“Personal Dynamic Media”

By Alan Kay and Adele Goldberg

Summarized by Daniel Fuller
The Dynabook

- Usable by all ages (kids can do it AND they like it!)
- “Personal dynamic medium the size of a notebook” (sound familiar?)
- “Metamedium” (can be all other media)
- Smalltalk

- Possibly useful for…
  - Storage and manipulation of data
  - Text editing
  - Drawing
  - Painting
  - Animating
  - Composing
Dynabook = laptop?
Envisioned Features

1. Flexibility
   • Small and portable

2. Resolution
   • “Higher quality than…newsprint”

3. Response
   • “No discernable pause between cause and effect”
   • “Imagine the absurdity of a one-second delay…”
Interim Dynabook: Hardware

- Box for disk memory
- Black and white CRT
- Typewriter keyboard
- Musical keyboards
- Mouse
- Speakers
Interim Dynabook: Uses

- **Reading**
  - Fonts
  - Editing
    - Menu for commands
    - Multiple windows
  - Filing
    - “Document”

- **Drawing**
  - Brush
  - Paint
  - Pen

- **Animation**
- **Music**
  - Keyboard input
User-created Tools/Simulations

- Animation system (with transparent cels)
- Drawing program
  - Made by a 12-year old girl!
- Hospital simulation
- Audio visualization
- Music capture
- Circuit design
Useful for...

- Architects
- Doctors
- Composers
- Businessmen
- Educators
Final thoughts

- Projected audience is "everyone"
- Too many different tools?
- Can't anticipate needs, so provide flexibility (like paper)
- "The burden of system design and specification is transferred to the user"
FIN!