edgetesting

GOOGLE

MOBILE APPLICATION TESTING

Summary

In July 2019 Edge was asked to carry out offsite testing for Google's Wellbeing Experiments department. This was known as the Unplugged project. The key project objective was to reduce the amount of distractions that come from the user's device, such as Social Media notifications and messenger apps so that the user can spend more time on the activities that matter to the individual. Three applications were in project scope, each designed to reduce the user's screen time by minimising how distracting their mobile devices could be with each application using a different approach including: location triggers that switch to different user defined modes, notification filtering, and minimalistic interface design.

Project Overview

Testing involved geo-location triggers. This required Edge employees to take the devices to several UK based locations to ensure that the location triggers were functioning as expected.

The scope of the testing covered several android versions and devices to ensure that the behaviour could be observed in different versions of Android. For example, the Samsung version of Android behaves very differently to the Pixel version. Testing and development were carried out promptly, defects were turned around quickly and new APK builds released frequently for retesting and regression testing.

Google then returned with more applications to test in October 2019 having been very satisfied with the previous work undertaken by the Digital Test Hub. This consisted of two projects, Digital Wellbeing and Unplugged, both of which focused on preventing users from spending a large amount of screen time during their day or during times in which they did not want to be distracted. The Digital Wellbeing project consisted of two live wallpapers: One wallpaper displays a stopwatch timer to inform the user how long they spend on their phone with the screen unlocked. The other wallpaper displays similar information but expressed through generated bubbles.

Benefits

All of the testing undertaken used a charter driven exploratory approach with the Digital Test Hub acting as an independent quality assurance partner to the client. We were contracted to ensure the final product / build was fit for release (and therefore fit for purpose). Edge located multiple / high value defects which were fixed by our client's development team. The scope of the

testing was over several android versions and devices. Defects were located at both system level (i.e. impacted all devices and platforms) and individual device / platform level.

The success of the testing undertaken was underpinned by a strong collaborative 'one team' approach with the Digital Test Hub working closely with the Google's representatives and third-party developers – this is key when deploying an exploratory testing approach so that accelerated turnaround of defect fixes can be achieved. Edge communicated daily with our client over email threads, calls and used a shared storage space for test evidence and to deploy APKs when they were ready for testing. This meant that any potential progress blockers were addressed and dealt with in a timely and efficient manner. All test progress was also formerly reported to the client via daily progress reports showing progress against plan. The Digital Test Hub's capability to provide a rapid, remote, flexible and on-demand exploratory test service aligned to a broad range of devices and platforms enabled the client to accelerate its ability to support its end customers and provide them with a more seamless service with less distractions and provide greater wellbeing support.