

Comp 341/441 - HCI

Spring Semester 2019 - Week 12

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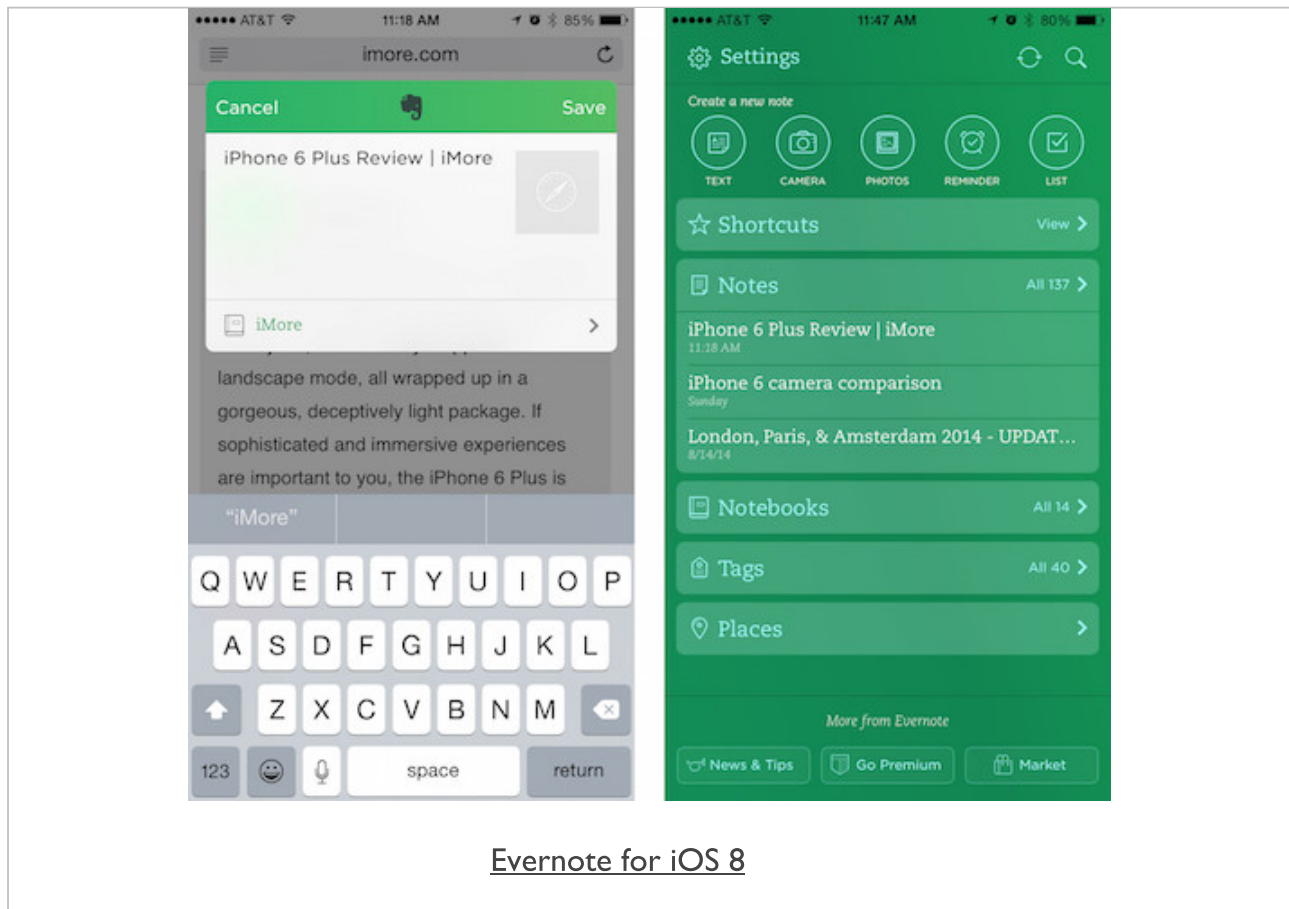
Principles for Usability

consistency

- one of the primary ways our users learn is by discovering *patterns*
 - *new situations easier to learn by reference to existing patterns of knowledge*
- *Consistency* is key in helping our users recognise and apply such patterns
- overall, things that look the same should perform the same general way
 - *same button, same colour normally infers same pattern of interaction and usage*
- behaviour and actions should also follow a similar pattern
 - *sound, animation, vibration etc should follow a similar pattern for users*
- design inconsistency can cause confusion and overload for our users
- memorisation of exceptions may also increase user resentment towards the app
- internal design and interaction consistency crucial for our users
- external consistency equally important and useful
 - *consistency between OS and app design guidelines*

Image - Principles for Usability

Evernote



Source - Evernote

Principles for Usability - Consistency

Fun exercise - part I

Consider a company's online services, which are available as both a responsive web application and mobile app. e.g. a mix of music and video streaming and editing...

