

# UI Design Patterns

Mobile and Ubiquitous  
Computing

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# Motivation

- Useful for developers that are starting to develop Mobile UIs  
[Which might be your case!]
- Increase your Application Usability
- Increase User adoption to your Application
- Use Standard techniques
- Speed up UI development



# Introduction

## Main Problem Area

## Problem Area

## Individual Problems

Utilizing Screen Space

Screen Space in general

Flexible User Interfaces

Horizontal Scrolling

Show and Hide SW Keyboard

Interaction Mechanisms

Handling Input

Not Using Stylus

Mechanisms for entering text

Stylus Free Interaction

Design at Large

Guidelines

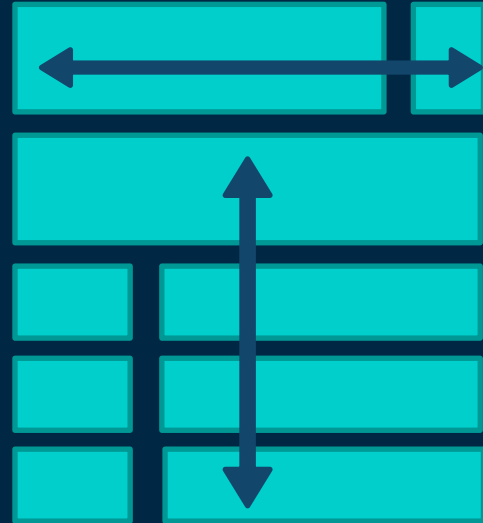
Difficult to understand

Branding

Long Lasting Operations

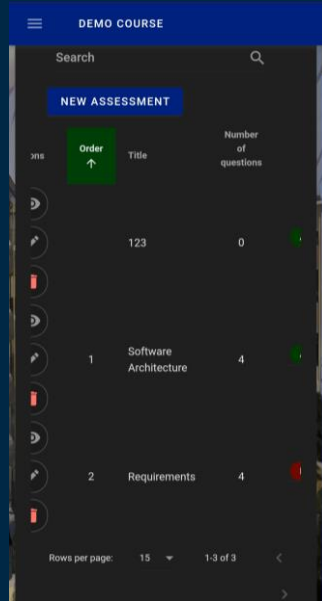
# Horizontal Scrolling

- Usually worse than Vertical Scrolling;
- Its use should be reduced or even avoided;
- Solutions:
  - Optimize sequence and size of attributes;
  - Simple Redesign;
  - Minor Redesign;
  - Medium Redesign;
  - Major Redesign.

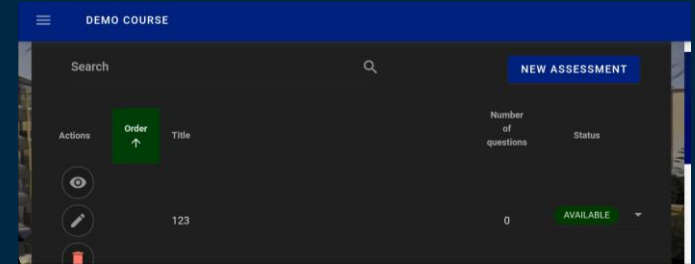
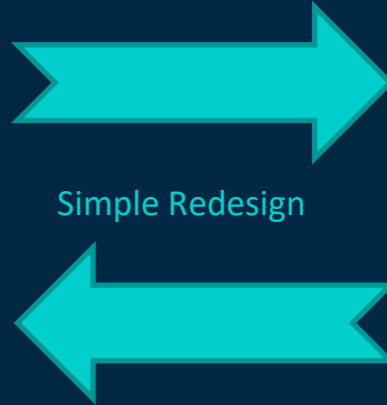


# Horizontal Scrolling

Design pattern: Change the screen orientation



Portrait Mode on  
"Quizzes Tutor"



Landscape Mode on  
"Quizzes Tutor"

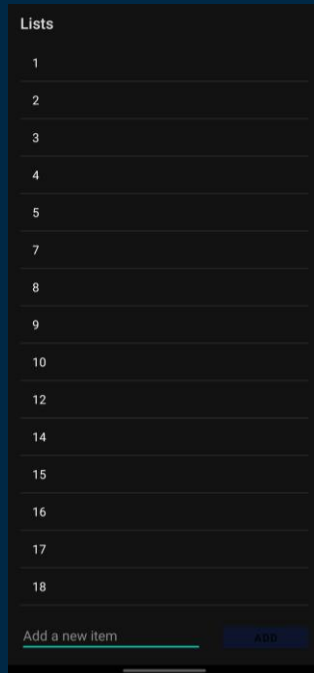
# Handling Crowded Dialogs When SW Keyboard Is Shown And Hidden

- Software keyboard reduces the normal space of the application;
- Dialog resizing needs to be handled;
- 5 Design patterns to solve this problem.

