

Team Number: 16

TDT4240 SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE

Bomb Hunt Requirements Android

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Primary Quality Attribute:

MODIFIABILITY
Seconday Quality Attribute(s):
USABILITY, PERFORMANCE AND INTEROPERABILITY

PRESENTED TO
ALF INGE WANG

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Contents

Introduction	5
Requirement Phase	5
Document Description	5
Vision Statement	6
Project Goals	6
Project Scope	6
Game Concept	6
Market Positioning	9
Business Opportunities	9
Product Position Declaration	10
Functional Requirements	11
Quality Requirements	15
Modifiability	15
Usability	19
Performance	20
Interoperability	21
COTS Components and Technical Constraints	22
LibGDX	22
Tiled	22
Bfxr	22
Artemis-odb	23
Android	23
Google Play Game Services or Other Solutions	24
Issues	25
Team Formation	25
First Delivery Deadline	$\frac{25}{25}$
Graphics	25
Peer-to-Peer Connection	$\frac{25}{25}$
Changes	26

Glossary 27

List of Figures

1	Gameplay of the original Bomberman on NES (1983)	7
2	Bomberman mobile in action by Fejer	6
3	Use Case Diagram of the <i>Bomb Hunt</i> game	14
4	Current Distribution of the Android Plateform Versions	24

List of Tables

1	Functional requirements - Deployment	11
2	Functional requirements - Gameplay	12
3	Functional requirements - Statistics Tracking	13
4	Functional requirements - Game Setting	13
5	Functional requirements - Licensing and Attribution	13
6	Quality Requirement Scenario - Modifying existing graphics	15
7	Quality Requirement Scenario - Modifying existing audio components	16
8	Quality Requirement Scenario - Modifying logic of an existing component	16
9	Quality Requirement Scenario - Adding new powerup item	16
10	Quality Requirement Scenario - Adding new character	17
11	Quality Requirement Scenario - Adding new map	17
12	Quality Requirement Scenario - Adding new achievement	17
13	Quality Requirement Scenario - Modifying score calculation algorithm	18
14	Quality Requirement Scenario - Modifying database structure	18
15	Quality Requirement Scenario - First-time play	19
16	Quality Requirement Scenario - Introduction to multiplayer mode	19
17	Quality Requirement Scenario - Modify game through settings	20
18	Quality Requirement Scenario - Client receives data from server	20
19	Quality Requirement Scenario - Periodic client update	21
20	Quality Requirement Scenario - Player wants to initiate a multiplayer room .	21

Introduction

Requirement Phase

The first phase of this project is the requirements phase. The main objective of this phase is the creation of specification document which will serves as a guideline for the following phases. Different aspects of the project will be analyzed during this phase such as the goals, the scope and the market positioning of the desired product. A list of functional requirements and Quality Attributes (QAs) that should be fulfilled by the application will be established in order to precisely define the agreement between the different stakeholders. Moreover, a list of constraint and issues will be dressed so that their impact will be foreseen and the risk to face them minimized. Once all these information will have been gathered, it will be possible to identify the Architecturally Significant Requirements (ASRs) specific to the application. [Bass, 2013, Chapter 16]

Document Description

In this report, we first describe the goals and scope of the project followed by the game concept and the expected market positioning of the final product (Vision Statement). Next, a list of the functional requirements and the quality requirements will be presented in the chapters Functional Requirements and Quality Requirements respectively. The chapter COTS Components and Technical Constraints will discuss about the choices of the Commercial off-the-shell (COTS) components and their impact on the software architecture. The main issues and concerns of the project will also be available in the chapter Issues. Since the following document will be updated with the advancement of the project, a log of changes will be maintained (Changes). Take note that a glossary describing the technical expressions can be found at the end of the report.

Techniques and notations used in this document follow recommendations of Bass [2013] and Larman [2005].

Vision Statement

Project Goals

The goal of this project is to develop a multiplayer game called *Bomb Hunt*. In this game, the users will incarnate a gladiator trying to make its way into a labyrinth to find and defeat its opponents to accumulate points. In addition to the multi player mode, the player will also have the opportunity to play the game on a single player mode where the goal will be to survive as long as possible by resisting to different waves of ennemies spawning. A tutorial mode will also be developed to make the introduction of the game and its different components much easier to the inexperienced users. A more in-depth description of the game concept is available in the section Game Concept.

