# CS 403X Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing

Lecture 3: Android UI, WebView, Android Activity Lifecycle

# **Emmanuel Agu**

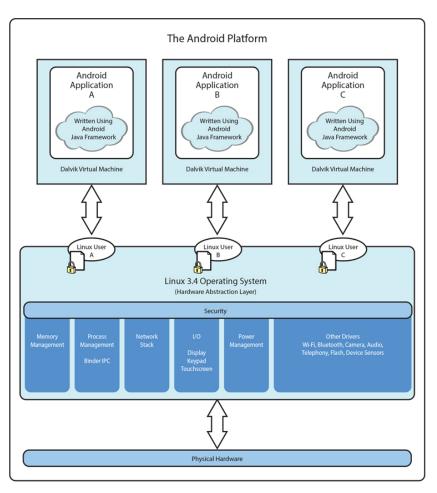




# **Android Software Framework**

#### **Android Software Framework**





- Multi-user Linux system
- Each Android app is a different Linux user
- Each Android app runs in its own VM, minimizes complete system crashes
- Android system assigns each app a unique Linux user ID
  - ID is unknown to the application
- App's files are private to it
- Android starts app's process when its components need to be executed, shuts down the process when no longer needed

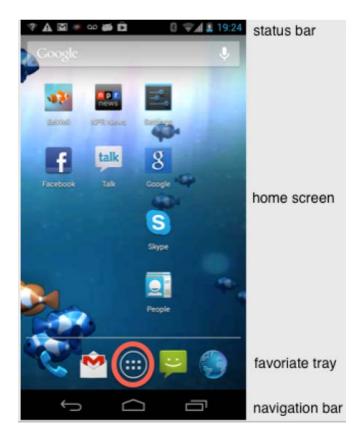
Ref: Introduction to Android Programming, Annuzzi, Darcey & Conder



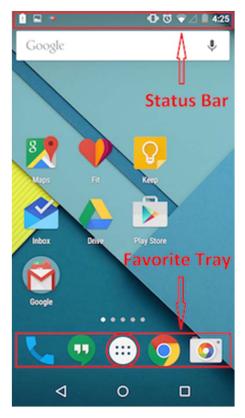
# **Android UI Tour**

### **Home Screen**

- First screen after unlocking phone or hitting **home** button
- Includes **favorites** tray (e.g phone, mail, messaging, web, etc)







Android 5.0

## **All Apps Screen**

- Accessed by touching all apps button in favorites tray
- Users can swipe through multiple app and widget screens
- Can be customized by dragging and dropping items







**Android 5.0** 

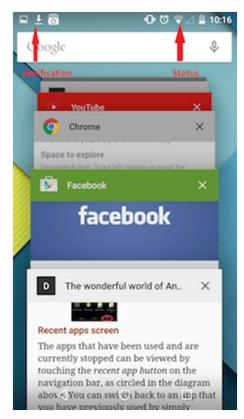


# **Recent Apps Screen**

- Accessed by touching the recent apps button
- Shows recently used and currently stopped apps
- Can switch to a recently used app by touching it in list



**Android 4.0** 

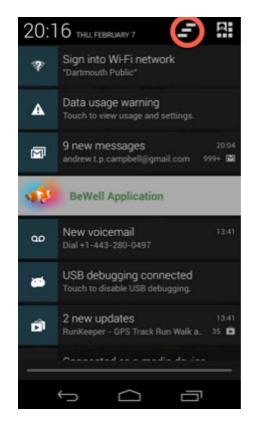


**Android 5.0** 

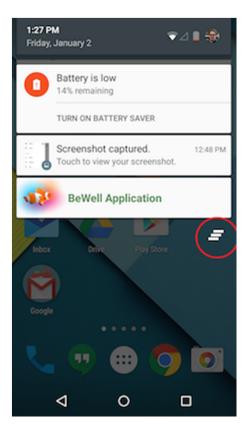


### Status Bar and Notification Screen

- Displays notifications (on left) and status (on right)
- Status: time, battery, cell signal strength, bluetooth enabled, etc.
- Notification: wifi, mail, bewell, voicemail, usb active, music, etc



**Android 4.0** 



Android 5.0

#### Facebook UI

- Uses many standard Android UI components
- Shows main action bar and split action bar
- Action bar: configurable, handles user action and app navigation





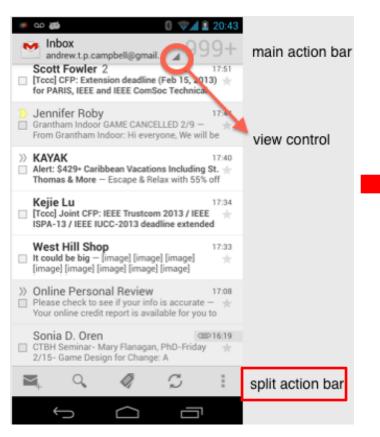


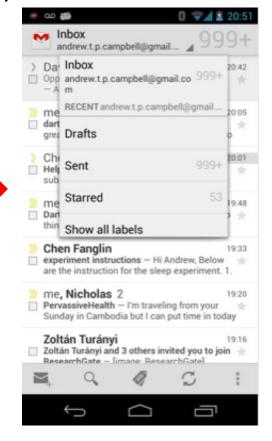
**Android 5.0** 

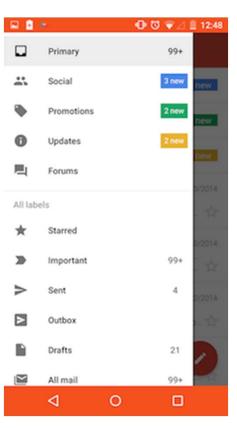


#### **Gmail**

- Split action bar at bottom of screen
- View control: allows users switch between different views (inbox, recent, drafts, sent)

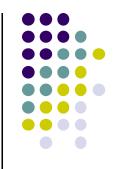






Android 5.0

Android 4.0 Android 4.0



# Resources

# **Recall: Example: Files in an Android Project**

- res/layout: The width, height, layout of screen cells are specified in XML file here
- res/drawable-xyz/: The images stored in jpg or other format here
- java/: App's behavior when user clicks on screen (e.g. button) specified in java file here
- AndroidManifext.XML: Contains app name (Pinterest), list of app screens, etc



