LAB 2: SETTING UP CONNECTION FOR MIT APP INVENTOR 2

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Objective:

In this lab we are going to go through the steps needed in setting up the connection from the MIT App Inventor 2 to our Android device. There are three (3) options to setup your connection which are via **WiFi**, via **USB** cable, and lastly via an Android **Emulator**. For this lab we're going to focus on connecting using the AI Companion app that you can download from Google Play Store and connecting it via WiFi and USB cable to the MIT App Inventor 2.
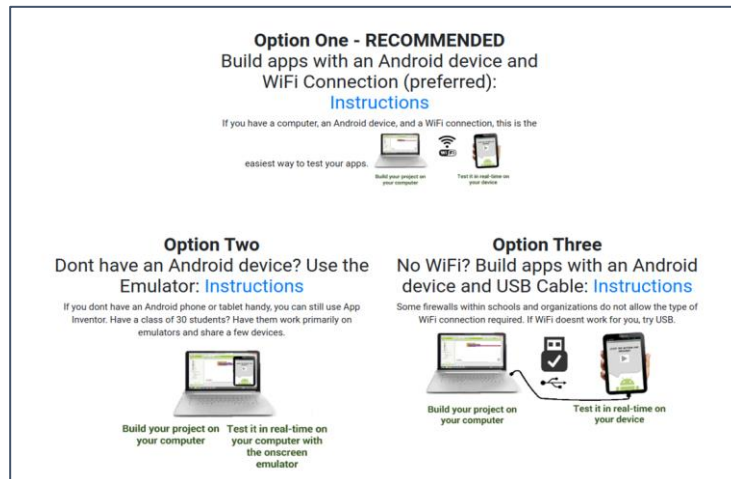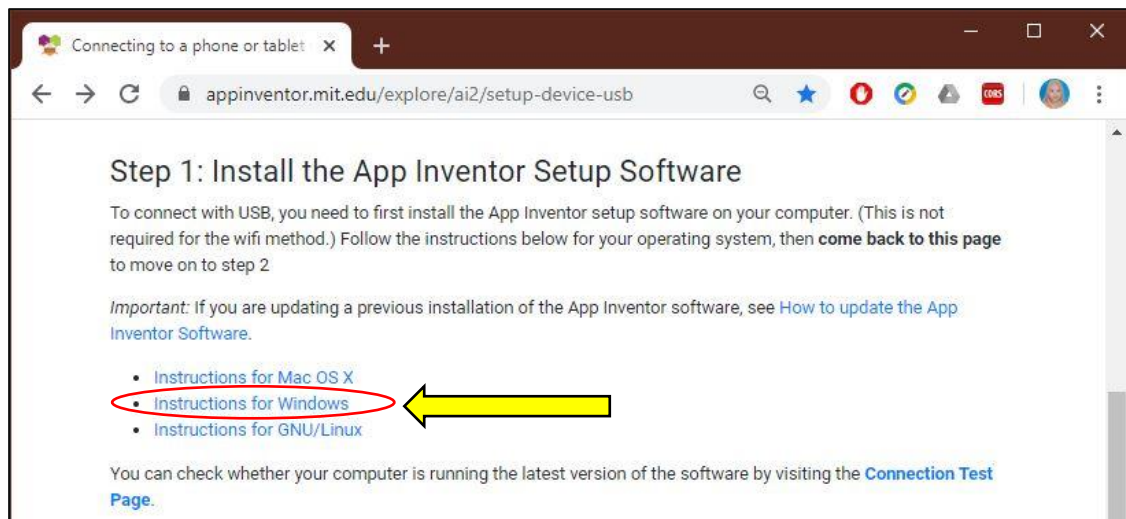

Figure 1: Connections between MIT App Inventor and your Android Device

Steps (via USB):

1. Go to https://appinventor.mit.edu/explore/ai2/setup-device-usb and scroll until you see a link to install App Inventor 2 for Windows as shown in figure below.

2. Then, click on the hyperlink **"Download the installer".** Once you've clicked on the hyperlink, a window will pop-up prompting the location to save the installer.

3. Once you have located the installer, right-click on it and **"Run as administrator".** Then, allow it to run.

4. After you have run the installer, a setup window will pop-up as shown in figure below. Click on the button **"Next >"** to continue with the installation.

