TESTING COMMENTS

Since my current smartphone is on Android 2.3.3, I had to install 4.0 on my HP Touchpad to be able to use the app. As a result, my experience with the application was probably a bit skewed since I didn't have access to the intended platform.
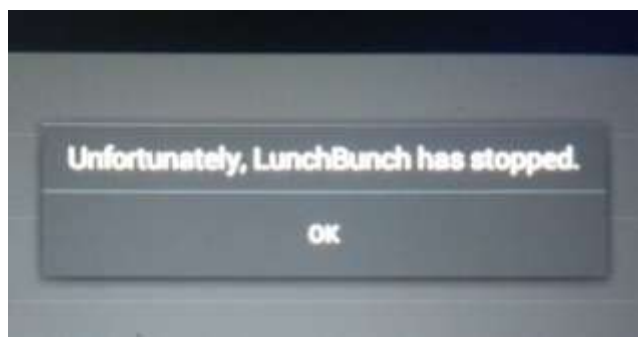
NEGATIVE COMMENTS

Problem 1 (Major): Pressing "Lunch Invites" when already in that tab causes unexpected results. If the app has just been opened, this action closes it. If the user has navigated around, then this changes the view to the "Lunches I'm Attending" tab.

Usability Heuristic: Error Prevention

Problem 2 (Catasrophic): Pressing "Lunches I'm Attending" when already in that tab causes the app to crash.

Usability Heuristic: Error Prevention
Recommendation: Not sure how you implemented your tabs, but it seems that changing between them requires the entire page to reload, which is not really indicative of a true tabbed interface. Changing your implementation of this feature may fix these issues.

Problem 3 (Major): There is no way to undo an event decline. This can be a problem in multiple situations. First of all, if a user accidentally clicks "decline" instead of "accept," the invitation disappears from the list and leaves the user with no way to correct the mistake. Secondly, if a user cannot attend a lunch due to scheduling conflicts and chooses to decline an invitation, there is no way to accept it later on if their schedule clears up.

Usability Heuristic: Error Prevention, User Control and Freedom
Recommendation: Perhaps in the "Lunch Invites" tab include an item in the list that takes the users to a list of all the valid lunches (still sometime in the future) they have declined. Potentially add another state to an invitation, "dismissed," that lies somewhere between "decline" and "accept" such that all "dismissed" events show up in this list. If the user is POSTIVE they don't want to see this event, you can maybe allow them to "decline" one of these events for good.

Problem 4 (Cosmetic): The current grayscale color theme is a little on the unexciting side of things. It also creates some contrast issues that make some text hard to read (the tab title for the one that is not currently shown, for example). Also, creating an event has an inverse color scheme (white text on black background) that is inconsistent with the page for viewing invitations (black text on gray background).
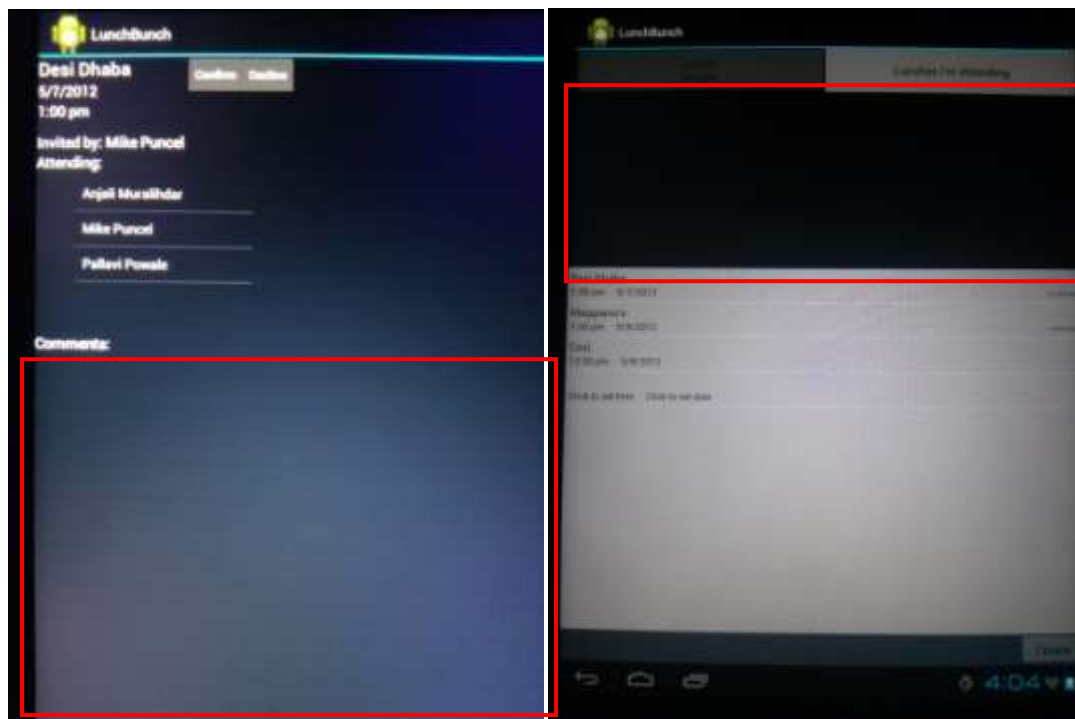
Usability Heuristic: Aesthetic and (too much) Minimalist Design, Consistency and Standards
Recommendation: Usually not a fan of lots of colors, but I think throwing some in as highlights would liven up the interface a bit.
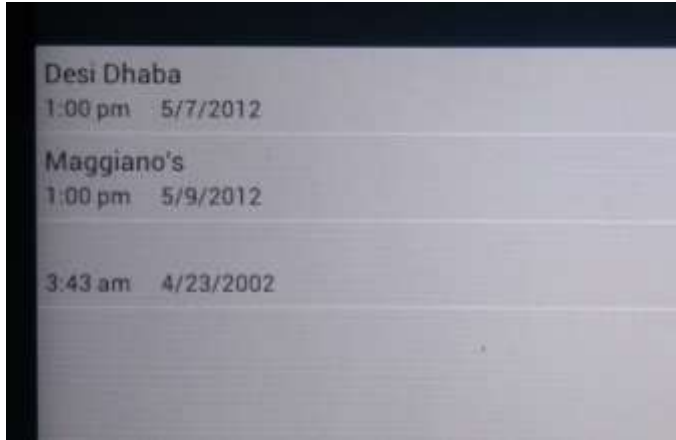

