Manuel Sommerhalder

Posted on 7. Jan. 2021 • Edited on 11. Feb. 2021

💖 62 🦄 4 🤯 1 🙌 1

Display your PWA / website fullscreen

#pwa #javascript #html #css

In this short article I will show you how to expand your installed PWA to the full edge of the screen of a mobile device and how to take care of design issues that might occur.

Standalone mode

As soon as the user has added your PWA to the home screen and opened it, it runs in a standalone designs.

We can detect if the PWA is running in standalone mode inside our application like this:

```
// on iOS Safari
window.navigator.standalone

// on Android Chrome
window.matchMedia(
  '(display-mode: standalone)'
).matches
```

Because of the platform difference, a more popular approach is to define a `start_url` inside your `manifest.json` file, where we can add a parameter that will be added, when the app is started in standalone mode. Then we can check for the parameter inside our application to make changes to our UI.

To display it fullscreen and remove native control elements, we also have to add the `display` property with the value `standalone` (`fullscreen` won't work).

```
// manifest.json
{
  "name": "Example App",
  "display": "standalone",
  "start_url": "/?standalone=true"
}
```

Meta Tags

To display your app fullscreen, we will also have to add a few meta tags.

You might already have a `viewport` meta tag, but make sure `viewport-fit=cover` is inside it (separated by `;`):

```
<meta name="viewport"
    content="width=device-width; initial-scale=1
```

Then we have to add the `mobile-web-app-capable` and `status-bar-style` meta tags:

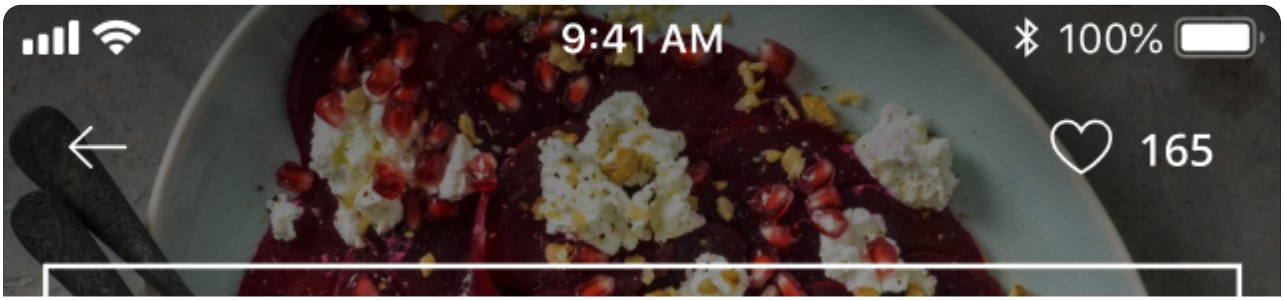
```
<meta name="mobile-web-app-capable" content="yes
<meta name="apple-mobile-web-app-capable" conter

<!-- possible content values: default, black or
<meta name="apple-mobile-web-app-status-bar-styl
    content="black-translucent">
```

Note that we can decide, whether the status bar should have a white (default), black or transparent (with white color) background. Take into account that this meta tag is only used when the app starts, so it's app-wide and we can't modify the meta tag later to change the color dynamically.

Because we also want to be able to display content underneath the status bar, we'll use the transparent background (`black-translucent`). This will also shift our app up to the top of the screen.

Now we can produce fancy headers that look like this:



Safe Area

Since we can display content underneath the status bar now, we'll have to make sure that the white text will always be readable (e.g. with a decorative shadow or ensuring dark background colors) and that there will be no interactive elements underneath. Also we might have to take the notch into account, which some newer iOS versions have:

To solve those problems we can utilize the `safe-area` CSS env variables (supported since iOS >= 11.1 and Chrome >= 69):

```
.element {
    height: env(safe-area-inset-top);
    width: env(safe-area-inset-left);
    margin: env(safe-area-inset-right);
    // you can also use fallback values
    padding: env(safe-area-inset-bottom, 20px);
}
```

