Vision for Bamboo Live

By: Ianus Keller (concept development) & Bastiaan Terhorst (interaction design)

Why Bamboo Live?

Buying a Bamboo is great fun, and it comes with high **expectations**: both of what it can do for you and what you plan to do with it. However, in many cases the tablet doesn't get integrated in the **daily routine** and the Bamboo **disappears** under the rest of a messy desk or even gets disconnected.

The main problem lies in the **all-in** or **all-out** concept of a tablet. It's not easy to **dip** into using the Bamboo. The expressive, freehand nature of the tablet provides too **much** freedom and not a good place to **start**. Finally, it's hard to quickly get an idea of the **possibilities** of the tablet and even of **yourself** with the tablet.

Bamboo Live tries make the **connection** between you and the tablet **stronger**.

Hoit Lim bought a Bamboo because of its packaging and five months later the tablet is hidden under a messy desk. http://flickr.com/hoithink

Stronger connection

To reach a stronger even **emotional** connection, Bamboo Live needs to appeal to different levels: **behavioral**, **social**, **physical** and **digital**. Therefore it needs to:

- **Lower the barrier** of use: Bamboo Live makes it easier to **start** using the tablet, but also makes it easier to **get back** into mouse/keyboard mode.

- Give the Bamboo a clear **message**: make it easy to **explain** (both to yourself and your friends/colleagues) what you can **do** with the Bamboo

- Integrate Bamboo hard- and software: **blurring** the line between the **physical** and **digital** interaction with a tablet.

- Connect Bamboo beyond the computer: to the **internet**, to other people, **web apps** and even other Bamboos.

A stronger emotional connection with your Bamboo: taking it on the road, spreading the word and blurring the line. "love my bamboo" http://flickr.com/j_m_c/2142790085/
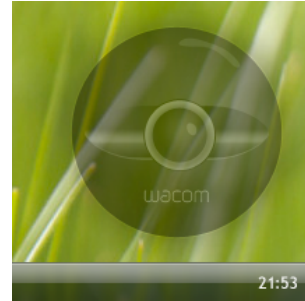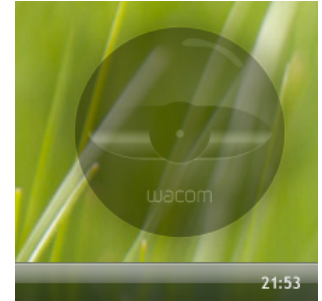
Bamboo Live

The proposed solution starts with solving the **blank page syndrome**. Inviting people to start using their Bamboo without having an intended **goal** or **expectation**.

As shown on the right Bamboo Live uses the pen stand as a **digital reminder** of the Bamboo. It **responds** to tablet activation, but can also work with mouse input. In its different states the **pen stand** and **Touch Ring** are used to blur the physical-digital divide.
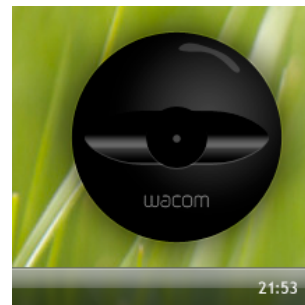
Using subtle changes in the **periphery** is an optimal way to grab attention. This way the pen stand **invites** you to start and explore Bamboo Live's **mini-applications** called Penamajams.
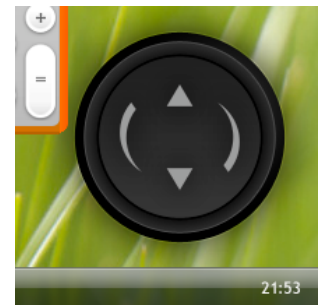

1/ When you don't use the tablet a transparent pen stand with pen sits in the corner of your screen.

2/ When the tablet detects a pen, you notice a subtle change, the pen stand goes empty.

3/ When you move your pen to the location of the pen stand it becomes fully visible.

4/ Clicking on the pen stand, the first Penamajam appears and the stand becomes the Touch Ring.

