

COMP327 – Mobile Computing Assignment 1

The app I have created called “Comp Sci Tech Reports” is a database that decodes a JSON file from the internet and translates it into a viewable format.

The main view, which is shown when the user starts the app, displays the title “Computer Science Technical Reports” and then has several headings. These headings are the year the report was written and is generated from the most recent report descending to the earliest. Each cell under a heading is the title of the report and a subtitle which is the authors that wrote the paper. If the user, scrolls down it will display many other reports.

If the user selects any of the articles by tapping on it, it will move to a new page and display a brief of the report. This page will show the full title of the report, the author, an abstract of the report, a pdf link and a switch button to ‘favourite’ the report. If the user taps the ‘View PDF file’ text, it will move to another page that will display the full pdf report that the user can scroll through and read. There is also a ‘back’ button on the top left bar of the page that will take them back to the report page. The report page also has the same ‘back’ feature that will return them to the report list.

If the user turns the ‘favourite’ switch on, it will save the report as a unique ID number inside the app’s Core Data; and if the user returns to the main page, that report will display a ‘tick’ on the right side of its cell to show it was favourited. Since that report was saved to the Core Data, this means that when the app fully shuts down, if the user relaunches the app that tick will still be there; and if the user taps back on the saved report, the switch will still be in an ‘on’ state. It does this by checking the Core Data for that reports unique ID and then adjusts the switch or the cell accessory depending on which page the user is on. If the user turns the switch off, it will delete the report from Core Data and on the main page, the tick on the report’s cell will no longer be there. This will also persist when the app is shut down and reopened.

If the report does not have a PDF file associated with it, the ‘View PDF file’ link will not appear and instead you will get text saying, “No PDF view”. This is usually the case for when the report’s full version is saved on a separate format such as Postscript file. Therefore, the full report is unavailable in this app.

If there is no abstract for the report, which is the case sometimes, the report page will simply say after the authors “No abstract available”.