Comp 388/424 - Client-side Web Design

Spring Semester 2016 - Week 6 Extra

Dr Nick Hayward

Client-side Web Design - Design and interface - Part 2

A brief overview of design considerations for interface development.

Contents

- Common mistakes
- Consistency, consistency...
- Considering consistency
- Establishing consistency
- Examples of consistency to consider

Common mistakes

- consider some of the common mistakes
 - affect our ability to design
 - implement consistency within our interfaces
- consider interfaces that achieve consistency
 - colours appropriate for the criteria or usage environment
 - consistent use of colours
 - consistent standards for typography
 - consistent implementation and styling of controls
 - elements correctly organised and aligned
 - elements placed in a logical position for users
 - ie: where users expect to find them
 - fonts used appropriate to a given situation, event...
 - grouping of similar, contiguous elements

Consistency, consistency...

- we need to establish rules for placement and usage of interface elements
- need to consistently adhere to these prescribed rules
- mix and match visual interface characteristics without confusing, and annoying, our users
- designer's visual language, like natural language
 - requires a set of rules to be applied consistently
 - these rules can then be recognised and interpreted
- consistency in design is rarely exciting or necessarily interesting
- it will help our users gain an innate sense of familiarity with an application
- hopefully helps drive further adoption and usage
- design consistency is simply about giving users what they can understand
 - in essence, rely on throughout an application

Image - design consistency example

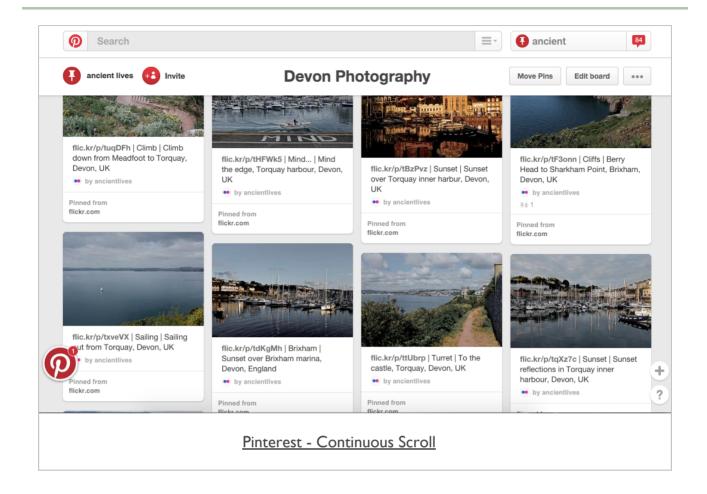


Source - Arngren.net

Considering consistency

- start to design our interfaces for applications and web sites
- then update them in response to feedback or feature changes
 - smallest changes can cause a ripple effect throughout our application
- applications may change and evolve, implementing new or updated technologies, options...
- still need to establish consistency in usage
 - eg: Pinterest interface
 - uses an interface mechanism of continuous scrolling to display a rich variety of images
 - now an accepted option for an interface pattern
- continuous scroll pattern is attempting to solve a given problem
 - user needs to view a subset of data that is not easily displayed on a single page
 - application's content presented to users as focused subset
 - larger, seemingly endless dataset to focused view
 - user needs to be aware of the ongoing content
 - without excessive effort or hindrance to the usage experience

