Lesson 3: Exploring React Native

Styling and Positioning

Karl Steven Velasco Orjalo

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React Native Quickstart

1. Customizing our Bottom Bar

2. Styling a Page

Customizing our Bottom Bar

Adding Icons to the Bottom Bar

Our Bottom Bar looks plain with triangles, let's add icons!

For all the slides regarding the Bottom Bar icons, we'll be working in `./App.js`.

Adding Icons to the Bottom Bar (cont.)

First, let's add an external library giving us icons.

Add `MaterialCommunityIcons` just below our other external dependencies:

```
import { createBottomTabNavigator } from
  "@react-navigation/bottom-tabs";
import { NavigationContainer, StackActions }
  from "@react-navigation/native";
import { SafeAreaProvider } from
  "react-native-safe-area-context";
import MaterialCommunityIcons from
  "@expo/vector-icons/MaterialCommunityIcons";
```

Adding Icons to the Bottom Bar (cont.)

Next, let's give icons to our Bottom Bar.

Make changes to <TabNavigator> as below:

```
<Tab.Navigator
  screenOptions={({ route }) => ({
    tabBarIcon: ({ color, size }) => {
      let iconName;
      if (route.name === "Home") {
        iconName = "home";
      } else if (route.name === "Account") {
        iconName = "account";
      }

      return (
        <MaterialCommunityIcons
          name={iconName}
          size={30}
          color={color}
          style={{ height: 30 }}
        />
      );
    }
  })}
>
```

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For the library `MaterialCommunityIcons`, the icon names are taken from `https://pictogrammers.com/library/mdi/`.

Experiment with different icons!

Styling a Page

As we can see on both the Home and Account page, the Text is at an awkward position at the top left.

Under `./src/styles/`, create a file called `global.js`.

In `./src/styles/global.js`, add the following code:

```
import { StyleSheet, Dimensions } from
↪    "react-native";
const globalStyles = StyleSheet.create({
})
export default globalStyles
```

We will now define `globalStyles.container` as below:

```
const globalStyles = StyleSheet.create({
  container: {
    flex: 1,
    backgroundColor: "white",
    padding: 16,
    alignItems: "center"
  }
})
```

Now, we will use the style we defined in
`./src/pages/home.jsx`.

Import `globalStyles` just below our dependency imports
like below:

```
import React from 'react'
import {View, Text} from 'react-native'

import globalStyles from '../styles/globalStyles'
```

Then, edit `<View>` to take in the style:

```
<View style={globalStyles.container}>
  <Text>This is the Home page.</Text>
</View>
```

Now, run the app on Expo Go. You should see the difference between the `Home` page and `Account` page.

If you haven't noticed yet, styling in React Native maps its methods to CSS styling methods!

Try making a new style definition under `globalStyles` in `./src/styles/global.js` for the Text in the `Home` page!

End of Lesson

Questions? Reach out at: karlorjalo@gmail.com