Comp 422 - Software Development for Wireless and Mobile Devices

Fall Semester 2016 - Week 12 Notes

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Contents

- final assessment
- final report
- project status report
- Other UI options
- Cordova app continued
- design considerations

Presentation

- Yale's Giuseppe Amatulli on Big Data meets Geo-Computation
- Friday 2nd December 2016
- 2.45pm to 3.45pm
- Location
 - IES-123, Lake Shore Campus
- continue class after presentation

Final Presentation & Report

- team presentation on 9th December @ 2.45pm
- team report due on 16th December by 2.45pm

Final Assessment Outline

- continue to develop your app concept and prototypes using Apache Cordova
- implement a custom Cordova plugin for the following native Mobile OSs
 - Android
- produce a working app
 - as far as possible try to create a fully working app
 - explain any parts of the app not working...
- explain design decisions
 - outline what you chose and why?
 - what else did you consider, and then omit? (again, why?)
- which concepts could you abstract for easy porting to other platform/OS?
- describe patterns used in design of UI and interaction

Final Assessment Report

report outline - demo and report

Project Status Report

- what is currently working?
- which data store?
- what is left to add or fix? features, UI elements, interactions...
- who is working on what? logic, design, testing, research...
- team alert
- team bill splitter (study buddies)
- team crunchtime
- team fitness
- team hallpass
- team horatio
- team loyola classifieds
- team loyola group fitness
- team service request
- team walking through naboo

Cordova app - Extras

Other UI Options - Ionic - part I

- briefly consider option of using lonic's framework
 - for developing your UI for Cordova applications
- Ionic is a HTML framework
 - designed specifically for development of hybrid applications
 - including Cordova mobile applications
- originally created by a group of developers called **Drifty**
- known to be simple to use and very fast
- Ionic provides
 - overall UI framework
 - accompanying CLI
- CLI is wrapper for Cordova CLI
- install Ionic using NPM

sudo npm install -g ionic

start using lonic at CLI with ionic command

Cordova app - Extras

Other UI Options - Ionic - part 2

- lonic provides a number of useful starter templates
 - use and modify for the development of our Cordova applications
- create a new lonic project
 - use the following command at the CLI,

ionic start csteach422 blank

- specify the project name
 - in this example csteach422
- required template for this project
- in this example blank
- templates include
 - Tabs (default) Demo
 - Sidemenu Demo
 - Blank Demo
- Ionic CSS Styles Demo
- Ionic creates a Cordova application
 - with addition of support and styling for lonic based UI

Cordova app - Extras

Other UI Options - Ionic - part 3

- Ionic framework has now used Cordova to build the new project
- also added some lonic specific components
 - custom components to help with builds, UI framework updates...
- lonic adds platform support for iOS by default
 - then we can the standard Android support

ionic platform add android

- Ionic CLI commands closely match familiar Cordova commands
- a useful command

ionic serve

- start a local web server and test our project from the working directory
 - CLI checks preferred server address, eg: localhost
 - loads project in default browser

Image - Ionic Starter

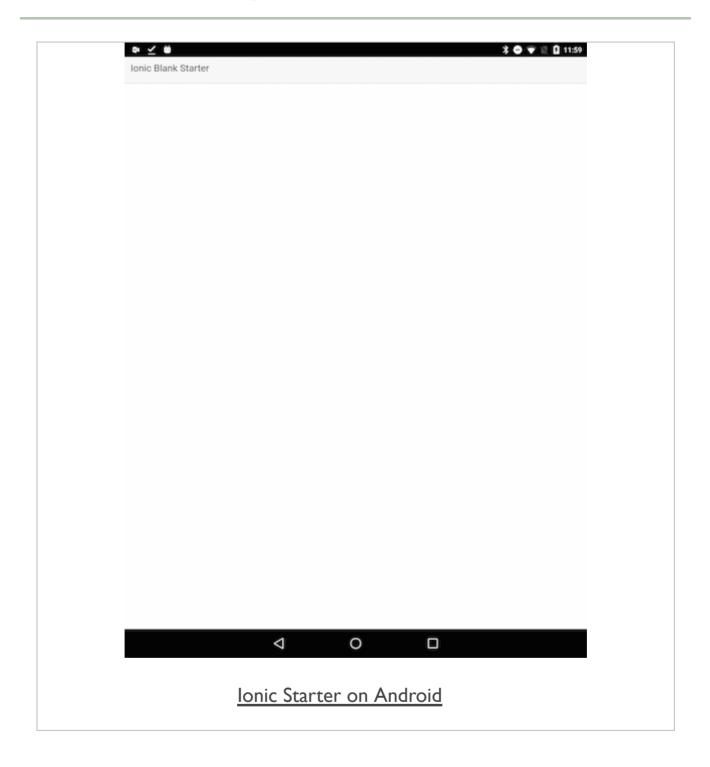


Image - Ionic Starter



notes app - recap

Latest app features and updates,

- home page and create note page
- initial navigation stack
- statusbar customisation and titles
- splashscreens and icon
- initial page elements
- checked loading of
 - deviceready for Cordova
 - init for OnsenUI ons-page component

and a few updates to the general aesthetics...

