GOOD UI DESIGNS:

eBay Mobile App (Android):

eBay has definitely improved its UI over the years especially through their mobile application. The purpose of the application as well as eBay.com is to buy/sell new, used, and refurbished products at a click of a button. The mobile app for Android does just that in a simple easy to navigate manner. The main screen of the application consist of large tiles that allow you to view Reminders, Messages, Saved Searches, Saved Sellers, Browse Categories, eBay Deals, as well as your account information and summary. I find it extremely easy to navigate, and the overall appearance makes it easy to understand what each tile does. I also find the organization of the tiles to be consistent with the important elements of the desktop site, which allow new users of the application to adapt to the mobile version. End-users are able to achieve every aspect of their intended goal without guessing and is provided with visual feedback once the desire option is selected.

Windows 8 on Microsoft Surface Pro:

The Microsoft Surface Pro presents some of the most advance features in a tablet computer all within a small form factor. Microsoft did an excellent job in the overall design and feel in the Surface. The purpose of the Surface is to allow users to be able to run native Windows applications on a small form factor touch screen tablet on the go. Users are able to freely navigate menus/applications with a single touch and receive feedback through visuals, vibrations, and sounds. The Surface UI is run by Windows 8 and just works on a touch screen tablet device without any problems. The home screen or
what Microsoft calls the “Start Screen” is laid out neatly with tiles, application names, and navigation headers. I find the large tiled layout the best feature on the Surface and Windows 8 OS. I can easily rearrange tiles, pin favorites, organize applications into groups, etc.

BAD UI DESIGNS:

FileZilla:

FileZilla is an application designed for file transfers between two computers. It is relatively complex but performs its intended purpose. The UI is overwhelming and can be an eye sore for many. I find the menu icons hard to navigate, because some icons are meaningless to their actual purpose. In order to see what the icons actually do, the user needs to hover over them, which defeat the purpose of an icon. Users do not really have any real visual feedback to what they are doing and the overall look and feel are just plain to the users eye. I would recommend the developers of FileZilla to add some visual queues to the whole UI. They should change the navigation icons to something more standard, and should add navigation texts to allow users to see what they’re clicking on. I believe FileZilla was developed for users who have significant knowledge about computers, and therefore was designed the way it was. In a business standpoint FileZilla should design their program for all end-users whether they have significant knowledge or not. This would defiantly build their overall reputation as the convenient FTP application.
Piazza.com:

Piazza is a web-application that allows users of a classroom to ask and answer each other questions. The overall visual aspect of Piazza is confusing when it comes to asking questions. When a user clicks New Post and attempts to add the post Piazza.com sometimes displays annoying popups stating that a similar question may exist even though it doesn’t. The workaround is to adjust the title of the question in order to actually create a new post. This is completely frustrating at times when you want to make a quick post to find an answer. Piazza.com does present visual feedbacks, but does not provide audio feedback even when there is a popup window. I would recommend Piazza.com to fix the annoying popup window when posting new questions or reconfigure how they determine the similarities between two questions. I’m not positive if the problem is Piazza.com related or if the instructor of the course sets it, but so far all classes I had that used Piazza.com has the same problem. I believe Piazza.com may have designed the popup similarity window this way to limit the amount of repost of the same questions. The only problem is it sometimes wrongfully marks different questions, similar.