Click on the **Next >** button to continue with the installation
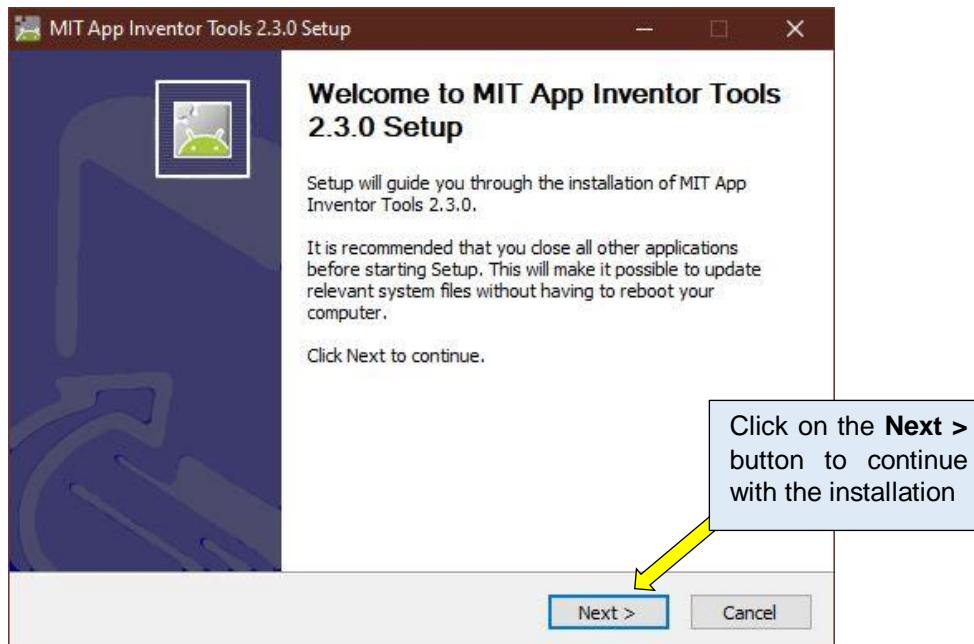
5. Then you'll be presented with the License Agreement for MIT App Inventor Tools. Read carefully before agreeing. If you agreed with the agreement, click on the **"I Agree"** button to continue with the installation.