## **Resource Files in an Android Project**

- Resources (stored in /res folder) are static bits of information outside java code (e.g. layout, images, etc). E.g.
  - res/drawable-xyz/
  - res/layout:
- Can have multiple resource definitions, used under different conditions. E.g internationalization (text in different languages)
- In Android Studio, the res/ folder is app/src/main/





### **Phone Dimensions Used in Android UI**



- Physical dimensions measured diagonally
  - E.g. Nexus 4 is 4.7 inches diagonally
- Resolution in pixels
  - E.g. Nexus 4 resolution 768 x 1280 pixels
- Pixels per inch (PPI) =
  - Sqrt[(768 x 768) + (1280 x 1280)] = 318
- Dots per inch (DPI) is number of pixels in a physical area
  - Low density (ldpi) = 120 dpi
  - Medium density (mdpi) = 160 dpi
  - High density (hdpi) = 240 dpi
  - Extra High Density (xhdpi) = 320 dpi



## **Adding Pictures**

- Android supports images in PNG, JPEG and GIF formats
- GIF officially discouraged, PNG preferred format
- Default directory for images (drawables) is res/drawable-xyz
- Images in res/drawable-xyz can be referenced by XML and java files
  - res/drawable-ldpi: low dpi images (~ 120 dpi of dots per inch)
  - res/drawable-mdpi: medium dpi images (~ 160 dpi)
  - res/drawable-hdpi: high dpi images (~ 240 dpi)
  - res/drawable-xhdpi: extra high dpi images (~ 320 dpi)
  - res/drawable-xxhdpi: extra extra high dpi images (~ 480 dpi)
  - res/drawable-xxxhdpi: high dpi images (~ 640 dpi)
- Images in these directories are same size, different resolutions



## **Adding Pictures**

- Just the generic picture name is used
  - No format e.g. .png,
  - No specification of what resolution to use
  - E.g. to reference an image ic\_launcher.png

```
<application
  android:allowBackup="false"
  android:icon=@drawable/ic_launcher
  android:label="@string/app_name"
  android:theme="@style/AppTheme">
```

- Android chooses which directory (e.g. –mdpi) based on actual device
- Android studio tools for generating icons
  - Icon wizard or Android asset studio: generates icons in various densities from starter image
  - Cannot edit images (e.g. dimensions) with these tools



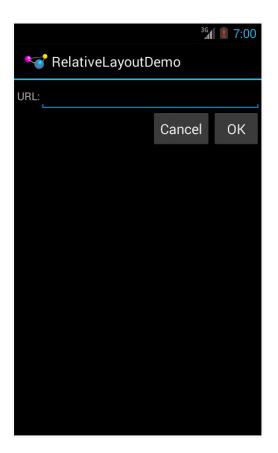
# **Styles**

- Styles specify rules for look of Android screen
- Similar to Cascaded Style Sheets (CSS) in HTML
- E.g CSS enables setting look of certain types of tags.
  - E.g. font and size of all <h1> and <h2> elements
- Android widgets have properties
  - E.g. Foreground color = red
- Styles in Android: collection of values for properties
- Styles can be specified one by one or themes (e.g. Theme, Theme.holo and Theme.material) can be used

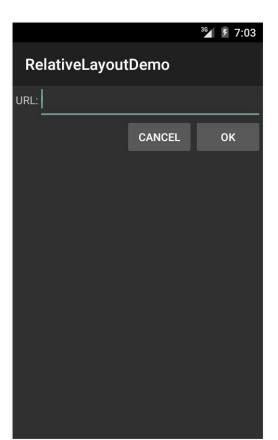


## **Default Themes**

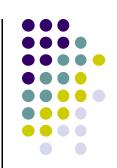
- Android chooses a default theme if you specify none
- Also many stock themes to choose from



Theme.Holo: default theme in Android 3.0

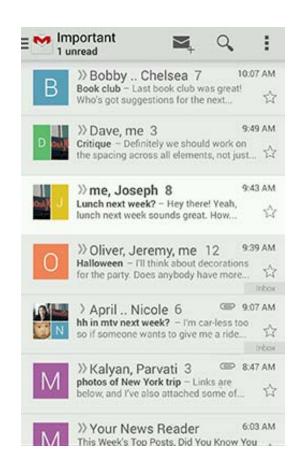


**Theme.Material:** default theme in Android 5.0

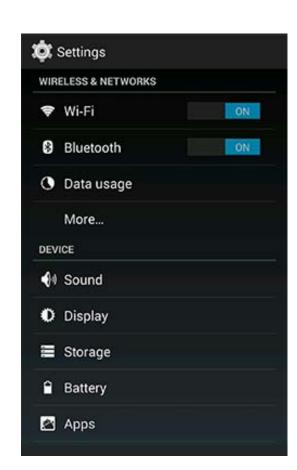


## **Examples of Themes in Use**

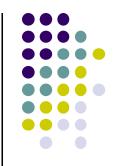




**GMAIL** in Holo Light



**Settings in Holo Dark** 



# **Android UI in Java**

# **Android UI: 2 Options**



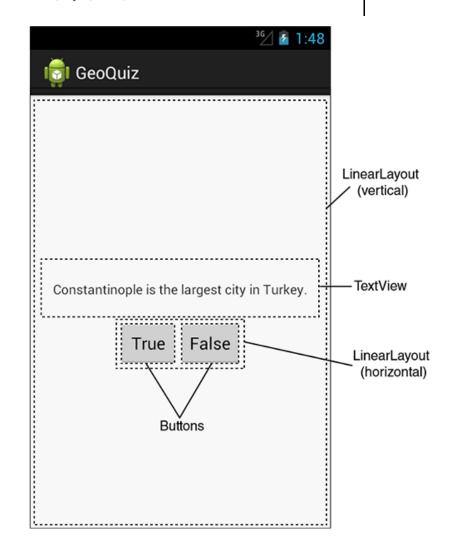
- Option 1: Design Android UI in XML file
  - Call setContentView() in java file

