Split View Controller

Summary

The Split View Controller is a type of view controller that creates two panels on the same page in landscape view on the iPad. The left panel is of fixed width, leaving the second panel to take up the remaining space on the screen. The typical implementation is to use the left panel as a menu, and show the details of each menu item in the right panel. An example of this is the default mail application on iOS.

In landscape mode on iPad, both panels are visible. When rotated to portrait mode, the left panel is hidden by default to maximize screen real estate. The user can still access it via the navigation bar at the top of the application. Navigation buttons can be added to each to provide additional functionality.

Components

- Navigation Controller, which is the root controller for left panel and the "master" view controller by default. The navigation hierarchy is contained in this controller.
- Root View Controller, which includes a table view, and holds the menu items in the left panel. This is the master controller and is a subclass UITableViewController.
- View Controller, which is the right panel and the "detail" view controller by default. It displays the details of the menu items listed in the Root View Controller.
- Segue, the connection between the Root View Controller and the Standard View Controller from an application created via storyboard.

Root View Controller *- UITableViewController*

Most of the logic of a split view controller is contained in the root view controller. The prepareForSegue function is the method that connects the master and detail views. Note that when creating an application using Main.Storyboard, the segue can be added by control-clicking the prototype cell dragging the triggered segue to the detail view controller. The segue identifier set on line 50 below should be added in the segue's attributes inspector (4th tab).

App Delegate *- AppDelegate.swift*

Some changes need to be made to the AppDelegate.swift file in order for the application to work. The Master and Detail controllers should be set programmatically. The initial page loaded by the application can be specified here as well. All of this is done by adding several lines of code to the application function.

Interesting fact: The screen of the iPhone 6/6s Plus is so large that it is treated like an iPad for this controller and displays both panels in landscape mode. On regular iPhones, the Master and Detail screens are treated like two separate pages.