Image - NoteTaker - check init event - OnsenUI

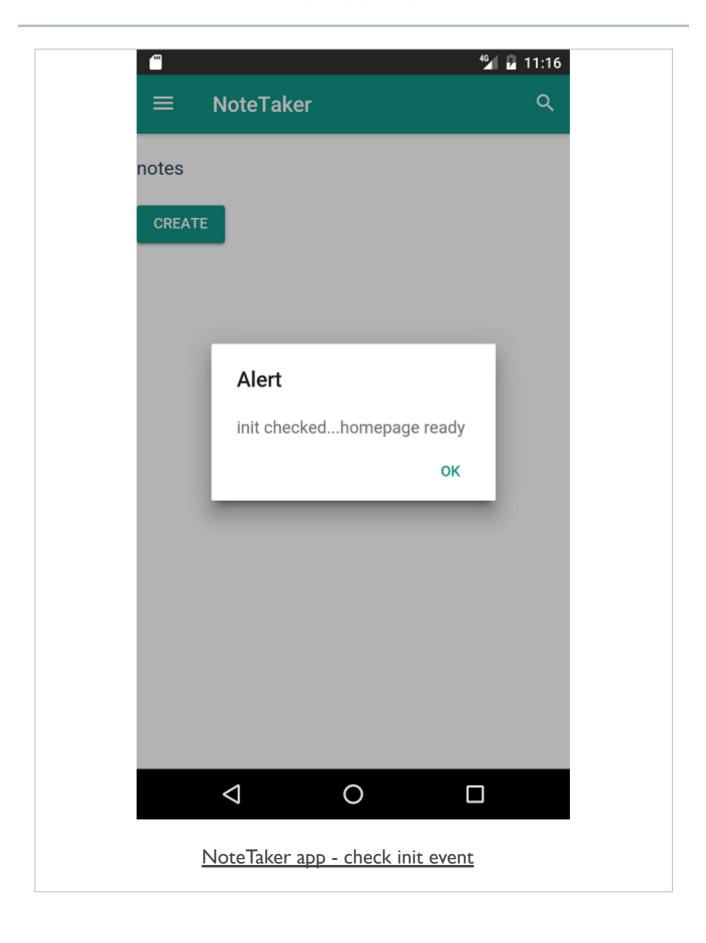


Image - NoteTaker - load home page - OnsenUI

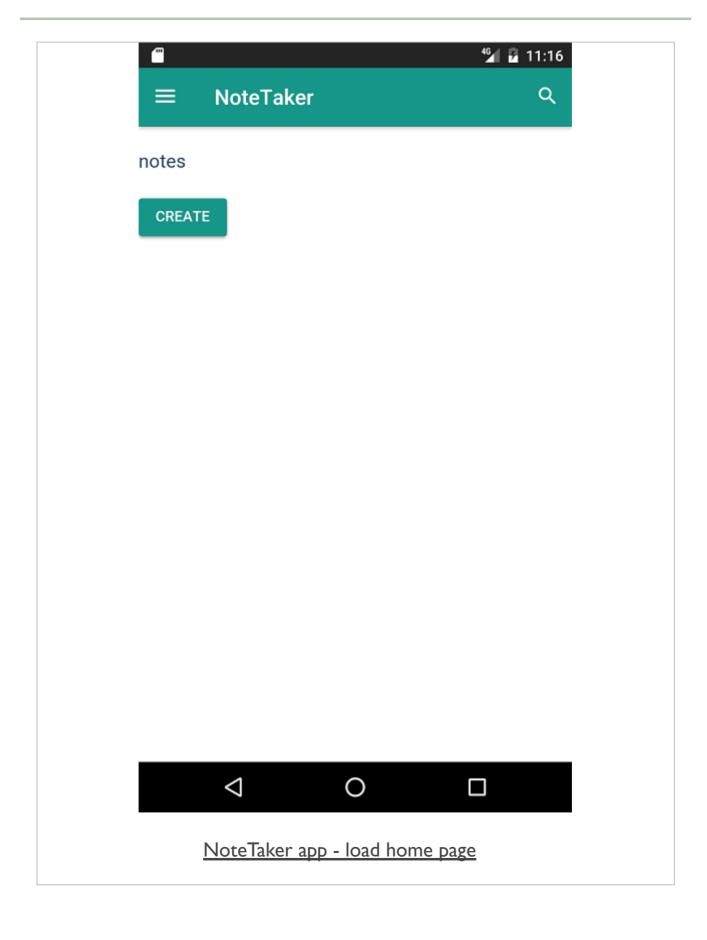
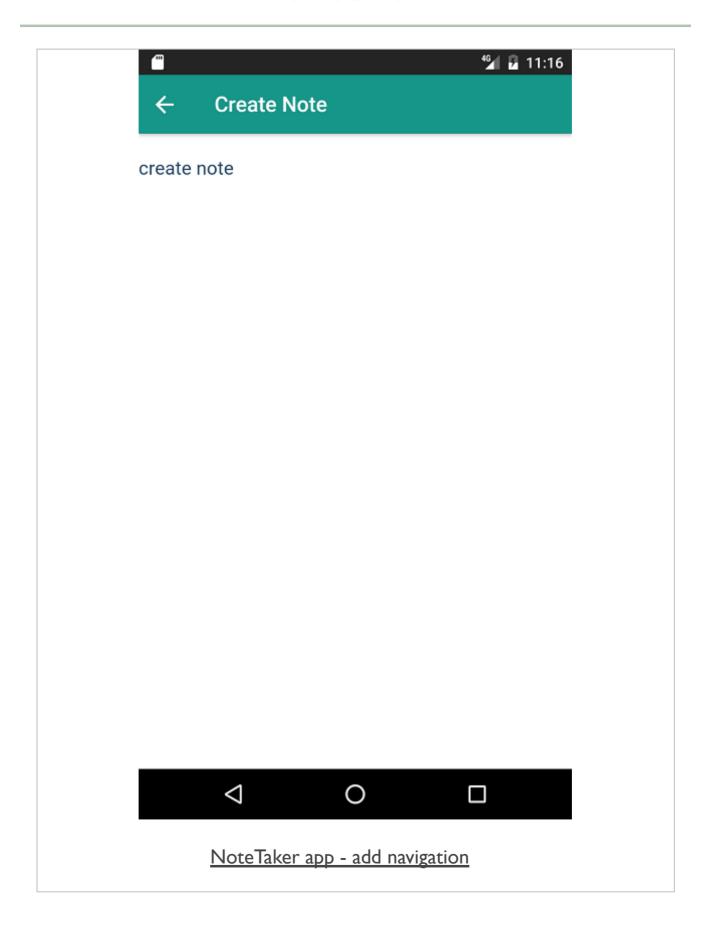


Image - NoteTaker - add navigation - OnsenUI



notes app - update UI

- start to modify our initial UI for our OnsenUI based app
- add a standard Material Design icon for creating a note
- use with our existing navigation stack
- standard floating action button pattern
 - defined in the Material Design specification

```
<ons-fab position="bottom right">
  <ons-icon id="create-note" icon="md-plus"></ons-icon>
  </ons-fab>
```

Material Design specification - Floating Action Button

notes app - update UI - grid layout

- need to use a grid layout for our initial notes
- consult the Material Design guidelines for a grid list
 - Material Design Guidelines grid list
- OnsenUI provides components for rows and columns, e.g.

also add a custom class to recreate some cards for our notes, e.g.

```
.note-card {
box-shadow: 0 lpx 4px #blc4bl;
background-color: #ffffff;
}
```

