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015B/32

MPL Assignment 1

Q1(a) Explain the key features & advantages of using flutter for mobile app development.

→ Key features:

- 1) Single Codebase - Write one codebase for android & iOS, reducing development effort & maintenance.
- 2) Hot Reload - Instantly see changes in the app without restarting, making development faster & more interactive.
- 3) Fast Performance - Uses the Dart language & a compiled approach for smooth & high performance apps.
- 4) Open Source & Strong community support: Backed by Google & a large developer community, ensuring continuous improvements & resources.

Advantages:

- 1) Faster Development time: Hot reload & single codebase reduce development time significantly.
 - 2) Cost effective: Since the code runs on both Android & iOS, business save on development & maintenance cost.
 - 3) Reduce Performance issues: The app runs natively without relying on intermediate bridges like in react native, reducing lag.
- b) Discuss how the flutter framework differs from traditional approaches & why it has gained popularity.
- How Flutter Differs from traditional Approaches

- 1) Single codebase - Traditional methods need separate code for android & ios, but flutter uses one code for both.
- 2) Hot Reload - Traditional apps require full restart after changes, but flutter updates instantly.
- 3) UI Rendering - Traditional apps require use native components, while flutter has its own rendering engine (Skia) for faster performance.
- 4) Customization - Traditional UI design depends on platform specific components, but flutter provides fully com customizable widgets.

Why Flutter has gained popularity

- 1) Faster development with hot reload: Developers can instantly see UI changes without restarting the app making iteration process much quicker.
- 2) Cross Platform Efficiency: Businesses save time & resources by maintaining a single codebase for multiple platform.
- 3) Consistent UI Across devices: Since flutter does not rely on native components, the UI looks & behaves the same across different OS versions.
- 4) Improved performance: AOT compilation & direct access to GPU rendering ensure smooth animations & high performance.

Q2(a) Describe the concept of the widget tree in flutter. Explain how widget composition is used to build complex UI.

→ widget tree in flutter

In flutter, the widget tree is the fundamental structure that represents the UI of an application. It is a hierarchical arrangement of widgets where each widget defines a part of the user interface. Flutter's UI is entirely built using widgets which can be stateless or stateful. The widget tree determines how the UI is rendered & updated when changes occur.

Widget Composition in Flutter

Widget composition refers to building complex UI by combining smaller, reusable ~~UI~~ widgets.

Instead of creating large, monolithic UI components, flutter encourages breaking the UI into smaller manageable widgets that can be reused & nested with each other.

Benefits of Widget composition

- 1) ~~Reusability~~: Small widgets can be reused in different parts of the app.
- 2) Maintainability: Breaking UI into smaller widgets makes it easier to debug & update.
- 3) Performance: Flutter efficiently rebuilds only the necessary parts of widget tree.

- b) Provide examples of commonly used widgets & their roles in creating a widget tree.

→ i) Structural widgets

These widgets act as the foundation building the UI.

- **MaterialApp**: the root widget of a flutter app that provides essential configuration.
 - **Scaffold**: Provides a basic layout structure, including an app bar, body floating action button etc.
 - **Container** - A versatile widget used for styling, padding, margin & background customization.
- Ex :- `MaterialApp(`

`home: Scaffold(`

`appBar: AppBar(title: Text("Flutter widget tree"),`
`body: Container(`
`padding: EdgeInsets.all(10.0),`
`child: Text("Hello, Flutter !"),`

→ 2) Input & Interaction widgets

TextField: Accepts text input from user.

Elevated Button - A button with elevation.

GestureDetector - detects gesture like taps, swipes & long presses

Ex : `Column(`

`children: [`

~~`TextField(decoration: InputDecoration(labelText:`~~
~~`"Enter name")`~~

Elevated Button(

`onPressed: () {`

`print("Button Pressed");`

`child: Text("Submit"),`

`},`

`);`

3) Display & Styling Widgets

Text - displays text on the screen

Image - shows images from assets network / memory

Icon - Displays icon

Card - A material design & with card with rounded corners & elevation.

Ex :- column(

children: [

Text("Welcome to flutter"), style: TextStyle(fontsize: 20, fontweight: FontWeight.bold),

Image.network("https://flutter.dev/images/flutter-logo-sharing.png"),

],);

Q3(a) Discuss the important state management in flutter applications.

