

# Self-reporting Diary of Touch Bar on MacBook Pro

## On the beginning

For a student, computer or laptop is an essential partner. As the star product for Apple, MacBook Pro is one of the greatest productivity tools in both working and learning process. Since 2016, Apple has added the Touch Bar to their new MacBook Pro.

Touch Bar is an OLED panel that customers can control their laptop by their fingers touch. It is very similar to the WYSIWYG design philosophy of iPhone. The Touch Bar already replace the conventionally physical keys that located at the top of the keyboard. In addition, users can set the Touch Bar stripe independently according to his own preferences.

I am going to record the interaction with this part what I think is the most technological sense, on the MacBook Pro by 5 days self-reporting diary.

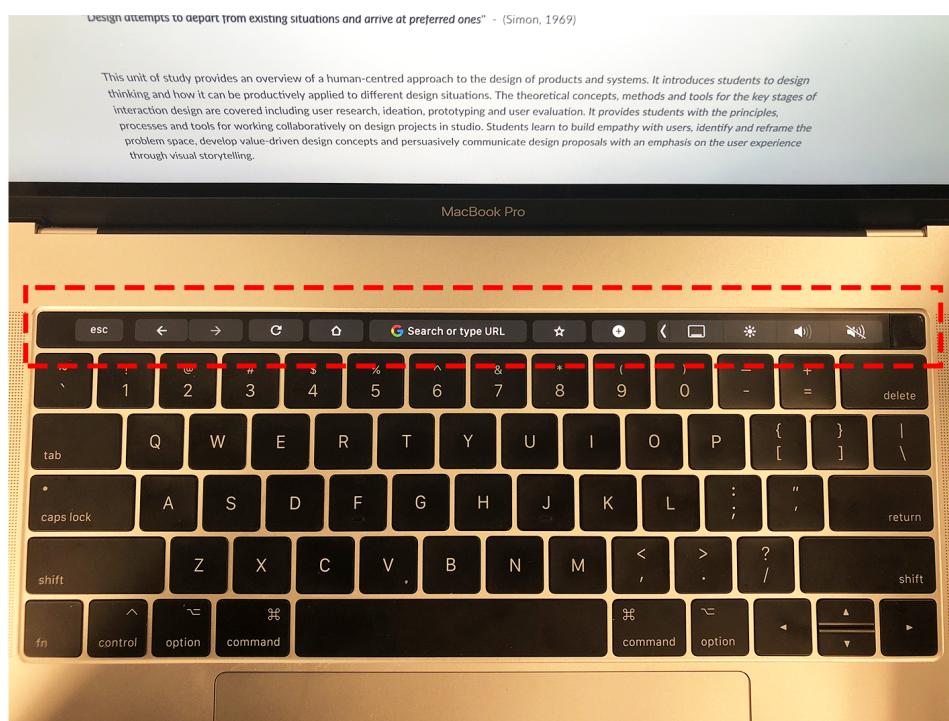


Figure 1: The dotted line identifies the Touch Bar, which totally uses the overall OLED texture. When the computer detects that user is active, the Touch bar is in light. If the user does not operate the computer for a long time, the Touch Bar will automatically go out to save power.

## First day, 15 August 2018, Wednesday

Today is Wednesday on the third week. As usual, come to the library to take out my computer and prepare to preview the work to be done the next day. Because my laptop always in the Sleep model, Whenever I want to use it, just open the lid and touch the fingerprint reader (power button) for Touch ID to enter the system. This design that

incorporates the current iPhone fingerprinting technology into a laptop is awesome! I love this design very much!

I don't think I'm an impatient person. But if enter the system by typing a password every day and repeat 1000 times, maybe any person who is patient will no longer be able to stand up. Compared with other laptops from another brand, system entry by fingerprint recognition is the most lovely and convenient method that I have ever experienced.



*Figure 2:* The black button in the middle of the picture is the power button, also called fingerprint reader. The operation of the touch ID is done through it.

Although this design is very impressive, actually I don't like the material used by the power button. This is definitely a fingerprint collector. For someone who likes a neat and clean work interface, that kind of fingerprint is unacceptable. So I will erase the fingerprint left on the power button by forefinger or tissue every time I use the touch id.