Image - NoteTaker - grid layout portrait - OnsenUI

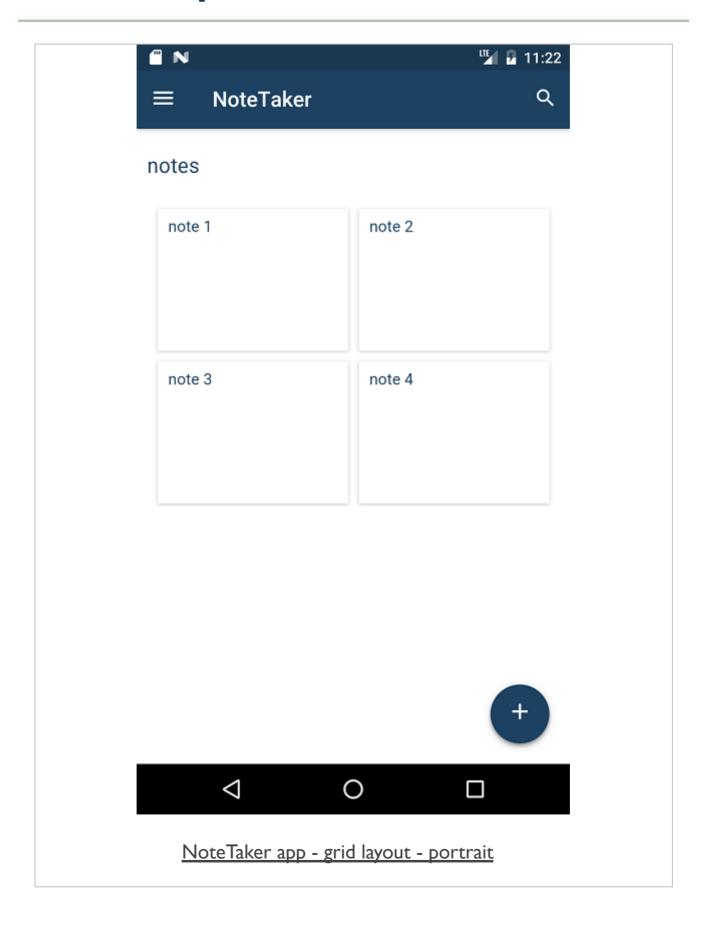
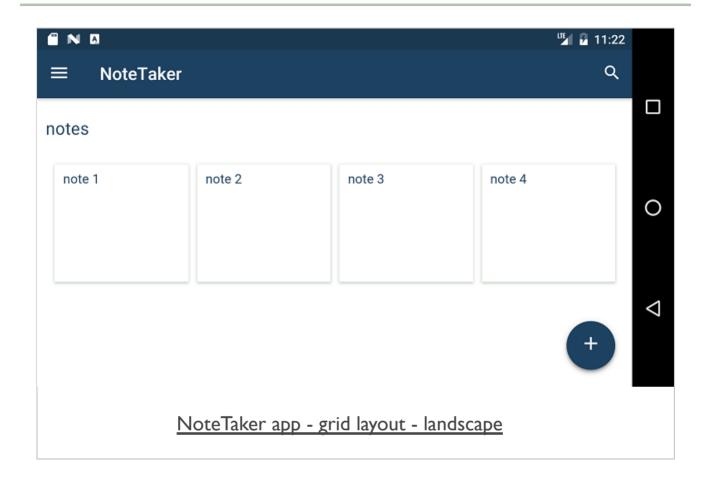


Image - NoteTaker - grid layout landscape - OnsenUl

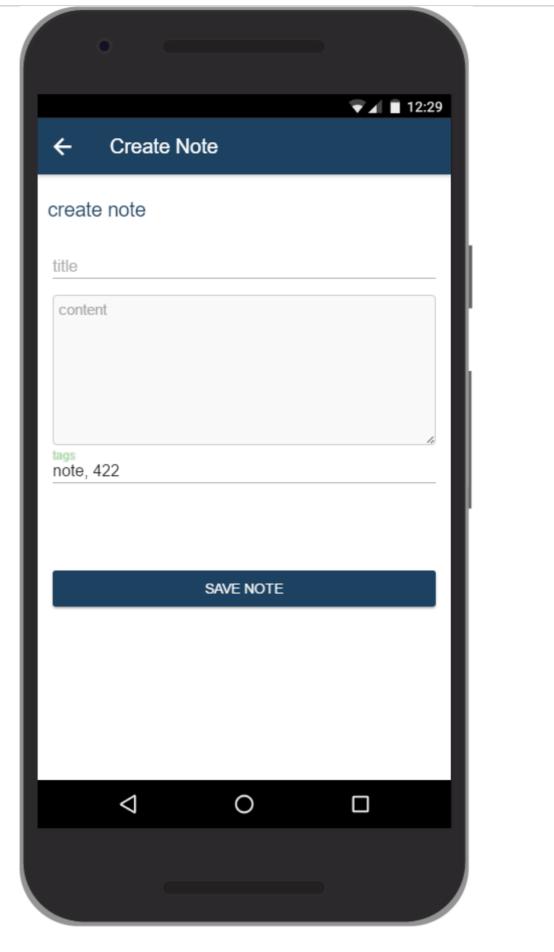


notes app - create note page

- next initial update
 - add options for a user to create their notes on the create note page
- need to add a form with various fields for a note
- <ons-input> component for input fields
 - component supports many different common form elements
 - checkbox, radio button, password field...
- need the following minimum elements and options for our create note page
 - title, content, tags

- mixture of standard HTML5 elements and OnsenUI components
 - desired layout and rendering for our create note page

Image - NoteTaker - create note page - OnsenUI



NoteTaker app - create note page - initial design

notes app - update UI - navigation and splitter structure

- current navigation uses <ons-navigator> component
 - push **create note** page to navigation stack
- <ons-splitter> component
 - use to create a main menu option
- component offers different frames that allow us to render varied content
 - e.g. add our menu with a left splitter contains menu links, title...
 - each link loads requested URL to <ons-splitter-content>
- frames normally contain a <ons-page> component
 - also nest multiple navigation components
 - e.g. <ons-navigator>
- basic usage, e.g.

notes app - update UI - navigation and splitter structure

- combine the navigator and splitter component
 - need to consider how they will complement each other
 - ensure navigation stack works correctly
- structure of our HTML needs to be updated

•

notes app - update UI - navigation and splitter promises

- slightly different from the prescribed pattern in the OnsenUI docs
- after testing an initial pattern
 - navigator component as a parent container to the splitter component
- initially errors reported relative to blocked, existing promises
- splitter and its associated animation was in conflict
 - with subsequent calls to the menu itself
 - and the navigator component
- forum answer was an initial concern, not a satisfactory resolution
 - Onsen Community
- this issue led to the previous design and updated JS logic
- no longer blocks the required promises...

