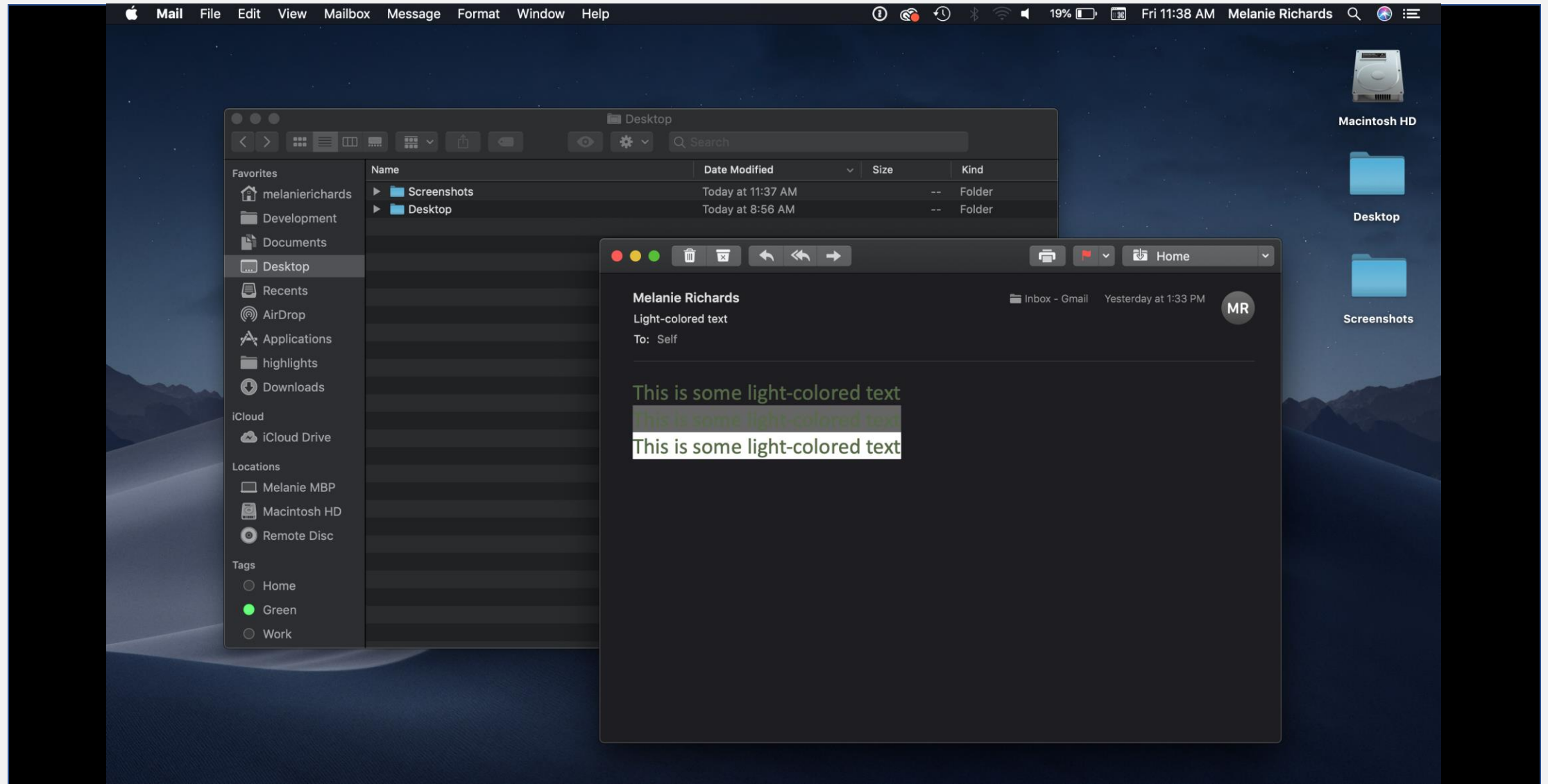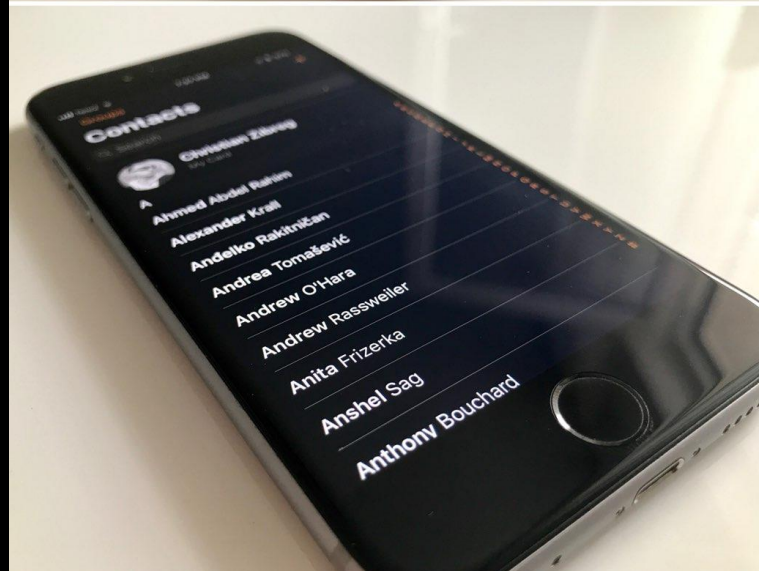# High Contrast

