



KARSTEN SILZ, OCT 4, 2022

FLUTTER FOR JAVA DEVELOPERS: MOBILE,  
WEB & DESKTOP WITH 1 CODEBASE?

**BUILD MOBILE, WEB &  
DESKTOP FRONTENDS WITH  
FLUTTER & 1 CODEBASE?**

**YES, WE CAN...**

... **BUT WE SHOULDN'T!**

MOBILE: 👍

WEB: 👎

DESKTOP: 👎

JSF: 👎

JAVAFX: 👎

**WHY & HOW CROSS-PLATFORM**

**HOW FLUTTER WORKS**

**MY FLUTTER EXPERIENCES**

**WHEN TO USE WHICH FRAMEWORK**

**WHO MADE ME  
THE EXPERT?**





**FLUTTER APP IN APP STORES**

**INFOQ JAVA EDITOR, PC QCON LONDON**

**JAVA DEVELOPER FOR 23 YEARS**

**USE JAVA, ANGULAR & FLUTTER –  
NOT ASSOCIATED**



**SLIDES &  
MORE**

**BPF.LI/FAR**

**WHY & HOW CROSS-PLATFORM**

**HOW FLUTTER WORKS**

**MY FLUTTER EXPERIENCES**

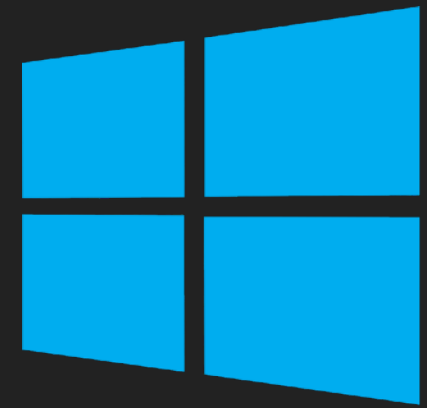
**WHEN TO USE WHICH FRAMEWORK**

# **WHY** CROSS-PLATFORM FRONT-ENDS?

**USERS ARE**  
**MULTI-PLATFORM**



# PC



.NET  
C#

SWIFTUI  
SWIFT

GTK/KDE  
C++

# MOBILE

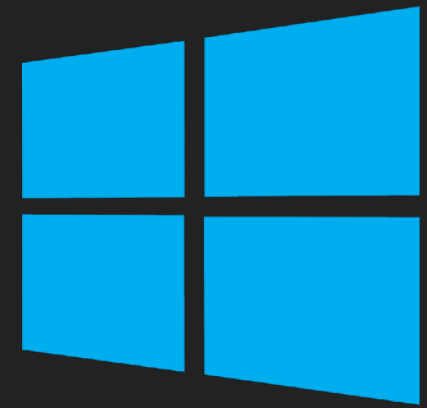


SWIFTUI  
SWIFT

JETPACK  
COMPOSE  
KOTLIN

PC

MOBILE



.NET  
C#

Swift

TOO EXPENSIVE!

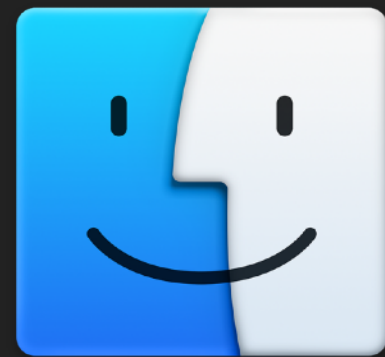
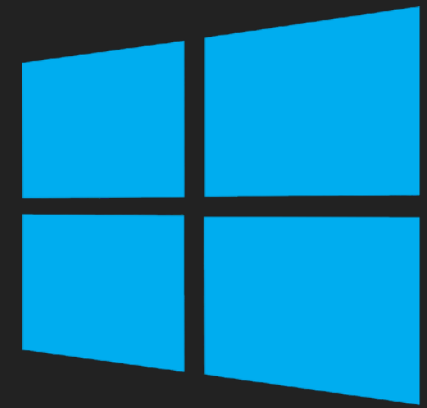
C++

SWIFTUI  
SWIFT

JETPACK  
COMPOSE  
KOTLIN

# PC

# MOBILE



1 FRAMEWORK, 1 LANGUAGE  
CROSS-PLATFORM



**CROSS-PLATFORM**

**FRONT-ENDS:**

**CHEAPER & GOOD ENOUGH**

**GOOD ENOUGH:**  
**ENTERPRISE & CONSUMER**  
**APPS – NOT GAMES**

**THAT'S WHY  
CROSS-PLATFORM  
FRONT-ENDS!**

~~WHY~~ & HOW CROSS-PLATFORM

HOW FLUTTER WORKS

MY FLUTTER EXPERIENCES

WHEN TO USE WHICH FRAMEWORK

**HOW CROSS-PLATFORM  
FRONT-ENDS?**

**BIGGEST** SOFTWARE ECOSYSTEM EVER

**MANY** & CHEAP DEVELOPERS

**REACT**, ANGULAR, VUE

HARD TO **LEARN**

**WEB**

STANDARD JAVA WEB FRONT-END LIBRARY

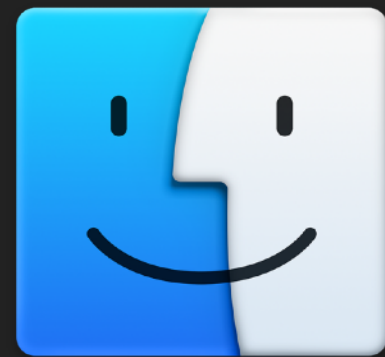
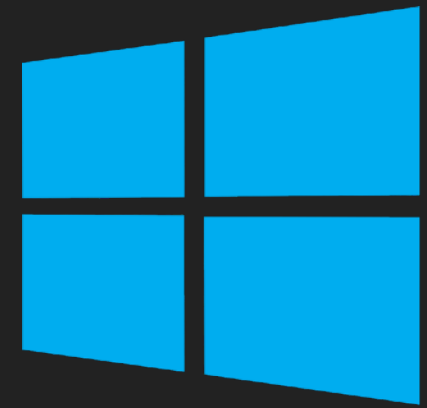
NO SINGLE PAGE APPLICATIONS (SPA)

UNPOPULAR: VERY FEW JOBS (VUE: 15X , ANGULAR: 27X, REACT: 37X)/ GOOGLE SEARCHES / STACK OVERFLOW QUESTIONS

NO NEW FEATURES FOR FIVE YEARS (UNTIL SEP 2022)

JAKARTA SERVER FACES: 

# PC



# MOBILE



**HTML, CSS**  
**JAVASCRIPT/TYPESCRIPT**



**HARD** RESTRICTIONS: NO PUSH NOTIFICATIONS ON IOS,  
LOCAL STORAGE ABOUT 50 MB, NOT ALL NATIVE FEATURES

MOBILE **POWER** EASIER TO USE FROM NATIVE APPS

ISSUES: **WEB** ON MOBILE



**TikTok**

**EDIT VIDEOS!**







**PLAY ONLINE  
MULTIPLAYER GAMES!**

GIGABYTES OF LOCAL STORAGE

LOCAL SQL/NOSQL DATABASE

CPU POWER SIMILAR TO PCS

CALL BACK-ENDS WITH REST/GRPC/GRAPHQL...

