



MOBILE DESIGN PRINCIPLES

TOPIC 3a



Review

- General & Targeted Devices
- Ubiquitous computing
 - Principles & Vision
 - Examples of Applications in various industries
- Location & Context-Awareness
 - Differences & Examples

Topic Outline

- Concept of Mobility
- Native vs Web-based User Interface
- Mobile User Interface and Design patterns
- 4. Elements of Mobile User-interface Design

1. Concept of Mobility



Concept of Mobility

"The concept of mobility is not limited to hardware and communication only, but it must extend to **software implementation** and **user experience**."



Concept of Mobility

- Mobilizing Application
- The Carry Principle





- Many developers and designers have been exposed with of end-user applications designed for desktop computer and the web.
- This led them to assume that mobile application is a subset of a web application (or a subset of desktop application) and proceed to miniaturize it on the mobile screen.





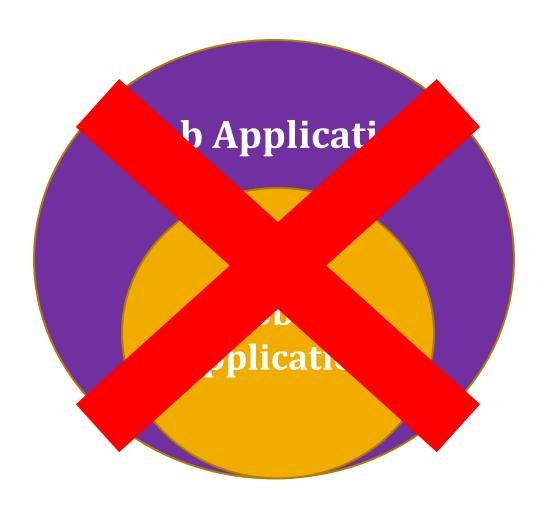






Image Source: Google







Do not miniaturize, but instead mobilize!



Mobilizing vs Miniaturization

- Miniaturization shrinking web user interface to mobile screen-size without taking account of "Mobile Device Characteristics"
- Miniaturization
 - Does not factor-in mobile device unique environment.
 - Does not take advantage of the mobile platform features.
- Miniaturization introduce drawbacks present in web application and combines it together with mobile device weaknesses



"Miniaturizing treats the mobile environment and technology as a subset of the desktop environment"

"Mobilizing on the other hand, precisely targets mobile user needs, making the best possible use of technology"

- Barbara Ballard

LIFE IS MOBILE!

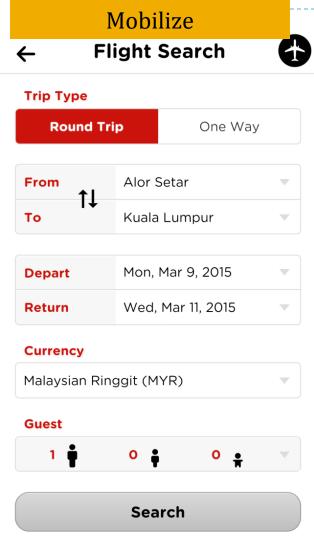


User want custom content that enables a mobile lifestyle, where their content and their entertainment move with them.

- Ken Olewiler, Punchcut



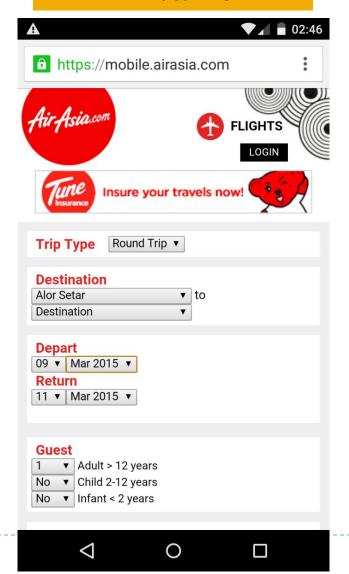
Miniaturizing? Mobilizing?

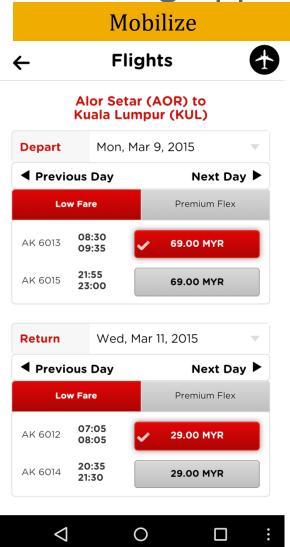


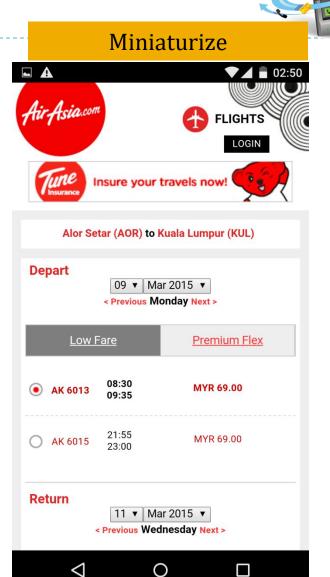
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Miniaturize