Project Scope

The Bomb Hunt will be developed in the context of the group project for the course TDT4240 SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE. The project will be lead by a team of 4 developers that will work part-time for the next 3 months. The best case scenario would have been to find an artist to optimize the aesthetic part of the application.

The application should minimally work on any Android platform that has the necessary utilities to download and execute Android Package (APK) files. Even if this project is mainly dedicated to educational purposes and bounded to a learning context, the team members would like to officially publish the game and maintain it after the end of the semester.

Game Concept

As mentioned before, the concept of the game we are planning to develop is inspired from the vintage video game series called *Bomberman* first developed in 1983 by Hudson Soft. In those game, the user usually incarnate a robot that try to find its way out of the maze by destroying walls and find the key that will open the door to the next level. Multi player versions of this game has been developed since 1990, but for long time remained a side feature of the original single player game. Wikipedia contributors [2018]

Even if this game has been commercialized under new official console versions for more than 20 years, we still think that this concept can be pushed forward by the addition of new

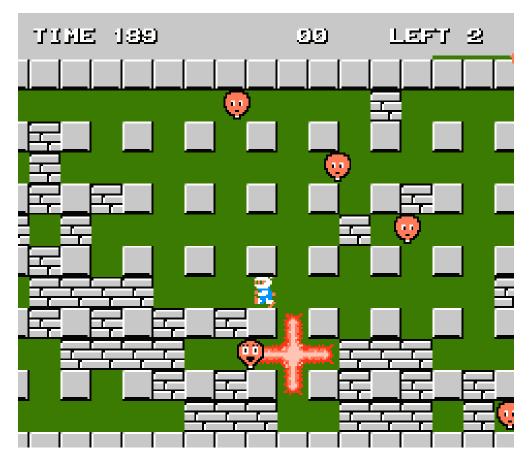


Figure 1: Gameplay of the original Bomberman on NES (1983)

characters, items, maps, abilities, etc. and by creating a mobile version out of it. Despite this long success story, Bomberman series did not see any new version released from 2010 to 2016. Its latest version at the moment is called $Super\ Bomberman\ R$ and is focusing on the multiplayer gameplay on a really similar way that we are about to do.

In our versions of the game, all the basic elements of the game will be conserved.

- ▶ 2D maze where the character can only move up, down, right or left
- ▶ Mix of destructible and indestructible walls
- ▶ Items dropping off the destroyed walls

The new elements added will mostly be related to the special abilities of the each character. Some examples of those abilities are defusing bombs, building walls, summoning Non-Player Characters (NPCs) and kicking bombs. Great care will be needed to balance the cool down of those special abilities to avoid some characters to be over-powered comparatively to the others. Moreover, we are planning to use bigger maps and smaller camera view that will allow us to use more detailed graphics and to add additional difficulty to the game since a

given user will not necessarily know what is happening on the rest of the map.

We are expecting the gameplay to be fast and to be flexible enough to account for many strategies. Users will be rushed to find the opponents to avoid that they build too much in force. For this part, we are planing to build a skill upgrading system that will introduce some variations depending on the character. Those variations will create some characters that will be stronger in early fights and some others that will only reach their full capacities around the end of the match. Also, the point system will be created in such a way that the only real way to make points will be to tear down the other users whereas breaking walls will only account for small amount of points. These dynamics will necessarily push the opponents to engage the fight faster.

Another interesting aspect of the game will be the accumulation of badges according to the way the users are playing the game. Based on the statistics, the different badges will be unlocked. Down here is a short list of achievements that is currently considered to be included in the game.

Collateral Dommage

Kamikaze

Kill 3 adversaries at the same time

Eliminate everybody on the map (including you) and win the match

Excavator

Veteran

Destroy 1000 walls

Play 100 Matches

Furthermore, all the users of the application will be ranked according to their overall statistics. This overall score will have to take several parameters into consideration to favor active users and distinguish skilled users at the same time.

Due to the simplicity of the gameplay, some efforts will be necessary in order to attract modern users by using smooth graphics and intuitive User Interface (UI). Some mobile versions of this game have already been created. The Figure 2 show one of these that we found particularly nice in terms of the graphical interface. We expect ending up with something that looks somewhat similar to this.



