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CS160 Project 2: Represent!

Useful Links:

Github Link: https://github.com/cs160-sp16/prog-02-represent-kyletliang
Video demonstration: https://youtu.be/eXyvRSVM9Cs

Overview:

Represent! Is a phone + watch application that is meant to give users information about the Senators and Representatives in either their current location or a location defined by an user-inputted zip code. Here, we will walk through the various screens and interactions of this application to show its functionality and describe some of the design choices made (some may differ from the preliminary wireframes of this application)

Intro Screen (Phone):
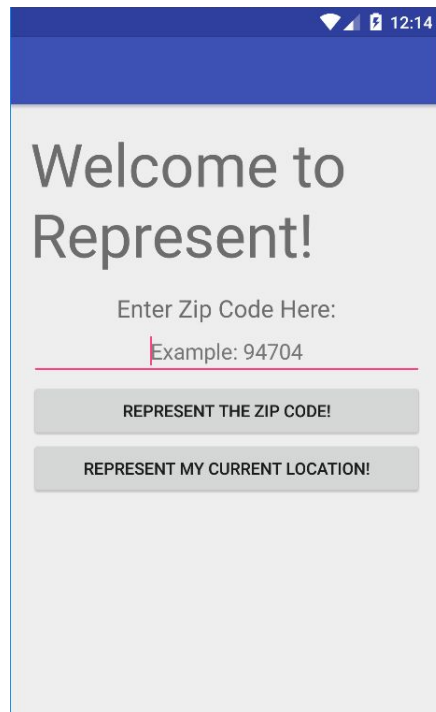
The introduction screen is fairly straightforward. There is some title text, a place for you to enter a zip code should you choose that option (uses the number pad), and two buttons: one for representing an entered zip code, and another for representing the current location. This design is mainly unchanged from the main screen in our initial wireframe.

Representatives Screen (Phone):

After clicking one of the location buttons on the title screen, we are taken to this representatives page. At the top of the screen, we see the county name of the location that was entered. Below, we see the representatives and senators along with Name, Party, E-mail, website, and last twitter message. Clicking on the websites will open a browser to those websites. Clicking on more info will take you to a detailed info page of the representative or senator. In the case where there are more than one representatives because of a vague zip code, this page will display all of the representatives and senators. Scrolling to see all of the information is enabled.

One design change was the usage of colored backgrounds to emphasize the party the representative/senator was from. We refrained from labeling the website, e-mail, and last tweet with text before that said "Website:" or "E-mail" or "Tweet" because of general space constraint. What would have been nice is to add some sort of small picture icon that represented an e-mail (letter), website (browser icon), or Tweet (twitter logo with some sort of background to not clash with blue background). Another thing that might have been nice to have is a loading screen when images and tweets are being loaded (though usually the info is loaded fast enough).
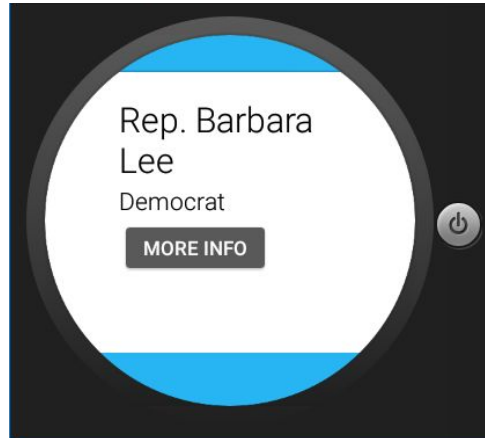
Detailed Screen (Phone):

After clicking on the more info button from the previous screen (or from the watch screen as we'll soon see later), we get redirected to this page. Here, this is just a simple display of the representative/senator and their information. Information includes photo, party, end of term, Committees the senator/representative belong in, and recent bills they have supported. This screen enables scrolling so the user can easily scroll to see all of the information. This does not differ too much from the initial wireframe. Overall, it would have been nice to improve the aesthetic aspect of this view (maybe more colors, maybe better spacing of text, etc).

Intro Page (Watch):
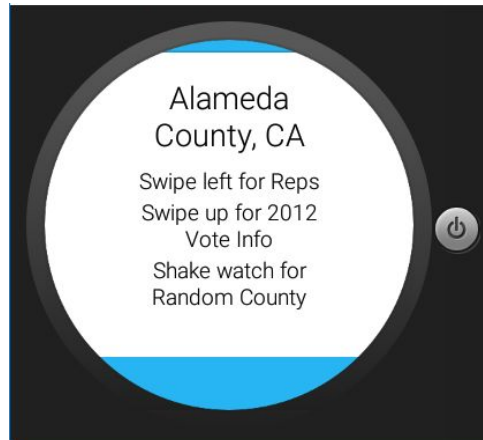
When we pull up the representatives view on the phone, the watch application will start up with this initial information screen. Note that the watch application cannot be run by itself without the initial interaction with the phone. The watch displays the county that we currently have info for and instructs the user of the different interactions we can have with the phone. If we swipe left (finger going from left for right), we can see representatives and senators. If we swipe up, we can see the 2012 presidential vote information for that county. If we shake the watch, a random county will be generated and displayed on both the watch and phone. I decided to have an information page to tell the user how to navigate the watch application and to notify them that there is a shake function.

Representative Screen (Watch)

This screen is fairly basic, just providing the name and party of the representative/senator of the county listed in the info screen. There is a button "More Info" that opens the detailed screen of that representative/senator on the phone. The color of the background of the card changes based on what party the representative/senator belongs to. Not much design has changed from our initial wireframe.

Vote Screen (Watch)
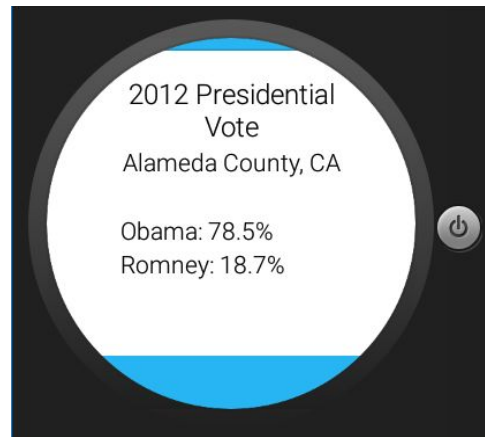
Again, this screen is fairly basic, with just a title, name of county, and vote percentages of Obama and Romney from the 2012 election. The design change here from the wireframe is that there is no bolded indication or star around the winner of the vote in that county. Rather, we had the background change either blue or red depending on which candidate got a larger percentage of the vote (this is actually the case for the info screen as well). The background color change was easier to deal with at the time.