## Specialized Activity Spaces

Activity spaces could be specialized by right-clicking them in the Activity Overlay, then dragging object icons into the activity space. The user could use this to define specific areas by naming the space, and define activities with special applications, docs and folders, and background images.
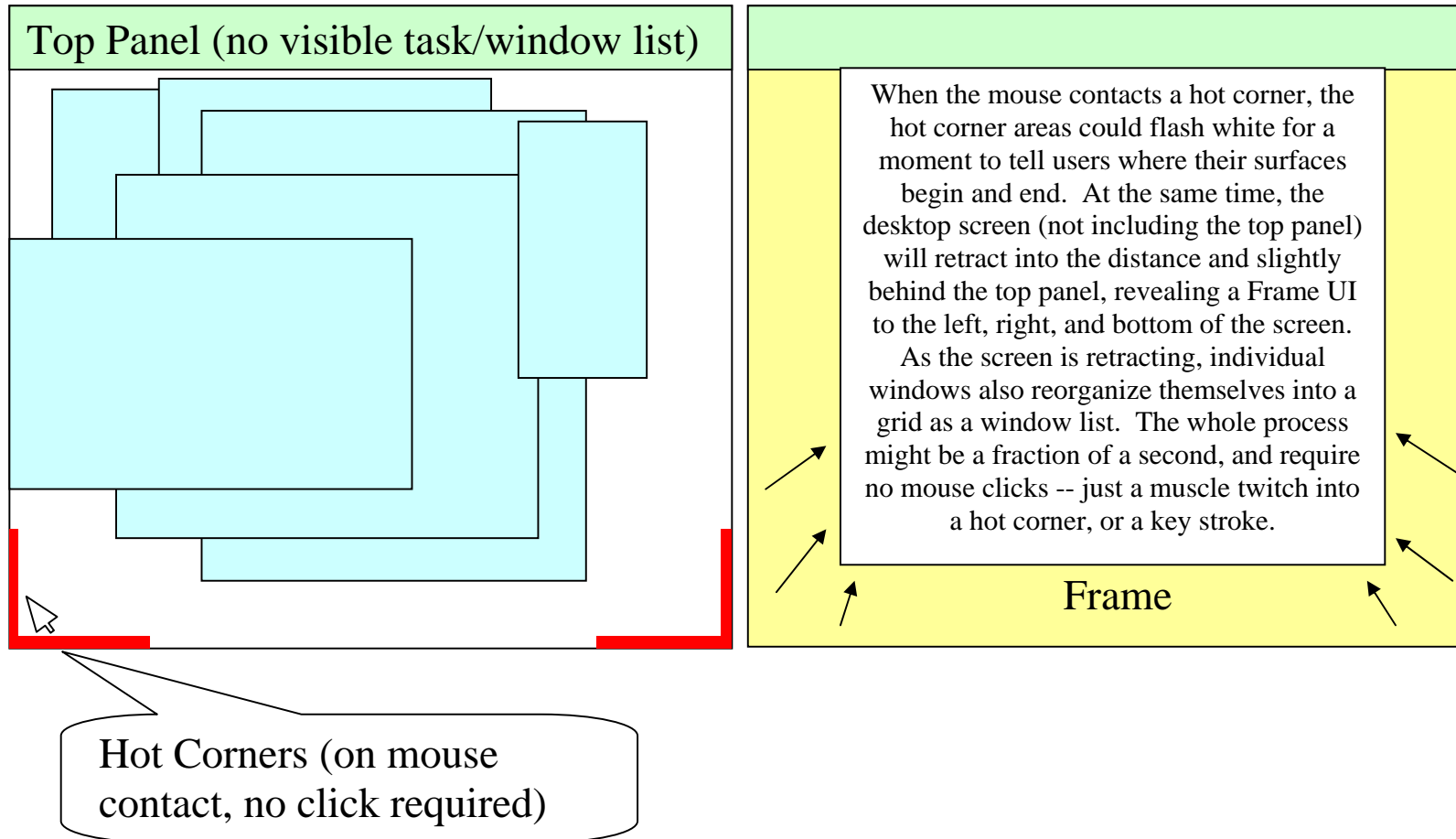
The user could drag apps or folders into a space, and have them be saved to that space's "Frame" launcher (see below).