Figure 3: The picture records the traces of the fingerprint left on the power button. This texture of powder button is definitely the culprit of its role as a fingerprint collector. This fingerprint residue phenomenon may be a disaster for those who love cleanliness.

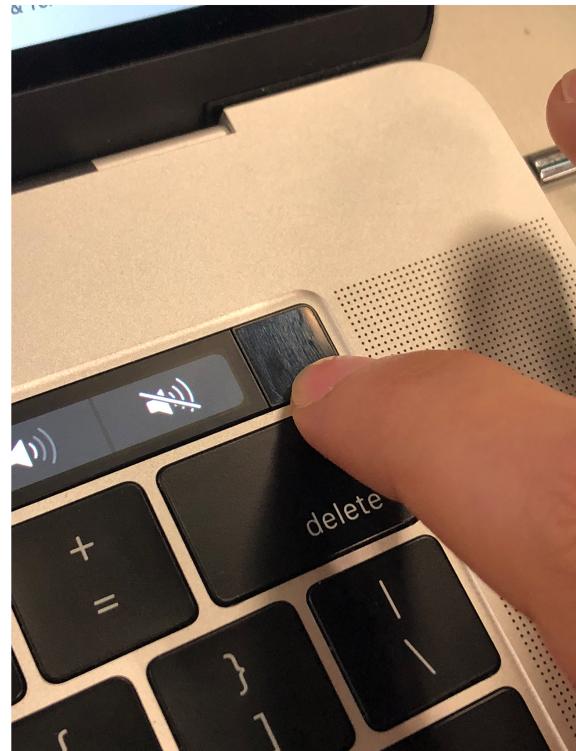


Figure 4: The picture caught during I am trying to erase the fingerprint left on the power button. However, the situation does not seem to improve significantly.

If I am the product designer that is responsible for the Touch Bar, I probably won't use this kind of material like the current power button, but I tend to use a more metal material to reduce the fingerprint residue and enhance the aesthetics.

Oh! Oh! Almost forgotten, today I find that the due day for this course is next Wednesday morning, 9:00, I have hardly done anything! Actually feeling a little nervous.

After today's lecture and come back to home, I repeatedly read the assignment requirements and marking criteria. At the same time, focused on the key parts and highlight it with touch bar.

Elaborate a detailed documentation of your reflective process as you use and interact with your chosen technology. Note you are expected to choose **ONLY ONE product/technology**, as the subject of this diary.

Consider this task as an exercise of de-familiarization, where a piece of technology become an object of critique over the course of **at least 5 days of documentation, conducted within 2 weeks time**. Make sure you select **different times of day**. The descriptive entries in the diary should include (but are not limited to) the following. Note these are not sections of your diary, but rather indications of the content of the diary:

- o **Date, place where the situation takes place**
- o **Description of context** (environmental, social, temporal, etc) where the interactive technology is being used.
- o **Aesthetics of experience** Feelings, perceptions, sensations, memories triggered, and associations.
- o Reflective accounts: For instance, how do your **bases** as a designer and as a user differ? Which features of the object/interactive technology are more memorable and why? **How does the object** allow you to perform your tasks? We encourage you to elaborate your own critical questions according to the situations emerging from the described interactions.
- o **Conclusion:** Some final words describing lessons learnt. For examples: Have you **learnt** something new about the chosen technology? Is there any particular reflection emerging from your perspective as a user, or from the user-designer dichotomy? How do you think that becoming aware of your behavioral patterns influenced the way you interacted with the particular piece of technology throughout the process? Do you think your personal insights can be extrapolated to other users and their needs?

**Photographs:** The use of photographs should make sense with your narration, think about telling your story with them. Think of photographs as narratives themselves. These should be **your own photographs, annotated**, explaining the context of use, from the perspective of you as the user (rather than another person taking your picture). Make sure to capture situations of interests. Consider aspects such as flow of **narration, and authenticity** of descriptions and **feelings**.



*Figure 5:* This picture captured when I am highlighting the PDF text with the aid of the Touch Bar. There are three different colors that I have chosen to distinguish the importance of different content.