notes app - update UI - navigation and splitter logic

- relative to our menu option
 - add this check to force the logic
 - checks target page before loading the menu itself
- if not, execution of JS logic will return 'null' for requested menu open selector. e.g.

```
if (event.target.id === 'home') {
    //get menu icon - query selector OK due to one per ons page
    var menuOpen = document.querySelector('.menu-open');
    //check menu open is stored...
    if (menuOpen) {
        console.log("menu open stored...");
    }
}
```

- checking that we can actually now use the menu open selector
 - toggle state of the menu
 - then add an event listener for the main menu
 - allows us to open the menu on any applicable ons page

```
//add event listener for main menu
menuOpen.addEventListener('click', function(event) {
    event.preventDefault();
    //open main menu for current page
    menu.open();
}, false);
```

notes app - update UI - navigation and splitter logic

- need to handle multiple possible links in the menu itself
 - ensure requested page is loaded in the splitter content

```
if (event.target.id === 'menu.html') {
  console.log("menu target...");

//es6 Array.prototype.forEach iteration...
Array.from(menuLink).forEach(link => {
    link.addEventListener('click', function(event) {
        event.preventDefault();
        var url = this.getAttribute('url');
        console.log("menu link = "+ url);
        content.load(url)
        .then(menu.close.bind(menu));
    }, false);
});
```

- updated navigator and splitter component structure helps with overall logic
- check and add a listener for each menu item
 - as and when the menu is actually loaded in the app
 - resolves situation of locked promises for splitter component...
- allows us to correctly select our menu, and menu items
- also select create note option as well on a given page
 - set navigation stack for the **create note** option by checking against given page event

```
if (event.target.id === 'home') {
    //set navigation
    onsNav(event.target);
}
```

notes app - update UI - splitter, navigation, and backbutton

- using the <ons-splitter> and <ons-navigator> components
 - helps create the correct structure for our app
- need to consider interaction with hardware backbutton on Android
- Android device default usage pattern
 - default behaviour for hardware backbutton = close the app
 - user may reopen app from recent items using the overview button
- Android behaviour pattern replicated by Cordova
 - fires event to handle hardware button within an app
 - part of the default cordova.js file
- OnsenUI also set handlers for this hardware button for given UI components
 - Dialogs close a cancelable dialog
 - Navigator if page stack not empty, pops a page from navigation stack
 - Splitter close the menu if currently open

notes app - update UI - splitter, navigation, and backbutton

- menu system based upon the splitter component
 - careful how we handle this hardware back button
 - default action is to simply exit an app
- can update or modify this behaviour to create explicit action
 - offer feedback to users before an **exit** is executed

```
// initially disable hardware backbutton on Android
ons.disableDeviceBackButtonHandler();

// set custom backbutton handler
ons.setDefaultDeviceBackButtonListener(function(event) {
  ons.notification.confirm('Exit app?') // check with user
    .then(function(index) {
    if (index === 1) { // 'ok' button
        navigator.app.exitApp(); // default behaviour - exit app
    }
  });
});
```

- another option might simply be to maintain an in-app tracker
 - track pages pushed and popped relative to the splitter component
- still need to be aware of the default, expected behaviour for Android
- should not modify this behaviour too much from default

notes app - update UI - splitter options & structure

- working menu and navigation stack within our initial app
- many different ways to use this splitter option
 - often informed by an app's page and navigation requirements
- initially identify the following page and link requirements for our NoteTaker app

Main Menu

* home
* media
* notes
* tags

navigation stack

* create note

* edit note

* tag note

* delete note

- now need to add our initial notes for the app
- load them as the app starts
- render them on the home screen
- using IndexedDB for app based storage
 - check and support offline storage for app
- then save to a cloud based data store
 - e.g. user requests saving a specific note, notes...
- add our initial check for IndexedDB support as part of the deviceready event

```
//set variable for IndexedDB support

var indexedDBSupport = false;

if("indexedDB" in window) {
   indexedDBSupport = true;
   console.log("IndexedDB supported...");
} else {
   console.log("No support...");
}
```

- create initial variable to store the boolean result
- check variable after deviceready event has fired and returned successfully

- database is local to the browser,
 - only available to users of the local, native app
- IndexedDB databases follow familiar pattern of read and write privileges
 - eg: browser-based storage options, including localstorage
- create databases with the same name, and then deploy them to different apps
 - remain domain specific as well
- first thing we need to do is create an opening to our database

```
var openDB = indexedDB.open("notetaker", 1);
```

- creating a variable for our database connection
 - specifying the name of the DB and a version
- open request to the DB is an asynchronous operation

- create our required DB
 - check it has persisted during subsequent application loading and usage
- open a connection to the DB
- checks for three events
 - upgrade, onsuccess, and any returned errors
- ready to use the success event
- start to build out our database for our NoteTaker app
 - add the required initial **object stores**
- also add our required keypaths, and a useful index

- update the upgrade event
 - includes creation of app's required object store

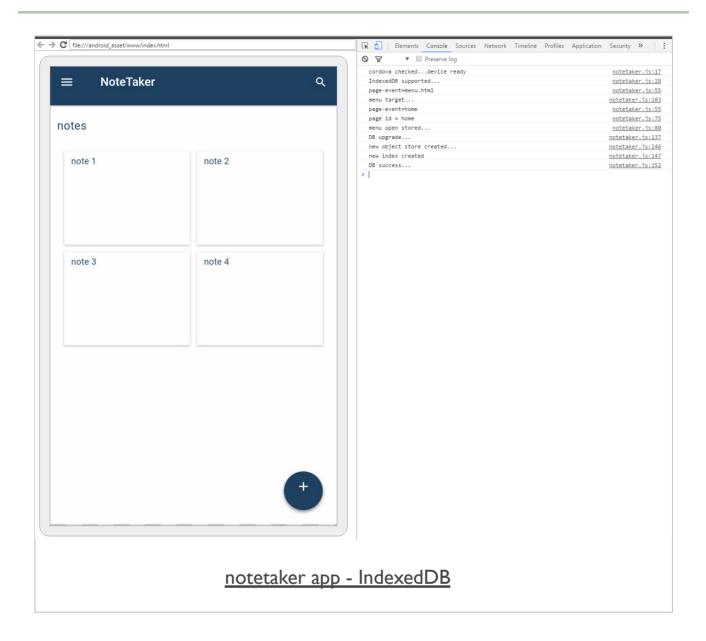
```
openDB.onupgradeneeded = function(e) {
   console.log("DB upgrade...");
   //local var for db upgrade
   var upgradeDB = e.target.result;
   if (!upgradeDB.objectStoreNames.contains("ntos")) {
      upgradeDB.createObjectStore("ntos");
   }
}
```

