

Challenges/Process

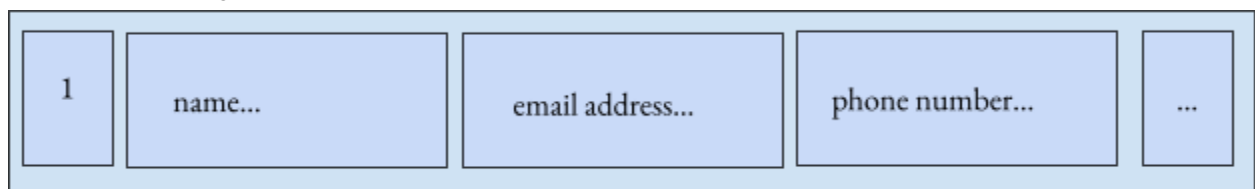
The biggest struggle was getting started. The GitHub was created soon after the mini project was released, and the set-up files were added according to Lab 1, but the amount of code from Lab 1 was overwhelming to look at and try to change.

When we did our labs together, we left all the original comments there. All the “TODO” comments, the single line comments explaining everything, etc. It made the file much more time-consuming to read through and edit, to be honest, and the time it took to scroll between the Task() class and main() felt like forever.

We also wanted to rename the variables according to what the project was about; i.e. Contact() instead of Task(), and selectButton instead of doneButton. So there was a lot of back and forth editing names and all their occurrences as well.

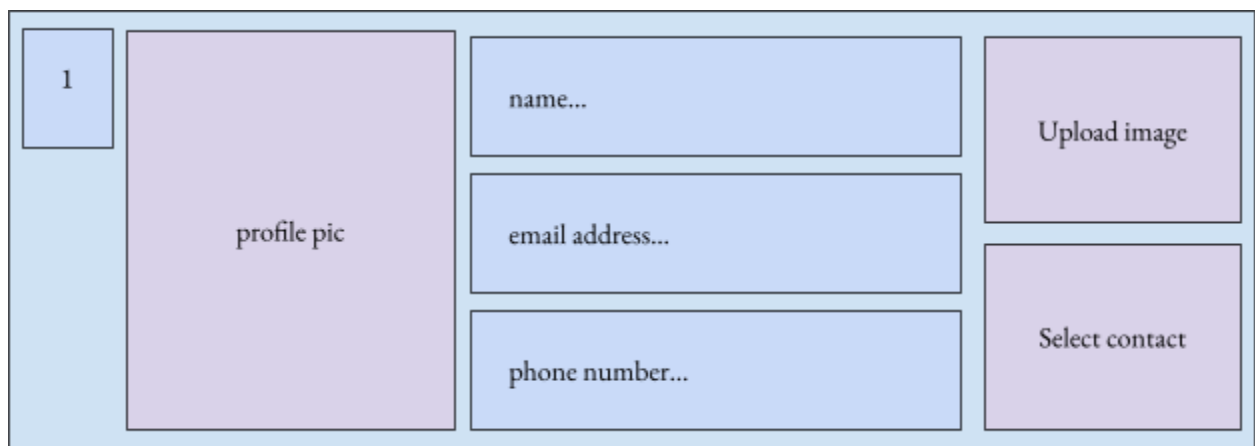
Then, we researched how to make the contacts look aesthetically pleasing. Originally, we just kept the Contact() extends HBox, and added all three textfields and a button into the class. But everything was stretched out and ugly. Three textfields in a row, and the button had no space to even show the text, it was just a clickable “...”.

Then we realized we had to make use of VBoxes as well to make everything look good. The contacts went from looking like this (1 HBox)



A horizontal HBox layout containing five light blue rectangular boxes. From left to right, they are: a small box with the number '1', a box labeled 'name...', a box labeled 'email address...', a box labeled 'phone number...', and a small box with three dots '...'.

To



A vertical VBox layout. On the left is a small box with the number '1'. To its right is a large purple box labeled 'profile pic'. To the right of the profile pic are three light blue boxes stacked vertically, labeled 'name...', 'email address...', and 'phone number...'. To the right of these three boxes are two more purple boxes stacked vertically, labeled 'Upload image' and 'Select contact'.

(1 HBox containing the index, profile picture (ImageView), and 2 VBoxes, one for text fields and one for buttons)

In fact, we realized that with so many changes to the foundation classes of ToDoList, we may as well just start over. So we started again, copying only what we needed from ToDoList as we went.

The next challenge was figuring out how to make an image appear. Once again, research was needed, to clearly distinguish the purpose of ImageView vs Stage. ImageUploader from Lab 1 ended up helping again, but it was a bit confusing to use due to the existence of the primaryStage.

But after we figured out the display part, everything became easier. The sort() function was a bit different this time due to how we wanted everything to sort with the names, not just the names themselves (which was enough for Lab 1).

But load() and save() went smoothly, and so did the selection button and removal of selected tasks. And then, we were done!

Achievements

We did the extra load() button even though we only needed save() for the project. Also, it's a pretty cute contact management app once profile pictures are added!

We worked together for both Labs 1 and 2 before, so our partnership this time was smooth as well ^^