Mini Program

Quick App

Smart App

Mobile

Mini App Standardisation

Web

OS

Native App

PC

RECENT PROGRESS

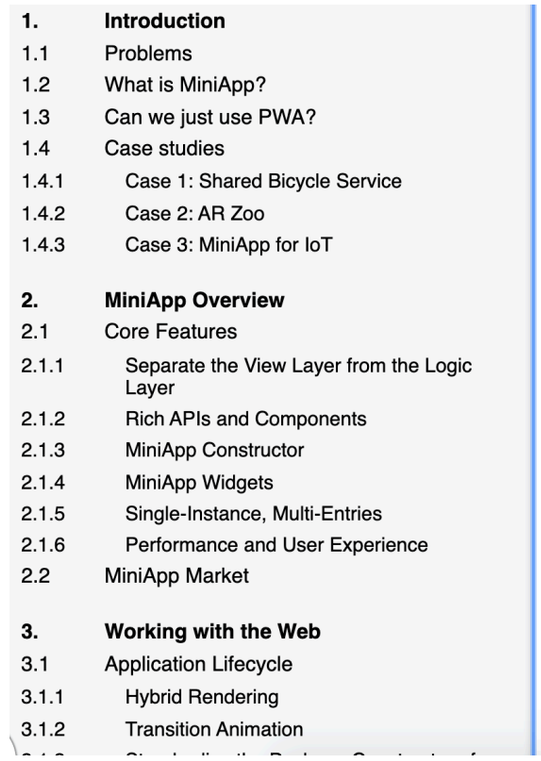
Mini App Standardisation White Paper published by Chinese Web IG!

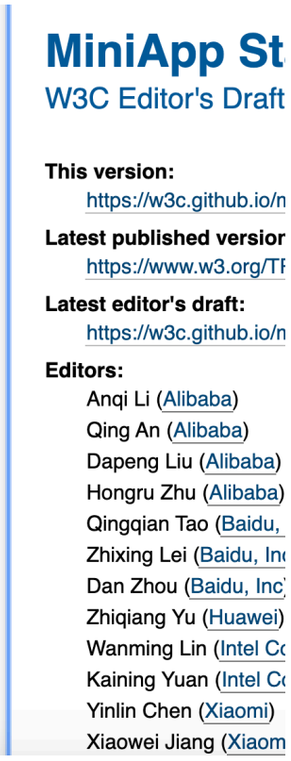
-> https://www.w3.org/TR/mini-app-white-paper/

Contributors: Alibaba, Baidu, Xiaomi, Huawei, Intel, China Mobile,360, Uni-App, W3C Beihang…

Goal of the White Paper:

- To define Mini App and the relevant terminology;
- To introduce the core technologies of Mini App;
- To figure out what should be standardised;
- To propose the next steps in W3C.





