Web applications and the Desktop

An open source perspective

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Background

- Open source desktop
  - Linux, *BSD, Solaris
  - GNOME, KDE, ...
- Very diverse environment
  - Multiple toolkits: GTK+, Qt, Java, XUL, OpenOffice, ...
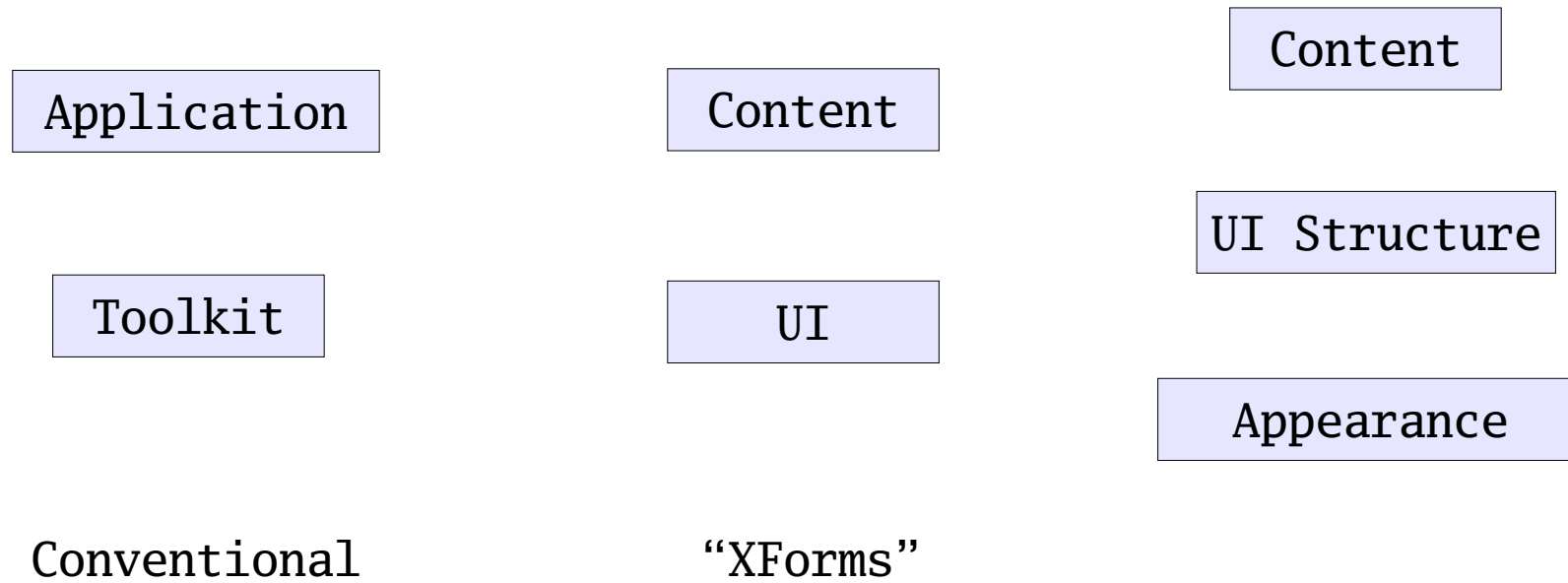 - Multiple looks

