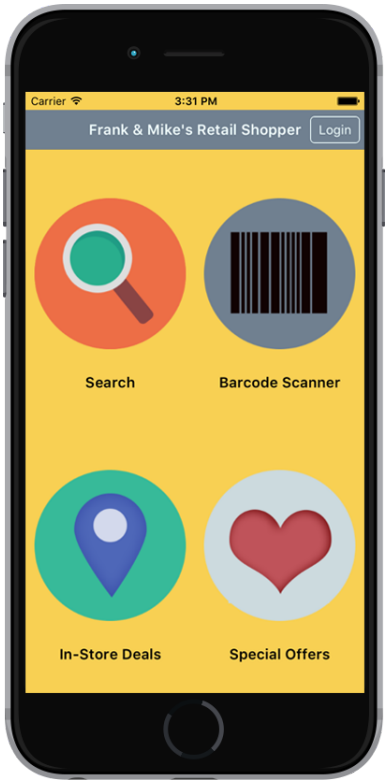
FMX Mobile Application Development

LAB Exercise 03.08: Home Screen Navigation with glyph buttons



Home screens are a popular design paradigm as they display the key app functionality on the first screen, making it easily accessible to the application user. Home Screen navigation usually consists of glyph buttons arranged in a grid-like layout and may span over multiple screens.

This Lab Exercise shows the steps for creating a Home Screen design like this that you can use as the first tab of your application.

Step 1: Set up the UI

File | New | Multi-Device Application (Blank).

This application consists of 6 tabs, with TTabControl's TabPosition property set to None.

To set up the Home Screen design, add a toolbar and a label to Tab 1 (HomeScreenTab).

Set TToolbar's Align property to Top, and TLabel's Align property to Contents, and the Text Settings HorzAlign property to Center.

Next, add a TGridPanelLayout control to Tab1 and align it to the Client.

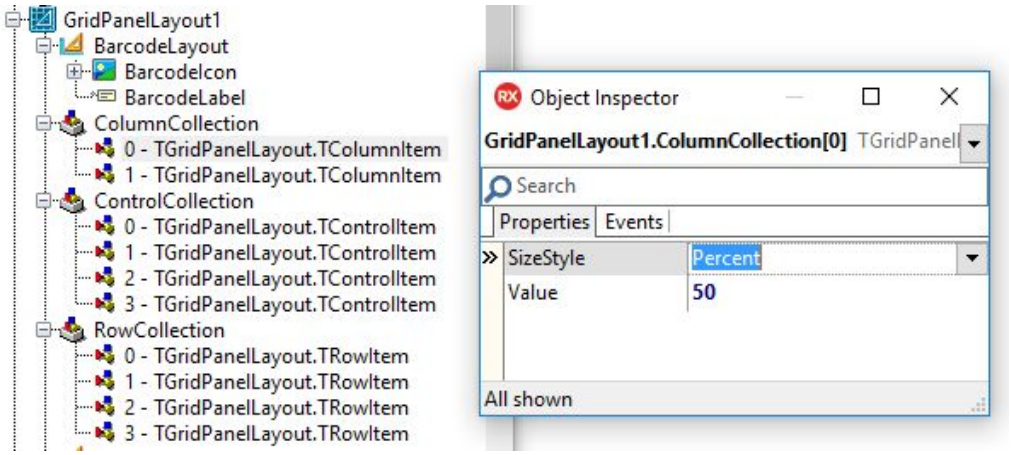
Step 2: Adjust the TGridPanelLayout settings

With GridPanelLayout1 selected in the Object Inspector, drag and drop a TLayout control onto your form.

Repeat these steps 3 times.

Align each TLayout control to the client. This ensures even spacing and alignment for each of the 4 icons. Select the ColumnCollection property for GridPanelLayout1 in the Object Inspector.

Set the % for each column to 50% to ensure the columns are evenly spaced. Repeat this step for the RowCollection property.



Step 3: Add images and text

- Select each Layout control in the Object Inspector, and parent a TImage control and TLabel to it.
- Align each TImage to the client.
- Align each TLabel to the bottom.

