Investigation of Current Native Based Applications

As there are no flight tracking applications specifically designed for running off of a web browser an investigation was conducted on design principles and features on three native based flight tracking applications. The applications investigated was the market leading, based on number of downloads through the App Store, application “Flightradar24” and two competitors being “Flight Tracker” and “FlightAware”.

Flightradar24

The initial design is seen as simplistic with the screen being filled with a map. The header bar and option bar present at the bottom transparently covers the map however with subtilty to still give the illusion that the entire page is fitted with the map.

Button directing users to AR functionality.

Search box which allows you to search specific flights by different parameters.

A close up of a map

Description automatically generated

Bright colour of contrast of plane icon representing a live aircraft.

Button to take you back to your current location.

On link of specific plane icon shows details of flight.

A close up of a map

Description automatically generated

Footer option bar giving multiple options of alterations to the live feed/map.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generatedA screenshot of a cell phone

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Description automatically generated

AR displaying flights details

Changes visuals on map

Filter flight options global map

Search specific flight

A picture containing sky, building, outdoor

Description automatically generated

Flight Tracker

The main page is designed not to take you directly to the content of the application. With the cooling blue colour scheme used throughout gives a calming effect whilst using the application. The design requires the user to search a specific flight to display on a map.

Consistent header of the title and logo of the application used throughout the pages.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

Search button to search flights to track.

Button to take the user to their “My Flights”.

None cluttered visual introductory page. Displays users’ flights selected to track.

Footer bar for different search types, map view and settings menu.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generatedA screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generatedA close up of a map

Description automatically generated

“My Flights” side menu gives different options from flights already searched.

Flights added to the “My Flights” list are displayed on the map reducing the clutter of the map.

Search flights by either the airline and flight number or the route.

FlightAware

The design of the FlightAware application follows a simplistic format similar to the design of Flightradar24. As the user enters the application the user is presented with a search window displaying recent searches and flight alerts. The window can be swiped to reveal the main interface of the map. It follows a similar format where the map fills the entire page accompanied by addition option buttons located at the bottom of the page.

A screenshot of a cell phone

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Settings window to alter map.

Search window and alert setup.

Nearby flights based on users’ location.

Users’ selected flights to track.

Button to direct user back to their current location.

On click of plane icon displays information about the flight.

Trails indicating recent flight path of aircraft.

Plane icon follows colour scheme of the page. Not contrasting with other features, blends into the design.

Option buttons giving user additional content and available alterations.

Search bar to reveal dropdown window to track specific flights.