# Google<sup>m</sup> 1010



# The World of List View

Romain Guy and Adam Powell May 19, 2010

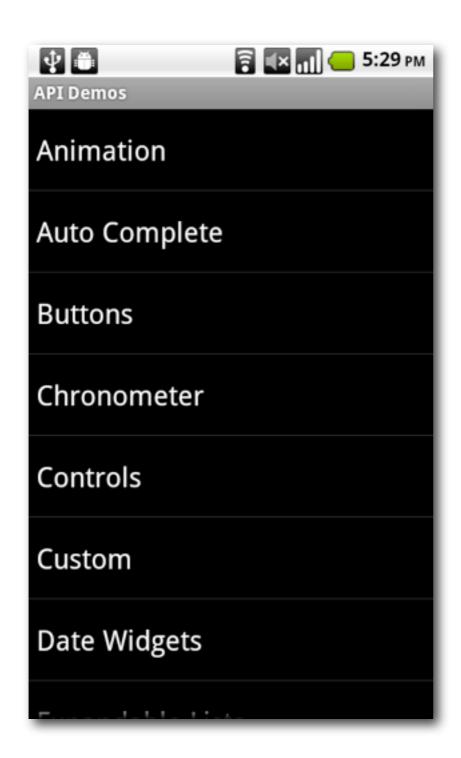


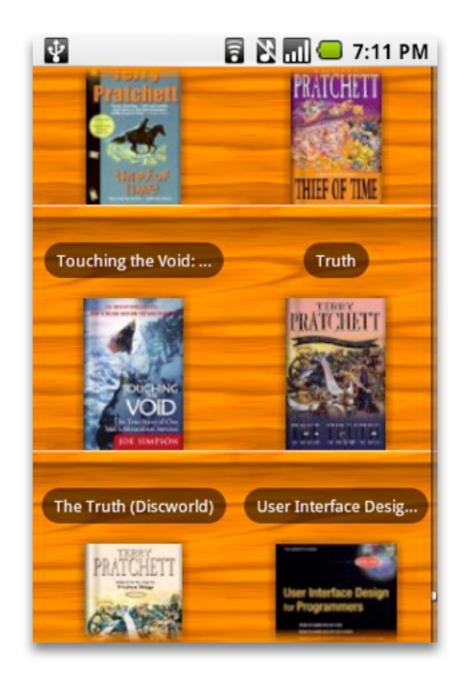


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# Agenda

- Virtualization and adapters
- Item properties
- Headers and footers
- List selectors
- Other features
- Gotchas and don'ts



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#### Virtualization

- Problem: large data sets
  - Memory
  - Performance
- Solution
  - Populate on demand
  - Recycle views to reduce object churn



- Terminology
  - index: Child views
  - position: Data in Adapter
  - id: Unique identifier for data
- Stable IDs
  - hasStableIds() == true
  - An ID always refers to the same value
  - Helps ListView



- getView(int position, View convertView, ViewGroup parent)
  - Full data presentation control
  - Optimization
  - Shoot yourself in the foot (and the face)



# getView

#### Opportunities for optimization

- ListView is smart
- convertView
  - Supplied by ListView
  - Matches item types
  - Reuse it



# getView The Slow Way



# getView The Right Way



# getView The Fast Way

```
static class ViewHolder {
    TextView text;
    ImageView icon;
}
```



# getView

#### The Fast Way

```
1 public View getView(int position, View convertView, ViewGroup parent) {
       ViewHolder holder;
       if (convertView == null) {
 4
 5
           convertView = mInflater.inflate(R.layout.list_item_icon_text,
 6
                   parent, false);
           holder = new ViewHolder();
           holder.text = (TextView) convertView.findViewById(R.id.text);
9
           holder.icon = (ImageView) convertView.findViewById(R.id.icon);
10
11
           convertView.setTag(holder);
12
       } else {
13
           holder = (ViewHolder) convertView.getTag();
       }
14
15
16
       holder.text.setText(DATA[position]);
17
       holder.icon.setImageBitmap((position & 1) == 1? mIcon1 : mIcon2);
18
19
       return convertView;
20 }
```

# getView



List of 10,000 items, Nexus One device



How to shoot yourself in the foot

- Local view cache
- Accessing views from the adapter
- Change convertView's structure
- Assumptions about getView calls



