DJing Beyond the Turntable

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(this presentation's resemblence to chaksem is strictly not coincidental) — that one's for you, jaq

Traditional DJing

… but records suck

Disadvantages:

- Big
- Heavy
- Not durable
- Big
- Heavy
- **BIG**
- **HEAVY**

Modern DJing

Really Modern DJing

(and maybe)

Really Modern DJing Sucks

VS

Why are Turntables better?

User Interface:

- Fast, precise, easily accessible: *seeking*, *pause*, *unpause*, *pitch control*

Really Really Modern DJing

Upping the Ante

Improving on Turntables:

- What if we can achieve faster, more preciser, more easilier accessibler *seeking*, *pause*, *unpause*, and *pitch control*?

Learn a lesson from compilers:

- Ahead-of-time is usually less complex than just-in-time
- i.e. Plan the next mix while the current song is playing
  - Non-scary term = "Timeshifting"
- Impossible with turntables

User Interfaces for DJing
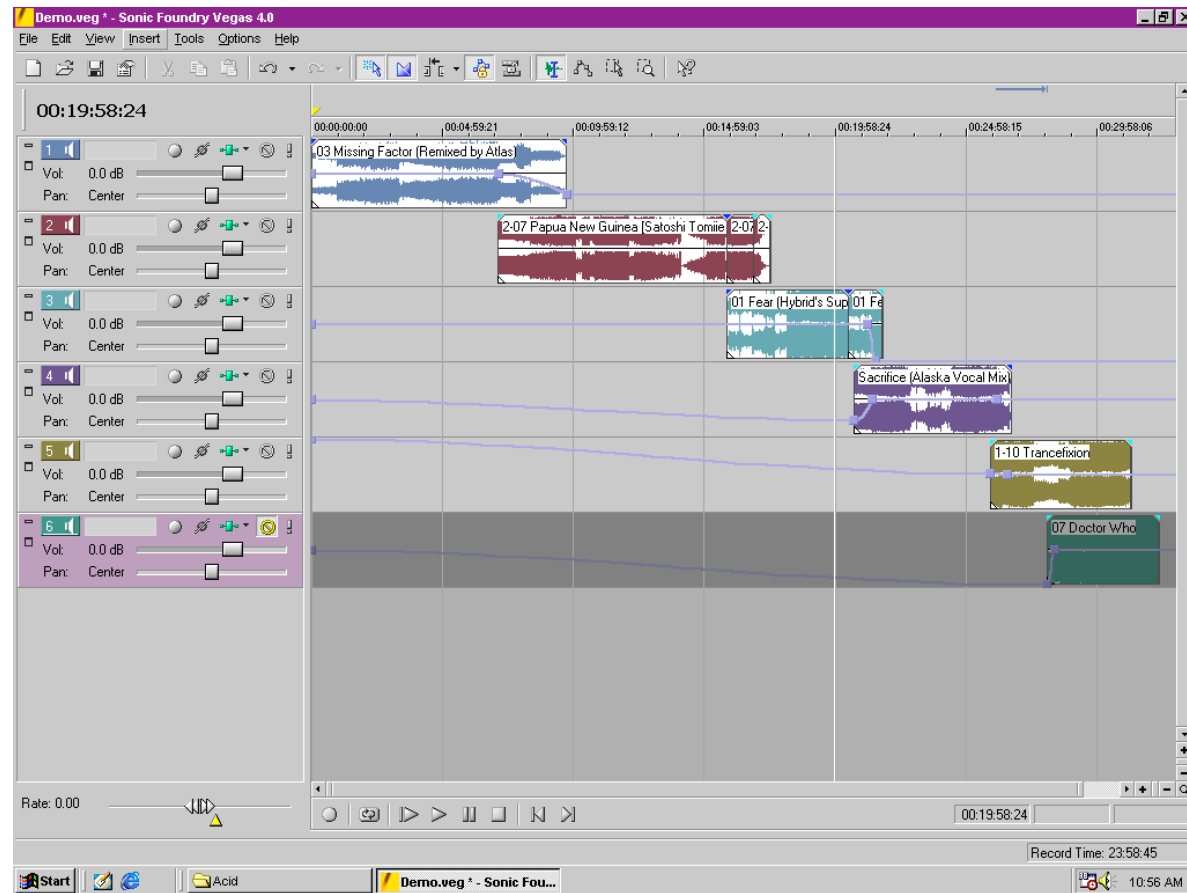
"Real-world" interfaces:

- Traditional vinyl-spinning decks
- Traditional decks + EQ, looping
- CD turntables with looping, auto-BPM detection

Computer interfaces:

- Turntable/CD turntable paradigm
  - … maybe with some waveform display if you're lucky

UI Proposal: Multitrack Editor

Multitrack Editors

Properties:

- Interface is streamlined for editing

- e.g. Protools, Vegas, Ardour

- i.e. streamlined for seeking, cutting, pasting, splicing, dicing, and mixing audio tracks

    - … splicing, dicing, mixing? Isn't that DJing?

Multitrack editing interface for DJing

- Need easily accessible time/pitch adjustment

    - … not necessarily timestretching (pitch doesn't need to stay the same with varying time)

- That's it!

Not Quite There Yet

Realtime DJing:

- Requires separate *performance* (master) and *monitor* audio outputs

- Requires independent and *simultaneous* playback of performance/monitor outputs

So this was where I was meant to show you my totally mindblowing demo (dude).

Alas, I got sidetracked by skiing and midori & cranberry.
So you'll have to watch a slightly less mindblowing demo instead.

The Wish List

Proper realtime DJing support

- Simultaneous playback of performance/monitor outputs

DJ-oriented editing accoutrements

- (I always wanted to use that word in a presentation … ahhh, accoutrements, so schweet)
- Stretching samples at any point instead of endpoints
- Automagic time-alignment and stretching of markers/ regions
- Looping facilities like CD DJ consoles
- Saved 'crates' of pre-mixed songs

Exploring the DJ Space

Enables new DJ techniques

- Focus taken away from mixing skill

  … mixing is easy now!

- Instead, focus on splicing tracks, looping, and on-the-fly re-editing of songs to tailor to audience/crowd

- Put an end to all those goddamn chillout CDs having exactly the same tracks (though they'll still sound the same anyway) Behold ozone beatz vol 3!!

Now it's just a simple matter of coding :-)

^D