Click on the **I Agree** button to continue with the installation
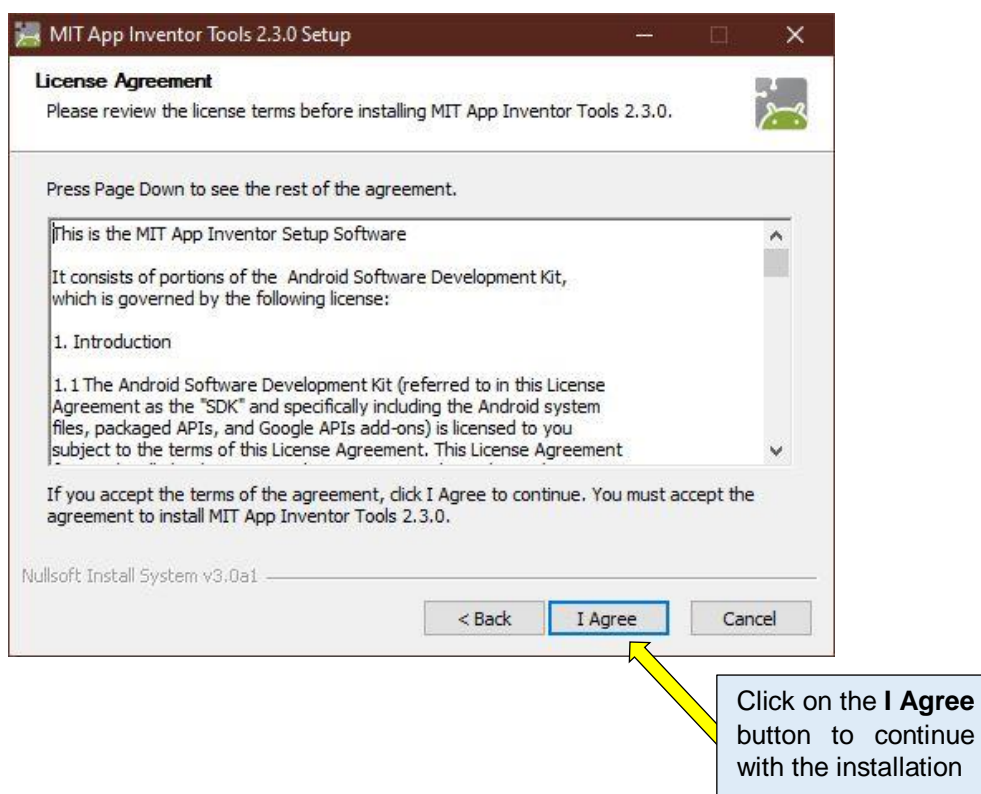
6. Next, you need to choose whether to make the application or software accessible to all users or only for the current user. It is recommended that the software to be accessible to all users.
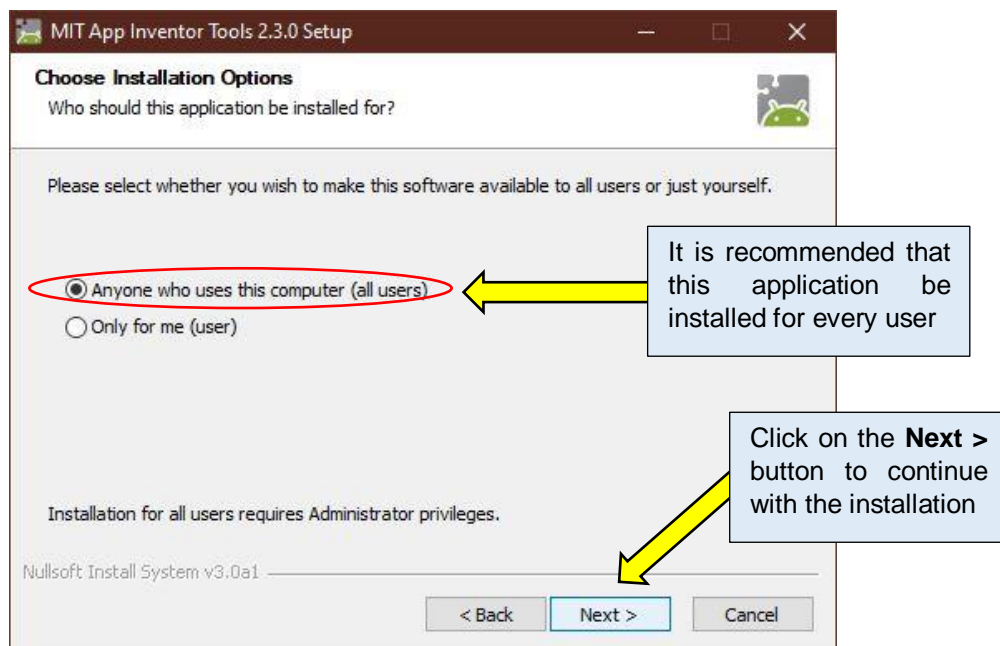
7. After that, you can choose the components to be installed. As you can see, by default the MIT App