Using PlatformColor and Responding to Themes

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Overview

Windows supports two unique native styling/theming behaviors: one being the dark and light theme changes and the other being adaptive brushes and system colors. This article will show you how to set up your app to listen to theme changes and use the Windows brushes when and where you want.

Setting up and handling theme changed events

In this example, we'll look at three things:

- How to set up your React Native app to be style and event sensitive to the system themes
- How to switch styles when a theme change has occurred
- Handling a theme changed event

Using hooks to be sensitive to theme changes

First import the `useColorScheme` hook into your React Native app.

```
const MyAppComponent = () => {
       const colorScheme = useColorScheme();
       return (
         <Button title='click me' color={colorScheme === 'dark' ? 'grey' : 'orange'}/>
       );
     };
```

> Note: `useColorScheme()` will always return 'light' when remote debugging.

Setting up your app to be sensitive to theme changes without hooks

First import the `Appearance` API into your React Native app.

```
import { Appearance } from 'react-native'
```

Create a local variable to use in a style conditional or to reference elsewhere, and then supply mounting functions to ensure that you are listening to the theme change events correctly.

```
class MyAppClass extends Component {
  state = {
    currentTheme: Appearance.getColorScheme()
  };

  componentDidMount() {
    Appearance.addChangeListener(this.onAppThemeChanged);
  };

  componentWillUnmount() {
    Appearance.addChangeListener(this.onAppThemeChanged);
  };

  onAppThemeChanged = (theme) => {
    const currentTheme = theme;
    this.setState({currentTheme});
  };

  render() {
```

> Note: `getColorScheme()` will always return 'light' when remote debugging.

Using Windows-defined theme brushes

The following examples cover how to access and use the Windows system theme brushes and apply them in your styles. For more information on Windows XAML theme resources see: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/uwp/design/controls-and-patterns/xaml-theme-resources

Any brush/color value within your apps native `ResourceDictionary`, either from the system, or custom native resources, are available using `PlatformColor`.

Using theme brushes in a style

```
const styles = StyleSheet.create({
  title: {
    fontSize: 19,
    fontWeight: 'bold',
    color: PlatformColor('SystemControlPageTextBaseHighBrush')
  },
});
```

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Applying a system accent color variant

In Windows, there are algorithmically generated accent colors - dubbed Light or Dark 1, 2, and 3. This example covers what it would look like to apply that using the `windowsbrush` object.

```
const styles = StyleSheet.create({
  title: {
    fontSize: 19,
    fontWeight: 'bold',
    color: PlatformColor('SystemAccentColorLight3')
```

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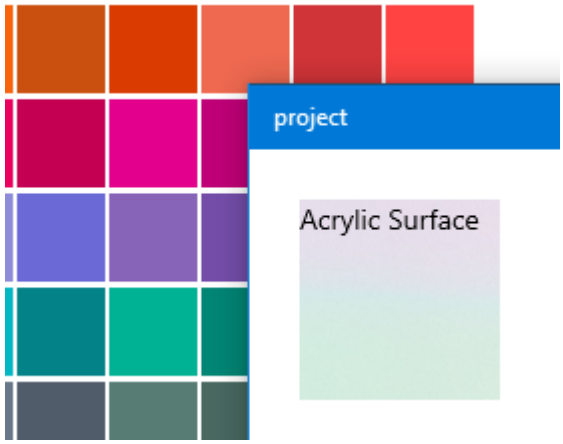
examples showed the use of theme brushes are `SolidColorBrush` objects. This means that the `SolidColorBrushes` will adapt automatically based on the Theme (Light, Dark or High Contrast), while the `Colors` will remain static.

Using `PlatformColor` to access Reveal and Acrylic

The `PlatformColor` API provides access to Reveal and Acrylic through JavaScript, on Windows devices that support these features.

Using System Acrylic

The `PlatformColor` API gives you access to all of the system acrylic brushes which can be accessed by resource name. Simply provide the resource brush name string in the component's style and it will be applied accordingly.



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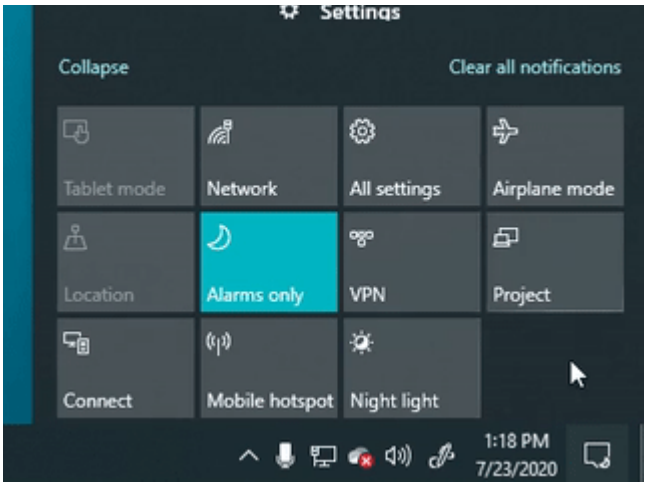
```
const styles = StyleSheet.create({
  viewcomponent: {
    backgroundColor: PlatformColor('SystemControlAcrylicWindowBrush')
  },
});
```

Applying Reveal Highlight



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```
const styles = StyleSheet.create({
  viewcomponent: {
    backgroundColor: PlatformColor('SystemControlBackgroundAccentRevealBorderBrush')
  },
});
```

‹ React Native Config Schema

Release Strategy ›