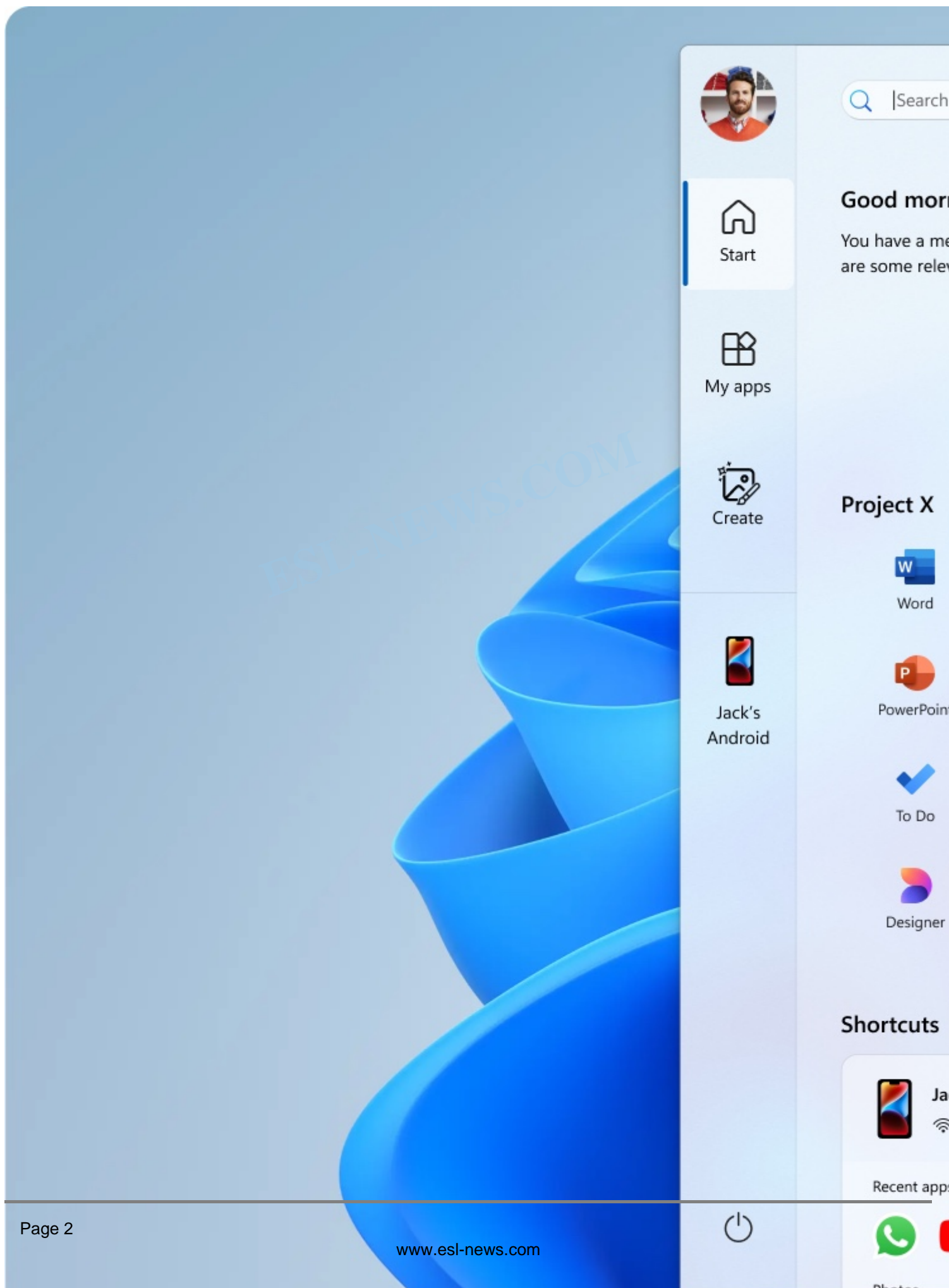

Behind the Revamp: Microsoft Reveals Windows 11 Start Menu Journey

Description

Upon its 2021 rollout, Microsoft directed considerable attention toward the aesthetic evolution of Windows 11, marking a significant departure from the design vernacular established by Windows 10—an operating system that had merely adjusted the framework introduced by Windows 8 in 2012. Post-launch, Microsoft has persistently refined the user interface, subtly enhancing individual applications and foundational elements such as the Taskbar, system tray, and Windows Explorer.

