

Re: [Usability] Ellipsis on buttons

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- *From:* Shaun McCance <shaunm@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 23 Mar 2006 11:17:15 -0600
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On Thu, 2006-03-23 at 14:50 +0000, Alan Horkan wrote:

On Thu, 23 Mar 2006, Calum Benson wrote:

Date: Thu, 23 Mar 2006 11:56:56 +0000
From: Calum Benson <Calum.Benson@xxxxxxx>
To: Joachim Noreiko <jnoreiko@xxxxxxxxxx>
Cc: Gnome usability <usability@xxxxxxxxxx>, GNOME Documentation <gnome-doc-list@xxxxxxxxxx>
Subject: Re: [Usability] Ellipsis on buttons

On 23 Mar 2006, at 09:26, Joachim Noreiko wrote:

How do I describe a button that only says '...' ?

You describe it as a bug which must be fixed.

Why isn't it just a combo box?

Eg, in the Keyboard prefs, Layouts tab.

Probably "Browse" or "Open" depending on the context. It would be interesting to know what the accessible description of those buttons are, as that's what will be read out by a screenreader. (If they don't have a proper one, that's a bug.)

Buttons should be labelled.

Developers should be slapped for not properly labelling things. (Reading documentation to find out what things do should be an option not a necessity.)

Re: [Usability] Ellipsis on buttons

There is no really no excuse, dialogs all need to be able to reflow and resize with different font sizes and themes. Localisation needs to be done anyway and there really isn't any point cutting corners by not labelling buttons.

Oh, come now. We use iconography for all sorts of purposes in our interfaces. Should drop-down menus remove their arrows in favor of a "Select" label? Should disclosure triangles be removed in favor of "Open/close group" buttons?

This need to label everything gives us bulky and cumbersome interfaces. One reason Mac interfaces often feel slick and efficient is that Apple isn't afraid to use their icons.

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Shaun

Usability mailing list
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