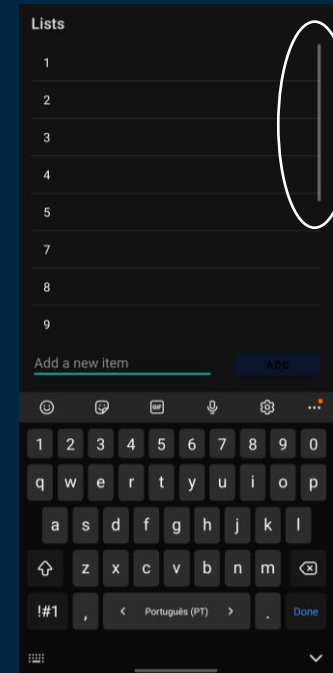


# Handling Crowded Dialogs When SW Keyboard Is Shown And Hidden

Design pattern: Add or adjust scroll bars



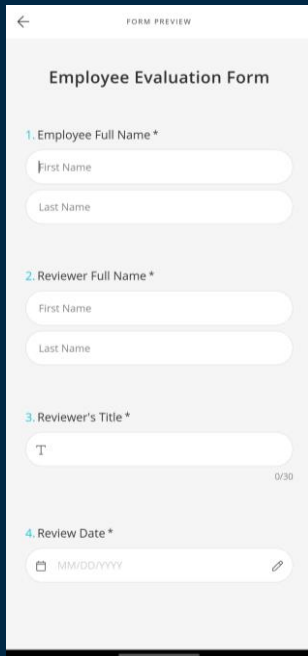
Keyboard is hidden



Keyboard is shown and enables a scrollbar

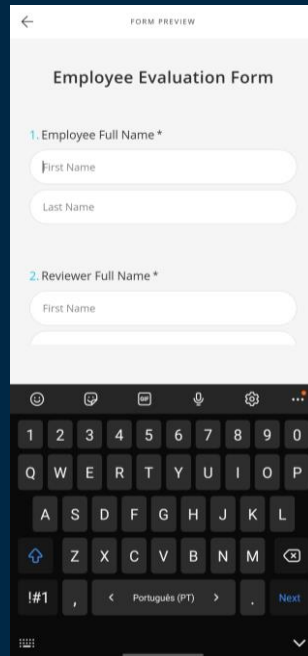
# Handling Crowded Dialogs When SW Keyboard Is Shown And Hidden

**Design pattern:** Let the keyboard cover part of the UI



A screenshot of a mobile application titled "FORM PREVIEW" and "Employee Evaluation Form". It contains four sections of form fields: 1. Employee Full Name\* (First Name, Last Name), 2. Reviewer Full Name\* (First Name, Last Name), 3. Reviewer's Title\* (Text field with 'T' and a 9/30 character limit), and 4. Review Date\* (Date picker showing MM/DD/YYYY). The keyboard is hidden, and the form fields are fully visible.

Keyboard is hidden



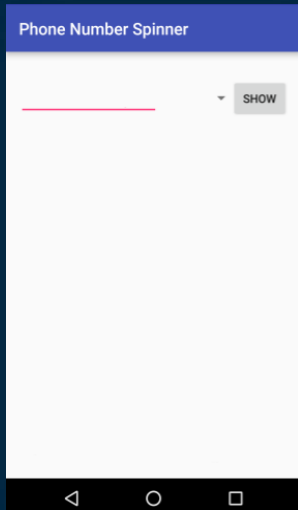
A screenshot of the same mobile application, but with the keyboard shown. The keyboard is a standard QWERTY layout with a dark background and light text. The keyboard is positioned at the bottom of the screen, partially covering the bottom of the form fields. The form fields are still visible, but the bottom portion is obscured by the keyboard.

Keyboard is shown and covers part of the UI

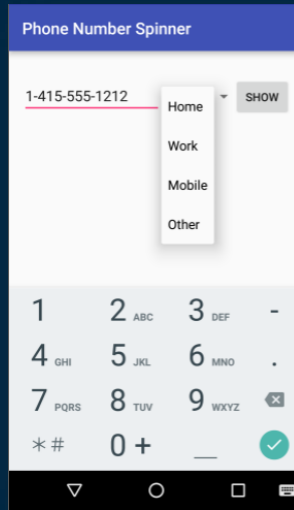
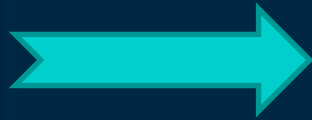