• Option 2: Design Android UI in Java file

# Recall: GeoQuiz: activity\_quiz.xml (Android UI in XML)



```
<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"</pre>
  android:layout_width="match_parent"
  android:layout_height="match_parent"
  android:gravity="center"
  android:orientation="vertical" >
  <TextView
    android:layout_width="wrap_content"
    android:layout_height="wrap_content"
    android:padding="24dp"
   android:text="@string/question_text" />
  <LinearLayout
    android:layout_width="wrap_content"
    android:layout height="wrap content"
    android:orientation="horizontal" >
    <Button
      android:layout_width="wrap_content"
      android:layout_height="wrap_content"
      android:text="@string/true_button" />
    <Button
      android:layout_width="wrap_content"
      android:layout_height="wrap_content"
      android:text="@string/false_button" />
  </LinearLayout>
</LinearLayout>
```



# Recall: QuizActivity.java: (Android UI in XML)

Initial QuizActivity.java code

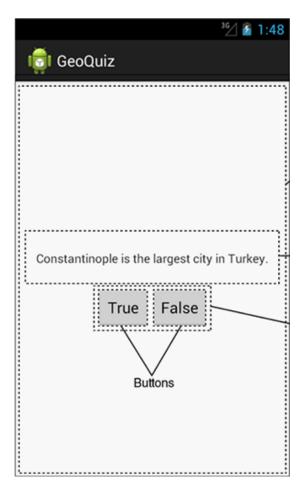
```
package com.bignerdranch.android.geoquiz;
import android.app.Activity;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.Menu;

public class QuizActivity extends Activity {

    @Override
    public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_quiz);
    }

    specify layout XML file
```

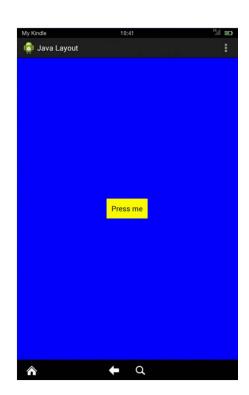


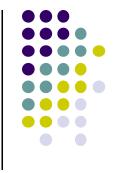




## **Example: Creating Android UI in Java**

```
@Override
protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        Button myButton = new Button(this);
        myButton.setText("Press me");
        myButton.setBackgroundColor(Color.YELLOW);
      RelativeLayout myLayout = new RelativeLayout(this);
      myLayout.setBackgroundColor(Color.BLUE);
      RelativeLayout.LayoutParams buttonParams =
                new RelativeLayout.LayoutParams(
                    RelativeLayout.LayoutParams.WRAP CONTENT,
                    RelativeLayout.LayoutParams.WRAP CONTENT);
      buttonParams.addRule(RelativeLayout.CENTER HORIZONTAL);
      buttonParams.addRule(RelativeLayout.CENTER VERTICAL);
      myLayout.addView(myButton, buttonParams);
      setContentView(myLayout);
}
```





# Pros and Cons of UI Design in Java vs XML

- XML advantages:
  - Graphical Layout tool can be used. It generates XML
  - After app is complete, UI easily changed by modifying XML without recompiling code

- Java advantages:
  - Good for designing dynamic Uis. XML limited to static screens



# **Important Android Packages**

Android programs usually import packages at top. E.g.

```
package com.commonsware.android.checkbox;
import android.app.Activity;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.widget.CheckBox;
import android.widget.CompoundButton;
```

Important packages

android\* Android application

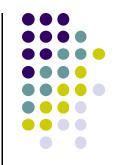
dalvik\*
 Dalvik virtual machine support classes

java.\*Core classes and generic utilities

(networking, security, math, etc)

org.apache.http: HTTP protocol support

Ref: Introduction to Android Programming, Annuzzi, Darcey & Conder



# **Android App Components**

# **Android App Components**



Typical Java program starts from main()

```
class SillyApp {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("Hello World!");
    }
}
```

- Android app: No main
- Just define app components by creating sub-classes of base classes already defined in Android
- 4 main types of Android app components:
  - Activities (already seen this)
  - Services
  - Content providers
  - Broadcast receivers

## **Recall: Activities**

- Activity: main building block of Android UI
- A window or dialog box in a desktop application
- Apps
  - have at least 1 activity that deals with UI
  - Entry point of app similar to main() in C
  - typically have multiple activities
- Example: A camera app
  - Activity 1: to focus, take photo, start activity 2
  - Activity 2: to present photo for viewing, save it



Activity

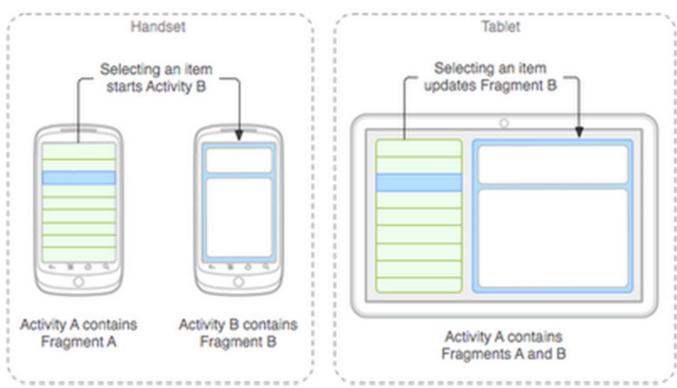
## **Recall: Activities**

- Each activity controls 1 or more screens
- Activities independent of each other
- Can be coupled by control or data
- App Activities are sub-class of Activity class
- Example:



## **Fragments**

- Fragments enables single app to look different on phone vs tablet
- An activity can contain multiple fragments that are organized differently for phone vs tablet
- Fragments are UI components that can be attached to different Activities.
- More later





## **Services**

- Similar to Linux/Unix CRON job (background, long-running)
- Activities are short-lived, can be shut down anytime (e.g when user presses back button)
- Services keep running in background
- Minimal need to interact with (independent of) any activity
- Typically an activity will control a service -- start it, pause it, get data from it
- Example uses of services:
  - Periodically check device's GPS location by contacting Android location manager, and pass data to activity
  - Check for updates to RSS feed
- App Services are sub-class of Services class

#### **Android Platform Services**



Android Services can either be:

Local: Android Platform

Remote: Google

- Android platform services:
  - LocationManager: location-based services.
  - ViewManager and WindowManager: Manage display and User Interface
  - AccessibilityManager: accessibility, support for physically impaired users
  - ClipboardManager: access to device's clipboard, for cutting and pasting content.
  - DownloadManager: manages HTTP downloads in the background
  - FragmentManager: manages the fragments of an activity.
  - AudioManager: provides access to audio and ringer controls.

