



Integration is the Best Feature



INTEGRATION

Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.



What *is* Integration?

→ ***Integration*** is achieved when two or more components can exchange data with each other. (my def.)

- Protocols
- File formats
- Libraries
- Embedding



Integration Within the Desktop

- Libraries (KIO)
- Cut&Paste
- Drag&Drop
- Kparts
- Plugins



Increasing
specificity
to a certain
application

More powerful



Increasing
possible use by
more applications

More general



Integration Outside the Desktop

- KIO
- Integration with various external services. Ex:
 - Weather applet in Plasma
 - Panoramio in Marble
- Integration with apps through file format filters
 - KOffice



Integration has Value!

Integration makes the **user**
work
more efficiently!



How to Think about Integration

1. How can I **connect to / use other** applications or frameworks?
2. How can I structure my project to make it **easier to use for others**
 - As a whole?
 - In parts?
3. **Tell** people about it!



How to Think about Integration

Lower the barriers!

→ Good examples:

- KIO
- Phonon

→ (In Gnome 2.24 roadmap, 9 applications has “Integrate with GIO/GVFS” as an action item.)





Example 1: Marble

→ The Marble Manifesto

“Marble is meant to become for "geo browsers" what KHTML/WebKit is for web browsers already.”

(Torsten “tackat” Rahn)



→ This means:

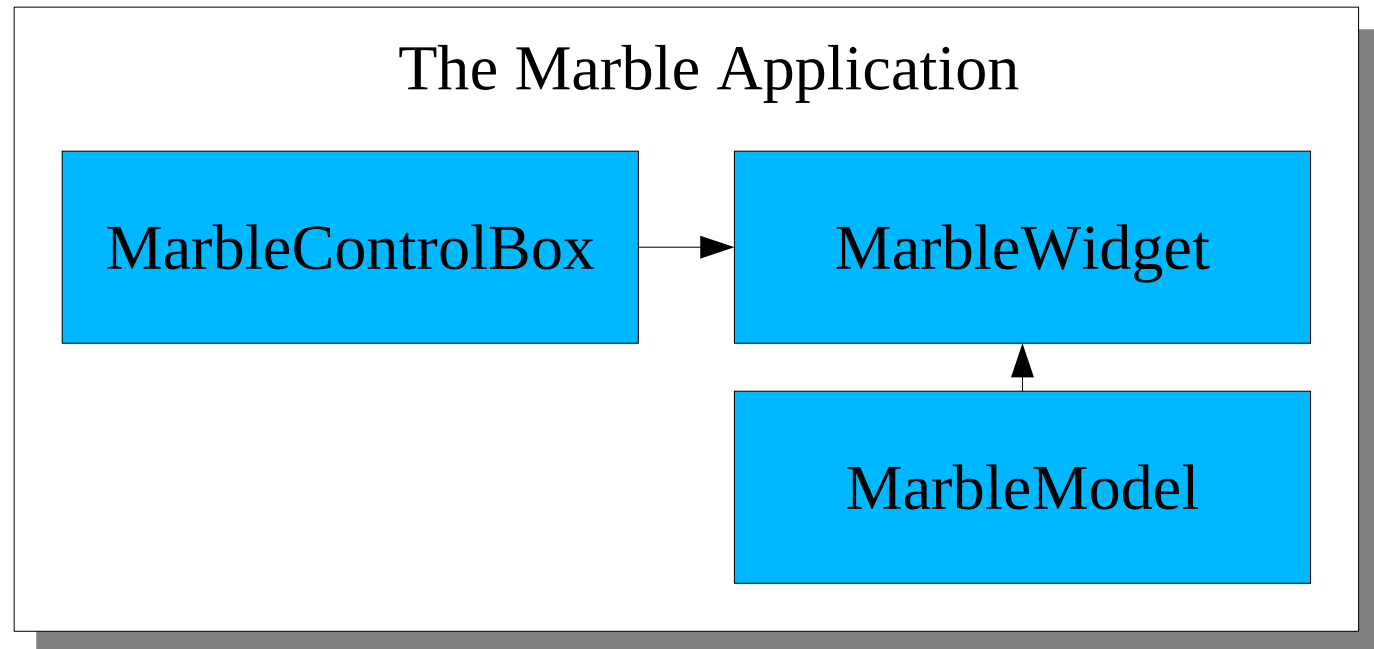
- Integration everywhere

→ **Demo**



Marble Architecture

→ The Marble Architecture, take 1





Marble

→ Integration done with MarbleWidget:

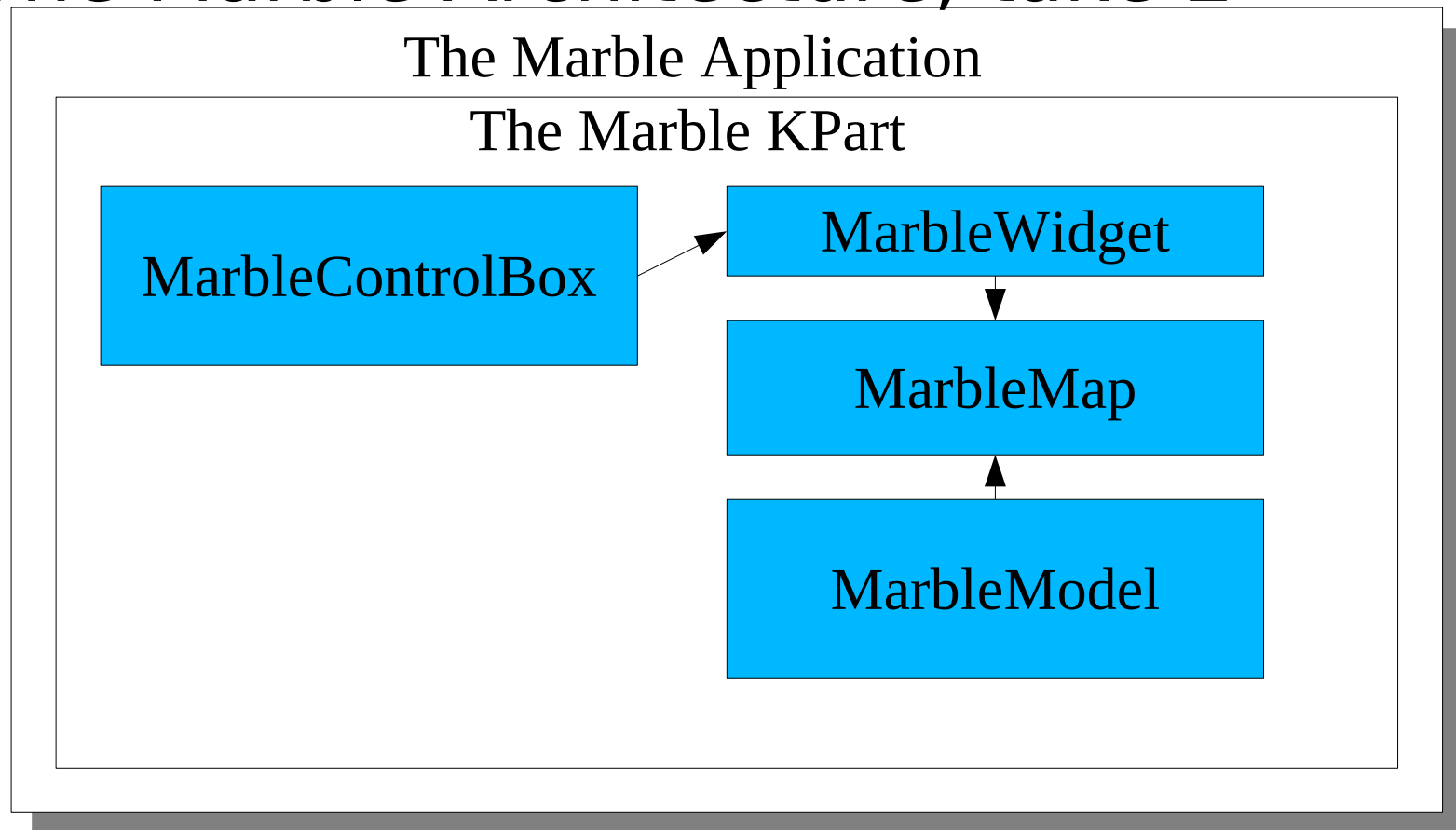
- Qt Only application
- Digikam





Marble

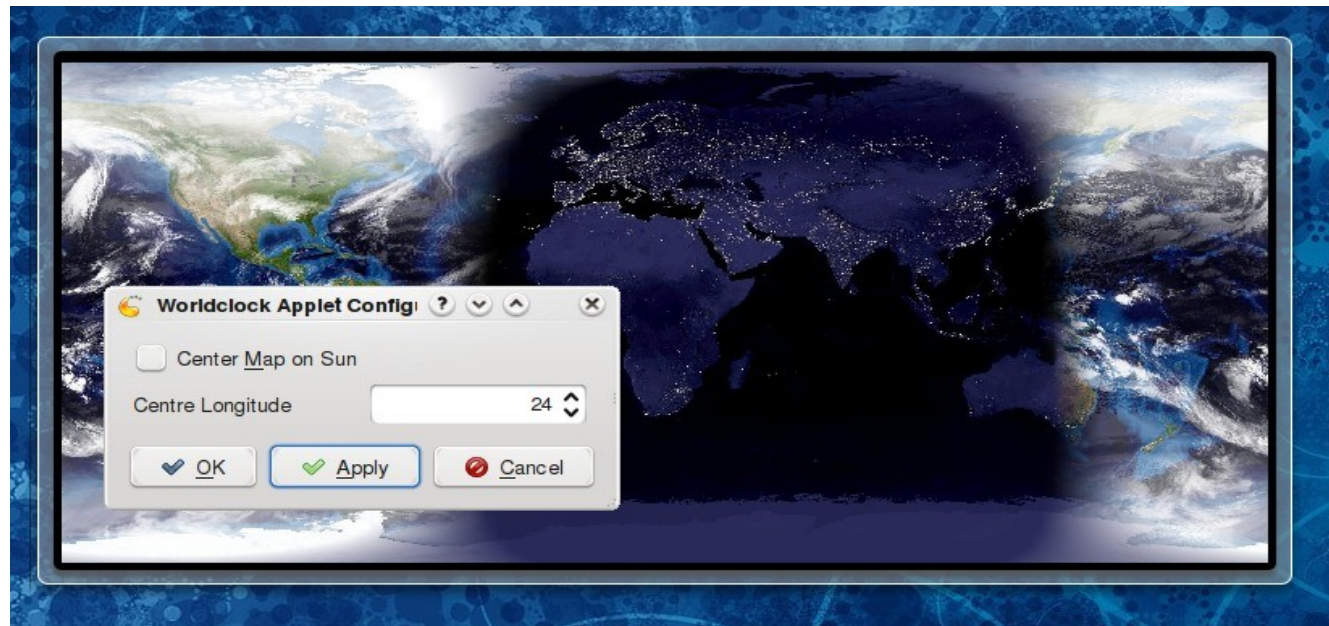
→ The Marble Architecture, take 2





