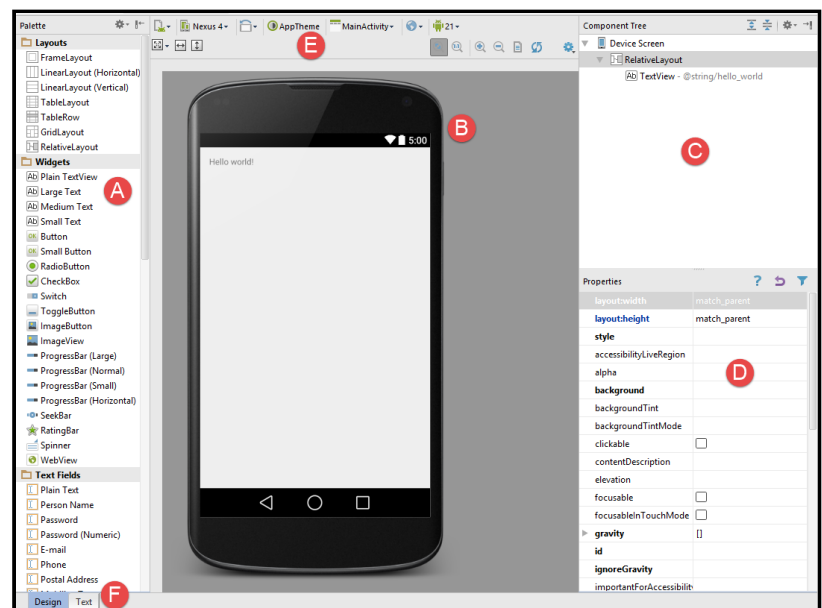PRINT
VERSION

Layout XML Code (Cont.)

The Android Studio Designer tool significantly simplifies the task of designing and implementing Android user interfaces. It operates in two distinct modes referred to as Design mode and Text mode.

Design Mode

The Designer tool provides a "what you see is what you get" (WYSIWYG) environment in which views can be selected from a palette and then placed onto a canvas representing the display of an Android device.

A wide variety of properties relating to the selected view may be modified using the Properties panel. The figure highlights the key areas of the Android Studio Designer tool: (A) palette, (B) device screen, (C) component tree, (D) properties, (E) toolbar, and (F) mode switching tabs.
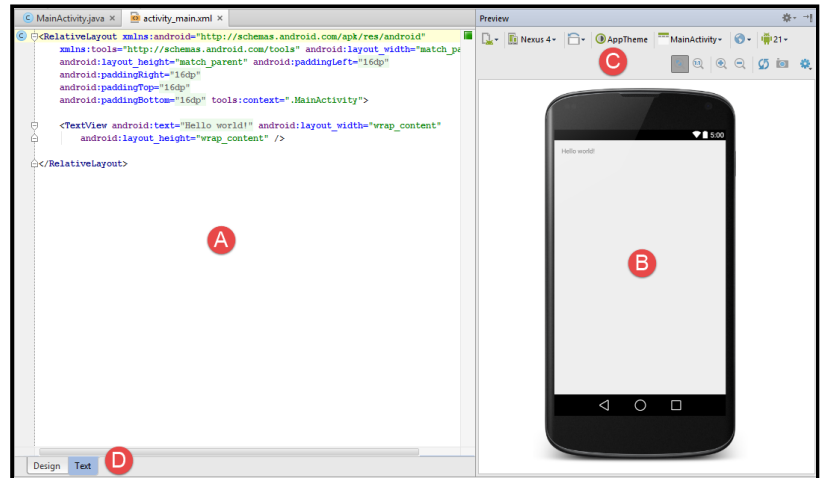

Text Mode

Under the surface, the Designer tool actually constructs an XML resource file containing the definition of the user interface that is being designed. When using the Android Studio Designer tool that all it is really doing is providing a user friendly approach to creating XML

layout resource files.

The figure highlights the key areas of the Android Studio Designer tool in text mode: (A) editor, (B) preview, (C) toolbar, and (D) mode switching tabs.

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