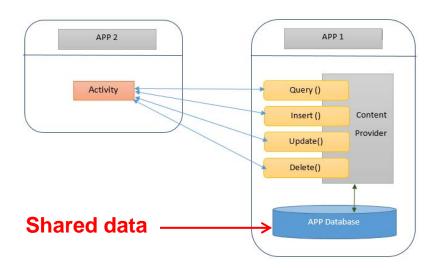
# **Google Services**



- Maps
- Location-based services
- Game Services
- Authorization APIs
- Google Plus
- Play Services
- In-app Billing
- Google Cloud Messaging
- Google Analytics
- Google AdMob ads

### **Content Providers**

- Android apps can share data
- Content Provider:
  - Abstracts shareable data, makes it accessible through methods
  - Applications can access that shared data by calling methods for the relevant content provider
- **Example:** We can write an app that:
  - Retrieve's contacts list from contacts content provider
  - Adds user's contacts to social networking (e.g. Facebook)

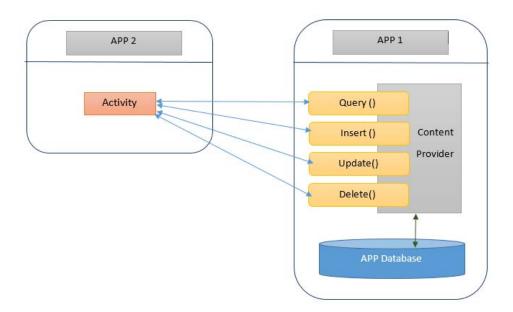






## **Content Providers**

- Apps can also ADD to data through content provider.
  - E.g. Add contact
- Our app can also share its data



• Content Providers are sub-class of ContentProvider class. E.g.

public class ExampleProvider extends ContentProvider {

#### **Broadcast Receivers**

- Fø
- The system, or applications, periodically broadcasts events, E.g.
  - Battery getting low
  - Screen turns off
  - Download completed
  - New email arrived
- A broadcast receiver can listen for broadcasts, respond
- Our app can also initiate broadcasts
- Broadcast receivers
  - Typically don't interact with the UI
  - Commonly create a status bar notification to alert the user when broadcast event occurs
- Broadcast Receivers are sub-class of BroadcastReceiver class. E.g.



## **Android's Process Model**

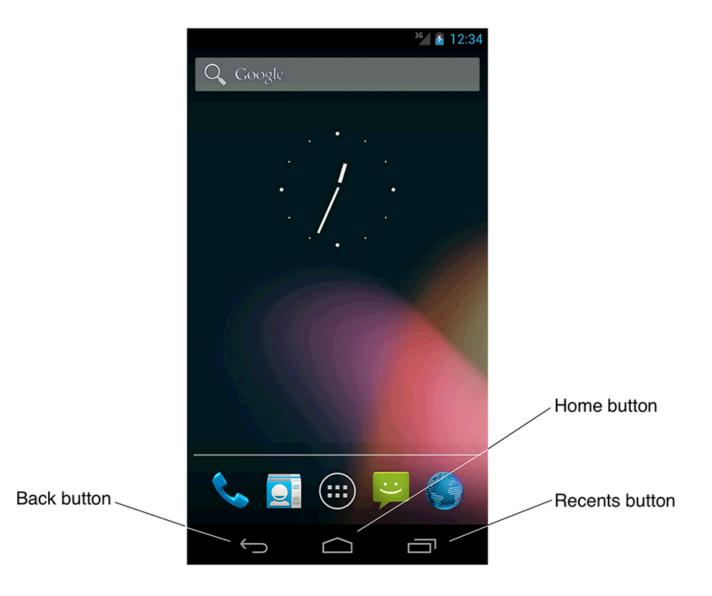




- When user launches an app, Android forks a copy of a process called zygote that receives
  - A copy of of the Virtual Machine (Dalvik)
  - A copy of Android framework classes (e.g. Activity and Button)
  - A copy of user's app classes loaded from their APK file
  - Any objects created by app or framework classes

### **Recall:** Home, Back and Recents Button





# Android Activity Stack (Back vs Home Button)

- Most recently
- Android maintains activity stack created is at Top
- While an app is running,
  - Pressing Back button destroys the app's activity and returns app to whatever user was doing previously (e.g. HOME screen)
  - If Home button is pressed, activity is kept around for some time, NOT destroyed immediately

Activity 1

Activity 2

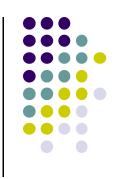
Activity 3

Activity N

User currently interacting with me

Pressing Back or destroying A1 will bring me to the top

If Activities above me use too many resources, I'll be destroyed!





## **Android Activity LifeCycle**

#### **Activity Callbacks**

- Android applications don't start with a call to main(String[])
- Instead callbacks invoked corresponding to app state.
- Activity callbacks:
  - onCreate()
  - onStart()
  - onResume()
  - onPause()
  - onStop()
  - onRestart()
  - onDestroy()
- Examples:
  - When activity is created, its onCreate() method invoked
  - When activity is paused, its onPause() method invoked



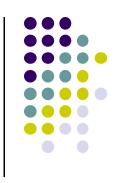




- Many things could happen while app is running
  - Incoming call or text message, user switches to another app, etc
- Well designed app should NOT:
  - Crash if interrupted or user switches to other app
  - Consume valuable system resources when user is not actively using it.
  - Lose the user's state/progress (e.g state of chess game app) if they leave your app and return to it at a later time.
  - Crash or lose the user's progress when the screen rotates between landscape and portrait orientation.
    - E.g. Youtube video should continue at correct point after rotation
- To ensure the above, appropriate callback methods must be invoked appropriately

http://developer.android.com/training/basics/activity-lifecycle/starting.html





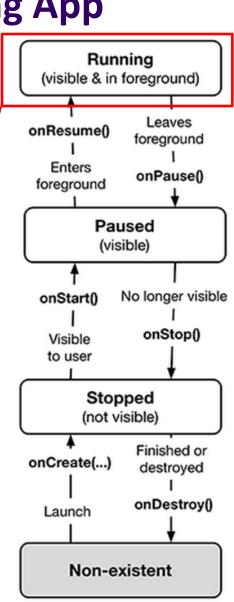
- The following operations are typically performed in onCreate() method:
  - Inflate widgets and put them on the screen (e.g. using layout files with setContentView())
  - Getting references to inflated widgets ( using findViewbyId( ) )
  - Setting widget listeners to handle user interaction
- Note: Android OS calls apps' onCreate() method, NOT the app