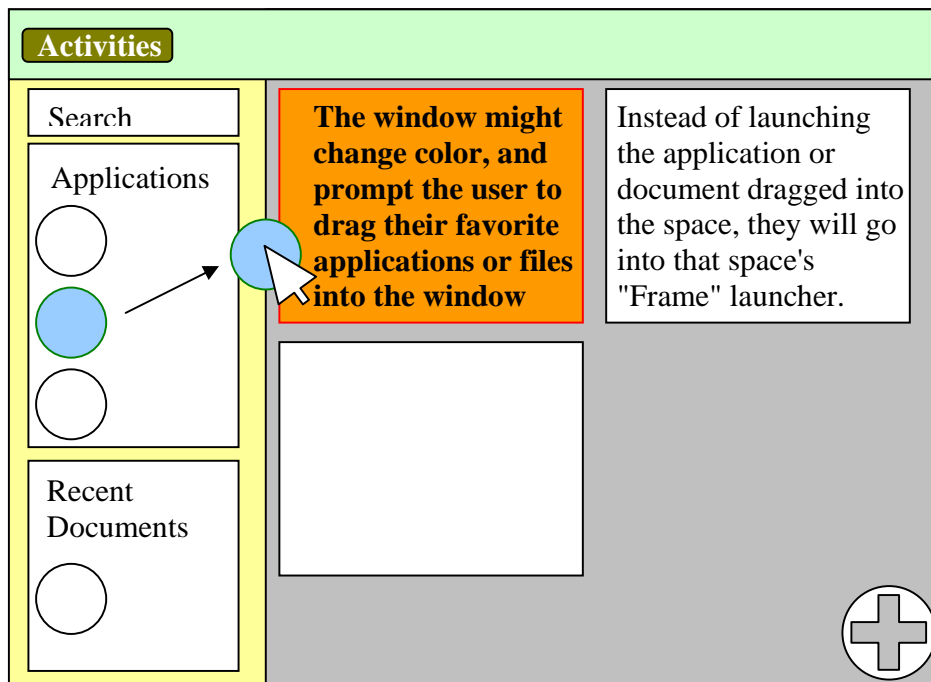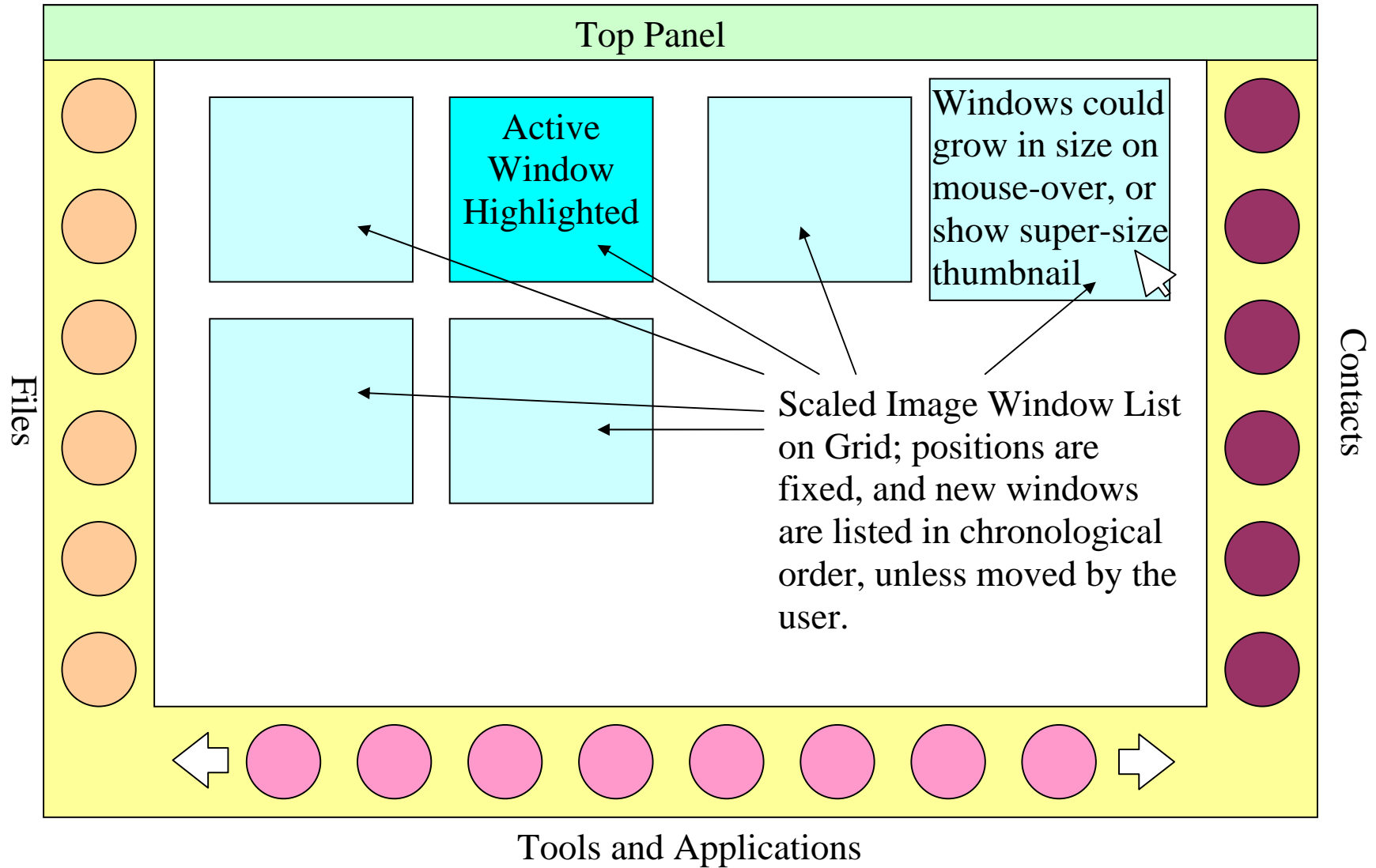
For instance, a translator working on a project or type of project for a long time could assign those files and documents that s/he most frequently access for a given project to an activity space, along with the applications they use for that project. A user might name an activity space, or delete it when the project is completed.