This highlight manipulation is a really useful function that can help user enhance their document processing efficiency. I think I don't have any reason to refuse use this kind of function!

After this busy day, this lovely world, Good night!

## Second day, 16 August 2018, Thursday

Thursday, it is time to practice my multimedia skills! Actually, it is very warm today, especially like this warm feeling. The bleak winter seems to have completely disappeared today. Sydney's spring maybe really coming!

After arriving at the campus, I just quickly review what I learned last week and then start my Photoshop assignment.

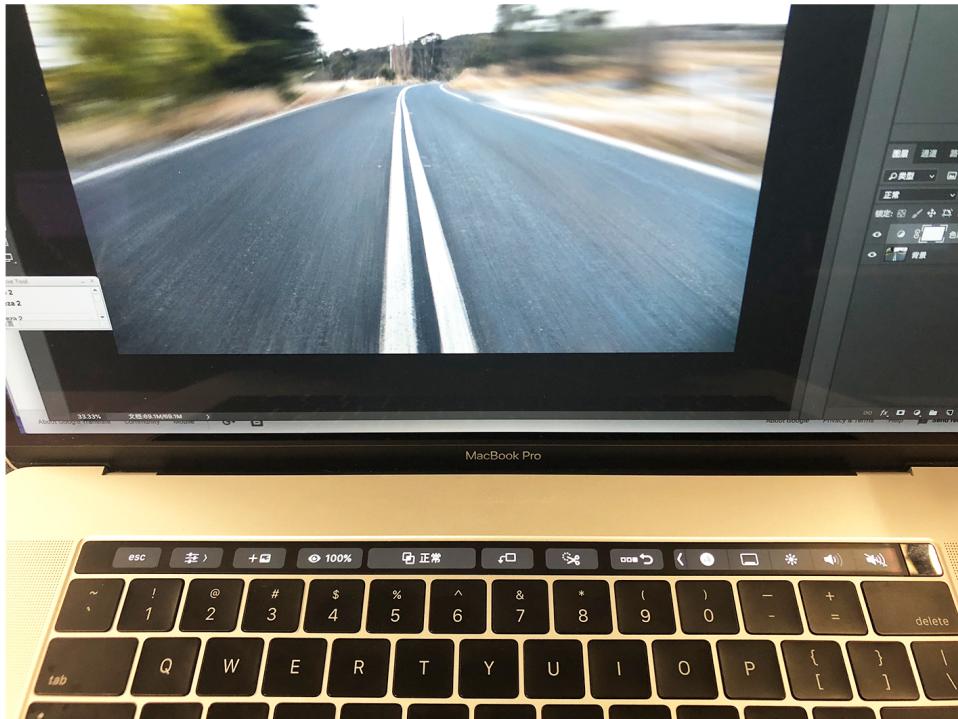
The first step is find a suitable and usable art material. Fortunately, as a big fan of photography, in this phase, I can more easily find the right target from the photos that took before. At this time, touch bar helps me again during looking through my albums, I have to say that this is really a practical tool!



*Figure 6:* This picture captured when I am browsering my album to find useful assignment materials. Through a flap-like operation that is similar to the smartphone, che Touch Bar control system can make user easliy look through the system album without any another operations in the keyboard and trackpad.

That is one of the most memorable functions that for a normal user. The reason why I this feature is really memorable one is that I don't need to use trackpad or keyboard to look through these photos. I no longer need the trackpad or the keyboard to control browsing of my pictures, but simply horizontally swipe to achieve image switching, which is really convenient!

After looking for the material to use for the assignment, the next step is to use Adobe Photoshop to modify it! When I imported the picture into Photoshop, I was surprised to find that the Photoshop is really a model of professional image processing software! It provides the personalized stripe design for users with touch bar and is very simple and practical.



*Figure 7:* This picture records the Adobe Photoshop personalized stripe in the Touch Bar. Although these stripes may cover a lot of operations, I am not used to using these operations to increase productivity.

However, in the Adobe Photoshop, I have my own logic and set of operations, and I didn't use some stripes on the touch bar to help me get the job done. On the other hand, even these stripes are easy and usable but it cannot change the Software usage habits of users that they have formed before.

