Mobile Application Development

Higher Diploma in Science in Computer Science

Produced
by

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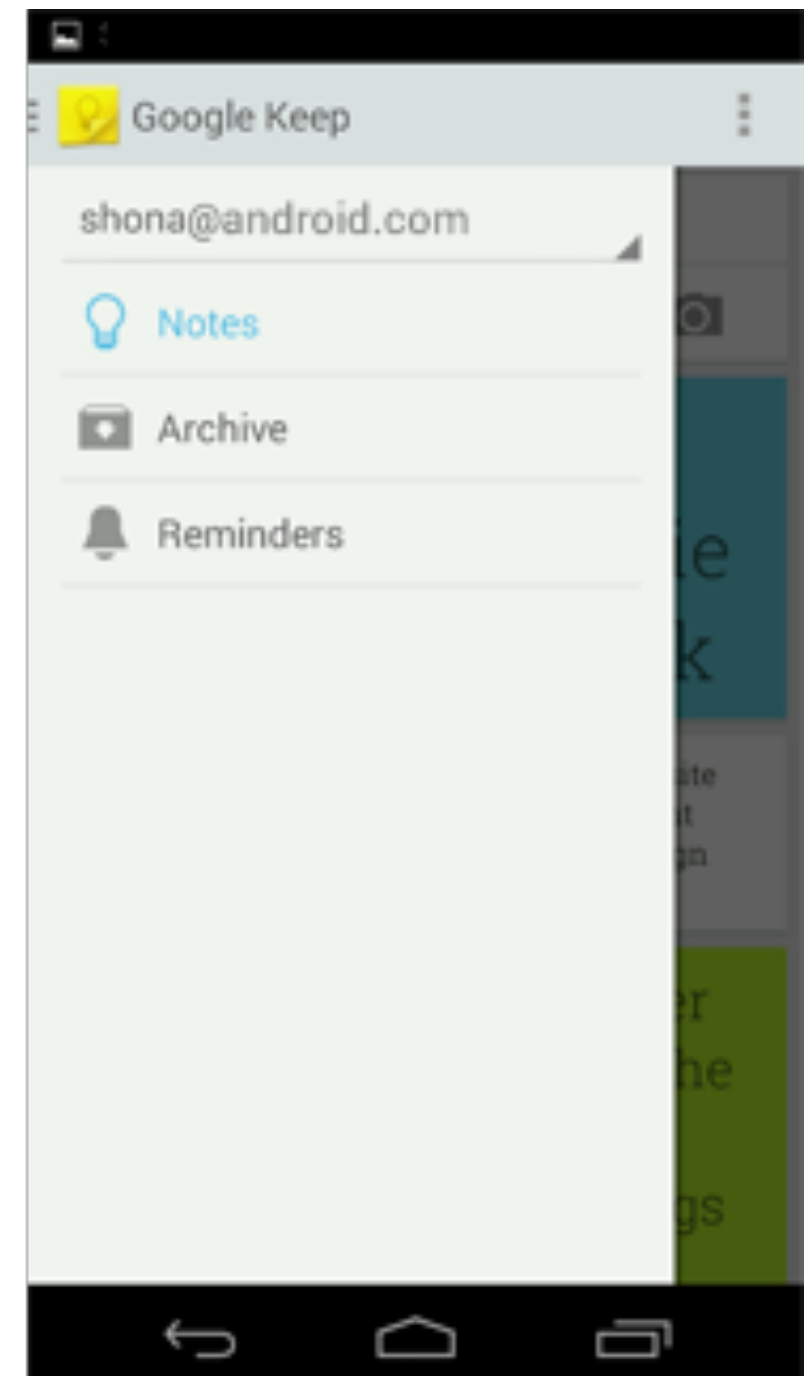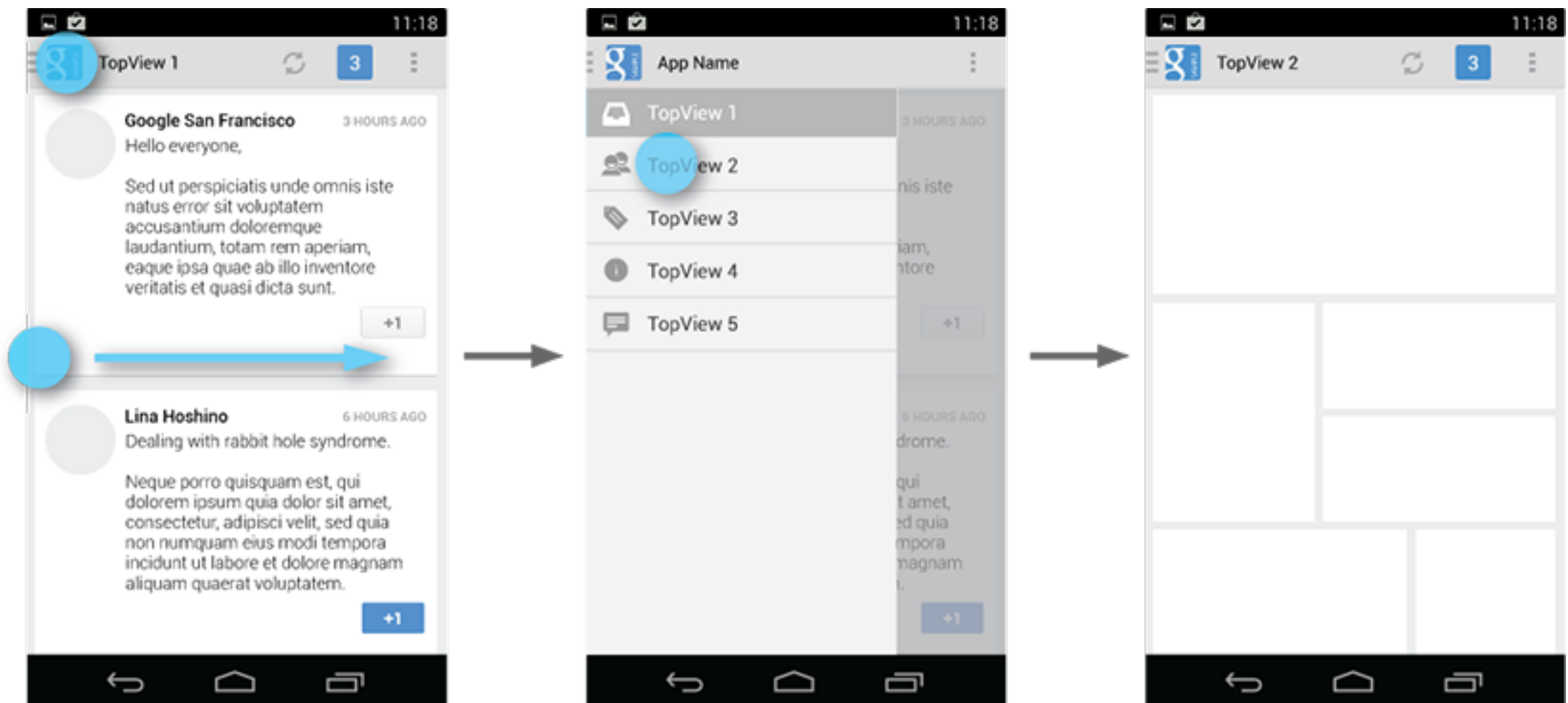
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Navigation Drawer

