CS 528 Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing Lecture 02b: Android UI Design	
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Resources

Android Resources



- Resources? Images, strings, dimensions, layout files, menus, etc that your app uses
- Basically app elements declared in other files
 - Easier to update, maintain code





Declaring Strings in Strings.xml

• Can declare all strings in strings.xml

String declaration in strings.xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<resources>

<string_name="app_name">EmPublite</string>
<string_name="hello_world">Hello world!</string>

</resources>

• Then reference in any of your app's xml files

android:layout_width="match_parent"
android:layout_height="match_parent"
tools:context=".EmPubLiteActivity">

<TextView

android:layout_width="wrap_content"
android:layout_height="wrap_content"
android:layout_centerHorizontal="true"
android:layout_centerVertical="true"
android:text="@string/hello_world"/>

</RelativeLayout>



Strings in AndroidManifest.xml

• Strings declared in strings.xml can be referenced by all other XML files (activity_my.xml, AndroidManifest.xml)

String declaration in strings.xml

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?> <resources>

<string name<"app_name">EmPubLite</string>
<string name="hello_world">Hello world!</string>

</resources>

String usage in AndroidManifest.xml

<application android:allowBackup="false" android:icon="@drawable/ic launcher" android:label="@string/app_name" android:theme="@style/AppTheme"> <activity android:name="EmPubLiteActivity" android:label="@string/app_name"> <intent-filter> <action android:name="android.intent.action.MAIN"/> <category android:name="android.intent.category.LAUNCHER"/> </intent-filter> </activity> </activity> </application>





Where is strings.xml in Android Studio?

Editting any string in strings.xml changes it wherever it is displayed

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Styled Text



- In HTML, tags can be used for italics, bold, etc
 - E.g. <i> Hello </i> makes text *Hello*
 - Hello makes text Hello
- Can use the same HTML tags to add style (italics, bold, etc) to Android strings

```
<resources>
  <string name="b">This has <b>bold</b> in it.</string>
  <string name="i">Whereas this has <i>italics</i>!</string>
</resources>
```



Android Themes

Styles

- Android widgets have properties
 - E.g. Foreground color = red
- Styles in Android: specifies properties for multiple attributes of 1 widget
 - E.g. height, padding, font color, font size, background color
- Similar to Cascaded Style Sheets (CSS) in HTML
- Themes apply styles to all widgets in an Activity (screen)
 - E.g. all widgets on a screen can adopt the same font
- Example Android themes: Theme, Theme.holo and Theme.material)



Examples of Themes in Use







Settings screen in Holo Dark



Default Themes

- Many pre-defined themes to choose from
- Android chooses a default theme if you specify none







Theme.Holo: default theme in Android 3.0

Theme.Material: default theme in Android 5.0



Adding Pictures in Android

Phone Dimensions Used in Android UI

- Physical dimensions (inches) diagonally
 - E.g. Nexus 4 is 4.7 inches diagonally
- Resolution in pixels
 - E.g. Nexus 4 resolution 768 x 1280 pixels
 - Pixels diagonally: Sqrt[(768 x 768) + (1280 x 1280)]
- Pixels per inch (PPI) =
 - Sqrt[(768 x 768) + (1280 x 1280)] / 4.7= 318





Adding Pictures

- Android supports images in PNG, JPEG and GIF formats
- Put different resolutions of **same image** into different directories
 - **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)

res/drawable-mdpi res/drawable-tvdpi res/drawable-hdpi res/drawable-xhdpi res/drawable-xxhdpi res/drawable-xxxhdpi







Adding Pictures

- Use generic picture name in code (no .png, .jpg, etc)
 - E.g. to reference an image **ic_launcher.png**





Image Asset Studio: generates icons in various densities from original image
 Ref: https://developer.android.com/studio/write/image-asset-studio.html





Android UI Youtube Tutorials

YouTube Tutorial 11 & 12 from thenewBoston

- Tutorial 11: Designing the User Interface [6:19 mins]
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72mf0rmjNAA
 - Designing the UI
 - Adding activity (screen)
 - Dragging in widgets
 - Changing the text in widgets

- Tutorial 12: More on User Interface [10:24 mins]
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72mf0rmjNAA
 - Changing text in widgets
 - Changing strings from hardcoded to string resources (variables)



Tutorial 17: GridLayout

• Tutorial 17: GridLayout [9:40 mins]

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bXOr5Rk1dk

- Creating GridLayout: Layout that places its children in a grid
- Add widgets (buttons) to GridLayout
- Format width, height, position of widgets