NATIVE APP POWER

**MORE "DESKTOP  
APPLICATION", LESS  
"WEB APPLICATION"**

**HARD** RESTRICTIONS: NO PUSH NOTIFICATIONS ON IOS,  
LOCAL STORAGE ABOUT 50 MB, NOT ALL NATIVE FEATURES

MOBILE **POWER** EASIER TO USE FROM NATIVE APPS

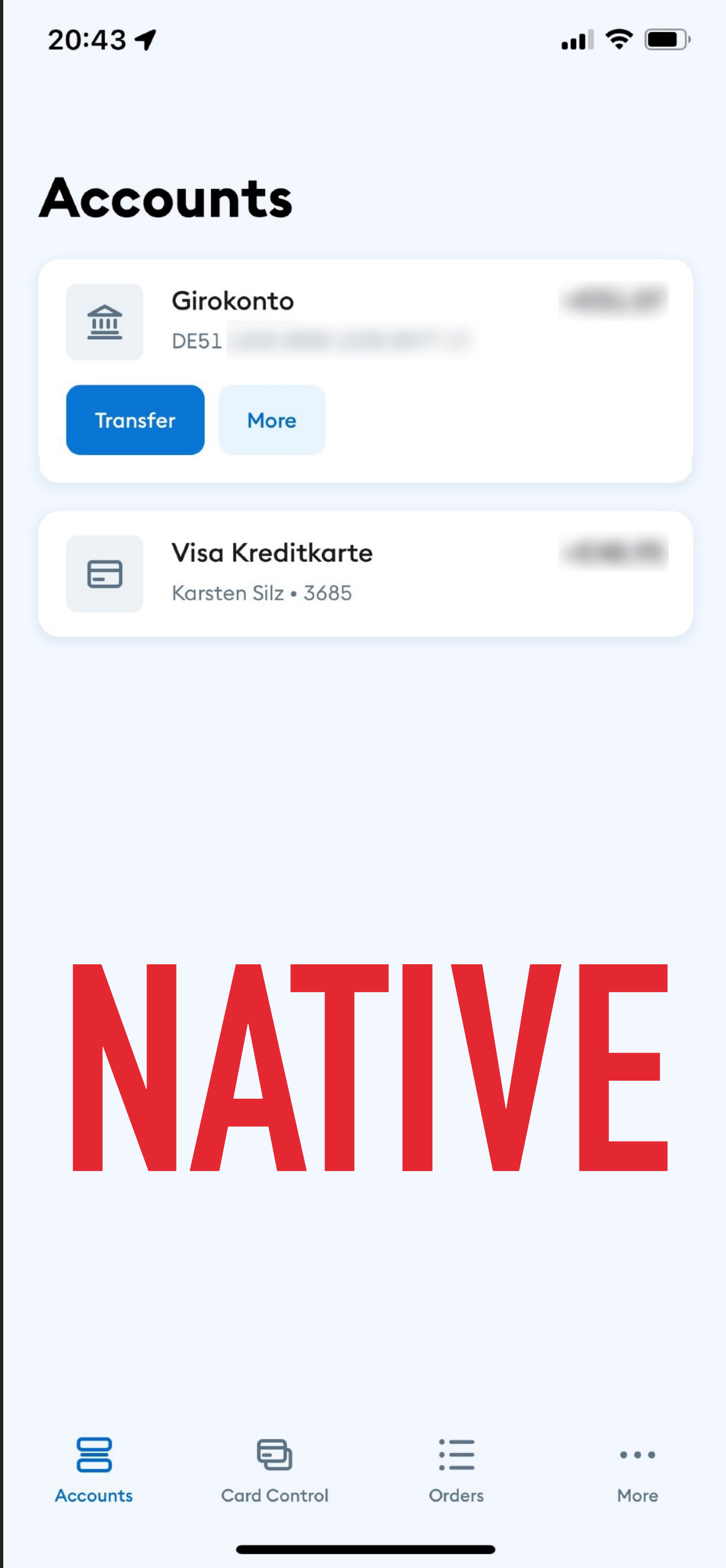
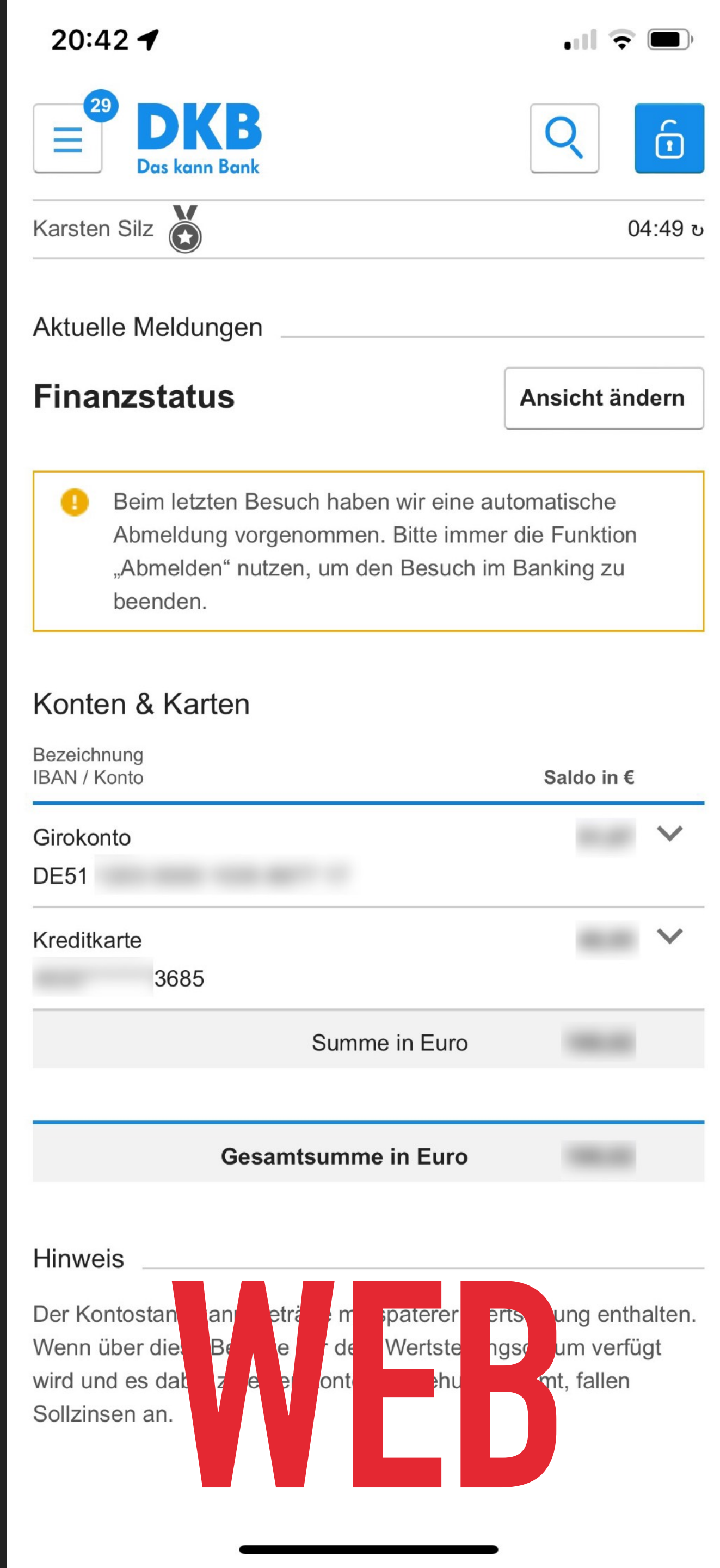
NO NATIVE **LOOK & FEEL**

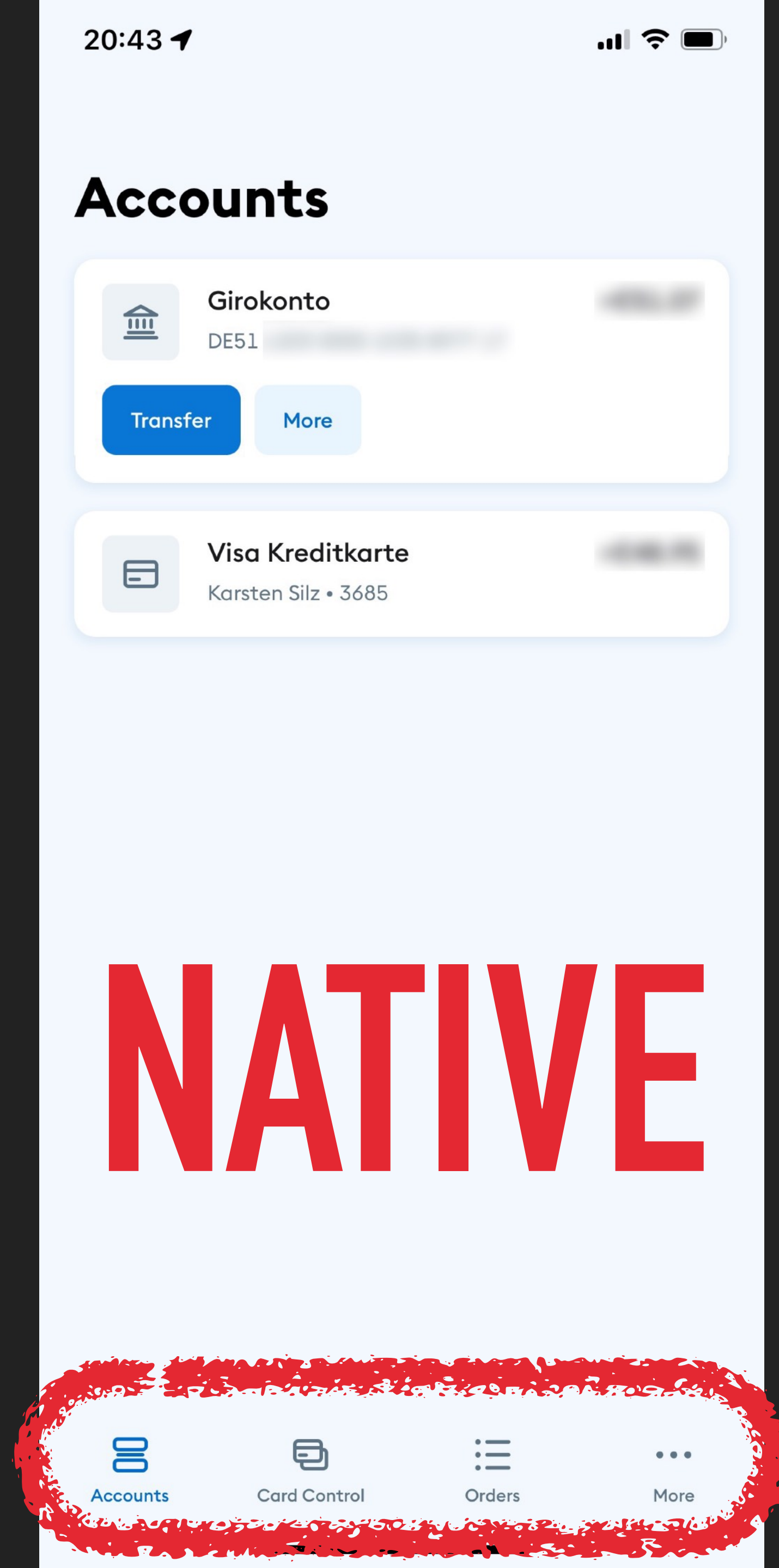
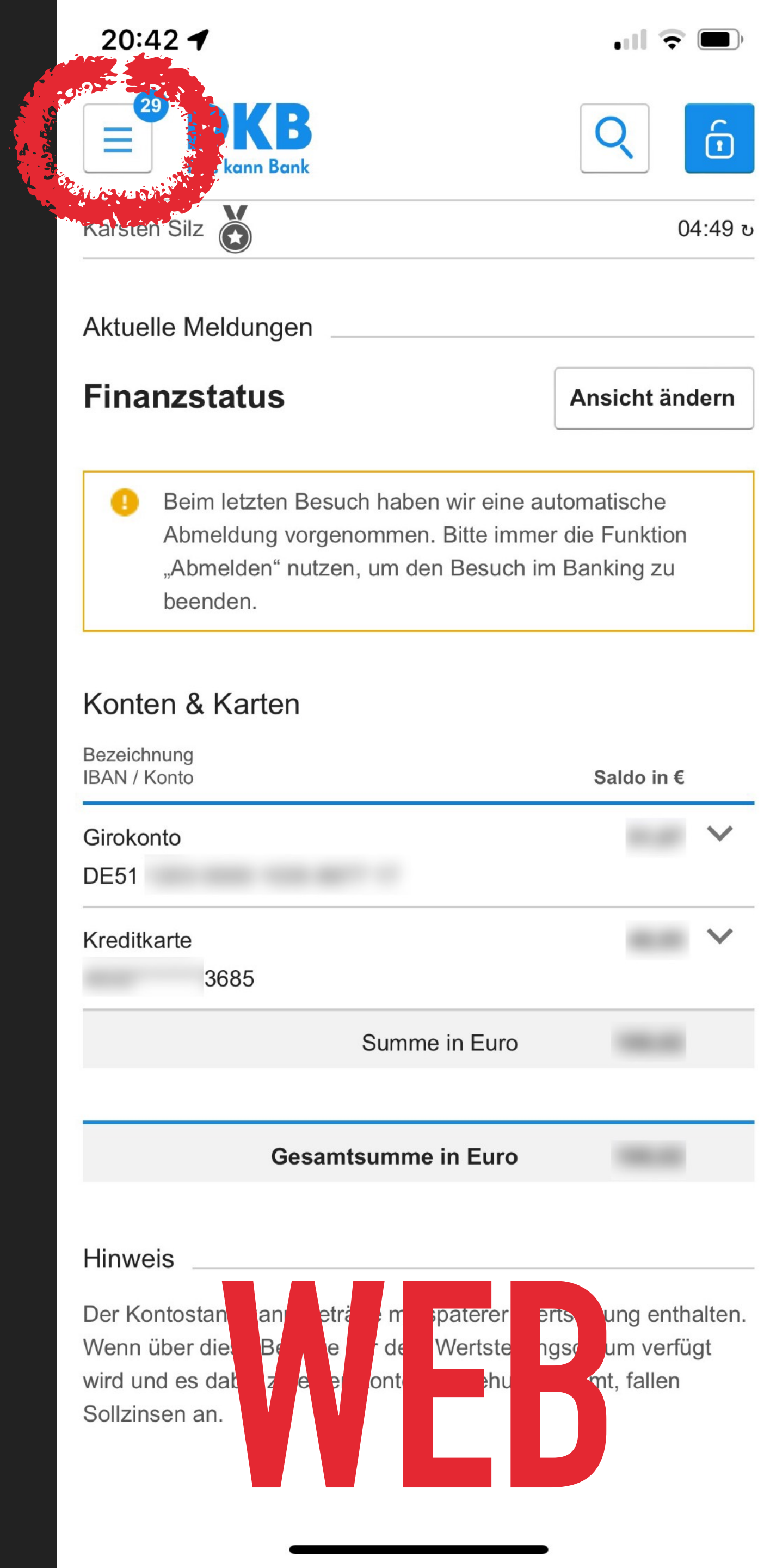
ISSUES: **WEB** ON MOBILE

