Successful User Interface Designs:

- Samsung Mobile's Milk Music
- DigitalOcean's website https://www.digitalocean.com/

Unsuccessful User Interface Designs:

- CentOS Terminal
- New dishwashers with top side controls ie. http://www.lg.com/us/dishwashers/lg-LDF8072ST-integrated-dishwasher

Samsung's Milk Music Application

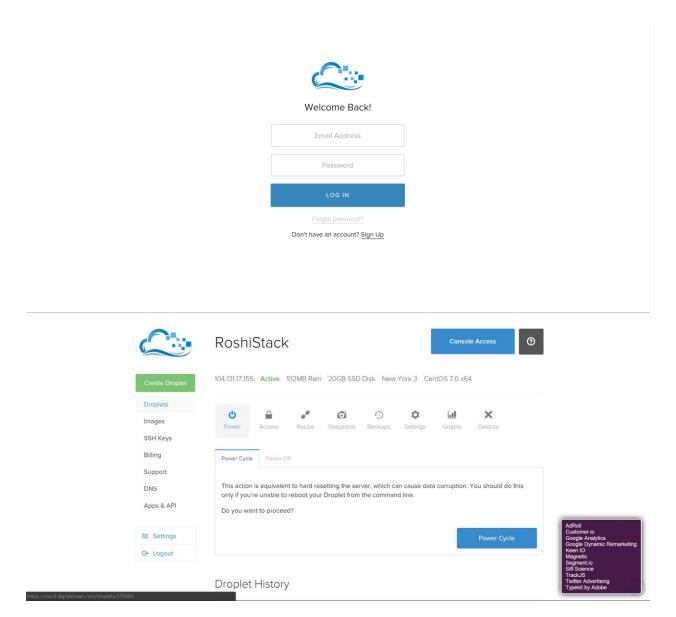
Opening Milk Music beings the user to the main interface they will be interacting with. It is a circular dial with 10 music genres along the circumference with one spot on the top for user customized stations. The information on currently playing station and track are located according to the rule of thirds exactly where a user's eye is most likely to land first. The overall feel of the application is lightweight and almost the entire GUI is transparent allowing the currently playing album art to dominate the background. When the user wishes to customize settings or take advantage of the additional features, a slider bar is located on right side of the screen closest to the thumb. An additional hidden slider at the bottom of the screen brings up fine tuning for the current stations according to new, popular, or favorited preferences. The developers built an application where the interface is minimized, and the graphical representation of whatever is playing is at the foreground of the user's attention.



DigitalOcean's website https://www.digitalocean.com/

The initial point of interaction was astonishingly simple. The site begins with the homepage offering an incredibly minimalistic user interface which explicitly informs the user how easy the process will be front and center. The site offers a panel of controls across the top for sections of the site, a logo in the top left notifying who the company is and that they are hiring and two simple text input fields. The overall color scheme of the site is simplified, consisting of only two tones of blue, white and one small green accent for highlighting. The login screen and user control panel once inside the site are also simplified and streamlined. The font in the site is in the helvetica family. Every aspect of the entire experience is minimized and simplified for a fluid user experience. If setting up a server is a daunting task, the simplicity of the site is welcoming. If the user is an experienced web host, then he/she will like the site for its lightweight feel and ease of use. The following are snapshots of the entire site screen for the homepage, login, and user control panel screens respectively.





CentOS

The CentOS terminal is a text based operating system command input. The computer literally goes line by line, with a black background and white text across the screen. There is no graphical interface developed in this version of CentOS without direct customization to the system. Most users operating servers do not take the time to customize their UI, and use the bare bones text input/output. The benefits of not developing a front end interface is what brings a lot of users to this format, as they are able to fully see and control everything that is happening on the machine. Commands are executed in real time in front of them, with a scrolling text display of what is happening. The photo included is the machine spitting out status results from a package installation.

Many newer dishwasher models seem to be taking a form over function approach to where they locate their controls. One of the newer trends is to put the controls along the top edge of the dishwasher, so that there are no buttons showing on the front face of the machine. When closed, this provides a clean look. The problem with this design is that most users have a counter with an edge that reaches out past the dishwasher. This means when closed, the dishwasher's controls are obstructed by the shelf. Any inquiry on the status of dishes being washed, how many minutes remain in the cycle, which cycle was pressed, all are hidden from view. I believe there is a way to make the front of these machines look and feel elegant, while maintaining the ease of use that front panel controls bring to the end user.