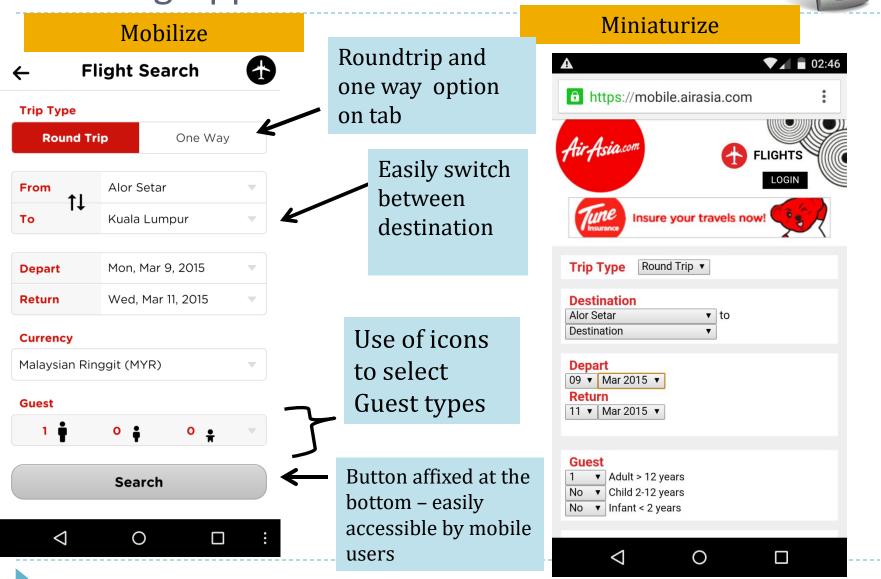






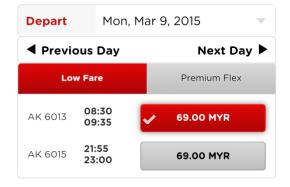
- Can you spot the differences between the screenshots?
- Mobilizing has the advantage of taking account of Mobile Platform features which are not present in web or desktop application:
 - Multitouch and touch gesture
 - One handed operation feature
 - Sociability features
 - Location-Awareness & Context Awareness
 - Access to Mobile Device Hardware Sensors

- For example:
 - A developer who miniaturize a web application would not take account into advantages of phone having camera, GPS sensor and connectivity
 - Can you think what camera, GPS sensor and remote connectivity can do for an AirAsia application?
 - □ Scan QR code via camera
 - □ Perform remote check-in via set QR code with remote connectivity
 - □ GPS /LBS can detect the nearest airport and provide suggestion or map to take the shortest route to airport.
 - User can 'easily swipes' information to Map interface if the application is properly "Mobilize"





Alor Setar (AOR) to Kuala Lumpur (KUL)





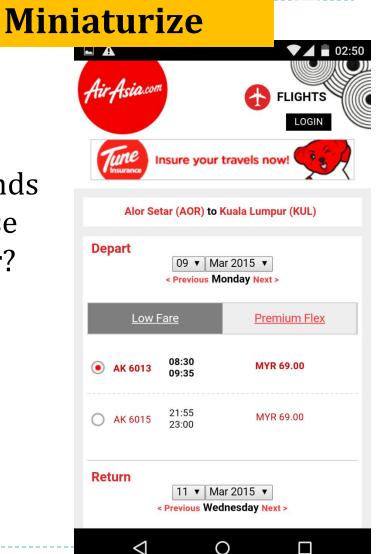
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1. 1

Which screen tends to be easier to use for a mobile user?

Discuss



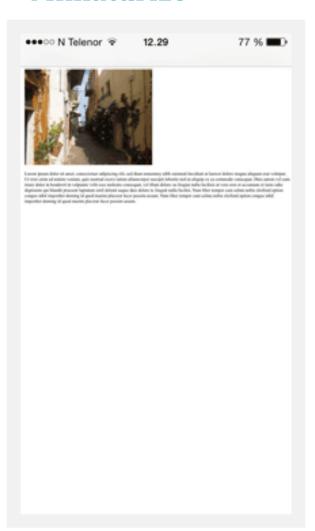
Mobilize



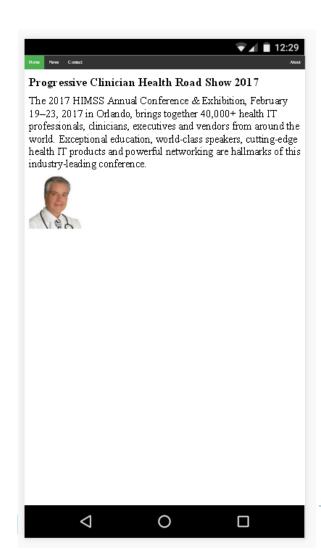
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Miniaturize



Miniaturize



Mobilize





Live Example: Mobilization vs Miniaturization

- 1. Use your **mobile device** and access https://ict650.mobilepit.com/sample/
- Access the page miniaturize.html and mobile.html
- 3. Can you describe the differences?
- 4. Repeat step 1 with a **Desktop Computer** web-browser
 - + Describe the differences between **miniaturize.html** and **mobile.html** among your group.
 - + Is there any differences when accessing the pages using Mobile Device compared Desktop Computer?
 - + Describe the qualities which makes mobilization better than miniaturization.



Tips to avoid Miniaturization

- Use mobile facility (or sensor) to guess user details
 - Certain input field could be inferred from mobile phone app
 - Country / State can be automatically detected from GPS
 - Languagecan be detected from phone settings
 - Email Address
 Through Social Login (Facebook login, Google+, or iCloud login)
- A user is not supposed to key-in every detail in mobile application.