After finishing the homework, it was close to the evening. I ate a dinner and ran to the lecture. Then I think I didn't touched the computer anymore. Today is really busy, fulfilling and memorable. Good night.

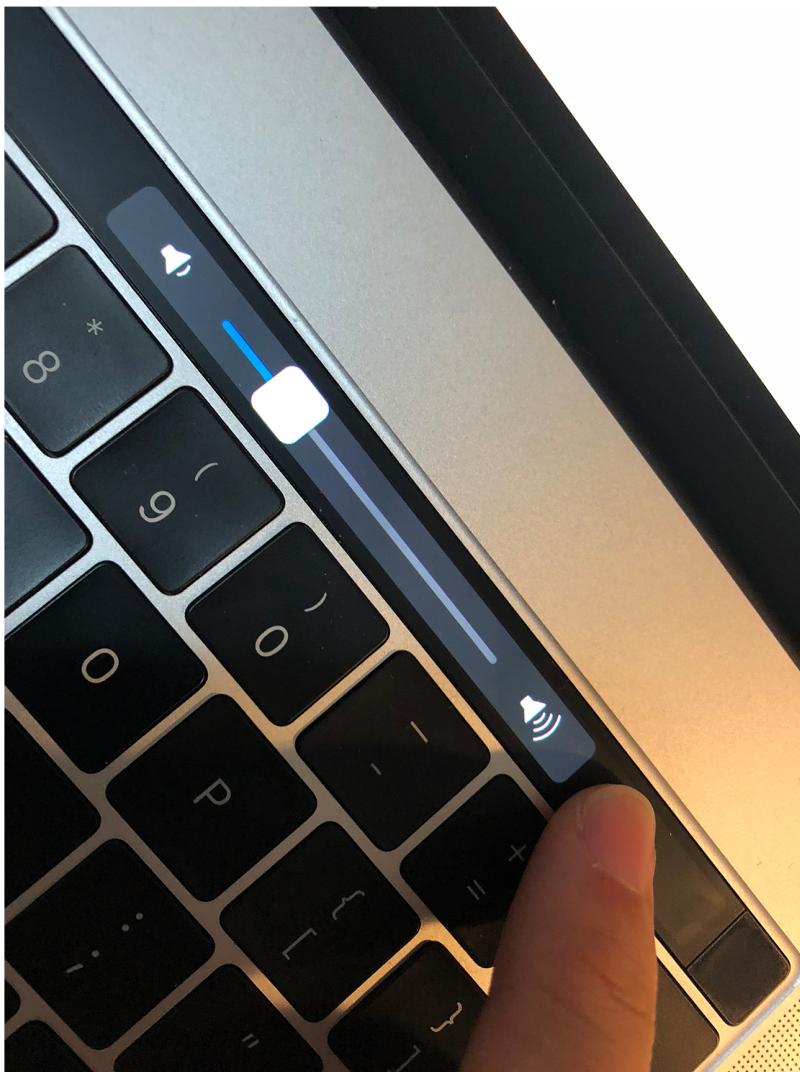
### **Third day, 17 August 2018, Friday**

Today is totally free day, and it is also Chinese Valentine's Day. As an international student in a foreign country, I also feel the romantic atmosphere. The sadly thing is that I am still single now. I feel very unnatural whenever see those lovey-dovey couples.

Because the outdoors is full of potential threats, I decide to stay at home and enjoy my own leisure time in Friday.

In my memory, when I choose to stay at home in for leisure time, movies and music are the best choice for me to kill time! So I just search online to find some most popular or highly rated movies that I have not seen it yet. Fortunately, there are a majority of different movies made from all over the world. I still remember, in that so called romantic day, which I enjoy two movies, respectably is a Korean movie, The Classic, and another is called Dances with Wolves.