Inventor Tools have been checked. You are left to choose either to create a Desktop Icon or not.
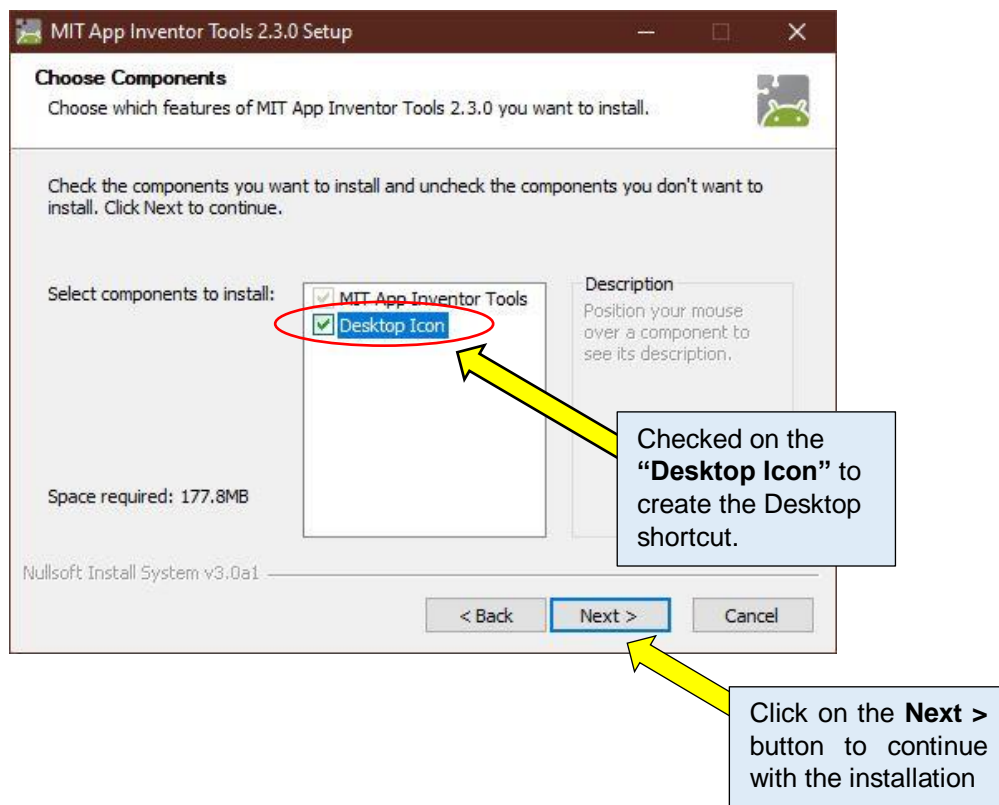
8. It is important for you to remember the directory path of the MIT App Inventor Tools.
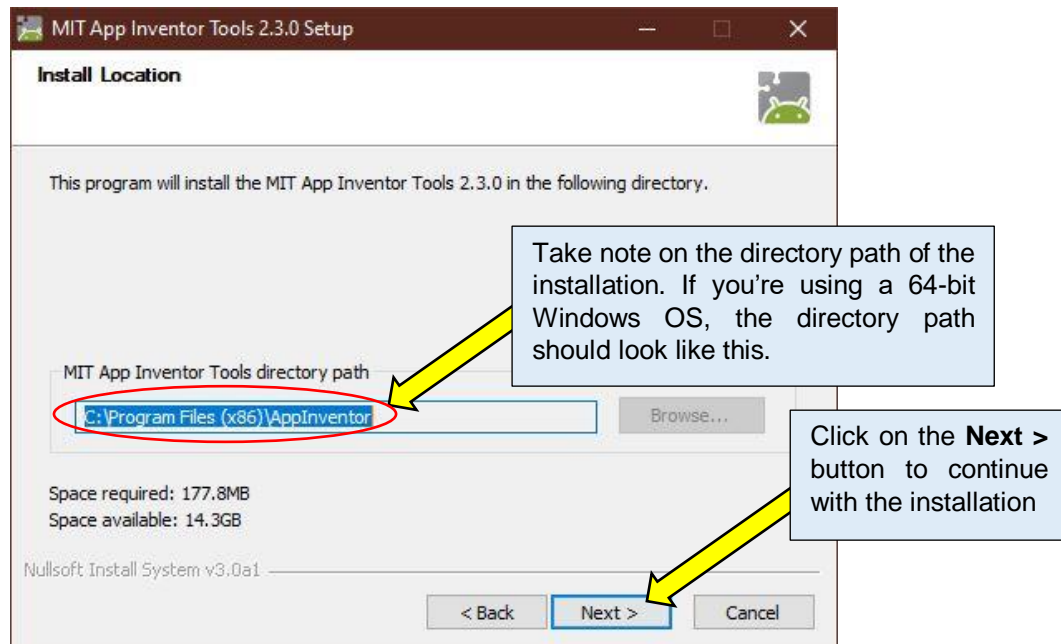
9. Now, all that is left is for you to do is to install this applications on your laptop or workstation. You can change the name of the folder for the MIT App Inventor Tools shortcut