Then, outline the following

- default *consistency* considerations for UI design - explicit
- subtle *consistency* considerations for UX - implicit
- difference between internal and external *consistency* for these apps
 - *consider both web and mobile apps...*

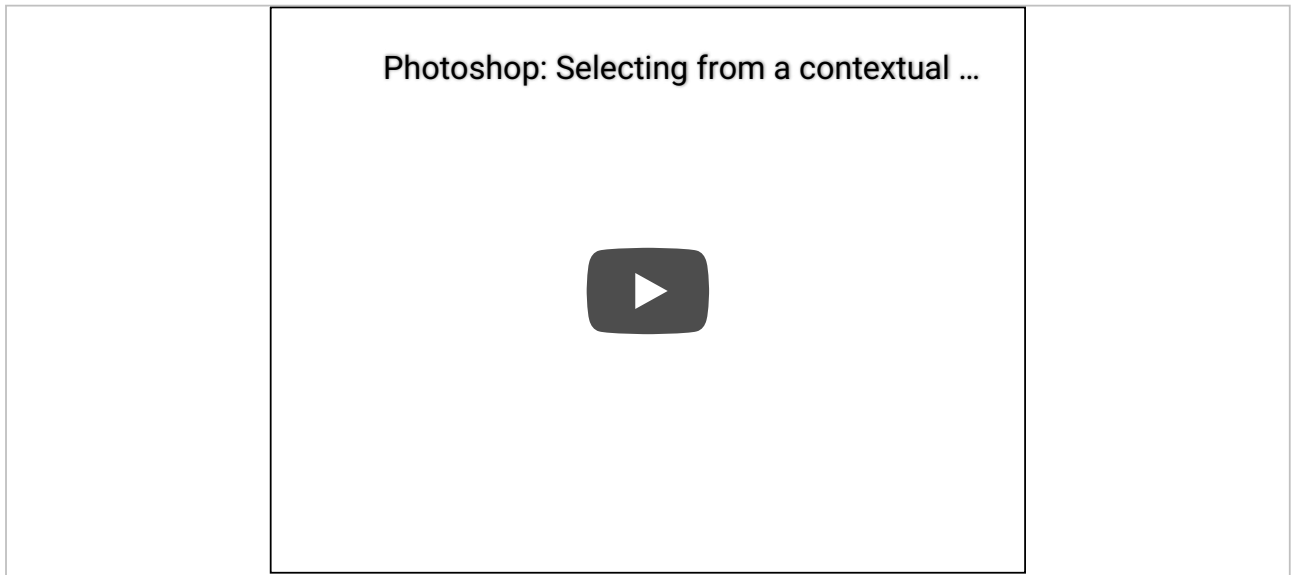
Principles for Usability

visibility

- users normally learn app functionality by visually inspecting the UI
 - *eg: available menus, menu items, icons, buttons, links, tools etc...*
- sequential tasks should be well labelled and navigation obvious
 - **next** button obvious, and highlighted
- usability and learnability naturally improved when options and commands clear and visible
 - *controls should be easily visible, contextually appropriate, logically placed*
- functionality within an application that is not visually represented often hard to discover
 - *keyboard shortcuts often a bad choice for sole command option*
 - *shortcut combinations often noted in visual menus*
- visibility does not, necessarily, infer that all options and functions be graphically represented
- impractical for many complex applications
 - *need for careful, considered design choices and contextual awareness*

Video - Photoshop

contextual menus



Photoshop: Selecting from a contextual menu

Source: YouTube

Principles for Usability - Visibility

Fun exercise - part 2

Continue the design of a company's online services, which are available as both a responsive web application and mobile app...