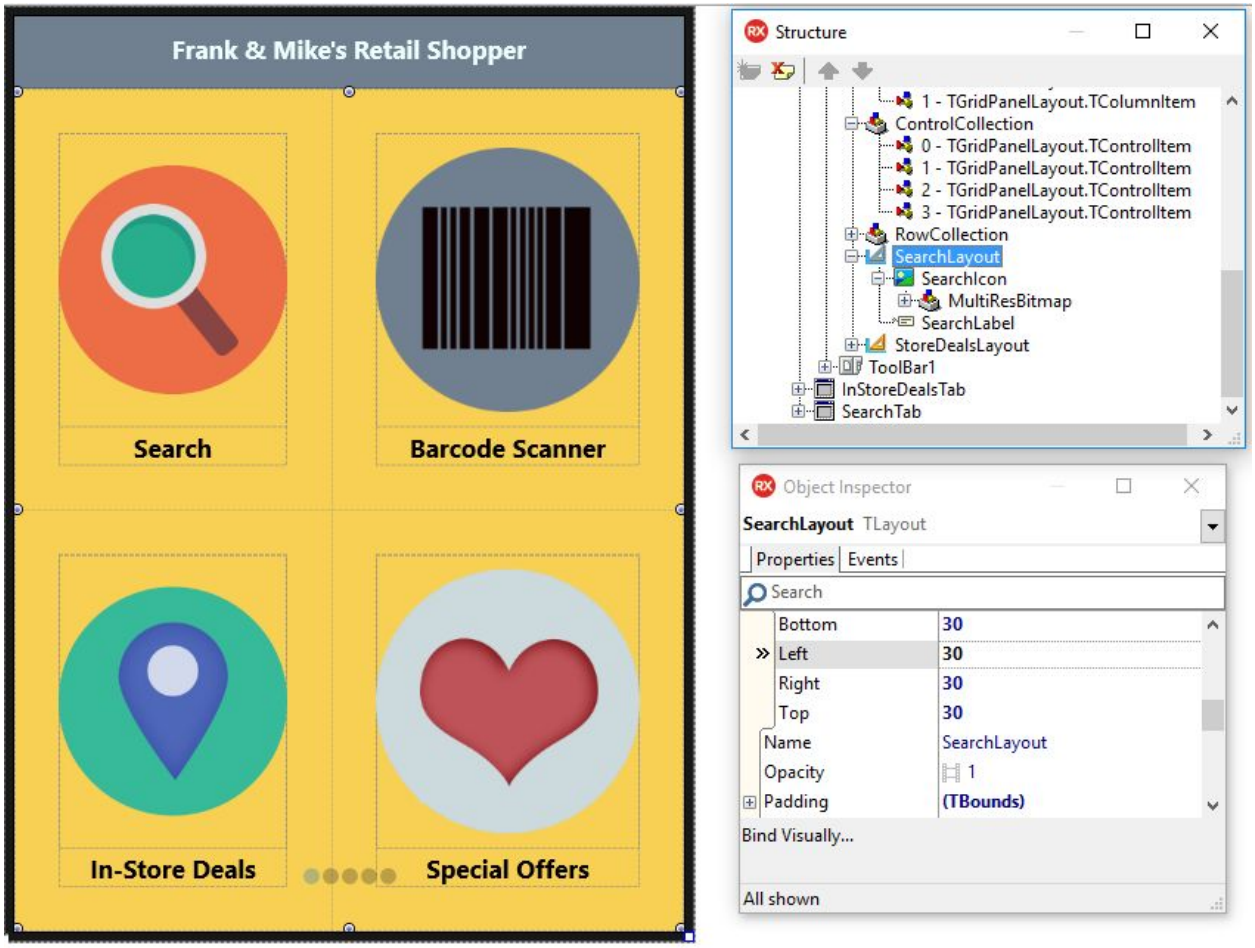
Step 4: Set margins, adjust font settings and more

Select each layout control in the Object Inspector and set your margins.

In this example, I set bottom, top, left and right to 30.

I then created views for each of my target devices (iPhone 4.7 inch, Android 5 inch etc.) and adjusted the margins and font size to ensure the text and images were displayed properly on each of my target devices.

By selecting the ControlCollection property in the Object Inspector, you can also adjust the placement and order of each of your layouts.


Frank & Mike's Retail Shopper
Search
Barcode Scanner
In-Store Deals
Special Offers
Structure
1 - TGridPanelLayout.TColumnItem
ControlCollection
0 - TGridPanelLayout.TControlItem
1 - TGridPanelLayout.TControlItem
2 - TGridPanelLayout.TControlItem
3 - TGridPanelLayout.TControlItem
RowCollection
SearchLayout
SearchIcon
MultiResBitmap
SearchLabel
StoreDealsLayout
ToolBar1
InStoreDealsTab
SearchTab
Object Inspector
SearchLayout TLayout
Properties
Events
Search
Bottom 30
Left 30
Right 30
Top 30
Name SearchLayout
Opacity 1
Padding (TBounds)
Bind Visually...
All shown