android

Navigation Drawer

- The navigation drawer is a panel that transitions in from the left edge of the screen and displays the app's main navigation options.

- The user can bring the navigation drawer onto the screen by swiping from the left edge of the screen or by touching the application icon on the action bar.
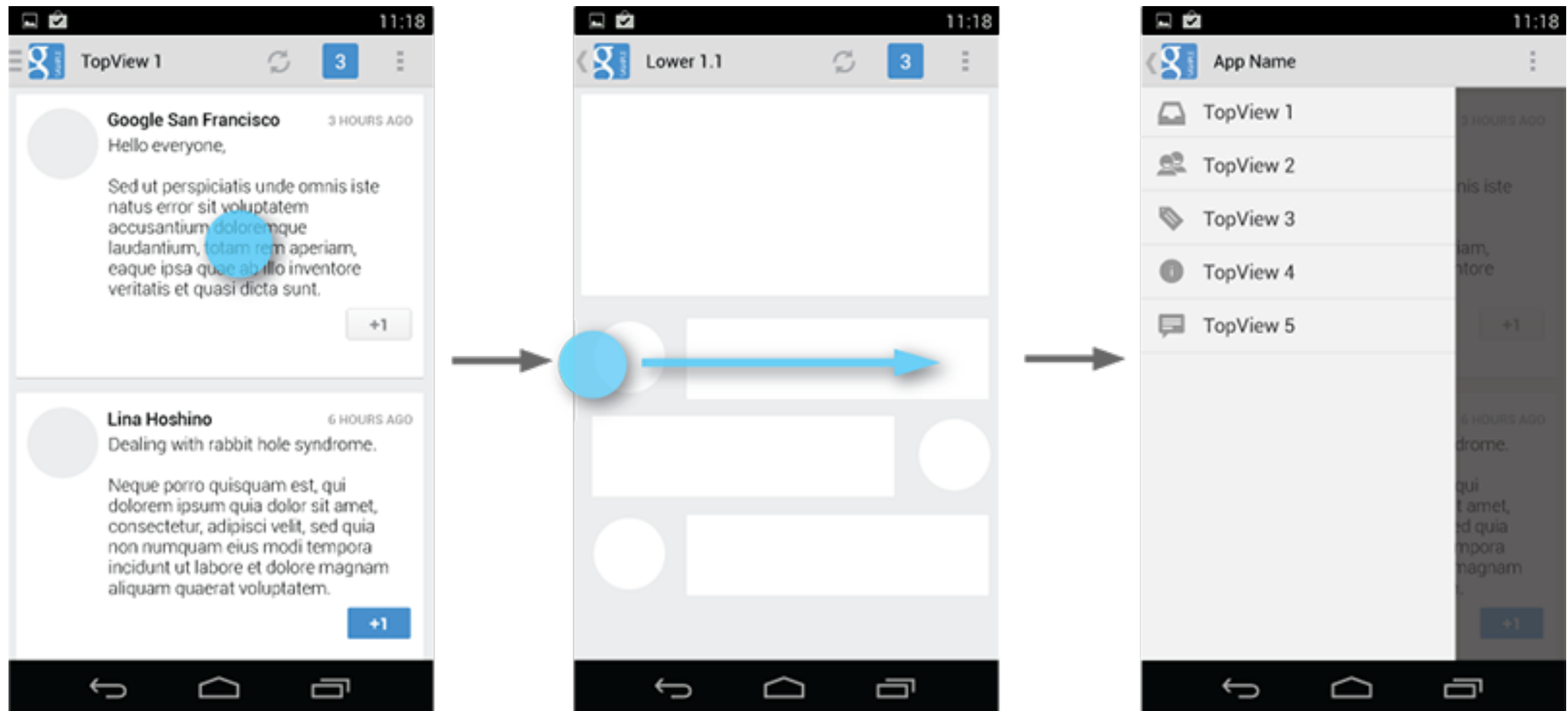
