

iPhone

Set Free from Home Button

Boqing+Design
shake the world imperceptibly



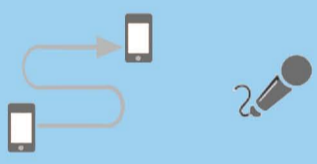
The need for redesign

Home button on iPhone stops an application at any time you want and navigate to the home screen. It also works as app switcher.

However, irresponsible home button will make you crazy because it's the only way for you to quit or switch in most of the situations.

Also, it's about fun. Apple is always about fun and user experience.

Motion Control/Voice Control




Motion Control and Voice control is the most intuitive way for the user to implement the back to home screen function.

It's fun, but at the cost of efficiency and accuracy. User scenario defines that the ambient environment is noise which may lead to false operation. And think about the social factors.

GUI Element - Virtual Button

Top-Down Process, Mental Model

The usage of home button reflects Apple's design philosophy of simplicity which differentiates it from softwares installed on computers with menu and navigation bar.



Place a quit button on the interface of the app violate the established mental model of those Apple users.

Consistency & Apple Culture

Reliability & Feedback

Redesign

Multi-touch technology is mature right now, and iPhone users have been familiar with it and ready to explore.


It's the right time for Apple to take another big step - replace the home screen button with new touch gesture.

There're two challenges:


1. Hard to operate with one hand
2. Let the user to figure out the new feature.

Gestural Interface

Squeeze touch screen with four fingers and bring them closer together.



Use the same gesture as scaling down. Four fingers are used to quit an application. The back to screen animation reinforces the false impression that if you squeeze the touch screen hardly, it will back to the home screen.



Reference:
Touch Gesture Reference Guide by Craig Villamor, Dan Willis, and Luke Wroblewski