- check a list of existing object stores
- if required object store unavailable we can create our new object store
 - listen for result from this synchronous method
- as a user opens our app for the first time
 - the upgradeneeded event is run
 - code checks for an existing object store
 - if unavailable, create a new one
 - then run the success handler

Image - check and load IndexedDB



Image - check and load IndexedDB



notes app - load initial notes

- start to add some data for the initial notes
- IndexedDB allows us to simply store our objects in their default structure
 - simply store JavaScript objects directly in our IndexedDB database
- use transactions when working with data and IndexedDB
- transactions help us create a bridge between our app and the current database
 - allowing us to add our data to the specified object store
- use the readwrite operation on our previous object store, ntos

```
var dbTransaction = openDB.transaction(["ntos"], "readwrite");
```

use it to retrieve the object store for our data

```
var dataStore = dbTransaction.objectStore("ntos");
```

notes app - load initial notes

set the schema for the note objects

```
// note
var note = {
   title:title,
   note:note,
   tags:tags
}
// add note
var addRequest = dataStore.add(note, key);
```

schema matches input fields defined for create note form

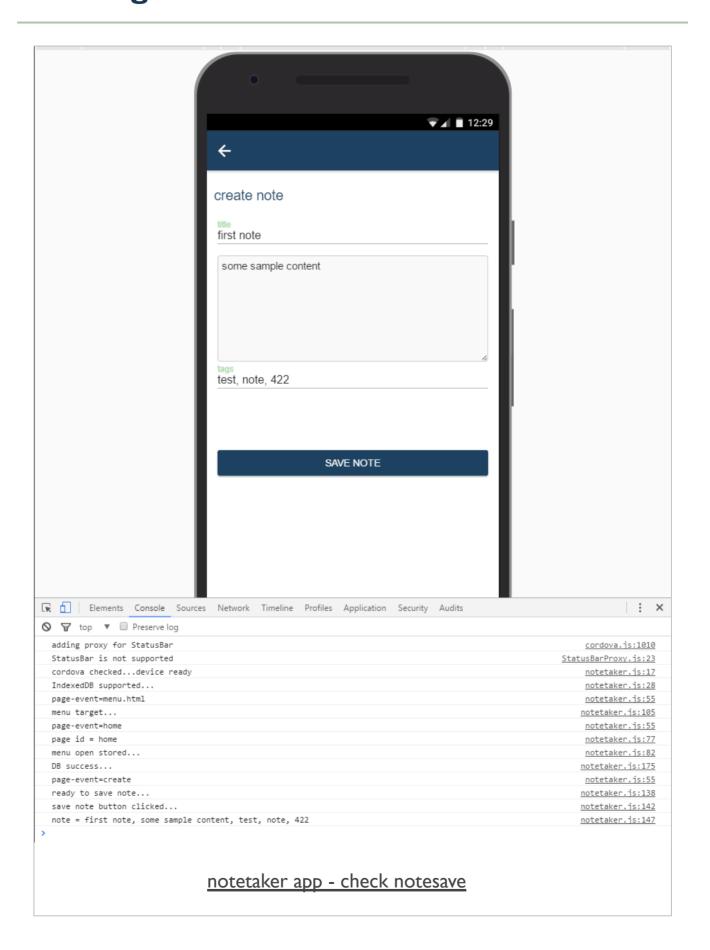
- add a handler for the create note form
- check for the input values
 - passed to a function to be saved within our database

```
function createNote(page) {
    //note save handler - check create note page is active...

if (page.id === "create") {
    console.log("ready to save note...");
    document.getElementById('noteSave').addEventListener('click', function(event) {
        //prevent any bound defaults
        event.preventDefault();
        console.log("save note button clicked...");
        //get values for note - title, content, tags
        var noteTitle = document.getElementById('noteTitle').value;
        var noteContent = document.getElementById('noteContent').value;
        var noteTags = document.getElementById('noteTags').value;
        console.log("note = "+noteTitle+", "+noteContent+", "+noteTags);
        saveNote(noteTitle, noteContent, noteTags);
    });
}
```

- using page events within the app
 - need to check create note page is active, available in the DOM
 - before we can start to add listeners for events
 - if not, error thrown for the **notesave** element
- then get values for input fields
- need to validate input before form submission...

