CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method to facilitate online collaboration, the method comprising:

granting access to a collaboration space to multiple client devices, each associated with a corresponding one of multiple users, the multiple users including a first user and a second user;

receiving input from the first user to create a first set of graphical objects in the collaboration space;

receiving input from the second user to create a second set of graphical objects in the collaboration space;

applying different visual attributes to graphical objects authored by different users to visually identify an author or creator of each graphical object such that all graphical objects of the first set of graphical objects have a first visual attribute and all graphical objects of the second set of graphical objects have a second visual attribute that is different than the first visual attribute;

receiving input indicating that the visual attribute of all graphical objects of the first set of graphical objects is to change to a third visual attribute; and

applying the third visual attribute to all graphical objects of the first set of graphical objects, wherein at least one of:

the third visual attribute comprises a decorative feature;

the method further comprises applying the third visual attribute to a mouse pointer corresponding to the first user; or

the method further comprises moving a graphical object of the first set of graphical objects to a different location within the collaboration space, wherein the moved graphical object retains the third visual attribute at the different location.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating and displaying a legend in the collaboration space, the legend identifying the first visual attribute or the third visual attribute as a visual attribute of all graphical objects created by the first user and the second visual attribute as a visual attribute of all graphical objects created by the second user.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising applying the different visual attributes to mouse pointers of the different users to visually identify the user of each mouse pointer such that the mouse pointer of the first user has the first visual attribute or the third visual attribute and a mouse pointer of the second user has the second visual attribute.

4. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon that are executable by a processor device to perform or control performance of the method of claim 1.

5. A method to gather graphical objects, the method comprising:

receiving input effective to select an attribute and to specify an attribute value of graphical objects to gather into a container;

generating the container; and

gathering graphical objects that include the attribute value for the attribute into the container.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein gathering graphical objects that include the attribute value for the attribute into the container includes one of:

gathering, from a collaboration space, all graphical objects that include the attribute value for the attribute into the container;

gathering, from a selected set of graphical objects within the collaboration space, all graphical objects that include the attribute value for the attribute into the container; or

gathering, from a predefined area or region within the collaboration space, all graphical objects that include the attribute value for the attribute into the container.

7. The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving input effective to make duplicates of the graphical objects in the collaboration space before gathering graphical objects into the container, wherein gathering graphical objects that include the attribute value into the container

comprises gathering the duplicates of the graphical objects in the collaboration space that include the attribute value for the attribute into the container.

8. The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving input effective to make shadow copies of the graphical objects in the collaboration space before gathering graphical objects into the container, wherein gathering graphical objects that include the attribute value into the container comprises gathering the shadow copies of the graphical objects in the collaboration space that include the attribute value for the attribute into the container.

9. The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving input effective to select a second attribute and to specify a second attribute value of graphical objects to include in the container, wherein gathering graphical objects that include the attribute value for the attribute into the container comprises gathering into the container graphical objects that include both the attribute value for the attribute and the second attribute value for the second attribute.

10. The method of claim 5, wherein the attribute includes author, shape, color, reaction, reactor, vote, tag, or keyword.

11. The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving input effective to select and tag one of the graphical objects with a tag.

12. The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving input effective to tag multiple graphical objects in the collaboration space in sequence via keyboard input only.

13. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon that are executable by a processor device to perform or control performance of the method of claim 5.

14. A method to sort graphical objects, the method comprising:

receiving input effective to select an attribute to sort graphical objects on in a collaboration space;

identifying unique attribute values of the attribute across the graphical objects;

generating multiple containers to sort the graphical objects into, including one container for each of the unique attribute values; and

sorting the graphical objects into the containers, including sorting the graphical objects that include any given one of the unique attribute values for the attribute into the corresponding container.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein sorting the graphical objects into the containers includes one of:

sorting, from a collaboration space, all graphical objects that have any of the unique attribute values for the attribute into the corresponding containers;

sorting, from a selected set of graphical objects within the collaboration space, all graphical objects that have any of the unique attribute values for the attribute into the corresponding containers; or

sorting, from a predefined area or region with the collaboration space, all graphical objects that have any of the unique attribute values for the attribute into the corresponding containers.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising receiving input effective to make duplicates of the graphical objects in the collaboration space before sorting the graphical objects into the containers, wherein sorting graphical objects into the containers comprises sorting the duplicates into the containers.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising receiving input effective to make shadow copies of the graphical objects in the collaboration space before sorting the graphical objects into the containers, wherein sorting graphical objects into the containers comprises sorting the shadow copies into the containers.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein:

the unique attribute values of the attribute include a first attribute value and a second attribute value;

generating multiple containers includes generating a first container for the first attribute value and a second container for the second attribute value; and

sorting the graphical objects into the containers includes sorting graphical objects that have the first attribute value for the attribute into the first container and sorting graphical objects that have the second attribute value for the attribute into the second container.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein the attribute includes author, shape, color, reaction, reactor, vote, tag, or keyword.

20. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon that are executable by a processor device to perform or control performance of the method of claim 14.