User Interface Design
for Software Engineers

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Why UI is important

#1 Factor: Aesthetics

An application is only as good as its interface

Three Lessons About Users

1. Users are stupid.
2. Users are scared.
3. Users don’t read.

Predict how the user will act
Design accordingly

Program Model
what actually happens

User Model
what the user thinks will happen
Define The Application

Who is the target audience?
What is their usage scenario?
What are the similar applications?

Draw It!

Habituation

- What apps have they used?
- What apps are similar?

Habituation

(overly) Creative UI

Stick to Standards

A word about...

Options & Preferences

Options & Preferences

Using Text

Options & Preferences

+ Lets the user configure the app to their liking
+ Can help the user be more productive

- Can confuse users
- More to test, more to fail

There’s a time and a place
This is neither...

There's a time and a place

Using Text

Shorter = Better

Using Text

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Yes                    No                  Cancel

Stick to Standards