MiniApp St
W3C Editor's Draft

This version:
https://w3c.github.io/n
Latest published versior
https://www.w3.org/TF
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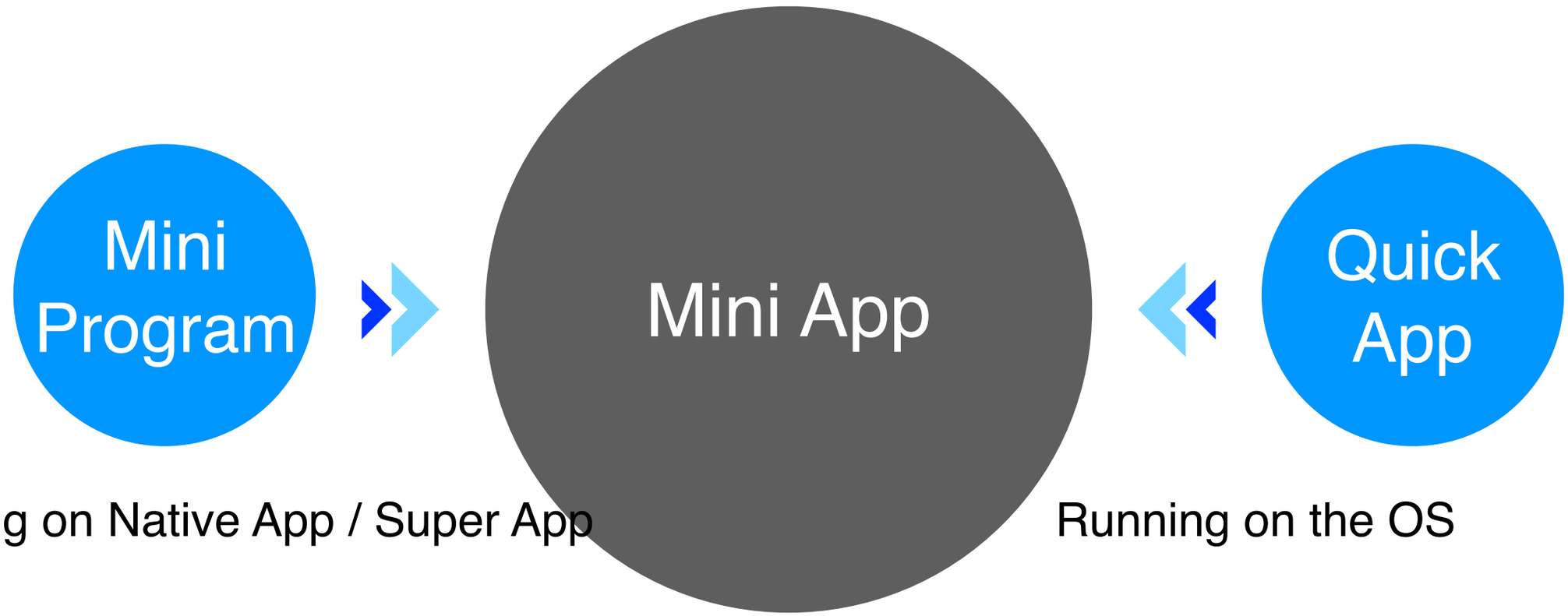
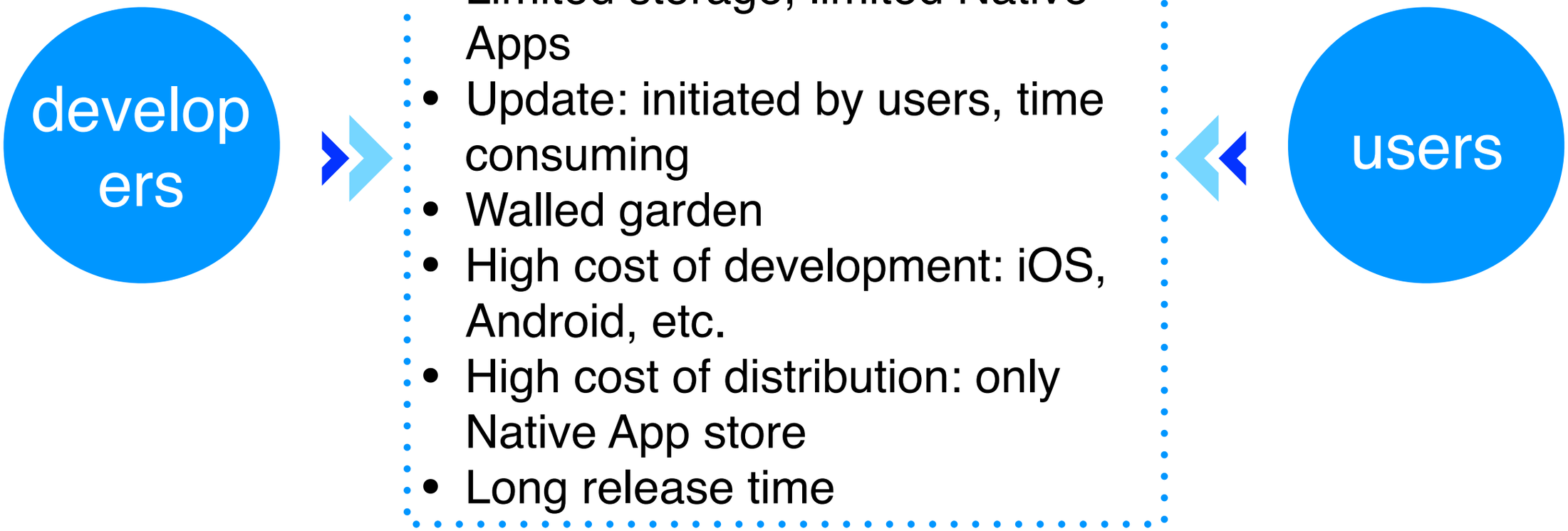
Mini App is everywhere



Mini App is efficient to bridge Native App and the Web:

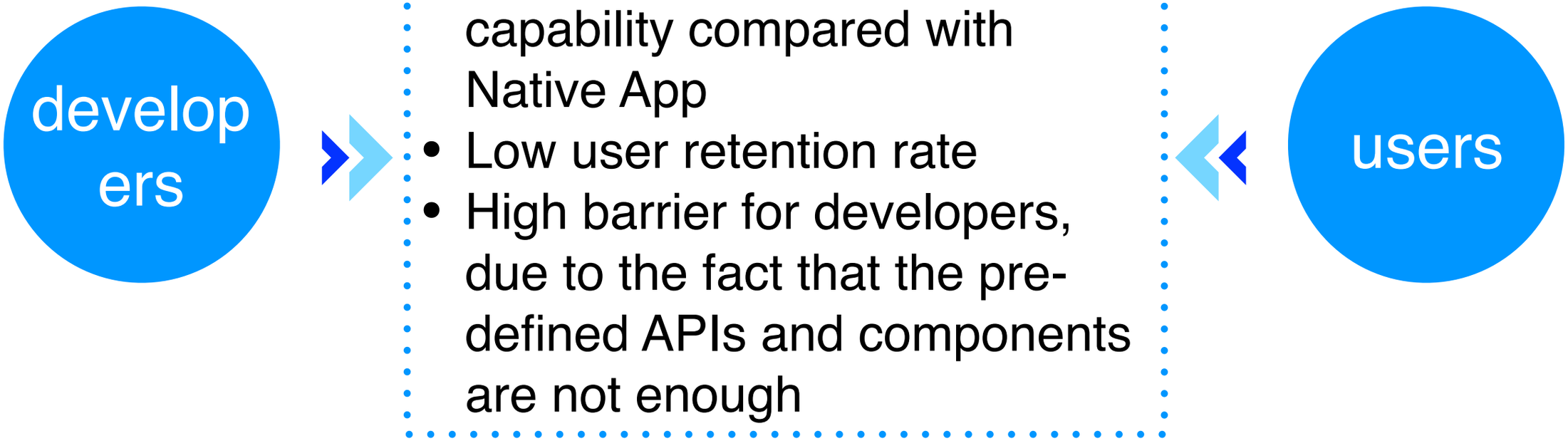
- Any Native App(including browsers) can be a runtime of Mini App.
- Any Native App can run a Mini App by install a SDK.

