Touch bar use cases

The first part of this paper will focus on use cases for the browser itself while the second one will give some examples how extensions could make advantage of the touch bar. The letter and the number in the parentheses representing the priority on the specific feature. From important and productivity adding feature (P1) to nice to have things (P3) to completely absurd ideas (P5). While P1 is considered MVP, P3 features should be added soon after the initial release, P4 anytime after that, while P5 features can be implemented by a motivated developer.

New tab (P1)

Show top sites from the new about:newtab site (approximately 9 should be displayed directly, the rest should be hidden behind a slider). The touch bar should always display a favicon to prevent non-readable mini previews of a website. An algorithm define the background color and with the logo (favicon) in the center. Click on a site opens it in the same tab. If a user hold the command button on the keyboard while clicking on a site on the touch bar the site will be opened in a new tab.

Customizable New Tab (P3)

The user could change this in about:preferences through the native change option to change this to a favorite bookmark folder.

Arrangeable New Tab (P5)

Holding down on a any site for a while (time TBD) allows the option to arrange the sites new.

Pinned websites (P3)

If the user has pinned websites max three sites should be displayed in favor of a smaller url bar.

Open Website (P1)

If the user change to a tab with a website open, the touch bar displays (from left) the refresh and the home button, then the url bar with the current url displayed and then a button with the three dots (page action menu). If the user click on the page action menu buttons appearing for the several options while an arrow directing to the right allows the user to exit the menu. If the user click on the url bar the focus in firefox changes to the url bar.

Focus on url bar (P1)

The native predictive input should be displayed.

Focus on a text field (P3)

The native predictive input should be displayed.

about:preferences, about:addons open (P3)

The menu options should be displayed as buttons.

Customizable Open Website (P3)

The user have the option to customize the touch bar with the native change option. Available buttons can be taken from the customize menu including the extensions.

Website with video or music (P1)

If applicable the media scrubber should be displayed when the user change to a website with video or music on it playing. If possible the native media scrubber should be used.

First run site (P4)

Letters welcome the user to firefox. Display clickable social media buttons to share the exciting news!

Your-running-on-an-old-firefox-page (P4)

Letters welcome the user back to firefox. Display clickable social media buttons to share the exciting news!

JS native popup message (P5)

The buttons normally displaying on the screen should be displayed on the touch bar and be clickable.

Starting of the browser (P5)

Display an animated fox on a blue background. The colors would be determined through the update channel.

Updating the browser (P5)

Display an animated circle.

Allow webextensions to control the touch bar (P4)

A webextensions should gain the control over the touch bar. The extensions can either take the control for the total time firefox is open, for all websites or only for a specific website. When a extensions takes the control over the touch bar totally, none of the above written features are available. The API needed to be made in mind that the touch bar is an input device and not a display, therefore it's the wrong place to display the weather, stock market information or news headlines.

Use case

A use case would be a password manager which could display buttons to help fill out login information on a website, a js script blocker the possibility to display blocked domains so the user could allow them (temporary), or a video download utility to make the download of a video easier.

Allow website to control the touch bar (P5)

After first experience is gained, the possibility to allow websites to customize the touch bar should be considered. The ideas and thoughts about this are not part of this document. This control would only least as long as the user would have the corresponding tab open.

Ressources

How to use the Touch Bar on your MacBook Pro - https://support.apple.com/en-

us/HT207055

Human Interface Guidelines: Touch Bar Overview - https://developer.apple.com/macos/human-interface-guidelines/touch-bar/touch-bar-overview/