

## #5: Error prevention

- **Even better than good error messages is a careful design which prevents a problem from occurring in the first place. Either eliminate error-prone conditions or check for them and present users with a confirmation option before they commit to the action.**

# **#5: Error prevention**

- **Why?**
  - **Mistakes are common**
  - **People don't see or read everything on the screen**
  - **People make mistakes when typing, clicking, etc.**

# #5: Error prevention

- Provide Constraints

Enter birthdate:

(bad)

ERROR: Birthdate must be  
entered in MM/DD/YYYY format

Enter birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY):

(better)

Enter birthdate:

/

/

Month

Day

Year

(best)

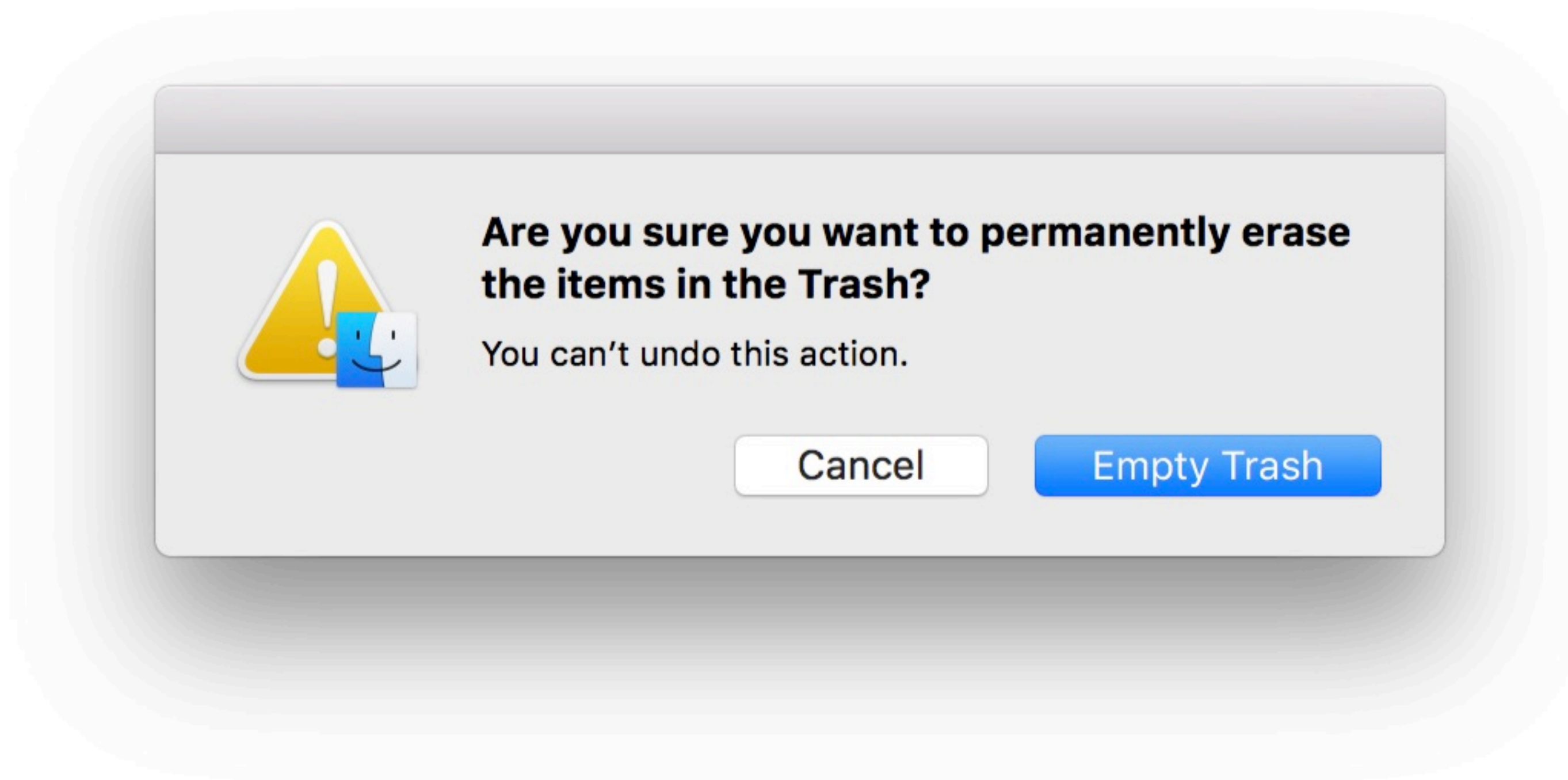
# **#5: Error prevention**

- **In-process feedback**
- **twitter.com sign up**



# #5: Error prevention

- **Confirmation of risky actions**



# #5: Error prevention

- Prevent actions that are likely to fail