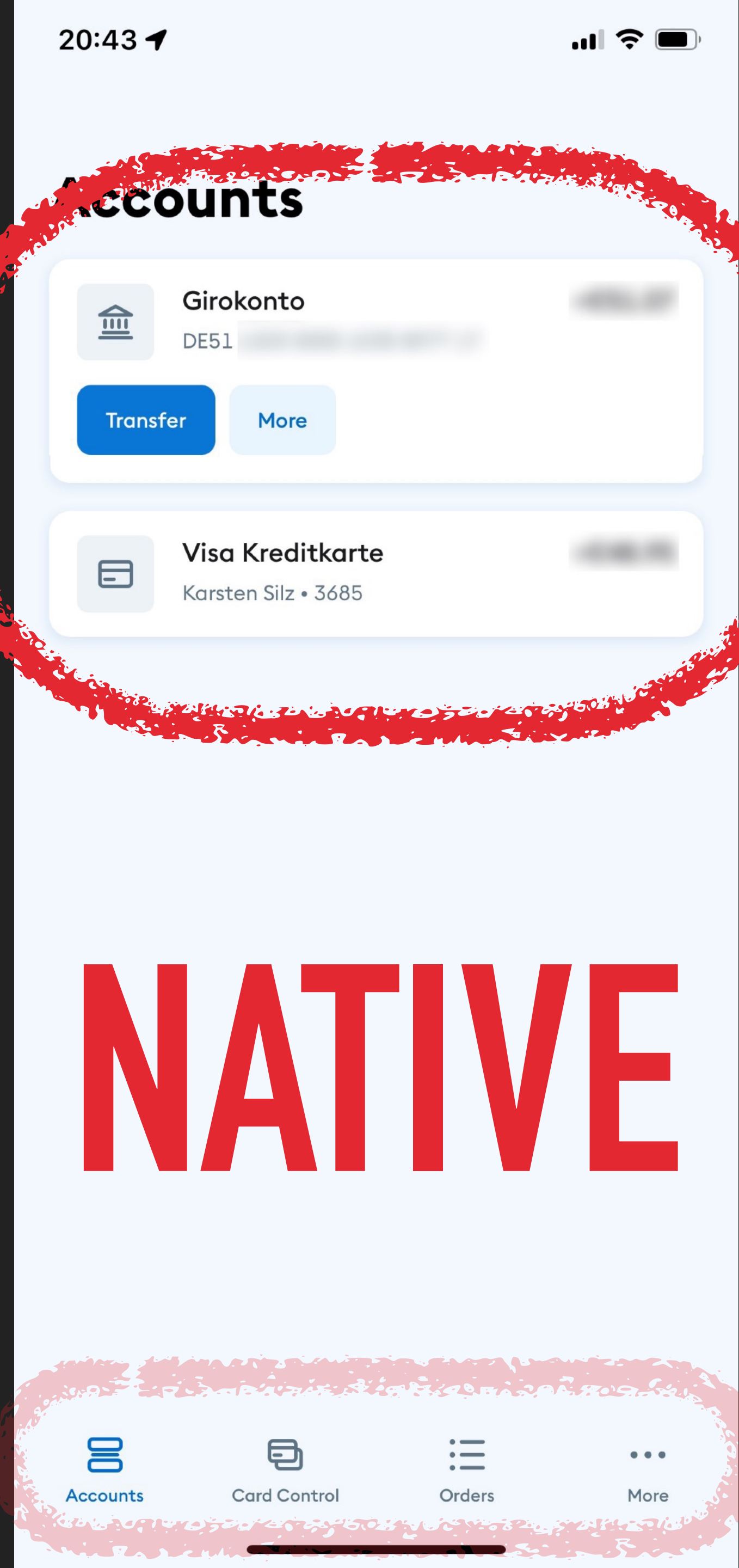
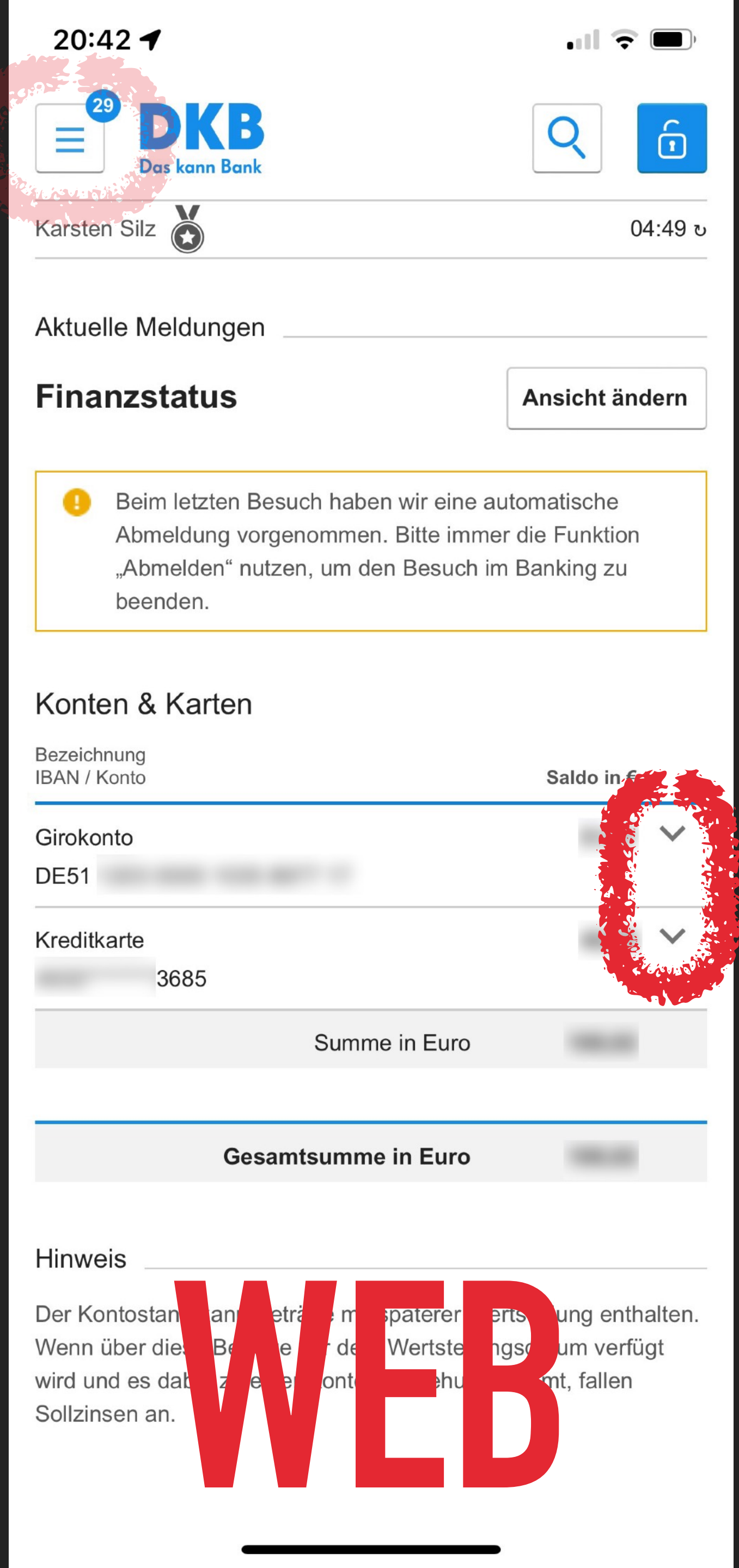