- As the navigation drawer expands, it overlays the content but not the action bar.

- When the drawer is fully extended, the action bar adjusts its content by replacing the current action bar title with the app name and removing all actions that are contextual to the view underneath the navigation drawer.

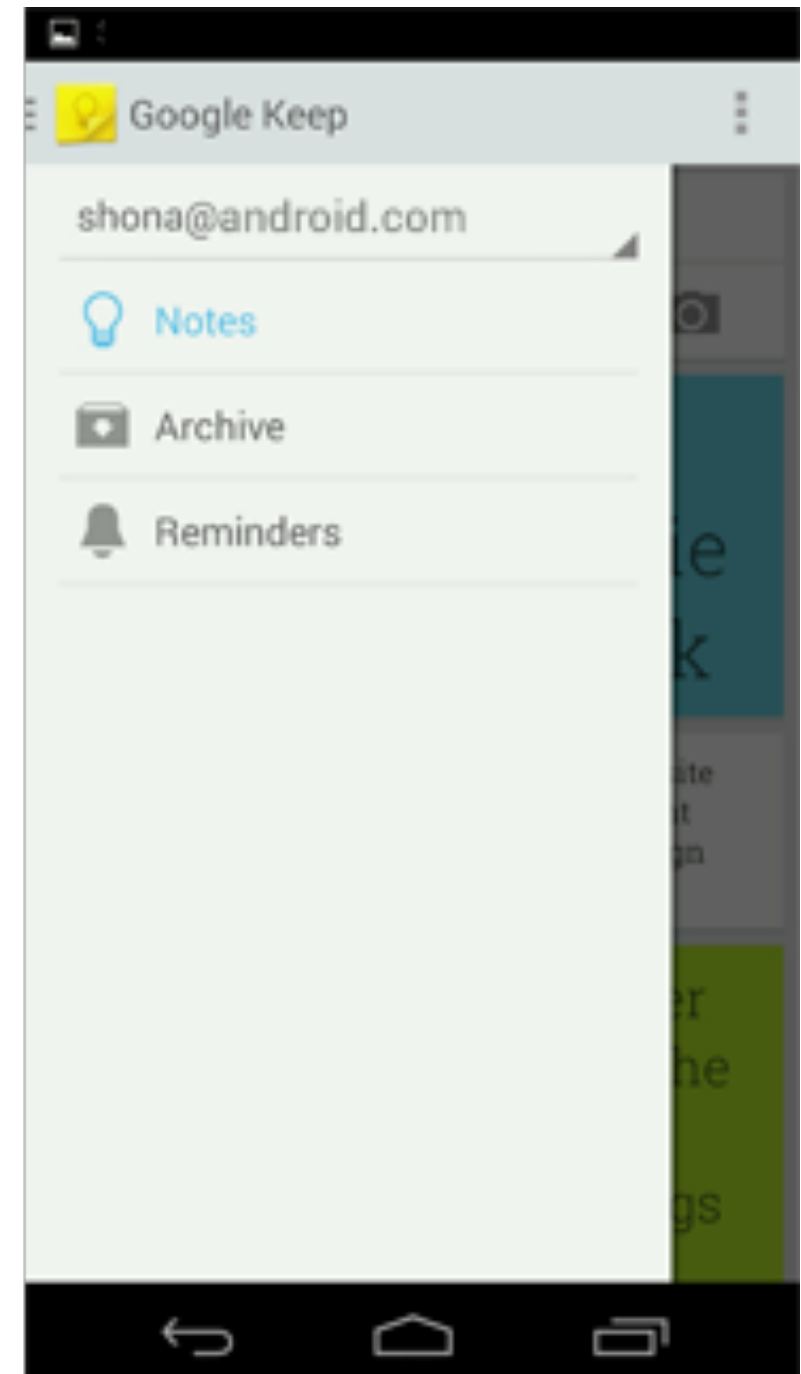- The overflow menu with the standard action items for Settings and Help remains visible.