#### Handling data changes

- notifyDataSetChanged()
  - New or updated data
- notifyDataSetInvalidated()
  - No more data available



#### Handling different view types

- Built-in item types
- getItemViewType
  - Type of View for a given position
  - Used to provide the right convertView
- getViewTypeCount
  - How many types to expect



#### Handling slow data sources

- Adapter modifications on the UI thread
- Fetching data can happen anywhere
- Request data on another thread
- Commit adapter changes on the UI thread
- Call notifyDataSetChanged()



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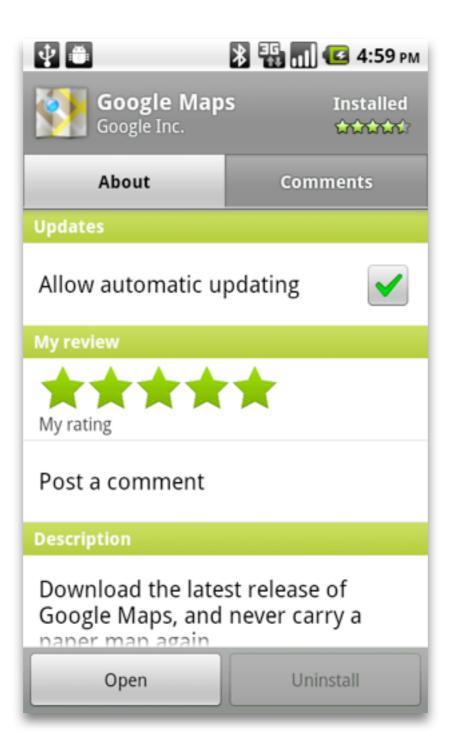


#### Enabled or disabled

- Enabled
  - Item can be selected, clicked
- Disabled
  - Section dividers/headers within content



#### Enabled or disabled



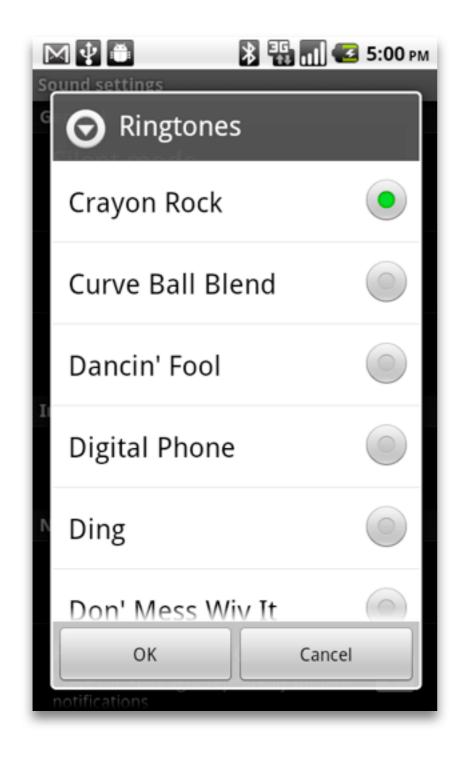


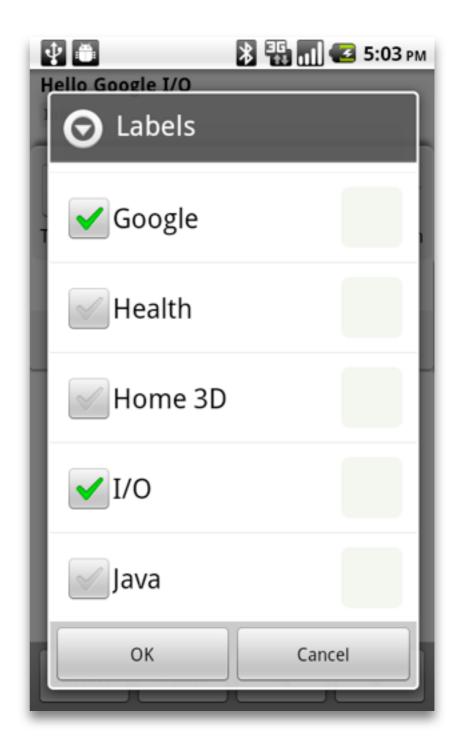
#### Choice mode

- Single choice mode (radio buttons)
- Multiple choice mode (checked items)
- What is selected?
  - Single choice mode
    - getCheckedItemPosition()
  - Multiple choice mode
    - getCheckedItemPositions()
  - Stable IDs make life easier when positions can change
    - getCheckedItemIds()