Top panel

Activities

Search

Application

Recent Documents

Activity Space Right-click Menu
blah
blah
blah
blah

Activity Space Preferences

blah
blah

Name Activity Space

Activity Space Apps and Docs

Activity Space Background

Bottom panel

Activities

Search

Applications

Recent Documents

The window might change color, and prompt the user to drag their favorite applications or files into the window

Instead of launching the application or document dragged into the space, they will go into that space's "Frame" launcher.

Activating the Task-List and Frame
To see the window/task list, a user moves the mouse to a hot corner

Top Panel (no visible task/window list)

When the mouse contacts a hot corner, the hot corner areas could flash white for a moment to tell users where their surfaces begin and end. At the same time, the desktop screen (not including the top panel) will retract into the distance and slightly behind the top panel, revealing a Frame UI to the left, right, and bottom of the screen. As the screen is retracting, individual windows also reorganize themselves into a grid as a window list. The whole process might be a fraction of a second, and require no mouse clicks -- just a muscle twitch into a hot corner, or a key stroke.

Frame

Hot Corners (on mouse contact, no click required)

General Composition of Window/Task-List and Frame Overlay

Top Panel

Active
Window
Highlighted

Windows could
grow in size on
mouse-over, or
show super-size
thumbnail

Files

Contacts

Scaled Image Window List
on Grid; positions are
fixed, and new windows
are listed in chronological
order, unless moved by the
user.

Tools and Applications

Details of Window/Task-List Grid

"Close Window" button

"Tile Window" button (see below)

Windows scaled fit within the grid cell. Minimized window content displayed just like non-minimized content.