- Because they are transient, navigation drawers make views less cluttered.

- You can also use them at deeper levels in the navigation hierarchy, allowing users to switch to your app's most important screens from anywhere in the app.

Dismissing the navigation drawer

- When the navigation drawer is expanded, the user can dismiss it in one of four ways:

  - Touching the content outside the navigation drawer

  - Swiping to the left anywhere on the screen (including edge swipe from right)

  - Touching the app icon/title in the action bar
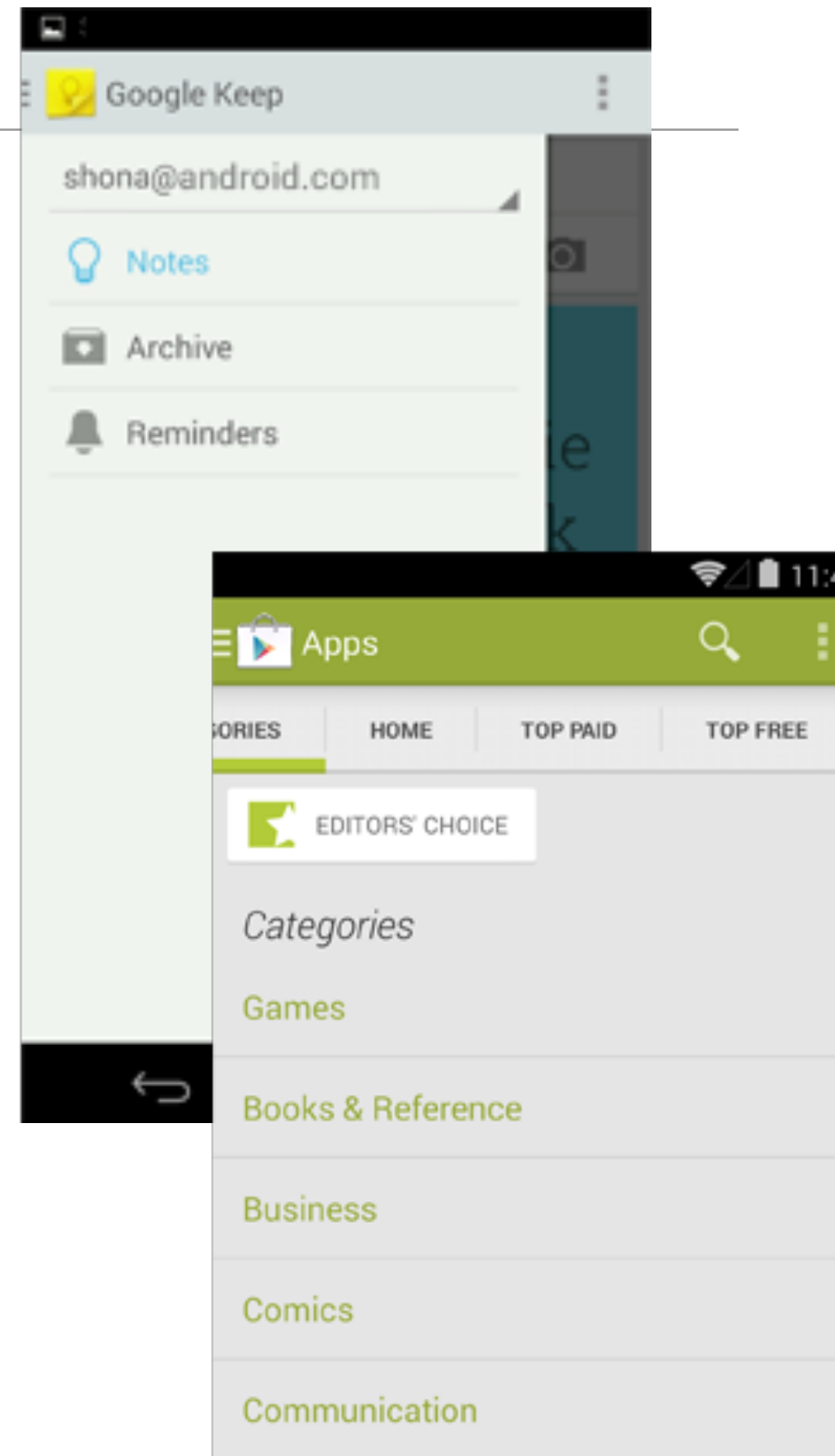
  - Pressing Back

