

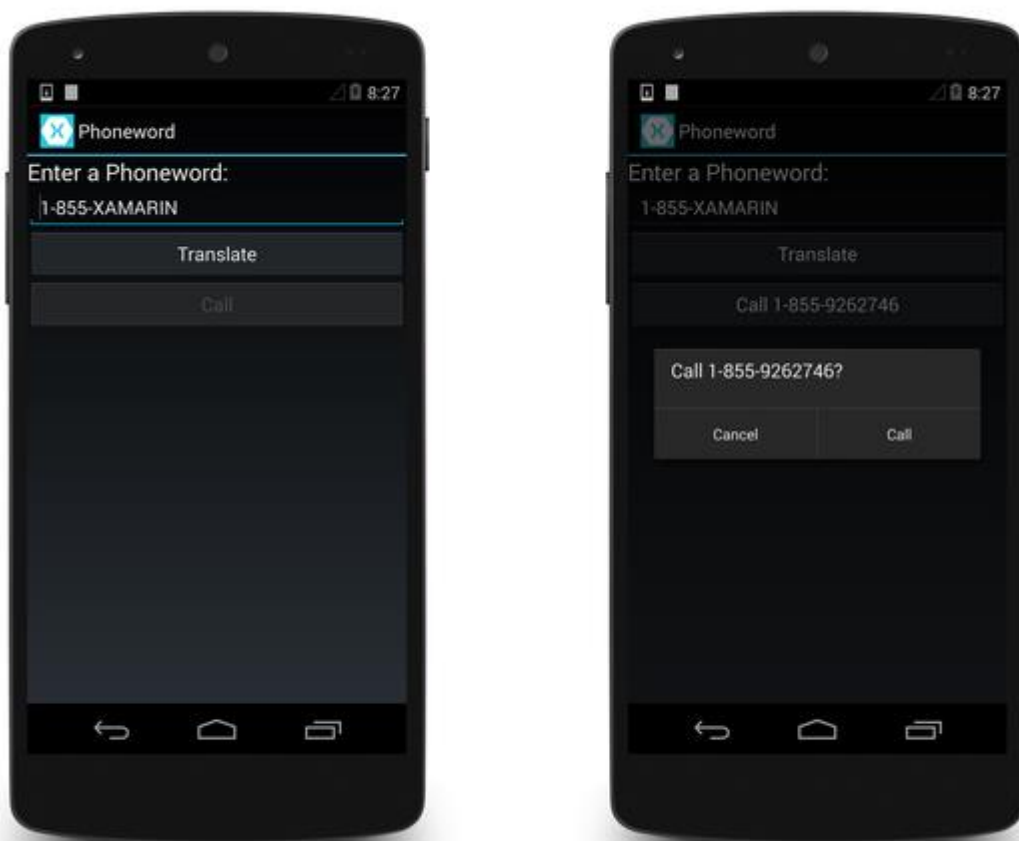
Hello, Android

Introduction to Android Development with Xamarin

In this two-part guide, we build our first Xamarin.Android application (using Xamarin Studio or Visual Studio) and develop an understanding of the fundamentals of Android application development with Xamarin. Along the way we'll introduce the tools, concepts, and steps required to build and deploy a Xamarin.Android application.

Hello, Android Quickstart

In this walkthrough, we create an application that translates an alphanumeric phone number entered by the user into a numeric phone number, and then calls that number. The final application looks like this:



Let's get started!

Requirements

Xamarin.Android works with any of the following setups:

- Latest version of Xamarin Studio on OS X Yosemite and above.
- Latest version of Xamarin Studio on Windows 7 and above.
- Windows 7 and above with Visual Studio 2012 Professional or higher.

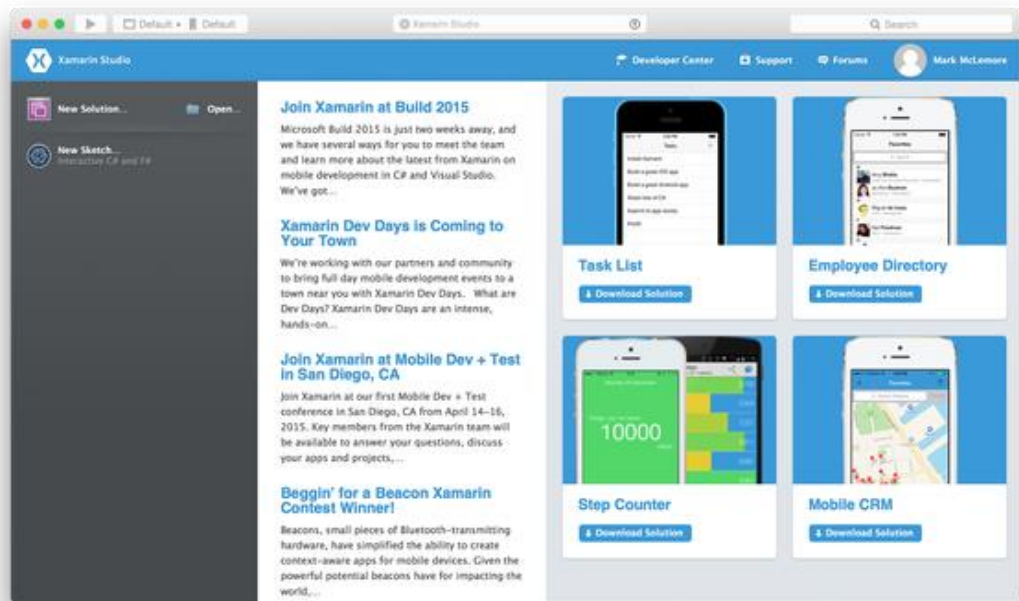
This walkthrough assumes that the latest version of Xamarin.Android is installed and running on your platform of choice. For a guide to installing Xamarin.Android, refer to the [Xamarin.Android Installation](#) guides. Before we get started, please download and unzip the [Xamarin App Icons & Launch Screens](#) set.

Configuring Emulators

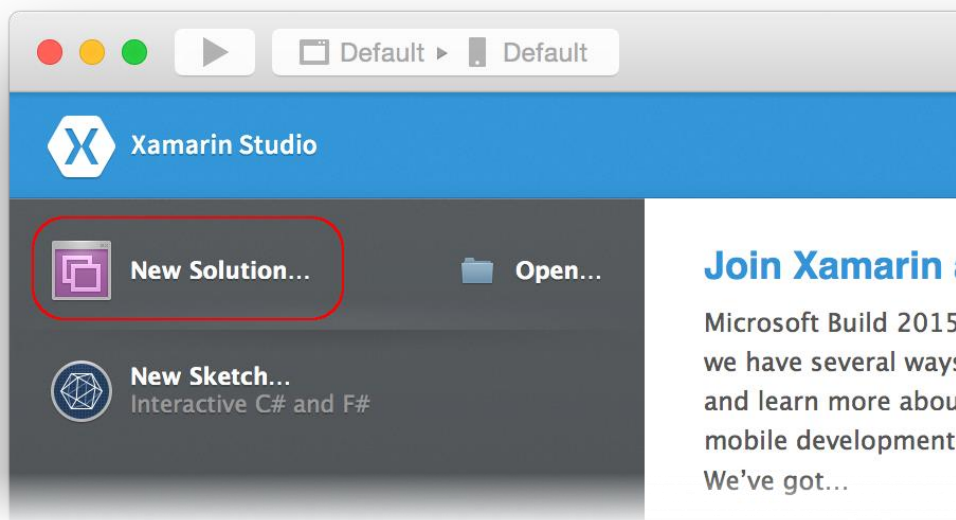
Android has several options for emulators. The standard Android emulator is the simplest to set up but runs slowly. Xamarin recommends that you use the high-performance [Xamarin Android Player](#). If you are not using the Xamarin Android Player, you should configure your emulator to use hardware acceleration. Instructions for configuring hardware acceleration are available in the [Accelerating Android Emulators](#) guide.

Walkthrough

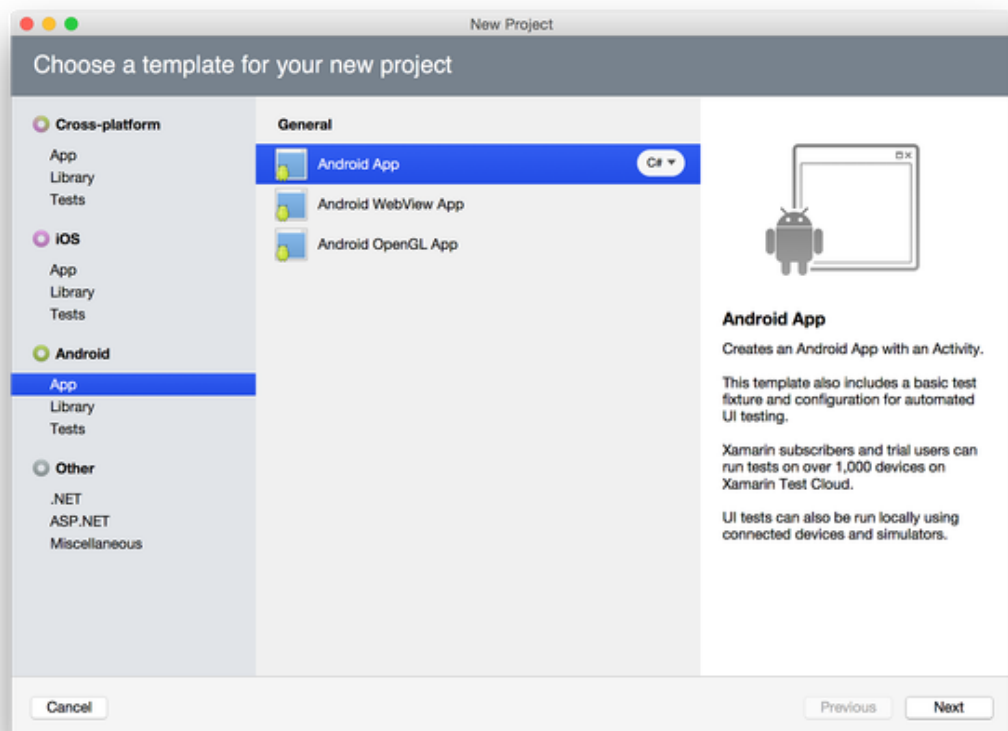
Let's launch Xamarin Studio from the *Applications* folder or from *Spotlight*. This opens the start page:



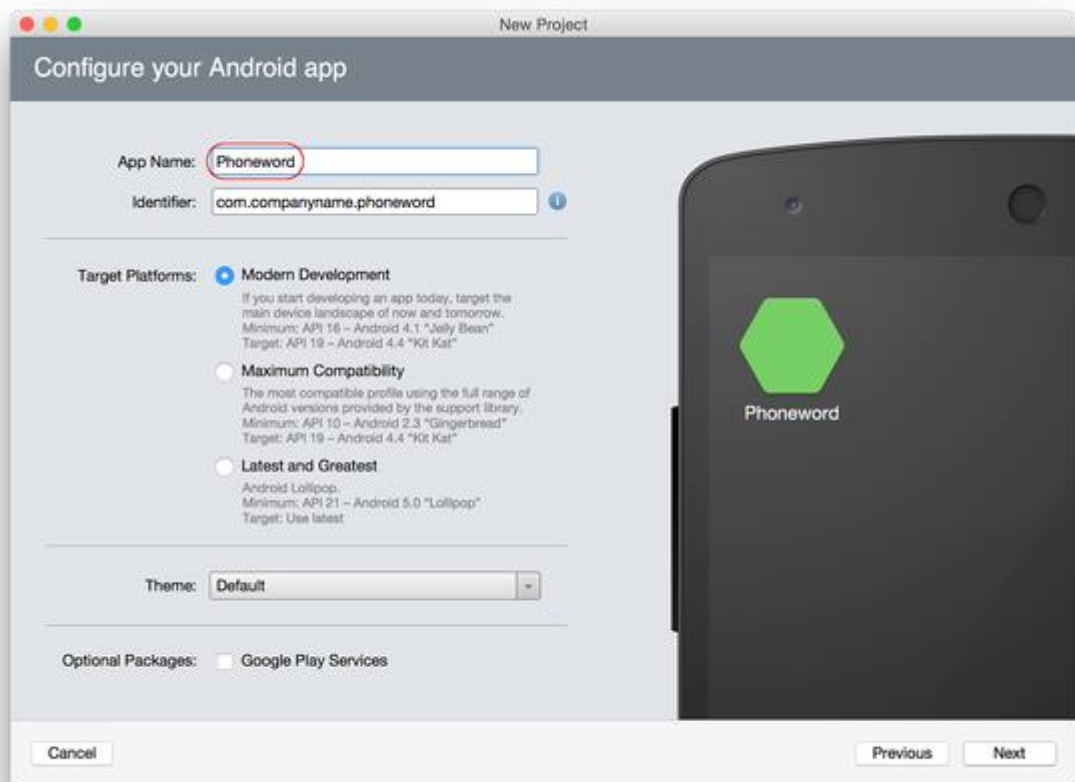
2. Click *New Solution...* to create a new project:



3. In the *Choose a template for your new project* dialog, let's click *Android > App* and select the *Android App* template. Click *Next*.