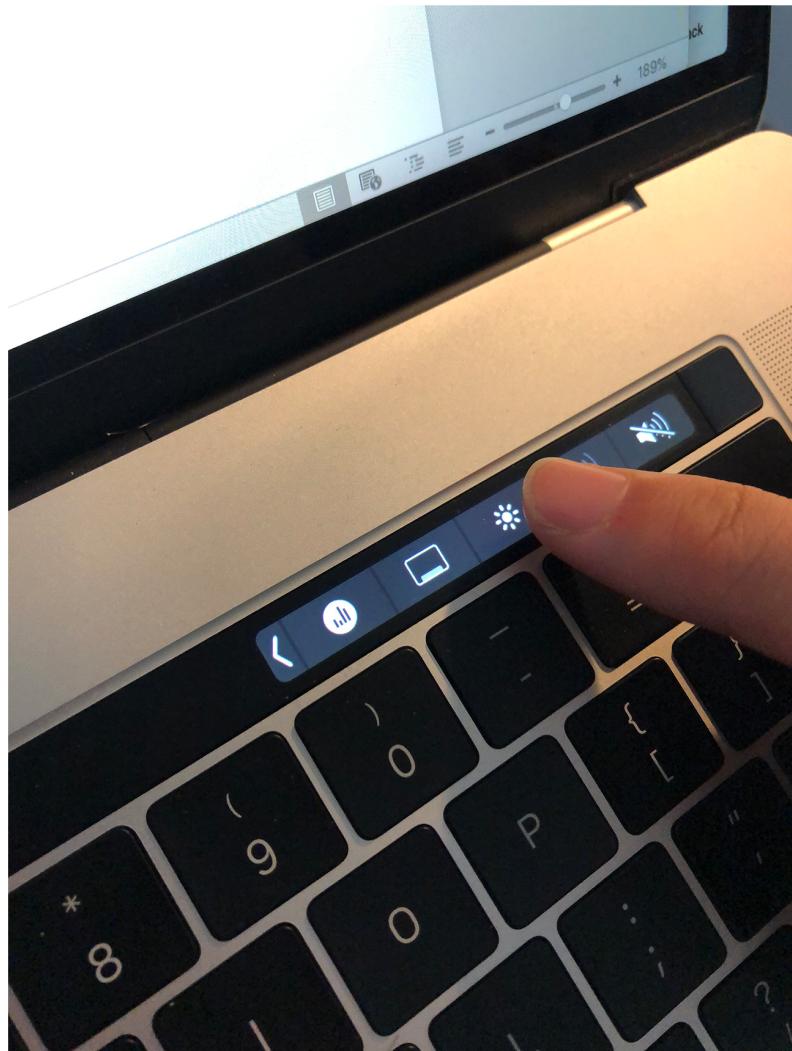
During the enjoyment of the movies, the other most useful or memorable feature in Touch Bar should be used, which is the volume changing stripe.



*Figure 8:* The picture catedched during I am trying to change the system volume.

This design of volume changing stripe turns the way to the touch control, which volume is adjusted in an ordinary Windows system by volume bar or another way by physical buttons. I think this unique user experience is the most special part in the MacBook Pro with Touch Bar.

Two movies, a whole day. Unconsciously, the sky is already dark. However, due to the problem of night lighting, I still feel that the screen of my laptop is a bit dazzling or brighter. So what should I do? Bingo! At this time, I used a stripe on my touch bar, brightness slider, to adjust the brightness of the screen. After that control, my screen finally become a comfortable brightness.