Webapps and the Desktop

- Developer convergence
  - Common technologies
  - Is the "desktop app" dead?
- User convergence
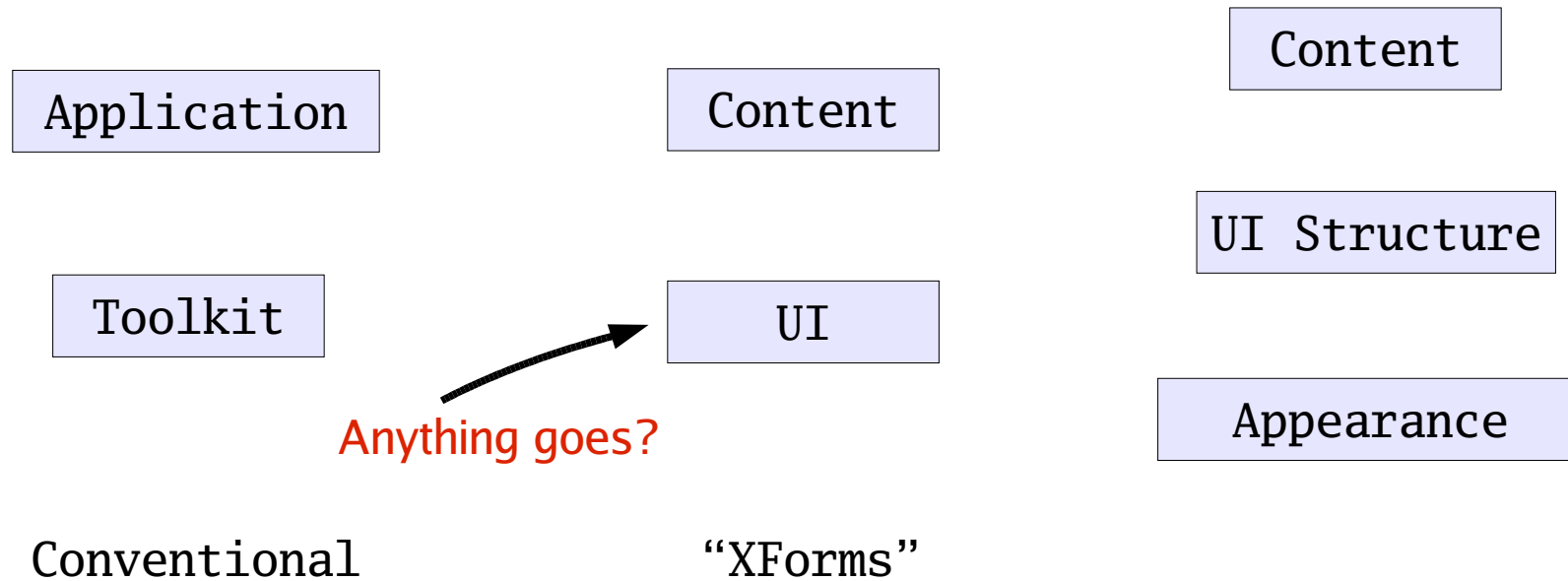 - Seamless integration
  - Match look + feel

Thin standardization

- Standardize infrastructure, not entire toolkits
- Goal: download application + toolkit from web
- Toolkit development should be freewheeling
  - **Open source**
  - Commercial
- Don't pull in huge stack of standards
  - Implementation barrier
  - Confusing for developers

Different models

Application	
Toolkit	

Conventional

Content	
UI	

"XForms"

	Content
UI Structure	
Appearance	

Different models

| Application |

| Toolkit |

Conventional

| Content |

Anything goes? → | UI |

"XForms"

| Content |

| UI Structure |

| Appearance |

Different models

Application

Toolkit
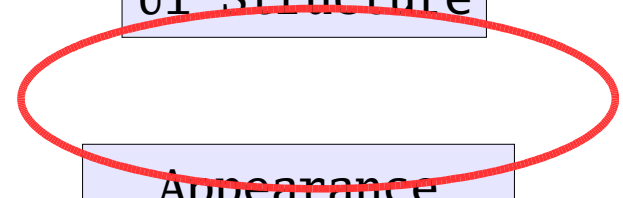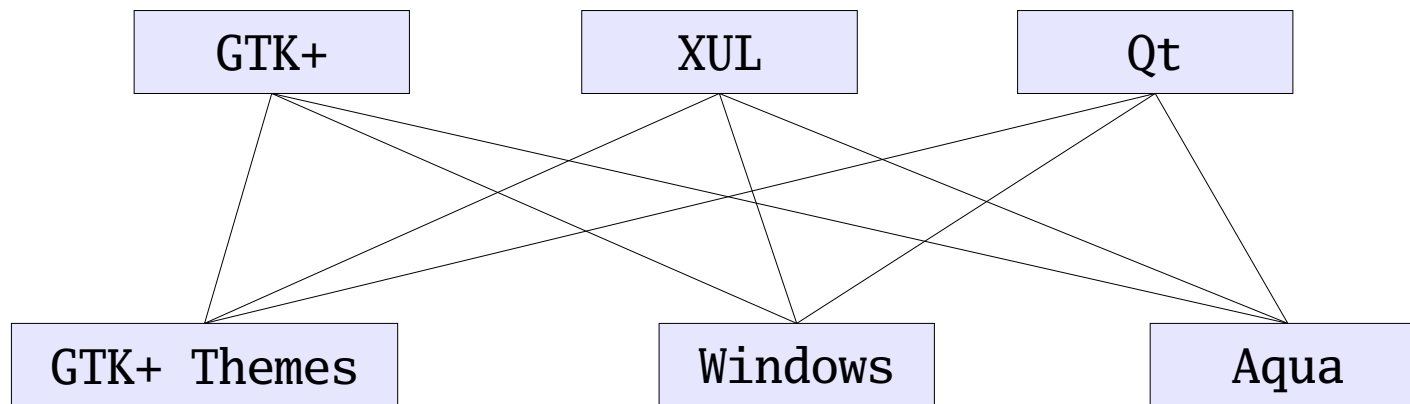
Conventional

Content

UI

"XForms"

Content

UI Structure

Appearance

Theming

- Not Content/UI separation but Structure/Look separation

- Point of interaction between desktop toolkit + webapps?

Theming (2)

- Can we standardize what a theme looks like?