Tips to avoid Miniaturization

Display Hints in TextFields

Date of Birth

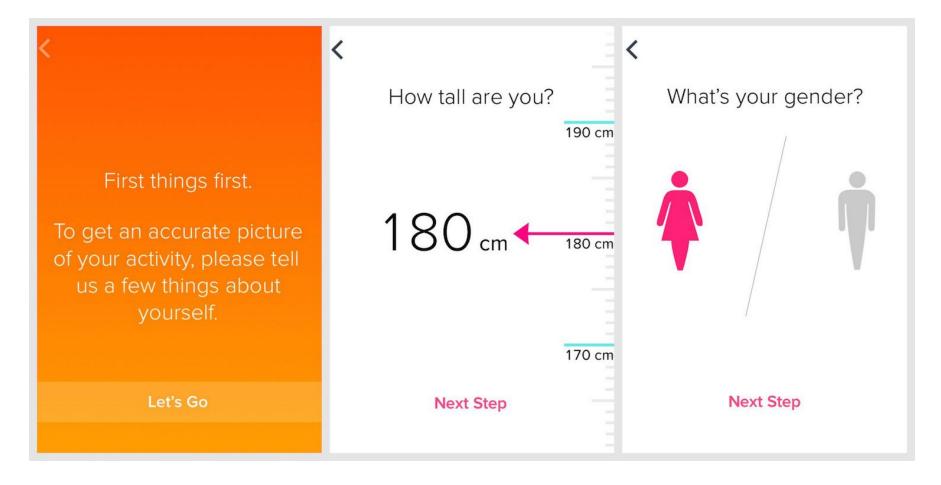
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MM / DD / YYYY
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- 4. Split long entry forms into multiple screens
 - Users attention span would be better with multiple screen rather than scrolling down



Tips to avoid Miniaturization

- Good example of splitting user entry over multiple screen
- Users only needs to click "Next" each time they key in data



- Miniaturized application will have tendency of having "too many forms" or too many input fields to be filled out by users
- Mobilized application can auto detects the user details from previously recorded information (see "Identifiable" characteristics in Topic 2).
- Username, name, profile photos can be obtained automatically from device profile on a mobilized application
- Mobilize application can also detect user current location and can scan the user's calendar to fill in the information.





- ▶ In short
 - When developing for mobile application, do not miniaturize.
 - Take advantages of mobile platform features
 - Miniaturizing will annoy mobile users and make mobile application less useful



What are the pros and cons of mobilizing and miniaturizing application?



Quiz



- Miniaturized application will have tendency of having "too many forms" or "too many input fields" to be filled out by users
- Mobilized application can auto detects the user details from previously recorded information
- Username, name, profile photos can be obtained automatically from device profile on a mobilized application
- Mobilize application can also detect user current location and can scan the user's calendar to fill in the information.



The Carry Principle

"The user typically carries the device everywhere, all the time"

Ballard, 2009

The Carry Principle

- Because users would carry the device everywhere, all the time... "
- "The Carry Principle" implication on Device:
 - **Form** the form-factor of device must be small to ease **portability** and makes it easy to carry. Battery-powered with integrated keyboard/keypad or touch screen.
 - Features Features in device are usually tightly integrated in a single board, this includes Every sensors, equipment (such as camera) which the users might use
 - User Interface Small screen drives device to a single window UI, showing a single page at a time. UI tends to be able to 'fold' or slides into view in order to save space and increase readability.

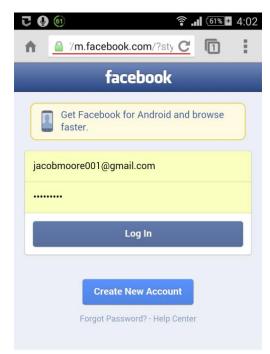
2. Native vs Web-based User Interface

In-class Activity

- On your mobile device,
 - Open Facebook application from home screen
 - Open Facebook via browser
- Try to play around.
- Can you spot the differences?







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Native? Web?



WEB

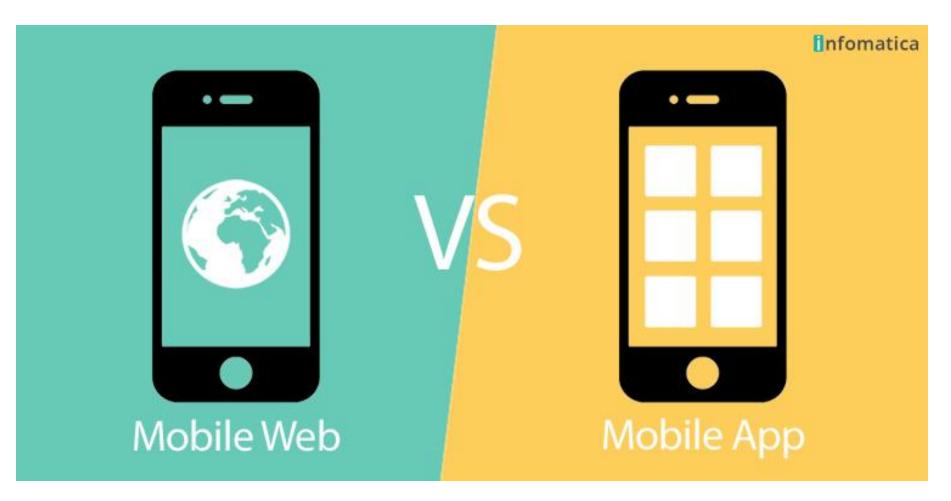


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NATIVE









Native vs Web-based Application

A Native App is an app developed essentially for one particular mobile device and is installed directly onto the device itself. Users of native apps usually download them via app stores online or the app marketplace, such as the Apple App Store, the Google Play store and so on. An example of a native app is the Camera+ app for Apple's iOS devices.