**WHY NATIVE**  
**LOOK & FEEL?**

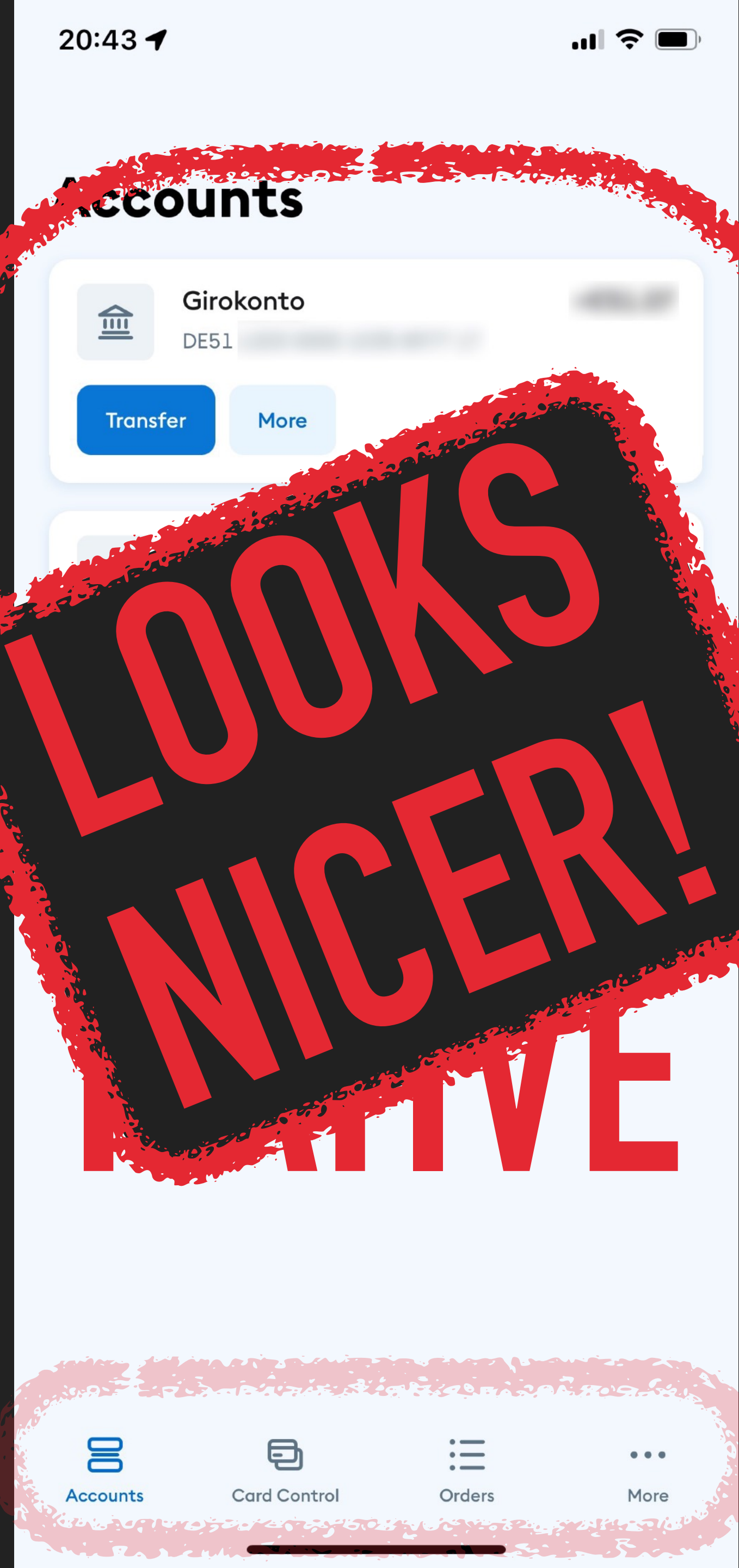
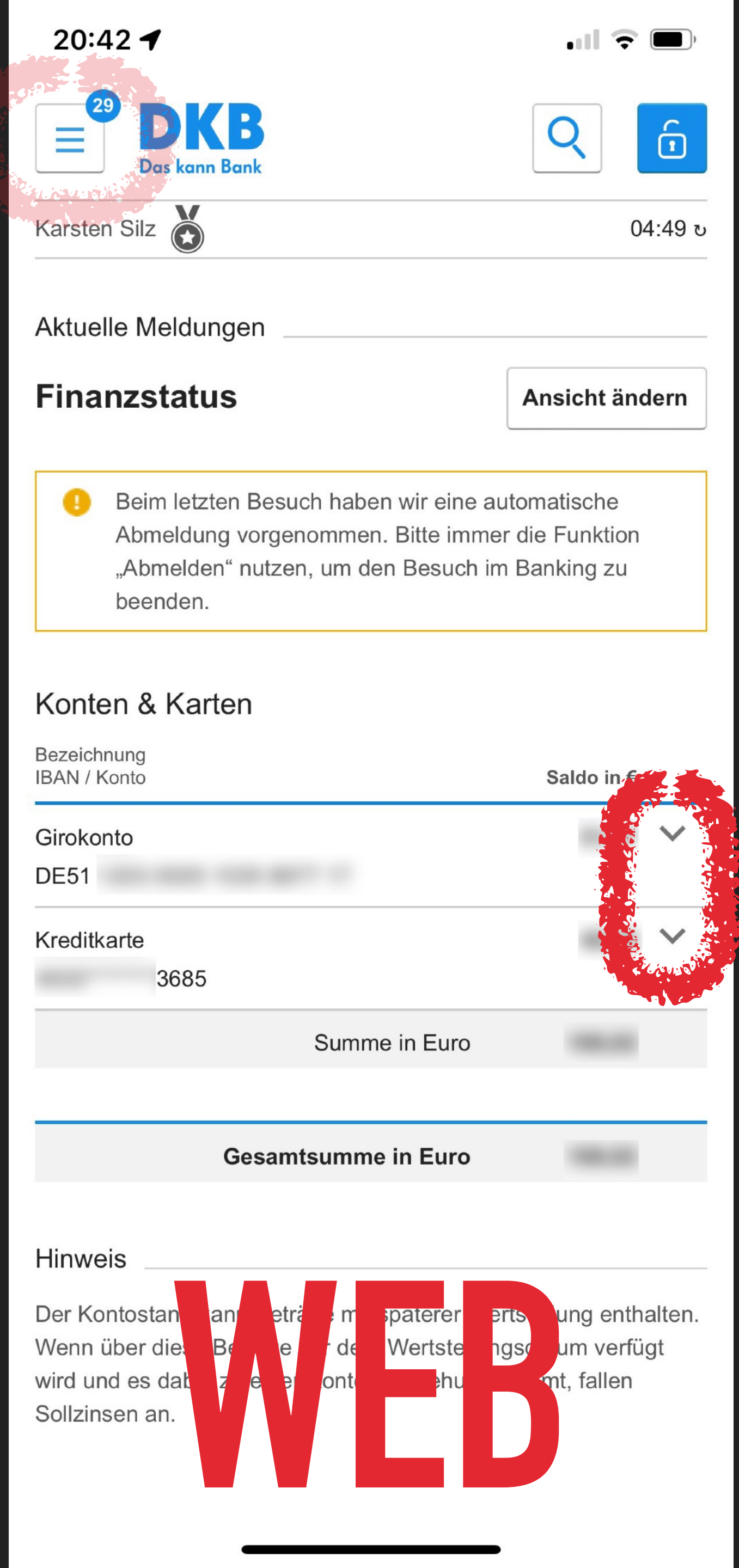
# GERMAN ONLINE BANKING APP











**NATIVE LOOK & FEEL:**  
**EASIER** TO USE ("LIKE OTHER  
APPS"), LOOKS **NICER**

**GOOGLE** APPS ON IOS:

**MATERIAL UI** =>

**NATIVE** IOS UI

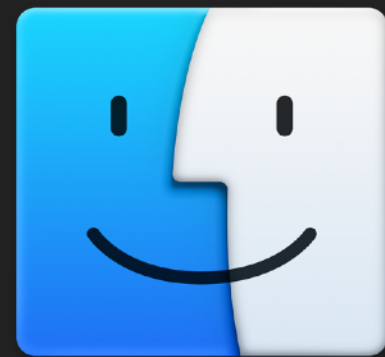
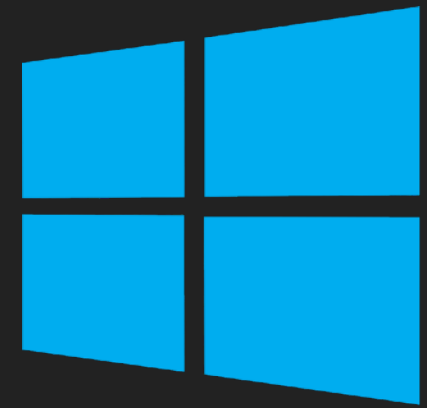