Example 1: Marble

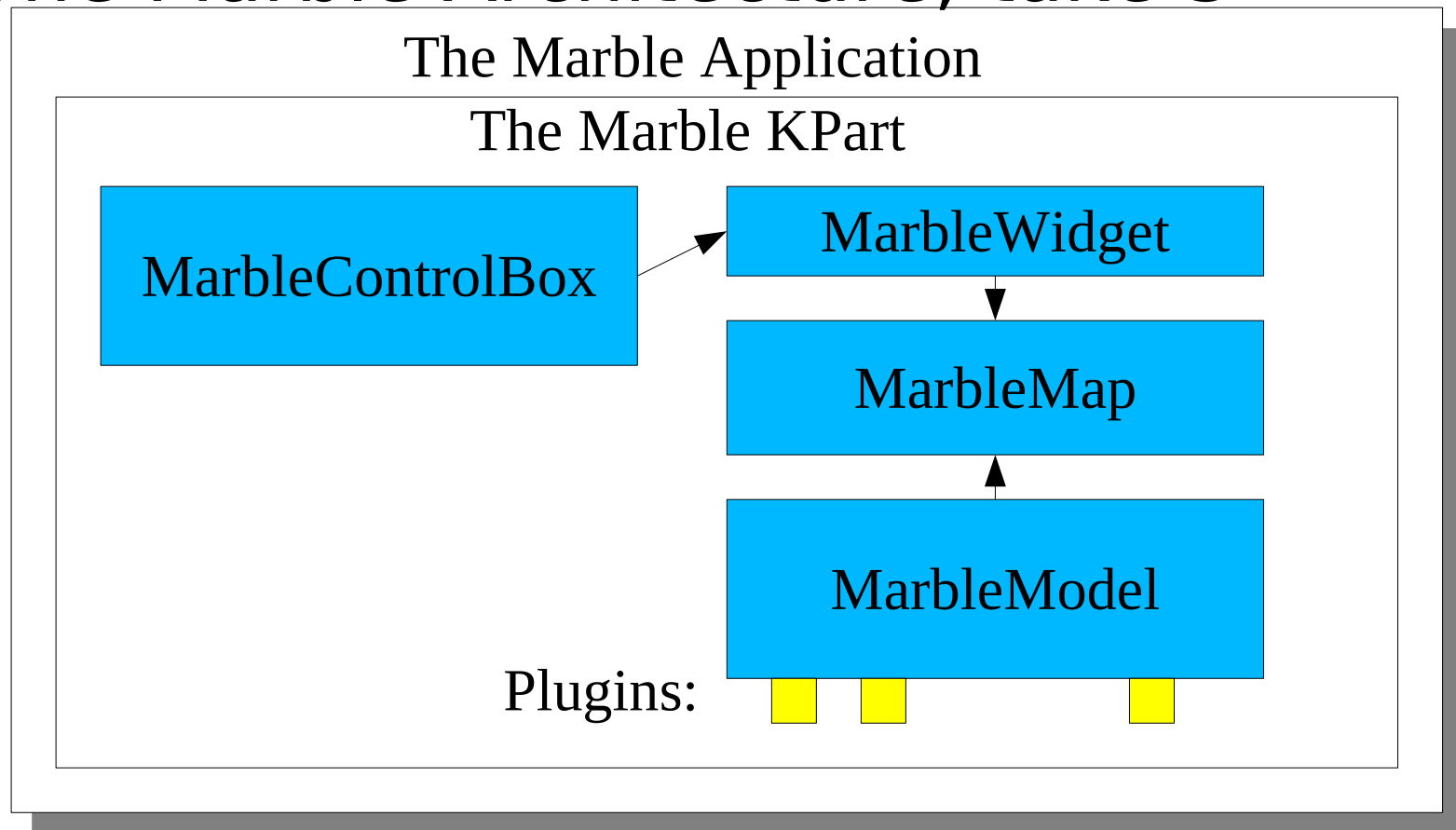
- Integration done with MarbleMap
 - Marble in a Plasmoid
 - Marble Flake Shape (KOffice)