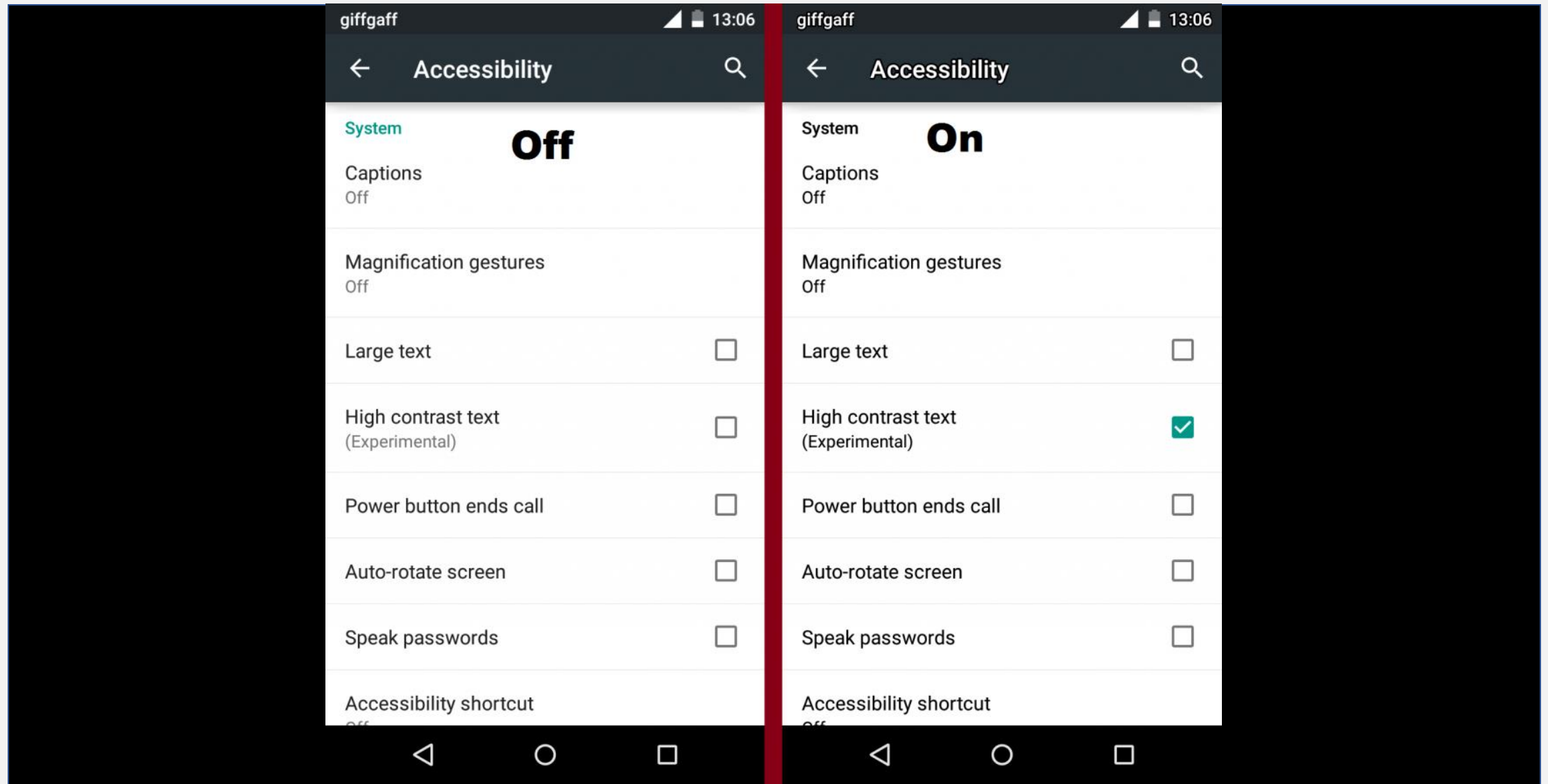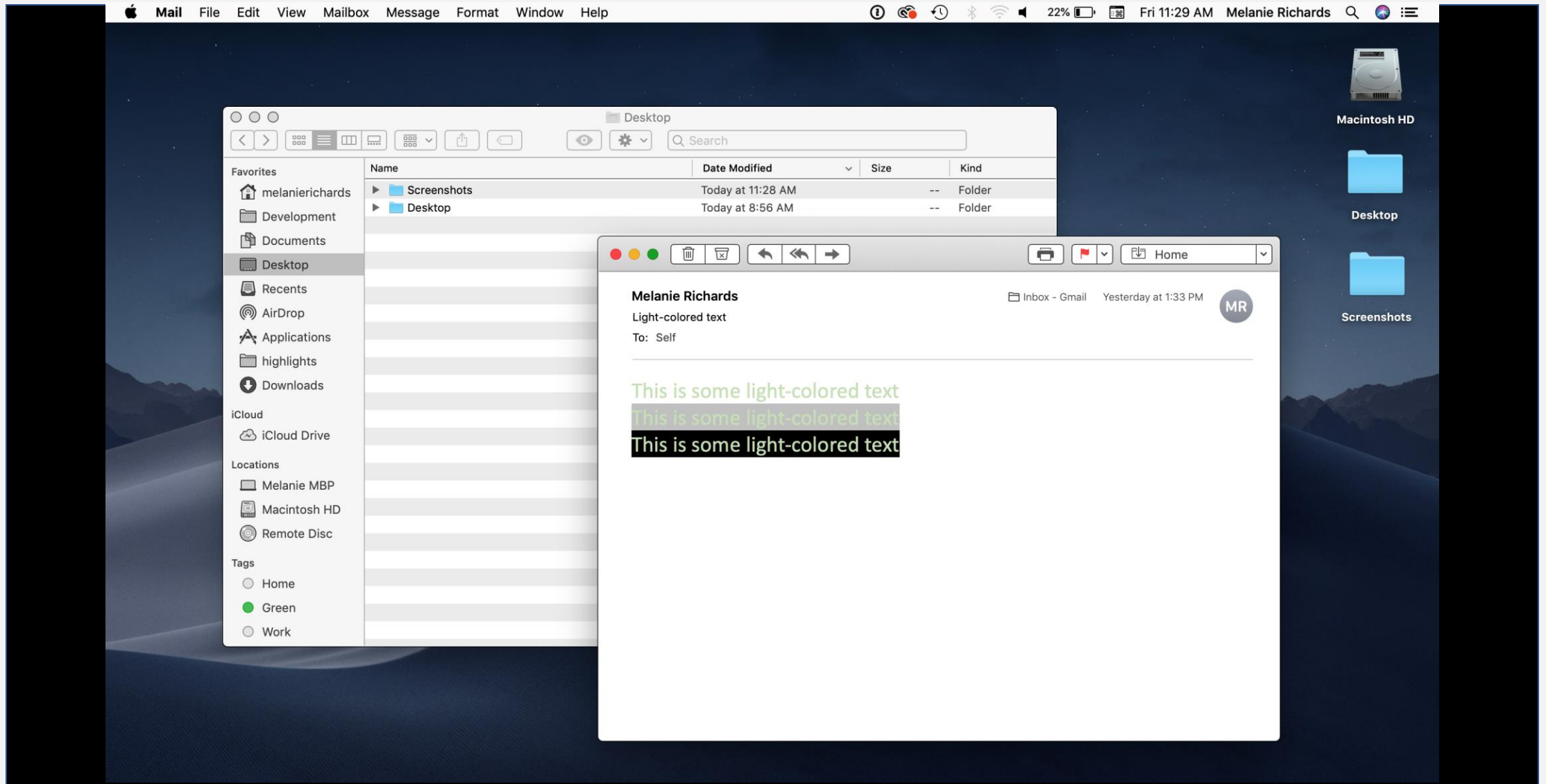# Current landscape of OS color modes and contrast features