Object Icon

Window title on mouse-over
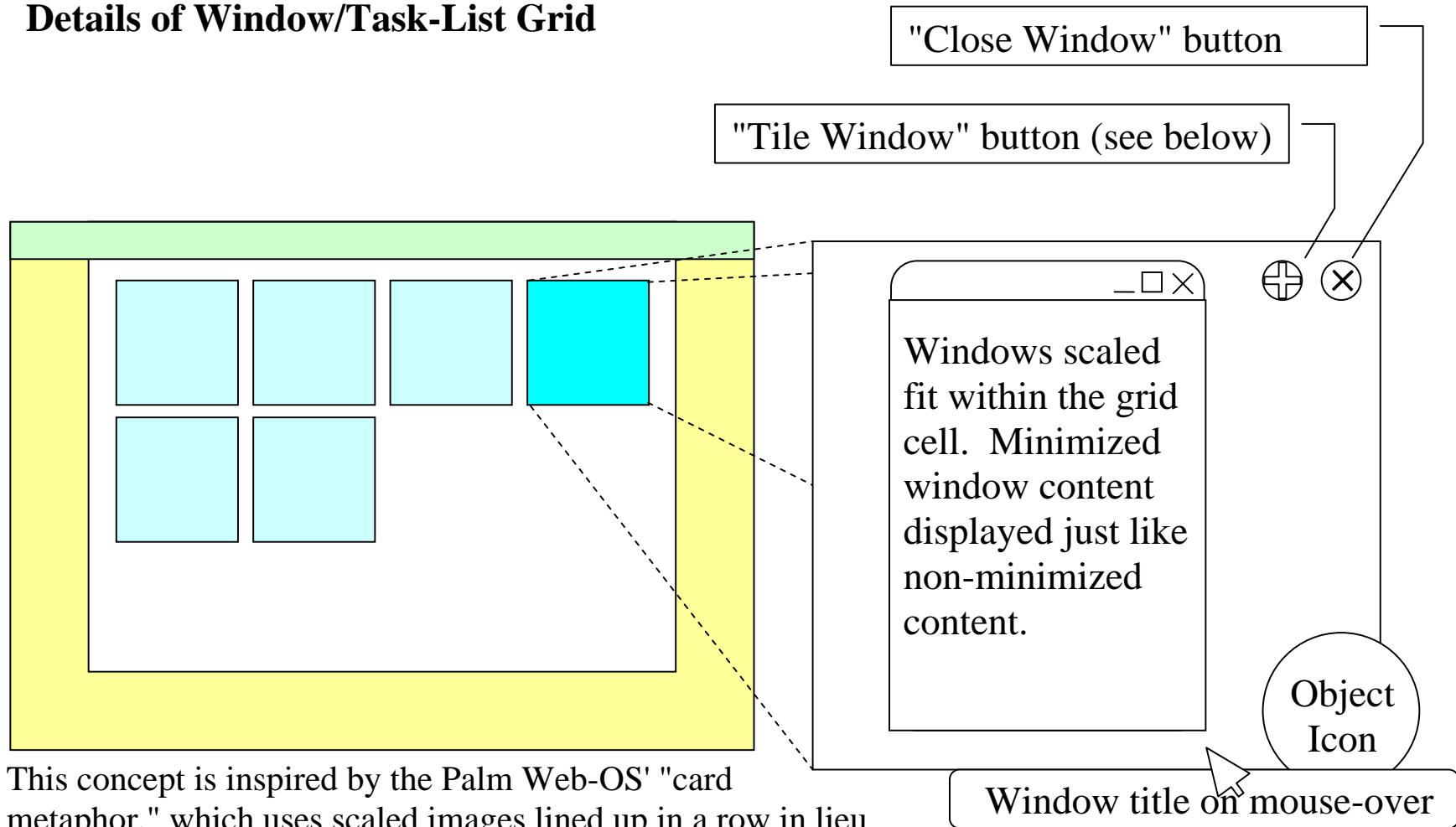
This concept is inspired by the Palm Web-OS' "card metaphor," which uses scaled images lined up in a row in lieu of an open-window list. One reason for using a grid layout instead of an Exposé-like cluster is that in Exposé windows change orientation relative to each other almost at random as new windows are opened. This can slow down a workflow as a user searches for where applications have been repositioned. Grid cells offer a fixed layout; opening a new window doesn't change the position of already open windows.
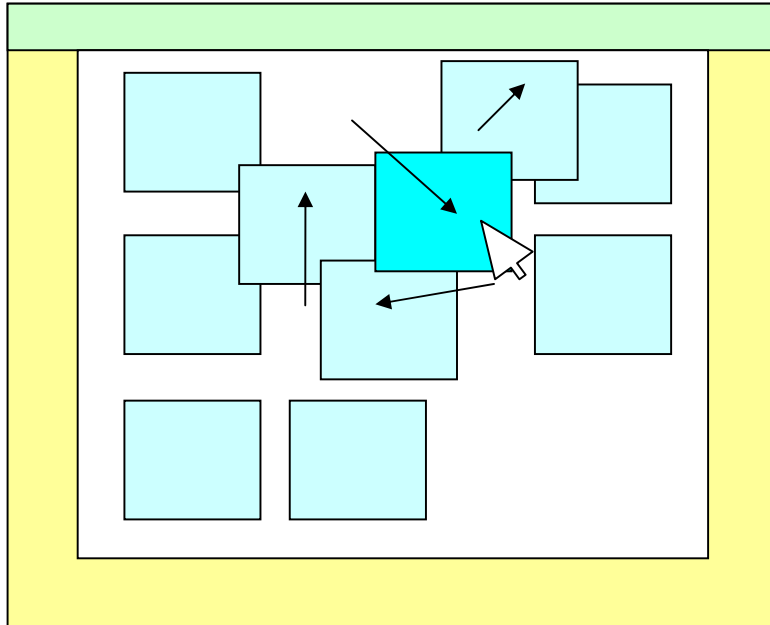
Details of Frame

