

# **How the Plasma Active Human Interface Guidelines Makes the Life of Developers and Users Easier**

# About Me

- History with KDE:
  - Joined Season of Usability 2008 (KDE HIG and UI Patterns)
  - Worked a bit with Amarok
  - Worked with Calligra
  - Joined Plasma Active in 2011
- Current KDE involvement
  - Plasma Active HIGs and interaction design
  - Calligra UX consultancy

# Why Human Interface Guidelines?

- Consistency
  - +Knowledge transfer
  - +Expectation conformity
- Proven Concepts that life easier for
  - Users
  - Developers
  - Interaction / UI Designers

# Why Especially in Active Apps?

- Plasma Active Goals:
  - “Intuitive” interfaces (“Walk up and use”)
  - Seamless experience (Blurring borders between applications)
- Touch / Mobile Interfaces (with QML):
  - Less “unwritten conventions” / standards
  - Less examples / experience available
  - More possibilities / freedom

# Types of Active HIGs

- General Guidelines / Best Practices
- Widget-/Component-related Guidelines
- Detail Guidelines (wording, fonts, etc.)
- Integration Guidelines (e.g. SLC)

# Structure of an Active HIG

An HIG usually answers these questions:

- When (range of application / purpose of widget/component)
- What (description of the widget/component/practice)
- Why (rationale, optional)
- How (code to implement guideline, if applicable)
  
- **Example**

# Where and Who

- Where are they?

<http://community.kde.org/Plasma/Active/Development/ActiveHIG>

(preliminary location)

- Who are they for?

- Developers
- Interface / Interaction Designers
- (Translators / l10n / i18n)

# Current Status

- Most new UI ideas/concepts currently implemented are reflected in HIG
  - No basic guidelines yet
  - No code sections yet
- ➔ Already useful, but still a lot of work



# Future Plans

- Finish existing HIGs
- Improve existing HIGs based on feedback
- Cover all basic topics (currently empty pages)
- Create HIGs on request by HIG users
- Create HIGs for new widgets/components/concepts

# What you can do

- Use the HIGs :)
- Give feedback ([active@kde.org](mailto:active@kde.org))
- Request new HIGs
- Help with writing new HIGs (just ping me at [colomar@autistici.org](mailto:colomar@autistici.org))

Thank you for listening.  
Now let's rock the device world together!