**"REALLY MAKE  
PRODUCTS FEEL GREAT  
ON APPLE PLATFORMS"**

**JEFF VERKOEYEN, GOOGLE**

**CROSS-PLATFORM X2:**  
**WEB + NATIVE**

# PC



HTML, CSS  
JAVASCRIPT/TYPESCRIPT

# MOBILE



NATIVE CROSS-  
PLATFORM

**RUNS** NATIVELY, IN APP STORES

NATIVE **LOOK & FEEL**

**ACCESS** TO NATIVE PLATFORM FEATURES

DEFINE: **"NATIVE"**

**NATIVE CROSS-  
PLATFORM  
FRAMEWORKS?**

**MANY FRAMEWORKS &  
TOOLS: "1 APP FOR IOS  
& ANDROID"!**

**FLUTTER** (GOOGLE)

**XAMARIN/.NET MAUI**  
(MICROSOFT)

**REACT NATIVE** (META)

**JAVAFX** (GLUON)

**OPEN-SOURCE & JAVA-LIKE**

**WHICH FRAMEWORK  
IS POPULAR?**



EASIER TO **USE** & LEARN

EASIER TO **CONVINCE** TEAMMATES/BOSSES

ALL ELSE EQUAL: USE **MOST** POPULAR

VERY UNPOPULAR: **DON'T** USE IT

**WHY** POPULARITY?

I MEASURE POPULARITY  
WITH 6 DATA POINTS

APPLE & GOOGLE **APP STORE** ANALYSIS (APPPFIGURES,  
SINCE MAY 2022)

**EMPLOYER** POPULARITY: MENTIONED IN **JOB ADS**  
(INDEED IN 62 COUNTRIES, SINCE AUG 2021)

POPULARITY

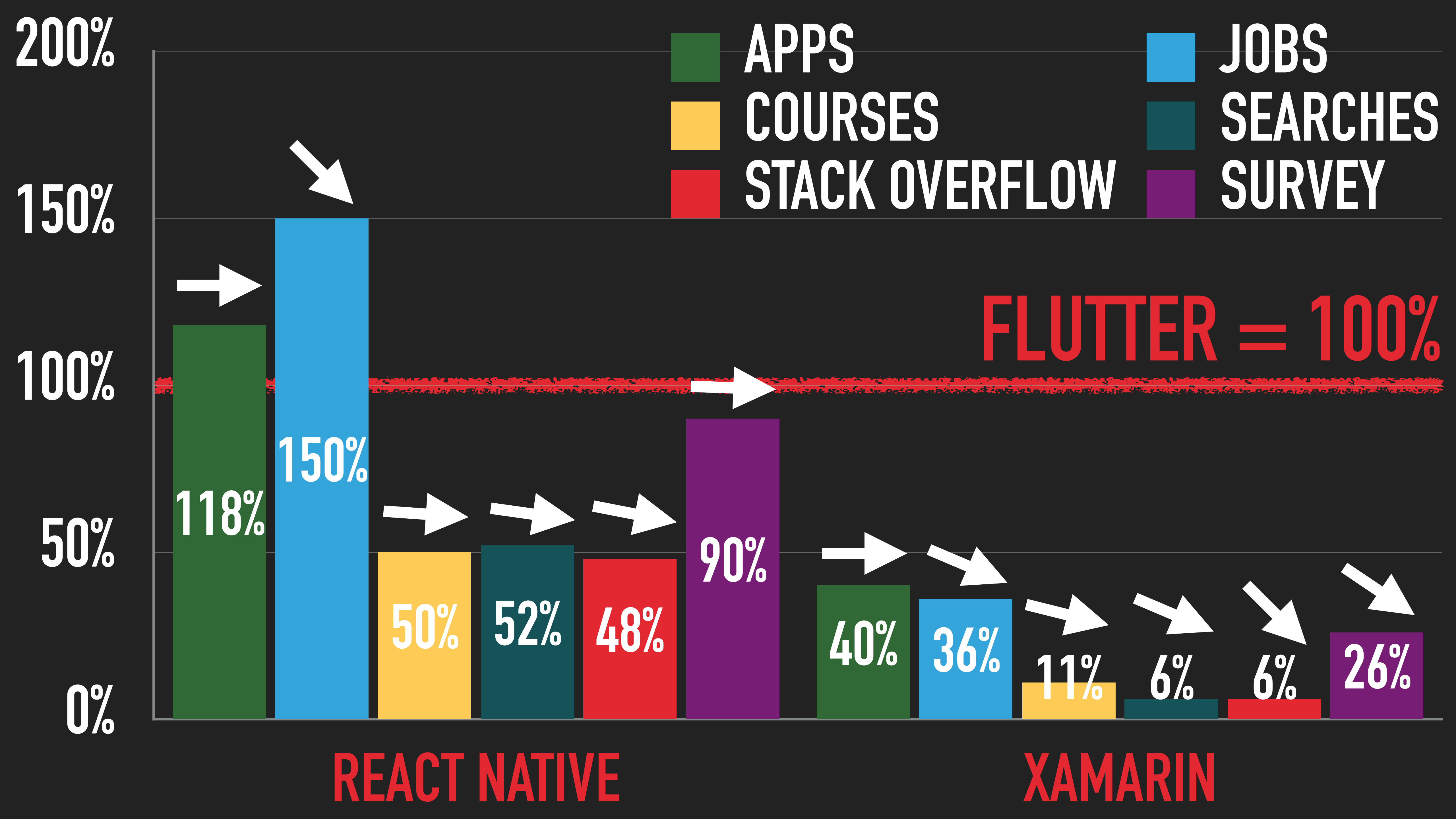
ONLINE TRAINING **COURSES** BOUGHT (UDEMY, MAR 2021)

GOOGLE **SEARCHES**

QUESTIONS AT **STACK OVERFLOW**

DEVELOPER **SURVEY** (32K RESPONSES, JETBRAINS, JUL 2021)

**DEVELOPER** POPULARITY



**EMPLOYER** POPULARITY: REACT NATIVE WINS  
1.5X, SLIPPING AGAINST FLUTTER

**DEVELOPER** POPULARITY: FLUTTER WINS UP  
TO 2X, PULLING AWAY FROM REACT NATIVE

POPULARITY

**SAME POPULARITY  
MEASUREMENTS IN MY  
NEWSLETTER:**



**IDE, BUILD TOOLS, JVM  
LANGUAGES & JAVA  
FRAMEWORKS, DATABASES,  
WEB FRAMEWORKS**

# SECTION SUMMARY

**WEB:** BIGGEST, MANY DEVS, HARD TO LEARN –  
REACT, ANGULAR, VUE

**NATIVE:** RUN/LOOK & FEEL/ACCESS ON MOBILE  
– FLUTTER (DEVELOPERS), REACT NATIVE  
(EMPLOYERS), XAMARIN/.NET MAUI, JAVAFX

**THAT'S HOW**  
**CROSS-PLATFORM**  
**FRONT-ENDS!**

~~WHY & HOW CROSS PLATFORM~~

HOW FLUTTER WORKS

MY FLUTTER EXPERIENCES

WHEN TO USE WHICH FRAMEWORK

# HOW FLUTTER WORKS

# MASCOT DASH





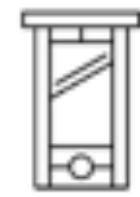
**WILL GOOGLE  
KILL FLUTTER?**



# Killed by Google

Search

All (274)



August  
2023

Service

## Google Cloud IoT Core

Turning to ashes in 11 months, Google Cloud IoT Core was a managed service designed to let customers securely connect, manage, and ingest data from globally dispersed devices. It will be over 5 years old.



June  
2023

Service

## Conversational Actions

Fading into darkness in 8 months, Conversational Actions extended the functionality of Google Assistant by allowing 3rd party developers to create custom experiences, or conversations, for users of Google Assistant. It will be over 6 years old.

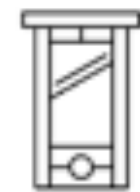


March  
2023

Service

## Google Currents (2019)

Running out of juice in 6 months, Google Currents was a service that provided social media features similar to Google+ for Google Workspace customers. It will be almost 4 years old.



January  
2023

Service

## Google Stadia

Turning to dust in 4 months, Google Stadia was a cloud gaming service combining a WiFi gaming controller and allowed users to stream gameplay through web browsers, TV, mobile apps, and Chromecast. It will be about 3 years old.



December  
2022

Service

## YouTube Originals

Scheduled to be killed in 3 months, YouTube Originals was a variety of original content including scripted series, educational videos, and music and celebrity programming. It will be over 6 years old.