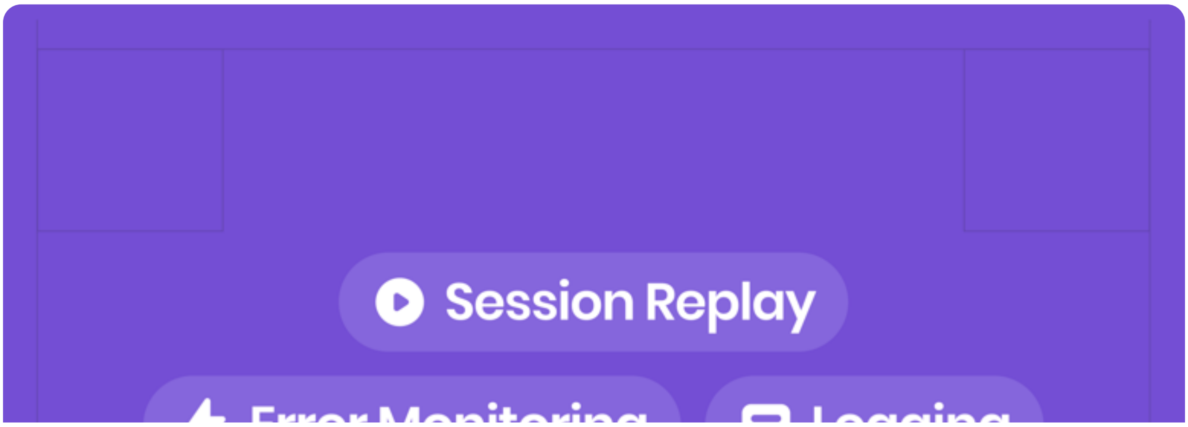
vue component for my app, which has an element with the top safe-area applied as height. It will be transparent as long as the `transparent` property is `true` and the user has not scrolled down. Here's the crucial part of the component:

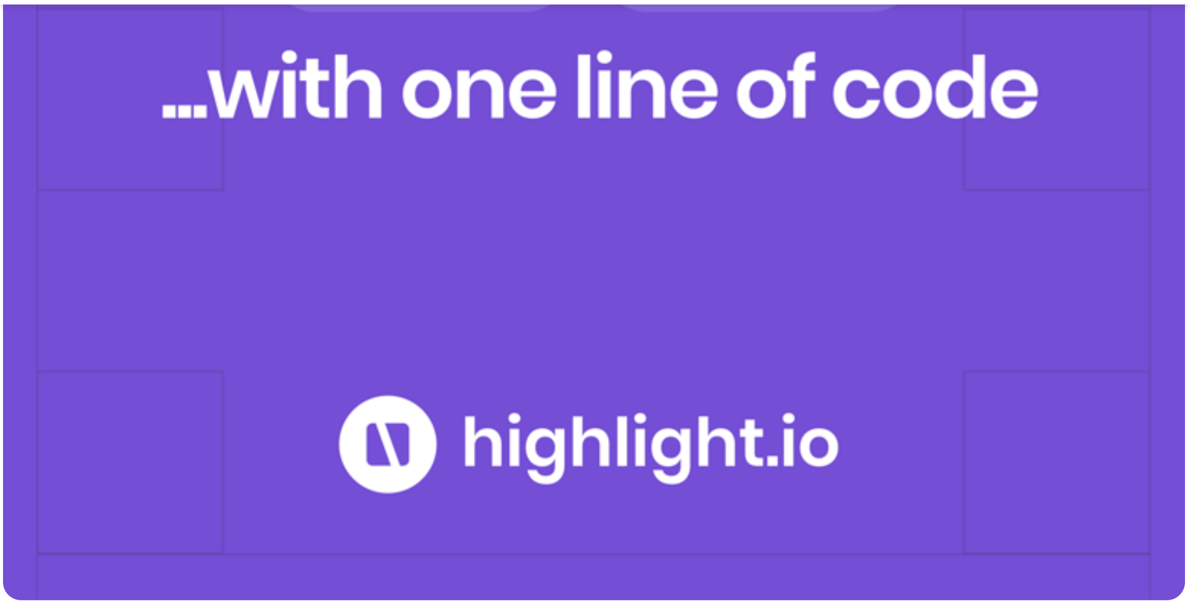
```
<!-- NavigationBar.vue -->
<div class="sticky top-0">
    <div
        class="h-safe-area-inset-top"
        :class="{
            'bg-black': !transparent
                        || (transparent && scrol
        }"
    ></div>
    ...
</div>

<style>
.h-safe-area-inset-top { height: env(safe-area-i
.bg-black { background-color: #444; }
</style>

<script>
export default {
  data() {
    return {
      scrollTop: 0
    }
    transparent: {
      type: Boolean,
      default: false
    }
  },
  methods: {
    scrollListener(e) {
      this.scrollTop = e.target.scrollTop;
    }
  },
  mounted() {
    window.addEventListener('scroll', this.scrol
  }
}
</script>
```

If you have a question, don't hesitate to leave a comment. Happy coding and designing! 👨‍💻




...with one line of code
highlight.io

Lohit Talasila • 30. Apr. 21 • Edited

Thanks for the write up, however this doesn't seem to work in the latest iOS version (14.5). Was wondering if anyone is having this issue or if I'm missing something. Any insight would be appreciate, thanks!

