Cache Contains start_url From Manifest

Overview

Ensures that a progressive web app properly launches from a mobile device homescreen while offline.

Recommendations

1. Define a `start_url` property in your `manifest.json` file.
2. Ensure that your service worker properly caches a resource that matches the value of `start_url`.

To learn the basics of adding apps to homescreens, see [Add Your Web App to a User's Home Screen](#). This is a step-by-step, hands-on codelab in which you add "add to homescreen" functionality into an existing app. Use what you learn in this codelab to integrate "add to homescreen" functionality in your own app.

For more help on how to cache files with service workers for offline use, see the "How to pass the audit" section of the following Lighthouse doc: [URL responds with a 200 when offline](#)

More information

When a progressive web app is launched from the homescreen of a mobile device, the app opens on a specific URL. That URL is defined in the app's `manifest.json` file as the `start_url` property.

This audit parses the value of `start_url` from `manifest.json` and then ensures that a matching resource is cached in the service worker's cache.

If your service worker redirects `start_url` requests, this audit may produce inaccurate results.

One shortcoming of this audit is that it inspects the cache contents directly, rather than asking the service worker to resolve the `start_url` request. This can produce a false negative result if your cache is missing a resource that matches the exact value of

`start_url`, even though in real scenarios the request resolves successfully because the service worker redirects to another resource in the cache. Conversely, the audit can produce a false positive result if your cache contains a resource that matches `start_url`, but your service worker redirects the request to a non-existent resource.

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