When to Use the Navigation Drawer

- More than 3 top-level views

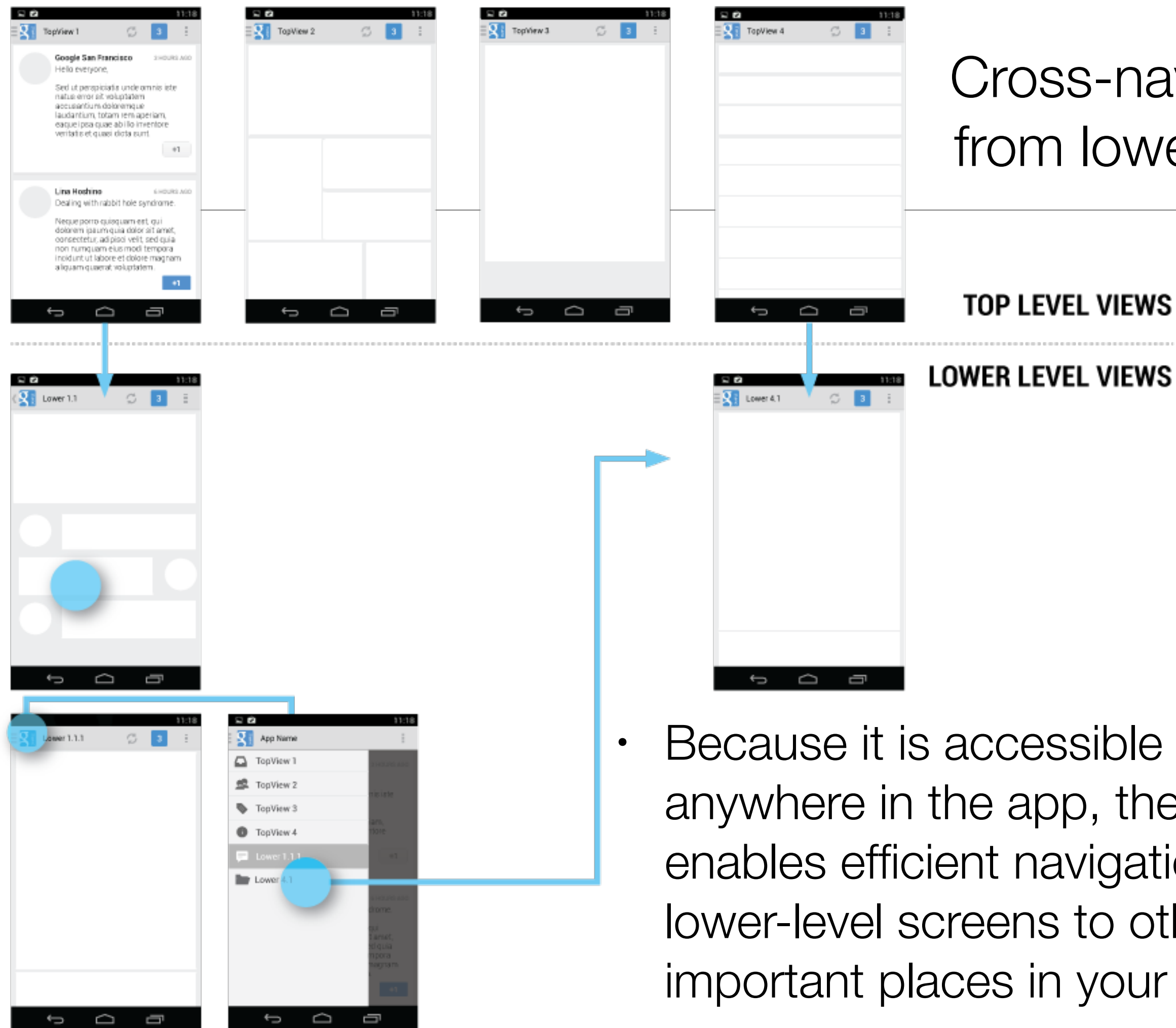- Cross-navigation from lower levels

- Deep navigation branches

More than 3 top-level views

- Navigation drawers are great for displaying a large number of navigation targets concurrently.

- Use the navigation drawer if you have more than 3 unique top-level views.

- If not, use fixed tabs for top-level organization to ease discovery and interaction.

