

Reproduced with permission from NeXT Computer, Inc., USA, *NeXT on Campus*, Fall 1991. © 1991 NeXT Computer, Inc., USA

What is NeXTstep?

NeXTstep is the graphical user interface (GUI) and associated development environment bundled with all NeXT computers. NeXTstep was created to solve two problems: Without intuitive interfaces, applications can be difficult to use; and good user interfaces are difficult to create.

Conceptually, NeXTstep is the software above the operating system and below user applications. NeXTstep is comprised of Display PostScript, the Application Kit (App Kit), Interface Builder, and the Workspace Manager.

Display PostScript lets developers write one set of drawing instructions for the screen and printing, rather than one set for each. As a result, NeXT computers have true what-you-see-is-what-you-get capabilities. The App Kit is a set of objects that define the appearance and functionality of the NeXTstep GUI. Interface Builder is a tool that lets users graphically design and build interfaces for applications. The App Kit and Interface Builder insure consistency of interface across applications. The Workspace Manager provides file access with an intuitive GUI and the functionality of the underlying UNIX operating system.

NeXTstep, with powerful networking software and easy-to-use GUI, makes possible Interpersonal Computing—a form of computing that lets users share documents and applications as easily as they access information on their own computer.

For more information on NeXTstep, call 1-800-848-NeXT and request the papers, "The NeXTstep User Interface" and "The NeXTstep Development Environment."