Manuel Sommerhalder • 30. Apr. 21

Which part exactly doesn't work? The `black-translucent` status bar?

Lohit Talasila • 30. Apr. 21

No, referenced firt.dev/ios-14.5/ and ended up using `dark-content` for the status bar. The issues I am having are:

1. Unable to achieve the desire full screen view
2. The width seems to be reduced and the height is retained, thereby affecting existing styles.

majkl zumberi • 7. Jan. 21

That's very helpfull! Thanks!

haVincy • 28. Apr. 21

Seems `black-translucent` now is deprecated in iOS 14.5. Refer : t.co/vE0aBdWKKs?amp=1
Are you able to enable it < 14.5?

Manuel Sommerhalder • 30. Apr. 21 • Edited

Deprecated hopefully doesn't mean removed, but can't test it right now. But like your linked article says, it seems like a half baked solution, since there has been no alternative value introduced for `black-translucent` and there are three values for the same.

Benoît Plâtre • 5. März 21

Thank you for your post !

window.matchMedia(
'(display-mode: standalone)'
).matches

Manuel Sommerhalder • 8. März 21

Good to know! Thanks for the testing.

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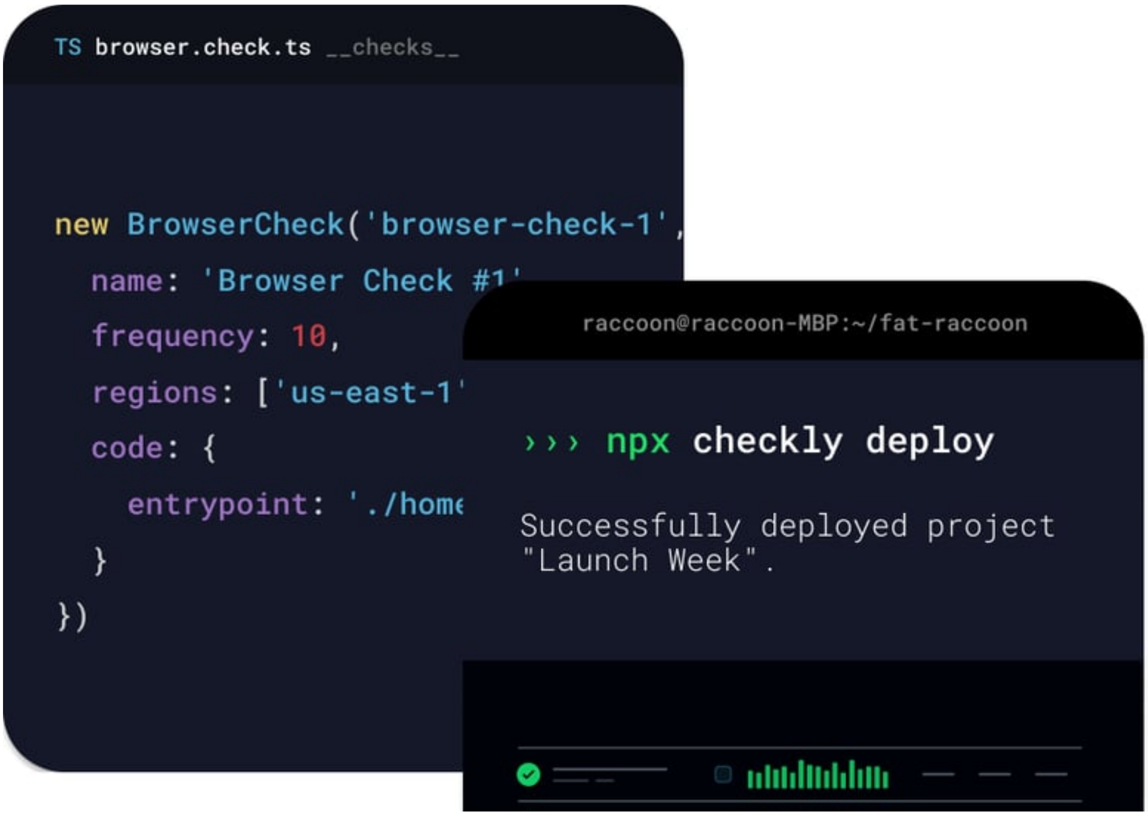

```
TS browser.check.ts __checks__

new BrowserCheck('browser-check-1',
  name: 'Browser Check #1'
  frequency: 10,
  regions: ['us-east-1'
  code: {
    entrypoint: './home
  }
})
```

```
raccoon@raccoon-MBP:~/fat-raccoon

››› npx checkly deploy

Successfully deployed project
"Launch Week".
```

Manuel Sommerhalder

Frontend Dev with a passion for everything web related.

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App

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