#### Choice mode





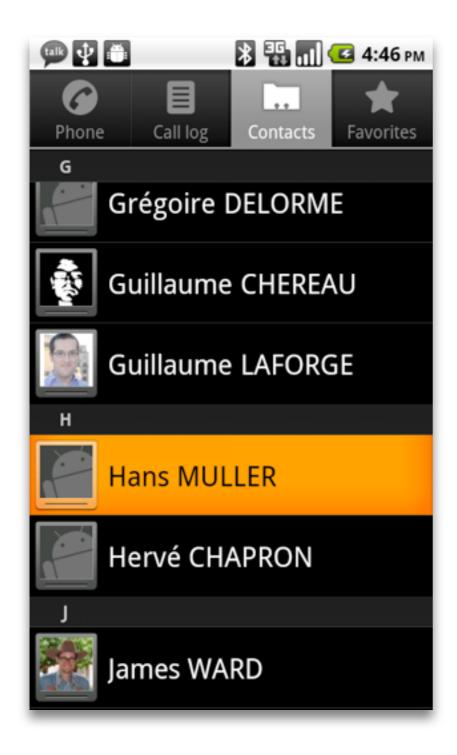


#### Focusable

- setItemsCanFocus(boolean itemsCanFocus)
- Do list items focus as a whole? (false)
- Or can views within list items have focus? (true)



#### Focusable







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#### Headers and footers





# Headers and footers

#### Fixed

```
<LinearLayout</pre>
 2
       android:layout_width="fill_parent"
 3
       android:layout_height="fill_parent"
       android:orientation="vertical">
 4
 5
6
       <LinearLayout
           android:layout_width="fill_parent"
8
           android:layout_height="wrap_content">
9
           <!-- -->
10
       </LinearLayout>
11
12
       <ListView
13
           android:id="@+id/list"
14
15
           android:layout_width="fill_parent"
           android:layout_height="0dip"
16
           android:layout_weight="1.0" />
17
18
19 </LinearLayout>
```



# Headers and footers Scrolling

- ListView.addHeaderView()
- ListView.addFooterView()
- Must be called before setAdapter()
- isSelectable == Adapter.isEnabled()
  - Sorry, our bad



#### Headers and footers

#### Wrapped adapter

```
1 ListView list = ...;
2 list.addHeaderView(myHeader);
3 list.addFooterView(myFooter);
4 list.setAdapter(myAdapter);
5
6 boolean same = list.getAdapter() == myAdapter;
7 // same == false!
8 // getAdapter() returns a
9 // android.widget.HeaderViewListAdapter
```



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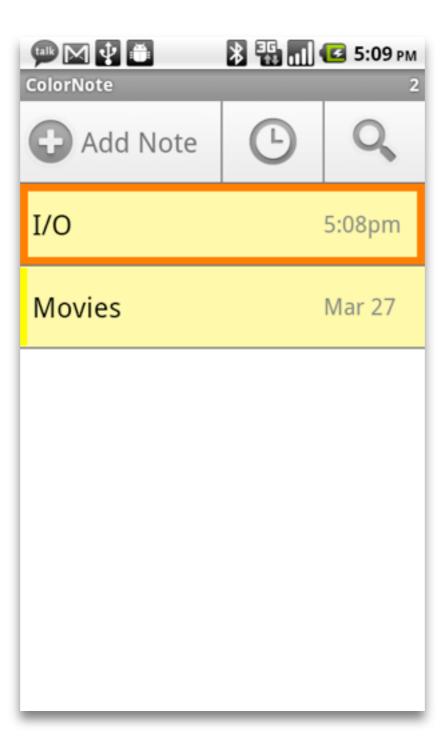


#### List selectors

- Highlights the selected item
- Not shown in touch mode
  - There's no selection in touch mode!
- Shown behind list items
  - android:drawSelectorOnTop="true"