Problem 5 (Cosmetic): A couple screens have some excessively large blank areas. This is most likely due to the fact that I used my tablet, so on a phone this is probably not so much of an issue.

Usability Heuristic: Aesthetic and Minimalist Design

Problem 6 (Major): When creating an event, the application allows users to input a date in the past.
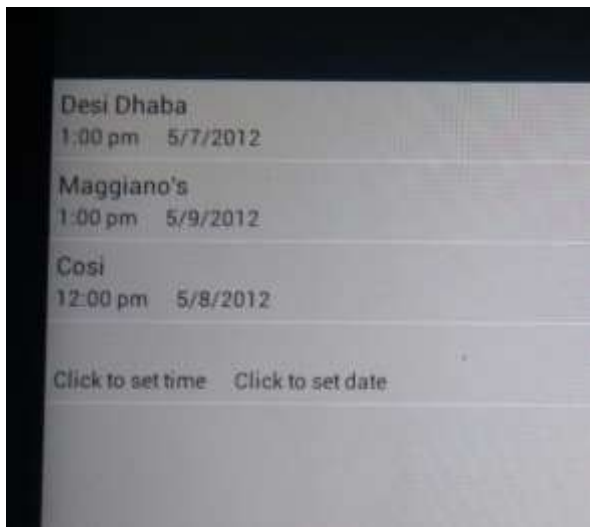

Usability Heuristic: System and Real World, Error Prevention
Recommendation: Eliminating this possibility not only helps the app reflect the real world more closely, but also prevents helps prevent some date entry errors. On a similar note, since this is technically a lunch-centered app, would a binding of the available times (say between 10am and 4pm) be appropriate?
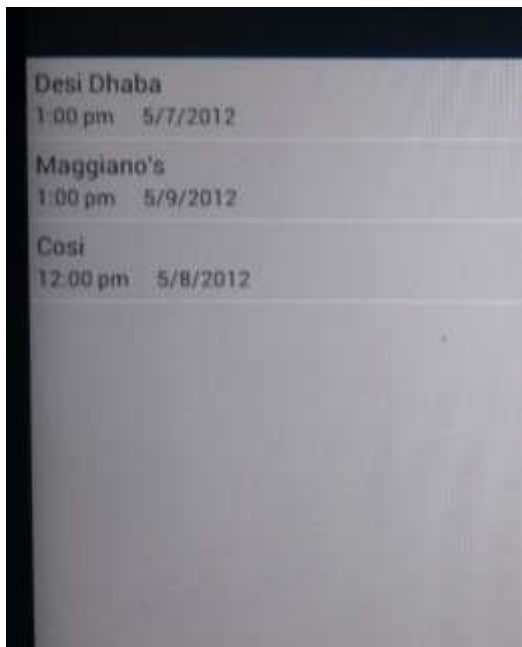

Problem 7 (Major): When creating an event, the application allows the users to submit an event with no name, date, or time.