- ⊖ **IN-HOUSE COMPETITION:** ANGULAR, JETPACK COMPOSE
- ⊕ **POPULAR:** WINS WITH DEVS, 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE IN JOBS
- ⊕ **EXTERNAL COMMITMENT:** TOYOTA, UBUNTU

**WE DON'T KNOW!**

**WHICH PLATFORM**  
**STABLE SINCE WHEN?**

# PC



FEB  
2022



MAY  
2022



# WEB



MAR  
2021

# MOBILE



DEC  
2018



**PROGRAMMING  
LANGUAGE: DART**





**CAN'T WE USE  
JAVA?**

```
class MyClass extends AnotherClass {  
    String firstName = "Karsten";  
    int yearsOfJava = 23;  
    List<String> myList = List.empty();  
  
    String sayHello(String name) {  
        var feedback = "Hello, " + name;  
        return feedback;  
    }  
}
```

# THIS IS DART

```
class MyClass extends AnotherClass {  
    String firstName = "Karsten";  
    int yearsOfJava = 23;  
    List<String> myList = new LinkedList<>();  
  
    String sayHello(String name) {  
        var feedback = "Hello, " + name;  
        return feedback;  
    }  
}
```

# THIS IS JAVA

```
class MyClass extends AnotherClass {  
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    int yearsOfJava = 23;  
    List<String> myList = List.empty();  
  
    String sayHello(String name) {  
        var feedback = "Hello, " + name;  
        return feedback;  
    }  
}
```

# THIS IS DART

```
class MyClass extends AnotherClass {  
    var firstName = "Karsten";  
    var yearsOfJava = 23;  
    var myList = <String>[];  
  
    sayHello(String name) => "Hello, $name";  
}
```

# CONCISE DART

```
class MyClass extends AnotherClass {  
    String firstName = "Karsten";  
    int yearsOfJava = 23;  
    List<String> myList = new LinkedList<>();  
  
    String sayHello(String name) {  
        var feedback = "Hello, " + name;  
        return feedback;  
    }  
}
```

# THIS IS JAVA

ORIGINALLY FOR BROWSER

"SIMPLIFIED JAVA FOR UI DEVELOPMENT"

SOUND NULL SAFETY (LIBRARIES) & ASYNC/AWAIT

1 MAIN THREAD, CREATE THREADS (ISOLATES)

DART



**MAJOR** RELEASE EVERY 2–3 MONTHS

3–5 **MINOR** RELEASES IN-BETWEEN

MAJOR FLUTTER RELEASES INCLUDE  
NEW **DART** RELEASE

**RELEASES**

**LIBRARIES: PLUGINS**

**29K** PLUGINS, NOT ALL FOR WEB/DESKTOP

MOST ARE **OPEN-SOURCE**

GOOD "PLUGIN **SURVIVAL RATIO**"

**FORKING** PLUGINS IS EASY

**PLUGINS**

**UI ELEMENTS: WIDGETS**

```
Column(  
  mainAxisAlignment:  
    MainAxisAlignment.center,  
  children: <Widget>[  
    Text('Pushed $_counter times'),  
    ElevatedButton(  
      onPressed: () =>  
        setState(() => _counter++),  
      child: Icon(Icons.add),  
    )  
  ],  
)
```

UI AS CODE

```
Column(  
  mainAxisAlignment:  
    MainAxisAlignment.center,  
  children: <Widget>[  
    Text('Pushed $_counter times'),  
    ElevatedButton(  
      onPressed: () =>  
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  ],  
)
```