Mini App helps to solve problems like…



Native Apps

Mini App helps to solve problems like…



the Web

What is Mini App?

MiniApp is a new format of mobile application, a hybrid solution which **relies on Web technologies** but also integrates with capabilities of Native Apps.

MiniApps got popular from their usage on a few super-apps, as it was born with a few characters that help to **fill the gap of the Web and the Native**.

- It's **free of installation**.
- **Multiple webviews** to improve performance.
- It provides a few mechanisms to get **access to OS capabilities** or data through the Native.
- The content is usually more **trustworthy** because the app needs to be **validated by the platform**.
- A miniapp can be distributed to multiple MiniApp platforms (the Web, a Native App, even the OS). These platforms also provide entry to the miniapp to ensure it can be easily discovered by the users.

CASE STUDY 1

Sharing Bicycle Service: Seamless Usage

1. User chooses the miniapp on a super-app that he/she already logined;
2. User scans the QR-code label attached on a shared bicycle within the superapp;
3. The super-app will automatically navigate to the shared bicycle miniapp and unlocks the bicycle instantly;
4. Upon arrival, user locks the bike on the miniapp;
5. Transaction completes, a message of the payment detail is sent to the user.

	Web	**Native**	**Mini App**
Download/ Install	No	Yes	No
Verified/ Trusted	No	Yes	Yes
Login/ Register	Yes	Yes	User permission
Payment	Send a payment request	Register a credit card or navigate to another App	Complete within the hosted Native App

CASE STUDY 2

AR Zoo(from **Dev prospective**): easier and faster **to adopt complex advanced feature.**

Developers can easily finish a AR Zoo by adding a few **components or APIs** that provide access to the native capabilities or advance features, f.ex., Image Recognition, AR 3D Animal models rendering, a speech API to for speech synthesis, AR navigation provided by the map SDK.

MiniApps can be discovered by the search engines, by the MiniApp store in the hosted-app or by QR-code.

CASE STUDY 2

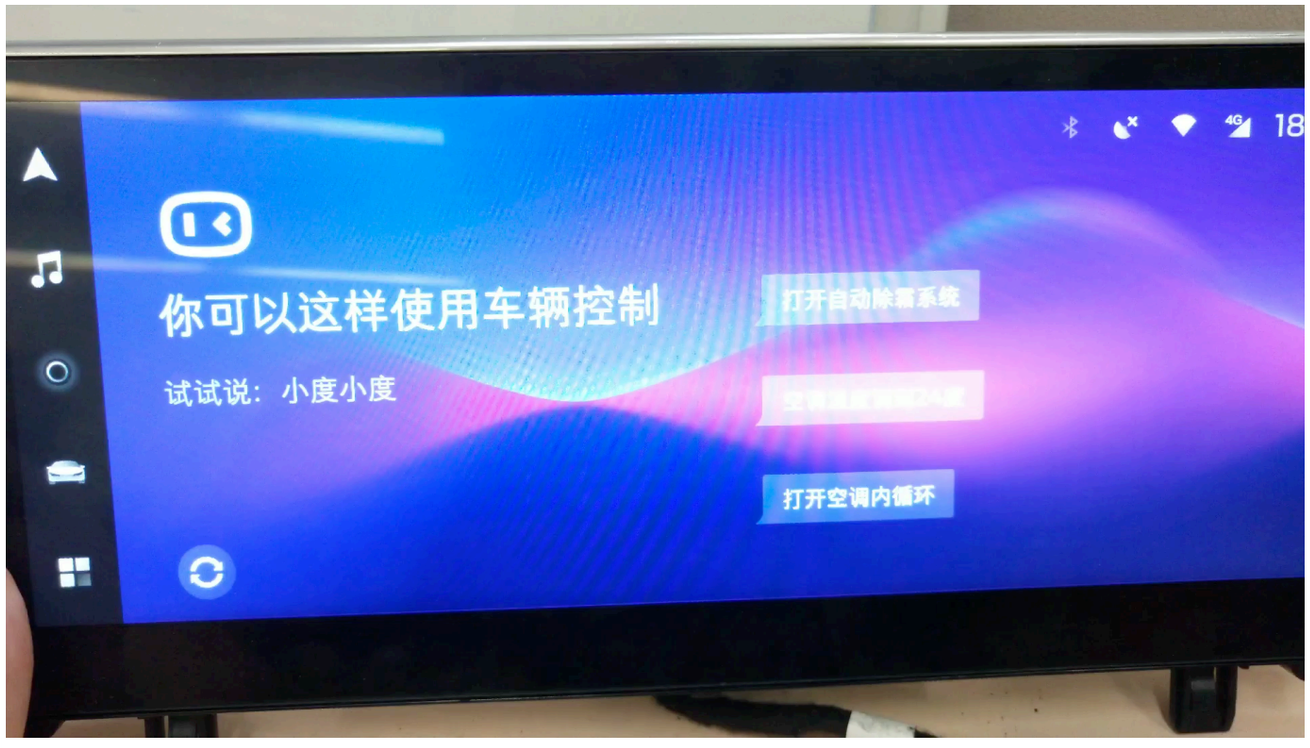
	Web	**Native**	**Mini App**
Discoverability	Search Engine	App Store	Multiple Host-App Scenarios, Search, Mini app store, QR
Verified/Trusted	Still exploring	By Native App stores	By host App platforms
Deploy/Reload	load/reload the webpage	installed / reinstalled	load/reload as it's using a JS engine
Programming Language	Web programming language	new/multi languages: iOS and Android at least	Web programming language
High-level APIs/ Components (AR, Image Recognition, etc.)	Very basic	Complex for web developers	Simple high level APIs and components

CASE STUDY 3

Mini App on IoT

- some MiniApps can be converted to adapt the **vehicle screen and system**;
- MiniApp vendors have built a few MiniApp platforms specially design for the vehicle system;
- this brings millions of Web developers to the **Automotive application ecosystem**.

