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#android5
Android UI Design Patterns

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May 19, 2010
› **Android: State of the UI**
› Application UI design patterns
› Making Android apps look good
› Building a great Android app
State of the UI
Chart title or subtitle placeholder

› Since last I/O
  Donut + Eclair launched, now Froyo
  New devices and screen sizes
  Wealth of new apps and widgets

Continuing, with your help, to improve the platform
Design philosophy

- Clear vs. “simple”
- Content vs. chrome
- Consistent yet engaging (elegant variation)
- Enhanced by cloud

“Mere knowledge of the truth will not give you the art of persuasion.”
- Socrates
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UI Design Patterns

- Like a software design pattern, a UI design pattern describes a general solution to a recurring problem
- Patterns emerge as a natural by-product of the design process
- For each pattern:
  - Title
  - Example
  - Problem
  - Recommendations
5 UI Design Patterns

- Dashboard
- Action Bar
- Search Bar
- Quick Actions
- Companion Widget
Dashboard

Examples

Latest update 15 mins ago
BoobyLBritten - This is easily the best place I have been to in quite a while. Definitely worth the drive!
Dashboard

“What can I do with this app? What’s new?”

- A quick intro to an app, revealing capabilities and proactively highlighting new content
- Full-screen
- Can be organized by:
  - Features
  - Categories
  - Accounts
Dashboard

Recommendations

› DO highlight what’s new
› DO focus on 3-6 most important choices
› DO be flavorful
Action Bar

Examples
Action Bar

“How can I do <common action> quickly?”

› Dedicated real estate at top of the screen to support navigation and frequently used operations
› Replaces title bar
› Best for actions common across your app

Search
Refresh
Compose (new)

› Can provide a quick link back to dashboard (or other app home)
Action Bar

Recommendations

- DO use to bring key actions onscreen
- DO help to convey a sense of place
- DO use consistently within your app
- DON’T use for contextual actions
Quick Actions

Examples

Brandi Shaffer 10 minutes ago
This rocks: http://bit.ly/6xwP5M

Benjamin Gonzalez 15 minutes ago
I really, really appreciate all the kind words today.
The good news: a few phone calls later, things are looking up.
Much less worried.

Adrian Gray 5 minutes ago
Finally posted some photos of

Brandi Shaffer 1 hour ago
This rocks: http://bit.ly/6xwP5M

Benjamin Gonzalez 2 hours ago
I really, really appreciate all the kind words today.
The good news: a few phone calls later, things are looking up.
Much less worried.

Betty Tidd 3 hours ago
Any recommendations for a good place to stay in Portland?
Heading up there for work this week, but planning on staying
the week to take in some of the local sites. Er, sights.
Quick Actions

“What can I do with this thing?”

- Action popup triggered from distinct visual target
- Minimally disruptive to screen context
- Actions are straightforward
- Fast & fun
Quick Actions

Recommendations

- DO use when items have competing internal targets
- DO present only the for most important and obvious actions
- DO use when the item doesn’t have a meaningful detail view
- DON’T use in contexts which support multiple selection
Search Bar
Examples

19% Google
48% MSN
33% Yahoo

- **David Sanchez**
  - David.B.Sanchez@domain.com

- **Amy Davenport**
  - amydave@domain.com

- **Jamie Davis**
  - jamiedavis@domain.com
Search Bar
“How can I find something?”

› Consistent pop-in search form anchored to top of screen
› Replaces action bar (if present)
› Support suggestions
› Can use corpora selector to alter search mode
   Alternately, can offer suggestions for primary search mode, and additional items for triggering other modes
Search Bar
Recommendations

- DO use for simple searches
- DO present rich suggestions
- DO use the same behavior
Companion Widget

Example

Android Fanatics

BoobyLBritten - This is easily the best place I have been to in quite a while...
Companion Widget
“Can I make this app a fun part of my Home screen?”

› Supports the app by displaying its content and capabilities on the Home screen
› Makes Home feel more custom, personalized
Companion Widget

Recommendations

- DO provide value above a simple app icon (content)
- DO handoff to the full app for real tasks
- DO be space efficient
- DON’T just provide a larger app launcher
A blueprint for building a great Android app

- Widget
- App
- Dashboard
- Activity
- Action bar
  - Unique detail
    - Search
    - Common action 1
    - Common action 2
- Dashboard
- Intents
  - App home
  - Search
  - Common action 1
  - Common action 2
• Android: State of the UI
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Enabling Device Diversity

› New devices mean:
  A. More choices for users
  B. Some new screen sizes to consider...
Multiple screen sizes

**HDPI**
- 3.7 Inches
- 480 x 800
- 252DPI

**MDPI**
- 3.2 Inches
- 320 x 480
- 180DPI
Autoscaling
Multi-Resolution Assets Workflow
Multi-Resolution Assets Workflow
Multi-Resolution Assets Workflow
Multi-Resolution Assets Workflow
New Android Icons

Tactile • Rendered • Forward Facing • Top-lit

Synecdoche • Diverse shapes, materials
How to make an Android app icon
Introducing icon templates

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Case study

Twitter for Android

Tweets

@Mentions

Lists

Retweets

Direct messages

My profile

#dontactlikeyounever

#cantbetamed

#FollowFriday


syncmock40 From camera http://twitpic.com/1jpm6

7 minutes ago via API Test Client
from Mountain View, CA

syncmock40 News: http://twitpic.com/1jpmv

9 minutes ago via API Test Client
from Mountain View, CA

ambilevous RT @hblodget: Wow: Amazing (horrrifying) photos of
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http://bit.ly/cPEA Gand
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