**Activity State Diagram: Running App** 

 A running app is one that the user is currently using or interacting with

App is visible and in foreground



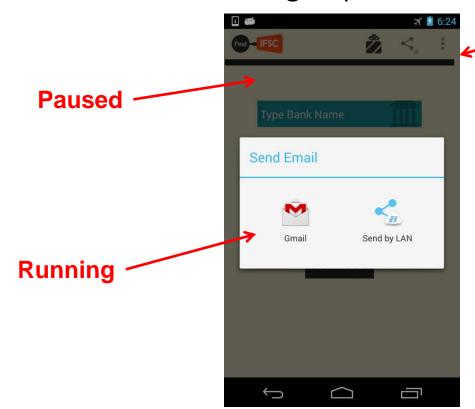


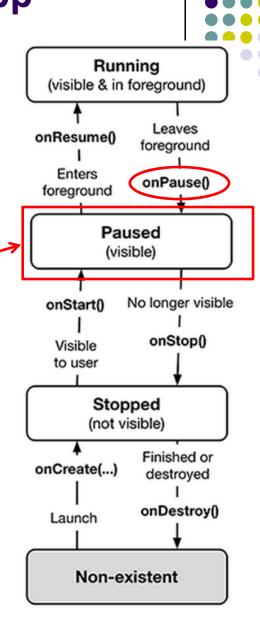
### **Activity State Diagram: Paused App**

 An app is paused if it is visible but no longer in foreground

• E.g. blocked by a pop-up dialog box

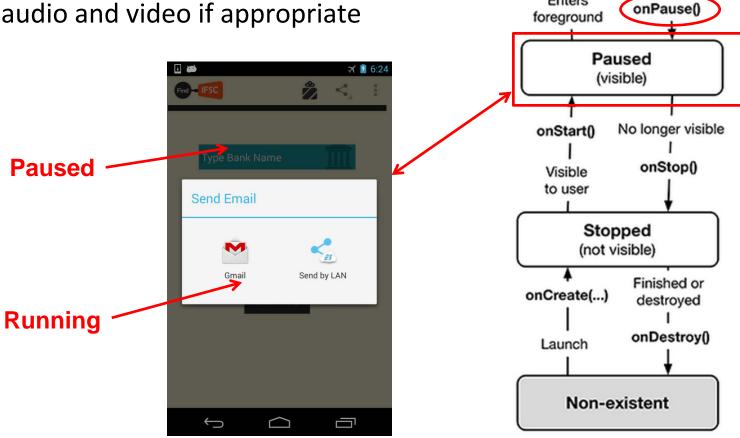
 App's onPause() method is called to transition from running to paused state





#### **Activity State Diagram: onPause() Method**

- Typical actions taken in onPause() method
  - Stop animations and CPU intensive tasks
  - Stop listening for GPS, broadcast information
  - Release handles to sensors (e.g GPS, camera)
  - Stop audio and video if appropriate



Running (visible & in foreground)

onResume()

Enters

Leaves

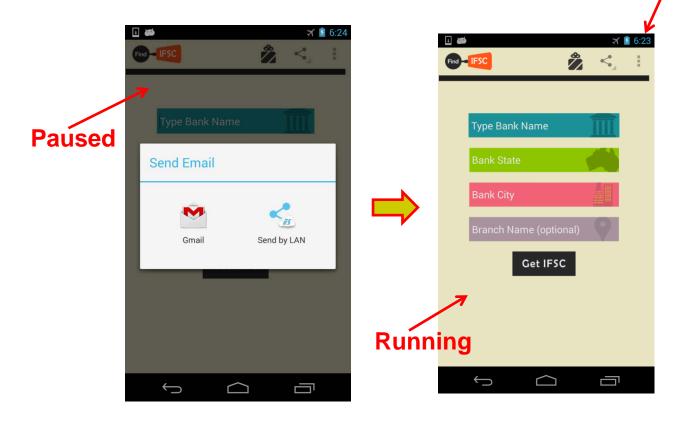
foreground

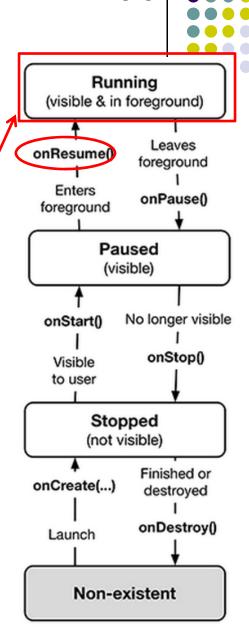
#### **Activity State Diagram: Resuming Paused App**

 A paused app resumes running if it becomes fully visible and in foreground

E.g. pop-up dialog box blocking it goes away

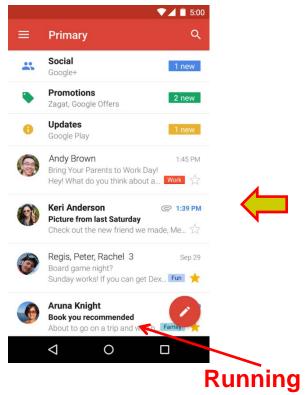
 App's onResume() method is called to transition from paused to running state

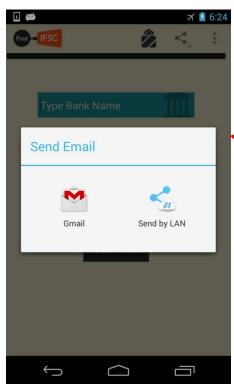


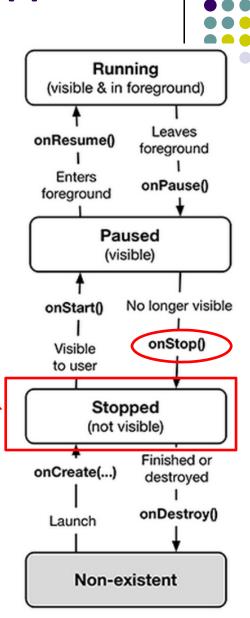


#### **Activity State Diagram: Stopped App**

- An app is stopped if it no longer visible and no longer in foreground
- E.g. user starts using another app
- App's onStop() method is called to transition from paused to stopped state