# Handling Crowded Dialogs When SW Keyboard Is Shown And Hidden

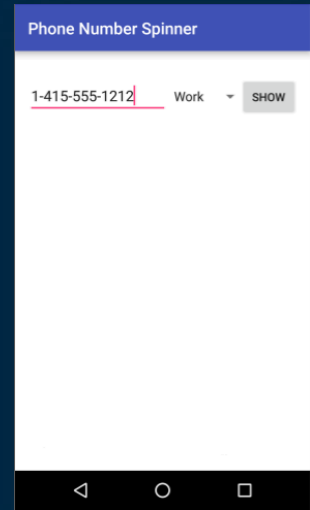
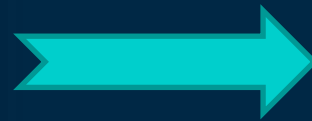
**Design pattern:** Only use the part of the screen that will not be covered by the keyboard



UI that does not use part of the screen



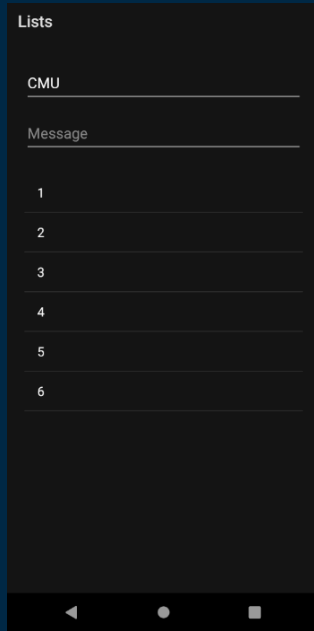
Keyboard is shown and does not hide anything



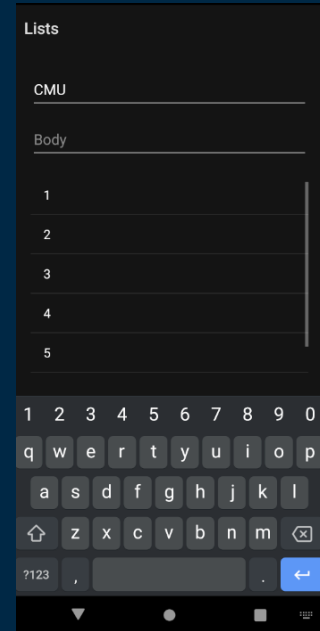
UI that does not use part of the screen

# Handling Crowded Dialogs When SW Keyboard Is Shown And Hidden

**Design pattern:** Use one large UI control as a buffer



Keyboard is hidden



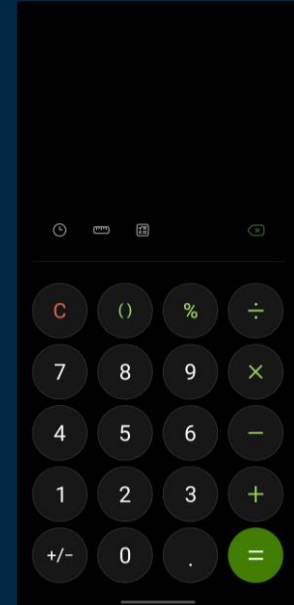
Keyboard is shown and only the list box control his resized

# Handling Crowded Dialogs When SW Keyboard Is Shown And Hidden

Design pattern: Keyboard as part of layout



Apple Application that has a built-in keyboard



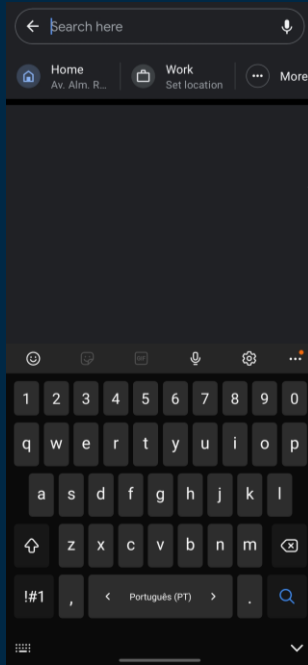
Android Application that has a built-in numerical keyboard

# Mechanisms For Entering Text

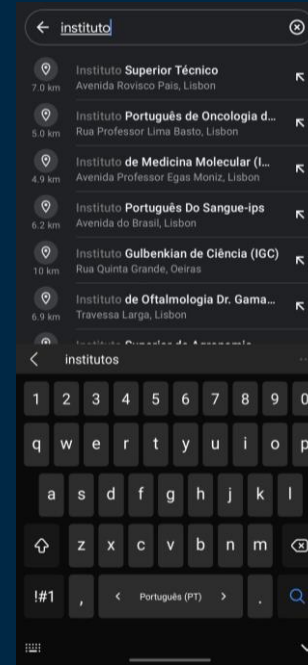
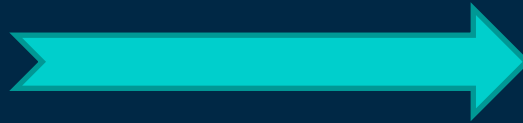
- Two main concerns:
  - How to avoid the need for the user to insert text?
  - How to make it easier for the user to insert text?
- Main Goal: Avoid using generic text entering mechanisms;
- 4 Design Patterns to Solve these problems.