Figure 2: Bomberman mobile in action by Fejer

Market Positioning

Business Opportunities

Nowadays, mobile applications are not seen as something really extraordinary anymore. Their easy accessibility by the end-users joint to the rapidity of their development and deployment have lead to the creation of countless number of them, especially games. It is harder and harder to find new game concept that will be completely different as something that already exists somewhere else. Nevertheless, some games are still able to stand out themselves in this ocean of pastime.

Most of these outstanding games have somewhat the following set of features:

- ▶ Easy to learn and use
- ▶ Nice graphics and animations
- ▶ Can be played for 1 minute or hours
- $\,\blacktriangleright\,$ Have some real challenges involved

► Constantly requests the attention of the user (fast gameplay)

With our concept, we think that most of these elements have been reunited, but having those is not necessarily a direct way to success and the only way to know it will be when the game will have been published.

On the other hand, creating mobile games is still considered as an open market comparatively to console games development where only few giant companies have sufficient money and staff to try their chance.

Overall, the team does not expect to get money out of this project, but, since they are obliged to develop this game, they will make their best to have a nice final product that **may** lead to some returns through advertisements.

Product Position Declaration

Bomb Hunt is developed for a very diverse clientele of any age and culture wishing to have some good moments during their spare times independently of their location. The main aspect of the game that we think will make it different from the other games available or variants of the Bomberman concept is the real-time interaction between the different users. Instead of trying to create any kind of sophisticated Artificial Intelligence (AI), users will have to compete against each others. Another trilling aspect is the tracking of the user statistics that will allow them to unlock achievements badges and the ranking of the users. We will also develop the game in such a way that the addition of new features such as characters, items and maps will be easy to perform. This modifiability will allow us to keep the active users interested in the game and to have new things to exploit and discover along their play time. We must however keep in mind that the vast majority of our customers will probably be aged from 6 to 18 years old. Hence, the animations should not be to crude while at the same time remains funny. Finally, the game will provide a platform allowing the users to defeat their friends in a bombing skirmish, thus main purpose of this application is recreative.

Functional Requirements

In this chapter, an exhaustive list of all the functional requirements will be established. For each requirement, an unique ID, a description and a prioritization measure will be identified. The priority measure will be based on the Must Have, Should Have, Could Have, Won't have (MoSCoW) technique Brennan [2009] ¹. The unique ID will only be used for easy referencing and task splitting accross the development team.

First things first, the Figure 3 presents the use case diagram that provides the main functionalities that the game should have. This diagram is at the center of the different functional requirements that will be enumerated below. From the figure, we can identify 5 categories of use cases ²:

- ▶ Deployment (D)
- ▶ Gameplay (P)
- ► Statistics Tracking (T)
- ► Game Setting (S)
- ▶ Licensing and Attribution (L)

Those categories will be used to refine and group together related functional requirements.

UID	Description	Priority
FR.D.1.1	User should be able to install the application	M
FR.D.1.2	User should be able to un-install the application	${ m M}$
FR.D.2.1	Installation should be performed via Google Play Store	${ m M}$
FR.D.2.2	Un-installation should be available via Google Play Store	${ m M}$
FR.D.3.1	Installation of the application should not require the intervention of the user	Μ
FR.D.3.2	Un-installation of the application should not require the intervention of the user	M

Table 1: Functional requirements - Deployment

¹Nomenclature used: M - Must Have, S - Should Have, C - Could Have, and W - Won't have

²Those categories are not explicitly illustrated on the Figure 3.

