Dark Mode Standardization

The use of Dark Mode (or Night Mode, in some sites) on websites is a UI (User Interface) option on devices that we use (whether it is a smartphone or a laptop) to be work better in low light conditions, reduce energy consumption, and make viewing the screen a little healthier for the users since it is popular and has been widely used on all systems since October 2019.

The origins of dark mode dates back to the first computers, which were originally a black screen due to the technology that was used back then. As time passed, newer versions of computers had a brighter screen so it would be easier for people to see as well as it was harder to see a dark screen. Several decades later, Dark Mode officially came as an option to smartphones, websites, and other devices. Dark Mode also has its own set of color pallets (with the primary being a dark grey), where it uses more darker colors that include navy blue, dark shades of purple/red, and deep shades of green. With this color design (which gives it the name light-on-dark color scheme), it’ll be easier for a user to see the screen in an area with poor lighting or at nighttime,

Even though it is an option, the use and development of dark mode on devices can help solve the problems that we face while we browse such as strains to the eyes, reducing headaches caused by looking at the screen, and better use in low-light environments. It also reduces the blue-light usage and energy uses, as this mode doesn’t consume much battery power on the device using dark mode. While there are advantages of dark mode standardization, there are some disadvantages that developers should be aware of as well. Even though dark mode can be used to reduce eye strain, it can cause more fatigue as some text gets washed out by the switching of light and dark modes. As some people can hardly see light text in dark backgrounds, it will be hard for a user to read several paragraphs or even an essay of text with dark mode. The last known disadvantage is that as the name implies, it will be hard to view a screen using dark mode in a bright and sunny area.

There are some examples of Dark Mode being used by various sites. Google was the first company to incorporate dark mode on its systems starting with the Android 10 on October of 2019, since then, big tech companies such as Microsoft and Apple started implementing dark mode on their devices (Windows 10 for Microsoft and iOS and Mac devices for Apple). Many companies have started implementing dark mode on their websites as well as Social Media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter (where the options of it have been put on the settings).

With this User Interface function nearly 3 years old now, it has been gaining popularity with web developers and the tech world throughout the planet. It is interesting that dark mode was a nod to how the first computers screens were back in the 1950s-1960s. hopefully, it will be a matter of time, if more research and development is put into this UI function, we may possibly see an automated version of it where the system switches from light to dark mode when it detects how bright it is in the current area.