### List selectors





#### List selectors

```
1 <selector>
 2
 3
       <item android:state_window_focused="false"</pre>
 4
           android:drawable="@color/transparent" />
 5
 6
       <item android:state_focused="true" android:state_enabled="false"</pre>
           android:state_pressed="true"
 8
           android:drawable="@drawable/list_selector_background_disabled" />
 9
10
       <item android:state_focused="true" android:state_enabled="false"</pre>
11
           android:drawable="@drawable/list_selector_background_disabled" />
12
13
       <item android:state_focused="true" android:state_pressed="true"</pre>
           android:drawable="@drawable/list_selector_background_transition" />
14
15
       <item android:state_focused="false" android:state_pressed="true"</pre>
16
           android:drawable="@drawable/list_selector_background_transition" />
17
       <item android:state_focused="true"</pre>
18
19
           android:drawable="@drawable/list_selector_background_focus" />
20
21 </selector>
```

#### List selectors

- If your items are opaque, use a selector drawable:
  - convertView.setBackground(R.drawable.selector)



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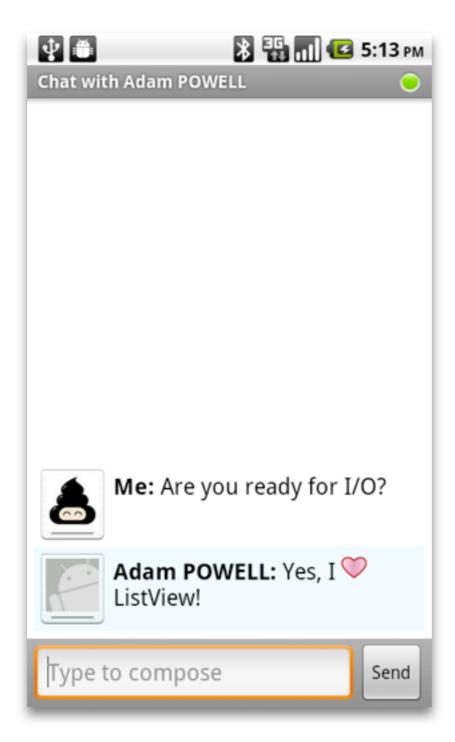


#### Transcript and stack from bottom

- android:transcriptMode
  - Behavior of the list when the content changes
  - "disabled", doesn't scroll
  - "normal", scrolls to the bottom if last item is visible
  - "alwaysScroll", always scrolls to the bottom
- android:stackFromBottom
  - Stack items in reverse order
  - Starts with the last item from the adapter
- Useful for chats
  - Messaging, Talk, IRC, etc.



Transcript and stack from bottom





#### Text filter

- android:textFilterEnabled="true"
- Adapter must implement Filterable
  - CursorAdapter, ArrayAdapter, etc.
  - Implement getFilter()
- Implement the Filter



#### Text filter



# Other features Text filter





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#### Gotcha

#### My list turns black?!

- Very useful optimization
  - When scrolling views are cached in bitmaps
  - Opaque bitmaps to avoid blending
- Solution
  - android:cacheColorHint="#0000000"
  - android:cacheColorHint="@color/myBackgroundColor"



#### Gotcha

#### The scrollbar changes size?!

- When views have very different heights
- Smooth scrollbar needs each item's height
  - Too expensive
- Solution
  - android:smoothScrollbar="false"



android:layout\_height="wrap\_content"

- ListView is virtualized, remember?
- wrap\_content = "as big as my children"
  - ListView supports unevenly sized children
  - Measure thousands of children?
- Android framework cheats
  - Measures only 3 children
  - Still expensive
- Wrong result



#### ListView inside a ScrollView

- ScrollView scrolls
- ListView scrolls
- Who will scroll?



#### Cache views in the adapter

- Don't outsmart ListView
  - ListView assumes ownership of views
- Complex recycling mechanism
  - Numerous optimizations
  - Sometimes we even leave bugs there
- Undead views is the worst case
  - View both in the recycler and on screen



Use a ListView when you don't need one!

- ListView...
  - Is for repeating, unbounded data
  - Adds (lots of) complexity
- Will a LinearLayout or ScrollView do the job?





# Q&A

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