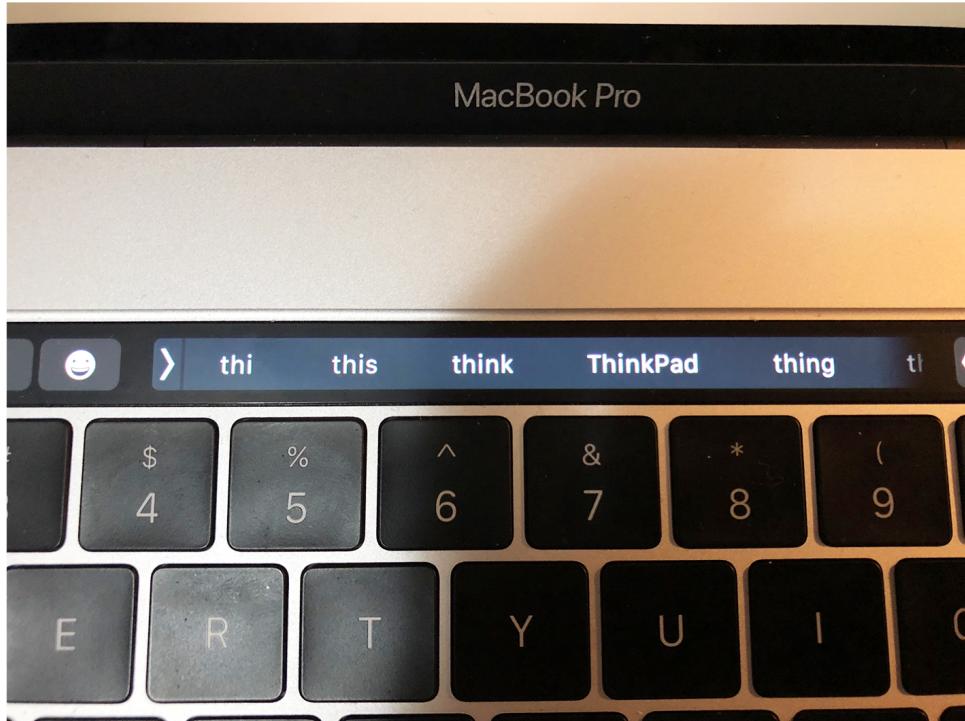
*Figure 9:* The picture catedched during I am trying to change the screen brightness. Just touch this stripe, it is esayto change the screen brightness.

In this way, today is spent happily with the help of these simple and practical designs. From these movies, I enjoy the sense of beautiful love, and a magnificent scenery of the western United States. Importantly, I quite love this rare free time.

#### **Fourth day, 18 August 2018, Saturday**

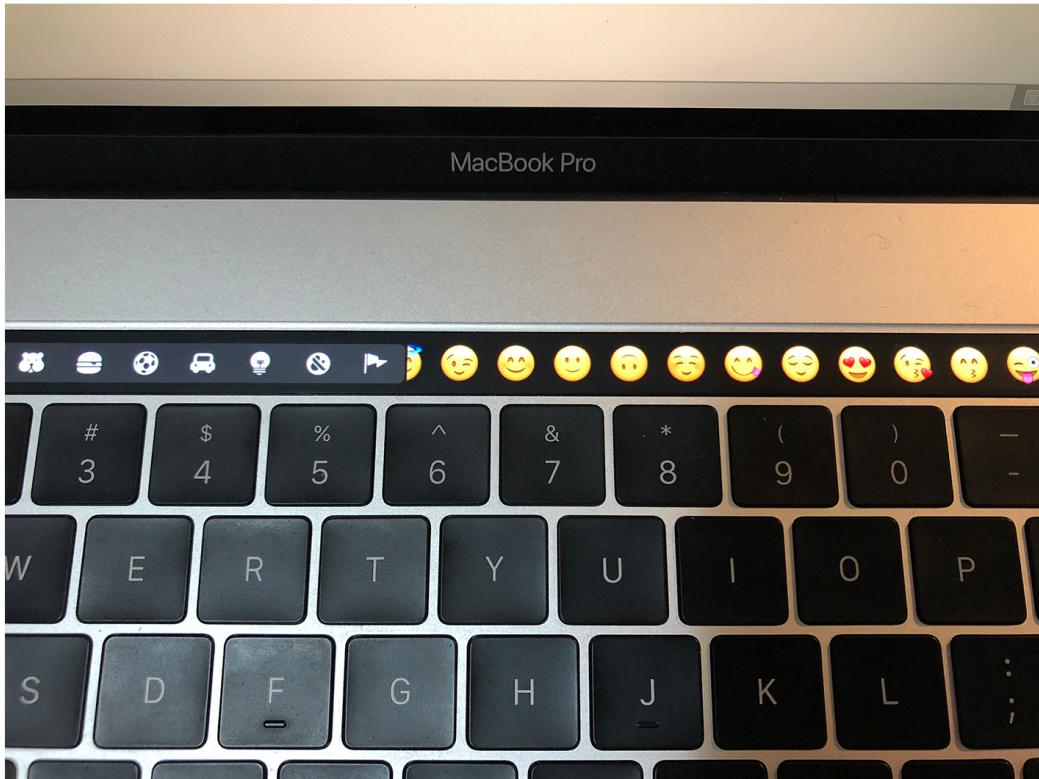
During the weekend, there are still have many tasks that needs to be done. For instance, I need to take time out to do the internship work, and take time to finish the homework and preview different courses that need to be completed next week.

