



Lecture 1

Introduction to Android

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Today's Topics

- Android Introduction
- Building your first app!

Android

What is Android?

- An open source software stack that includes
 - Operating system
 - Linux operating system kernel that provides low level interface with the hardware, memory management, and process control.
 - Middleware
 - A run time to execute Android applications including Dalvik virtual machine (and the more recent ART runtime) and core libraries.
 - Key mobile applications
 - Email, SMS, PIM, web browser, and etc.
 - Along with API libraries for writing mobile applications.
 - Including open-source libraries such as SQLite, WebKit, and OpenGL ES.
- Open-source development platform for creating mobile applications.

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- Complete
 - A complete set of software for mobile devices: an OS, middleware, and key mobile apps.
- Open
 - It was built to truly open.
- Equal
 - All apps are created equal.
 - No different between the phone's core apps and third-party apps.
 - Equal access to a phone's capabilities.
- **Breaking down app boundaries**
- Fast & easy app development

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Android SDK Features

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- No licensing, distributions, or development fees or release approval processes.
 - GSM, EDGE, and 3G networks for telephony and data transfer
 - Full multimedia hardware control
 - APIs for using sensor hardware including accelerometer and the compass.
 - APIs for location based services
 - IPC
 - Shared data storage
 - Background applications and processes.
 - Home screen widgets, Live Folders.
 - HTML5 WebKit-based web browser
 - And many more...
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Android SDK

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- The Android SDK includes
 - The Android APIs
 - The core of the SDK
 - Development tools
 - These tools let you compile and debug your app.
 - The Android Virtual Device Manager and Emulator
 - Android Emulator:
 - You can see how your applications will look and behavior on a real Android device
 - All Android applications run within Dalvik VM / ART run time.
 - Documentations
 - Sample code

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Introducing the Development Framework

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Android Studio: IDE

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- Android Studio
 - New IDE from Google
 - Uses Gradle for building the apps and packages.
- There was no dedicated IDE for Android from Google prior to Android Studio
- Eclipse IDE:
 - Android has a special plug-in for Eclipse IDE (ADT Plugin for Eclipse) for creating Android projects.
 - ADT Plugin tightly integrates Eclipse with the Android Emulator and debugging tools.
- ADT Bundle
 - Eclipse with the ADT Plugin.

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Application Framework

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- Android offers developers the ability to build rich and innovative applications.
- Developers have full access to the **same** framework APIs used by the core applications.
- Underlying all applications is a set of services, including
 - View System
 - can be used to build an application, including lists, grids, text boxes, buttons, and even an embeddable web browser
 - Content Providers
 - enable applications to access data from other applications (such as Contacts), or to share their own data
 - A Resource Manager
 - provides access to non-code resources such as localized strings, graphics, and layout files
 - A Notification Manager
 - enables all applications to display custom alerts in the status bar
 - An Activity Manager
 - manages the lifecycle of applications and provides a common navigation backstack

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Android Software Stack

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Android architecture



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Libraries

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- A set of C/C++ libraries used by various components of the Android system.
 - System C library
 - Tuned for embedded Linux-based devices
 - Media Libraries
 - Based on PacketVideo's OpenCORE; the libraries support playback and recording of many popular audio and video formats, as well as static image files
 - Surface Manager
 - Manages access to the display subsystem and seamlessly composites 2D and 3D graphic layers from multiple applications
 - LibWebCore
 - A modern web browser engine which powers both the Android browser and an embeddable web view
 - SGL/ 3D libraries
 - SGL: underlying 2D graphics engine
 - An implementation based on OpenGL ES 1.0 APIs; the libraries use either hardware 3D acceleration (where available) or the included, highly optimized 3D software rasterizer
 - FreeType
 - bitmap and vector font rendering
 - SQLite
 - A powerful and lightweight relational database engine available to all applications

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Android Run-time

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- Android includes a set of core libraries that most of the functionality available in the core libraries of the Java programming language.
- Every Android app runs in its own process with its own instance of the Dalvik virtual machine or ART runtime.
- The Dalvik VM executes files in the Dalvik Executable (.dex) format. Dalvik uses a Just-in-Time model (JIT).
- ART, a new runtime. It is compatible with DEX. ART uses Ahead-of-Time model (AOT) for improved performance.