if you want but by default the name of the folder is already given to you.
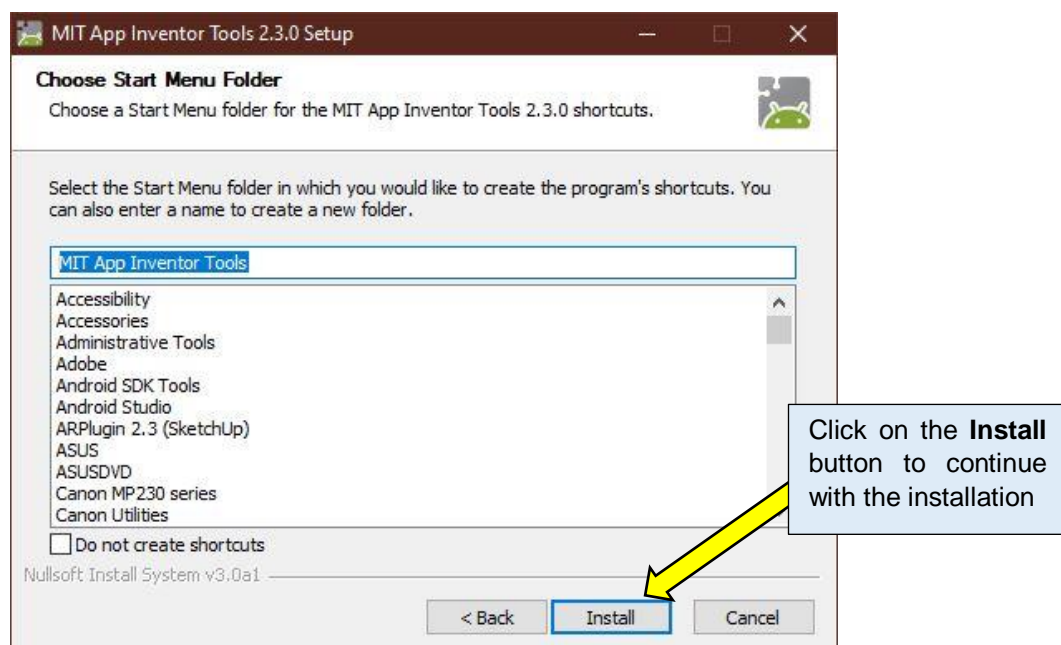
10. Sit back, relax and wait until the installation finished. You can monitor the progress of the installation from the installation window as shown in the figure below.
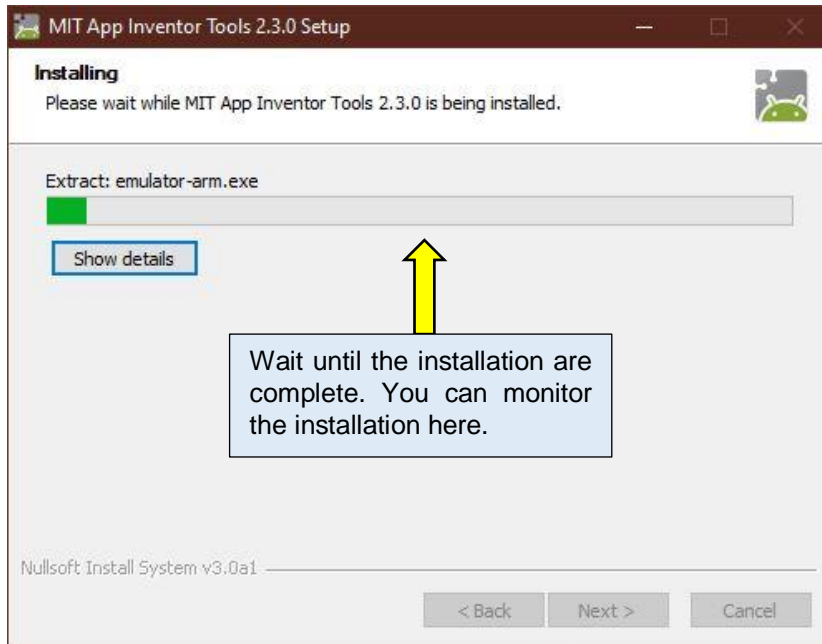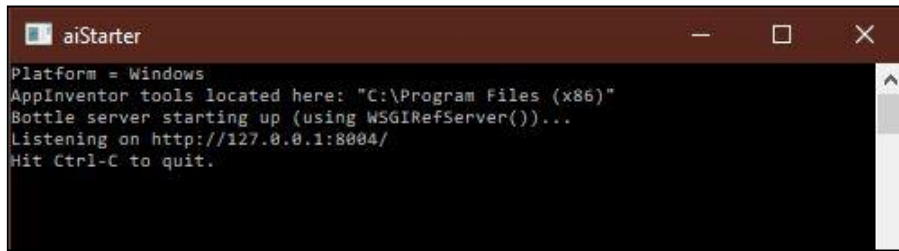
11. Lastly, click on the Finish button and the **aiStarter tool** will start.