$\overline{\mathbf{UID}}$	Description	Priority
FR.P.1.1	The user should be able to control game with touch gestures	M
FR.P.1.2	The user should be able to control its character with virtual joystick and virtual buttons	M
FR.P.2.1	The user should have an in-game menu	S
FR.P.2.2	The user should be able to quit to main menu while in-game	S
FR.P.2.3	The user should be able to quit the game from the main menu	С
FR.P.2.4	The game should not pause when the in-game menu is chosen while playing in multiplayer mode	Н
FR.P.2.5	The game should pause when the in-game menu is chosen while playing in single player mode	S
FR.P.3.1	The user should be able to choose different game modes from the menu	S
FR.P.3.2	The user should be able to select different characters	S
FR.P.3.3	The user should be able to select different map	\mathbf{C}
FR.P.4.1	The user should be able to customize the appearance of the characters	W
FR.P.4.2	The user should be able to create custom maps	W
FR.P.5.1	The user should be able to chat with its opponents	W
FR.P.6.1	The user should be able to play the game in multiplayer mode	M
FR.P.6.2	The user should be able to play the game in multiplayer mode	S
FR.P.7.1	If the player gets hurt by another player or enemy the player should lose health	M
FR.P.7.2	If destroyable map elements get hurt by the player, the element should accumulate damages	M
FR.P.7.3	When walls get destroyed, different powerups should randomly spawn	S
FR.P.7.4	If the player collides with a powerup, the player should get that powerup	Н
FR.P.8.1	The user should be correctly assigned to a match when waiting in the lobby	Η
FR.P.8.2	The user should not wait to long before getting assigned to a match	Н
FR.P.8.3	The user should be able to invite its friends	S
FR.P.9.1	The user should be able to ask for a rematch at the end of a match	${f S}$
FR.P.9.2	If a rematch is asked by the players, a single match should be created for all the players having voted for the rematch	S
FR.P.9.3	When a match is found all the players, a countdown should be initiated before the launch of the match	S
FR.P.9.4	Two incomplete matches should be combined to create a single and complete one	S

Table 2: Functional requirements - Gameplay

12

\mathbf{UID}	Description	Priority
FR.T.1.1	The user should be able to link his Google Play account	S
FR.T.2.1	The user should be able to consult his ranking on a leaderboard	Н
FR.T.2.2	The leaderboard should show a view specific to the users friends	\mathbf{C}
FR.T.3.1	The statistics should be accumulated and stored in a dedicated database	Н
FR.T.4.1	The statistics should enable the user to unlock achievements	Н
FR.T.4.2	The user should be able to know what he has to do in order to unlock the achievements	S
FR.T.4.3	The user should be able to consult the achievements he has earned so far	Н
FR.T.4.4	The accumulation of achievements should have an impact on the leaderboard score	S
FR.T.5.1	The user should be aware of how to enhance his score	\mathbf{C}
FR.T.5.2	The score should favor active users	${ m S}$
FR.T.5.3	The score should be able to distinguish between skilled and unskilled users	Н

Table 3: Functional requirements - Statistics Tracking

UID	Description	Priority
FR.S.1.1	The user should be able to turn off sound FX	
FR.S.1.2	The user should be able to turn off music	Н
FR.S.2.1	The settings should be saved in configuration files in order to avoid	Н
	the user to constantly modify them	

Table 4: Functional requirements - Game Setting

UID	Description	Priority
FR.L.1.1	The user should be aware of the license	M
FR.L.2.1	The user should be able to consult the attributions of the external	M
	features	
FR.L.3.1	The user should have access to these credits from the main menu	M

Table 5: Functional requirements - Licensing and Attribution

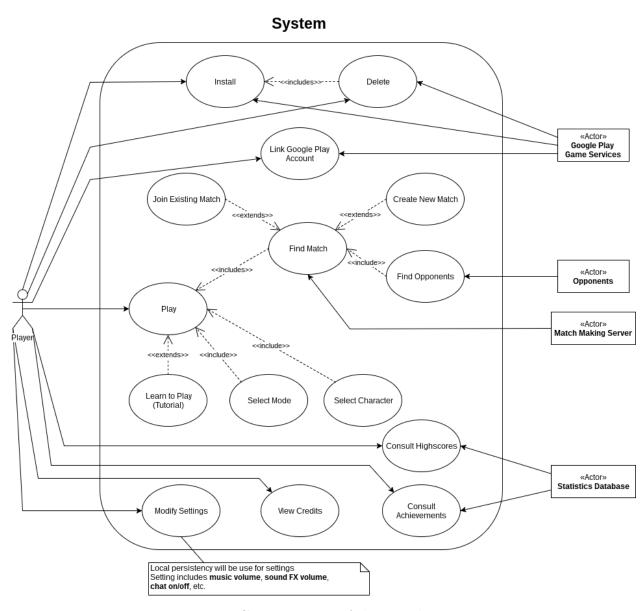


Figure 3: Use Case Diagram of the Bomb Hunt game

Quality Requirements

Quality attributes usually have an important impact on the overall architecture because their realizations often imply the modification of many parts of the application, whereas functional requirements are usually more located. Moreover, quality attributes are often more difficult to assert due to their subjective meaning. Per example, some people may have different conceptions of what is defined as a secure application. The purpose of this chapter is to determine some thresholds that will uncover this subjectivity.