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Java

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- A programming language
 - Syntax is very similar to C++ but different!
- A virtual platform
 - Java virtual machine is a software machine or hypothetical chip.
 - Note: The Dalvik virtual machine in Android is optimized for small footprint machine.
 - Bytecodes (cross-platform binary code)
 - .class binary file of bytecodes
- A class libraries
 - APIs for GUI, data storage, I/O, networking, and etc.

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Java

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Java language

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- No code outside of the class definition.
- Single inheritance only.
- Only one top level public class in a file
 - The file name should be same as the public class name.

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Java Bytecode & Virtual Machine

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- Bytecode (the `class` file) is an intermediate representation of the program.
 - You can consider bytecode as the machine code of the Java Virtual Machine.
- Java interpreter starts up a new virtual machine when it runs a Java bytecode.

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Passing Arguments

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- Primitive type:
 - Pass by value:
 - The called method has a copy of the value.
 - The method cannot pass changed value in the argument to the caller.
- Reference type:
 - Pass by reference:
 - The called method has a copy of the reference.
 - The method accesses the same object!

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Package and Reference

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- Packages and import
 - A package is a bunch of classes and interfaces.
 - Library of classes
 - You can import packages that you need.
 - Example) `import android.os.Bundle`
- Reference
 - No pointers!
 - Java doesn't have pointer variables.
 - Reference variables are equivalent in concept.
 - Objects and Arrays are reference types
 - Primitive types are stored as values

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Inheritance

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- Keyword **extends** to inherit from a superclass.

■ Example

```
package edu.kettering.hellokettering;

import android.os.Bundle;

public class HelloKettering extends AppCompatActivity {
    /** Called when the activity is first created. */
    @Override
    public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.main);
    }
}
```

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Developing for Mobile Apps

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Design Considerations

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- Small and portable mobile devices
 - Offer exciting opportunities for software development.
 - But consider limitations
 - Low processor power
 - Limited RAM/permanent storage capacity
 - Small screen size
 - High costs associated with data transfer
 - Slow data transfer rates with high latency
 - Unreliable data connections
 - Battery life!
- Designing for Android
 - Performance
 - Responsiveness
 - Seamlessness

Designing for Performance

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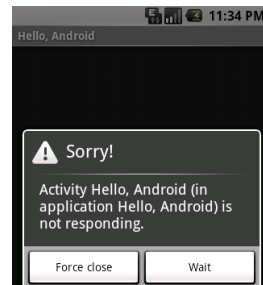
- Being fast and efficient
 - <http://developer.android.com/training/articles/perf-tips.html>
 - Avoid creating short-term temporary objects.
 - Fewer objects created mean less-frequent garbage collection
 - Avoid internal getter/setters
 - Excellent habits for C++, but not for Android.
 - Direct field access is about 7x faster than invoking a trivial getter/setter.
 - Use `static final` for constants
 - Use `enhance` for loop syntax

Designing for Responsiveness

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Application Not Responding (ANR)

- Activity Manager and Window Manager monitor application responsiveness.
- Android display the ANR dialog when it detects one of following conditions
 - No response to an input event within 5 seconds
 - A `BroadcastReceiver` hasn't finished executing within 10 seconds
- How to avoid ANR?
 - When an Android app runs on a single thread, any lengthy operation (network, database, computationally expensive calculation) could invoke the ANR.
 - Consider making a child thread to do the lengthy operation.



Designing for Seamlessness

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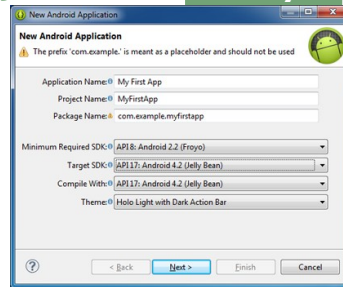
- Your application can cause problems under the multitasking environment when you ignore seamlessness issues.
- Be a good citizen!
 - Save instance state
 - Keep in mind that Android is a mobile platform.
 - Another app can pop up anytime over your own app
 - Use a thread when you need to do a lot.
 - Avoid the ANR.
 - Use multiple screens when necessary.
 - Design your UI to work with multiple screen resolutions
 - Assume the network is slow
 - Don't assume touchscreen or keyboard
 - Do conserve the device battery

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Creating an Android Project

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- Application Name
 - App name: appears to users.
- Project Name
 - Name for your project directory.
- Package Name
 - Must be unique across all packages on the Android system.
 - For this, use the reverse domain name of your organization.
- Minimum Required SDK
 - The lowest version of Android that your app supports.
- Target SDK
 - The highest version of Android with which you have tested with your app.



