

Umeå University
Department of Computing Science

Development of Mobile Applications 7.5 p
5DV155

User Interface for Mobile Systems

Submitted 2017-07-20
Author: Lorenz Gerber (dv15lgr@cs.umu.se lozger03@student.umu.se)
Instructor: Johan Eliasson / Jonathan Westin

Contents

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 2 | The Desktop Mail Client - Apple Mail | 1 |
| 2.1 | Description of main UI of Apple Mail | 1 |
| 2.2 | Description of Menu accessible Functionality in Apple Mail | 1 |
| 3 | Design with Android Elements | 1 |
| 4 | Some design examples from Android Studio UI Designer, some pen paper designs | 2 |
| 5 | describe how all main functionality in the app | 2 |
| 6 | Describe needed changes for another mobile platform | 2 |
| | References | 2 |

1 Introduction

The aim of this assignment is to translate a desktop mail client application to a mobile app. This includes both functional and design related aspects. The functionality shall be described in terms of android elements and concepts such as activities, layouts, menus, dialogs, fragments and messages. A main aspect is to decide and reason which functionality should be stripped from the desktop version and eventual additional functionality needed in the mobile app.

The design shall account for usability aspects following concepts from the course literature [1] and platform guidelines [2]. The report has to include several prototype designs of which at least one shall be made in 'Android Studio' and one by hand or any design/drawing application of choice.

Further, one section of the report shall describe differences and changes in the design when the proposed Android application would be ported to another mobile platform of choice.

2 The Desktop Mail Client - Apple Mail

Here the 'Apple Mail' client was chosen as the application to be ported into an Android mobile app. The version at hand was 10.3 (3273) in a macOS Sierra Environment (10.12.5). Initially, a systematic inventory of the available functionality in Apple Mail was conducted.

2.1 Description of main UI of Apple Mail

The main UI of Apple Mail can be seen in figure ?? . It consists of three columns, of which only the 'Mail List' and 'Mail Details' column are shown by default. The 'Mail List' shows all mails of the active mailbox. the list entry can be customised in the 'Preferences', accessible through the 'File' drop down menu. The 'Mail List' has by default a sort/filter bar with a drop down menu for various list sort methods and an icon button to apply filters. The 'Mail List' scrolls vertically when not all mails of the mailbox fit on the screen. Inspired by the Apple iOS interface, mail list items implement horizontal swipe actions. By default, to the right for deleting and to the left for toggling read/unread.

The 'Mail Details' frame shows the detail view of one email, the one selected in the 'Mail List'. This view scrolls if needed both vertically and horizontally. Various options regarding the visualization can be chosen in the 'Preferences' menu. By default, the header of the mail contains a number of 'hyperlink' style functionality for toggling visibility of some less often needed information but also as shortcut for the common mail actions 'delete', 'reply', 'reply to all' and 'forward'.

The 'Mailbox List' column can be toggled visible/invisible by a button in the 'Favorites' bar which otherwise contains text buttons for the available mailboxes.

2.2 Description of Menu accessible Functionality in Apple Mail

3 Design with Android Elements

How to splitup the functionality into activities, layouts, menus, dialogs, fragments and messages. Elaborate which functions that are most important and that should be included. Which functions can be left out to compensate for the mobile context Is there needed some additional functionality for the mobile context reflect on the different aspects regarding usability describe how the interaction shall happen. Motivate design descisions.

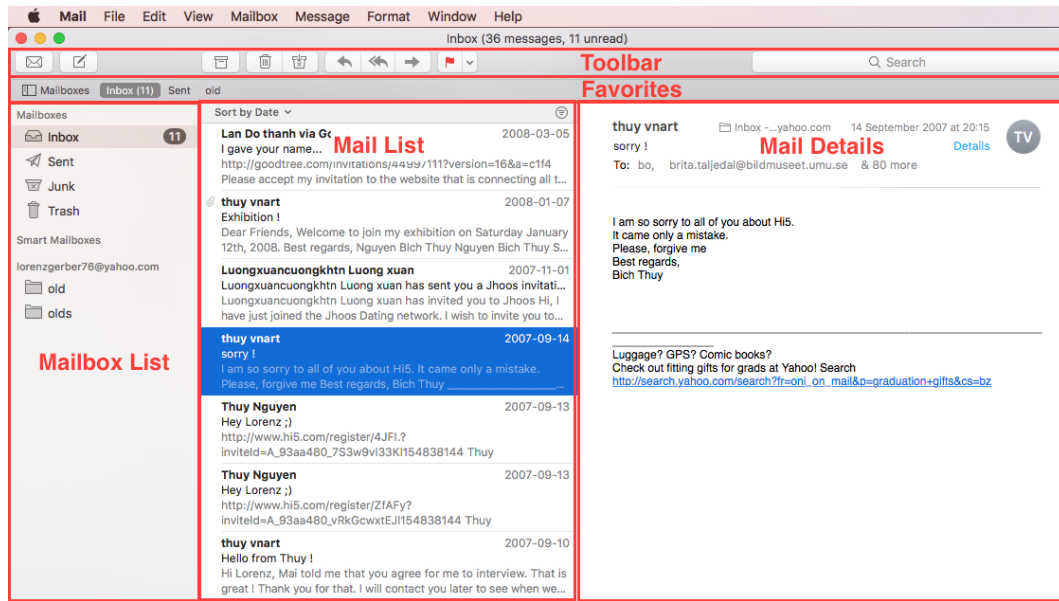


Figure 1: The main view of Apple Mail has three columns: 'Mailbox List', 'Mail List' and 'Mail Details'. The 'Mailbox List' column is however hidden in the standard configuration.

- 4 Some design examples from Android Studio UI Designer, some pen paper designs
- 5 describe how all main functionality in the app
- 6 Describe needed changes for another mobile platform

References

- [1] Josh Clark. *Designing for Touch*. A book apart, New York, USA, 2015.
- [2] Google material design. <https://material.io>, 2017. accessed: 2017-07-18.