Example 1: Marble

→ The Marble Architecture, take 3





Example 1: Marble

- Integration done with plugins
 - Panoramio (SoC)
 - Twitter

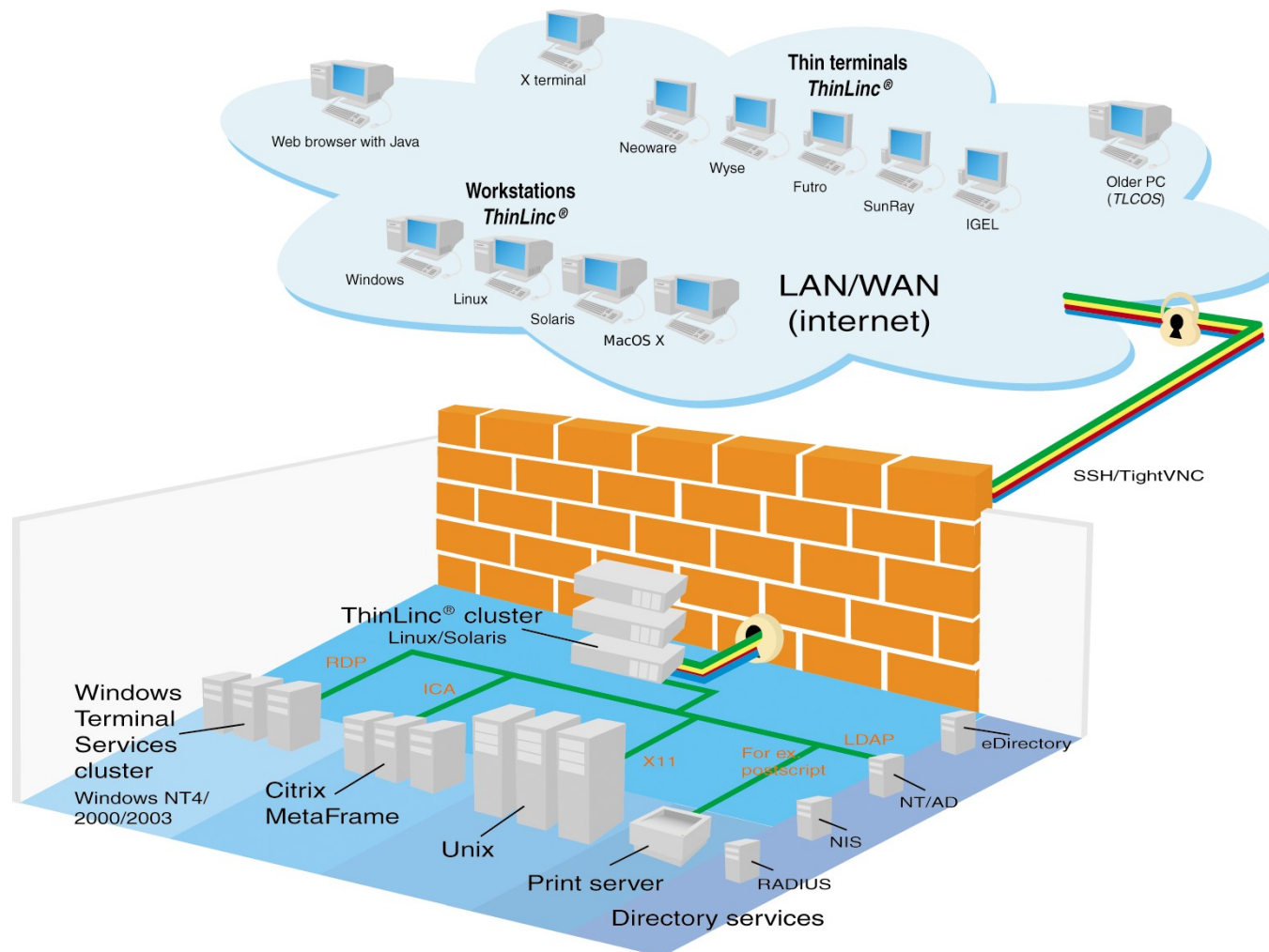


Example 2: KOffice

- Everything is a plugin!
 - Shapes
 - Color modes
 - Tools
- Libraries are made available to other applications
 - Koodf (not yet released)



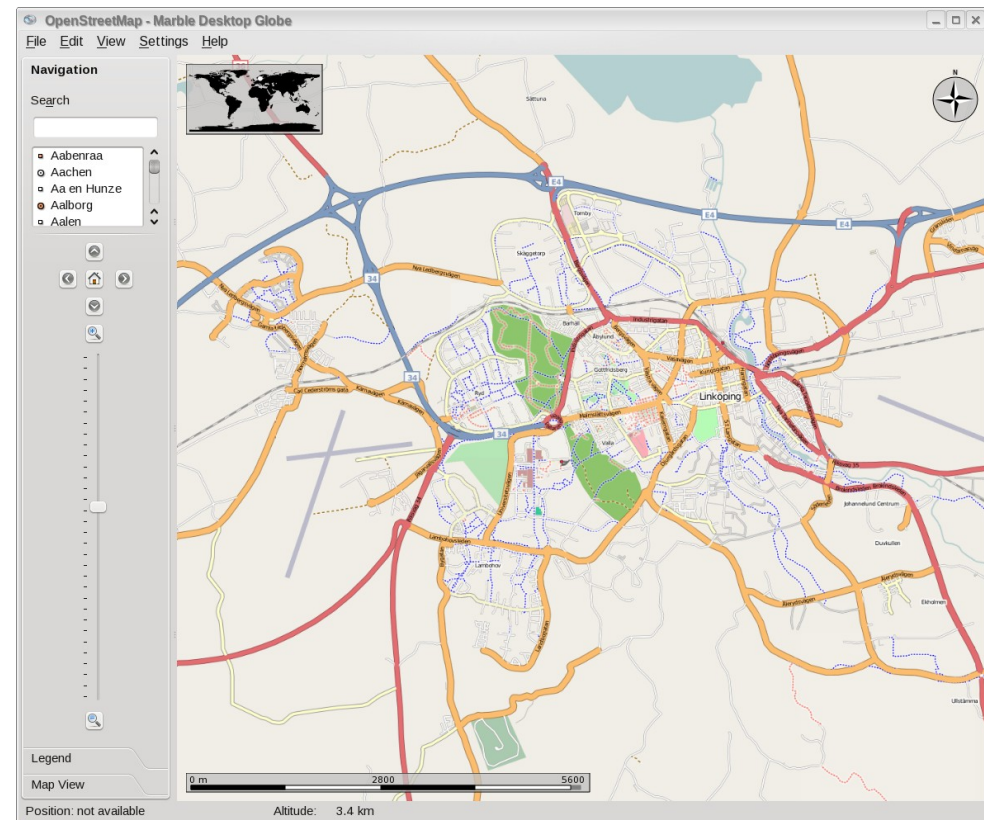
Commercial Example: ThinLinc





Integration is the Best Feature

You will get
more new users
by
integrating
with something
than by adding
any new feature





The Dark Side of Integration

“Anybody can choose any desktop platform, but let's face it: Microsoft applications work best with Microsoft infrastructure.”

Sebastian Nyström

Director, Technology Strategy, Nokia



The Dark Side of Integration

- So, you want to exclude the others, eh?
 - Don't document your protocols and file formats
 - Make subtle changes and/or extensions to them.
- Now you can be well integrated, and others can not! >:-)
- Note: You need to have a monopoly to do this.



The Bottom Line

- Integration has great value!
- Integration will:
 - Get you more users
 - Improve your current users experience.
 - Increase your users workflow
 - Help newbies come into the project!



Think!

How can **you** restructure your project to allow better integration?