

Mobile Application Development for Medicins Sans Frontiers

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INTRODUCTION



Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is an international medical and humanitarian aid organization. The old version app only supports Android mobile devices so users who use other mobile platforms won't be able to use the app.



OBJECTIVE

Our goals of the new app are:

1) Multiple platforms

The developed application not only supports mobile devices of Android platform, but also those of iOS, Windows.

2) User-friendly Interface

The old interface is space consuming and no longer familiar by users, while the new one provides slide panel which is popular in mobile apps.

3) Effective Information Presentation

As this is an application suitable for small screen devices, information will be filtered to display.

4) Social Interaction

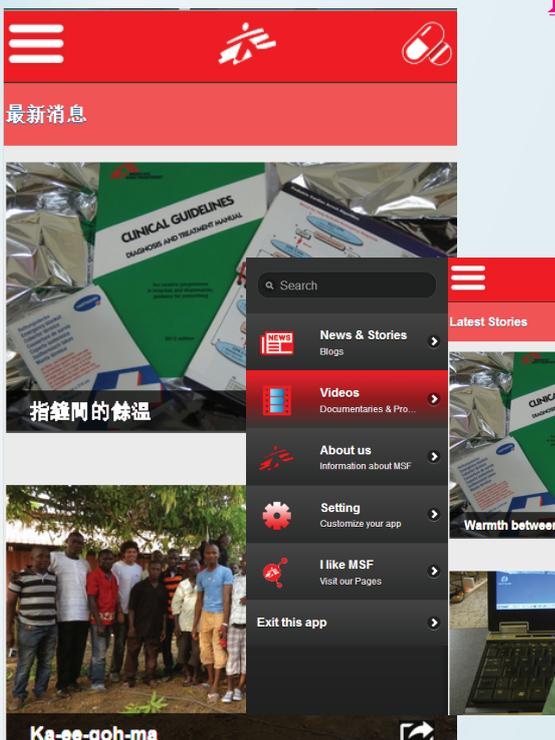
Sharing news through social platforms is a new feature. It raises the public awareness of MSF.

DESIGN

When users run the app, news and blogs will be shown in a list. For further options, users can either swipe the screen or click the icon at upper left corner to access the panel.

Features:

- Read and share news & blogs
- Explore videos
- Read information of MSF
- Switch languages
- Explore communication channels of MSF



DESIGN

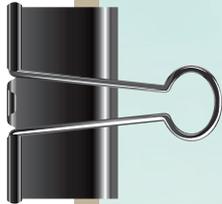


Social Sharing

When users read the posts and want to save or share the thread, they can simply use social sharing feature to upload or send the threads.

Multi-platform

In the new version of app, our target is all mobile users. Therefore, we developed a mobile application which are able to run on multiple platforms.



IMPLEMENTATION



In order to grab the data from MSF database, we have used Google AJAX feed API to fulfill this requirement.



Finally, we have used PhoneGap to convert HTML code into app files on different mobile platforms.



PhoneGap

We have implemented the coding by the use of Dreamweaver (HTML5), jQuery Mobile, Javascript and CSS.



IMPLEMENTATION



JQuery Mobile provides a HTML5 based mobile interface system so the interface on mobile devices can be assured to operate perfectly.

PhoneGap deploys our work which made of HTML5, Javascript and CSS to mobile application files on several popular mobile platforms. Therefore, it solves the problem of consistency on mobiles.



PhoneGap



CONCLUSION

To ensure the accuracy, we have invited 50 mobile users to test the new version of MSF application. Most of them are satisfied of the efficiency and usefulness of content while sometimes they think the app is a bit slow when they open the app. This is due to the transformation of PhoneGap so we cannot do much to improve the performance.

In conclusion, we have developed a new mobile application for Medicins Sans Frontiers Hong Kong successfully. It is usable for all people using smart phones since it is a multi-platform app. In the future, we hope that the app will be used widely to convey the messages of MSF to public.