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

Program Model = User Model
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

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...
Using Text

Shorter = Better
This workbook contains one or more lists with changes that have not been synchronized with the server running Windows SharePoint Services. If you don’t want to keep these changes, but you want to be able to edit these lists, you will have to discard the changes and refresh the lists. Do you want to load the pending changes?

Yes                    No                  Cancel
Stick to Standards