WebView Widget

WebView Widget

- A View that displays web pages
 - Can be used for creating your own web browser
 - OR just display some online content inside your app

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WebView Widget

- Since Android 4.4, webviews rendered using:
 - Chromium open source project, engine used in Google Chrome browser (http://www.chromium.org/)



• Webviews on earlier Android versions supported webkit, which is used in many web browsers including Safari





WebView Widget Functionality

- Supports HTML5, CSS3 and JavaScript
- Navigate previous URLs (back and forward)
- zoom in and out
- perform searches
- Can also:
 - Embed images in page
 - Search page for strings
 - Handle cookies

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WebView Example

- Simple app to view and navigate web pages
- XML code (e.g in res/layout/main.xml)





WebView Activity

}

- In onCreate, use loadURL to specify website to load
- If website contains Javascript, enable Javascript
- loadUrl() can also load files on Android local filesystem (file://)

```
public class HelloWebView extends Activity {
    private WebView mWebView;
    @Override
    public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.main);
        mWebView = (WebView) findViewById(R.id.webview);
        mWebView.getSettings() setlavaScriptEnabled(true);
        mWebView.loadUrl("http://m.utexas.edu");
    }
}
```



WebView: Request Internet Access

 In AndroidManifest.xml, request owner of phone to grant permission to use Internet

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<manifest xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    package="scottm.examples"
    android:versionCode="1"
    android:versionName="1.0" >
    <uses-sdk android:minSdkVersion="10" />
    <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INTERNET" />
</uses-permission android:name="android.permission.internet" //>
</uses-permission android:name="android.permission.internet" //>
</uses-permission android:name="android.permission.internet" //>
</uses-permission android:name="android.permission.internet" //>
```





Android UI Design Example

GeoQuiz App

Ref: Android Nerd Ranch (3rd edition), pgs 1-30

- App presents questions to test user's knowledge of geography
- User answers by pressing **True** or **False** buttons
- How to get this book?





GeoQuiz App

- 2 main files:
 - activity_quiz.xml: to format app screen
 - QuizActivity.java: To present question, accept True/False response
- AndroidManifest.xml lists all app components, autogenerated





GeoQuiz: Plan Out App Widgets



• 5 Widgets arranged hierarchically



GeoQuiz: activity_quiz.xml File listing

<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android" 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>





GeoQuiz: strings.xml File listing

- Define all strings app will use
 - Question: "Canberra is.. "
 - True
 - False



strings.xml

<resources>

<string name="app_name">GeoQuiz</string>
<string name="question_text">Canberra is the capital of Australia.</string>
<string name="true_button">True</string>
<string name="false_button">False</string>
</resources>



QuizActivity.java

• Initial QuizActivity.java code



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 Would like java code to respond to True/False buttons being clicked



Responding to True/False Buttons in Java

<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android" ... >

<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:id="@+id/true_button"
android:layout_width="wrap_content"
android:layout_height="wrap_content"
android:text="@string/true_button" />

<Button

android:id="@+id/false_button"
android:layout_width="wrap_content"
android:layout_height="wrap_content"
android:text="@string/false_button" />

</LinearLayout>

</LinearLayout>

Write code in Java file to specify app's response when True/False buttons are clicked





2 Alternative Ways to Respond to Button Clicks

- 1. In XML: set android:onClick attribute (already seen this!!)
- 2. In java create a ClickListener object, override onClick method
 - typically done with anonymous inner class



Recall: Approach 1: Responding to Button Clicks

- May want Button press to trigger some action
- How?
 - 1. In XML file (e.g. Activity_my.xml), set android:onClick attribute to specify method to be invoked

Activity_my.xml

<Button android:onClick="someMethod" ... 2. In Java file (e.g. MainActivity.java) declare method/handler to take desired action

MainActivity.java

public void someMethod(View theButton) {
 // do something useful here



Approach 2: Create a ClickListener object, override onClick

• First, get reference to Button in our Java file. How?





QuizActivity.java: Getting References to Buttons

• To get reference to buttons in java code





QuizActivity.java: Setting Listeners

• Set listeners for True and False button





QuizActivity.java: Adding a Toast

- A toast is a short pop-up message
- Does not require any input or action
- After user clicks True or False button, our app will popup a toast to inform the user if they were right or wrong
- First, we need to add toast strings (Correct, Incorrect) to strings.xml





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GeoQuiz

Canberra is the capital of Australia

QuizActivity.java: Adding a Toast

• To create a toast, call the method:





QuizActivity.java: Adding a Toast

• Code for adding a toast





package com.bignerdranch.android.geoquiz;

import android.app.Activity; import android.os.Bundle; import android.view.Menu; import android.view.View; import android.widget.Button; import android.widget.Toast;

public class QuizActivity extends Activity {

Button mTrueButton; Button mFalseButton;

});

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