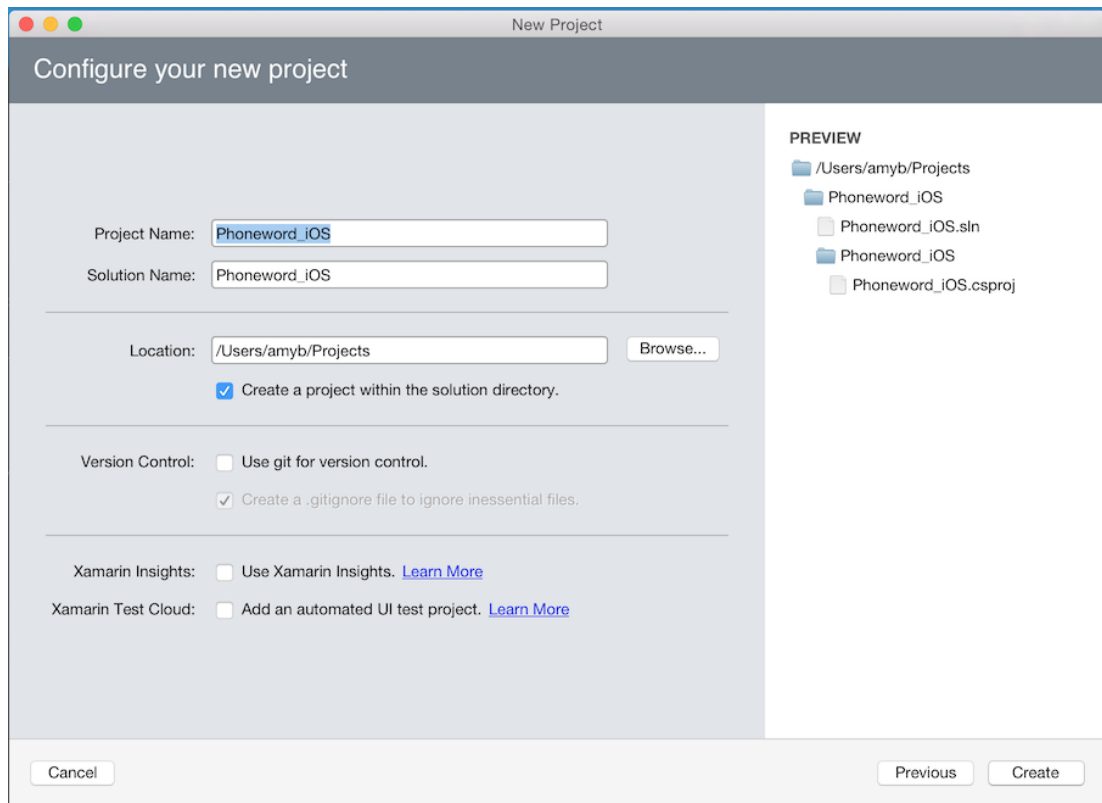


4. In the *Configure your Android app* dialog, we'll name the new app `Phoneword` and click *Next*:

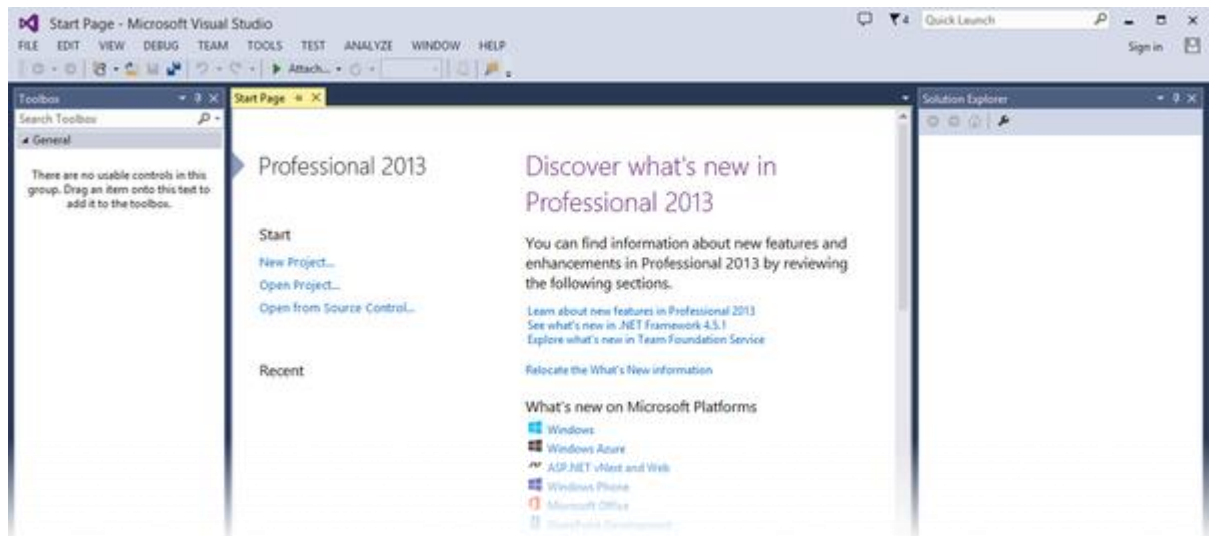


5. In the *Configure your new project* dialog, we'll leave the Solution and Project names set to `Phoneword` and click *Create* to create the project.

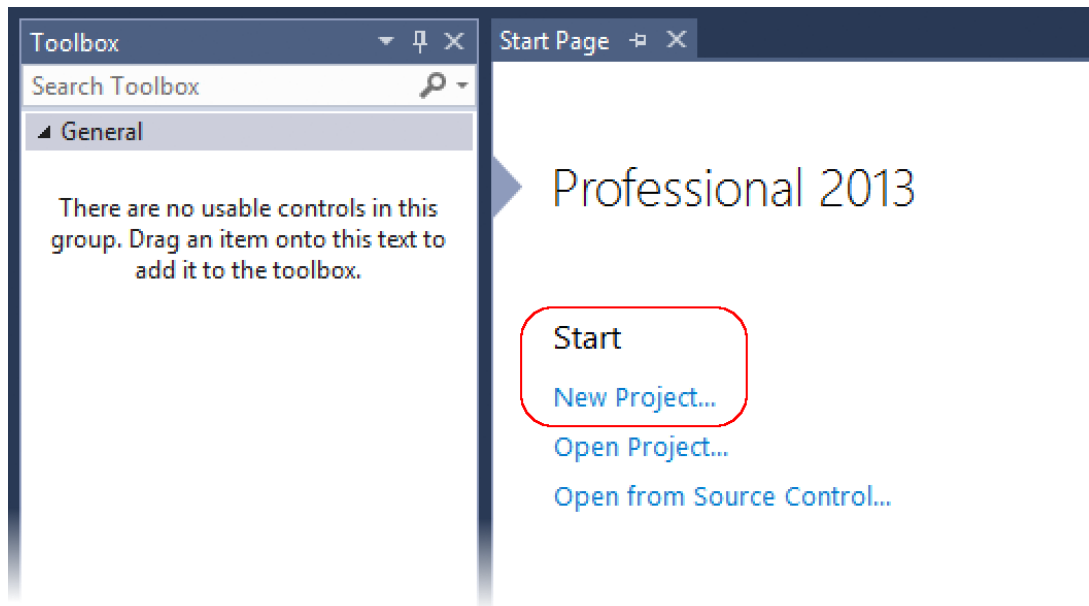
Make sure to uncheck the checkboxes for [Xamarin Insights](#) and [Xamarin Test Cloud](#):



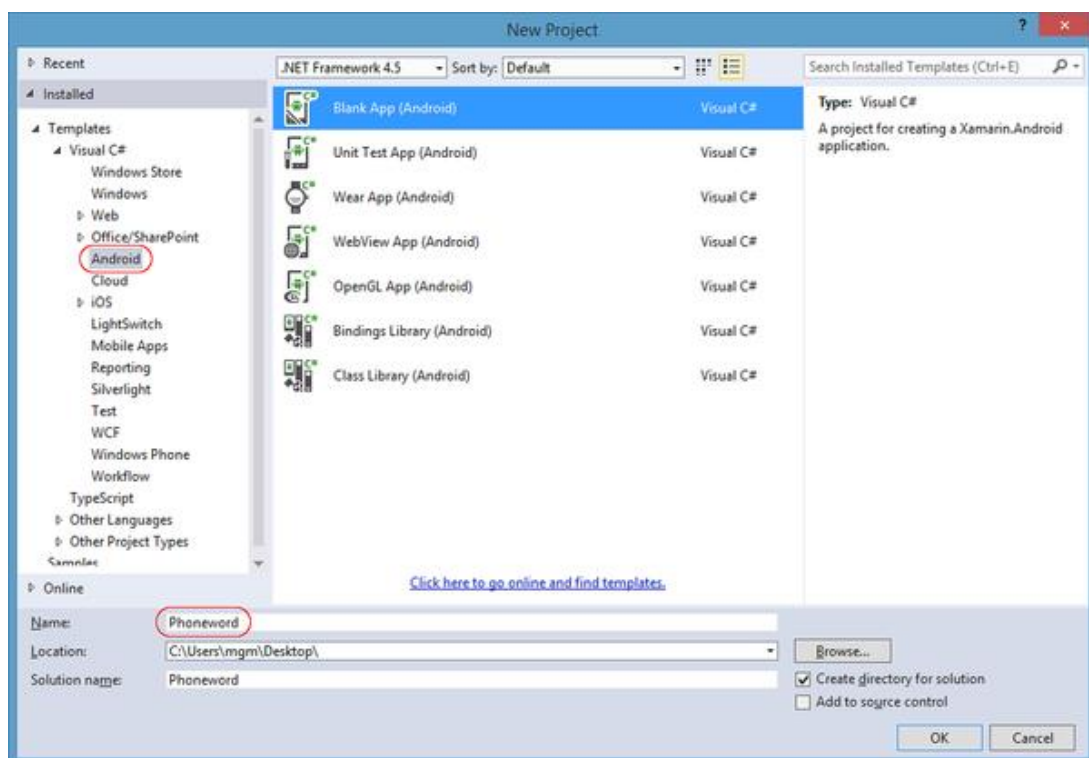
6. Let's start Visual Studio:



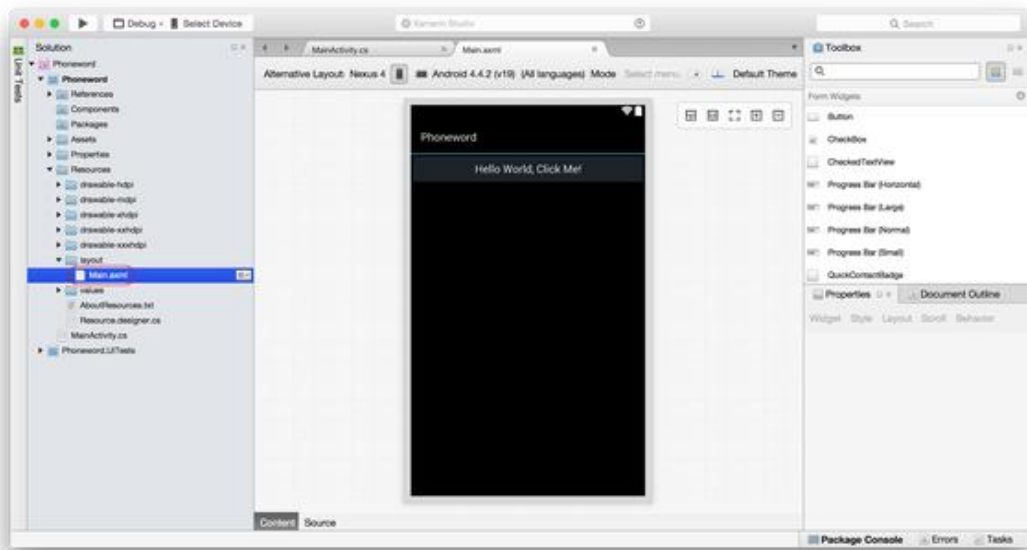
7. Click *Start > New Project* to create a new project:



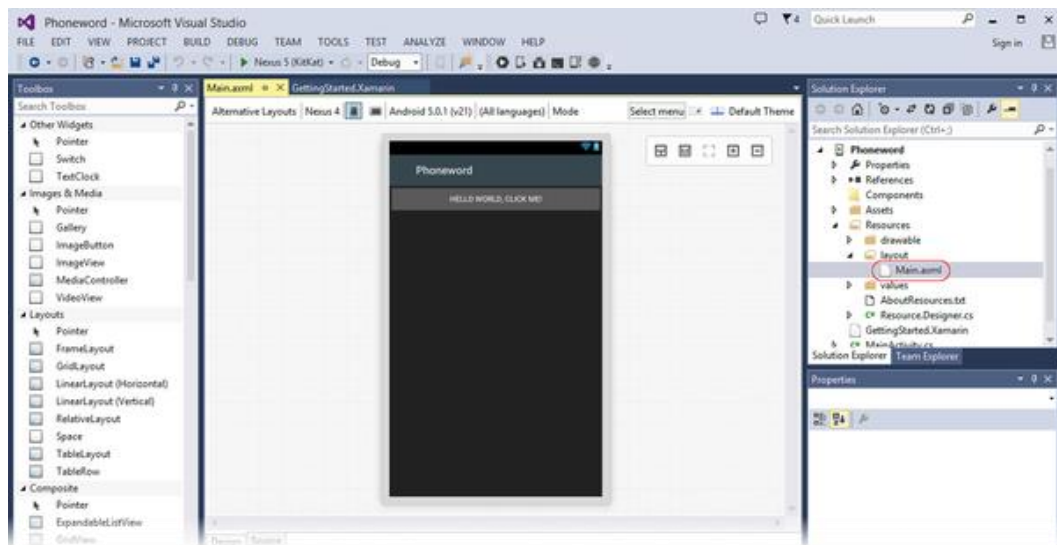
8. In the *New Project* dialog, click *Visual C# > Android* and select the *Blank App (Android)* template. We'll name the new project *Phoneword*. Click *OK* to create the new project:



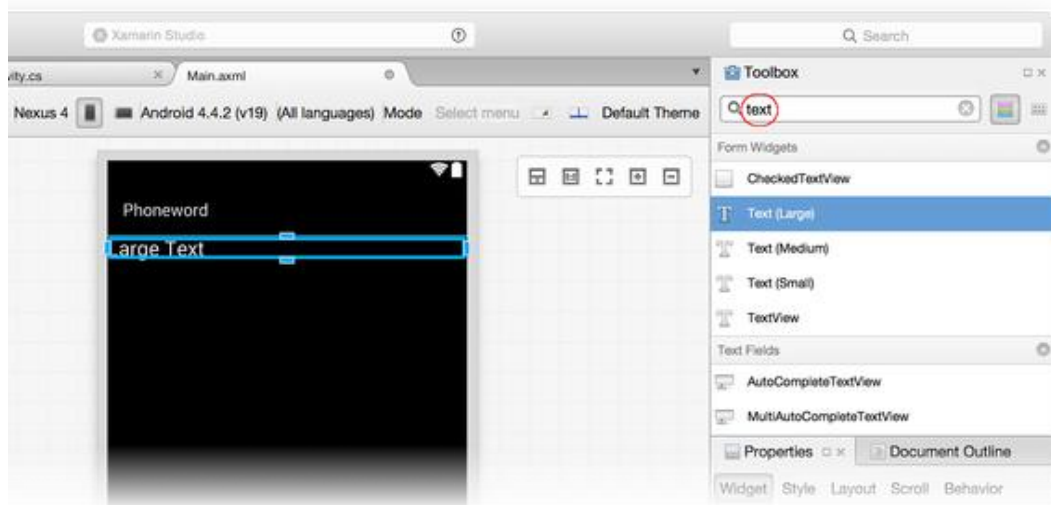
9. After the new project is created, let's expand the *Resources* folder and then the *layout* folder in the *Solution* pad. Double-click **Main.xml** to open it in the Android Designer. This is the layout file for our screen:



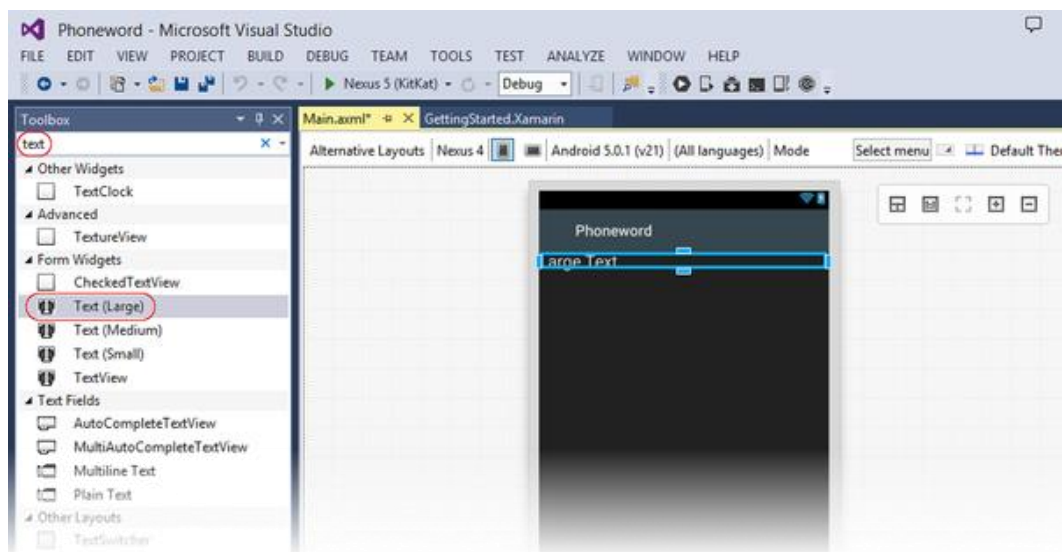
10. After the new project is created, let's expand the *Resources* folder and then the *layout* folder in the *Solution Explorer*. Double-click **Main.axml** to open it in the Android Designer. This is the layout file for our screen:



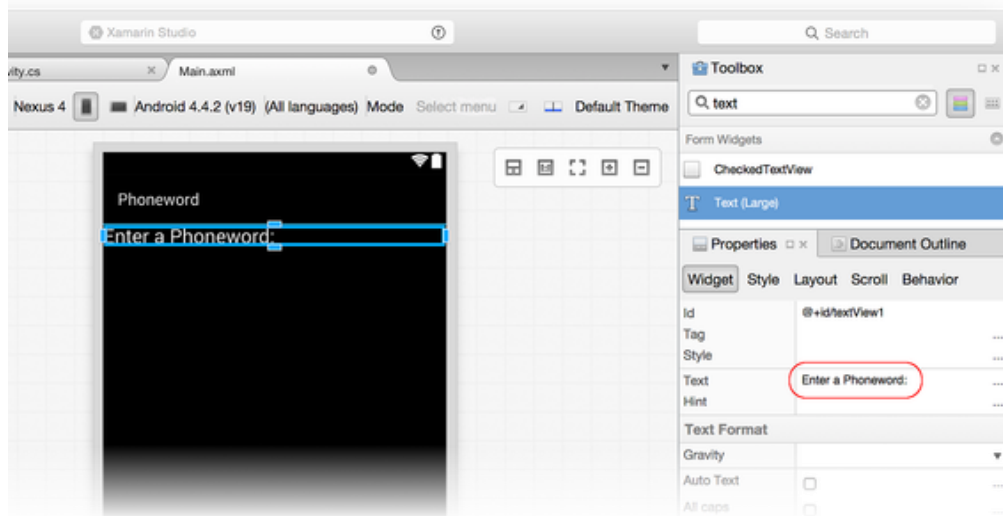
11. Let's select the **Hello World, Click Me! Button** on the design surface and press the `Delete` key to remove it. From the *Toolbox* (the area on the right), enter `text` into the search field and drag a *Text (Large)* widget onto the design surface (the area in the center):



12. Let's select the **Hello World, Click Me! Button** on the design surface and press the `Delete` key to remove it. From the *Toolbox* (the area on the left), enter `text` into the search field and drag a *Text (Large)* control onto the design surface (the area in the center):

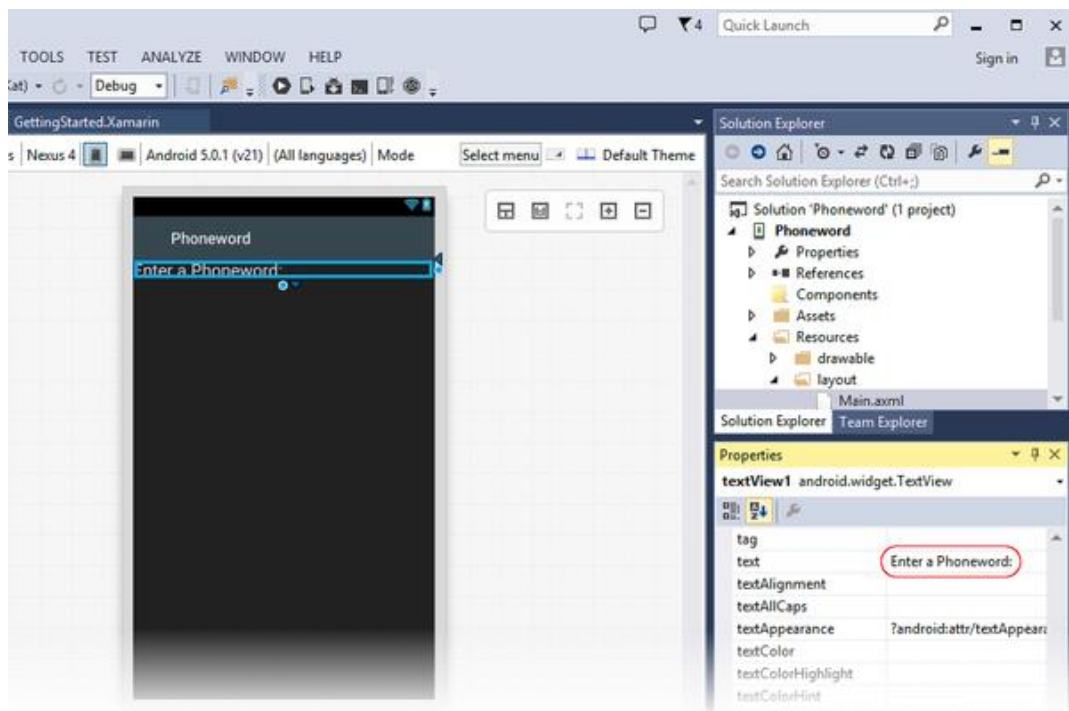


13. With the *Text (Large)* widget selected on the design surface, we can use the *Properties* pad to change the `Text` property of the *Text (Large)* widget to `Enter a Phoneword:` as seen below:

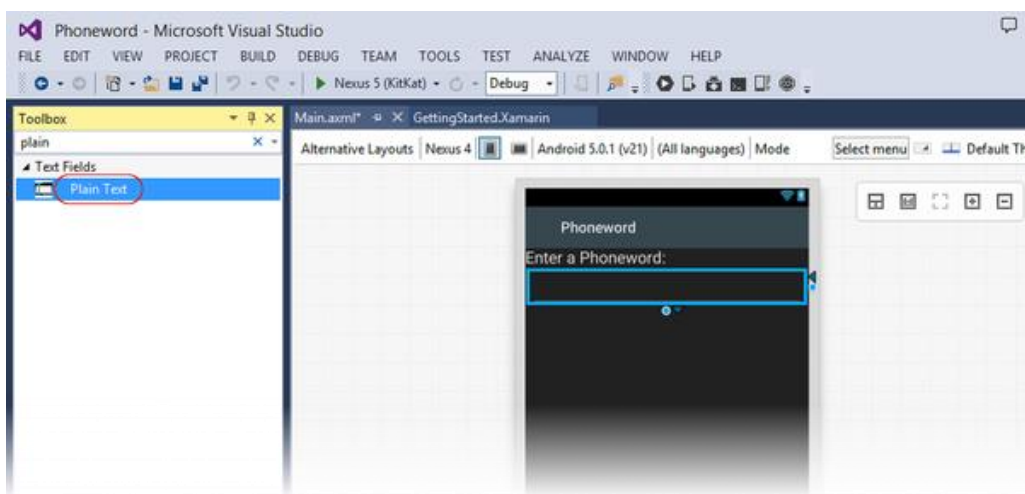
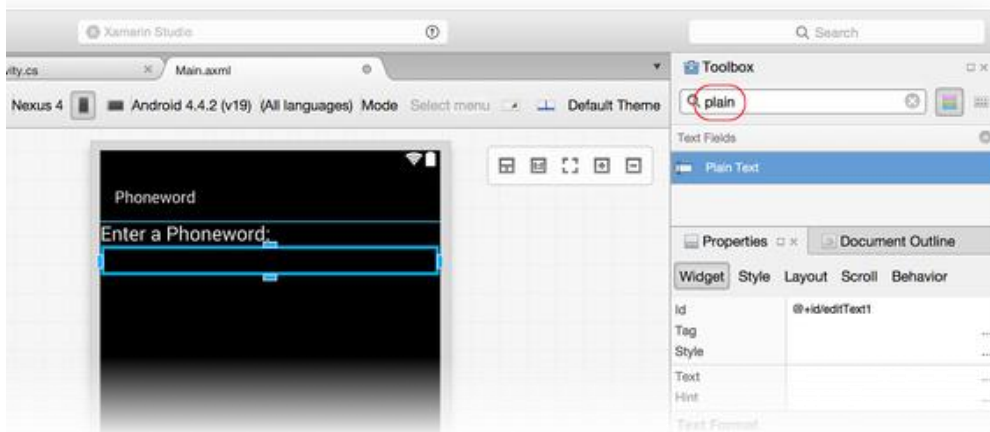


Note: You can bring up the *Properties* pad or *Toolbox* at any time by navigating to *View > Pads*.

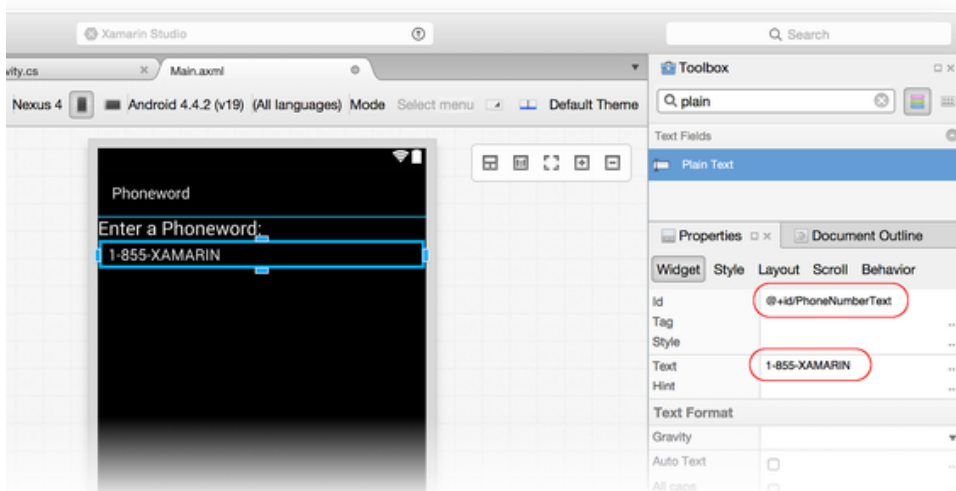
14. With the *Text (Large)* control selected on the design surface, we can use the *Properties* pane to change the `text` property of the *Text (Large)* control to `Enter a Phoneword:` as seen here:



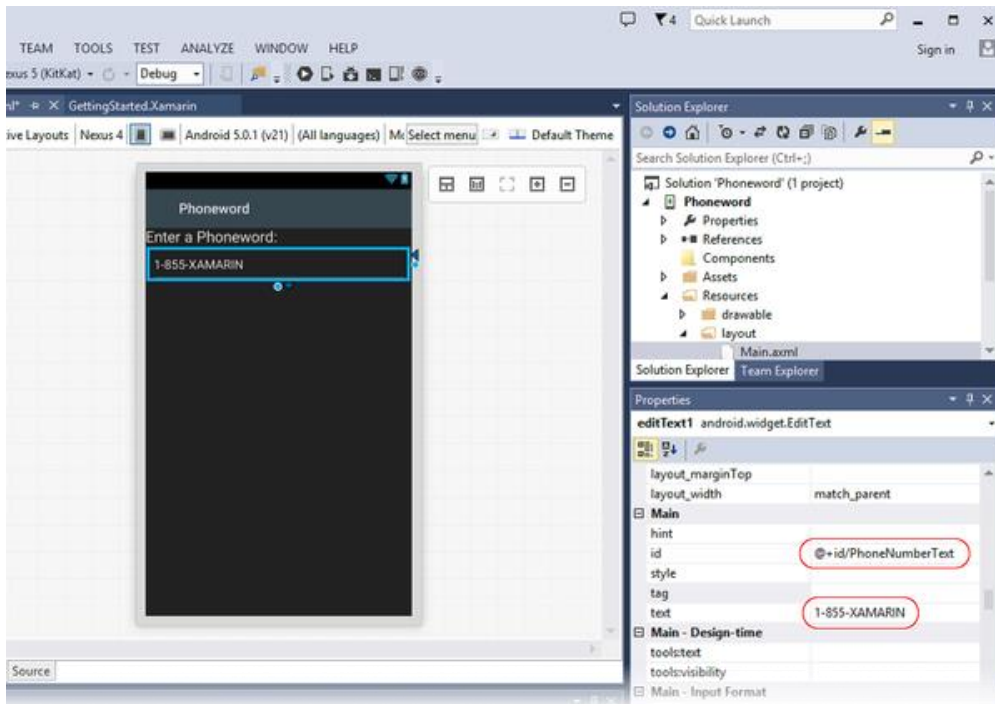
15. Next, let's drag a *Plain Text* widget from the *Toolbox* to the design surface and place it underneath the *Text (Large)* widget. Notice that we can use the search field to help locate widgets by name:



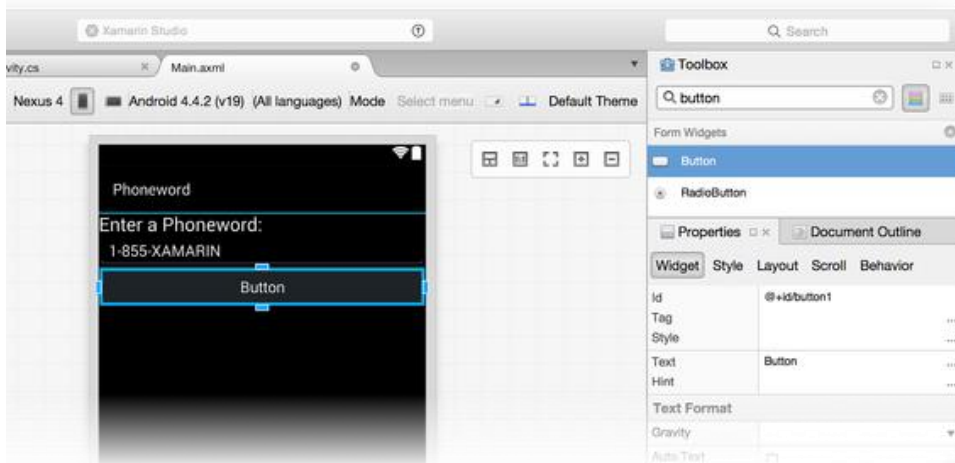
16. With the *Plain Text* widget selected on the design surface, we can use the *Properties* pad to change the *Id* property of the *Plain Text* widget to @+id/PhoneNumberText and change the *Text* property to 1-855-XAMARIN:

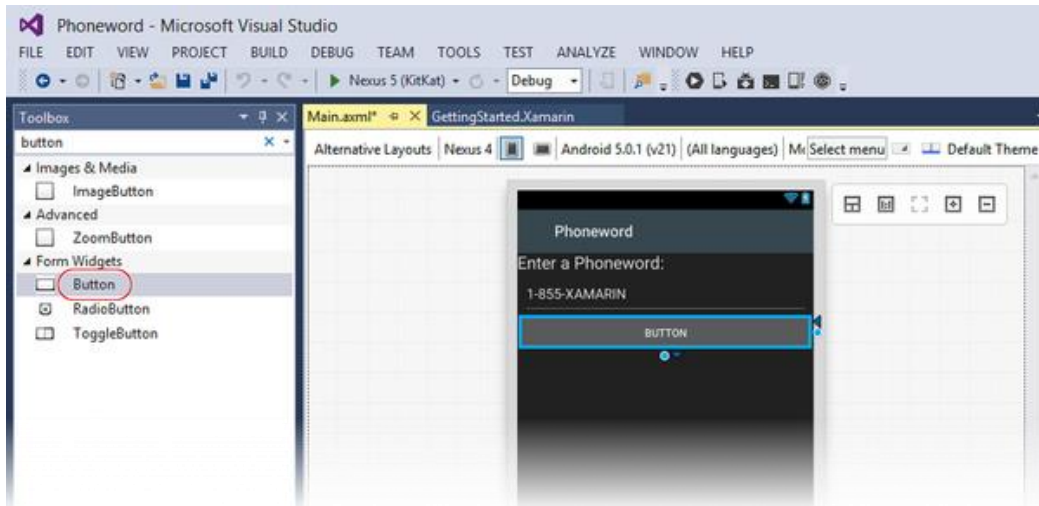


17. With the *Plain Text* control selected on the design surface, we can use the *Properties* pane to change the `id` property of the *Plain Text* control to `@+id/PhoneNumberText` and change the `text` property to `1-855-XAMARIN`:

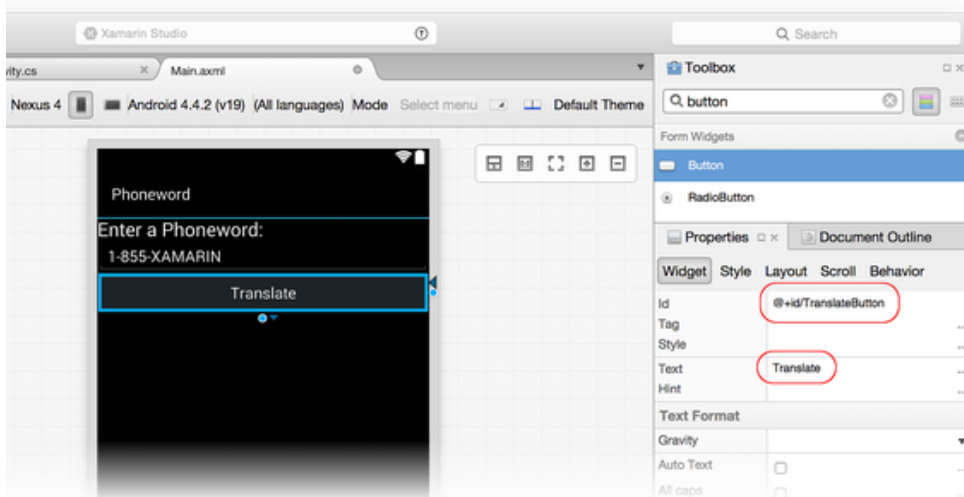


18. Let's drag a *Button* from the *Toolbox* to the design surface and place it underneath the *Plain Text* widget:

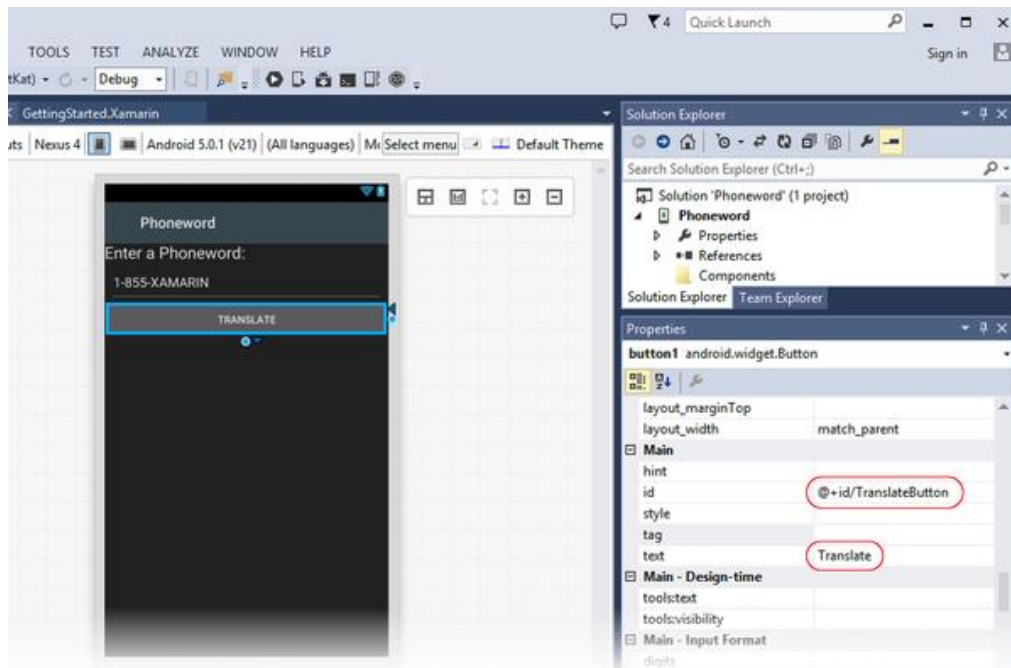




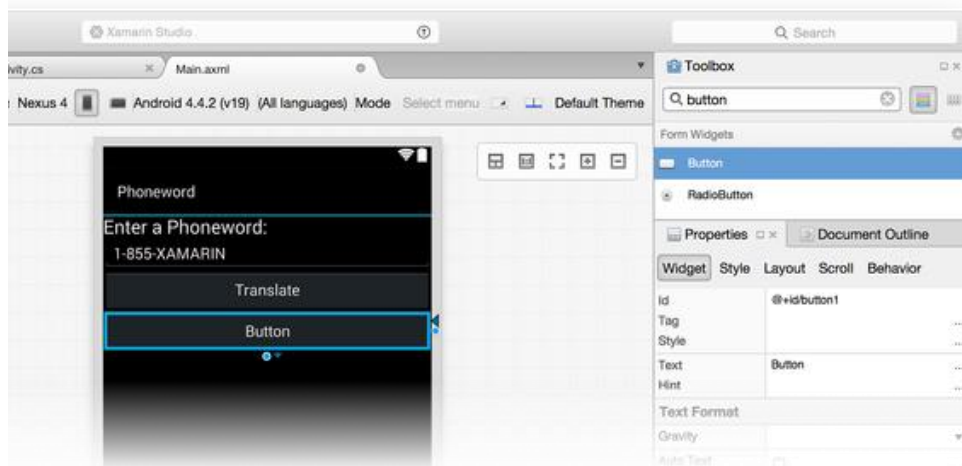
19. With the *Button* selected on the design surface, we can use the *Properties* pad to change the *Id* property of the *Button* to `@+id/TranslateButton` and change the *Text* property to *Translate*:

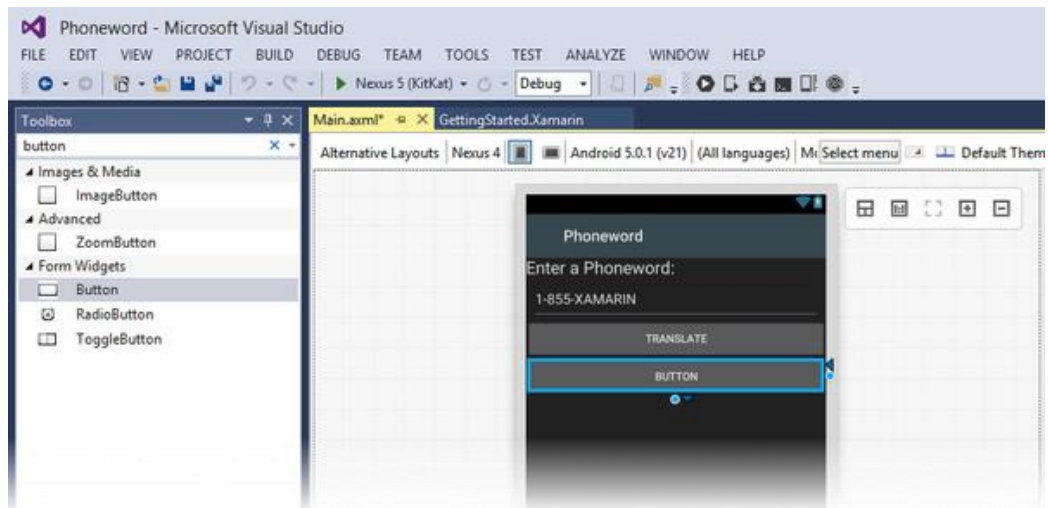


20. With the *Button* selected on the design surface, we can use the *Properties* pane to change the *id* property of the *Button* to `@+id/TranslateButton` and change the *text* property to *Translate*:

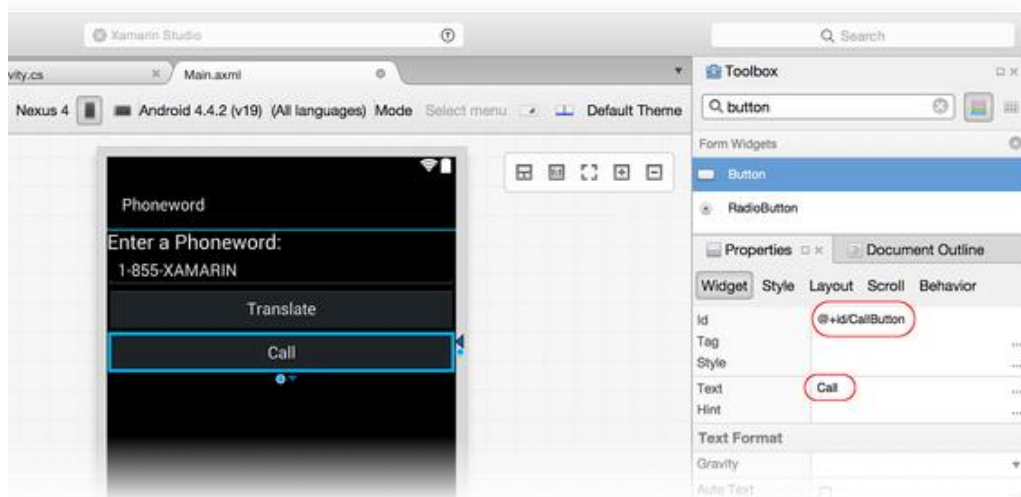


21. Next, let's drag a second *Button* from the *Toolbox* to the design surface and place it underneath the *Translate* button:



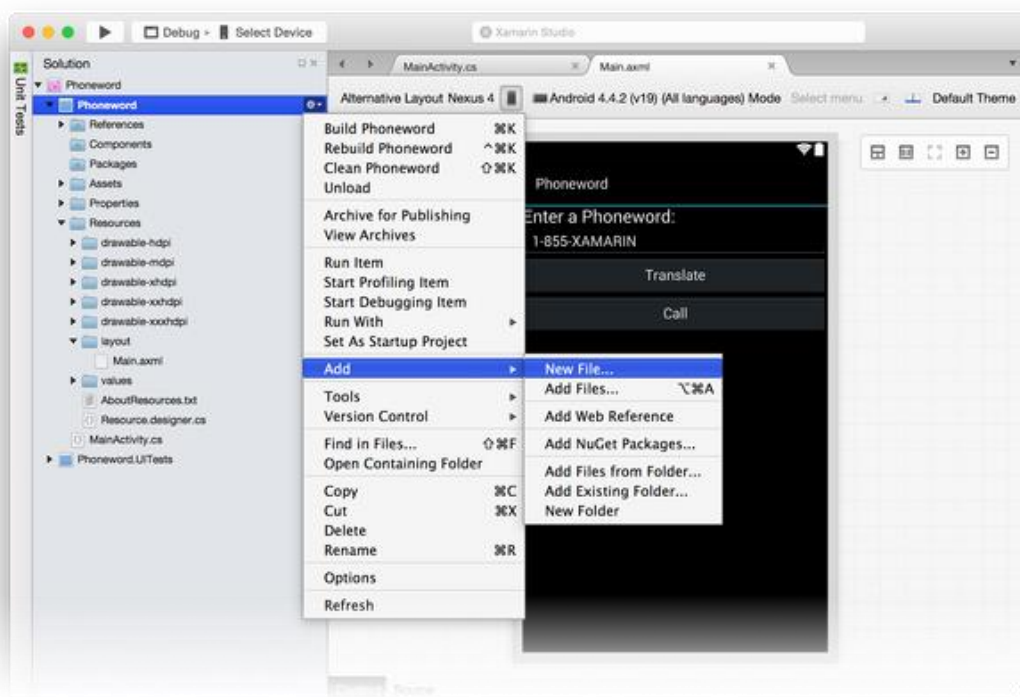


22. With the *Button* selected on the design surface, we can use the *Properties* pad to change the `Id` property of the *Button* to `@+id/CallButton` and change the `Text` property to `Call`:

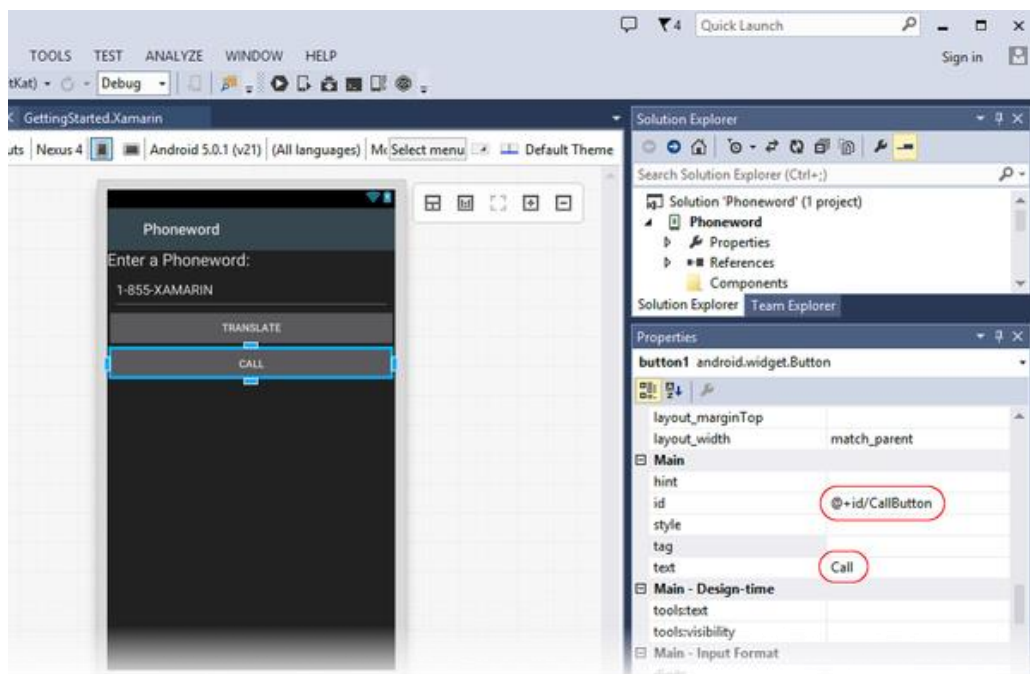


Let's save our work by pressing `⌘ + S`.