#### onStop() Method

- An activity is stopped when the user:
  - Receives phone call
  - Opens Recent Apps window and starts a new application
  - Performs action in activity that starts another activity in the application
- Activity instance and variables of stopped app are retained but no code is being executed by the activity







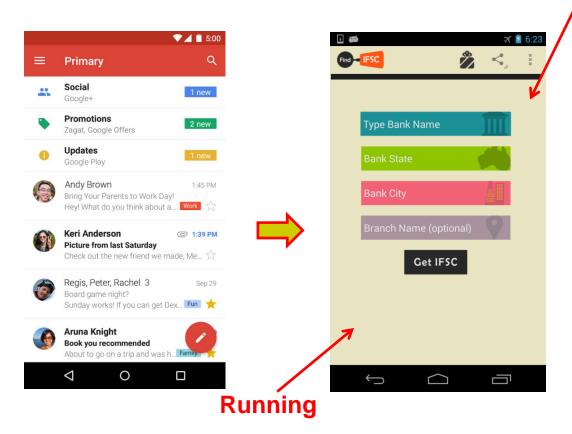
#### **Saving State**

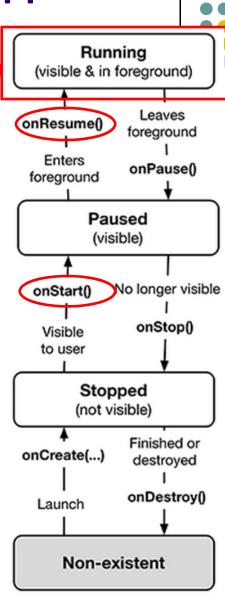
- If activity is stopped, in onStop() method, well behaved apps should
  - save progress (e.g. app state) to enable seamless restart later
  - Release all resources and save information (persistence)
- When activity is destroyed the Activity object is destroyed
  - Can save data by writing it to Bundle (a data structure)
  - Bundle given back when restarted
  - can save information via onSaveInstanceState(Bundle outState) method.

#### **Activity State Diagram: Stopped App**

 A stopped app can go back into running state if becomes visible and in foreground

 App's onStart(), onRestart() and onResume() methods called to transition/ from stopped to running state



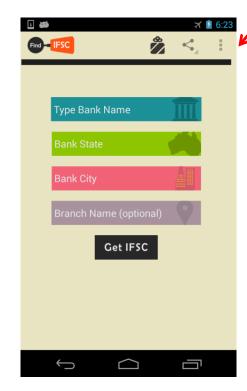


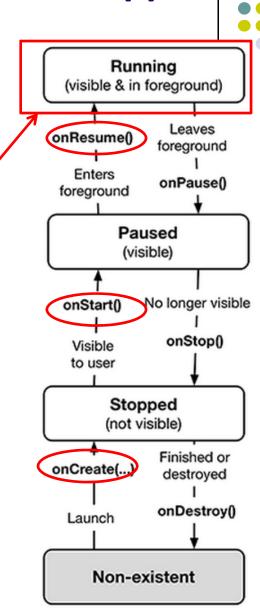
#### **Activity State Diagram: Starting New App**

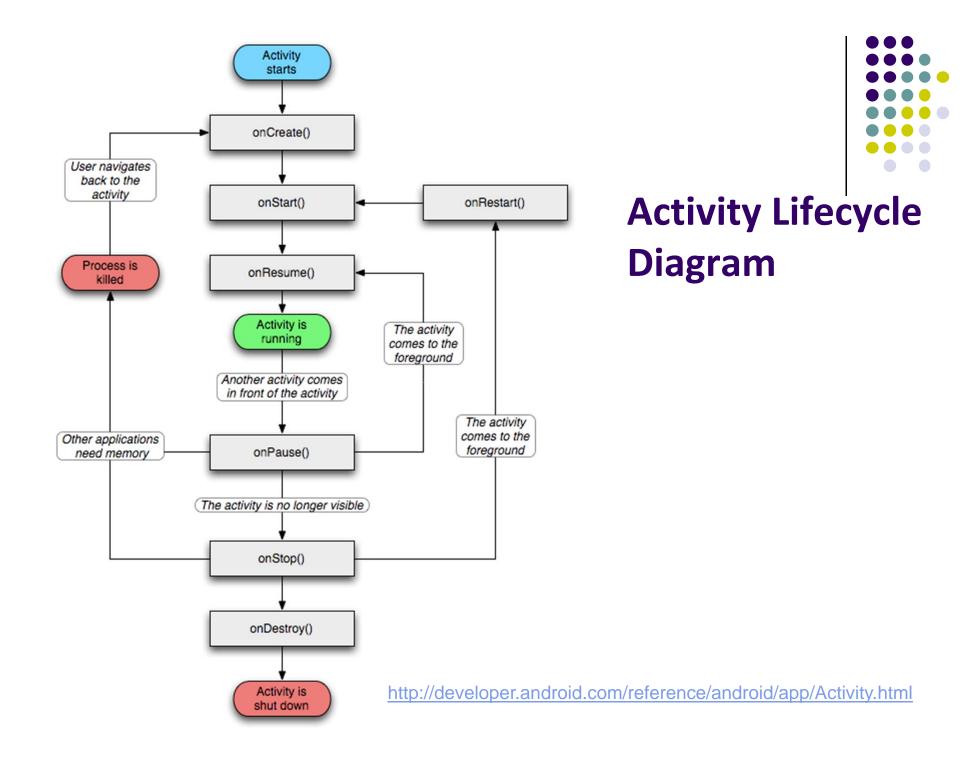
To start new app, app is launched

 App's onCreate(), onStart() and onResume() methods are called

Afterwards new app is running









# Logging Errors in Android



#### **Logging Errors in Android**

- Android can log and display various levels of errors
- Error logging is in Log class of android.util package
- Turn on logging of different message types by calling appropriate method

Method	Purpose	
Log.e()	Log errors	Ref: Introduction to Android Programming, Annuzzi, Darcey & Conder
Log.w()	Log warnings	
Log.i()	Log informational messages	
Log.d()	Log debug messages	
Log.v()	Log verbose messages	

Before calling any logging

import android.util.Log;