1) Files shared across all Activity Spaces

2) Files pertinant to this specific Activity Space

Contacts

Files and Applications along Frame borders might be divided between those which are uniform (accessible) across all Activity Spaces, vs. those which are specific to individual Activity Spaces. One's contacts are likely to be the same regardless of activities.
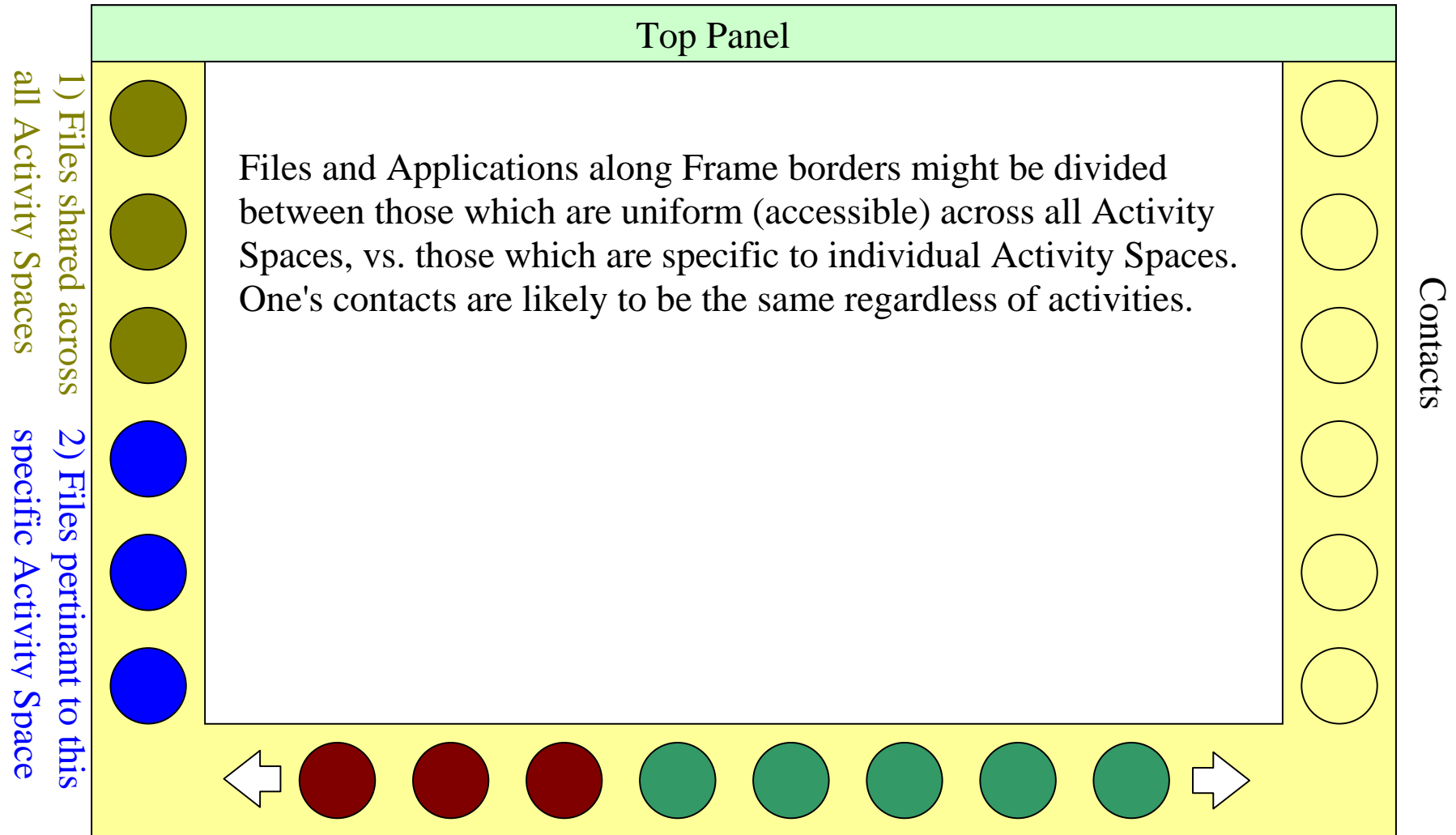
3) Applications shared across all Activity Spaces (user-defined)