23. Now, let's add some code to translate phone numbers from alphanumeric to numeric. We'll add a new file to the project by clicking on the gear icon next to the *Phoneword* project in the *Solution* pad and choosing *Add > New File...*:

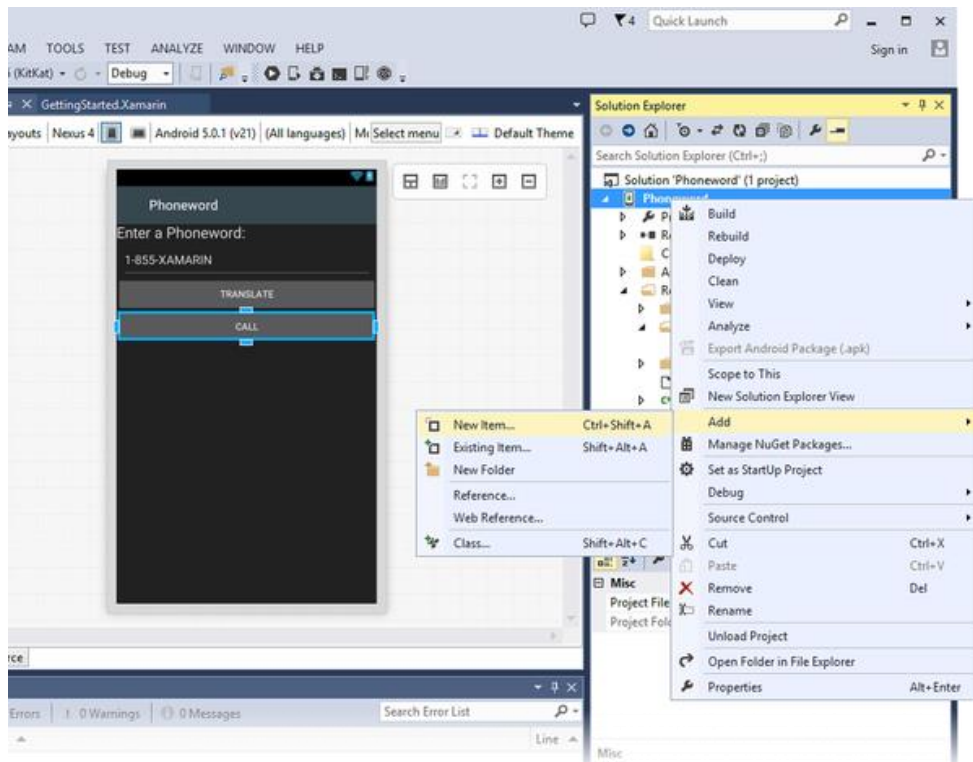


24. With the new *Button* control selected on the design surface, we can use the *Properties* pane to change the *id* property of the *Button* to `@+id/CallButton` and change the *text* property to *Call*:

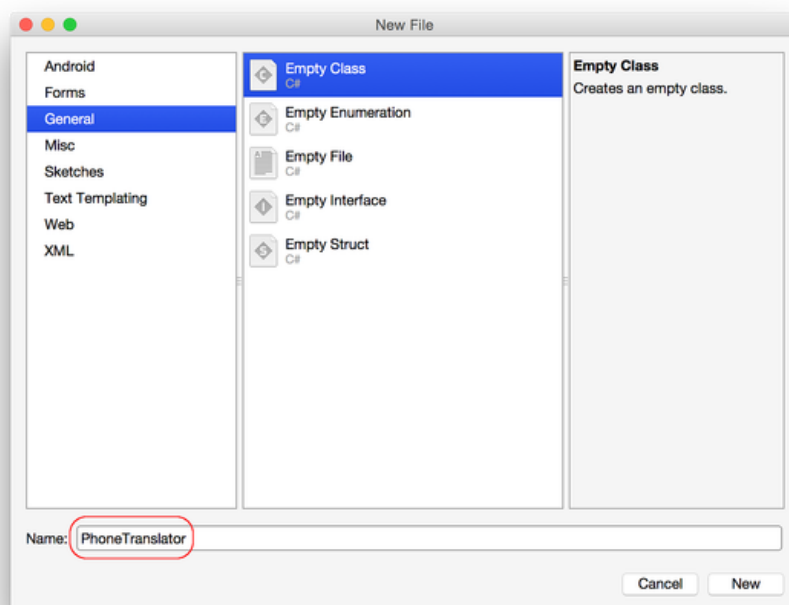


Let's save our work by pressing `CTRL+S`.

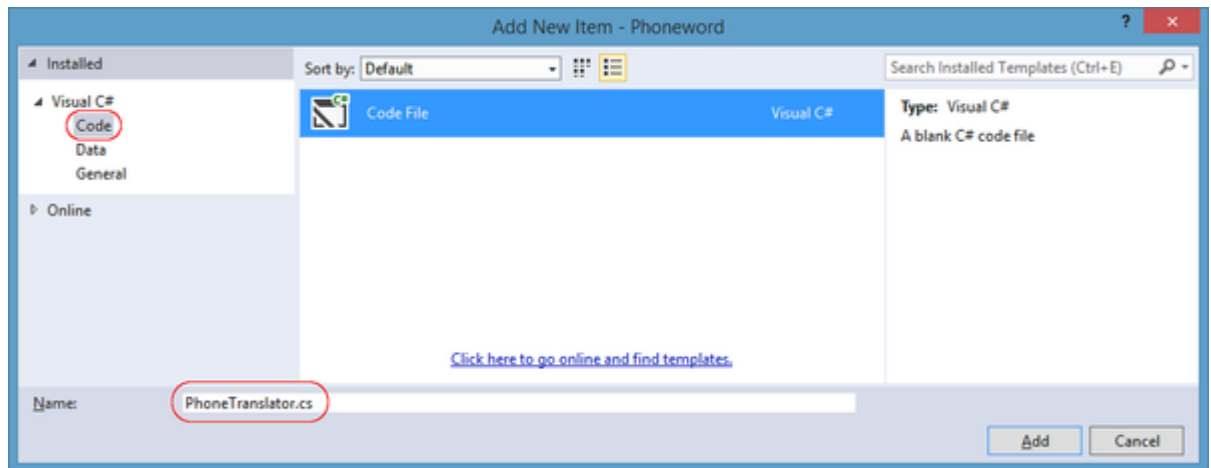
25. Now, let's add some code to translate phone numbers from alphanumeric to numeric. We'll add a new file to the project by right-clicking the *Phoneword* project in the *Solution Explorer* pane and choosing *Add > New Item...*:



26. In the *New File* dialog, let's select *General* > *Empty Class*, name the new file **PhoneTranslator**, and click *New*:



27. In the *Add New Item* dialog, let's select *Visual C#* > *Code* and name the new code file **PhoneTranslator.cs**:



28. This creates a new empty C# class for us. Let's remove all of the template code and replace it with the following code:

```
using System.Text;
using System;

namespace Core
{
    public static class PhonewordTranslator
    {
        public static string ToNumber(string raw)
        {
            if (string.IsNullOrEmpty(raw))
                return "";
            else
                raw = raw.ToUpperInvariant();

            var newNumber = new StringBuilder();
            foreach (var c in raw)
            {
                if (" -0123456789".Contains(c))
                    newNumber.Append(c);
                else {
                    var result = TranslateToNumber(c);
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

        if (result != null)
            newNumber.Append(result);
    }

    // otherwise we've skipped a non-numeric char
}

return newNumber.ToString();
}

static bool Contains (this string keyString, char c)
{
    return keyString.IndexOf(c) >= 0;
}

static int? TranslateToNumber(char c)
{
    if ("ABC".Contains(c))
        return 2;
    else if ("DEF".Contains(c))
        return 3;
    else if ("GHI".Contains(c))
        return 4;
    else if ("JKL".Contains(c))
        return 5;
    else if ("MNO".Contains(c))
        return 6;
    else if ("PQRS".Contains(c))
        return 7;
    else if ("TUV".Contains(c))
        return 8;
    else if ("WXYZ".Contains(c))
        return 9;
    return null;
}
}

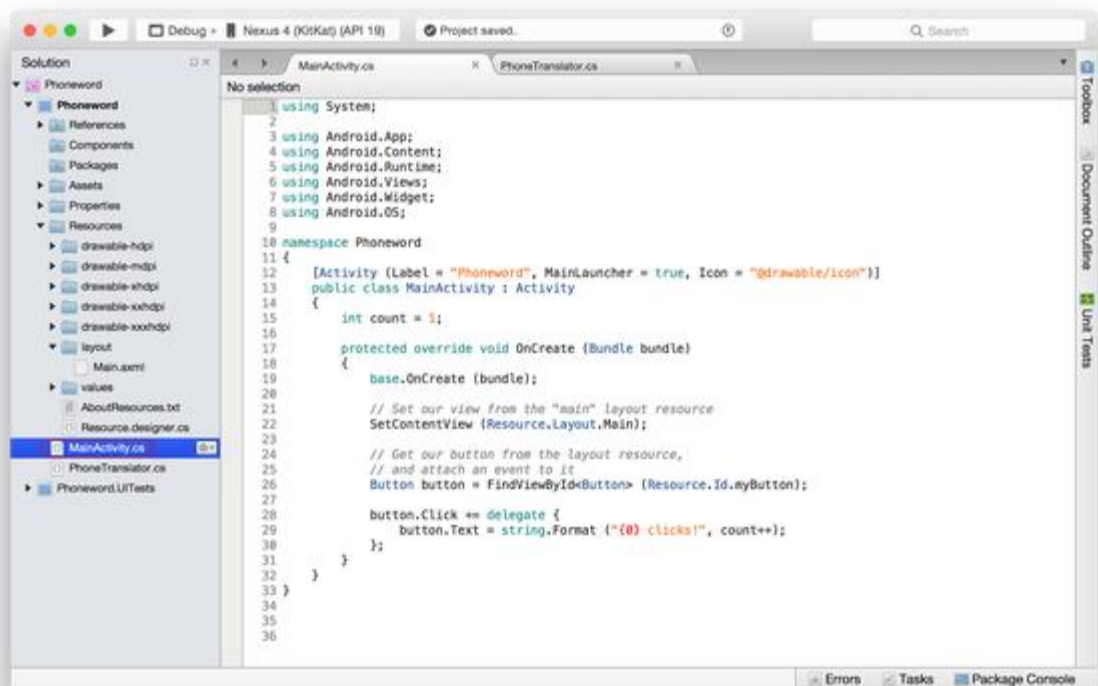
```

}

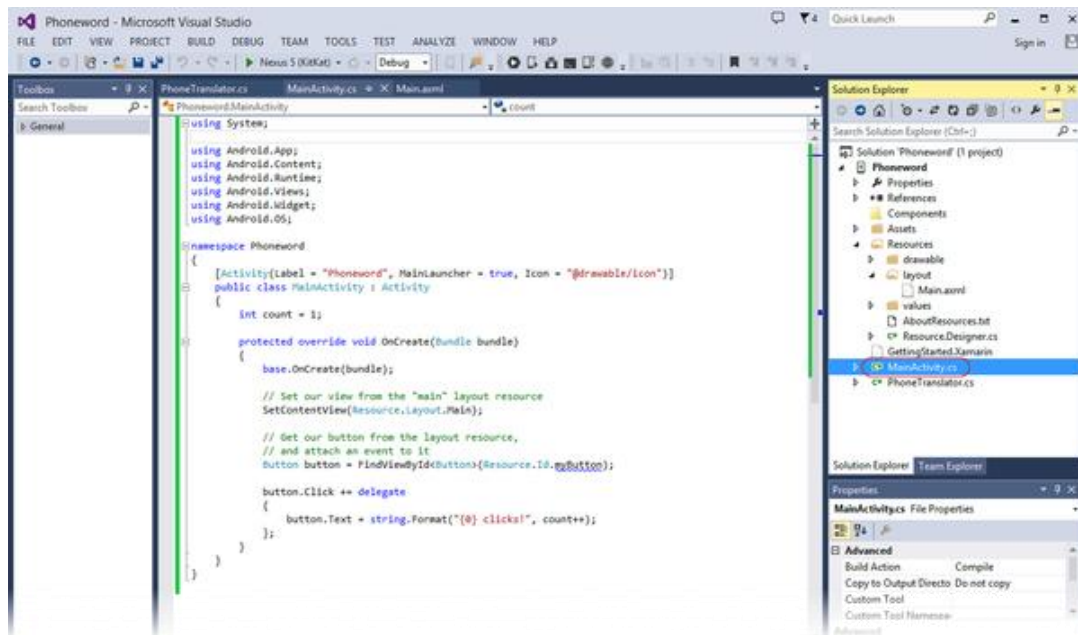
Let's save the changes to the **PhoneTranslator.cs** file by choosing *File > Save* (or by pressing ⌘ + S), then close the file.

Let's save the changes to the **PhoneTranslator.cs** file by clicking *File > Save* (or by pressing CTRL+S), then close the file.

29. Next we're going to add code to wire up the user interface. Let's add the backing code into the `MainActivity` class. Double-click **MainActivity.cs** in the *Solution Pad* to open it:



30. Next we're going to add code to wire up the user interface. Let's add the backing code into the `MainActivity` class. Double-click **MainActivity.cs** in the *Solution Explorer* to open it:



31. We begin by wiring up the *Translate* button. In the MainActivity class, find the OnCreate method. We'll add our button code inside OnCreate, below the base.OnCreate(bundle) and SetContentView (Resource.Layout.Main) calls. Remove the template button handling code so that the OnCreate method resembles the following:

```
using System;

using Android.App;
using Android.Content;
using Android.Runtime;
using Android.Views;
using Android.Widget;
using Android.OS;

namespace Phoneword
{
    [Activity (Label = "Phoneword", MainLauncher = true)]
    public class MainActivity : Activity
    {
        protected override void OnCreate (Bundle bundle)
        {
            base.OnCreate (bundle);
```

```

        // Set our view from the "main" layout resource
        SetContentView (Resource.Layout.Main);

        // Our code will go here
    }
}
}

```

32. Next, we need to get a reference to the controls that we created in the layout file with the Android Designer. Let's add the following code inside the `OnCreate` method, after the call to `SetContentView`:

```

// Get our UI controls from the loaded layout:

EditText phoneNumberText =
    FindViewById<EditText>(Resource.Id.PhoneNumberText);

Button translateButton =
    FindViewById<Button>(Resource.Id.TranslateButton);

Button callButton = FindViewById<Button>(Resource.Id.CallButton);

```

33. Now let's add code that responds to user presses of the *Translate* button. Add the following code to the `OnCreate` method (after the lines we added in the last step):

```

// Disable the "Call" button
callButton.Enabled = false;

// Add code to translate number
string translatedNumber = string.Empty;

translateButton.Click += (object sender, EventArgs e) =>
{
    // Translate user's alphanumeric phone number to numeric
}

```

```

        translatedNumber =
Core.PhonewordTranslator.ToNumber(phoneNumberText.Text);

        if (String.IsNullOrEmpty(translatedNumber))
        {
            callButton.Text = "Call";
            callButton.Enabled = false;
        }
        else
        {
            callButton.Text = "Call " + translatedNumber;
            callButton.Enabled = true;
        }
    }
};