UI AS CODE

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      child: Icon(Icons.add),  
    )  
  ],  
)
```

**UI AS CODE**

**IOS & MACOS: SWIFT UI (SEP 2019)**

**ANDROID: JETPACK COMPOSE (JUL 2021)**

**WINDOWS, MACOS, IOS, ANDROID:  
.NET MAUI (AUG 2022)**

**DECLARATIVE PROGRAMMING**



**UI AS CODE** – NO GRAPHICAL UI BUILDER, NO CSS

**CONFIGURE BUILT-IN WIDGETS, CREATE YOUR OWN**

**EMULATED** – NO NATIVE SDK UI ELEMENTS:  
"FLUTTER PAINTS PIXELS"

# WIDGETS

# LOOK & FEEL: WIDGET SETS

**BASE:** CONTAINER, ROW, COLUMN, TEXT, IMAGES,  
SHAPES, ...

**BUILT-IN** LOOK & FEEL: MATERIAL DESIGN, IOS

**3<sup>RD</sup>-PARTY** LOOK & FEEL: MACOS, WINDOWS, LINUX

**WIDGETS SETS**

**SAMPLE FLUTTER APP:**  
**5 NATIVE LOOK & FEEL**  
**WITH 1 CODEBASE**



# LIVE DEMO

# SAMPLE FLUTTER APP



**5 NATIVE LOOK & FEEL**

**SWITCH LOOK & FEEL**

**SAMPLE APP**  
**ON GITHUB**



CREATED MY **OWN** WIDGETS

WIDGETS HAVE **SWITCH** STATEMENT =>  
CREATES WIDGET FOR CURRENT PLATFORM

HOW DOES **SWITCH** WORK?



**1 CODEBASE  $\neq$  1 UI**

Safari

2:35 PM

Cancel

Form

Save

Karsten

Last name

VIP customer

Info

Form

Settings

flutter\_native\_ui\_cross\_example

←

Form

Info

Form

Settings

First name

Karsten

Last name

Doe

☐ VIP customer

Save

Cancel

GLOBAL **STATE** MANAGEMENT: "PROVIDER"

**WIDGET SET:** MATERIAL/NATIVE/CUSTOM

RESPONSIVE **LAYOUT:** ADAPT TO SCREEN SIZES  
& ORIENTATION: NO DEFAULT, 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY PLUGIN

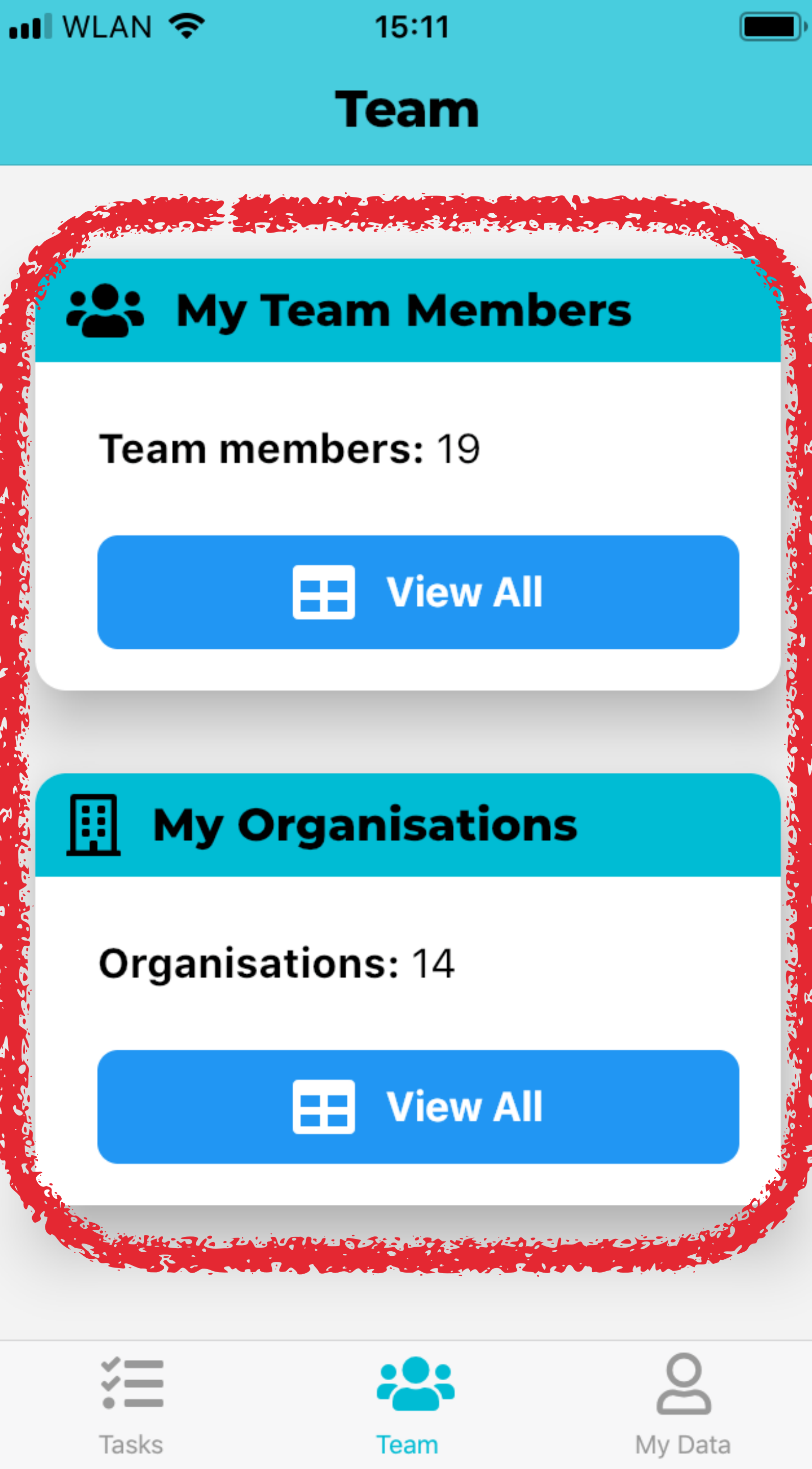
ARCHITECTURAL **CHOICES**



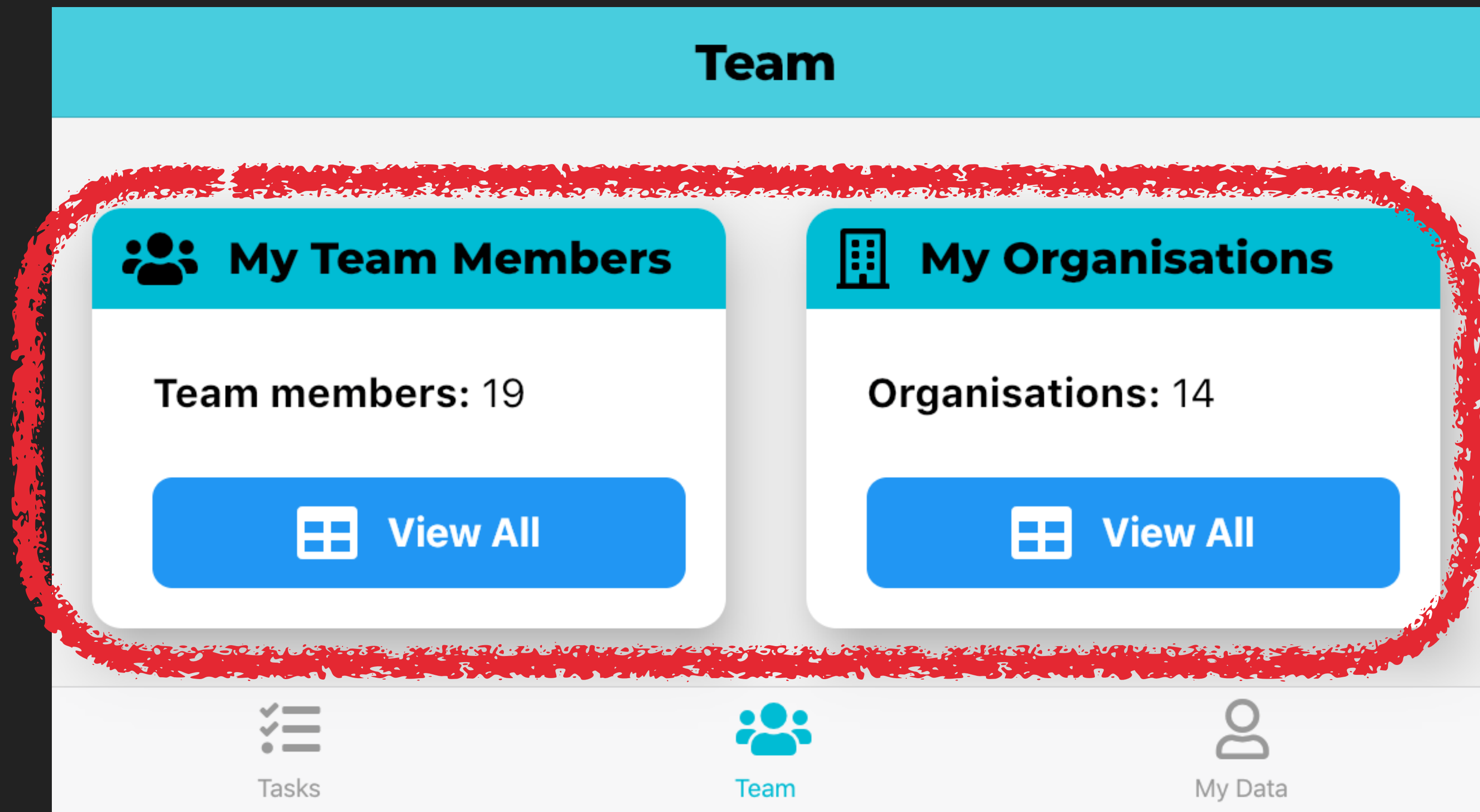
# SIZE DIFFERENCES







# ORIENTATION CHANGES



**NATIVE INTEGRATION**

PUT SOME FLUTTER **SCREENS** INTO NATIVE APPS

IOS/ANDROID: **STABLE**

WEB/DESKTOP: **UNDER CONSTRUCTION?**

FLUTTER **IN** NATIVE APPS

**PLUGINS:** CAMERA, PICTURES, LOCATION, ...

**MOBILE:** SHOW NATIVE **SCREENS** + **WEB VIEWS**

**MOBILE:** **CHANNELS** (PUBLISH & SUBSCRIBE) TO  
NATIVE CODE & **C-API**

**NATIVE CODE IN FLUTTER**



**RUN NATIVELY**

ANDROID: **ANDROID STUDIO**, IOS/MACOS: MACOS + **XCODE**,  
WINDOWS: WINDOWS + **VISUAL STUDIO**

FLUTTER **ENGINE**: JAVASCRIPT + C++ (WEB), C++ (ELSE)

FLUTTER **APP**: NATIVE ARM LIBRARY (MOBILE), JAVASCRIPT  
(WEB), C++ (WINDOWS, LINUX), OBJECTIVE-C (MACOS)

**PLATFORM TOOL CHAINS**

**CODE, BUILD & DEPLOY**

**"EXCELLENT  
DEVELOPER  
EXPERIENCE"**

**IDE:** INTELLIJ/ANDROID STUDIO & VISUAL STUDIO CODE

**DEV TOOLS:** INSPECTOR, PROFILER FOR MEMORY, CPU & NETWORK, "JANK" DIAGNOSIS, WORK IN TERMINAL

**CODE**

**MONOREPO:** CODE FOR ALL PLATFORMS IN 1 GIT PROJECT

1 FOLDER FOR **DART**, 1 FOLDER PER **PLATFORM** (SOME PROJECTS – XCODE, ANDROID STUDIO)

PLATFORM: NATIVE **SHELLS** (APPDELEGATE.SWIFT, MAINACTIVITY.KT)

**PROJECT STRUCTURE**

**SLOW** IOS/ANDROID BUILDS

DART **VM** DURING DEVELOPMENT

HOT **RESTART**: APP STARTS OVER IN 3 SECONDS


HOT **RELOAD**: 1 SECOND FROM "SAVED" TO "RUNNING"

**FAST** BUILD & DEPLOY

# FLUTTER PLATFORM CHECK



- ⊕ **"2 APPS FOR PRICE OF 1"**
- ⊕ **NATIVE LOOK & FEEL**
- ⊕ **ACCESS TO NATIVE OS LIBRARIES**
- ⊕ **FAST BUILD & DEPLOY**

**MOBILE:** 

- ➖ **ONLY** MATERIAL UI
- ➖ **NO** ACCESS TO PLATFORM LIBRARIES (JAVASCRIPT)
- ➖ TINY AMOUNT OF **LIBRARIES** VS. JAVASCRIPT

WEB: 👎

— WHY NOT **WEB**?

○ WINDOWS STABLE, MAC & LINUX JUST GOT STABLE

+ **ACCESS** TO NATIVE OS LIBRARIES

○ WINDOWS & MACOS UI: INCOMPLETE, **MAINTAINED?**

DESKTOP: 👎

# SECTION SUMMARY

**DART**

**NATIVE ACCESS**

**PLUGINS**

**RUNS NATIVELY**

**WIDGETS**

**CODE, BUILD & DEPLOY**

**WIDGETS SETS**

**PLATFORM CHECK**

**THAT'S HOW  
FLUTTER WORKS**

