

What does GUI mean?

Nope, it doesn't mean something you have stepped in. What it does mean is 'Graphical User Interface'. Unless you are old school, meaning before GUI, I guess you could call that BGUI, it will be what you see on your computer screen. All the little icons and other 'clickable' elements on your screen is what makes up the GUI.

Before GUI, the screen displays were very non-graphical and applications then were called 'roll and scroll' applications and were also referred to as ASCII applications. Essentially all user screens are now graphical and by using these 'pictures' if you will, enable users to identify where they want to go or what they want to do. As it is said, a picture is worth a thousand words, and that is certainly the case here.

Any computer screen you are likely to see now is going to be GUI based. Assuming you are reading this on a computer and not a printed page, then you are seeing a GUI interface. So, GUI is not something that is only related to your laboratory software application but is just about any computer screen you are going to be looking at.

As an interesting side note since I have been around for quite a long time. When I first started working in the laboratory, we did not have GUI screens, nor 'roll and scroll' screens. Actually, we didn't have any screens, there were no computers in the laboratory. You ran the test, did the measurements manually using a spectrophotometer, wrote the results down, walked to the patient ward, pulled the chart and posted the results in it. Oh, and for the most part we had to make our own reagents in order to even do the test. I remember well the sound of rattling marbles when doing Folin-Wu glucoses. 😊