To specify the different quality attributes, a scenario approach will be used like the one presented in [Bass, 2013, Chapter 4, p.68-69]. According to this method, a quality attribute can be made unambiguous and testable by specifying the following 6 characteristics:

- ▶ Stimulus
- ► Stimulus source
- ▶ Response
- ▶ Response measure
- ► Environment
- ▶ Artifact

Modifiability

ID	M1
Source	Developer
Stimulus	Wishes to modify existing graphics
Artifacts	Graphical assets
Environment	Design Time
Response	Graphic updated
Response measure	The graphics are updated and seamlessly integrated into the
	game in less than half an hour.

Table 6: Quality Requirement Scenario - Modifying existing graphics

ID	M2
Source	Developer
${f Stimulus}$	Wishes to modify existing audio components
Artifacts	Audio assets
Environment	Design Time
Response	Audio components updated
Response measure	The audio components is updated and seamlessly integrated
	into the game in less than half an hour.

Table 7: Quality Requirement Scenario - Modifying existing audio components

ID	M3
Source	Developer
${f Stimulus}$	Wishes to modify the logic of an existing component
Artifacts	Code
Environment	Design Time
Response	Changes performed, functional tests passed and integration
	tests passed
Response measure	Change made in less than half an hour without affecting the component's interface or other parts of the software.

Table 8: Quality Requirement Scenario - Modifying logic of an existing component

ID	M4
Source	Developer
Stimulus	Wishes to add a new powerup item
Artifacts	Code
Environment	Design Time
Response	Addition performed, functional tests passed and integration
	tests passed
Response measure	Change made in less than two hours without affecting the
	item's interface or other parts of the software.

Table 9: Quality Requirement Scenario - Adding new powerup item

ID	M5		
Source	Developer		
${f Stimulus}$	Wishes to add a new character		
Artifacts	Code and assets		
Environment	Design Time		
Response	Addition performed, functional tests passed and integration tests passed. The skills of the new character have to be balanced to match the average capacities of the existing characters.		
Response measure	Change made in less than three hours without affecting the character's interface or other parts of the software.		

Table 10: Quality Requirement Scenario - Adding new character

ID	M6
Source	Developer
Stimulus	Wishes to add a new map
Artifacts	Code and assets
Environment	Design Time
Response	Addition performed, functional tests passed and integration tests passed.
Response measure	Change made in less than seven hours without affecting the current map creation process. The time account for the creation of the map.

Table 11: Quality Requirement Scenario - Adding new map

ID	M7
Source	Developer
Stimulus	Wishes to add a new achievement
Artifacts	Code and assets
Environment	Design Time
Response	Addition performed, functional tests passed and integration
	tests passed. The new achievement attribution process receive all the needed information from the database connection.
Response measure	Change made in less than three hours without affecting the achievement's interface or other parts of the software. This consider that all the information need was already available for the attribution.

Table 12: Quality Requirement Scenario - Adding new achievement

ID	M8		
Source	Developer		
${f Stimulus}$	Wishes to modify the scoring algorithm		
Artifacts	Code		
Environment	Design Time		
Response	Addition performed, functional tests passed and integration		
	tests passed. Users reranked and leaderboard updated.		
Response measure	Change made in less than five hours without affecting the		
	structure of the database or other parts of the software. The		
	time ignore the time needed to reprocess the user ranking.		

Table 13: Quality Requirement Scenario - Modifying score calculation algorithm

ID	M9		
Source	Developer		
${f Stimulus}$	Wishes to modify the database structure		
Artifacts	Code and databases		
Environment	Design Time		
Response	Addition performed, functional tests passed and integration		
	tests passed. All the requests made to the database processed correctly.		
Response measure	Change made in less than seven hours without affecting the parts of the software that depends on the database.		

Table 14: Quality Requirement Scenario - Modifying database structure

Usability

ID	U1
Source	User
Stimulus	Wants to play for the first time
Artifacts	User Interface
Environment	Runtime
Response	User is introduced to controls and mechanics within the
	game through a short and simple textual tutorial.
Response measure	Finished the tutorial within 3 minutes and has a basic un-
	derstanding of the game components and its controls.