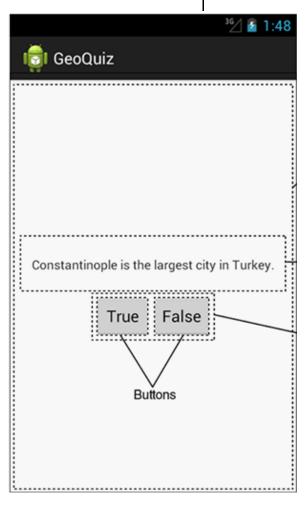
(Logging Error Example: Ref. Android Nerd Ranch pg 53-56)

- A good way to understand Android lifecycle methods is to print debug messages when they are called
- E.g. print debug message from onCreate method below

```
package com.bignerdranch.android.geoquiz;
import android.app.Activity;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.Menu;

public class QuizActivity extends Activity {
    @Override
    public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_quiz);
    }
}
```





(Logging Error Example: Ref. Android Nerd Ranch pg 53-56)



Debug (d) messages have the form

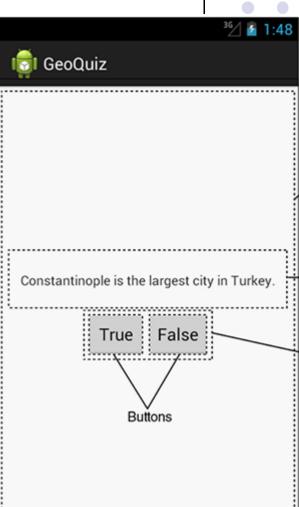
```
public static int d(String tag, String msg)
```

- TAG: Activity sending message (source)
- Declare string for TAG

```
public class QuizActivity extends Activity {
    private static final String TAG = "QuizActivity";
    ...
}
```

Can then print a message in onCreate()

```
Log.d(TAG, "onCreate(Bundle) called");
```

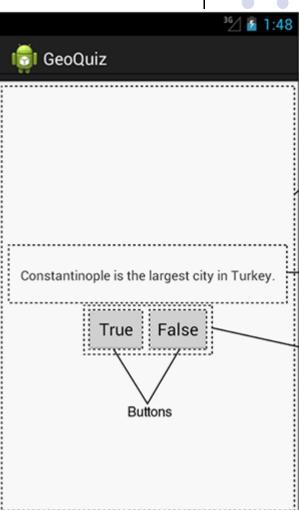


#### (Logging Error Example: Ref. Android Nerd Ranch pg 53-56)

Putting it all together

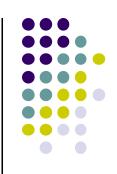
```
public class QuizActivity extends Activity {
    ...

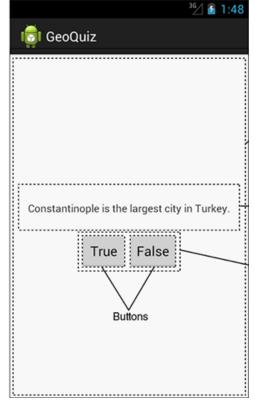
@Override
    public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        Log.d(TAG, "onCreate(Bundle) called");
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_quiz);
    ...
```



- Can overide more lifecycle methods
- Print debug messages from each method
- Superclass calls called in each method
- @Override asks compiler to ensure method exists in super class

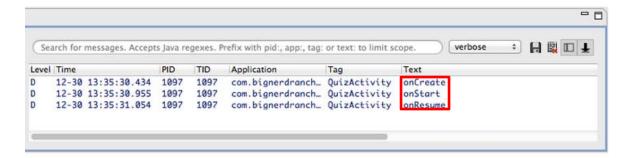
```
} // End of onCreate(Bundle)
@Override
public void onStart() {
    super.onStart();
    Log.d(TAG, "onStart() called");
@Override
public void onPause() {
    super.onPause();
    Log.d(TAG, "onPause() called");
@Override
public void onResume() {
    super.onResume();
    Log.d(TAG, "onResume() called");
@Override
public void onStop() {
    super.onStop();
    Log.d(TAG, "onStop() called");
@Override
public void onDestroy() {
    super.onDestroy();
    Log.d(TAG, "onDestroy() called");
```



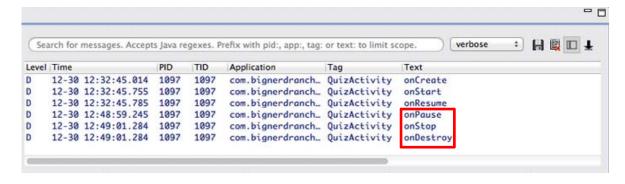


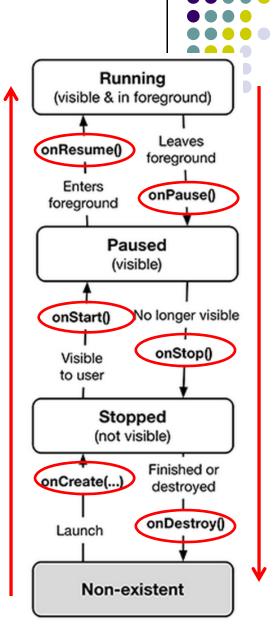
#### **QuizActivity.java Debug Messages**

 Launching GeoQuiz app creates, starts and resumes an activity



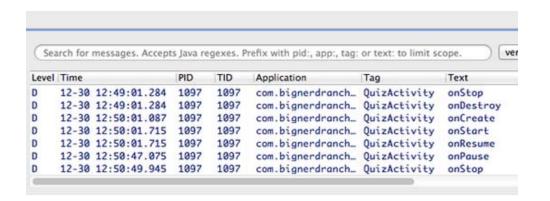
 Pressing Back button destroys the activity (calls onPause, onStop and onDestroy)



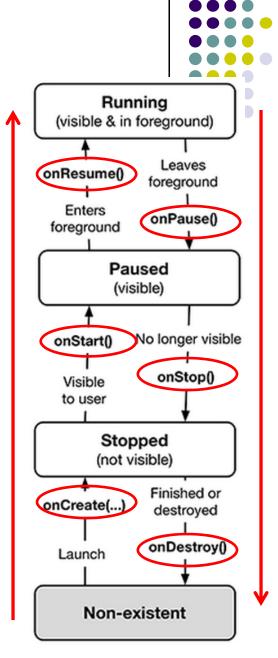


#### **QuizActivity.java** Debug Messages

Pressing Home button stops the activity



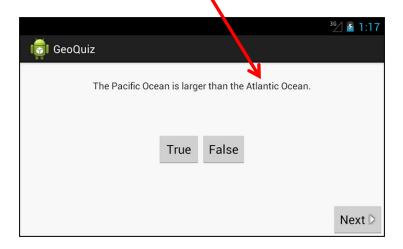
 Rotating device (e.g. portrait to landscape) kills current activity and creates new activity in landscape mode