A Web App, on the other hand, are basically Internet-enabled apps that are accessible via the mobile device's Web browser. They need not be downloaded onto the user's mobile device in order to be accessed. The Safari browser is a good example of a mobile Web app.



Native vs Web-based Application

Mobile Web Application

- Easiest to learn
- Cheapest to produce
- Uses (and depends on) Internet and HTTP
- Based on W3C standards*

*http://www.w3.org/standards/techs/mobileapp#w3c_all



Native vs Web-based Application

Native Application

- Has steeper learning curve
- Usually tied to Mobile SDK device platform
- May use the internet (but does not depends on it)
- Have (fully) access to device's hardware features and sensors



Advantages of Web-based Application

- Portable, all user need is internet connection and mobile browsers
- Uses open W3C Web API
- Developers are not tied to a single mobile platform
- Easier to develop and manage



Advantages of Native Applications

- Fast and uses Native API
- Tightly integrated with mobile platform
- Support offline uses, does not depends on data connection
- Can access hardware sensor and features (Camera, light sensor, Barometer, temperature sensor, etc
- Generally Native application is superior than Mobile Web Application



VS

Web Apps







Any Platform

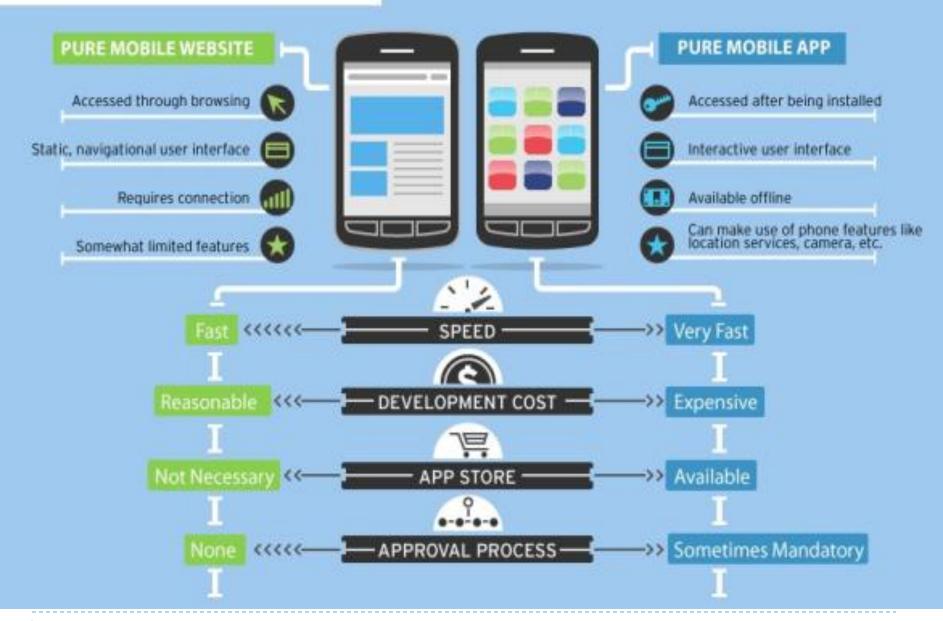
Development

Web Standards

Editorial

Cheaper

SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES





When to make a Mobile Web Application?

- When launching an application to a new platform with a small user base
- To provide a 'fallback' option to users who does not own native applications (e.g. Facebook)
- To put focus solely on application services and connectivity instead of mobile device platform
- To separate application from native mobile platform. Mobile web application are guaranteed to work on any device that has a compatible web browsers





Crossplatform & Hybrid Mobile Application

- A mobile hybrid web application is derived from heterogeneous sources.
- Hybrid app is a combination of mobile native application and mobile web application.
- A hybrid app is written with the same TECHNOLOGY FOR WEB IMPLEMENTATION, but it runs within a NATIVE APPLICATION CONTAINER
- Therefore, a hybrid app can access native mobile platform features such as camera, sensors and can receive or make calls on behalf of the user.

Crossplatform & Hybrid Mobile Application Hybrid Mobile Application



- A hybrid app is also designed to be portable in source code form, in which it can be compiled to produce several different binaries for other mobile platform
- Example of Hybrid Mobile framework:
 - Ionic http://ionicframework.com/
 - Phonegap/Cordova http://phonegap.com/
 - Flutter
 - React Native
- Hybrid applications uses web technologies such as HTML5, Javascript and CSS to build hybrid mobile application.

Summary



NATIVE APPS

- Single platform affinity
- Written with platform SDKs
- Must be written for each platform
- Access to all native APIs
- Faster graphics performance
- AppStore distribution

HYBRID APPS

- Cross-platform affinity
- Written with web technologies (HTML5, CSS3 and JavaScript)
- Runs locally on the device, supports
 offline
- Access to native APIs
- AppStore distribution

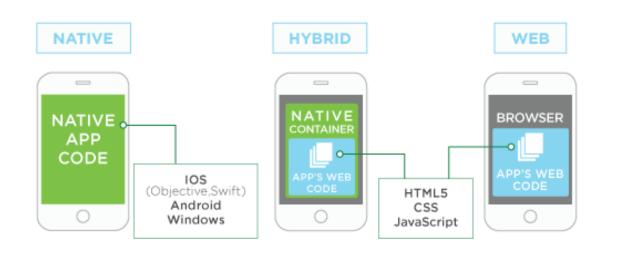
MOBILE WEBAPPS

- Cross-platform affinity
- Written with web technologies (HTML, CSS, JavaScript, or Server-side (PHP, ASP.NET, etc.)
- Runs on web server, viewable on multiple devices
- Centralized updates