Dark mode

Inverted colors

High contrast text (experimental)

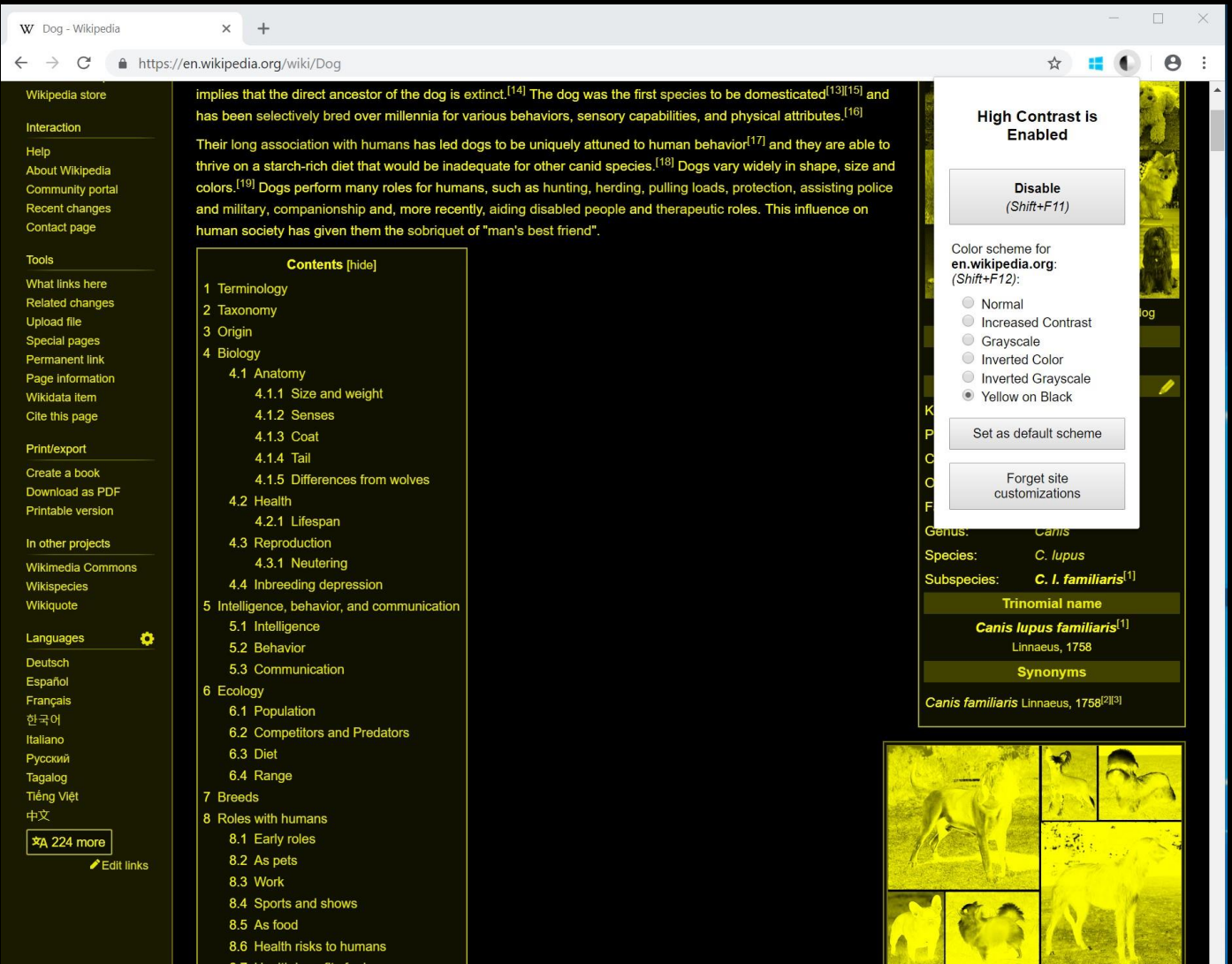