DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OVERVIEW OF X

1. What is the X Window system? How does it relate to the course?

2. What can we infer from the structure and tone of the paper?

CONTRIBUTIONS OF X

3. What are the contributions of X? How different from previous work? (See p.80)
   A. device independence
   B. separation of clients and servers
   C. customizability

4. What are the benefits of device independence? What are the costs?

5. What are the benefits of separating clients and servers? The costs?
   --Also, how does X get good network performance?
   --Let’s discuss exposures (section 7). What’s going on here?


GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT X

7. How does X incorporate or violate modularity, abstraction, hierarchy, and layering?

8. Is X an example of NJ school ("Worse is better") or MIT school ("Right thing")?

9. In many client-server applications, there is a tension about where to place functions. How does this tension relate to X?

10. Why did X dominate on Unix? (There were other windowing systems.) See p.107.

6.033 EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY!

We try to encourage creativity and individual expression, so here is a totally optional, just-for-fun extra credit opportunity:

--Write either ONE triolet (you may need to look up the definition) or THREE haikus related to 6.033, either the general concepts or particular papers.

--The requirements are that you should:
   --obey the poetry form (for triolets, this means not just following the rhyme scheme but also using the repeated lines in different ways); and
   --express something