PLATFORM AFFINITY

How they're structured

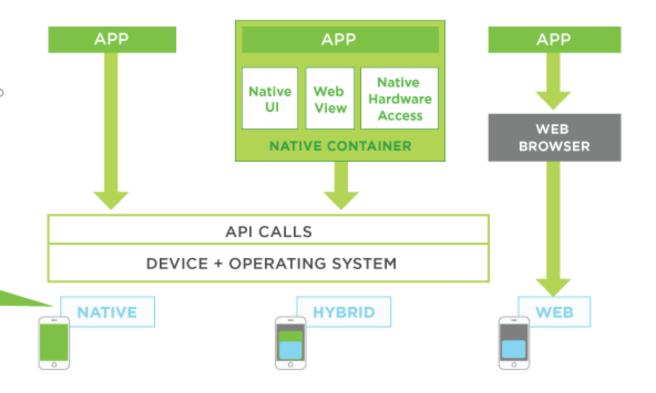
When it comes to building your mobile app, you have three options: native, web, or hybrid.



How they run

What makes them different? It all comes down to how an app's code is written, structured, and run on a device.

Runs app directly on device



When to make a Crossplatform & Hybrid Mobile Application Mobile Application?

- Portability one code base, multiple platforms
- Cheaper Cost Lower maintenance cost, because of single code base / single development team
- Learning curve You can use your existing web talent and don't need to bring on additional resources.
- Faster (initial) speed to market
- Web app dev code reuse

Crossplatform & Hybrid Mobile Application Mobile App Drawbacks



- Limited User Interface does not have a native feel
- Hardware/sensors/mobile features access limitation
- Slower Performance and transition between pages
- Dependency on browser speed

Examples of Cross-Platform tools for Hybrid **Mobile Application**



- Ionic Framework
- React Native
- Flutter
- Adobe PhoneGap

NATIVE APP DIFFERENTIATORS

Best security

Best in class user experience

Best performance

Offline mode

HYBRID APP DIFFERENTIATORS

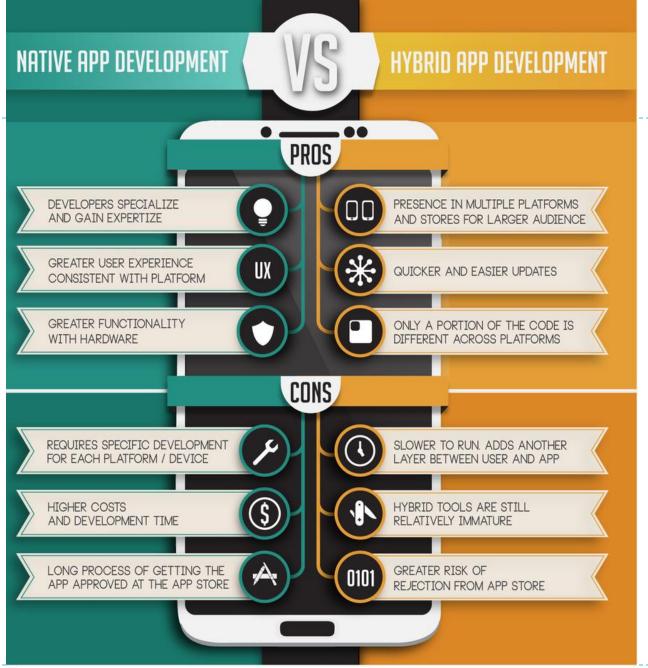
Portability (one code base, multiple platforms)

Access to various hardware/software capabilities (through plug-ins)

Cheaper origination costs

Faster (initial) speed to market







3. Mobile UI and Design Patterns



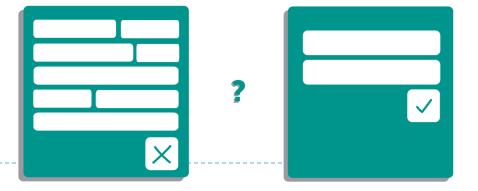
UI Design Patterns

- UI design patterns are good solutions to standard UI design problems.
- UI patterns provide a good starting point for specific parts of an application
- There are endless UI patterns example to be discussed in this class
- However, the objective of this sub-topic is to illustrate the most common UI pattern and to differentiate how mobile design is different from Web or Desktop application.



UI Design Patterns

- A design pattern documents known good solutions to frequently occurring design problems.
- In most cases, the patterns themselves become encoded as user expectations.
- An application that <u>VIOLATES</u> common design patterns could jar and negatively impacts user expectation





Mobile UI Design principles

- In order to be useful, mobile apps should be user-centric.
- To be effective using an interface you've designed, people must be able to recognize what it's for and how to use it. There is simply no room for confusion.

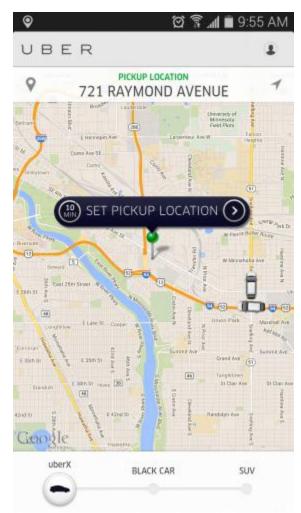




Mobile UI Design principles

one primary action per screen.