Image - Pinterest continuous scroll

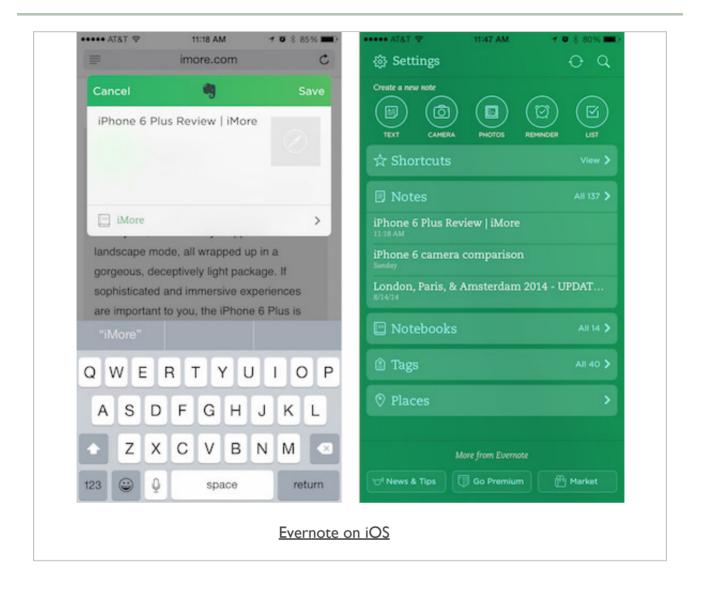


Source - Pinterest

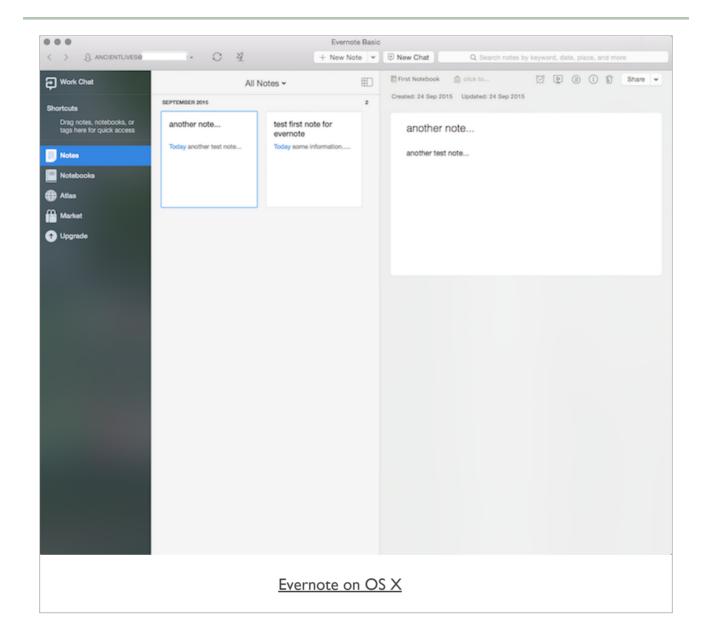
Establishing consistency

- help our users by starting with familiar elements and designs
 - elements and designs people are familiar with from other examples and applications
- users' expectations can simply be influenced by what they see onscreen
 - naturally what they've seen in the past
- a good reason that to review and consider many different types and examples of websites
- forms can be a good example of this type of conditioning and expectation in users
- a user sees a form for payment or credit card information
 - they have normally seen and used other examples
 - examples will often follow a similar pattern
- we can modify slightly to match specific requirements
 - such as text, specific event or purchase details...
- a user will normally look for familiar interface elements
 - such as a **submit** button, input field...
- as users, we become conditioned to use patterns on a regular basis
- consistency relies on an inherent awareness of user expectations

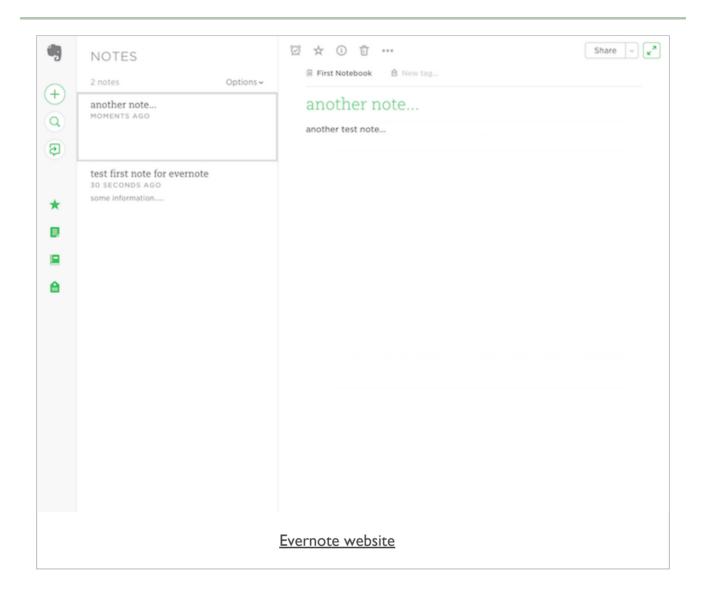
Examples of consistency to consider - Part I



Examples of consistency to consider - Part 2



Examples of consistency to consider - Part 3



Lack of consistency

Each of the previous three image examples show a lack of consistency in the underlying design of Evernote applications. There is the application of a different pattern, aesthetic, and layout for each application. The variance is reflective of the different operating system from mobile to desktop.