# Mechanisms For Entering Text

Design pattern: Auto complete



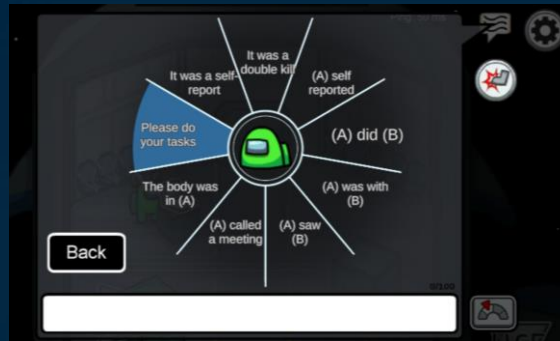
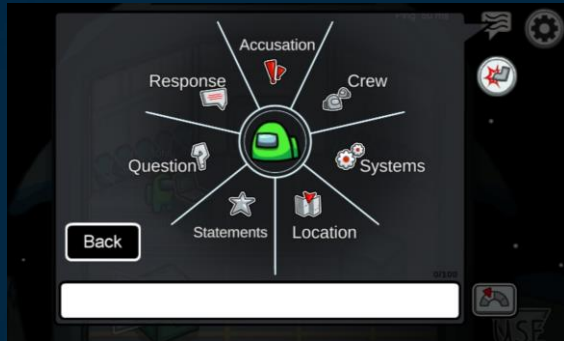
Search on "Google Maps" App



Auto-Complete for my search  
"instituto"

# Mechanisms For Entering Text

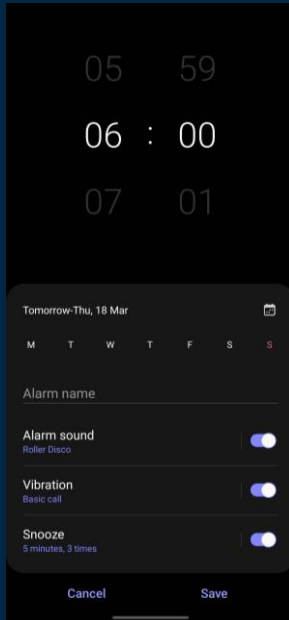
Design pattern: Predefined values



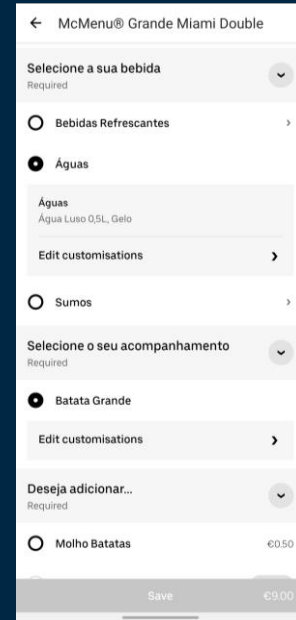
The game "Among Us", predefine values for talking in the chat

# Mechanisms For Entering Text

Design pattern: Alternative input mechanisms



Adding an alarm on “Clock” App  
Using a scrolling mechanism for the time, and a  
multiple selection for the day of the week



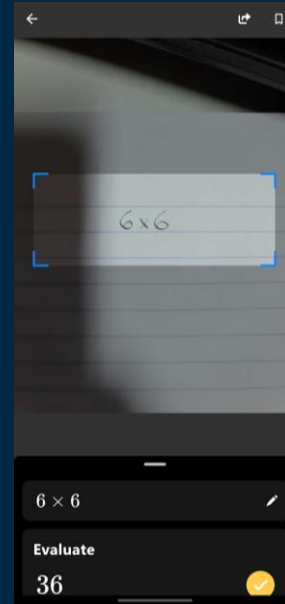
Making a request on “Uber Eats”  
Using multiple selection