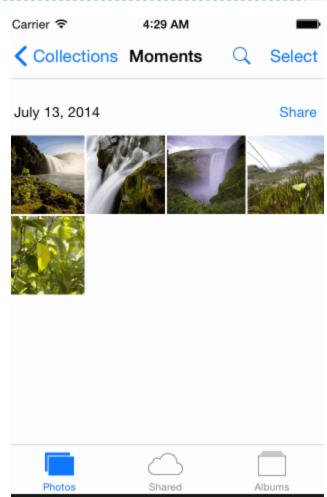
- One hundred clear screens is preferable to a single cluttered one.
- Example: Uber Uber knows that the goal of the user who uses the app is to take a cab. The app does not overwhelm the user with other information: it automatically detects users location based on GEO data and the only thing users have to do is to select a pickup location







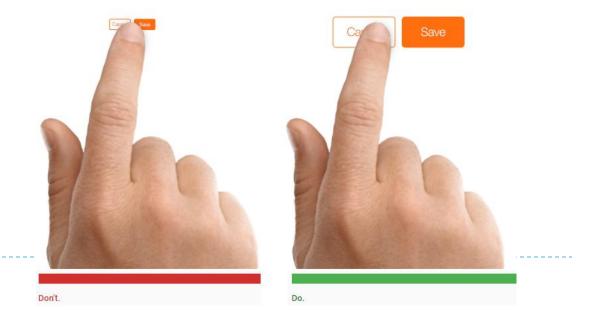
- Mobile navigation must be coherent.
- Mobile navigation must be consistent for the app.
- Mobile navigation should communicate the current location.





Design Finger-friendly Tap-targets

- When you're designing mobile interfaces, it's best to make your targets big enough so that they're easy for users to tap.
 - The edges of the target are visible when the user taps it. This provides them with clear visual feedback that they're hitting the target accurately.



Text Content Should Be Legible

- When compared with desktops, smartphones have relatively small screens,
 - one of the challenges of mobile design is to fit a lot of information on a small UI.
- A rule of thumb for mobile: text should be at least 11 points so it's legible at a typical viewing distance without zooming.

Heading

Sub-Headline

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Make Interface Elements Clearly Visible

- You should use color and contrast to help users see and interpret your content.
 - Choose primary, secondary, and accent colors for your app that support usability. Ensure sufficient color contrast between elements so that users with low vision can see and use your app.
- Make sure there is ample contrast between the font color and the background so text are legible

Heading

Sub-Headline

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Minimize Need For Typing

- Typing on a mobile is a slow and error-prone process. It's therefore best to always try to minimize the amount of typing required to use a mobile app.
 - Keep forms as short and simple as possible by removing any unnecessary fields.





Examples of UI Design Patterns Gallery

Android UI Pattern document for designing Notifications

https://developer.android.com/design/patterns/notificatio ns.html

Other Mobile UI Design Pattern galleries

- http://www.mobile-patterns.com/
- http://android.inspired-ui.com/

4. The Elements of Mobile UI Design



Elements of Mobile UI Design

Screen Design

- List-based Layout
- Grid-Based Layout

Application Navigation

- **Tab Navigation**
- ViewPager Navigation
- **Navigation Drawer**
- **Dropdown Navigation**

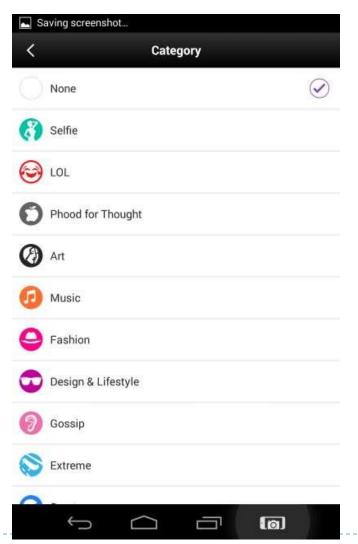


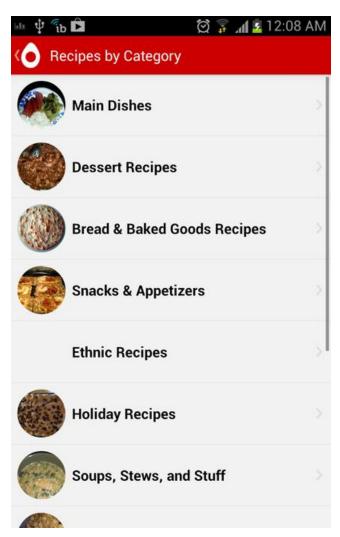
Screen Design: List-based Layout

- List-based Layout is the most common screen in any mobile application designed to display a lot of data
- Rationale for using List-based Layout:
 - Most mobile phones are oriented **vertically**, with screens taller than they are wide
 - Horizontal layout mechanisms as used on Desktop are not efficient when used in mobile device
 - List is more natural to use by users as they can **scroll down** to search for data more efficiently, and can view data at a glance without much efforts