Usability Heuristic: System and Real World, Error Prevention

Problem 8 (Minor): The order in which invitations are listed is based on when the invitation was received (or accepted). This forces users to sift through their invitations in a seemingly random order
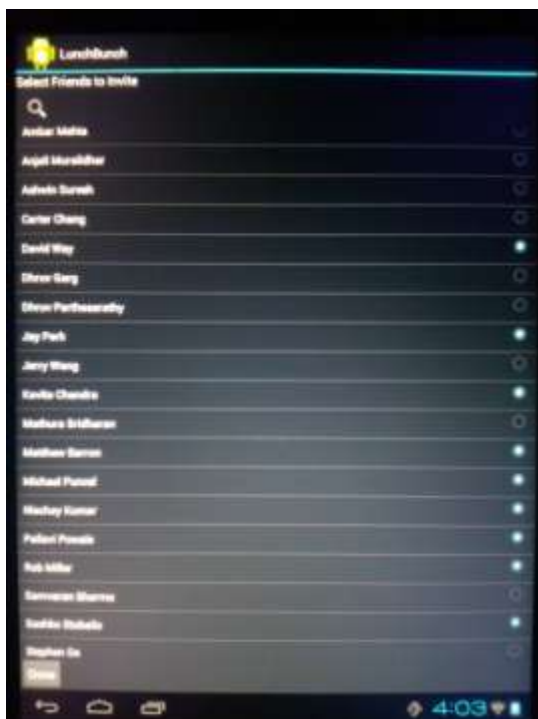

Usability Heuristic: System and Real World, Flexibility and Efficiency of Use
Recommendation: It would be much more helpful to the user if the invitations were sorted in some more intuitive way (chronologically makes the most sense, but alphabetically by location would also be helpful).

Problem 9 (Minor): When selecting other users to invite to an event, the list employs circular markers, which are more consistent with radio style buttons.

Usability Heuristic: Consistency and Standards
Recommendation: Perhaps use checkboxes instead

Problem 10 (Minor): When viewing an event, a user can click on the names of the other users who are attending. This action, however, does not appear to do anything.

Usability Heuristic: Consistency and Standards
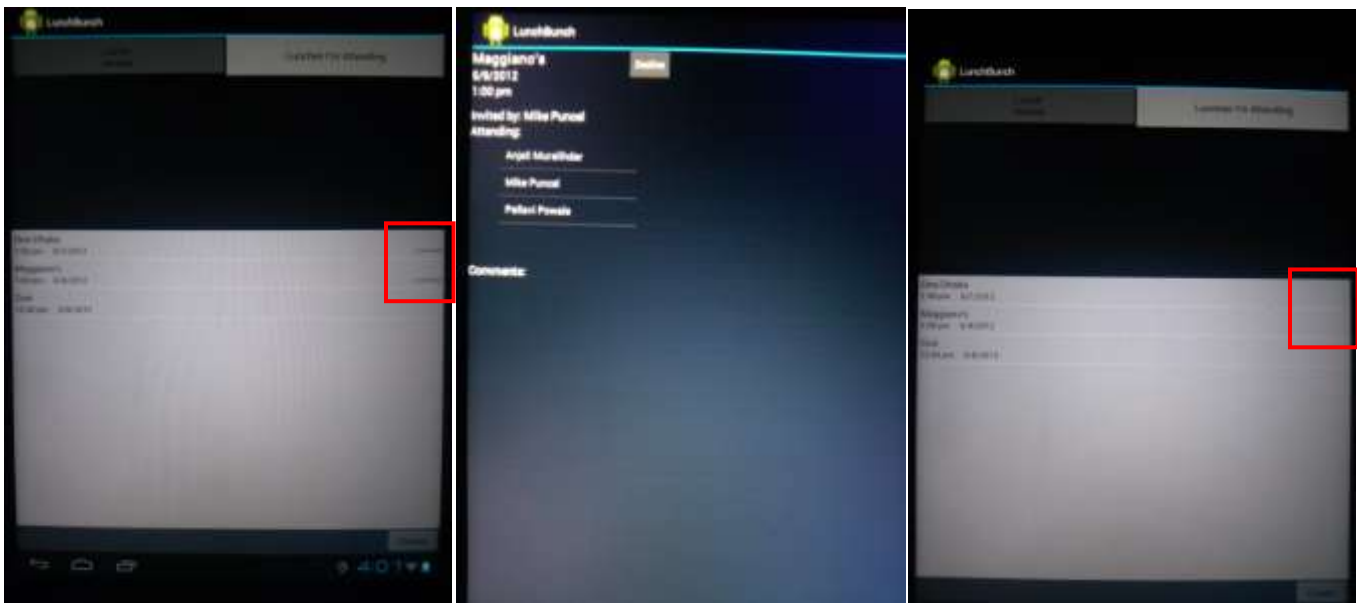**Recommendation:** Remove a user's ability to click on these names.