~~WHY & HOW CROSS PLATFORM~~

~~HOW FLUTTER WORKS~~

MY FLUTTER EXPERIENCES

WHEN TO USE WHICH FRAMEWORK

# MY FLUTTER EXPERIENCES



**B2B SAAS** FOR UK COMPANIES  
THAT EMPLOY CAT-SITTERS

REMOVE **FRICTION** & SAVE **TIME**

I WROTE THE CODE

MY **TINY** START-UP

TEAM  
MEMBER

FLUTTER

IOS & ANDROID

FRONT-  
END

MANA-  
GER

ANGULAR

BROWSER

JSON  
REST

AUTHENTICATION

FILES

FIREBASE

BACK-  
END

JAVA & SPRING

DB

UNLIMITED STORAGE, PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

AS FAST & EASY TO USE AS POSSIBLE => NATIVE UI

PRODUCTIVITY: DART + FAST CODE, BUILD & DEPLOY

FLUTTER BUSINESS CASE

FLUTTER 👍

POWER

NATIVE 👍

1 SOURCE

FIREBASE 👍

CONSISTENT

BASICS

**MORE** ON TALK PAGE

# MY FLUTTER EXPERIENCES

~~WHY & HOW CROSS PLATFORM~~

~~HOW FLUTTER WORKS~~

~~MY FLUTTER EXPERIENCES~~

WHEN TO USE WHICH FRAMEWORK

**WHEN TO USE WHICH  
MOBILE NATIVE CROSS-  
PLATFORM FRAMEWORK?**

FLUTTER *VS.* WORLD



**JAVASCRIPT**

**SLOWER**

**NATIVE UI ELEMENTS**

**SEPARATE PROJECTS**

**DESKTOP: UNOFFICIAL**

**DART**

**FASTER**

**EMULATED UI ELEMENTS**

**MONOREPO**

**DESKTOP: OFFICIAL**

**REACT NATIVE VS. FLUTTER**

**JOB AD MENTIONS UK: 10X**

**COURSES BOUGHT: 12X**

**GOOGLE SEARCHES: 24X**

**STACK OVERFLOW QUESTIONS: 34X**

**POPULAR: FLUTTER VS. JAVA FX**

**JAVA**

**UI BUILDER**

**NO NATIVE L&F**

**LIMITED FEATURES**

**WEB IMMATURE**

**JAVAFX**

**DART**

**UI AS CODE**

**NATIVE L&F**

**FULL FEATURES**

**DESKTOP IMMATURE**

**FLUTTER**

**VS.**

**WHEN TO USE WHICH  
MOBILE NATIVE CROSS-  
PLATFORM FRAMEWORK?**

**WEB:** REACT NATIVE

**.NET:** .NET MAUI

**JAVA + LEGACY** JAVA LIBRARY: JAVAFX

**OTHERWISE:** FLUTTER

**DEVELOPER EXPERIENCE**

# BACK TO THE BIG QUESTION

**BUILD MOBILE, WEB &  
DESKTOP FRONTENDS WITH  
FLUTTER & 1 CODEBASE?**

**YES, WE CAN**



Karsten

Last name

VIP customer ☐

IOS

Cancel

x

Form

SAVE

First name

Karsten

Last name

VIP customer



ANDROID



Info



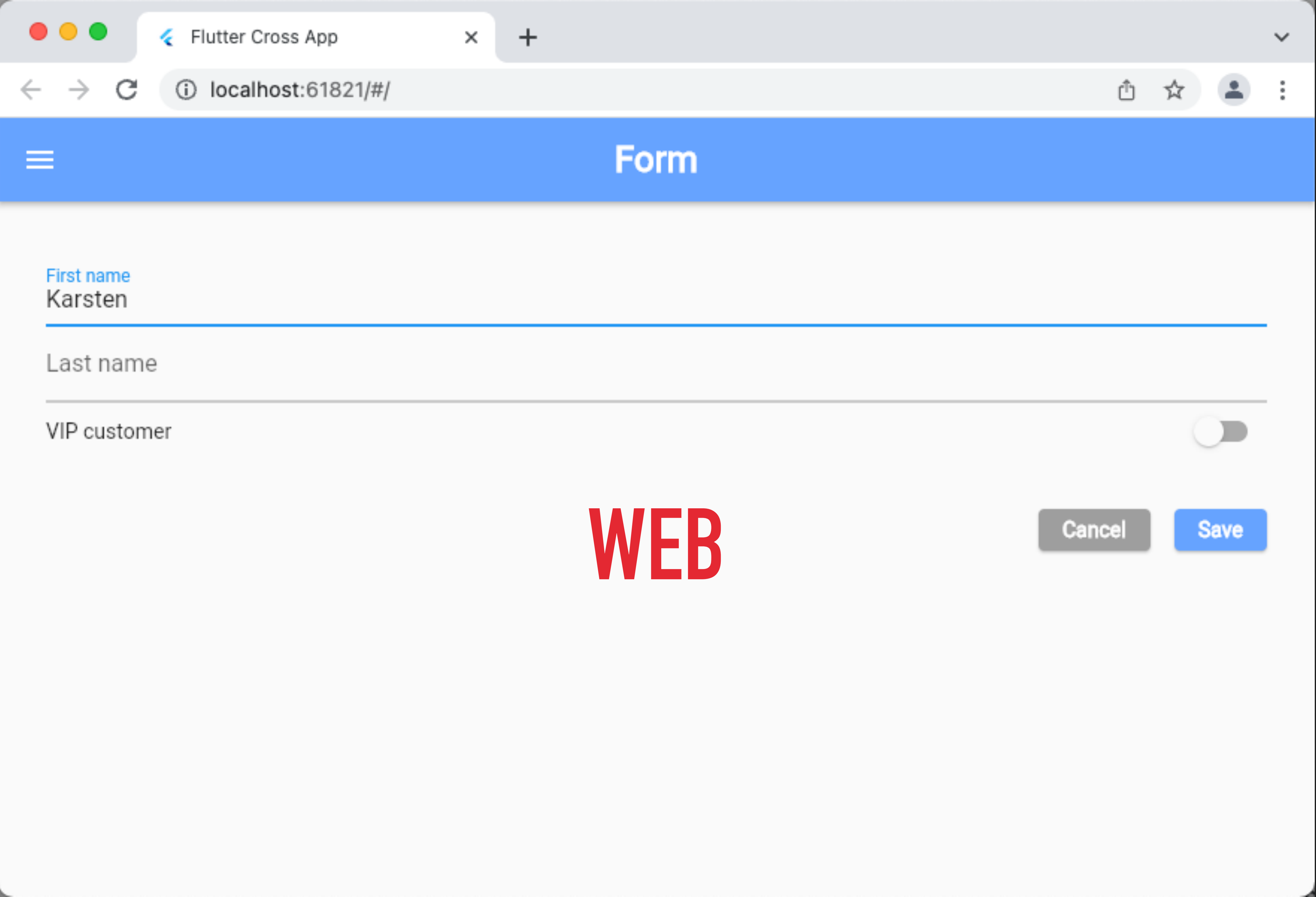
Form

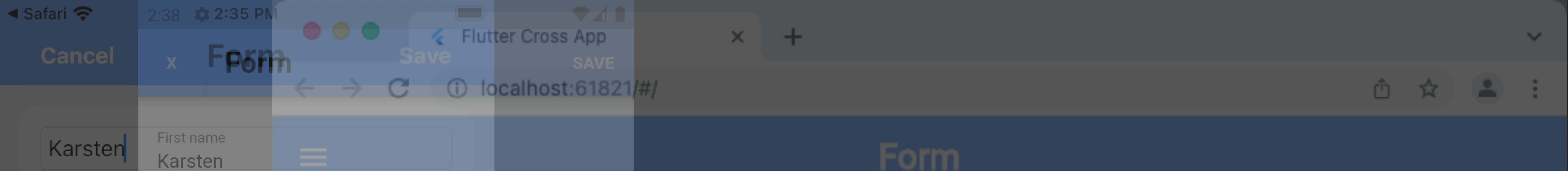


Settings



Info





flutter\_native\_ui\_cross\_example

## Form

- Info
- Form
- Settings

First name

Karsten

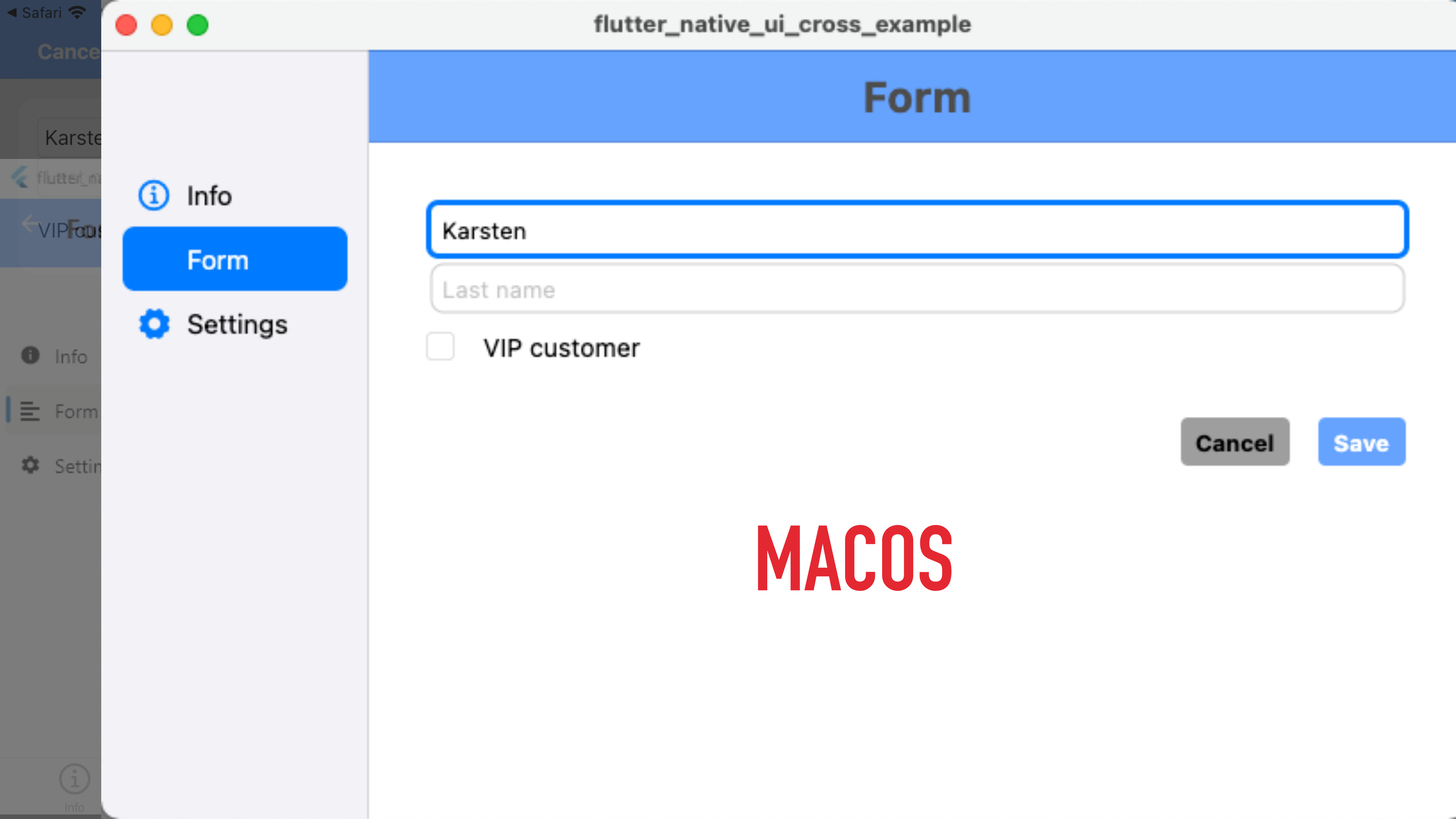
Last name

Doe


☐ VIP customer

Save Cancel


WINDOWS



## Form

 Info

Form

 Settings

Karsten

Last name

☐ VIP customer

Cancel

Save

MACOS

**BUT WE SHOULDN'T**

MOBILE: 👍

WEB: 👎

DESKTOP: 👎

JSF: 👎

JAVAFX: 👎



**WHEN TO USE WHICH  
NATIVE CROSS-  
PLATFORM FRAMEWORK?**

~~WHY & HOW CROSS PLATFORM~~

~~HOW FLUTTER WORKS~~

~~MY FLUTTER EXPERIENCES~~

~~WHEN TO USE WHICH FRAMEWORK~~

The image is a stylized title card. It features a series of concentric circles in shades of red, creating a tunnel-like effect that draws the eye toward the center. The circles are slightly offset, giving a 3D or layered appearance. In the very center is a solid black circle. Overlaid on this central black circle is the text "The End" in a white, elegant, cursive script. The text has a subtle drop shadow, making it stand out against the black background. The overall composition is symmetrical and visually striking due to the strong color contrast and geometric pattern.

*The End*

**MY TALK DOESN'T STOP  
WHEN I STOP TALKING!™**





**SLIDES & VIDEOS**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**NATIVE UI SAMPLE APP**

**GET STARTED WITH FLUTTER**

**FEEDBACK & NEWSLETTER**

**BPF.LI/FAR**

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# IMAGE SOURCES