HotKeysPenamajam: An expressive way to assign functions to the buttons on your Bamboo by dragging the labels on the right button.

Penamajams

Penamajams are gadgets that are optimized for tablet interaction. With Penamajams you can perform **short**, **fun**, **expressive** interactions. They are similar to the **gadgets** as used in Windows Vista (or Mac OS X / Yahoo! Widgets), but instead of focusing on **glanceable** information, the Penamajams in Bamboo Live focus on glanceable **interaction**.

Penamajams can function **standalone** as mini-apps, but are even better when they are **connected** to bigger things, such as **applications** or **web apps**.

Penamajam examples

Below are some **examples** of Penamajams that could be bundled with Bamboo Live. The list is far from finished and it is quite easy to quickly **brainstorm** several other examples.

As shown, the Penamajams **vary** in style, content and depth. Some of them may appeal to the different **personas** defined for Bamboo (Cathy, Joyce and Peter). The Penamajams you can cater to these different personas by using a **visual style, content** and **depth** that fits these personas similar to the different models in the Bamboo line.

Want more?

- Crayon Physics: solve puzzles with your artistic vision and creative use of physics.
- ImageStream: subscribe to images on Flickr or DeviantArt and organize them by throwing them in the right bucket.
- To Do: Check off finished tasks from your Outlook or webbased todo list.
- Line Rider: draw a smooth track for Bosh to ride on.
- Ink Calculator: jot down your calculations and have them recognized and solved.
- PictoChat: Nintendo DS style visual chat.

And the list goes on…

HotKeys: change, reorganize your tablet button settings expressively with a fun 'drag and drop' interface.

AnnotationSpace: quickly drag image files from your computer or the web into the right stack in your space.

Wall: explore the tablet's pressure sensitivity with the advice of Leonardo da Vinci, to explore a neglected wall.

InkNote: written sticky notes, that can be converted to text (e.g. through the online Evernote service).

WebSudoku: put your last game to rest, stare at it for a while and use gestures to explore rows and columns.

Ergo: quickly fire up an ergo search or look at the visualizations of your last queries.

Doodle: participate in a collaborative art piece by drawing over an example. http://tenthousandcents.com

Activitoy: track, visualize and share your pen movement with friends, coworkers, Bamboos. studiolab.nl/tinytools/activitoy

Penamajam attributes

Instead of focusing on house style and visual consistency, Penamajams focus on consistency in interaction and feel. On one hand the Penamajams will grab attention with **excitement** and **expressivity**, core values to the Wacom brand. On the other hand the Penamajams are also humble, in the way that they are **light** and **simple**.

The balance is found by keeping the interaction with Penamajams **short** and **snappy**. The platform, the size and the aesthetics support this **lightness**, as illustrated below.

An example scenario of how your initial reaction to the AnnotationSpace Penamajam could be: a humble beginning, but by its interaction you get pulled in, making you think of its other possible uses.

Development

As with Vista gadgets and Mac / Yahoo! widgets, Penamajams rely on **standard internet technologies** (html, javascript, flash, silverlight etc.), which will make it **extensible**, open and **connected** to the internet and its community.

To support **pressure sensitivity,** we need to use Microsoft's **Silverlight** plugin, but pressure sensitivity is not **necessary** for all Penamajams.

The existing gadget platforms already appeal to **developers** that like to build **expressive**, **simple**, **light** applications. Most of these gadgets can be found on lively, community sites with developers and users in **close contact**.

In an **ideal** scenario, the current Vista gadgets, Mac OS X widgets and Yahoo! widgets are directly **supported** and can become part of the **Bamboo Live** experience.

Roadmap

The vision described above is quite **extensive** and **ambitious**, but can be reached in smaller feasible steps.

One option is to start out by developing the **launching system** for Bamboo Live with limited Penamajams, but with a good **updating mechanism**.

The other option is to start by developing some gadgets or widgets for the **existing** platforms (Yahoo! Vista and/or Mac OS X). By presenting these as the Bamboo Live family, Wacom can **follow up** with the launching system.