- In flutter, state refers to data that can change during the lifetime of an application. This includes:
- user input, UI changes, Network changes, Animation states

There are two types of states:

- 1) Ephemeral state: small, UI specific state that doesn't affect the whole app.
 - 2) App wide status - Data shared across multiple widgets
- Importance of State Mgmt
 - Efficient UI updates : Flutter's UI is rebuilt whenever state changes. Efficient state mgmt ensures that only necessary widgets are updated improving performance.

- code maintainability & scalability : Managing state properly makes the code modular, readable & scalable for larger applications.
 - Data consistency & synchronization - Proper state mgmt ensures that data remains consistent across different screens & widgets.
- Q) compare & contrast the different state mgmt approaches available in flutter, such as setState, Provider & Riverpod. Provide scenarios where each approach is suitable.

→ setState - local state

Pros - simple built in easy to use

Cons - Not scalable, causes unnecessary re-renders

Best use cases - Small UI updates (eg:- counter)

Provider - App wide state

Pros - lightweight, recommended by flutter

Cons - Boilerplate code for nested providers.

Best use case - Medium Scale App (eg:- API data)

Riverpod - App-wide state (More scalable)

Pros = Eliminates Provider's limitation, improved performance

Cons : Requires learning new concepts

Best use cases : Large apps needing global state (eg:- Shopping cart)

Scenarios

Scenarios for each Approach

- Use setState when managing simple UI elements with in a single widget like toggling dark mode in a setting screen.
- Use provider when sharing state across multiple widgets such as managing user authentication or theme changes
- Use Riverpod when building a complex, scalable app with cart mgmt.

Q1a) Explain the process of integrating firebase with a flutter application. Discuss the benefits of using firebase as a backend solution.

→ Integrating Firebase with a Flutter Application

Step 1 : Create a Firebase project

1. Go to Firebase console & create a project

2. Download the config (google-services.json for Android)

Step 2 : Add Firebase Dependencies

In pubspec.yaml :

dependencies :

firebase_core : latest_version

firebase_auth : latest_version

cloud_firestore : latest_version

* Run flutter pub get to install dependencies.

Step 3 : Initialize firebase.

Modify main.dart .

```
import 'package:firebase_core/firebase_core.dart';  
void main() async {
```

```
  ↪ WidgetsFlutterBinding.ensureInitialized();  
  await Firebase.initializeApp();  
  runApp(MyApp());  
}
```

Step 4 : Use firebase service

Authentication : firebase-auth for login / signup

Database : cloud-firebase for real-time data

storage : firebase-storage for file uploads

Notifications : firebase-messaging for push notification

Benefits of using firebase

1. Serverless Backend - No need to manage servers.
2. Real-Time Data Sync - Firestore enables instant updates
3. Scalable & Secure - Google-managed infrastructure
4. Easy authentication - Supports google, facebook, email login.
5. Cloud functions - Automate tasks with serverless function.
6. Push notifications - free messaging via FCM.
7. Cost-effective - Free tier with pay-as-you-go pricing.
8. Analytics & crash Reports - Firebase Analytics & Crashlytics.

b) Highlight the Firebase services commonly used in flutter development & provide a brief overview of how data synchronisation is achieved.

→ Common Firebase services in flutter

1. Firebase Authentication - Secure login via email, google, Facebook or phone.
2. Cloud Firestore - NoSQL database with real-time syncing.
3. Realtime Database - low-latency database for instant updates.
4. Firebase Storage - stores & retrieves files like images & video.
5. Firebase Cloud Messaging (FCM) - ~~enables~~ push notifications.
6. ~~Firebase~~ Crashlytics - Tracks & reports app crashes.
7. Firebase Cloud Functions - Runs backend tasks serverlessly.
8. Firebase Analytics - Provides insights into user behaviour.

Data Synchronization in Firebase.

1. Realtime Listeners - Apps receive instant updates when data changes.

Ex :-

```
firebaseFirestore.instance.collection('users').  
snapshots().listen((snapshot) {  
  for (var doc in snapshot.docs) {  
    print(doc.data());  
  }  
});
```

2. Offline Persistence - Caches data for offline access & syncs when online.
3. Conflict Resolution - Uses timestamps to maintain data consistency.

✓ Firebase's real-time sync & offline support make it ideal for chat apps, live updates & collaborative tools in flutter.