User scenarios of Automotive MiniApps includes gas filling, car washing, Electronic Toll Collection, insurance, restaurant reservation, or entertainment.

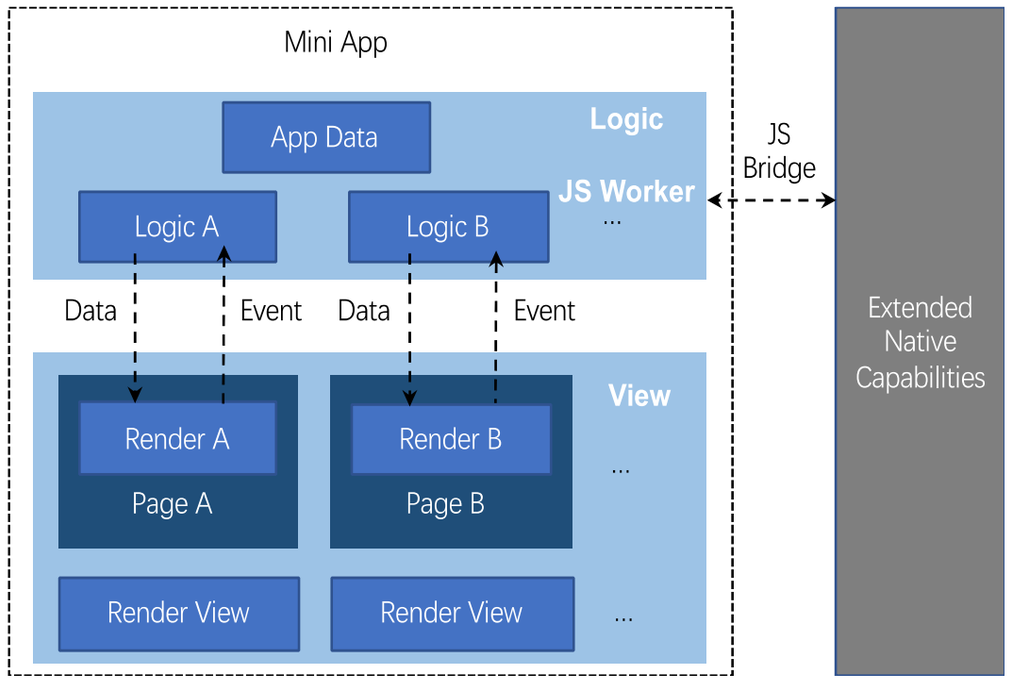


CORE FEATURES

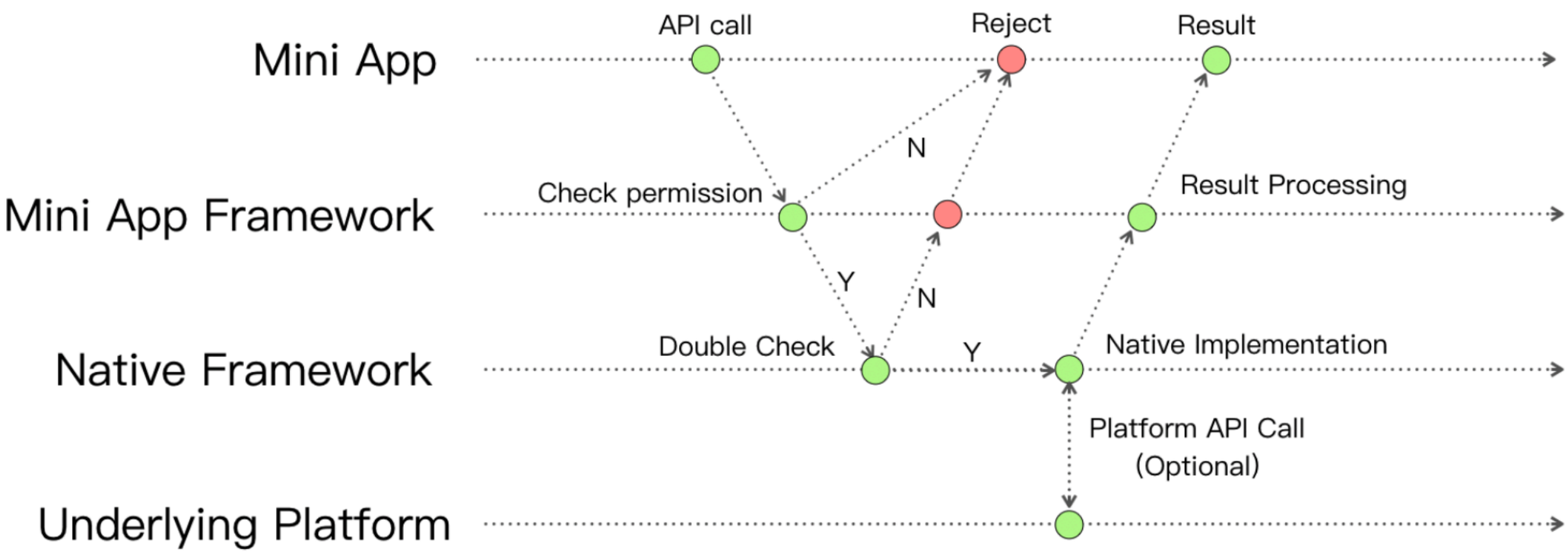
Separation of View and Logic

Multiple Render View + JS Worker + Native Capabilities

- Convenient data sharing and interaction among multiple Mini App pages
- Same context within a life circle of Mini App
- Prevent JS execution impacts or slows down the page rendering