12. Then, a window will pop-up looking like the figure below. This is the tools to connect to the MIT App Inventor 2.

Make sure that your phone is connected to the USB cable.

Also, make sure that the other end of the USB cable are connected to your laptop.
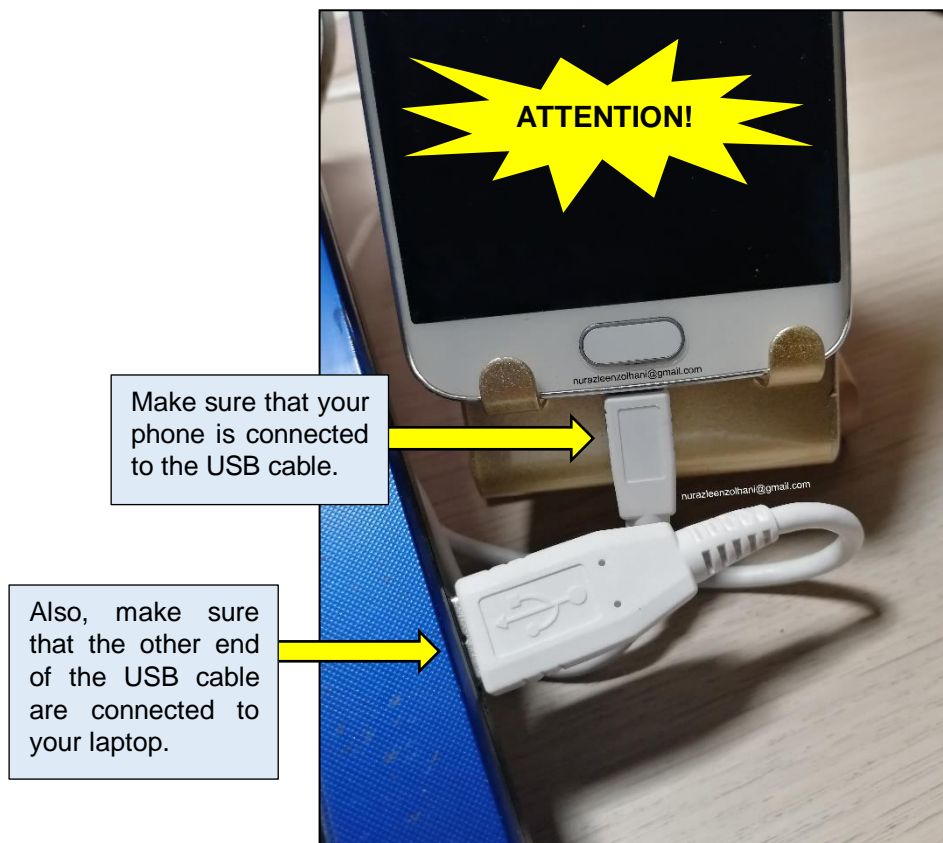
Besides that, make sure that you **"Allow USB Debugging" at your phone**. As well as **downloading the MIT AI2 Companion app over at the Google Play Store** as shown in figure below.
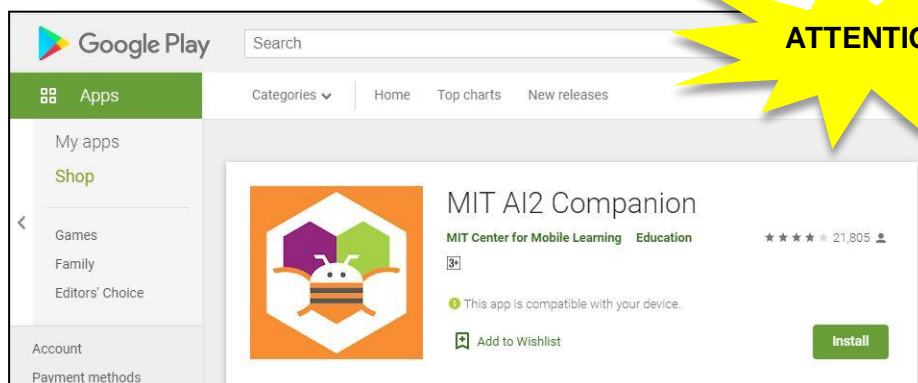
13. Next step, go to the MIT App Inventor 2 web application, and click on the second menu which the Connect menu.

At the MIT App Inventor 2 menu on top, click on the dropdown list for the **Connect** menu.
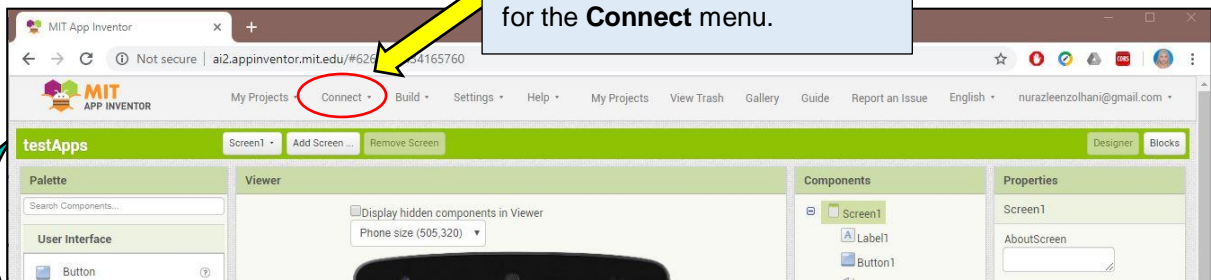
At Connect menu, click on the dropdown list and the click on the **USB** option.
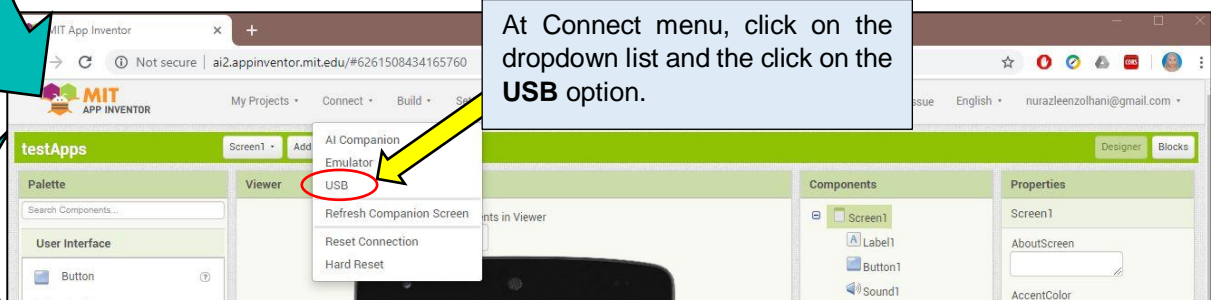
A window will pop-up notifying that the MIT App Inventor 2 is trying to connect to your Android device via USB.