Communication, as we all known, is one of the most vital important skills in our daily life, especially in the working field. Actually, I think I get great enhancement in my internship job, which included in the learning ability, communication skills or critical thinking. Whenever I do my internship job, the largest proportion is to communicate with my colleagues and customers through the Internet.



*Figure 10:* When I typing some words, there are some different candidate words shown in the Touch Bar. Sometimes for the English user as the second language, it is very practical that I can just remember the first few letters of certain words

In that day, I use the Messenger and WhatsApp to chat with my colleagues. When I type words in social media applications, there are many candidate typing words shown in the Touch Bar screen. And also, sometimes I prefer to communicate with my partners with some emoji instead of words. If I want to send some Emoticons such as a smile face or show me a thumb, I can easily find in the Touch Bar. Like these blow pictures. These candidate phrases and cute emoticons actually add a lot of fun into my serious and intensive internship job.



*Figure 11:* The picture shows that various choice for the emojis.

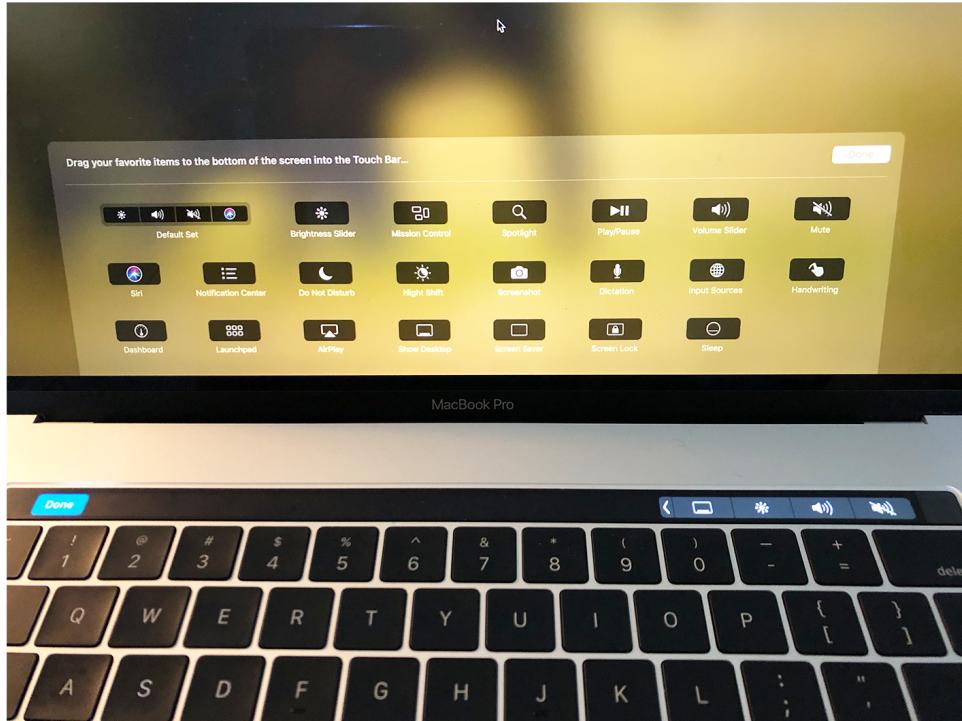
That practical function actually can help many people who are more focusing their hands on the keyboard while typing. I think this is another most useful design, which shows the characteristics of Apple MacBook Pro as a tool for productivity.

This is the thumbnail of my weekend life. Maybe in other guys' opinion, my weekend is not so happy, even boring, but I enjoy this joy from self-progress.