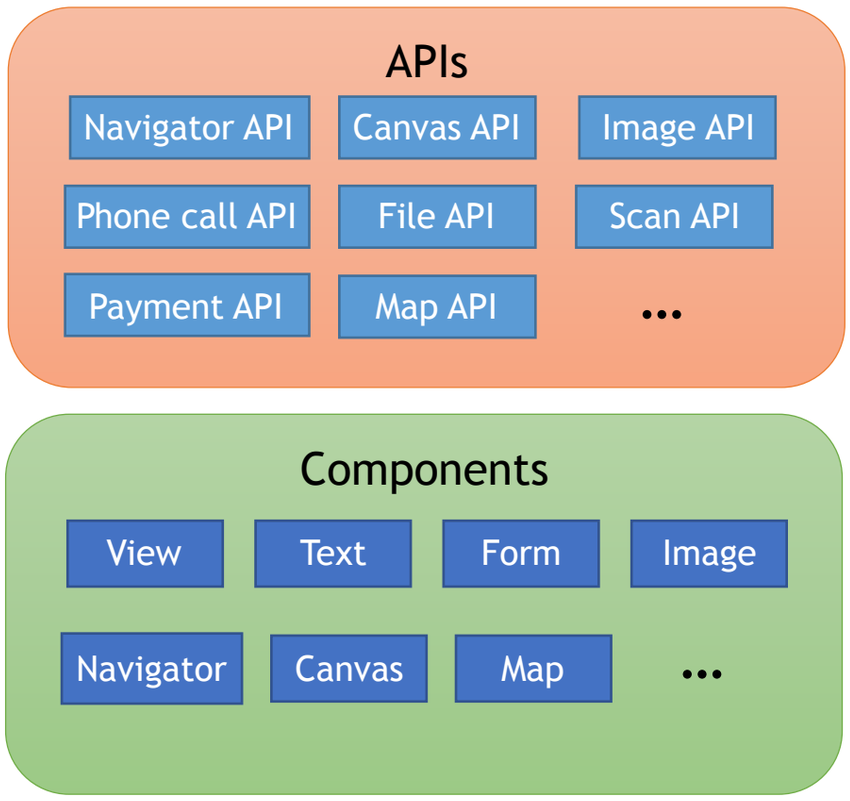
CORE FEATURES



Data Flow of Mini App when an API is called

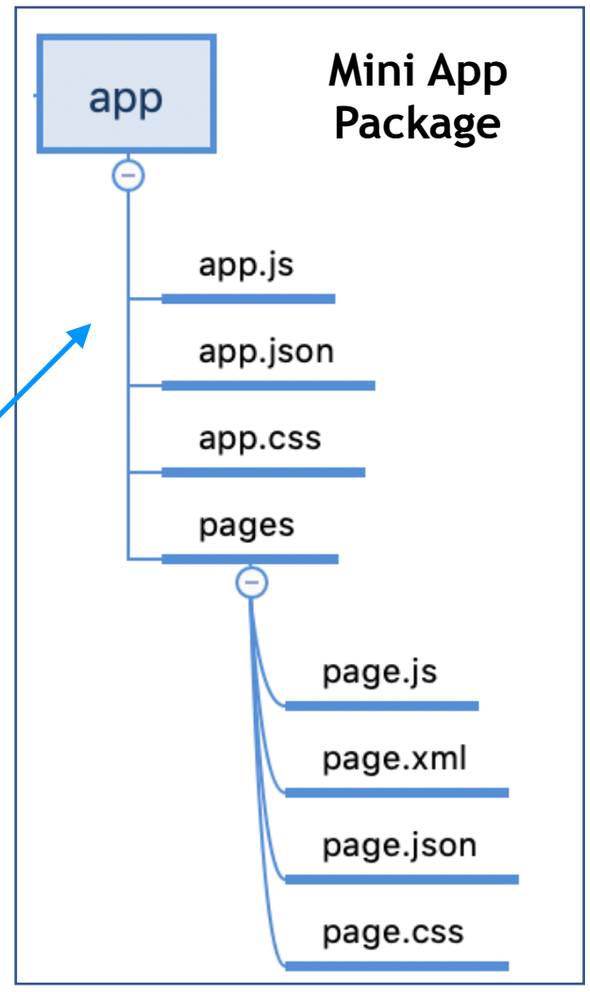
CORE FEATURES

Rich APIs and Components



Mini App Package Constructor

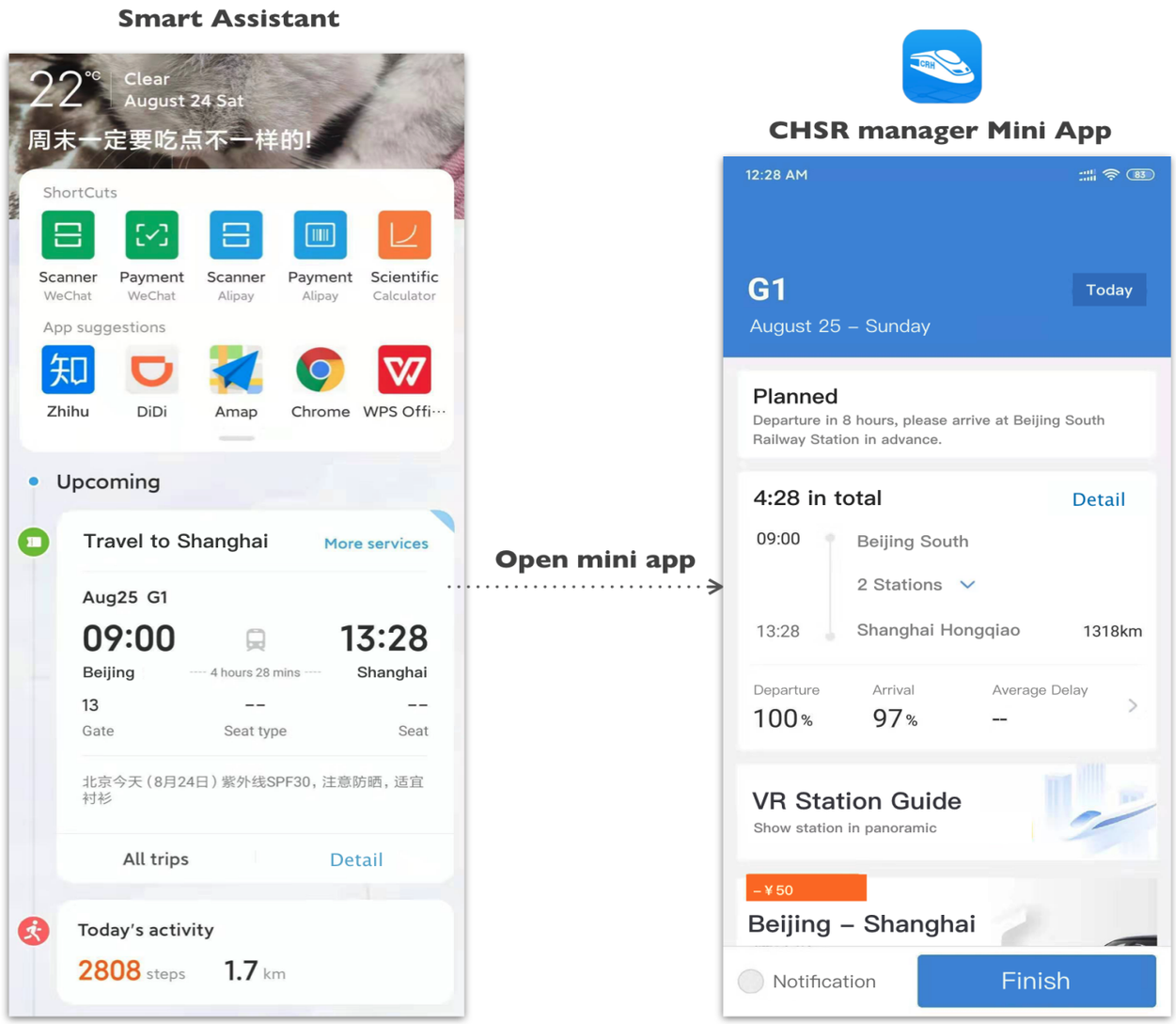
- One Set of app files
- Multiple sets of page files