# Mechanisms For Entering Text

**Design pattern:** Specialized input mechanisms



Adding a word on “Words of Wonders” App,  
using a slide mechanism



Scanning a Math Problem using the  
“Microsoft Maths Solver” App



# Interaction With Applications Without Using Stylus

- There are users that do not use Stylus



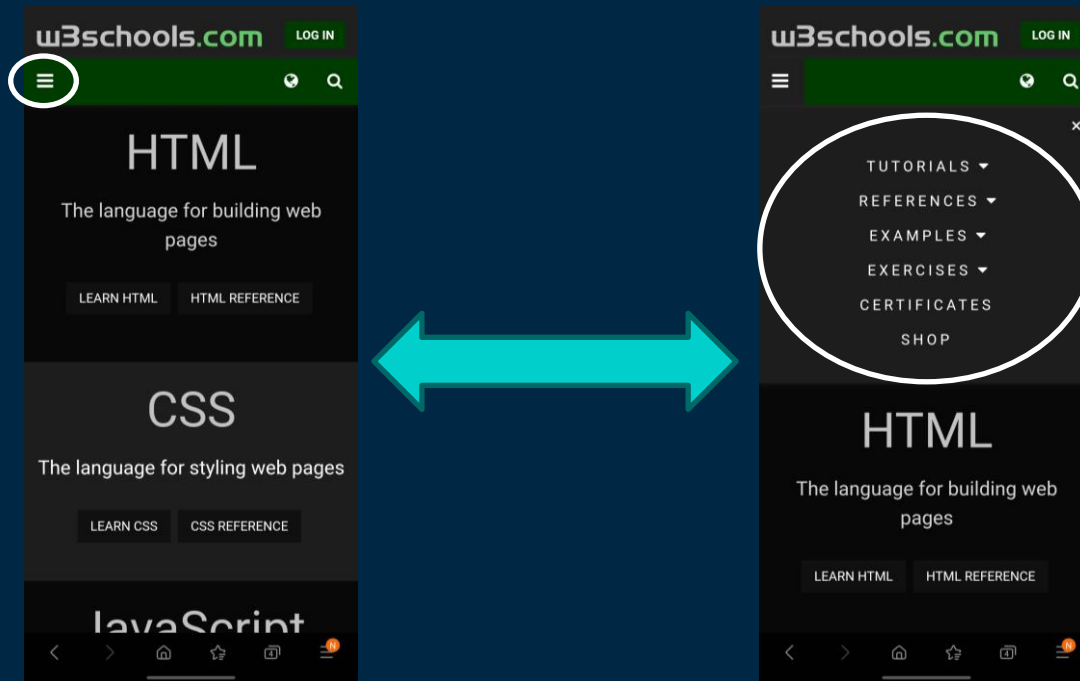
- Pointing Accuracy Coarser
- Make UI controls bigger?
  - Which impact could it have?
  - How simple is it?



Stylus

# Interaction With Applications Without Using Stylus

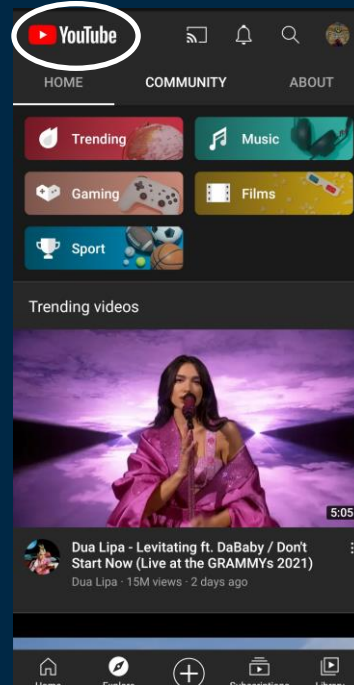
Design Pattern: Finger friendly menu choices



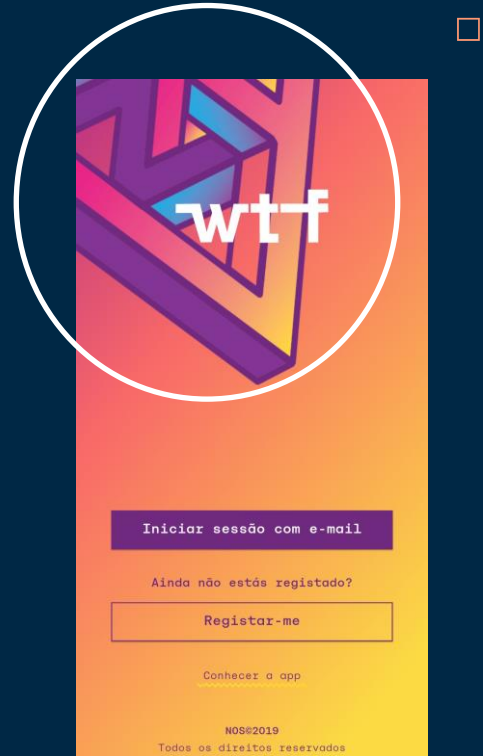
Hidden menu pops into the screen when needed

# Design That Supports Branding, Is Aesthetic, And Utilize Screen Space Optimally

- Branding VS Standard
- Challenges:
  - Unconventional can cause usability issues;
  - Manage screen space.



