground colors & transparent background color

- system colors for both

- you can't mix and match otherwise you get contrast issues with different modes

What's easier for the developer?

They're both as easy to override

They both work with color-scheme

Does anyone know the hex code of ThreeDShadow???

Standards best-practices

2 categories of elements

- Overlay elements

  - <dialog>

  - popover

- In-page elements

  - in-flow <div> for instance

background & text colors

- Overlay elements

  - system colors

- In-page elements

  - background: transparent;

  - color: inherit;

border colors
interactive quiz

```
<dialog id=dialog>Hello</dialog>

<script>

    dialog.show()

</script>

<style>

    dialog {

        color: red;

    }

</style>
```

A. black

B. red

C. CanvasText

D. ThreeDShadow

Border color for tables #713

atjn commented on Sep 18 · edited ▾

Contributor   •••

Description

If I am writing a document with tables, I would like my table borders to be the same color as my text (by default):

This works in Firefox but in Chrome, Edge, and Safari it looks like this:

It would be really nice if engines could standardize this behavior.

WPT tests to include

Formal definition

Initial value	`currentcolor`
Applies to	all elements. It also applies to `::first-letter`.
Inherited	no
Computed value	computed color
Animation type	a color

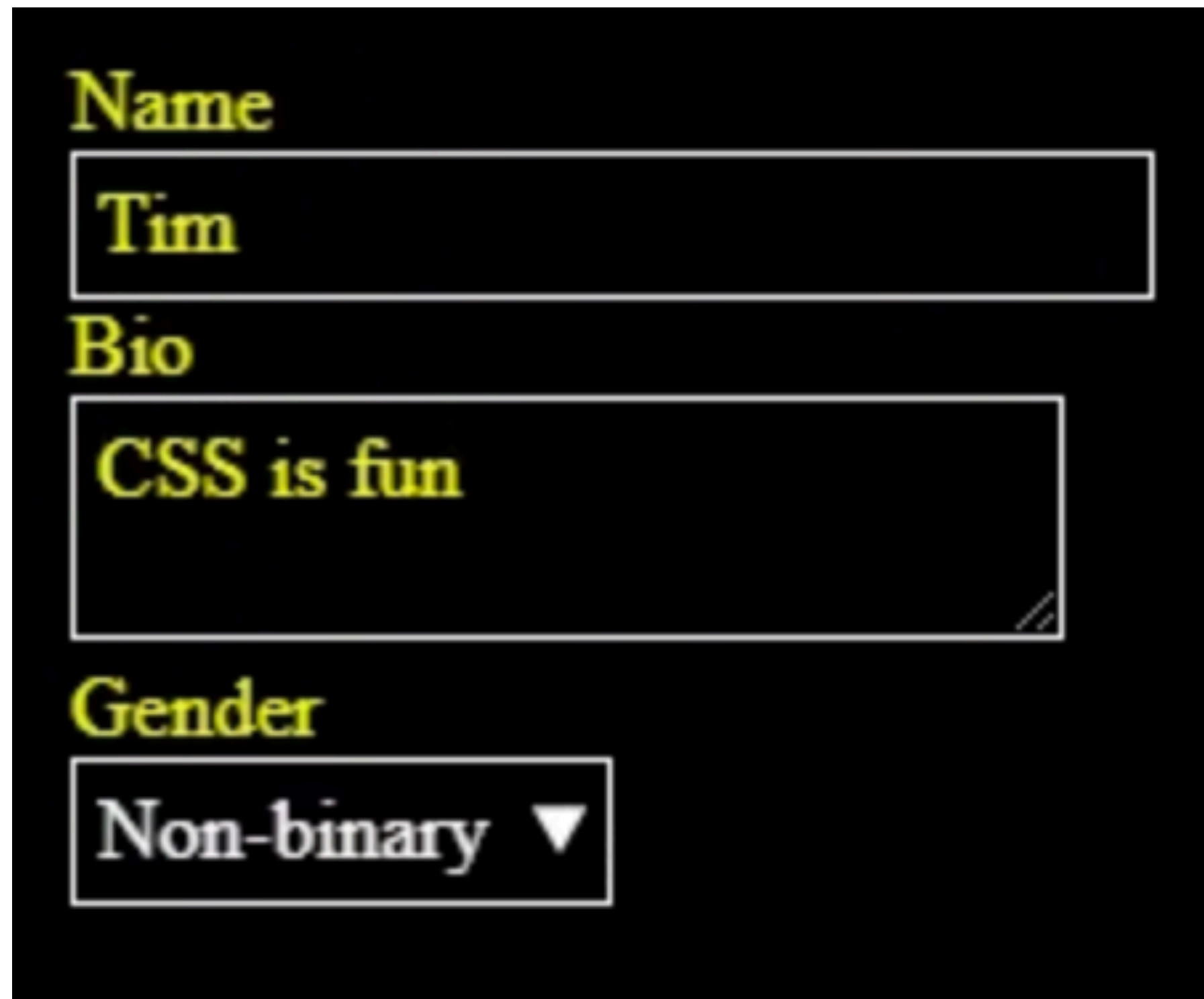|	
Name:	**'border-top-color'**, **'border-right-color'**, **'border-bottom-color'**, **'border-left-color'**
Value:	<color>
Initial:	currentColor
Applies to:	all elements except ruby base containers and ruby annotation containers
Inherited:	no
Percentages:	N/A
Computed value:	computed color

lets converge border colors to currentColor!