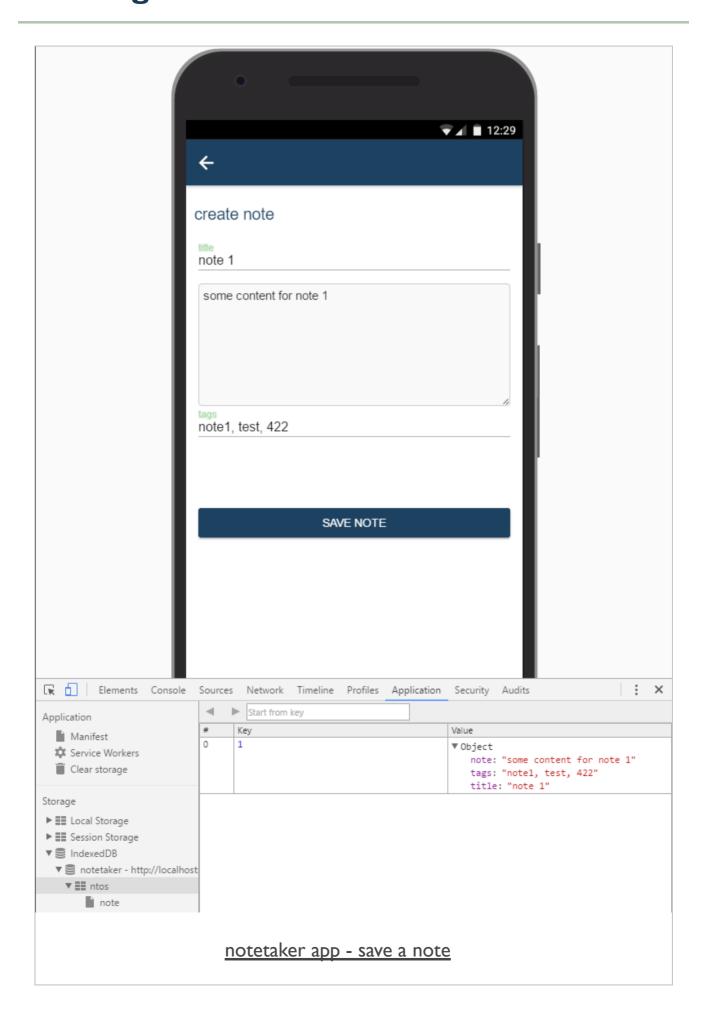
Image - check and load IndexedDB



- add our saveNote() function
 - saves note values in specified object store in the database

```
//save note data to indexeddb
function saveNote(title, content, tags){
    //define a note
   var note = {
       title:title,
     note:content,
        tags:tags
   // create transaction
   var dbTransaction = db.transaction(["ntos"], "readwrite");
   // define data object store
   var dataStore = dbTransaction.objectStore("ntos");
    // add data to store
   var addRequest = dataStore.add(note);
    // success handler
   addRequest.onsuccess = function(e) {
     console.log("data stored...");
      // do something...
    // error handler
   addRequest.onerror = function(e) {
   console.log(e.target.error.name);
      // handle error...
```

Image - check and load IndexedDB

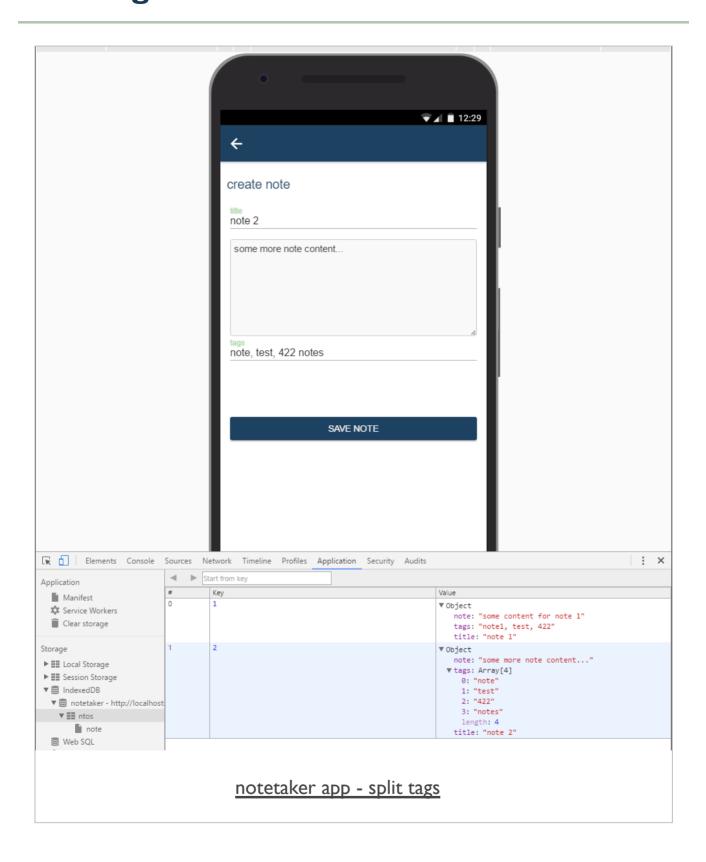


- need to decide what to do with
 - tags, success handler, rendering of the new note...
- as part of the validation for the tags input field
 - we can control structure of input text for tags
 - e.g. comma separated, spaces...
- split each tag from our string
 - use |S function split()
 - combine it with a regular expression

```
tags.split(/[ ,]+/);
...
```

- now split our tags from the create note form
 - based on sequence of one or more commas or spaces

Image - check and load IndexedDB



- consider how to handle success event
 - saving our note data in database's object store
- might simply return a user to the create note form
 - after showing a notification &c. to provide feedback for saving the note...
- might return the user to the home page
 - new note rendered with a feedback message
- common factors for rendering include the following,
 - feedback to a user to inform them
 - e.g. whether the note was successfully saved or not
 - consistent rendering of the notification, buttons, location...
- consider how to handle error event

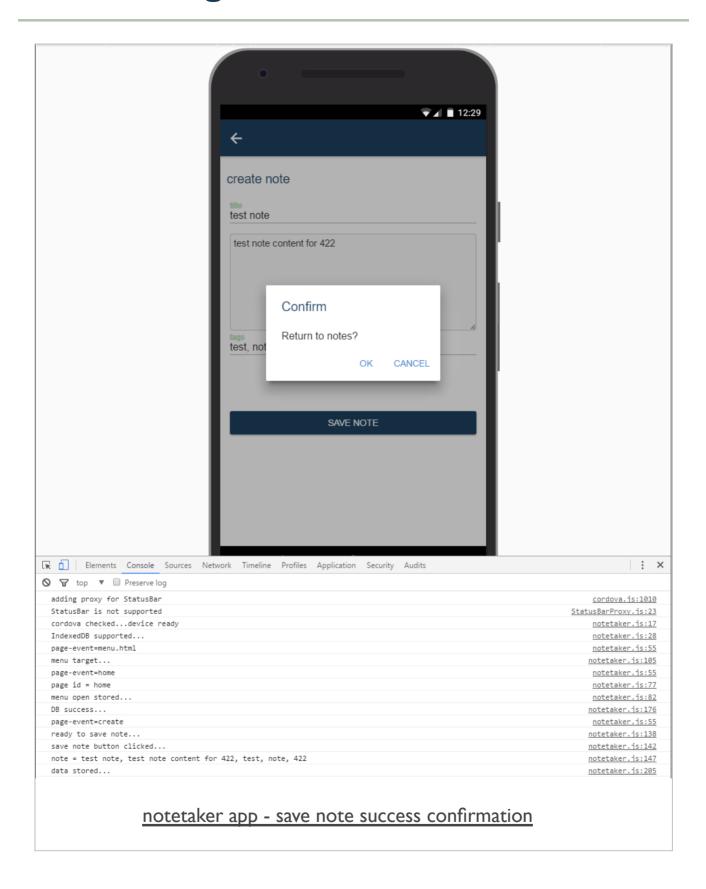
- choose a pattern for **success** event a saved a note in the database
- show notification with two options
 - return to notes and create new note
- many different patterns available relative to app requirements
- option one return to note
 - listen for the button's click event
 - then dismiss the notification
 - pop the **create note** page from the navigation stack
 - return to the home page
- option two create new note
 - listen for the button's click event
 - dismiss the notification
 - reset the form fields