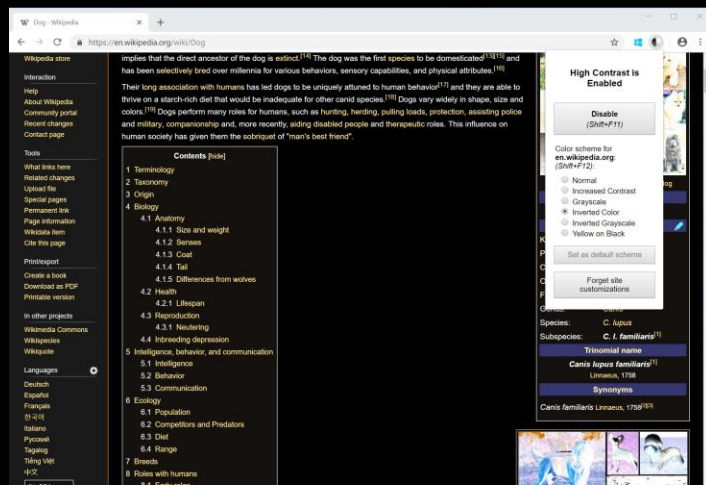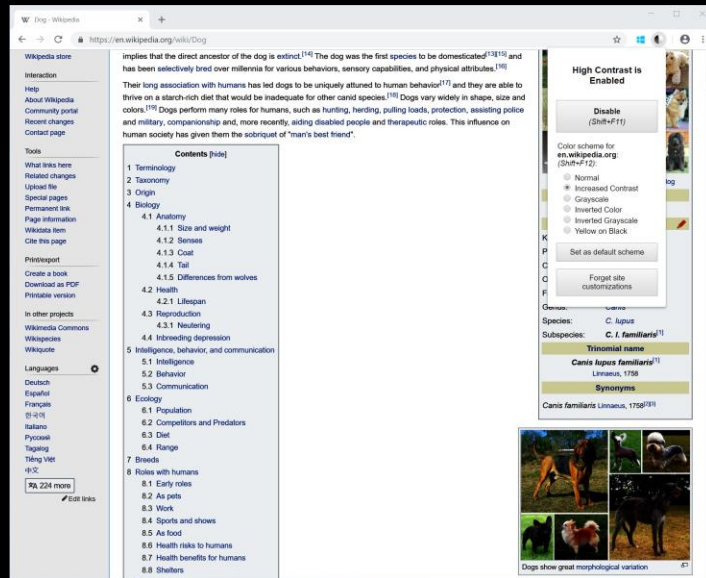