If your android phone is **NOT** properly connected to your laptop, you will get a message regarding the matter as shown in the figure.

Plugged in?

AI2 does not see your device, make sure the cable is plugged in and drivers are correct.

OK

Here you will see a sequence of your RSA key. Each android phone or device have its own RSA key. Click **OK** to continue.

Allow USB debugging?

The computer's RSA key fingerprint is:

(Removed due to privacy)

◯ Always allow from this computer

CANCEL   OK

14. Once the MIT App Inventor 2 managed to connect via USB, another window will pop-up notifying that it has successfully connect via USB.

Connecting...

USB Connected, waiting 5 seconds to ensure all is running.

Cancel

This message indicates that you have successfully connected your Android device to your laptop or Personal computer

Connecting...

Companion starting, waiting 6 seconds to ensure all is running.

Cancel

Then, the aiStarter tool will start to communicate with the MIT AI2 Companion in your Android device.

The MIT AI2 Companion app will start to launch at your Android device.

Companion Version Check

You are using an out-of-date Companion. You should update the MIT AI2 Companion as soon as possible. If you have auto-update setup in the store, the update will happen by itself shortly.

Dismiss

When you see this pop-up window, meaning that you have succeeded connecting the MIT App Inventor 2 and you will see your apps running on your Android device.

Steps (via Wi-Fi)

1. For this step, please make sure that your phone and your laptop have internet connection.
2. Go to the MIT App Inventor 2 web application, and click on the second menu which the Connect menu.
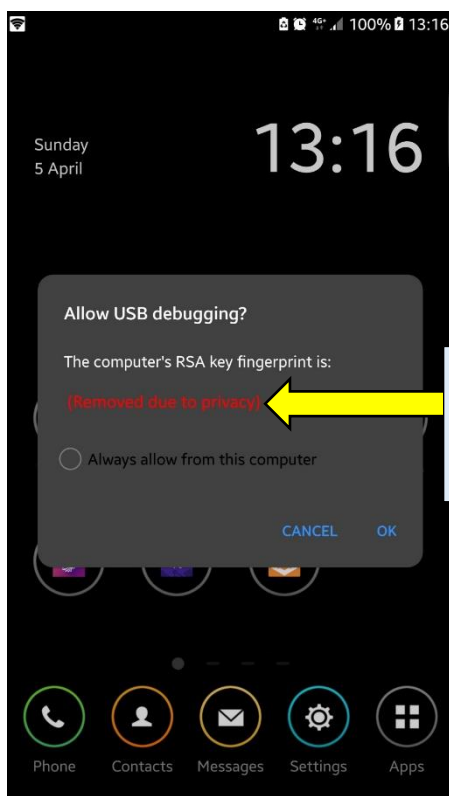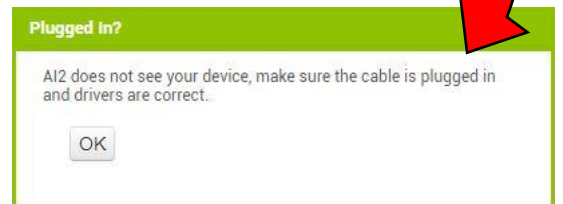3. Then, at the menu choose **"AI Companion"**. Then a pop-up window with a code as well QR Code will appear.
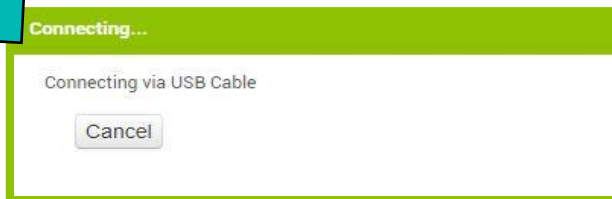
At the MIT App Inventor 2 menu on top, click on the dropdown list for the **Connect** menu.