Currently, the tech giant is experimenting with a revamped iteration of the Windows 11 Start menu. This novel design retains most familiar components from its predecessor, while reorganizing them and affording users additional customization possibilities. On its Microsoft Design blog, the company [elucidated the nuances of the new design](#) and disclosed various concepts that were ultimately set aside during development.

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Search



Start



My apps



Create



Jack's
Android

Good morning

You have a meeting at 10 AM. There are some relevant news items.

Project X



Word



PowerPoint



To Do



Designer

Shortcuts



Recent apps





This alternative Start menu design contemplated an almost Windows XP-inspired left-hand sidebar, among other elements.

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Microsoft asserts that its design concepts were subjected to rigorous scrutiny, having engaged "over 300 Windows 11 enthusiasts" in unmoderated studies, in addition to numerous others during collaborative sessions. The feedback garnered from these testing phases proved instrumental in determining the designs that merited retention and those that were discarded.

Noteworthy among the rejected concepts were larger previews for recently accessed files, increased prominence for calendar notifications, and curated "For You" content areas. One iteration even featured a "create" button ostensibly aimed at activating some generative AI functionalities. A comparative analysis of these discarded designs elucidates that Microsoft opted for a more measured reimagining of the Start menu, favoring a synthesis of existing elements over a radical overhaul.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Aesthetic** /es'θetɪk/ (adjective): Concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty.
2. **Refined** /rɪ'faɪnd/ (verb): Improved in style quality or meaning.
3. **Iteration** /,ɪtə'reɪʃən/ (noun): A version of something especially a computer program that is developed or released in a series of stages.
4. **Elucidated** /ɪ'lu:sɪdeɪtɪd/ (verb): Made something clear or easy to understand.
5. **Instrumental** /,ɪnstrə'mentəl/ (adjective): Serving as a means of pursuing an aim or policy.
6. **Contemplated** /'kɒntəm,pleɪtɪd/ (verb): Thought deeply or considered carefully.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. When did Microsoft roll out Windows 11?

- Option: 2017
- Option: 2018
- Option: 2019
- Option: 2021



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2. Which operating system did Windows 10 adjust the framework introduced by?
- Option: Windows 7
 - Option: Windows 8
 - Option: Windows XP
 - Option: Windows Vista
3. What are some foundational elements that Microsoft enhanced in Windows 11?
- Option: Start menu and Taskbar
 - Option: System tray and Calendar
 - Option: Windows Explorer and Clock
 - Option: File Explorer and Control Panel
4. What is Microsoft experimenting with in Windows 11?
- Option: Revamped Taskbar
 - Option: Redesigned system tray
 - Option: Customizable Start menu
 - Option: New Control Panel layout
5. How many Windows 11 enthusiasts were engaged in unmoderated studies by Microsoft?
- Option: 100
 - Option: 200
 - Option: 300
 - Option: 400
6. What type of button was featured in one iteration of the rejected Start menu design?
- Option: Refresh
 - Option: Create
 - Option: Update
 - Option: Delete

True-False

7. Microsoft released Windows 11 in 2020.
8. The rejected concepts for the Start menu design included decreasing the size of previews for recently accessed files.
9. Microsoft favored a radical overhaul of the existing elements in the Start menu redesign.



10. The discarded designs for Windows 11 Start menu were not influenced by user feedback.
11. One of the rejected concepts aimed at increasing calendar notifications visibility.
12. The redesigned Start menu of Windows 11 retains most components from its predecessor.

Gap-Fill

13. Windows 11 marked a significant departure from the design established by Windows _____ .
14. Microsoft experimented with a revamped iteration of the Windows 11 Start menu to allow for additional _____ possibilities.
15. Microsoft engaged over _____ enthusiasts in unmoderated studies to gather feedback on design concepts.
17. The feedback from testing phases proved instrumental in determining the designs that merited retention and those that were _____ .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 2021 2. Windows 8 3. Taskbar, system tray, and Windows Explorer 4. Customizable Start menu 5. 300 6. Create

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. 10 14. customization 15. 300 17. discarded

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL6

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