Cross-navigation from lower levels

TOP LEVEL VIEWS

LOWER LEVEL VIEWS

- Because it is accessible from anywhere in the app, the drawer enables efficient navigation from lower-level screens to other important places in your app.
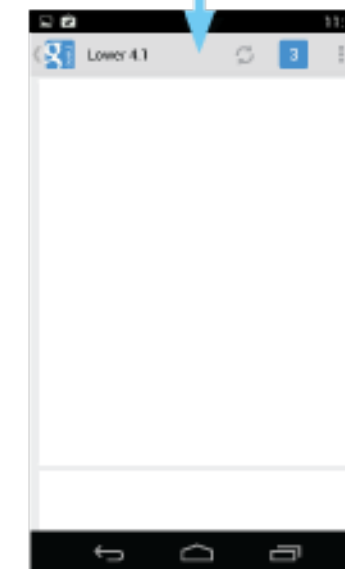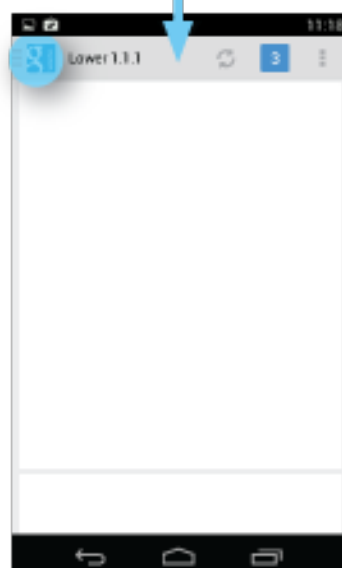
Deep
navigation
branches
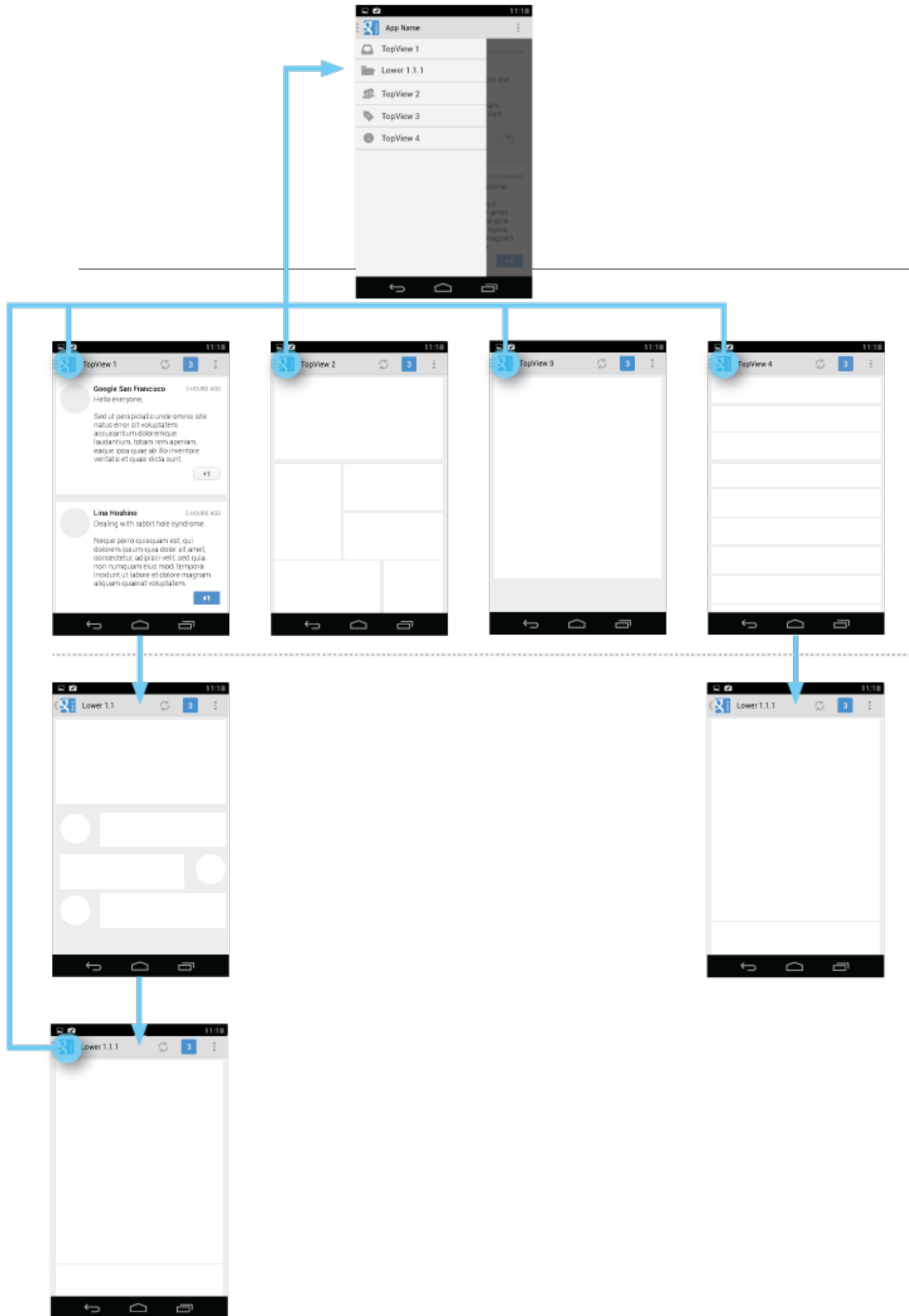
TOP LEVEL VIEWS