4) Applications pertinent to this specific Activity Space (user-defined and/or recently used)

Re-ordering Objects in the Task/Window-List

Some users may want to rearrange tasks to certain keep related windows adjacent to one another

Task/Window-List Scrolling

If the task-list is too big to fit on the screen all at once, a slide bar or like solution could allow scrolling.

Re-arrange the task-list by dragging a grid-cell to a new position. Clutter animation would allow surrounding cells to temporarily move out of the way and reposition themselves.
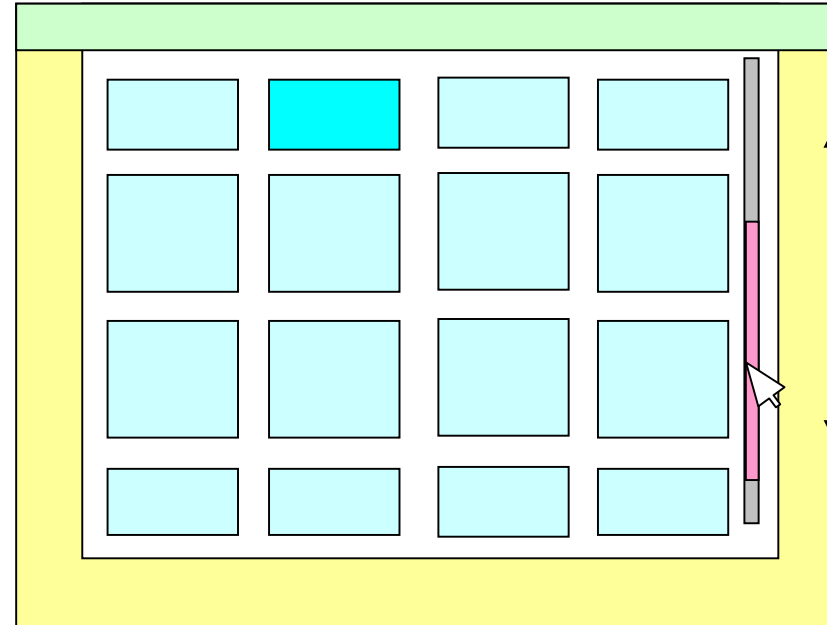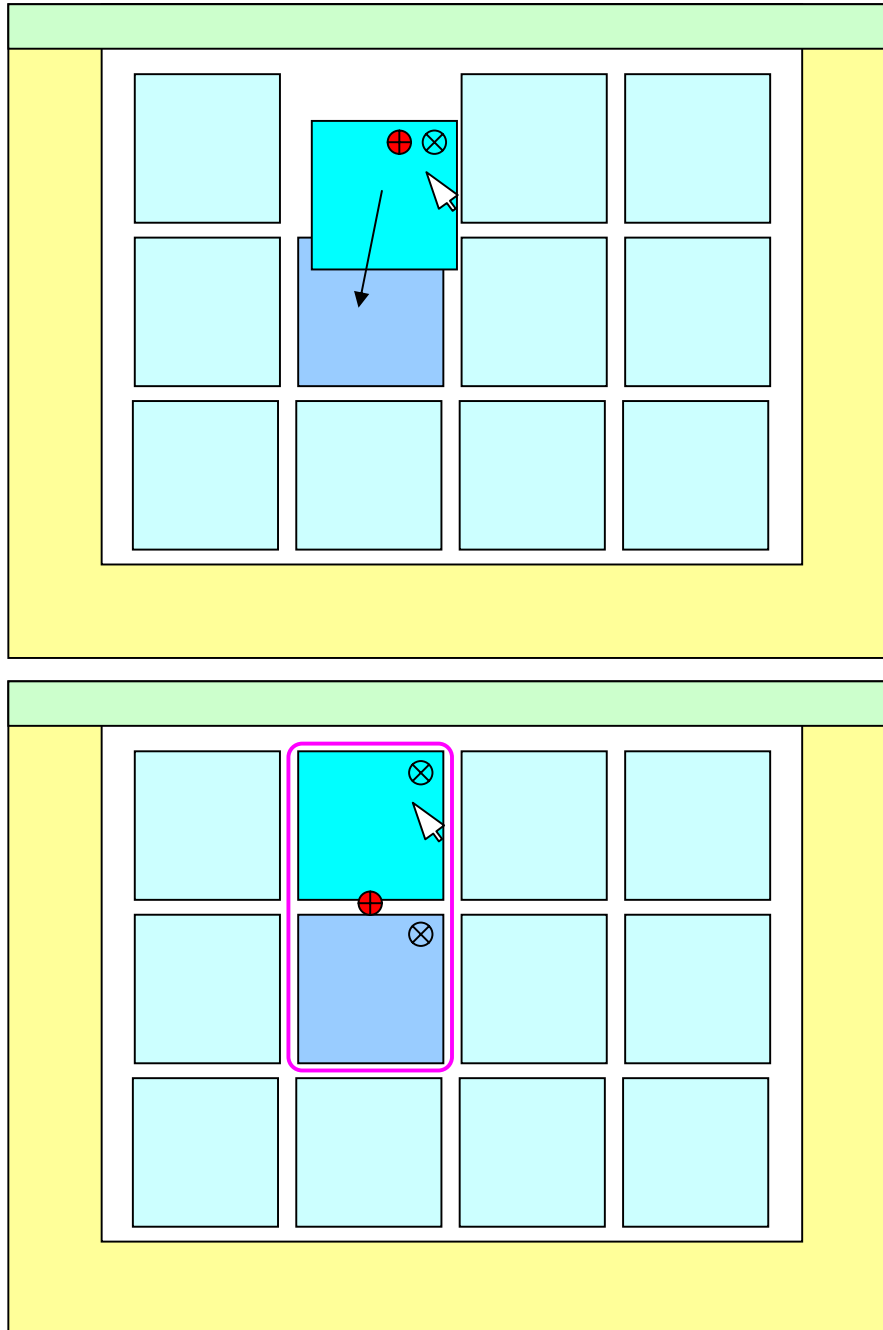
Intuitive Window Tiling

