Capstone Overview - Podcatcher

Patrick Ester - 21 January, 2015
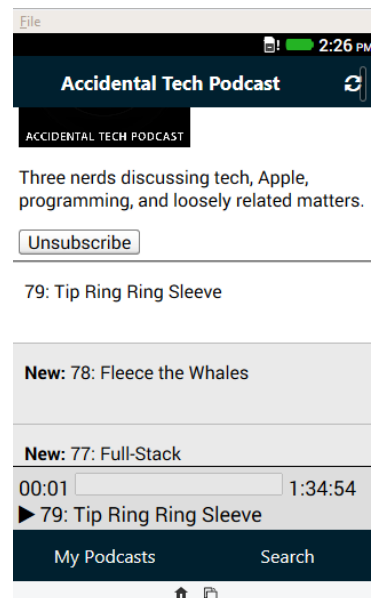
Problem

Lack of Quality Apps

The nascent FireFox OS suffers, to a greater degree, from the "app gap" that plagues the BlackBerry and Microsoft mobile platforms. The "app gap" is a two-part problem: first, estabilished companies see little reason to invest the time, money, and effort for so little in return; and those independent developers who do choose to write for FireFox OS are not producing apps to the level of quality found on other popular platforms.

A Bad Example

Outside of growing their userbase to a critical mass, there is little Mozilla can do to sway popular app developers to write for FireFox OS. On the other hand, Mozilla can get the proper tools, documentation, and guidance into the hands of independent developers to ensure the creation of quality apps. Currently, Mozilla offers reference apps that set expectations for the platform. Unfortunately, the podcast client developed by Mozilla exacerbates the perception that FireFox OS offers a subpar experience. Reference apps should be conmensurate with the quality Mozilla envisions for its mobile platform.

Plan

Delight Users

Users of the podcast client will see the FireFox OS platform for what it is: a modern and complete mobile experience. They will be surprised that an inexpensive and open product provides so much without many compromises. For many, FireFox OS will be their first Internet connected device. Users will go from seeing FireFox OS as a means to an end to being an end itself.
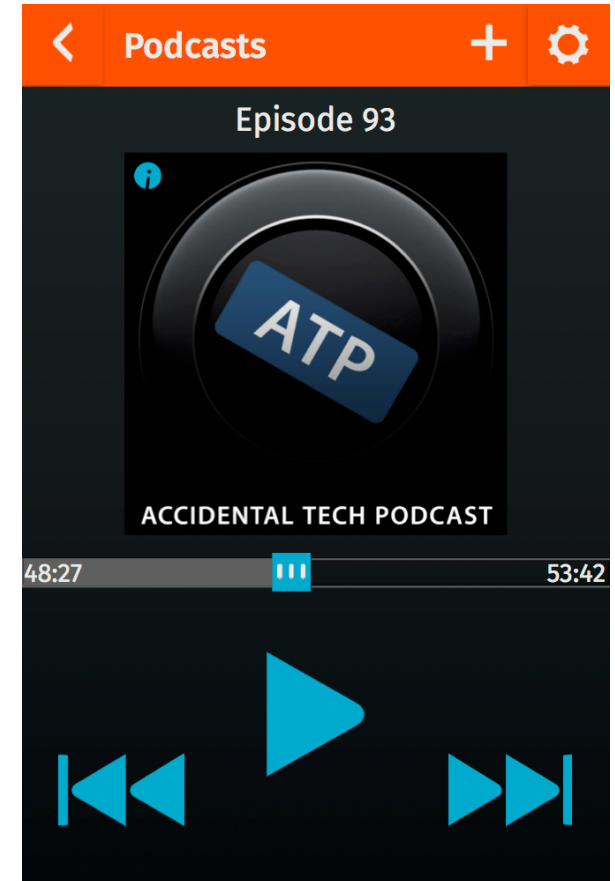
Simplify Development

This project will forgo the traditional HTML5 web development tools in favor of Elm, a funtional reactive language developed to create interactive web applications. In addtion, this project will test flexibility of FireFox OS and explore other ways to write web applications in a simpler way.

Set the Bar

This app will serve as a better example as to what users can expect when using FireFox OS, and set the bar for developers who want to develop for the platform, thus lessening the negative effects of the "app gap."

Deliverable

Functioning Podcast Client

The goal of this project is to create a fully functioning podcast client that meets the basic needs of podcast listeners.