Problem 11 (Major): After an event is created, no changes can be made to it. For events that occur far in the future, the possibility that the creator of the event would want to change any of the important features is reasonably high. Furthermore, if the event was created with the wrong information, there is no way for the user to correct it without having to send out a new invitation.
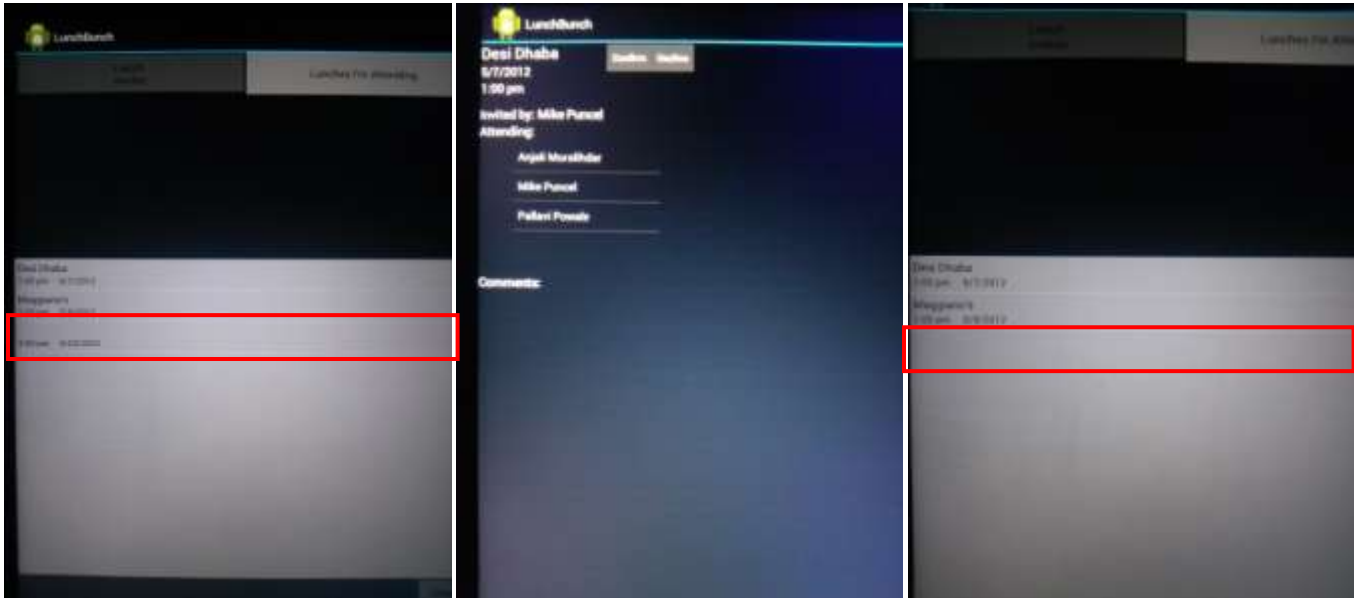
Usability Heuristic: User Control and Freedom, Error Prevention
Recommendation: Add the ability to change the details of an event after it has been created.

Problem 12 (Catastrophic): The back button causes unexpected behavior. Oftentimes it just causes the application to exit. Other times, it results in returning the phone to a far previous state. For instance, after "confirming" attendance to an event, if you go into another event and press the back button, the "confirmed" text is removed. The text returns if you shift tabs, but the behavior is still strange. Something similar occurs after an event is created.

Usability Heuristic: Error Prevention, Visibility of System Status

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Problem 13 (Minor): When a new event is created and subsequently viewed, each user that was invited shows up under "Attending." Obviously these users have not pressed "attend" for that event, so it seems that this list provides misleading information.

Usability Heuristic: Visibility of System Status, Consistency and Standards
Recommendation: Perhaps make the heading of the list "invited guests" and somehow mark the specific users who have declared they are "attending" and/or "confirmed" their attendance.

POSITIVE COMMENTS

1. The date selection interface is very nice. Having the ability to select a date via calendar or traditional android wheel system such that each updates according to the changes made to the other provides the user with a clear and efficient way to find a desired date.
2. When selecting contacts to invite to an event, the user has the ability to scroll through a list or perform a search. Giving them options allows them to efficiently select people to invite. Having a draggable scrollbar (similar to the ones in Contacts for most phones) may make this process even more efficient for very long lists.