Company logo in the UI

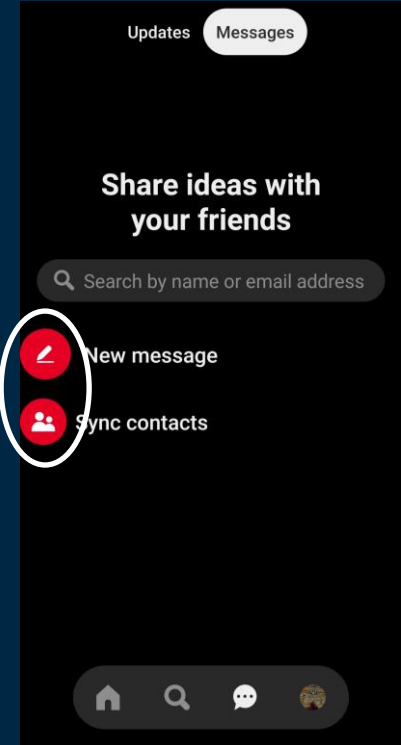
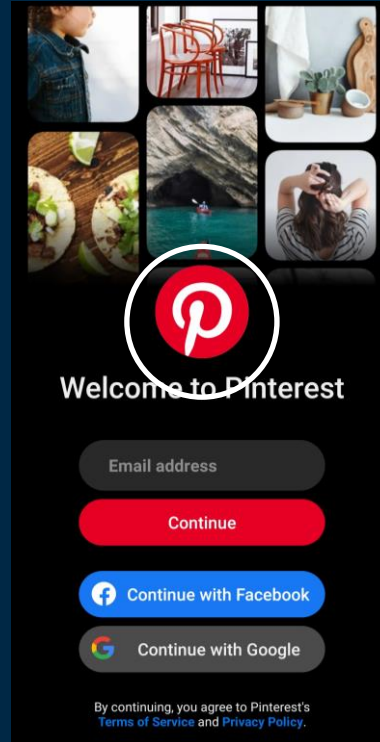


Company colors in the background of the UI

# Design That Supports Branding, Is Aesthetic, And Utilize Screen Space Optimally

Design pattern: Brand the standard

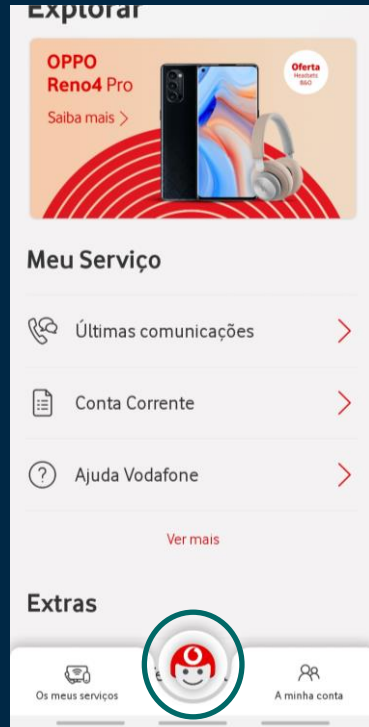
- Customize platform standard elements;
- Brand should be subtle;
- Challenge:
  - Subtle VS Recognizable.



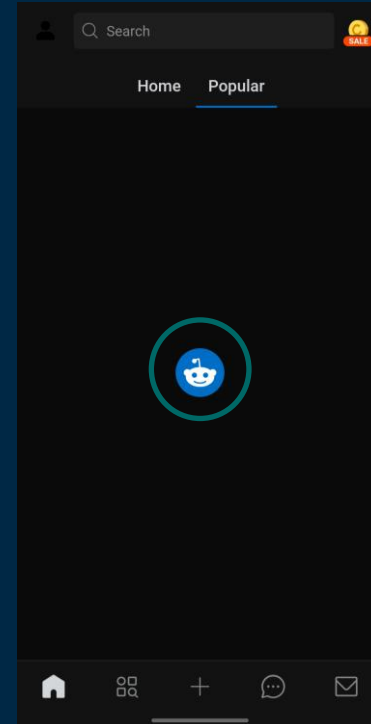
Customize buttons with logo colors pattern