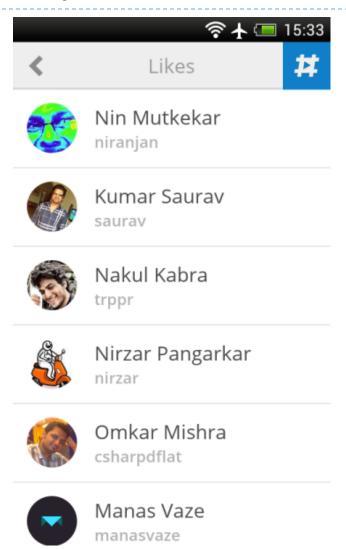
Examples of List based Layouts

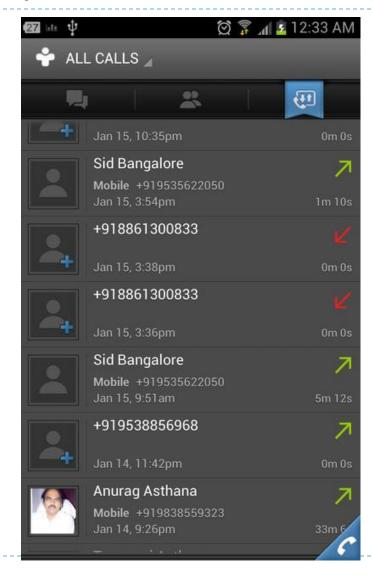






Examples of List based Layouts



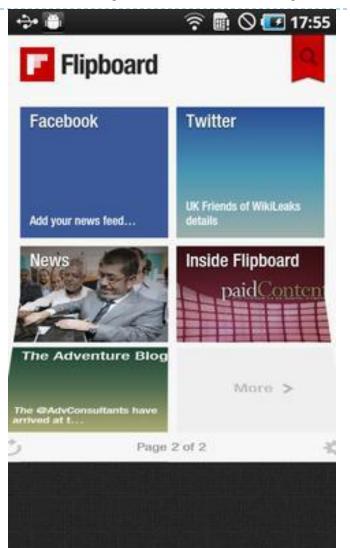


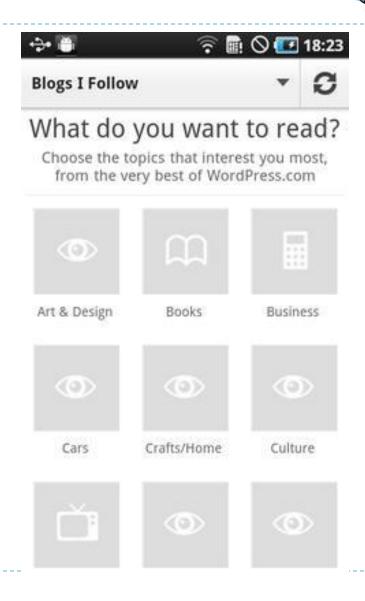


Screen Design: Grid based Layout

- Grid based layout is and alternative to standard list-views.
- Suited for showing data sets that represent themselves through images or icons.
- Unlike Lists Grid list may scroll either vertically or horizontally
- Rationale for using Grid-based Layout:
 - Images/Icon can caught user attention more effectively
 - In some situation, GridList can convey more meaning in images
 - *http://developer.android.com/design/building-blocks/grid-lists.html

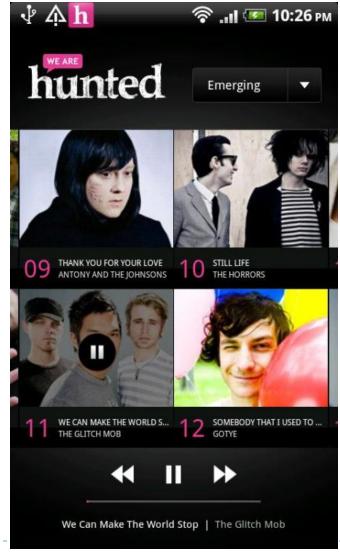


















Application Navigation: Tab

- Tab makes it easy for users to explore and switch between views or functional aspect of application
- ▶ Tab is also used to browse categorized data sets
- ▶ Tab can either be **scrollable or fixed**
- Tab is often used to enable user to quickly navigate between different part of your application without going "deeper" into navigational structure