- add the first option, return to notes
 - as response to user successfully saving a new note
- need to update the saveNote() function

```
...
// success
addRequest.onsuccess = function(e) {
  console.log("data stored...");
  //update user on note stored
  ons.notification.confirm('Return to notes?') // check with user
  .then(function(index) {
   if (index === 1) { // 'ok' button
        document.querySelector('#navigator').popPage(); // return to previous page
   }
  });
}...
```

- add a notification to Onsen's ons object
 - define it as a confirm notification with message text
- check user response from button index
- options include
 - continue with additional new notes
 - return to all notes home page

Image - save note success

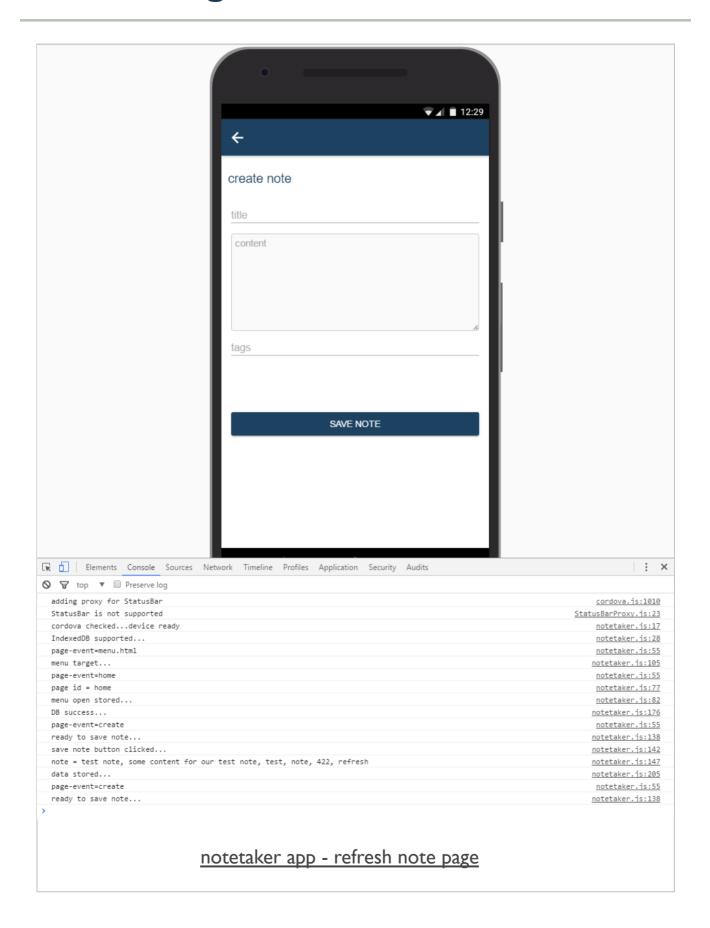


- need to consider how to handle the current create note page
- assuming a user selects **cancel** option in the confirmation window
- user will be returned to the current page in the navigator stack
 - our create note page
 - input fields still show previous entry data for note
- need to ensure that these input fields are cleared
- use existing OnsenUI navigator object to refresh current page

```
//update user on note stored
ons.notification.confirm('Return to notes?') // check with user
.then(function(index) {
   if (index === 1) { // 'ok' button
        document.querySelector('#navigator').popPage(); // return to previous page
} else if (index === 0) { // check 'cancel' button
        document.querySelector('#navigator').replacePage('create.html', {'animation': 'none'});
}
});
```

- replace the current top page
 - set animation for this event to none

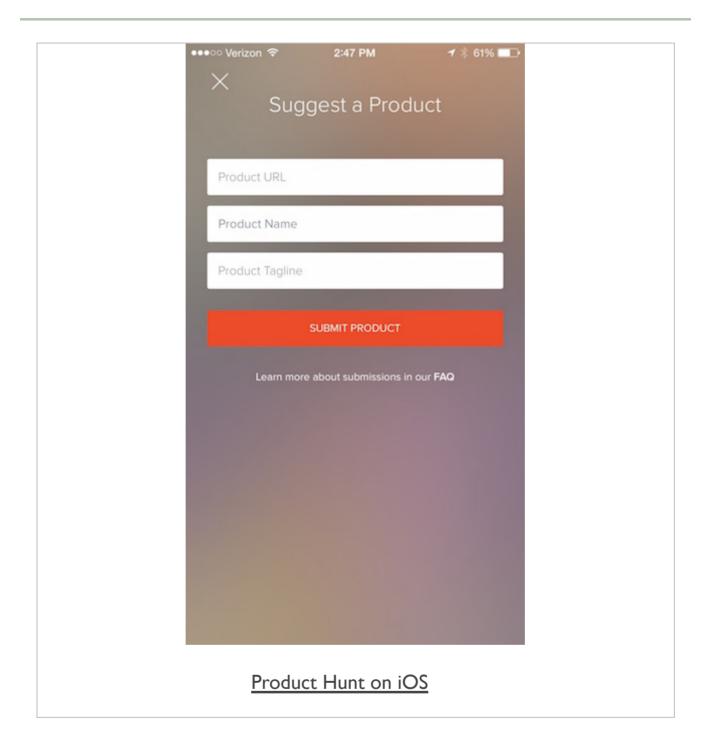
Image - save note success



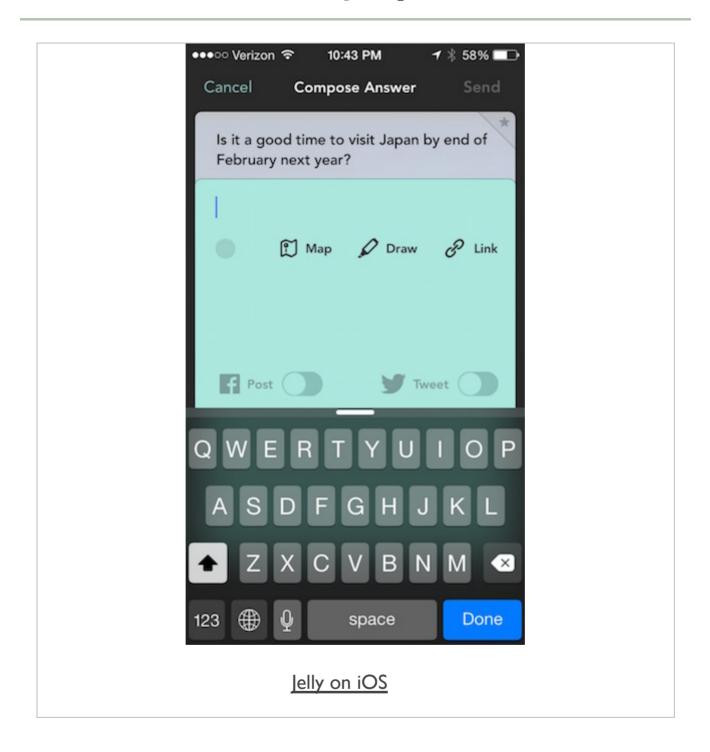
Considering mobile design patterns - forms and data

