Weather App: Design Changes

ECS522 GUI Coursework
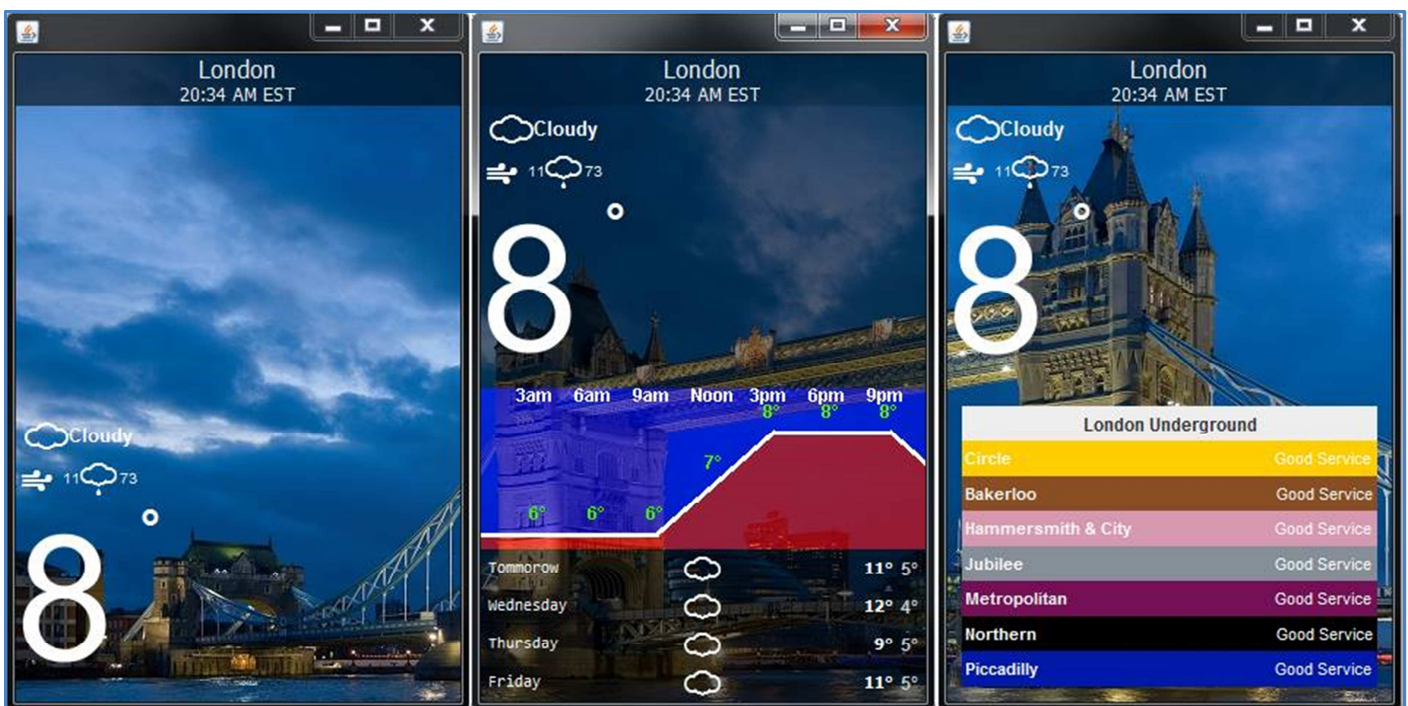
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Whilst developing the prototype, we realised that far too much information was being presented on the original 'main' screen layout of our initial design – notably that we were trying to condense the current days forecast, in hourly detail, onto the same screen as a week-long forecast and travel information from TFL.

Therefore, we opted to alter the design by splitting these three components into three separate windows, which the user can cycle through by swiping the screen to the left or right. The home window now only displays the temperature of the location at the current time, along with a weather condition icon and text, wind speed, and humidity; these key pieces of information are presented clearly in an uncluttered window for ease of use.

Please note: the images above are of an early iteration, and as such there may be slight changes in the finished prototype.

This new layout has allowed us to add some extra features to the app – most notably a set of persistent, scrolling background images (a different background image is loaded each time the app starts). As the user swipes from left to right onto a different window, the background will change according to the direction of the swipe; the portion of the background image viewed when in landscape mode is also changed to be appropriate to the screen size, and cycles in the same way.

We also decided to change the detailed forecast for the current day to show the temperature in three hour intervals, as we found that attempting to put an hourly forecast into the graph would overload the user with information; we believe three hour intervals provide the right balance of detail and conciseness.

Each window in the updated design maintains a copy of the weather data from the home screen, making sure that this vital information is never off screen. This new design has enabled us to more clearly present information to the end user (for example, we are now able to include a small graph of the current

days weather information to the user, providing the end user with an easy-to-understand visual representation of the data), as we are giving each component more space on the screen.

Overall, the changes we have made to the design of the application will provide a cleaner, more succinct application which will not overload the user with information at any point, and will ensure the user is able to easily and accurately obtain the information they require.