Forced colors mode

currentColor + transparent background

Windows high contrast
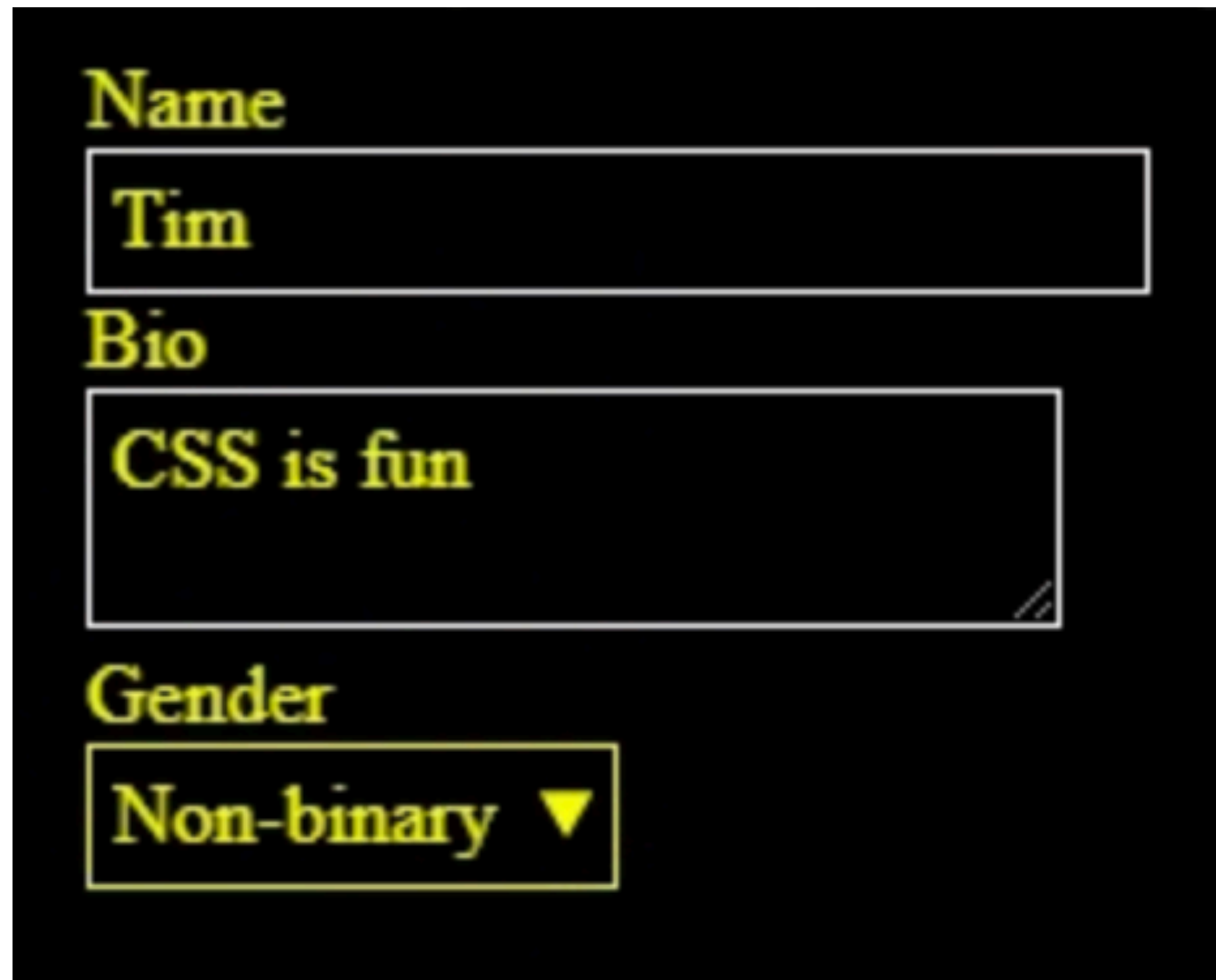
System colors
Windows high contrast

Media query in the UA stylesheet?

Bikeshedding

Open questions

- What exact levels of currentColor mixing for variations?

- transparency or luminance changes for currentColor variations?

- ???