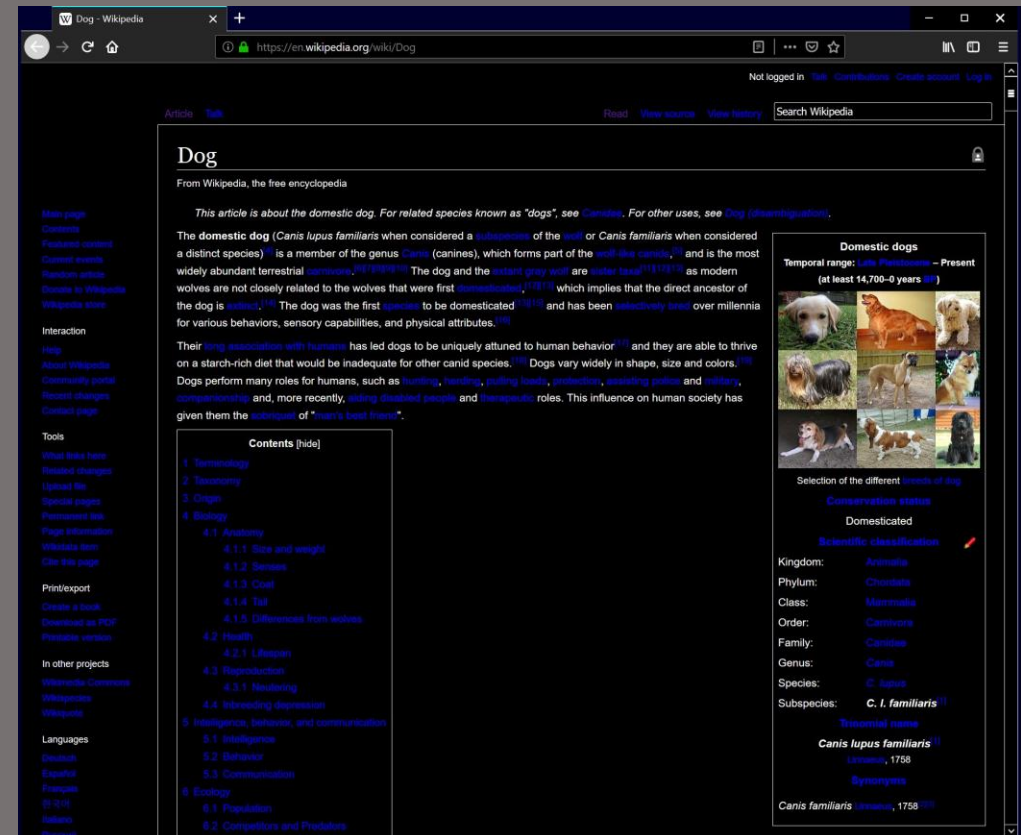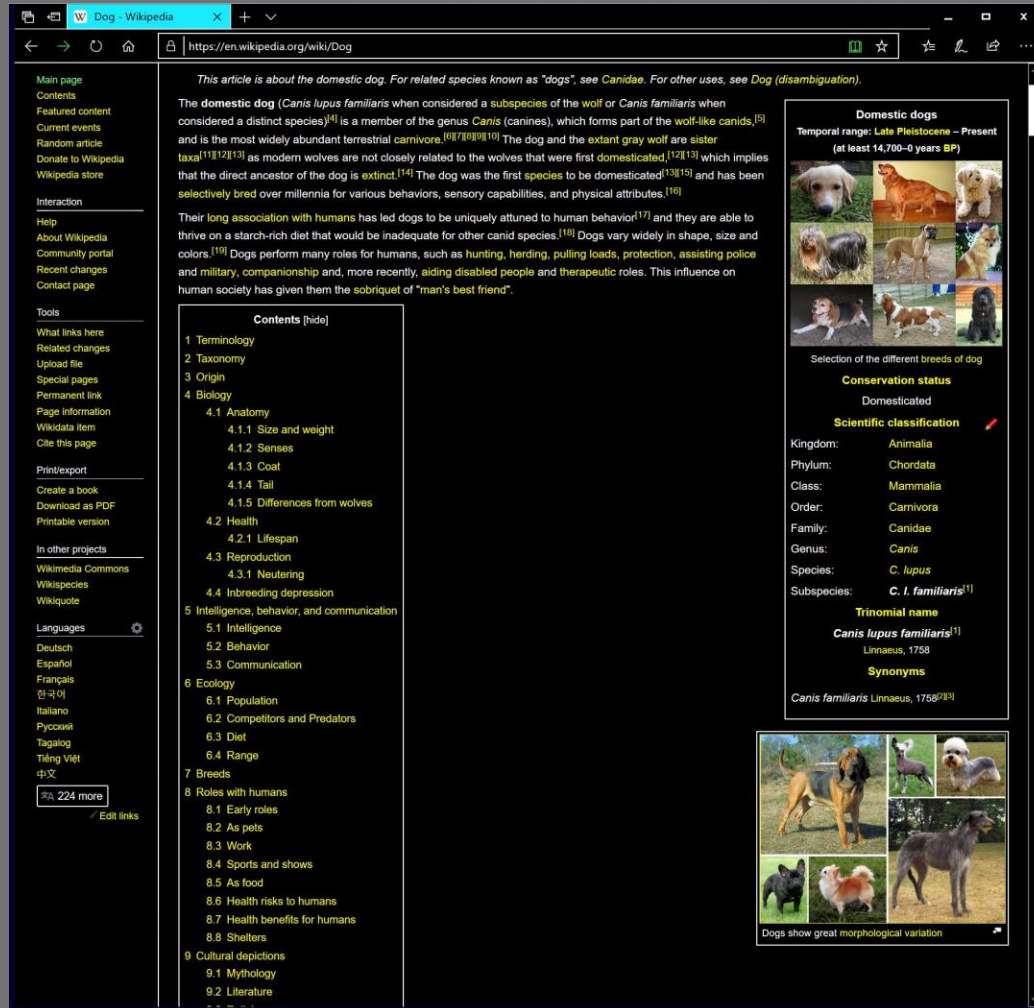# Increase contrast