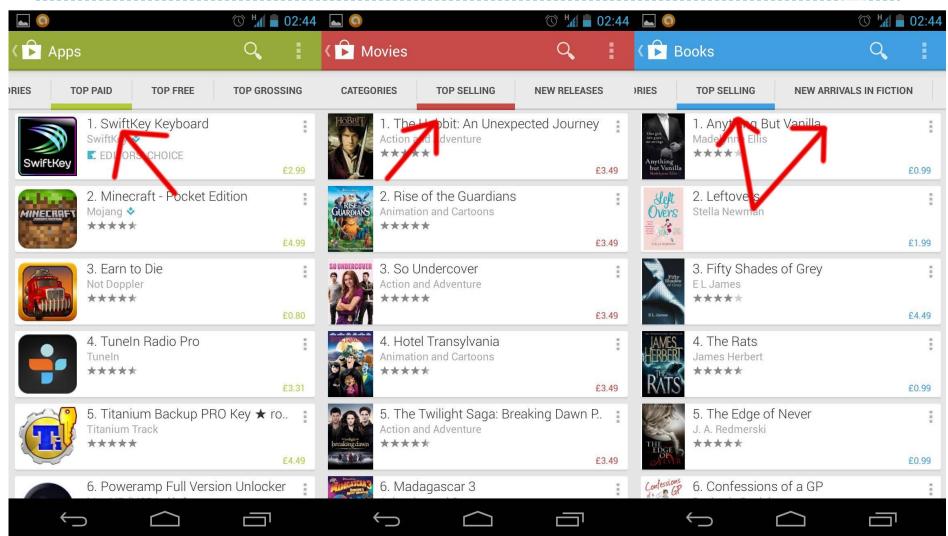


Tab Examples





Tab Examples





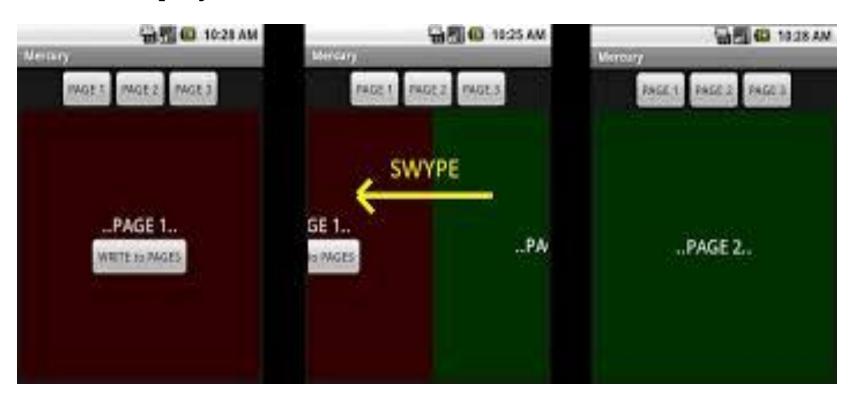
View Pager Navigation

- Like tab, View Pager navigation do not have labeled tab, instead it relies on navigation indicator (represented in circles or dots)
- View Pager makes it easy for users to explore and switch between views or functional aspect of application with a finger swipe
- Usually represents information in a full screen view
- Some applications use it in "Walkthrough" page or "Tutorial" start up screen



ViewPager Example

Uses swipe gesture to switch between view*click to play video





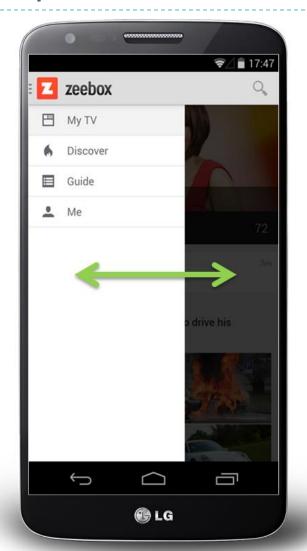
Application Navigation: Navigation Drawer

- Navigation drawer is a panel that displays the app main navigation options on the left edge of the screen
- It is **hidden** most of the time but is revealed when the user swipes the finger from the left edge of the screen.
- Navigational drawer does not consume spaces
- It provides a quick way for user to navigate from one view to another view without having to press the "Back" button



Navigational Drawer example

Uses swipe gesture*click to play video



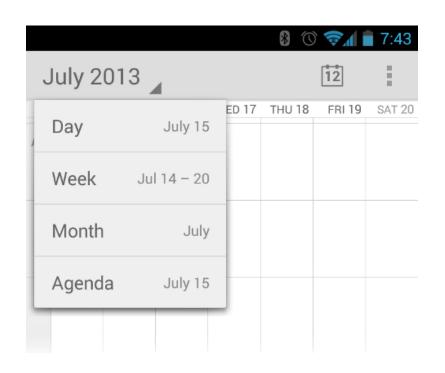


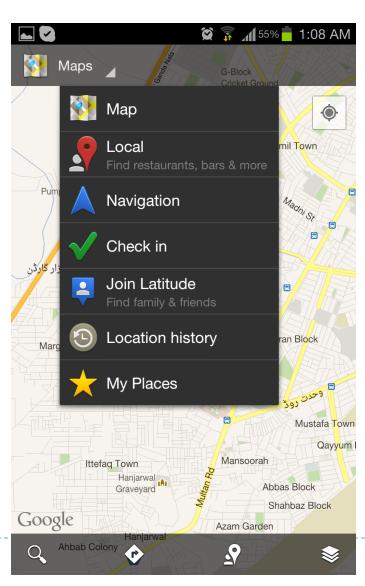
Application Navigation: Drop Down

- Dropdown Navigation (also known as spinner) is useful when changing the content is important but not necessarily frequent occurrence.
- Dropdown Navigation is more preferred where switching the content is more frequent
- Dropdown navigation do not changes with the rest of screen, thus providing user with an anchor point to switch content
- Drop down occupies small area on the toolbar / action bar on an application.



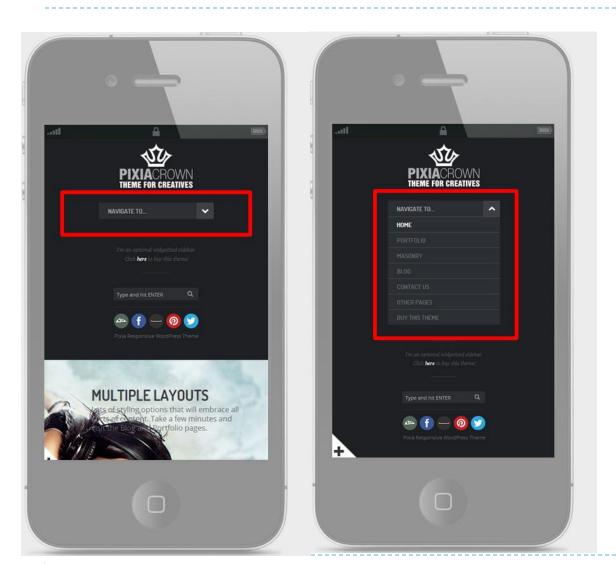
Dropdown Navigation example

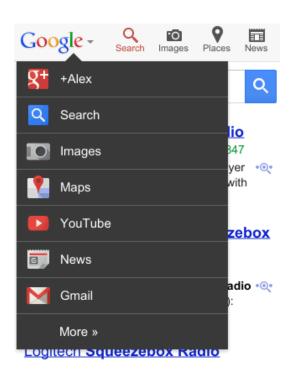






Dropdown Navigation example





End of Lecture