Consider various UI representations of data, including mobile options for forms and data input.

screen I - Product Hunt on iOS



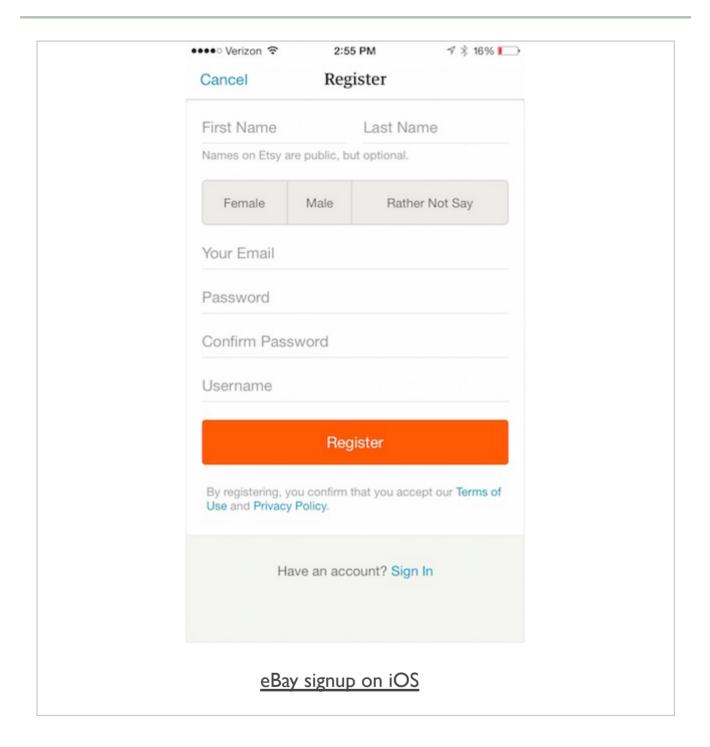
screen 2 - Jelly on iOS



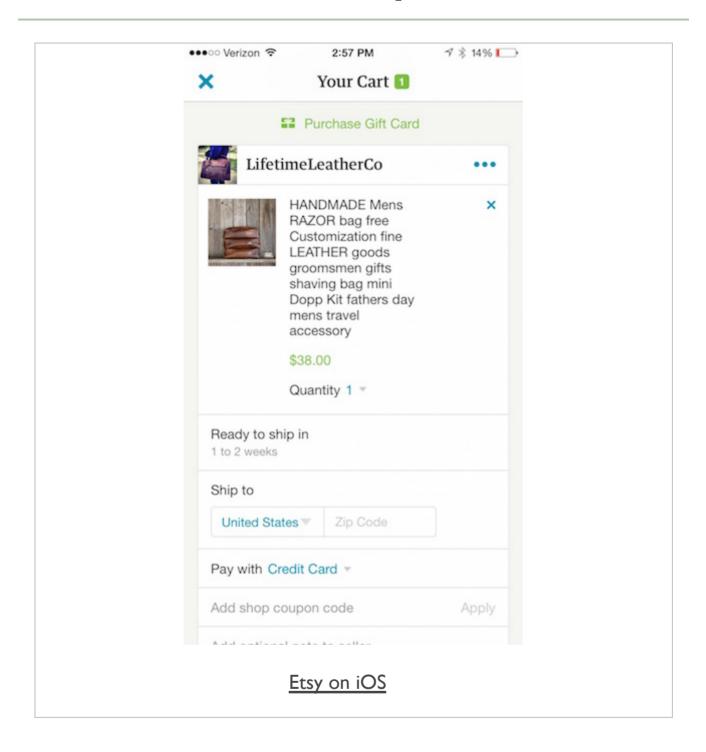
screen 3 - Pages on iOS



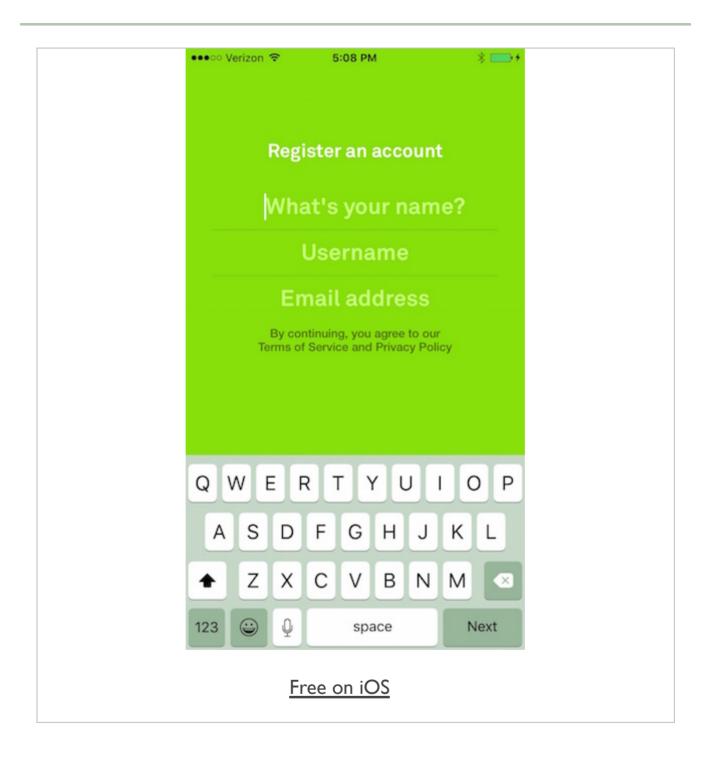
screen 4 - eBay on iOS



screen 5 - Etsy on iOS



screen 6 - Free on iOS



screen 7 - SoulCycle on iOS



References

- OnsenUI
 - JavaScript Reference
- MDN IndexedDB
 - IndexedDB API
- MDN JavaScript reference
 - String.prototype.split()
 - RegExp