### **Fifth day, 20 August 2018, Monday**

The last of my self-reporting diary. Fortunately, I have done most of the other courses tasks before. So I just need to endeavor to do this diary better. So in my diary today, I'm going to focus on some of the interesting things that happened at the end of this diary!

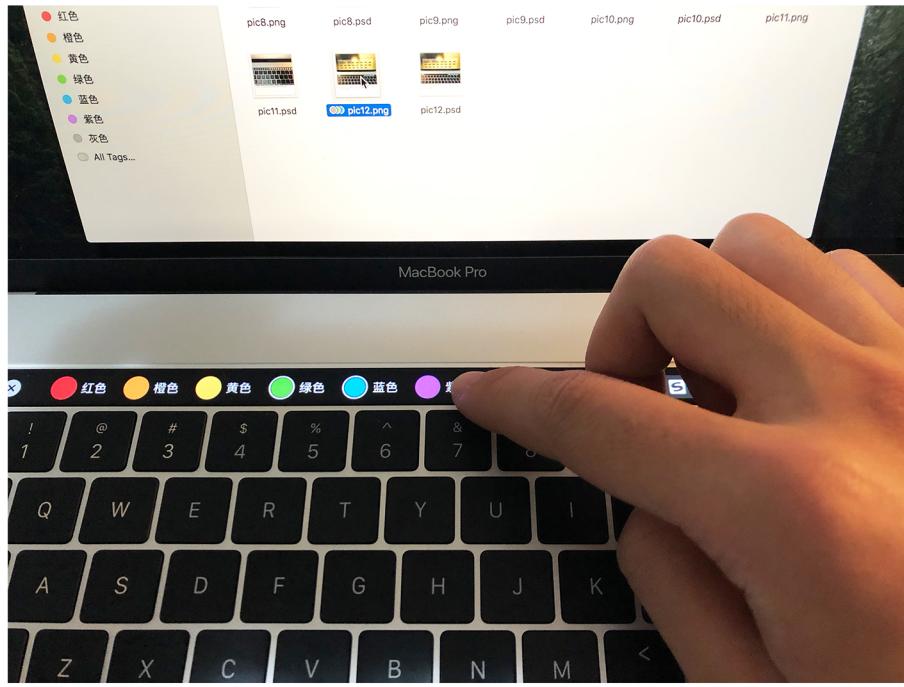
In order to match my diary content with just the right picture, I specially set up 5 shortcut personalized stripe tools for the Touch Bar, which withdraws the Siri stripe as default setting to the show desktop stripe.



*Figure 12:* The picture shows that users can set their preference of their Touch Bar stripe. I changed the default setting to the favorite way before this picture was taken.

Because the images attached to the diary have clear requirements, which must contain annotations and explanations. I have to import all of my pictures that I took by mobile phone into the Photoshop. Again, I quickly go through in my album and then download them. The Touch Bar save me much time on the looking through images process.

After I finish the process of commenting and interpreting diary photos, I categorize them into a folder, click each of the different images, and use the preview and tag sort stripe displayed on the touch bar to manage these photos.



*Figure 13:* I tag different colors to categorize different images that Has been processed.

All of these things done, I just need to insert these already processed images into my diary. Last but not the least, review again my format, font and some other potential issues of diary. Submit!

## Lessons from the design of Touch Bar

From the perspective of the Apple designer, the Touch Bar design is undoubtedly successful. It replaces the top line with a relatively low usage rate on a traditional keyboard with a customizable touch control module. In addition, they provide users with a very novel and memorable operating experience. Through it, the MacBook Pro is, to a certain extent, truly a tool that represents for productivity.

However, from the perspective of a normal user. Although the design of the Touch Bar is full of technological elements and novel experiences, the frequency of usage and the participation of these stripes are not particularly high compared to other modules of the MacBook Pro, such as keyboard or trackpad. In addition, users may not change the inherent operating mode they form just due to some feeling. For example, as an amateur fan of Photoshop, I will seldom use stripes in the Touch Bar during doing some normal operations.

There may be a lot of things to improve in the future, but I still believe that the Touch Bar can be regarded as a very useful tool, and continues to bring unexpected new operations to users.