High contrast (web extension)

Windows High Contrast

Windows High Contrast demo

Comparison to related features

Related OS/extension feature comparison

	Dark Mode	Inverted Colors	Text Contrast	Increase Contrast	High Contrast extension	High Contrast
Supported Platform	MacOS, Windows	iOS, Android, Windows	Android (experimental)	MacOS, iOS	Chrome	Windows
Contrast "promise"	Should meet min WCAG requirements	No promise	High for text but dependent on background	Intermediate	Varies by theme and web content	Guaranteed based on user choice
Applies to	UI, app content	UI, app content	UI, app content	UI, app content	Web content	UI, app/web content
Modifiable by users	No	No	No	No (legacy modifiable)	No (outside of theme selection)	Yes, limited color theme
Forced to web content	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Modifiable by authors	Yes*	No	No	Yes*	No	Yes

Related CSS features comparison

	prefers-color-scheme	prefers-contrast	inverted-colors	high-contrast
Related browser/OS features	MacOS and Windows light/dark mode	MacOS/iOS increase contrast; Android text contrast?	iOS, Android, Windows color inversion	Windows high contrast
Granularity of detection in web content	No preference, light, dark	No preference, low, high (increased keyword?)	On/off	On/off; additionally, detection of preset themes
Expectations on author	Author styles theme; hints as to supported schemes	Self-authored styles; authors need guidance on handling ratios	Honors user preference first; author can adjust	Honors user preference first; author can adjust
Additional info available to author	None	None	None	Abstracted system colors based on user-set preferences
Implementations	Webkit; Gecko in progress; Blink i2i	None	Webkit	Trident, EdgeHTML

Proposal: let authors target the High Contrast feature itself

Most closely related in concept to inverted-color

Considers user preference as highest directive

Forced on web content

Built expressly with accessibility in mind

Many use cases work out of the box; author involvement expected to be minimal/tweaks

High usage

4% of active Windows machines

This makes High Contrast by far the most popular in-box assistive technology on the Windows platform

Consistent developer story

Easier to maintain existing styles for IE and new High Contrast styles for modern Windows browsers (and any other similar future implementations) when authoring story is consistent with familiar approach

high-contrast MQ explainer