Microsoft Word 2008 for Mac

Microsoft Office for Mac is probably one of the worst pieces of software ever built. I am specifically talking about version 2008, and have not used the updated versions so some of these changes could be changed.

The purpose of this interface is supposed to support the user for text editing. The majority of the editing is all crammed into this small and separate interface called the toolbox – this being one of the most annoying features of this software (seen below in the screenshot). When searching for specific features the user can only have about two of the groups open or else it’s too big to display for the screen. Sometimes when using multiple desktops the toolbox will be stuck, or even the main editing window, will be stuck on separate desktops and it is nearly impossible to fix this without restarting word – this being a software bug and not necessarily a UI issue (although with a better design this wouldn’t be an issue). Another annoyance with the toolbox is that it’s a pop-out window. Why not just have everything built into the top window with rows like the windows word? These are just a few of the terrible features in word for mac, many of which could have been avoided.

As I mentioned before I think most of their issues could have been avoided if they didn’t try to change the UI as much, and took a more modeled approach from their windows software. If the toolbox were built into the top row as it is for the windows platform, issues with the separate desktops and users toolbox being lost would have been avoided. The overall design of the toolbox was a major fail. Cramming all of the editing features into one bloated small UI could have been the worst idea of all. At the very least they could have made this window wider so there could be more tools viewable at once. After using this software for many years I was convinced Microsoft just wanted to try and sway Mac users back to windows after this awful software. With poor design and software bugs it has redefined what most people think of Word Processors and put an unfortunate damper on the Mac version of this software.
Espn.com

Being the “world leader in sports” you would think espn.com would be a much better, concise, and an easy to use website; instead, you have jumbled information scattered throughout endless pages on the Internet. The purpose of this website is to portray sports news and highlights to the public.

The first flawed functionality I would like to touch upon is the tile-featured news (first screenshot below). Half the time when I click on the small tiles the main page above the tiles doesn’t even change, and sometimes the video will start automatically. This always feels very clunky and unresponsive to me and I’m sure to most others as well. The second screenshot is a row of news articles that is terribly jumbled and small. I honestly feel it looks like someone just threw some random articles/words on the webpage with no sensitivity to organization. The one area that I do enjoy with this website is the top bar that shows live scores that is easily maneuverable.

A huge overhaul of the entire website is needed. The best way of doing this would be to keep the main news section with the tiles as-is; however, improve functionality and response time. After that the best way to organize the site would be by sport on the main page, having all of the related articles under their specified sports section. Doing this would give the user specific spaces where they could get information they are looking for and also reduce clutter on the page.
The Good

Sugar Sync Android

Sugar Sync is one of the best and easiest ways for file sharing in the market today. I could have picked any of their applications but decided to focus on the Android version. The purpose of this software is to be able to store, and share files easily and effectively. I can upload videos/photos/files straight from my android phone to a folder in the Sugar Sync client on the cloud. I can also share either folders, or specific files and photos through private links or public links. This seamless functionality really impressed me.
since I started using it, and it has actually made me want to use it more – which I have. On a small side note, I even gained many extra gb’s of data from referrals to friends – I have about 7gb of space with out paying for a dime (currently a free accounts allotment is only 2gb).

Focusing on the UI there are many aspects that make this mobile application great. Most of the UI can be seen with the screenshots below. The shot on the left is the main screen that shows all of my folders. The right shot is the menu that contains account management and sharing properties. The simplicity of this UI is fantastic. All of the functionalities are easily accessible with only a few key-strokes (finger-strokes?). They adopted the almost universal sign for the menu of the triple line in the top right – making unfamiliar users comfortable immediately. All of the options on each menu are rather large and makes searching for the desired function very easy. All of these functions make for a great application that is sure to impress users of all kinds.

Capital One Android

Most banking applications have evolved into great pieces of work that have a lot of functionality and very good UI’s. This is mainly because of the amount of money banks
can use for development of these critical mobile banking applications. The purpose of this app is for the user to be able to perform as many banking functions as possible. The main functions of this app are checking purchases/balances, paying bills, rewards, and a store locator - all of these functions cover the main aspects of banking.

I love capital one and especially their app for banking. The UI is very straightforward and makes banking extremely easy. The simplicity and response of this app is incredible and really does make banking easy. The first screenshot below shows the main menu. They give options that are not account related and then three major functions that require account logins. When making an app simple it is integral that there are few options for the user that meet a lot of functions – this main screen achieves that. The other screenshots are of the menu and “pay my bill” sections. Once again they used the common menu image that is now known throughout most of society as just that. Under the menu I like how the sign out button is right there as the menu opens. In some applications I feel they try to keep you logged in as long as possible, but because security is at the utmost importance in banking, they make sure no one can miss this button. Focusing on the “pay my bill” section there really is no way to make this simpler or easier for the end user. Once your payment is setup you can easily select it for future use and can pay a bill in seconds. This is really a terrific and easy app that gets your banking needs completed in minutes.
CREDIT CARDS

CAPITAL ONE BANK

CAPITAL ONE 360
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