CORE FEATURES

Mini App Widgets

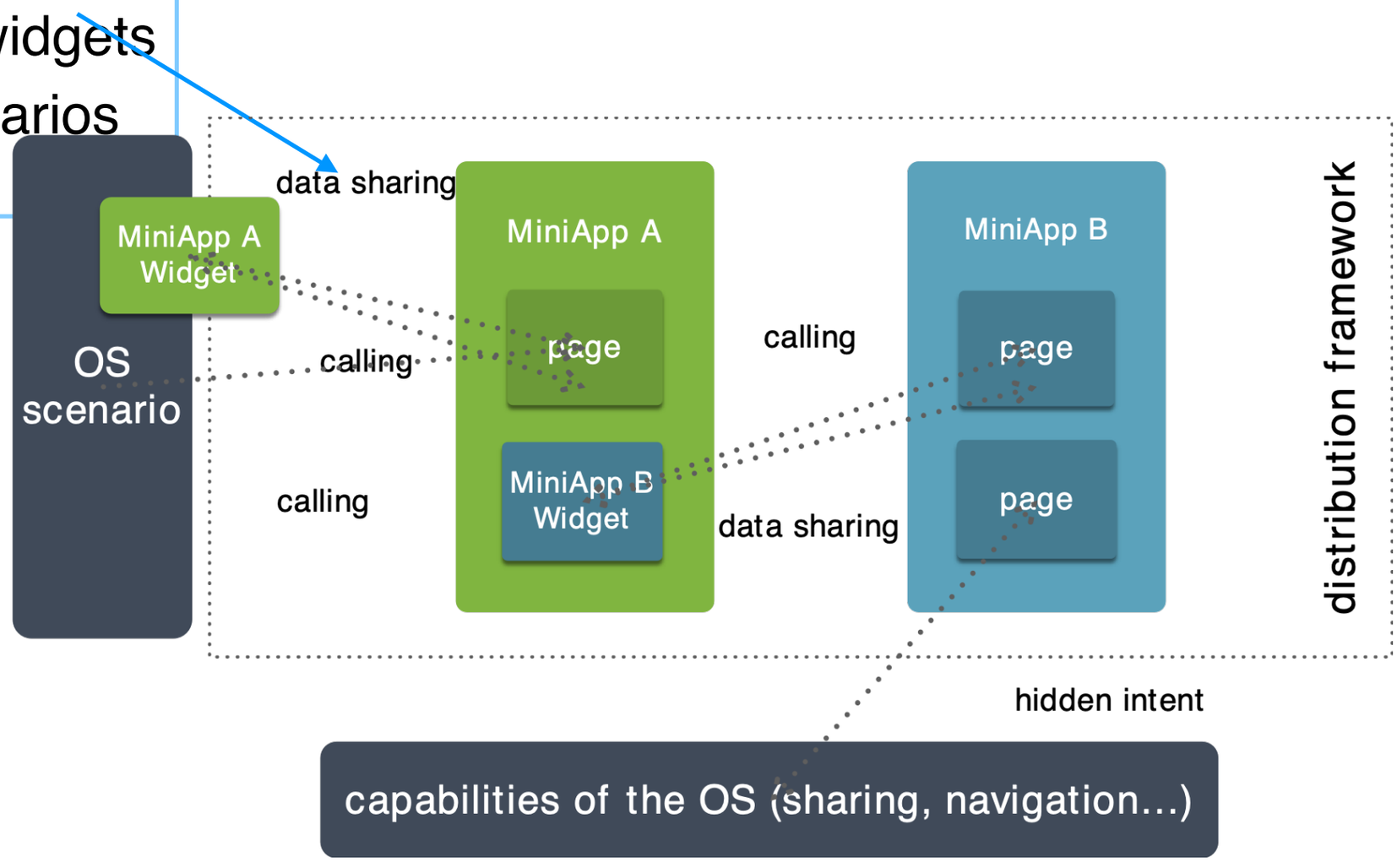
- Mini App can be displayed as information fragment — a Mini App widget
- E.g., the Mini App widget shows the train's latest status. User can click on this widget and jump to Mini App page for more detailed information.