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Building Your First App

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Directories and Files

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- AndroidManifest.xml
 - It describes the fundamental characteristics of the app.
- src/
 - Your app's main source files.
- res/
 - Contains several sub dirs.
 - drawable-hdpi/
 - Drawable objects (bitmaps) for high-density screen.
 - layout/
 - Files that define your app's user interface
 - values/
 - XML files that contains a collection of resources

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Using a Real Device

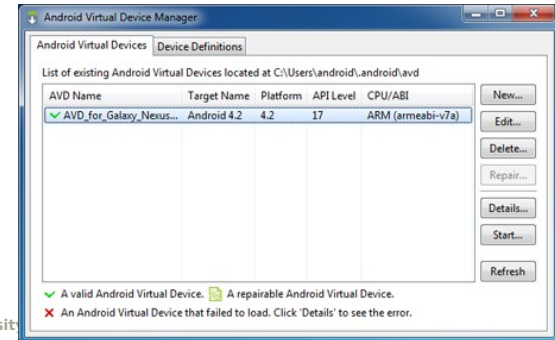
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- Enable USB debugging on your device.
 - Settings > Applications > Development for Android 3.2 or older
 - Settings > Developer options for Android 4.0 or newer.
 - This menu item is hidden.
 - **Settings > About phone** and find **Build number** item. Tap it seven times.

Using the Emulator

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- Android Virtual Device (AVD) must be created.
 - Window > Android Virtual Device Manager.
 - Device Definitions tab.
 - Choose Nexus 4 by Google.
 - Click Create AVD...



Building a User Interface

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View and ViewGroup

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- View objects are UI widgets such as buttons and text fields.
- ViewGroup objects are *invisible* view containers.
 - Define how the child views are laid out. (e.g. grid or vertical list).
- Open activity_main.xml from res/layout/
- Layout
 - Relative/Linear/Absolute/Frame/Table/GridLayout
 - We will cover these in a lecture later.
- Also see the more recent construct called Fragments.
 - Modular design enables easier composition of multiple View-like objects for large screens.

Add a Text Field

```
<EditText
    android:id="@+id/editText1"
    android:layout_width="wrap_content"
    android:layout_height="wrap_content"
    android:layout_alignLeft="@+id/textView1"
    android:layout_below="@+id/textView1"
    android:layout_marginTop="17dp"
    android:ems="10">
```

- Place the Text Field at below of textView1.
- Take a peek in activity_main.xml
 - id: a unique id for the view.
 - The @ sign is required to refer to any resource object from XML
 - The + sign to **define** a resource id. The id will be automatically generated by the SDK tools.
 - layout_width/height: size of the view
 - wrap_content: as big as needed to fit the contents of the view.
 - layout_alignLeft/below: relative layout.
 - layout_marginTop: top margin.
 - em: a unit of width in the field the typography.

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Respond to the Send Button

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- Add "android:onClick attribute to the Button and set its attribute "sendMessage"
- Open the MainActivity class (src/)
- Add this corresponding method.
 - `/** Called when the user clicks the Send button */`
`public void sendMessage(View view) {`
 `// Do something in response to button`
}
- This generates an error:
 - Automatic Building!
 - Suggests possible fixes.
 - Select "import View"
 - `import android.view.View;` is automatically added.

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Add a Button

```
<Button
    android:id="@+id/button1"
    android:layout_width="wrap_content"
    android:layout_height="wrap_content"
    android:layout_alignBottom="@+id/editText1"
    android:layout_alignParentRight="true"
    android:text="@string/button_send"/>
```

- Change the Text, "Button" to "Send."
- Using a String resource
 - res/values/strings.xml
 - Add "button_send" with "Send" as its value.

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Accessing to a View

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findViewById

- A special class R!
 - All resource IDs are defined in your project's R class.
 - The R class is generated by the SDK tool.
- Accessing to a resource:
 - In XML: `@type/id`
 - In code: `R.type.id`
 - Example) a string resource hello (@string/hello) can be accessed by the name **R.string.hello**.
- Add this code to the **sendMessage** method.
 - `EditText editText1 = (EditText)findViewById(R.id.editText1);`
 - `TextView textView1 = (TextView)findViewById(R.id.textView1);`
 - `textView1.setText(editText1.getText());`

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Questions?