LOWER LEVEL VIEWS

- If you have particularly deep branches,
  navigating to the top-level of your app can
  become repetitive and cumbersome with Up
  and Back alone. Since navigation drawers are
  accessible from anywhere in the app, navigation
  up to the top level is faster and more efficient.

Navigation Hubs

- The navigation drawer is a reflection of your app's structure and displays its major navigation hubs. Think of navigation hubs as those places in your app that a user will want to visit frequently or use as a jumping-off point to other parts of the app.
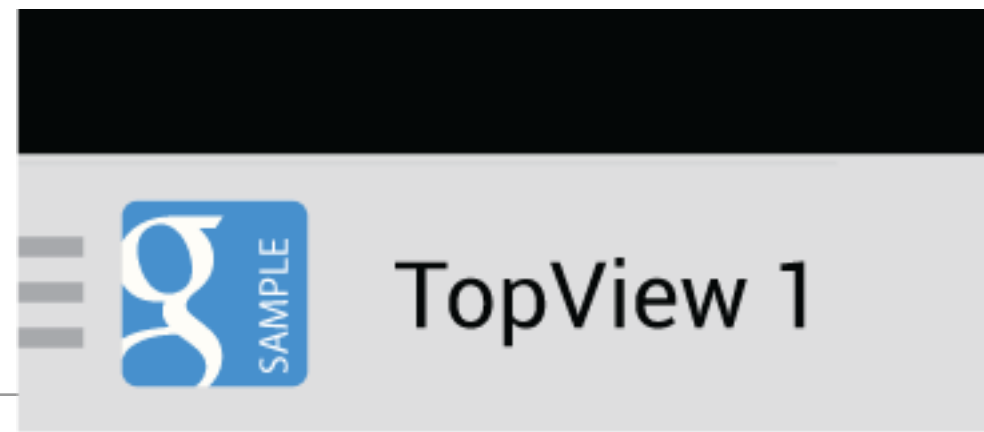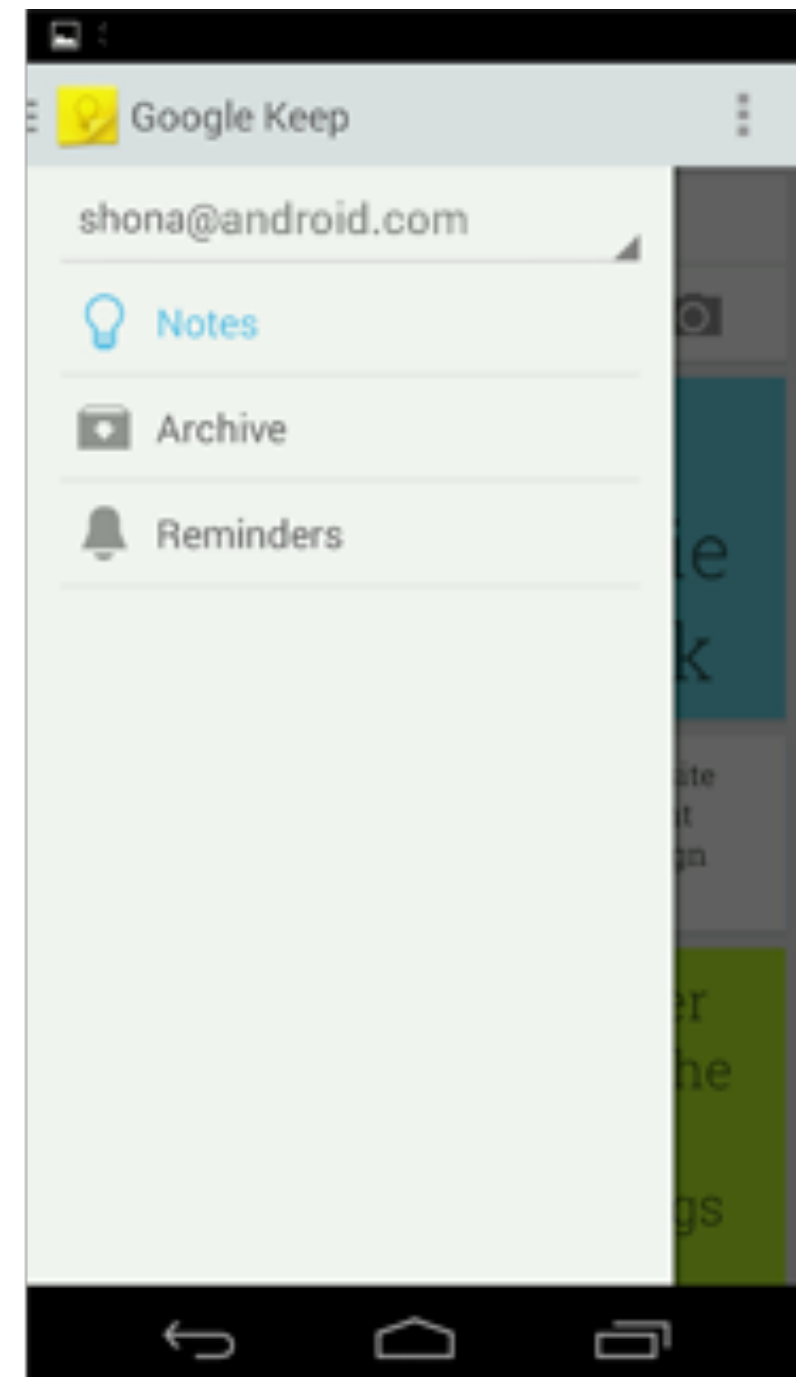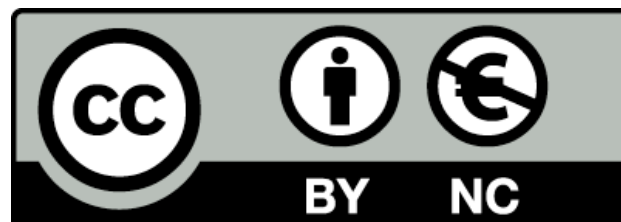
TOP LEVEL VIEWS

LOWER LEVEL VIEWS

- At a minimum, the navigation hubs are the top-level views, since they correspond to your app's major functional areas.

- If your app's structure is deep, you can add screens from lower levels that your users will likely visit often and make those navigation hubs as well.

Access to the navigation drawer

- To facilitate access to the navigation drawer on navigation hubs, all screens that correspond to an entry in your navigation drawer should show the navigation drawer indicator next to the application icon in the action bar.

- Touching the app icon causes the navigation drawer to slide in from the left.

- All other lower-level screens show the traditional Up indicator next to the application icon.

- The drawer is still accessible with an edge-swipe, but is not featured in the action bar.

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Notes

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