Font usability design guidelines

Description

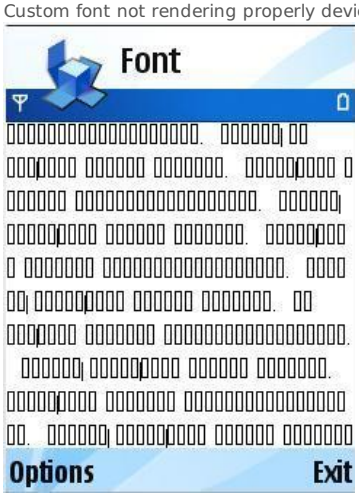
Font is defined as a design describing size, style, height and thickness for a groups of characters. E.g. a group of characters for Times New Roman for a certain size(lets say 10) is a font. While doing the usability design it is important to ensure that due consideration is placed on the right usage of the fonts, in terms of their style, size, color, highlighting/underline patterns etc. A rightly used font to display text/information to the user can go a long way in providing higher usability index for the application.

Some usability guidelines

- **Unless required, try to use the fonts which are already defined by the system.**
- **If you are using custom fonts that not defined in system then make sure that it will render properly on all devices**

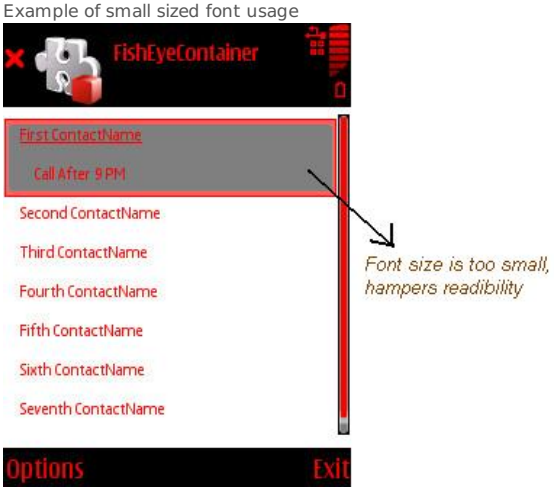
Custom font rendering properly on device

Custom font not rendering properly device



- **While defining the font size, the screen resolution must be kept in mind.**
- **Keep the font size which is in sync with the display screen space available to the application.**

Example of small sized font usage



Example of very big sized font usage

Example of right sized font usage

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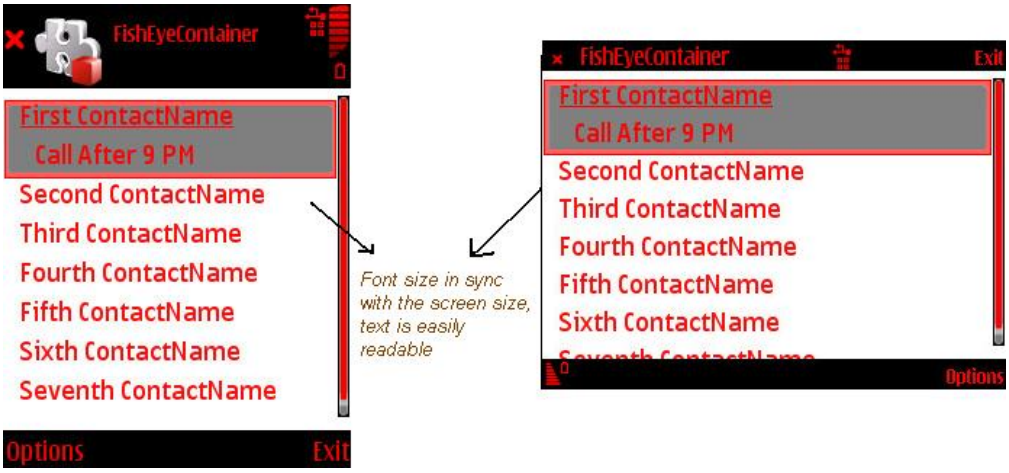
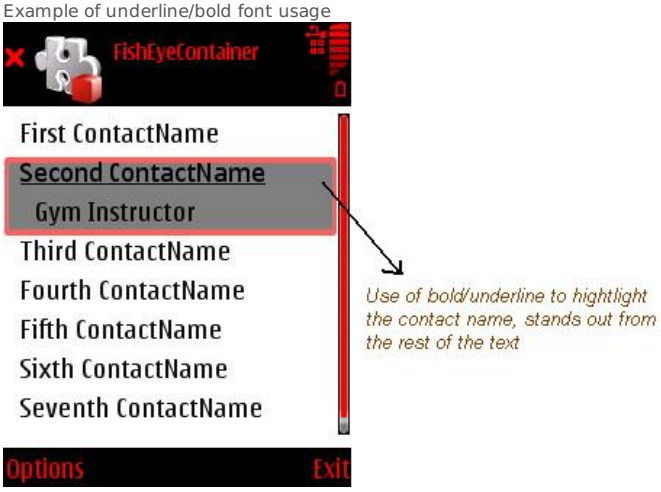


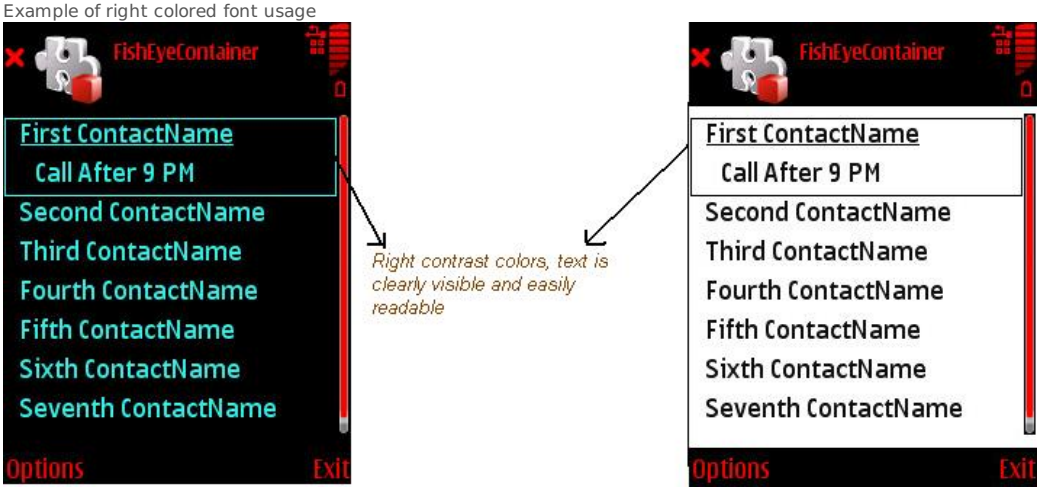
- **Font should make text easily readable. Font properties like color/size/style should make the text look nice on the UI.**
- **While using background images, use a proper combination of font type and colour so that the text is readable.**
- **Keep the backgrounds behind your text solid and plain, it is more readable.**
- **Because blue-receptors in the eye are least numerous, avoid blue for small font.**
- **It serves to use the font in sync with the overall theme color/background image combinations to give it a harmonious look on the UI.**
- **One can make use of bold font styles or use underlines etc so that the text looks highlighted and easily noticable.**

Example of underline/bold font usage



- **The best combination for readability is black font on a white background and vice versa.**

Example of right colored font usage



Read more on font

- Using fonts
- Custom font

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