```
mTrueButton = (Button)findViewByld(R.id.true_button);
mTrueButton.setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener() {
  @Override
  public void onClick(View v) {
    Toast.makeText(QuizActivity.this,
        R.string.incorrect_toast, Toast.LENGTH_SHORT)
        .show();
  }
```

QuizActivity.java: Complete Listing



mFalseButton = (Button)findViewByld(R.id.false_button); mFalseButton.setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener() {

```
@Override
public void onClick(View v) {
    Toast.makeText(QuizActivity.this,
        R.string.correct_toast, Toast.LENGTH_SHORT)
        .show();
    }
});
```

QuizActivity.java: Complete Listing (Contd)

@Override
public boolean onCreateOptionsMenu(Menu menu) {

// Inflate the menu;

II this adds items to the action bar if it is present.

getMenuInflater().inflate(R.menu.activity_quiz, menu);
return true;

Used if app has an Action bar menu



Quiz 1

Quiz 1

- Quiz next class (Sept 16) before class
- Short answer questions
- Try to focus on understanding, not memorization
- Covers:
 - Lecture slides for lectures 1-2 (including today)
 - YouTube Tutorials (from thenewboston) 1-8, 11,12, 17
 - 3 code examples from books
 - **HFAD examples:** myFirstApp, Beer Advisor
 - ANR example: geoQuiz



Groups for Projects 2,3 and Final Project

- Projects 2,3 and final project done in teams of 4!
 - A bit large for projects 2,3
 - Great for final project?
- Deadline to form groups: by class time on Wed. Sept 16
- How?
 - Form teams of 4
 - ALL members of the group should email me indicating their group
 - List all team members in their email to me
 - I'll put students who don't have groups into groups
- I'll post list of all students in class. Also set up InstructAssist Forum for discussion





EML: Cooperative Based Groups

EML: Cooperative Based Groups

- Japanese students visiting Boston for 2 week vacation
- Speak little English, need help to find
 - Attractions to visit, where to stay (cheap, central), meet Americans, getting around, eat (Japanese, some Boston food), weather info, events, anything
- Your task: Search android market for helpful apps (6 mins)
 - Location-aware: 5 points
 - Ubicomp (e.g. uses sensor) or smartwatch: 10 points
- Also IoT devices they can buy that would help them







Data-Driven Layouts

Data-Driven Layouts

- LinearLayout, RelativeLayout, TableLayout, GridLayout useful for positioning UI elements
 - UI data is hard coded
- Other layouts dynamically composed from data (e.g. database)
 - ListView, GridView, GalleryView
 - Tabs with TabHost, TabControl





Data Driven Layouts

- May want to populate views from a data source (XML file or database)
- Layouts that display repetitive child widgets from data source
 - ListView
 - GridView
 - GalleryView
- ListView
 - Rows of entries, pick item, vertical scroll





Data Driven Containers

- GridView
 - List of items arranged in rows and columns

GridViewT	est			
Abkhazia	Afghanist an	Akrotiri and Dhekelia	Aland	Albania
Algeria	American Samoa	Andorra	Angola	Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda	Argentina	Armenia	Aruba	Ascension Island
Australia	Austria	Azerbaija n	Bahamas, The	Bahrain
Banglades h	Barbados	Belarus	Belgium	Belize
Benin	Bermuda	position 1 Bhutan	5 Bolivia	Bosnia and Herzegovi na
Botewana	Brazil	Brunoi	Bulgaria	Burkina

- GalleryView
 - List with horizontal scrolling, typically images





AdapterView

- ListView, GridView, and GalleryView are sub classes of AdapterView (variants)
- Adapter: generates widgets from a data source, populates layout
 - E.g. Data is adapted into cells of GridView



- Most common Adapter types:
 - **CursorAdapter:** read from database
 - ArrayAdapter: read from resource (e.g. XML file)



Adapters

- When using Adapter, a layout (XML format) is defined for each child element (View)
- The adapter
 - Reads in data (list of items)
 - Creates Views (widgets) using layout for each element in data source
 - Fills the containing layout (List, Grid, Gallery) with the created Views
- Child widgets can be as simple as a TextView or more complex layouts / controls
 - simple views can be declared in a layout XML file (e.g. android.R.layout)

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lorem	
ipsum	
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sit	
amet	
consectetuer	
adipiscing	
elit	
morbi	



Example: Creating ListView using Adapter

• Task: Create listView (on right) from strings below