To tile two screens together, click the "Tile Window" button on the window list grid cell. This locks the other window list cells in place, allowing you to drag a window cell over top of the window with which you want to tile. This will tie two windows into a "tile bond."

Tile bounded windows could be visibly distinguished by a highlighted outline or other strong visual marker. The "Tile Window" button could link the two windows together, re-appearing between the two cells. To break the tiling bond, a user could click on the bonded "tile window" button again, and the respective cells would return to their original states.
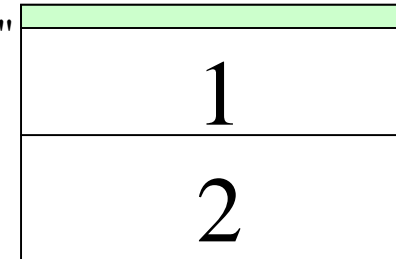
Changing Tiling Orientation

Orientation of tiling, i.e. horizontal or vertical tiling, could be represented graphically by the window grid orientation of window cells. To change the orientation of tiled windows from horizontally tiled to vertical or vice versa, the user could drag one of the bounded tiles to the desired orientation.
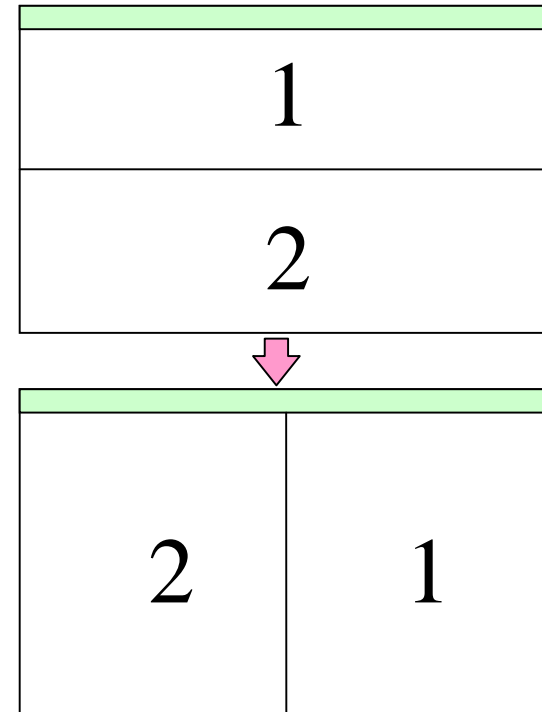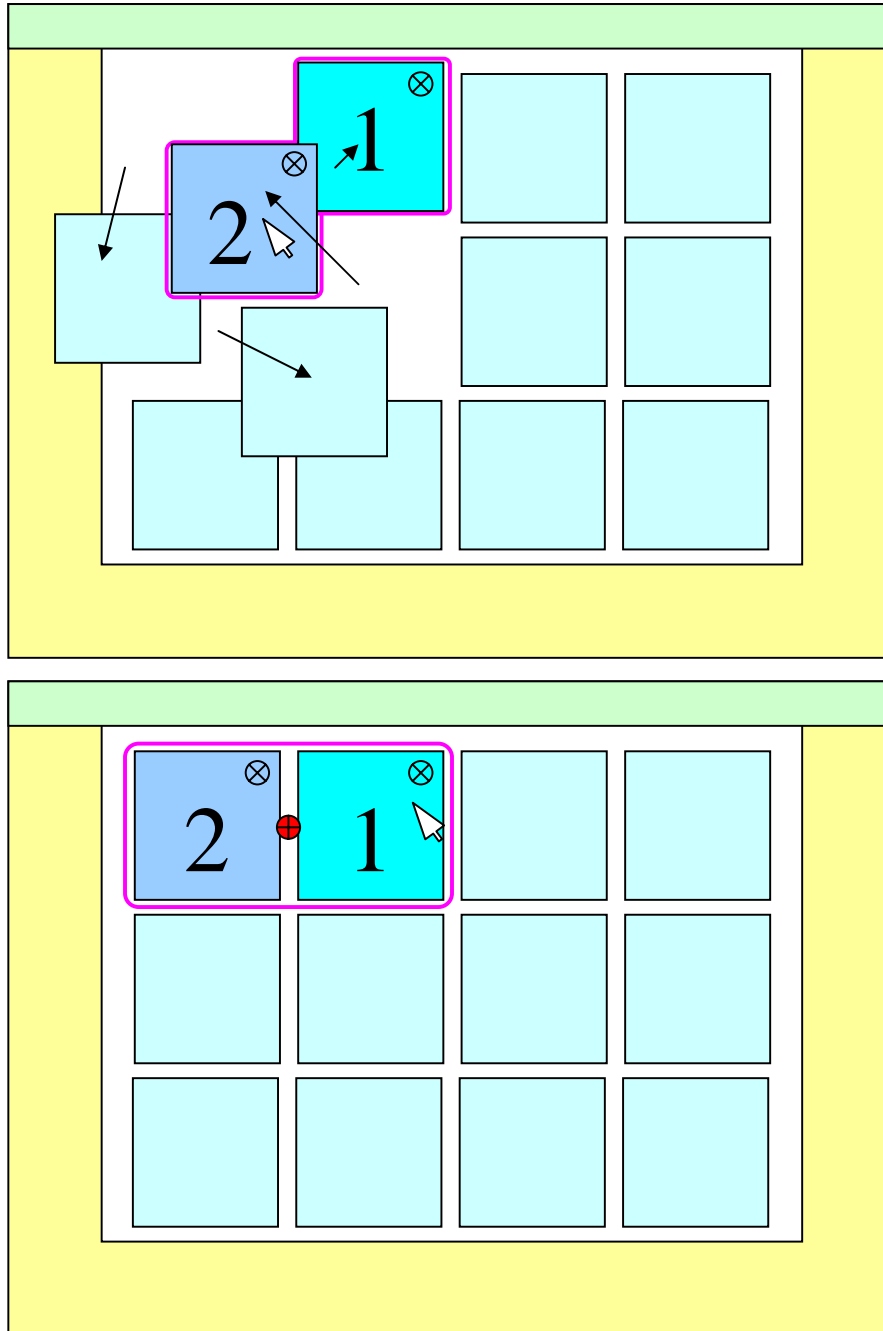
Alternative: Exposé with Frame Overlay -- Instead of using a grid, open windows could be shown in an Exposé-like view. Pros: this allows open windows to be displayed with larger preview images, and I believe this looks better. Cons: it may functionally overlap too much with the primary Gnome-shell overlay mode, and opening new windows changes task layout.

Top Panel

Files

Contacts

Tools and Applications