Table 15: Quality Requirement Scenario - First-time play

ID	U2
Source	User
${f Stimulus}$	Wants to join an online multiplayer match for the first time
Artifacts	System
Environment	Runtime
Response	User enters in communication with the server, reaches the
	lobby and gets assigned to a match.
Response measure	The user does not have to modify any internet communication settings to get a connection to the server as long as a valid internet connection is available. The user does not remain unassigned for an excessive amount of time (less than 2 minutes). In case of failure to join a match, the user receives a message mentioning the reason why no match as been found. User should be able to start playing within 3 minutes on average.

 ${\bf Table~16:~Quality~Requirement~Scenario~-~Introduction~to~multiplayer~mode}$

ID	U3
Source	User
${f Stimulus}$	Wants to modify a setting of the game
Artifacts	User Interface
Environment	Runtime
Response	User finds the setting and successfully modifies it. New set-
	tings are saved for later next booting of the application.
Response measure	Setting is found without any navigation-errors in 15 seconds
	or less.

Table 17: Quality Requirement Scenario - Modify game through settings

Performance

ID	P1	
Source	Player-client	
${f Stimulus}$	Server sends data of other players	
Artifacts	Player-client	
Environment	Normal Operation	
Response	Data is used to update the relevant player locally.	
Response measure	Latency below 30 ms for the update of local state.	

Table 18: Quality Requirement Scenario - Client receives data from server

ID	P2
Source	Player-client
${f Stimulus}$	Periodic update
Artifacts	Player-client
Environment	Normal Operation
Response	All local data is used to construct the update message.
Response measure	Throughput of 30 successful updates per second for steady
	frame rate.

Table 19: Quality Requirement Scenario - Periodic client update

${\bf Interoperability}$

ID	I1		
Source	Player-client		
Stimulus	A request to set up a new multiplayer room		
Artifacts	Player-client and the Google Play services servers		
Environment	Runtime		
Response	The request is accepted and a room specified by parameters		
	is set up		
Response measure	100% of the sent requests that are in the correct format and		
	order are accepted		

 ${\bf Table~20:~Quality~Requirement~Scenario~-~Player~wants~to~initiate~a~multiplayer~room}$

COTS Components and Technical Constraints

In this chapter, we will describe the constraints imposed by our choice of COTS. Among the different COTS that will be used for the development of this application, we can find LibGDX, Artemis-odb, Android, and Google Play Game Services. For each of these, the rationale behind their selection, the specific interface that we have to implement and an analysis of the constraints they add to the project will be provided.

LibGDX

During early assignments in this course, we got to know the way LibGDX [Zechner] can have a stack of screens, and only render and display the top one. This will constrain how we develop the way we change screens, and how we should handle dumping all entities once we drop a screen. This is important to get right as the performance might vary if this is done poorly. We chose this COTS because of the intro exercises for this course, where we had to get familiar with some graphic engine. Since we all chose to make our exercises in android, and followed the suggested steps for setting up our games, we decided to stick with it in this project as well.

Tiled

During the prephase of our game, we decided to make our maps tile based. Included in the LibGDX wiki, we found them using the generic tile editor Tiled [Lindeijer]. This allows us to create various tile based maps for our game with ease. It does however mean we have to find some open source graphic tilesets, as we have no clue how to make any decent ourselves.

Bfxr

For our game we want to include audio effects that get triggered by different kind of events. That's why we decided to try out Bfxr [Increpare] for our project, as some group members have used it in previous game creation competitions. This COTS is a sound generator that randomly generates different sound effects, based on presets we can define. This COTS won't constrain or restrict our architechture in any way, as it just exports .wav soundfiles for us.

Artemis-odb

Since we decided to develop the core part of our game using Entity-Component-System (ECS) we looked at different frameworks that already implements such system. First we looked at Ashley [ash] which is a sub-library of LibGDX, it is a very lightweight library that only contains the most basic aspects of ECS. Secondly we had a look at a more preferment ³ Artemis-odb [Papari]. This library is slightly more heavy weight than Ashley is, but in the end a lot easier to work with. It doesn't only implement the basics of ecs, but also implements a huge number of helper classes that for instance simplifies entity creation⁴ and modification⁵. ECS requires that the logic is separated from the data using systems and components. Each system performs a set of actions on a subset of all entities fulfilling a set of require components for the action to be executed. Entities are therefor just bags that holds a set of components and nothing more. In practise this means any entity can be completely change behaviour by changing the set of components it has. We chose this COTS because of the well documented performance the framework has when used properly, as well as how well the functionality and interfaces are documented.