# Design That Supports Branding, Is Aesthetic, And Utilize Screen Space Optimally

**Design Pattern:** Branding the controls



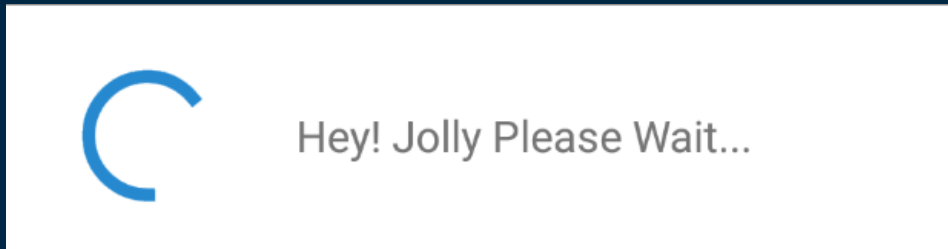
Company logo as help button



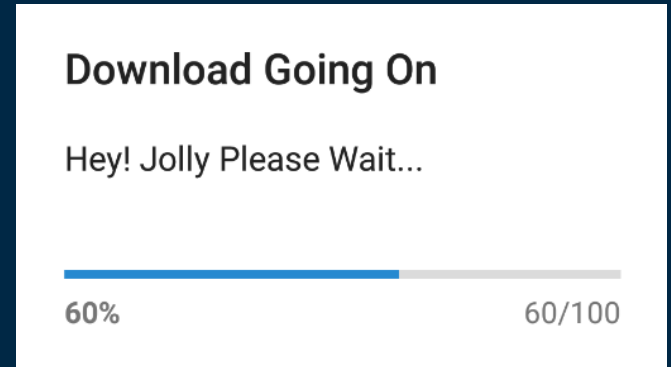
Company logo as loading indicator

# User Interaction During Waiting For Long-Lasting Operations To Complete

- Why is Good feedback important?
  - Maximize user patience
- Example of two approaches:



Cursor with user-friendly message “Please Wait (...)”

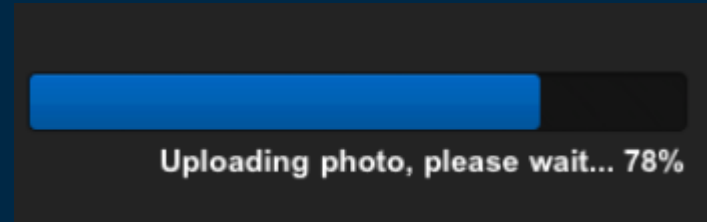


Progress indicator with percentage of time spent

# User Interaction During Waiting For Long-Lasting Operations To Complete

**Design Pattern:** Inform the user about what is happening

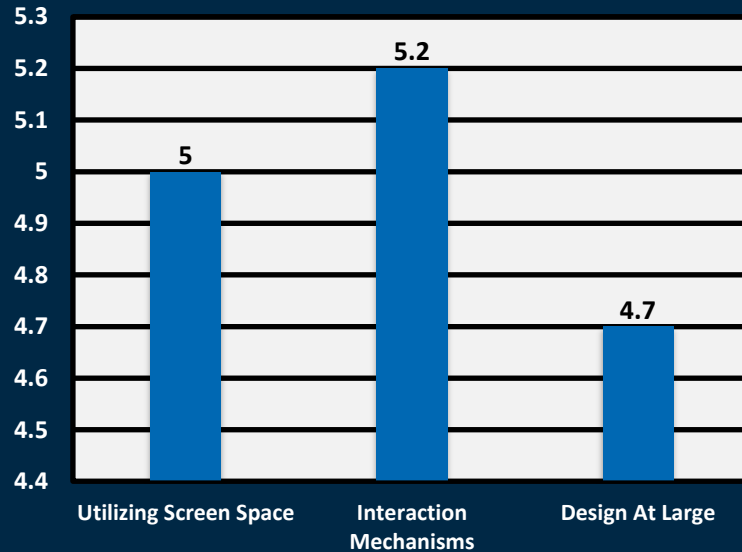
- Provides the user with more details about what is happening
- Events should be as user-friendly as possible
- Solutions:
  - Scrolling text  
[Events are appended at the top]
  - Single text  
[New Events overwrite older ones]