Then, outline the following

- general consideration of *visibility* from the web app to the mobile app
- contextual use of *visibility* in each app's UI
- example of visual *perspective* in each app UI and UX

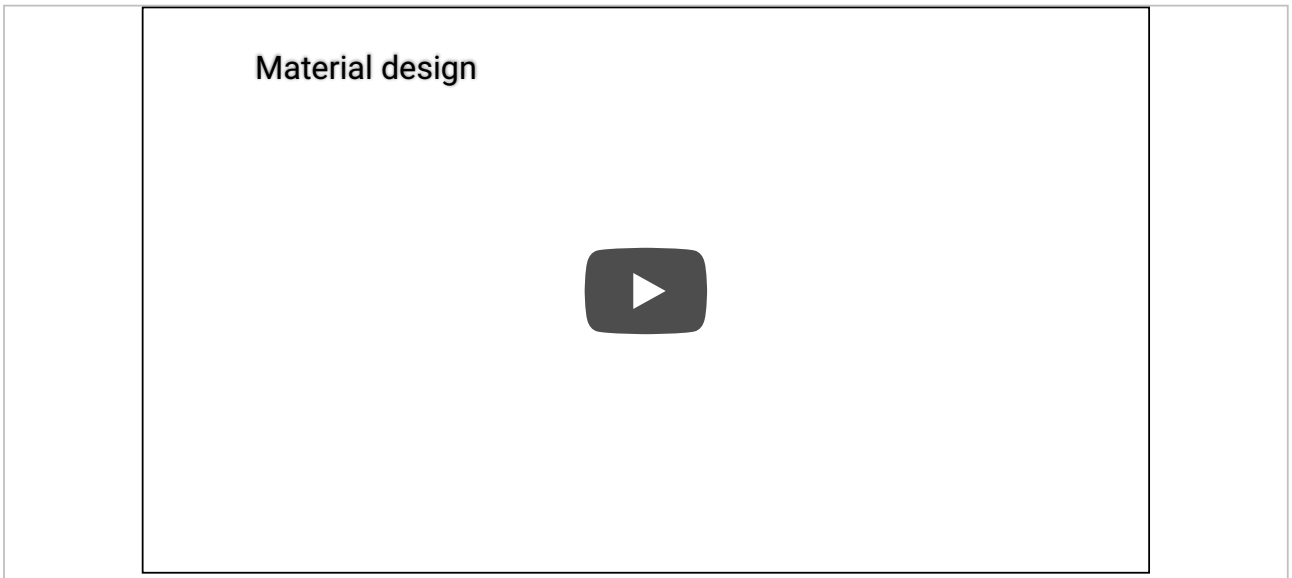
Principles for Usability

affordance

- a visual attribute or physical property of a given object or control
- gives the user clues to the operation or functionality of an object or control
- system parts manipulated to allow a user to interact with the given system
 - *eg: a door handle*
 - *shape of door handles, the nature of the door itself present clues to functionality*
- visual clues can be used to show UI element functionality
- *eg: make controls, buttons etc appear clickable and ready for interaction*
- add some highlight to show a user that a submit button is ready for a completed form
- design conventions developed for a reason
 - *offer a useful reminder of how patterns can easily be developed relative to a UI*
 - *blue underline for links on a web page*

Video - Principles for Usability

material design



Google's Material Design

Source: YouTube

Principles for Usability - Affordance

Fun exercise - part 3

Continue the design of a company's online services, which are available as both a responsive web application and mobile app...

Then, outline the following

- consideration and promotion of *affordance* in the UI
- consideration and promotion of *affordance* in the UX
- any necessary differences between the web app and mobile app

Principles for Usability

mapping

- expected relationship between a performed action and the expected result
 - *mapping between a given control and its behavioural effect*
- such mappings should be logical, explicit, and straightforward
 - *descriptive labels, icons etc on buttons, menus...*
- controls should be positioned in a logical manner
 - *adhering to conventions where possible*
 - *many UI guidelines, real-world examples to help guide our design choices*
- modifications of expected conventions will cause unnecessary issues for users
 - *where necessary, reinforce with training and help...*

Principles for Usability - Mapping

Fun exercise - part 4

Continue the design of a company's online services, which are available as both a responsive web application and mobile app...

Then, outline the following

- UI conventions and *mapping*, which migrate effectively from web app to mobile app
- UI conventions and *mapping*, which *do not* migrate effectively from web app to mobile app

References

- Card, S.K., Moran, T.P. and Newell, A. *The psychology of human-computer interaction*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 1983.
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- Shackel, B. *Usability - context, framework, design, and evolution*. Human factors for informatics usability. Cambridge University Press. PP. 21-38. 1991.