Android

One of the mayor challenges for developing a game for Android, is that the version of Android and Java might vary a lot based on what device is playing the game. We imagine we will probably just restrict the game to not work on older devices, to save ourselves some headache with trying to understand why something might not work on older devices. For the moment, we are planning to support KitKat 4.4 and later. As we can see from the Figure 4, we can see that we will still reach more than 94% of the market. Android [2018]

Another thing that will constraint how we make our game, is the difference in resolutions and hardware performance on each device. This means we will have to come up with a way to scale our UI and on-screen elements, instead of just rendering based on a set resolution. This also means we will have to follow strict rules on how to clear unused elements in the game world, so the memory of the device doesn't get filled up.

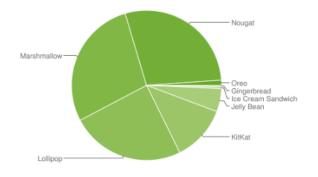
Everyone in the group are used to having android devices, or are able to emulate it on their computer. Since this was common ground for everyone in the group, as well how free we are to develop for android compared to ios, we decided to stay with it for this project as well.

³https://github.com/junkdog/entity-system-benchmarks

⁴https://github.com/junkdog/artemis-odb/wiki/Archetype

https://github.com/junkdog/artemis-odb/wiki/Entity-Transmuter

Version	Codename	API	Distribution
2.3.3 - 2.3.7	Gingerbread	10	0.3%
4.0.3 - 4.0.4	Ice Cream Sandwich	15	0.4%
4.1.x	Jelly Bean	16	1.7%
4.2.x		17	2.6%
4.3		18	0.7%
4.4	KitKat	19	12.0%
5.0	Lollipop	21	5.4%
5.1		22	19.2%
6.0	Marshmallow	23	28.1%
7.0	Nougat	24	22.3%
7.1		25	6.2%
8.0	Oreo	26	0.8%
8.1		27	0.3%



Data collected during a 7-day period ending on February 5, 2018.

Any versions with less than 0.1% distribution are not shown.

Figure 4: Current Distribution of the Android Plateform Versions

Google Play Game Services or Other Solutions

Since we want to have some service that can set up Peer-to-Peer (P2P) connections for us, we realize our game architecture needs to include some form of manager or handler that will communicate with this service. Assuming we use some COTS like Google Play Game Services (GPGS) [Google], we will most likely have to follow some very strict rules that allow P2P setups via this service. These sort of interactions will happen when a user sets up a room, when a user want to join that room and when users are restricted to join certain rooms.

Issues

The goal of this chapter is to document the different issues that we faced during the creation of the following document and the development of the project in general.

Team Formation

First of all, we had some problems to set the first official kick-off meeting because one of the member of the team was barely answering to the communications and did not even the invitations links to the *Slack* channel neither the *GitHub* repository. Before the handing of the first assignment, its name, **Carlos Cantos Morote**, has been removed from the documents and the team agreed to kick him out of the team.

First Delivery Deadline

We must admit that it was quite challenging to produce as much information in the time we had to do it. In addition to the production of the report, the team had to find a concept for the game. We managed to find an idea relatively quickly, but a lot of implementation details are still missing to correctly and fully create the requested artifacts.

Graphics

We have no graphical experience within the group, and as we look at other mobile games, it becomes apparent that a simple graphical look is something we wish to achieve during this project. This is to make the game more appealing to the users.

Peer-to-Peer Connection

Since we rely on peer-to-peer to transfer the data between devices, we might encounter problems with devices that are unstable. How we will we handle bad devices potentially crashing game sessions and ruining the experience for other players.

Changes

This section records the changes brought to the current document since its creation.

Date	Version	Description
2018/02/21	1.0	Initial draft

Glossary

ASR

Requirement that will have a profound effect on the architecture—that is, the architecture might well be dramatically different in the absence of such a requirement. [5, p.291].

Cool-Down

The minimum length of time that the player needs to wait after using an ability or item before it can be used again. [2, cool-down].

NPC

Taken from the world of pen-and-ink role-playing games, an NPC is a character encountered in an RKJ who is not controlled by the user.

[3, p.38].

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