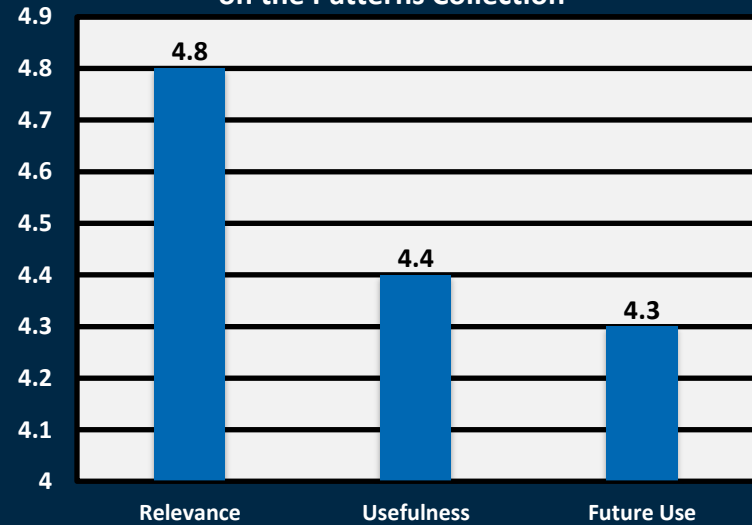
Progress indicator with single text  
displaying the events that are happening

# Validation And Results

Average Scores for Relevance on Main Problems Areas



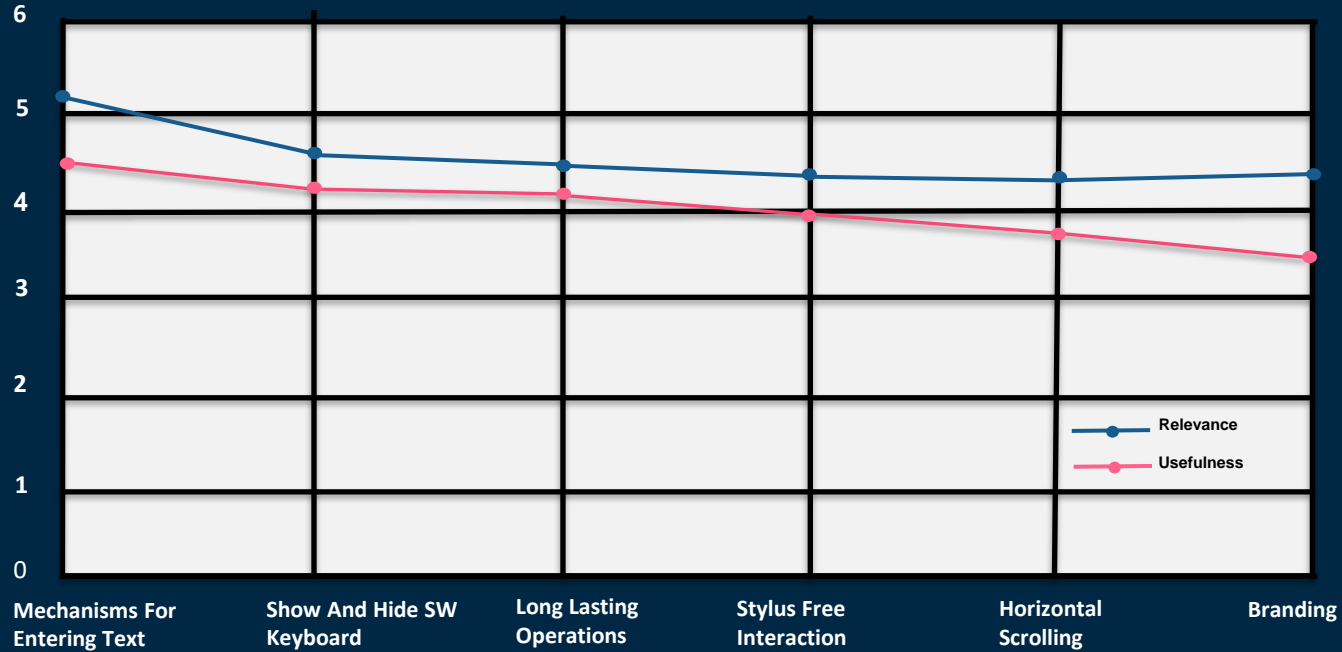
Average Scores for Relevance, Usefulness and Future Use on the Patterns Collection





# Validation And Results

Average Scores for Relevance and Usefulness on Individual Problems



# Conclusion

## Individual Problems:

- **Horizontal Scrolling**: Avoid this type of scrolling;
- **Show And Hide SW Keyboard**: When keyboard appears, deal with the layout;
- **Mechanisms For Entering Text**: Try different ways of inserting input to improve usability;
- **Stylus Free Interaction**: Handling interaction using your finger;
- **Branding**: How to properly brand an UI Application;
- **Long Lasting Operations**: How to display proper Feedback progress;

## Validation and Results (Score between 1 and 6):

- **Three main problems** score was between 4.7 and 5.2 in **Relevance**;
- **Pattern collections** score was between 4.3 and 4.8 in **Relevance**, **Usefulness** and **Future Use**;
- **The 6 individual problems** score was between 3 and 5 in **Usefulness** and between 4 and 5.5 in **Relevance**;