ksysguard

performance monitoring for KDE

Ksysguard allows to monitor different soft- and hardware parameters that influence the performance and stability of a local or remote computer system. It allows techknowledgeable users or admins of a few computers to detect and go to the bottom of (rising) problems, and do something about them.

Hard Disk Partitions
If one partition of your Hard Disk becomes full on a dangerous stage a bubble representing the Partition comes out of the liquid inside the glasball.

RAM and SWAP
The swap is represented by the top of the grey ball inside the glas ball. To warn, it starts glowing.

The RAM is represented by the rest of the ball. Warning works in the same way. When a critical status is reached, the most RAM consuming programs (represented by their desktop icons) are shown on the surface of the ball.

Temperature
The right one of the smaller glasballs shows the temperature.

Alarms
The three glasballs represent urgent alarms. They help you prevent really damaging your hardware or a total crash of your system. In case of an alarm inside the ball fills up with red color und pulses.

Hard Disk Failure
The left one of the smaller glasballs shows potential hard disk failure.

PCI BUS
The big ball is the alarm for PCI bus errors. After it became activated for the first time inside a pointer is blend in and counts up how often this problem occurs. It is set to zero by restart of the program.

CPU Usage
Actual color switch on background history colors with saturation 20% opacity means 20% used, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%, 0%.

CPU Load
Actual length of part depends on how loaded the CPU is history form of inside line, the bigger the line, the more loaded the CPU.

Problem Nr. 1
CPU entails four parameters plus time these are very difficult to integrate

Solution
Using two dimensions (color and length) of one element and two dimensions of a single 3D object: the top of the 3D ring shows both histories, on the outer side the actual status is shown.

Problem Nr. 2
Find a display solution that faithfully reflects the problem of running out of disk space.

Solution
Using increasingly energetic animation if the situation becomes critical.

Problem Nr. 3
How to notify users when the desktop artifact is covered up by windows.

Solution
Integrating notification levels into the desktop icon.

Visual concept

Ksysguard allows you to have an eye on the performance of your computer system. It is designed to give a feeling about how your system is doing at one look. Informations are shown in an abstract way to make a generel overview more easy.

To show the different parameters we thought about the general possibilties to make changes visible.

dimensions // 2D/3D / color / transparency / size shape / saturation / texture / animation / typografic light and shadow / brillance

We had to decide which technichal parameters would be displayed best in which dimension.

There was the requirement that some of the activities like the CPU Usage and the load should be shown including a history to show an overview allowing you to follow the development of the performance of the CPU of your Computer.

Concept for the content

After we defined a product vision we had to decide which are the most important, showable parameters concerning the system performance and stability that the user may need.