```

34. Next let's add code that responds to user presses of the *Call* button. We'll place the following code below the code for the *Translate* button:

```

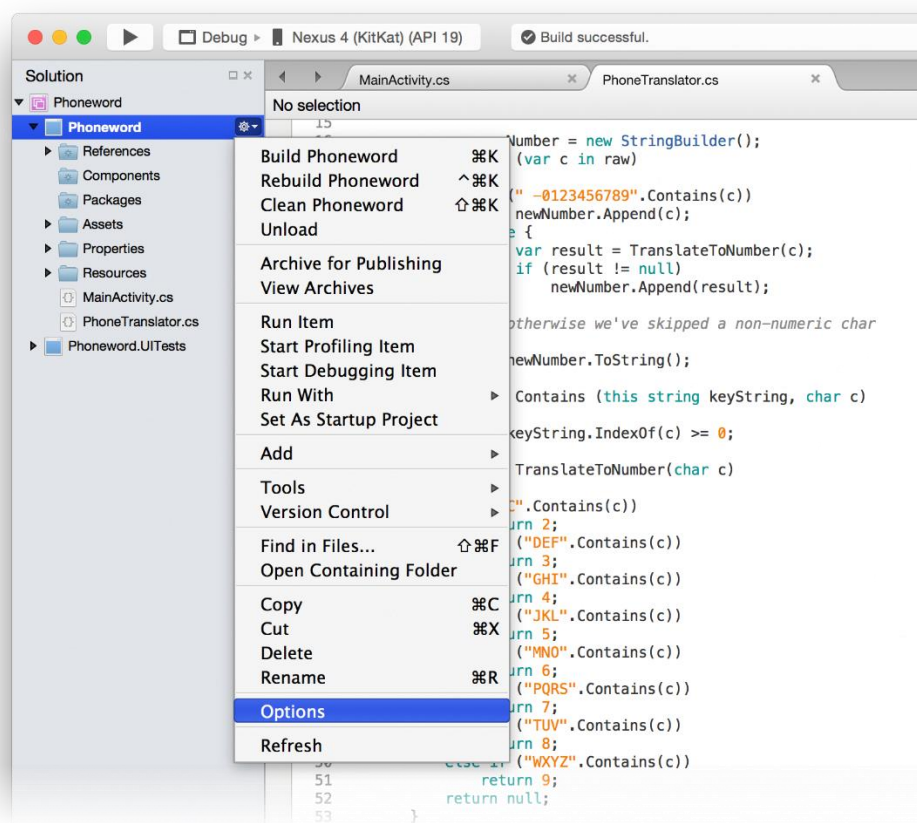
callButton.Click += (object sender, EventArgs e) =>
{
    // On "Call" button click, try to dial phone number.
    var callDialog = new AlertDialog.Builder(this);
    callDialog.SetMessage("Call " + translatedNumber + "?");
    callDialog.SetNeutralButton("Call", delegate {
        // Create intent to dial phone
        var callIntent = new Intent(Intent.ActionCall);
        callIntent.SetData(Android.Net.Uri.Parse("tel:" +
translatedNumber));
        StartActivity(callIntent);
    });
    callDialog.SetNegativeButton("Cancel", delegate { });

    // Show the alert dialog to the user and wait for response.
    callDialog.Show();
}

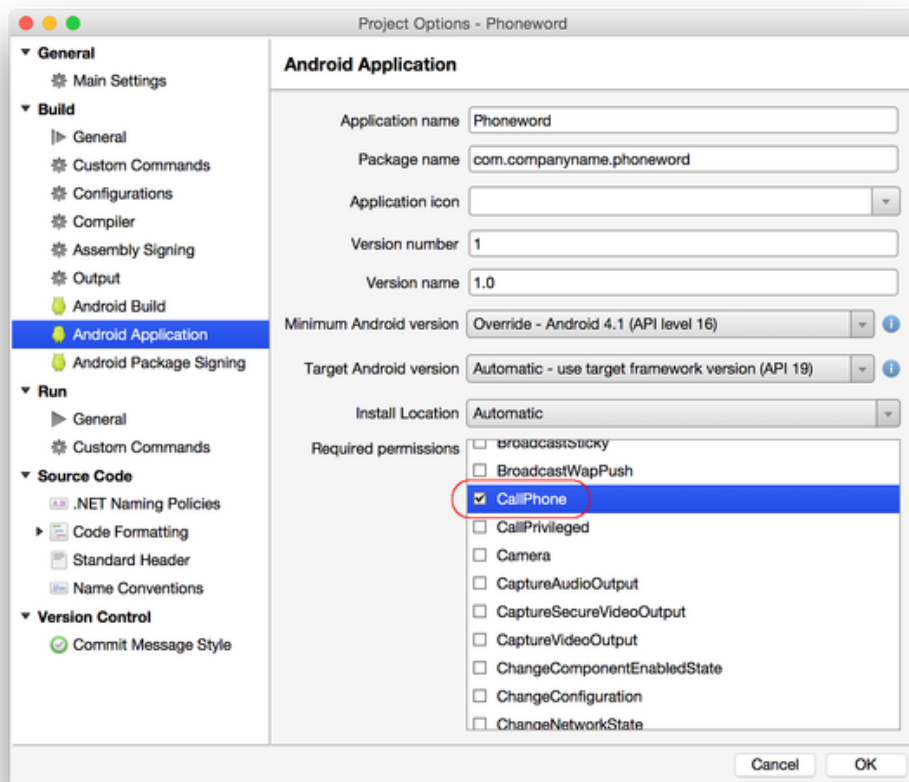
```

} ;

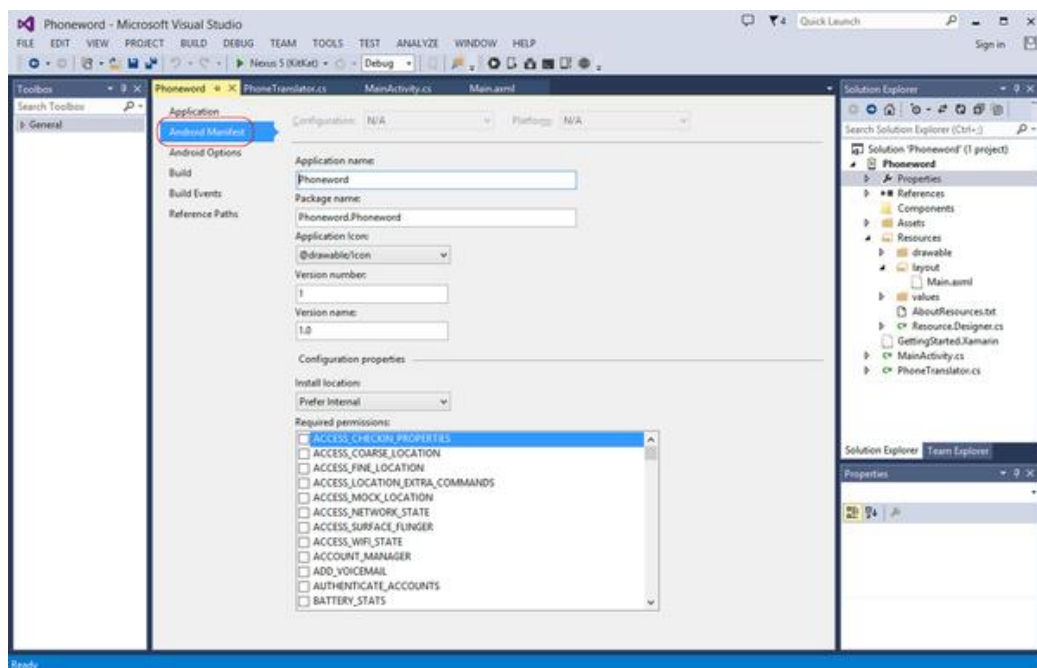
35. Finally, let's give our application permission to place a phone call. Open the project options by right-clicking *Phoneword* in the *Solution* pad and selecting *Options*:



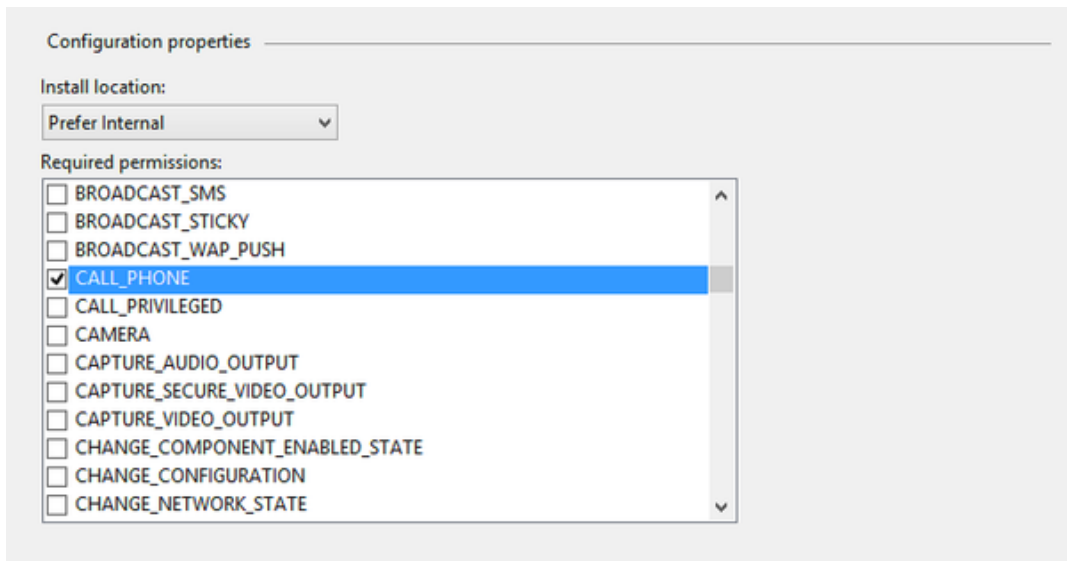
In the *Project Options* dialog, select *Build > Android Application*. In the *Required Permissions* section, enable the *CallPhone* permission:



36. Finally, let's give our application permission to place a phone call. We can edit app permissions in the Android Manifest. Open the Android Manifest by double-clicking *Properties* under *Phoneword* in the *Solution Explorer*, then select the *Android Manifest* page:



Under *Required Permissions*, enable the *CALL_PHONE* permission:



37. Let's save our work and build the application by selecting *Build > Build All* (or by pressing $\text{⌘} + \text{B}$). If our application compiles, we will get a success message at the top of Xamarin Studio:



If there are errors, we can go through the previous steps and correct any mistakes until the application builds successfully. If you get a build error such as, *Resource does not exist in the current context*, verify that the namespace name in **MainActivity.cs** matches the project name (*Phoneword*) and then completely rebuild the solution. If you still get build errors, verify that you have installed the latest Xamarin.Android and Xamarin Studio updates.

38. Let's save our work by selecting *File > Save All* (or by pressing CTRL-SHIFT-S) and build the application by selecting *Build > Rebuild Solution* (or by pressing CTRL-SHIFT-B). If our application compiles, we will get a success message in the bottom left corner of Visual Studio:

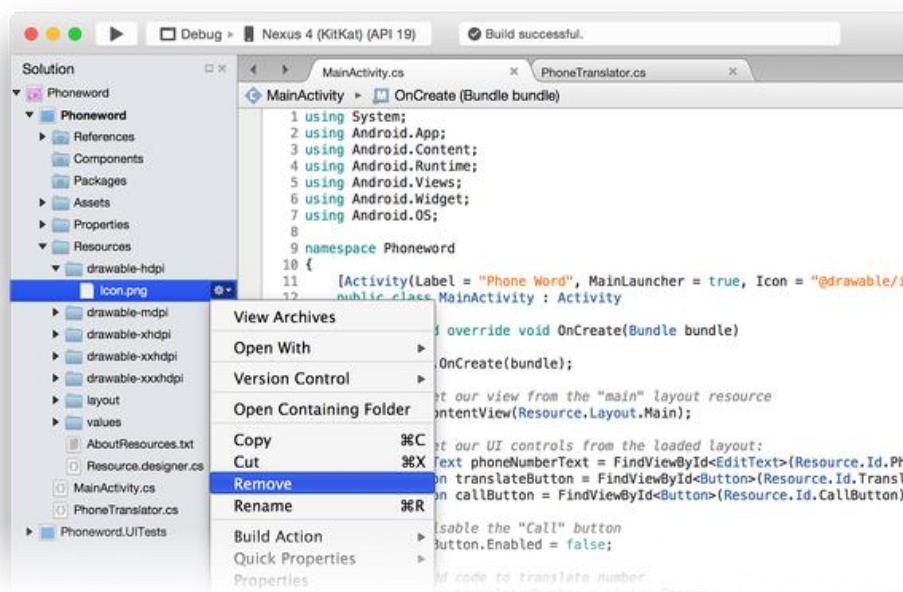


If there are errors, we can go through the previous steps and correct any mistakes until the application builds successfully. If you get a build error such as, *Resource does not exist in the current context*, verify that the namespace name in **MainActivity.cs** matches the project name (**Phoneword**) and then completely rebuild the solution. If you still get build errors, verify that you have installed the latest Xamarin.Android updates.

39. We now have a working application – it's time to add the finishing touches! Let's start by editing the `Label` for our `MainActivity`. The `Label` is what Android displays at the top of the screen to let users know where they are in the application. At the top of the `MainActivity` class, change the `Label` to `Phone Word` as seen here:

```
namespace Phoneword
{
    [Activity (Label = "Phone Word", MainLauncher = true)]
    public class MainActivity : Activity
    {
        ...
    }
}
```

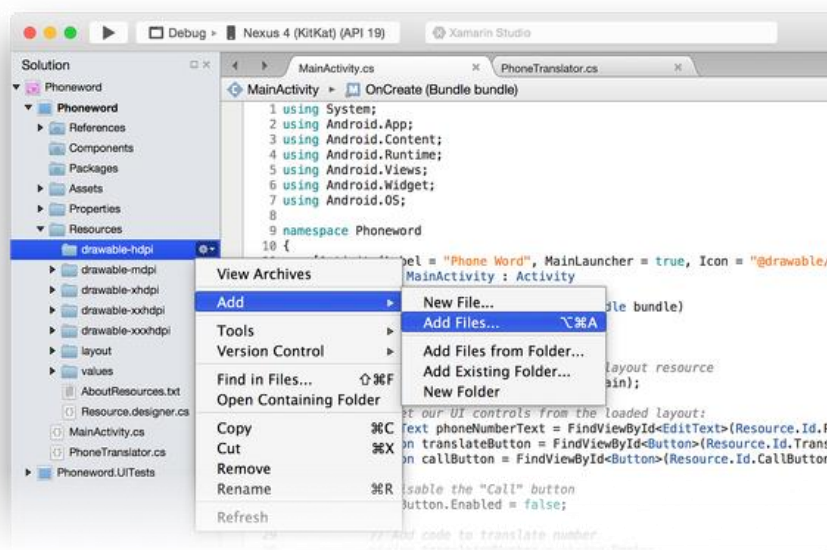
40. Next, let's set the application icon. First, let's open the downloaded and unzipped [Xamarin App Icons set](#). Next, let's expand the *drawable-hdpi* folder under *Resources* and remove the existing **Icon.png** by right-clicking it and selecting *Remove*:



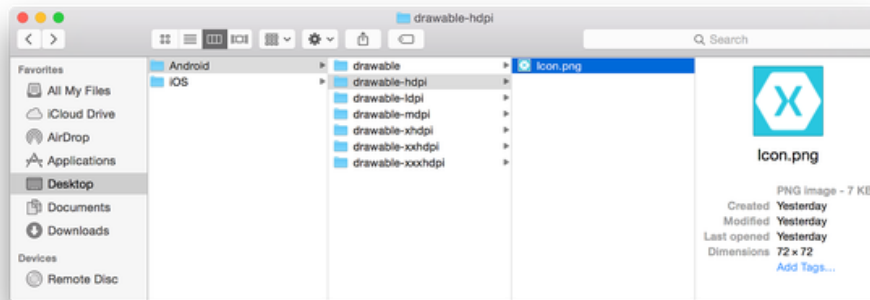
When the following dialog box is displayed, select *Delete*:



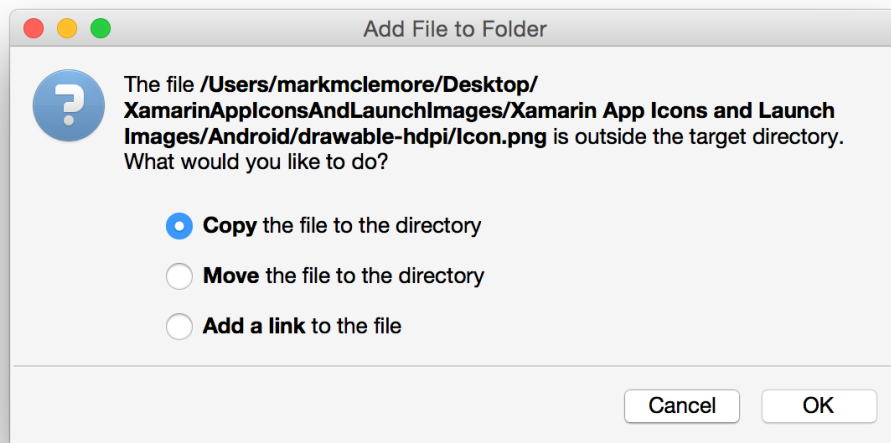
41. Next, let's right-click the *drawable-hdpi* folder and select *Add > Add Files*:



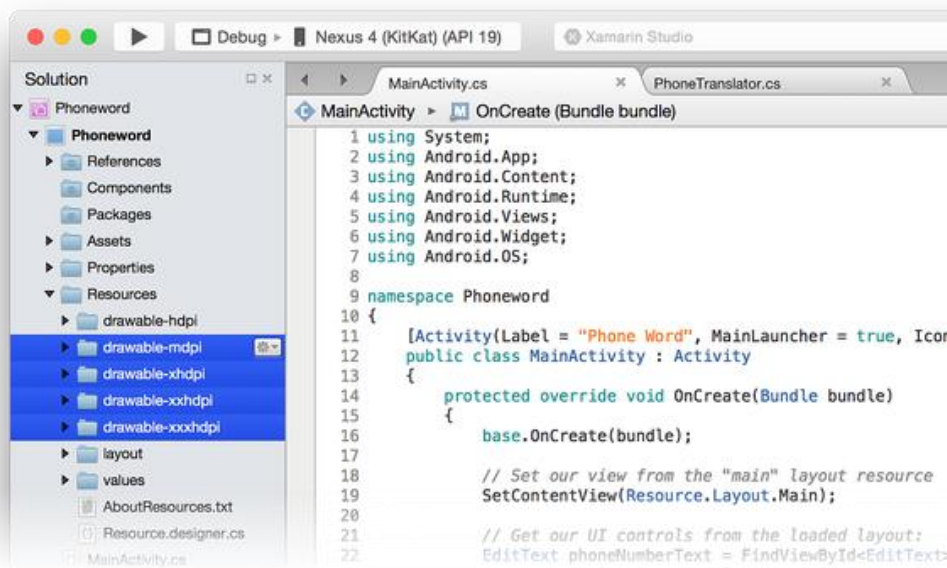
42. From the selection dialog, let's navigate to the unzipped Xamarin App Icons directory and open the *drawable-hdpi* folder. Select **Icon.png**:



43. In the *Add File to Folder* dialog box, select *Copy the file into the directory* and click *OK*:

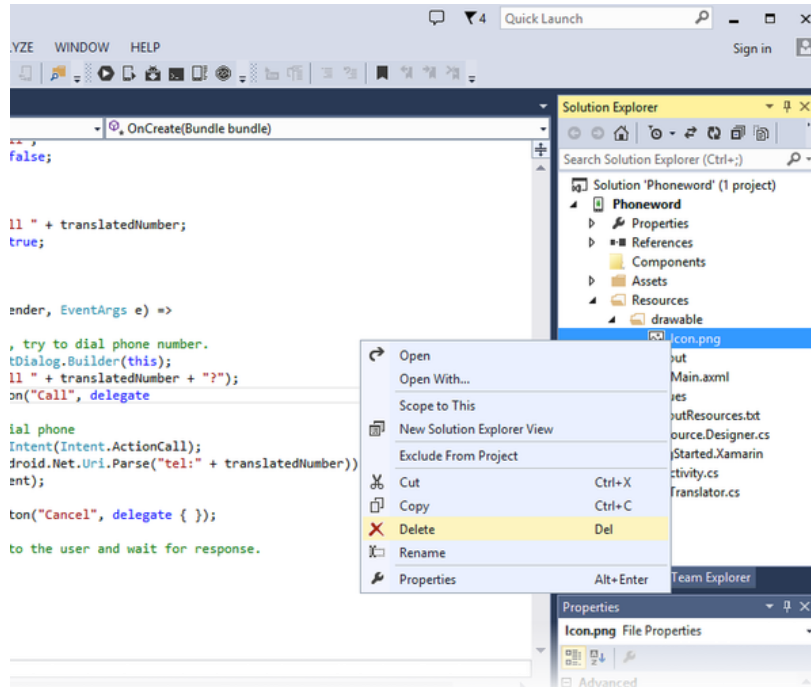


44. Repeat these steps for each of the *drawable-** folders until the contents of the *drawable-** Xamarin App Icons folders are copied to their counterpart *drawable-** folders in the **Phoneword** project:

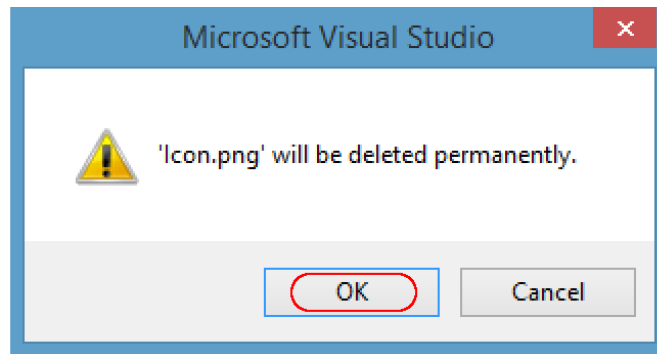


These folders provide different resolutions of the icon so that it renders correctly on different devices with different screen densities.

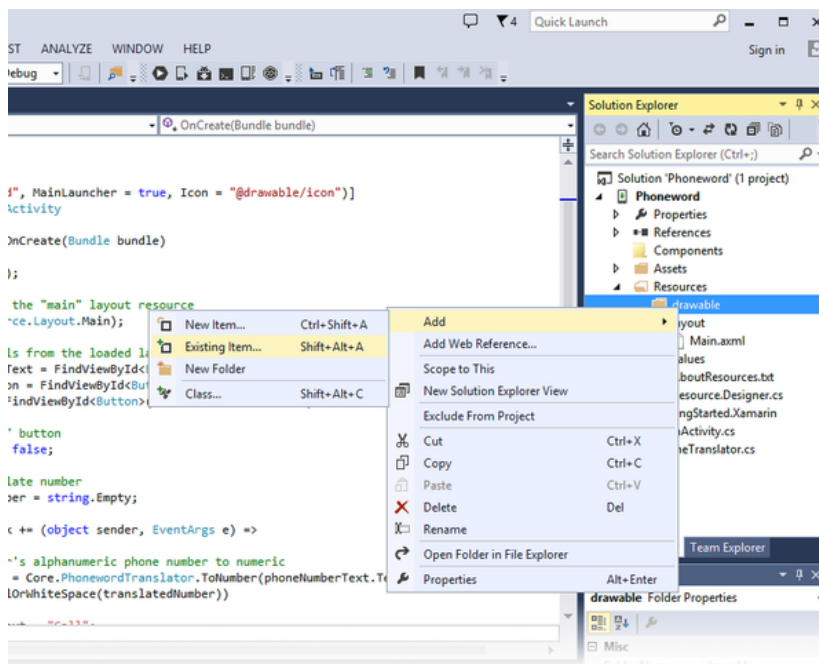
45. Next, let's set the application icon. First, download and unzip the [Xamarin App Icons set](#). Next, expand the *drawable* folder under *Resources* and remove the existing **Icon.png** by right-clicking it and selecting *Delete*:



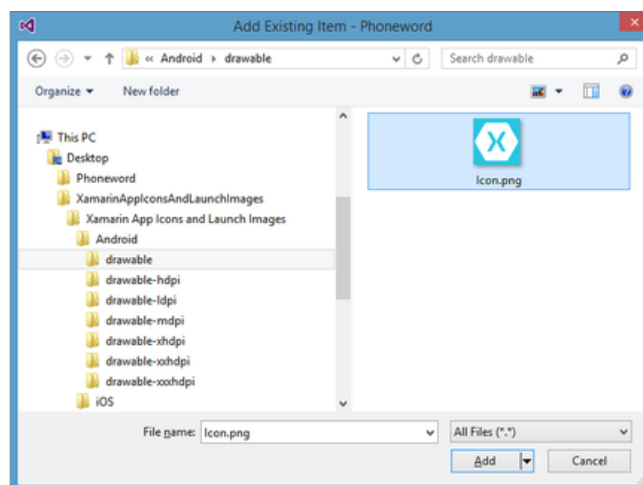
When the following dialog box is displayed, click *OK*:



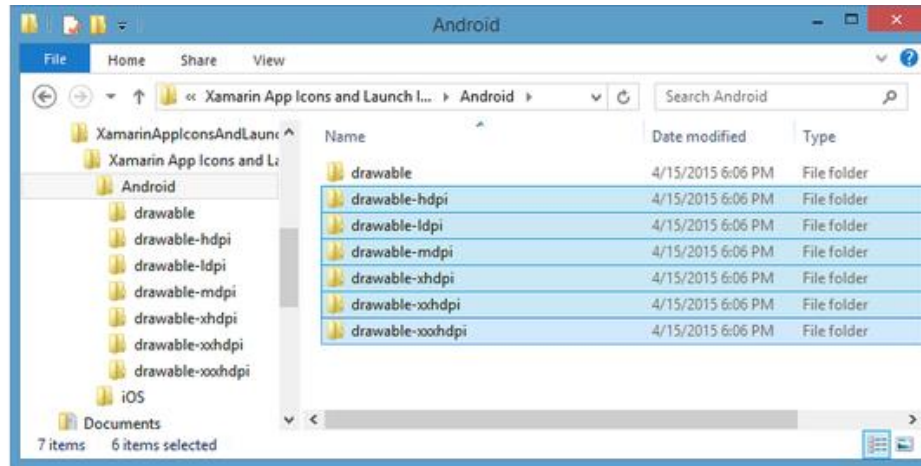
46. Next, let's right-click the *drawable* folder and select *Add > Existing Item...*:



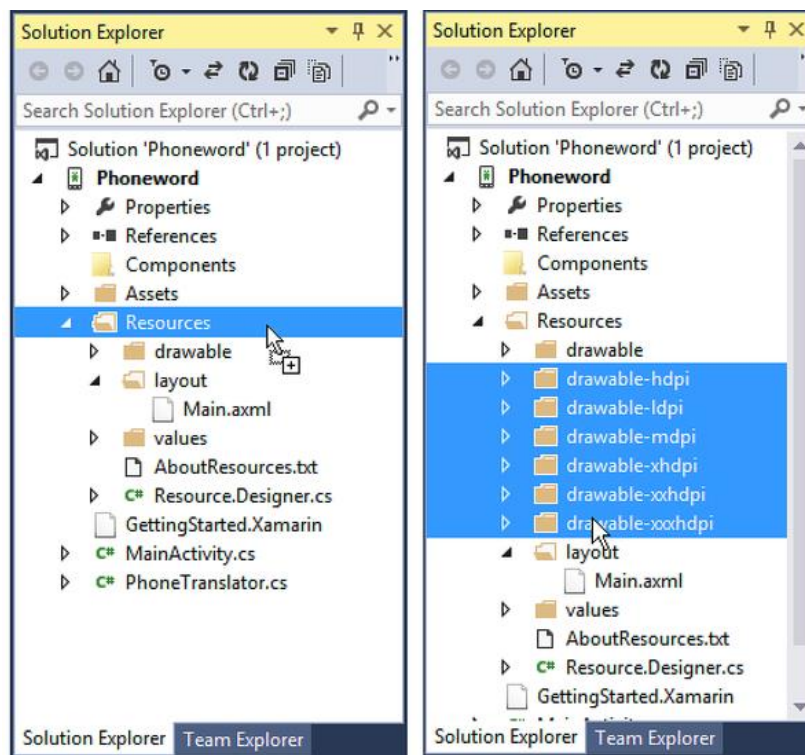
47. From the selection dialog, let's navigate to the unzipped Xamarin App Icons directory and open the *drawable* folder. Select **Icon.png** and click *Add*:



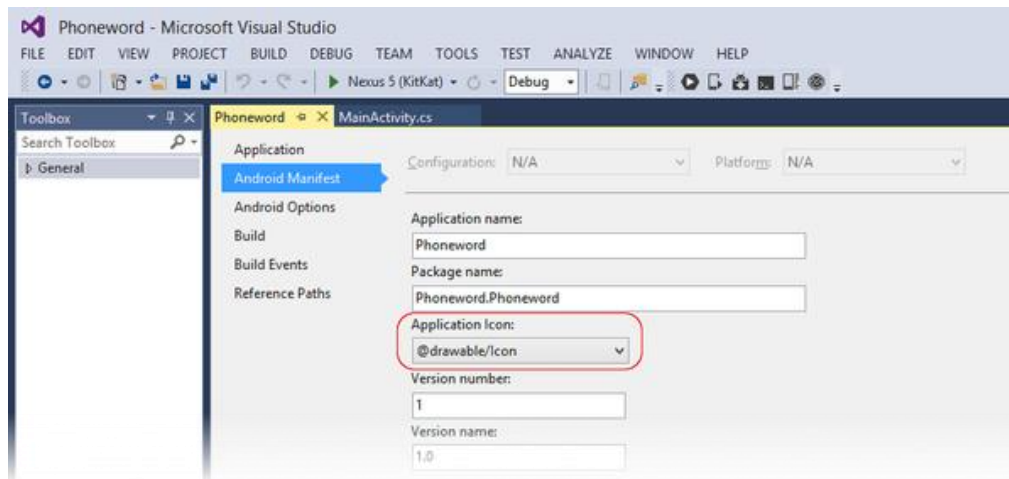
48. Next, let's add the rest of the Xamarin App Icons *drawable-** folders to the project. These folders provide different resolutions of the icon so that it renders correctly on different devices with different screen densities. In a File Explorer window, navigate to the unzipped Xamarin App Icons directory and select the *drawable-** folders:



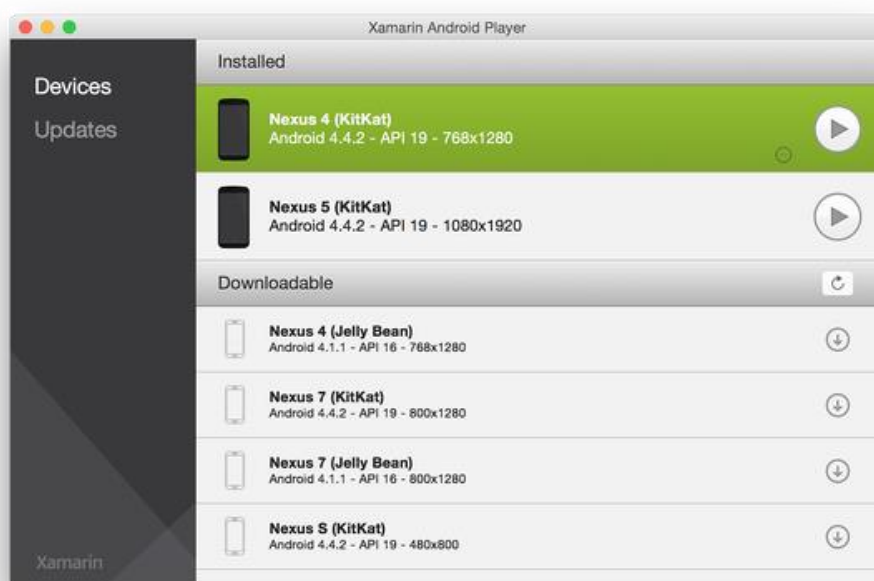
Drag these folders onto the *Resources* folder in the Visual Studio *Solution Explorer* pane. These folders are now part of your project as shown in *Solution Explorer* on the right:



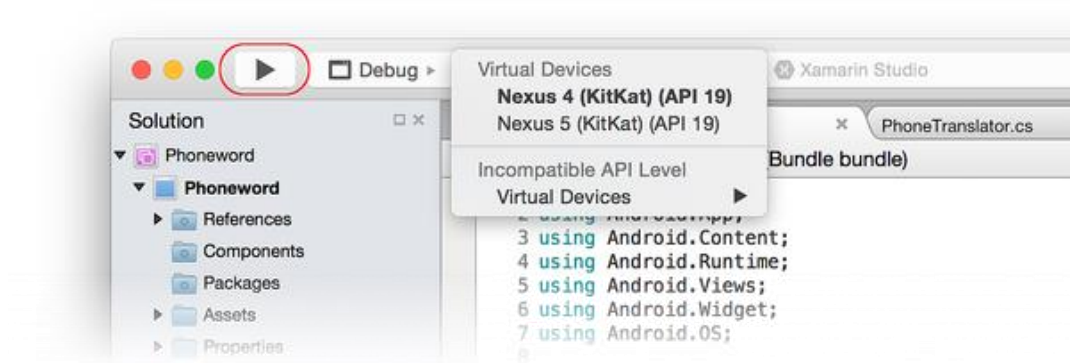
49. Next, let's specify the icon in the Android Manifest by choosing `@drawable/Icon` from the *Application Icon* drop-down menu:



50. Finally, we can test our application by deploying it to an Android emulator. If you have not yet configured your emulator, please see [Xamarin Android Player](#) for setup instructions. In this example, we have installed the *Nexus 4 (KitKat)* (Android 4.4.2, API Level 19) virtual device and we have started it from the Xamarin Android Player *Device Manager* console:

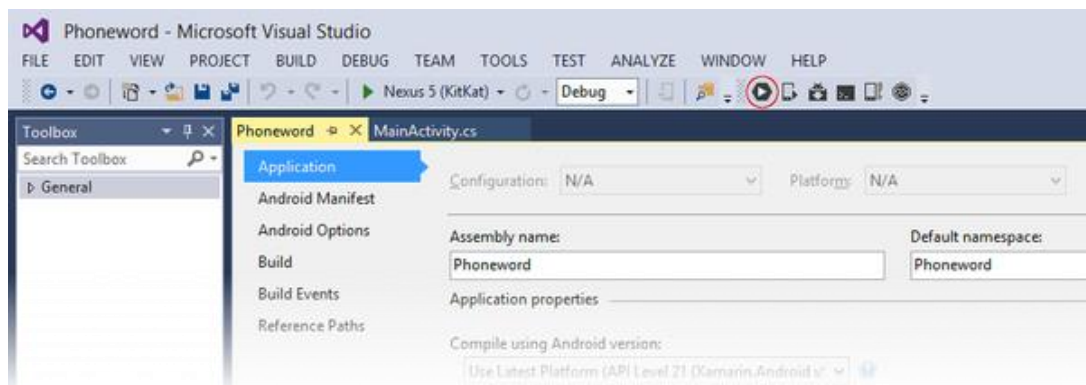


In Xamarin Studio, select this virtual device (under *Virtual Devices*) and click the play button in the upper left corner:

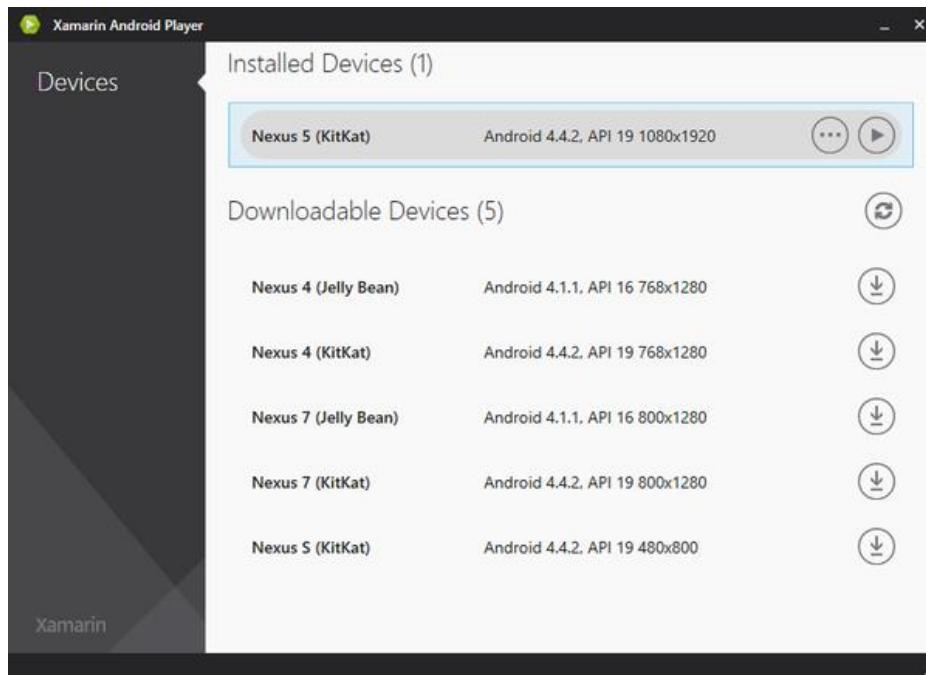


As shown in this screenshot, we have selected the *Nexus 4 (KitKat) (API 19)* virtual device that is running in the Xamarin Android Player.

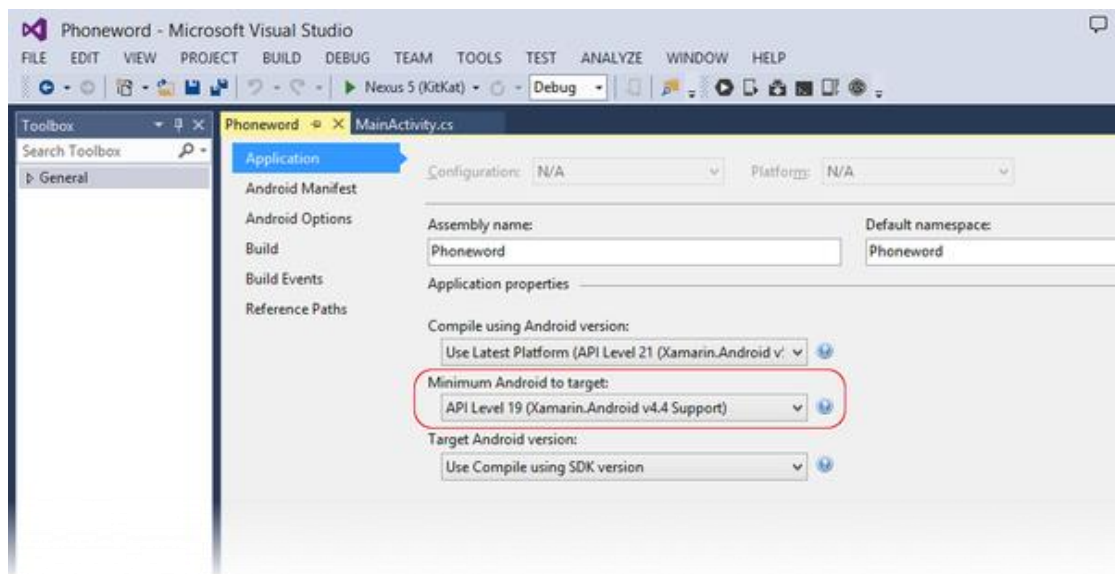
51. Finally, we can test our application by deploying it to an emulator. If you have not yet configured your emulator, please see [Xamarin Android Player](#) for setup instructions. If you are using a Google Android emulator, please see [Accelerating Android Emulators](#) for tips on improving emulation performance. Let's open the Xamarin Android Player *Device Manager* by clicking the *Manage virtual devices (XAP)* icon in the toolbar:



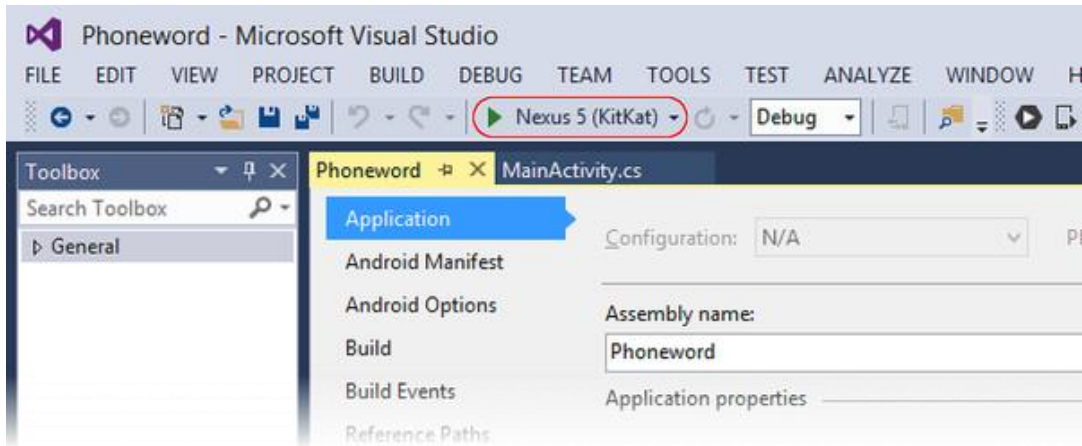
In the Xamarin Android Player *Device Manager*, let's download, install, and start the *Nexus 5 (KitKat) (Android 4.4.2, API Level 19)* virtual device:



Before we send our app to this emulator, let's configure the app's minimum Android version so that it will run on our chosen virtual device. In Visual Studio, open the *Application* page of *Properties*. Under *Minimum Android to target*:, select API Level 19 (for more information about Android API levels, see [Understanding Android API Levels](#)).

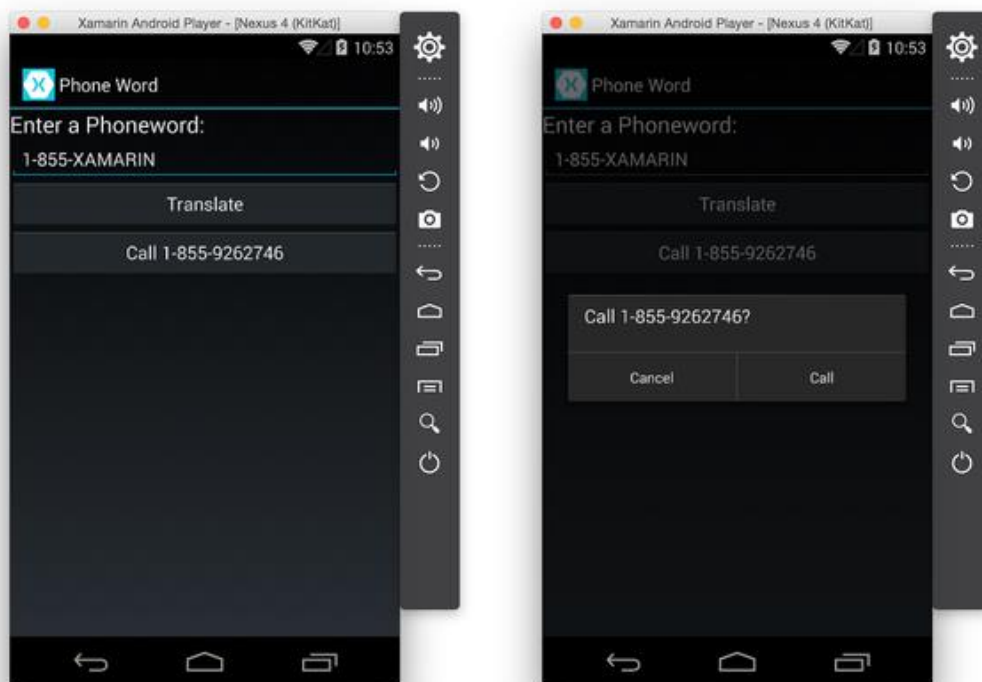


Next, let's deploy our app to the *Nexus 5 (KitKat)* device from the drop-down menu on the toolbar as shown here:

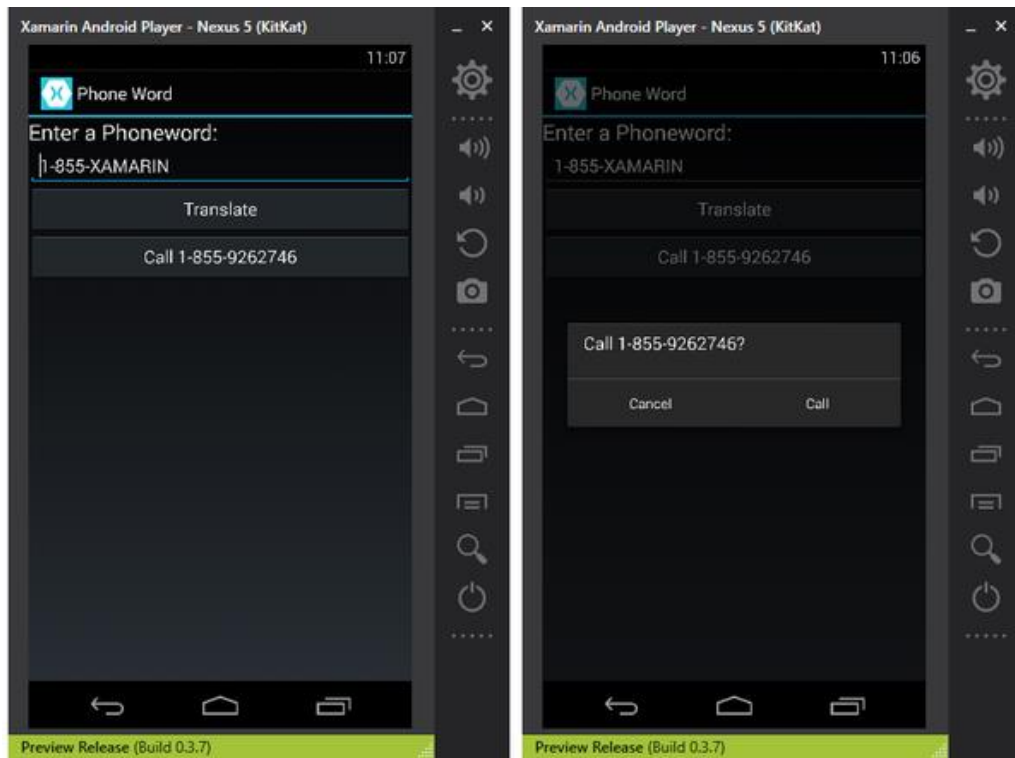


Visual Studio will copy files to this emulator before installing and launching our app.

52. After Xamarin Studio loads the application into the virtual device, the **Phoneword** app is automatically started. The screenshots below illustrate the **Phoneword** application running in the Xamarin Android Player. The icons that we installed are displayed next to the *Phone Word* label that we configured in *MainActivity*. Clicking the *Translate* button updates the text of the *Call* button, and clicking the *Call* button causes the call dialog to appear as shown on the right:



53. The screenshots below illustrate the **Phoneword** application running in Xamarin Android Player. The icons that we installed are displayed next to the *Phone Word* label that we configured in *MainActivity*. Clicking the *Translate* button updates the text of the *Call* button, and clicking the *Call* button causes the call dialog to appear as shown on the right:



Congratulations on completing your first Xamarin.Android application! Now it's time to dissect the tools and skills we just learned in the [Hello, Android Deep Dive](#).