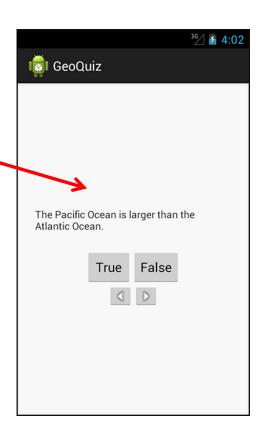


#### **Rotating Device & Device Configuration**

(Ref: Android Nerd Ranch pgs 61-64)

- Rotation changes device configuration
- Device configuration: screen orientation/density/size, keyboard type, dock mode, language, etc.
- Apps can specify different resources to use for different device configurations
- E.g. use different app layouts (XML files) for portrait vs landscape screen orientation



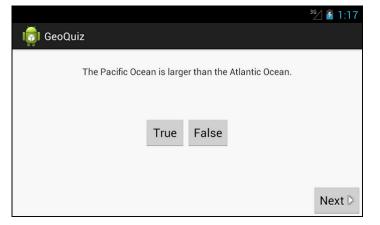


## **Rotating Device & Device Configuration**

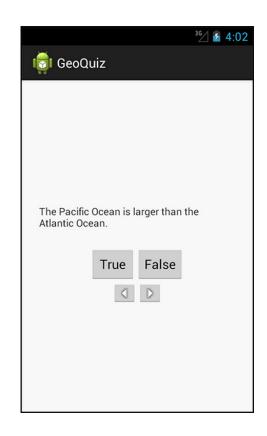
(Ref: Android Nerd Ranch pgs 61-64)

- How to use different app layouts for portrait vs landscape screen orientation?
- When device in landscape, uses resources in res/layout-land/
- Copy XML layout file (activity\_quiz.xml) from res/layout to res/layout-land/ and tailor it
- When configuration changes, current activity destroyed, new activity created, onCreate (setContentView (R.layout.activity\_quiz)

called again

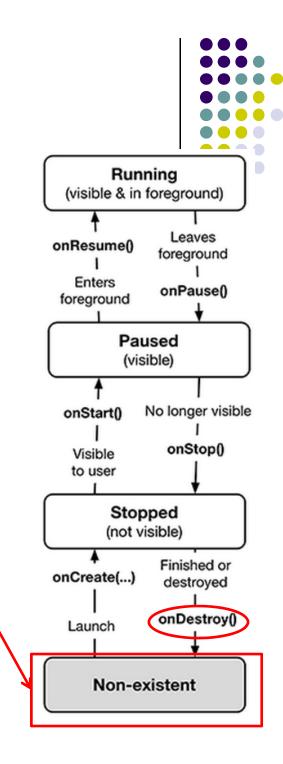






#### **Destroyed Activity**

- Dead, activity terminated (or never started)
- onDestroy() called to destroy a stopped app







- App may be destroyed
  - On its own by calling finish
  - If user presses back button to navigate away from app
  - Normal lifecycle methods handle this onPause() -> onStop() -> onDestroy
- If the system must destroy the activity (to recover resources or on an orientation change) must be able to recreate Activity
- If Activity destroyed with potential to be recreated later, system calls onSaveInstanceState (Bundle outState) method





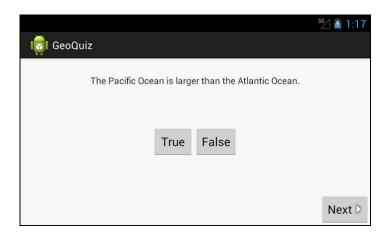
- Systems write info about views to Bundle
- other (app-specific) information must be added by programmer
  - E.g. board state in a board game such as mastermind
- When Activity recreated Bundle sent to onCreate and onRestoreInstanceState()
- use either method to restore state data / instance variables

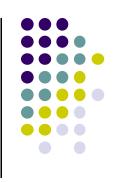


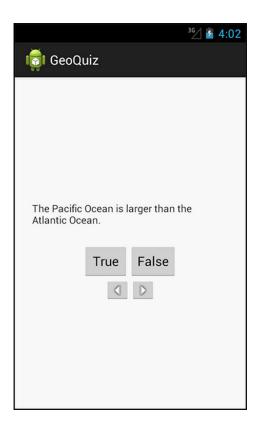
#### **Saving Data Across Device Rotation**

(Ref: Android Nerd Ranch pgs 64-66)

- Since rotation causes activity to be destroyed and new one created, values of variables lost or reset
- To stop lost or reset values, save them using onSaveInstanceState before activity is destroyed
- System calls onSaveInstanceState before onPause(), onStop() and onDestroy()







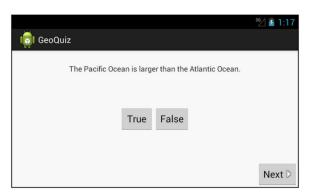
#### **Saving Data Across Device Rotation**

- For example, if we want to save the value of a variable mCurrentIndex during rotation
- First, create a constant as a key for storing data in the bundle

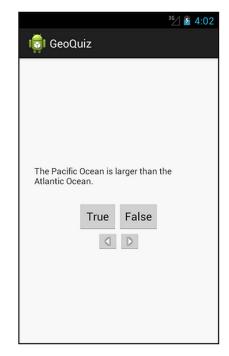
```
private static final String KEY_INDEX = "index";
```

Then override onSaveInstanceState method

```
@Override
public void onSaveInstanceState(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    super.onSaveInstanceState(savedInstanceState);
    Log.i(TAG, "onSaveInstanceState");
    savedInstanceState.putInt(KEY_INDEX, mCurrentIndex);
}
```











- Busy Coder's guide to Android version 4.4
- CS 65/165 slides, Dartmouth College, Spring 2014
- CS 371M slides, U of Texas Austin, Spring 2014