```
private static final String[] items={"lorem", "ipsum", "dolor",
                                                                     dolor
        "sit", "amet",
        "consectetuer", "adipiscing", "elit", "morbi", "vel",
                                                                     sit
        "ligula", "vitae", "arcu", "aliquet", "mollis",
        "etiam", "vel", "erat", "placerat", "ante",
        "porttitor", "sodales", "pellentesque", "augue", "purus"};
                                                                     amet
                                                                     consectetuer
                                                                     adipiscing
                 Enumerated list
                                                                     elit
                                                                     morbi
                                                        ListView
                                                       of items
```

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😪 ListViewDemo

consectetuer

lorem

ipsum



Example: Creating ListView using AdapterArray







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Using ArrayAdapter

• Command used to wrap adapter around array of menu items or **java.util.List** instance



 E.g. android.R.layout.simple_list_item_1 turns strings into textView widgets



package com.commonsware.android.list;

```
Example: Creating
import android.app.ListActivity;
import android.os.Bundle;
                                              ListView using
import android.view.View;
import android.widget.ArrayAdapter;
                                              AdapterArray
import android.widget.ListView;
import android.widget.TextView;
public class ListViewDemo extends ListActivity {
 private TextView selection;
 private static final String[] items={"lorem", "ipsum", "dolor",
         "sit", "amet",
         "consectetuer", "adipiscing", "elit", "morbi", "vel",
         "ligula", "vitae", "arcu", "aliquet", "mollis",
         "etiam", "vel", "erat", "placerat", "ante",
         "porttitor", "sodales", "pellentesque", "augue", "purus"};
 @Override
 public void onCreate(Bundle icicle) {
   super.onCreate(icicle);
   setContentView(R.layout.main);
                                                                 Set list adapter (Bridge
   Data source and views)
                      android.R.layout.simple list item 1,
                      items));
                                                                 Get handle to TextView
   selection=(TextView)findViewById(R.id.selection);
                                                                 of Selected item
 @Override
 public void onListItemClick(ListView parent, View v, int position,
                             long id) {
                                                         Change Text at top to that
   selection.setText(items[position]);
                                                         of selected view when user clicks
                                                         on selection
```





Mobile HCI

Mobile HCI

- Mobile HCI is important for an enjoyable user experience
- Excerpts from:
 - Bentley, F. and Barrett, E., 2012. *Building mobile experiences*. MIT Press.
- Can't just reuse screens originally designed for desktops. Why?
 - 1. Mobile screen is small, need to manage space better
 - 2. Does your screen look good on wide variety of mobile screen sizes?
 - 3. Can users reach buttons with one hand on different resolutions?
 - 4. Mobile device will be carried into varied, adverse conditions. E.g.
 - 1. Do colors work well indoor vs outdoor, bright vs dim light
 - 2. Are buttons big enough for frozen hands during winter vs summerr







Mobile HCI: Plan out Interaction Flow on Paper

- Example interaction flow of ZoneTag app on paper
 - Ref: Bentley, F. and Barrett, E., 2012. *Building mobile experiences*. MIT Press.



Mobile HCI: Evaluation

- App evaluation: iterative, user-centered
 - In lab (small) then in the field (large)
 - On wide variety of devices
 - Most poor ratings on Google Play app store are "doesn't work on my device"
- Example: Android mobile developer tests each game on over 400 different smartphones and tablets
 - Screens
 - Aspect ratios
 - Form factors
 - Controls
 - OS versions
 - CPU/GPU
 - OpenGL/DirectX versions...... etc





References



- 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
- Android App Development for Beginners videos by Bucky Roberts (thenewboston)
- Head First Android
- Android Nerd Ranch, Third Edition

References



- Android App Development for Beginners videos by Bucky Roberts (thenewboston)
- Ask A Dev, Android Wear: What Developers Need to Know, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTS2NZpLyQg
- Ask A Dev, Mobile Minute: What to (Android) Wear, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5Yjzn3b_aQ
- Busy Coder's guide to Android version 4.4
- CS 65/165 slides, Dartmouth College, Spring 2014
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