CORE FEATURES

Mini App Widgets

- standardizing calling (mini apps)
- atomized combination widgets
- data sharing cross scenarios



SECURITY AND PRIVACY

Mini App utilises HTTPs to support secure connection.
Mini Apps within same host environment are independent with each other

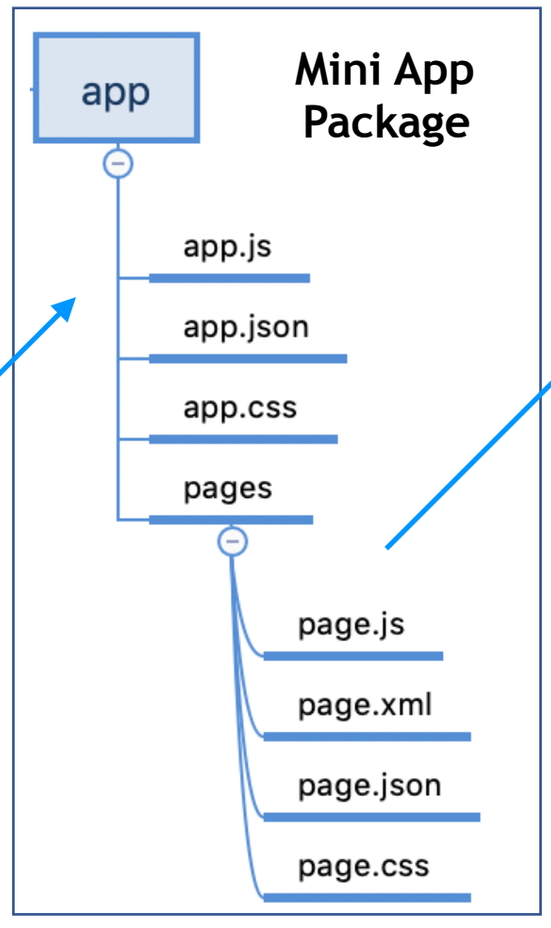
S&P consideration	Function
default(no extra action needed)	Page sharing, clipboard, vibration, compass, motion sensors, map, screen brightness, screen capture, battery
permission on first-time usage	Geolocation, camera(qr code), network status, Bluetooth, NFC
permission on every usage	Contacts, file-apis, add to home screen, photo picker, phone call
Validate with token	Push
Callback/messaging	Password-free Payment
request password	Page sharing, clipboard, vibration, compass, motion sensors, map, Payment

THINGS WE WANT TO STANDARDISE

Mini App Package Constructor

a packaged (compressed) collection of files

- Download once
- Load data instead of load page



Goal: a standardised way to describe Mini App package

- Define package's structure/ contents
- Specify how to create the package
- Specify how to parse the package

THINGS WE WANT TO STANDARDISE

URI Scheme

Goal: a standardised URI scheme to access Mini App or Mini App page is needed

- Navigate between Mini Apps
- Identification of page inside Mini App
- Define an access protocol, Mini App URI, Mini App page URI

THINGS WE WANT TO S

Transition Animation during Mini App page switching

Goal: To make Mini App smoother

Define:

- page transition type(Replace current page or stack on top)
- Animation(type & duration) between pages (if any)

THINGS WE WANT T E

Pull down refresh

Goal: Refresh page state by gesture

Define: Pull-down-refresh component

THINGS WE WANT TO STANDARDISE

Lifecycle Events in Mini App

Goal: Broadcasting Mini App states change for developer (e.g., update remote data)

Define: Life cycle events: App show/hide, page show/hide

THINGS WE WANT TO STANDARDISE

Scrollview component

Goal: Give developer a high level component to handle scroll scenario. Develop can achieve more accurate scroll events

Define:

- scrollview component
- properties/event such as bindscrolltoupper/lower

THINGS WE WANT TO STANDARDISE

Mini App Widgets

Goal: Interact before entering Mini App. Widgets are implemented by Mini App

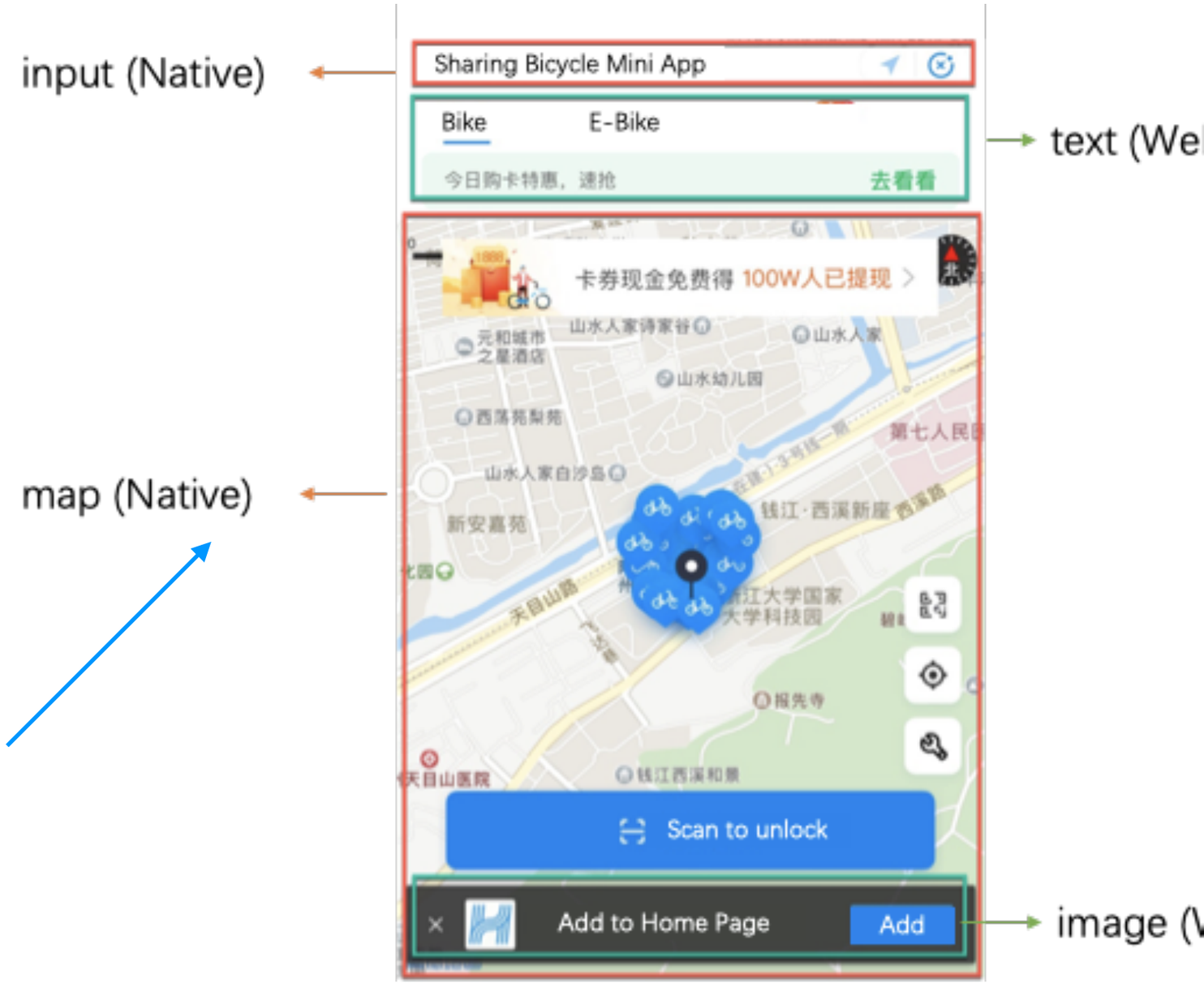
Define:

- Display widgets within a host environment
- Access local or remote data
- Abilities to interact with user

THINGS WE WANT TO STANDARDISE

Native Rendering Component

Goal: Mini App needs a standardised API or component to integrate native rendering result into Web rendering result



THINGS WE WANT TO STANDARDISE

Other ideas

- Face Tracking
- Hand Gesture Tracking
- 3D Model Element
- Low level AR APIs based on ARCore and ARKit

NEXT STEP IN W3C

Explore innovation of user agent and enrich the Web

- Set up a specific group
  - Coordinate Mini App related standardisation in W3C as well as to collaborate with other related W3C groups
  - Develop Mini App specs stack
    - Package constructor
    - Mini App URI scheme
    - Transition Animation
    - Native Rendering Component
    - Pull down refresh
    - …
- Horizontal review (security, privacy, i18n and a11y)

Mini Program

Quick App

Smart App

Mobile

Thank You!

Web

OS

Native App

PC

APPENDIX: MINI APP AND PWA

		Mini App	PWA
Difference	**Target**	Leverage Web technologies in non-browser environment	Enhance Web App so that they could have performance and user
	Host environment	Non-browser: Native App, OS, etc.	Browser
	Solution	Hybrid: Web + Native + OS	Web
	Trust	Handled by host App platform, so some APIs that are not supported by	Limited, still exploring
Commonality	**Some standard requirements**	Such as native integration, access to native capabilities and better UX	