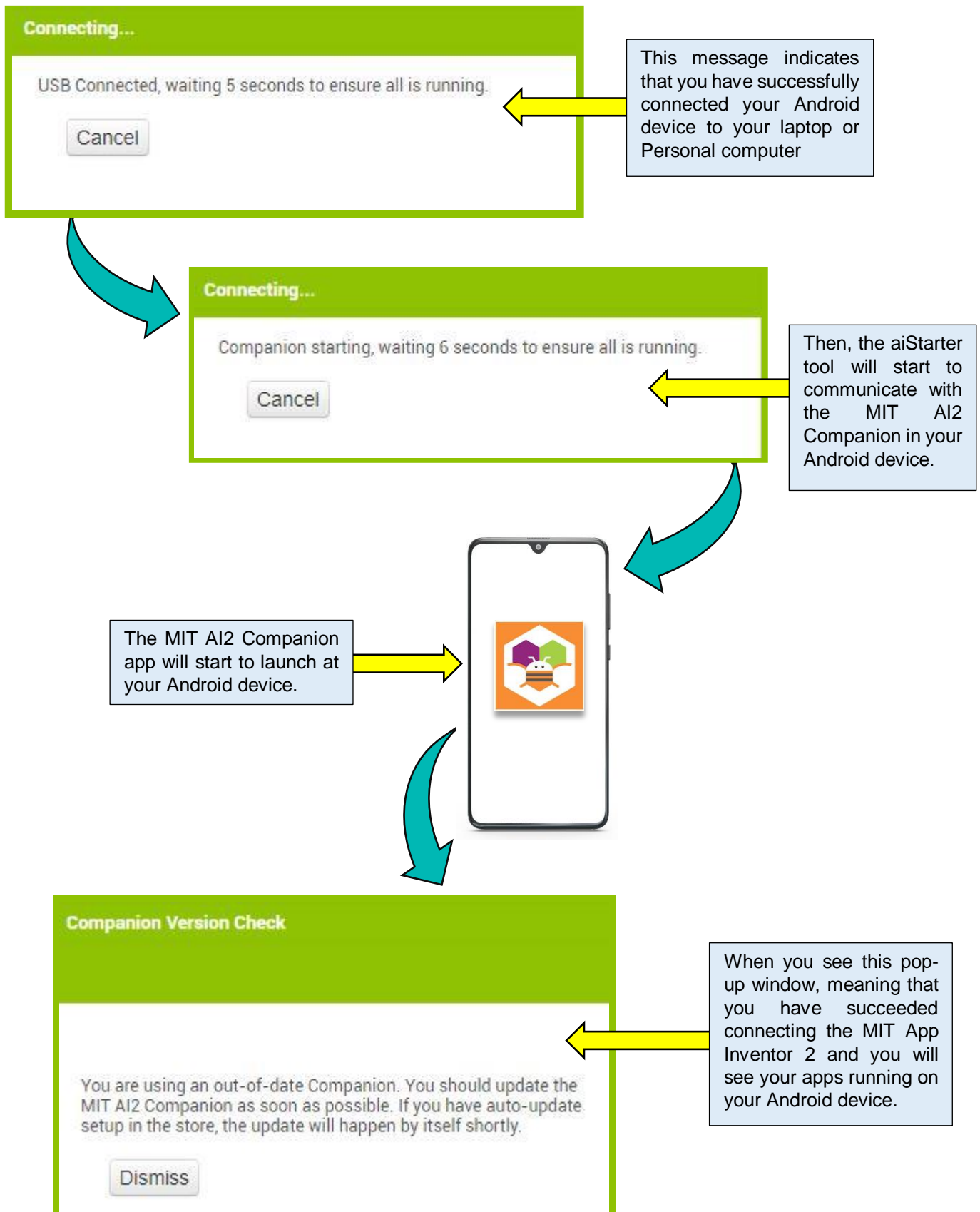At Connect menu, click on the dropdown list and the click on the **AI Companion** option.

You can choose to connect to the MIT AI2 Companion app over at your using the **QR Code** or typing in the **code** given
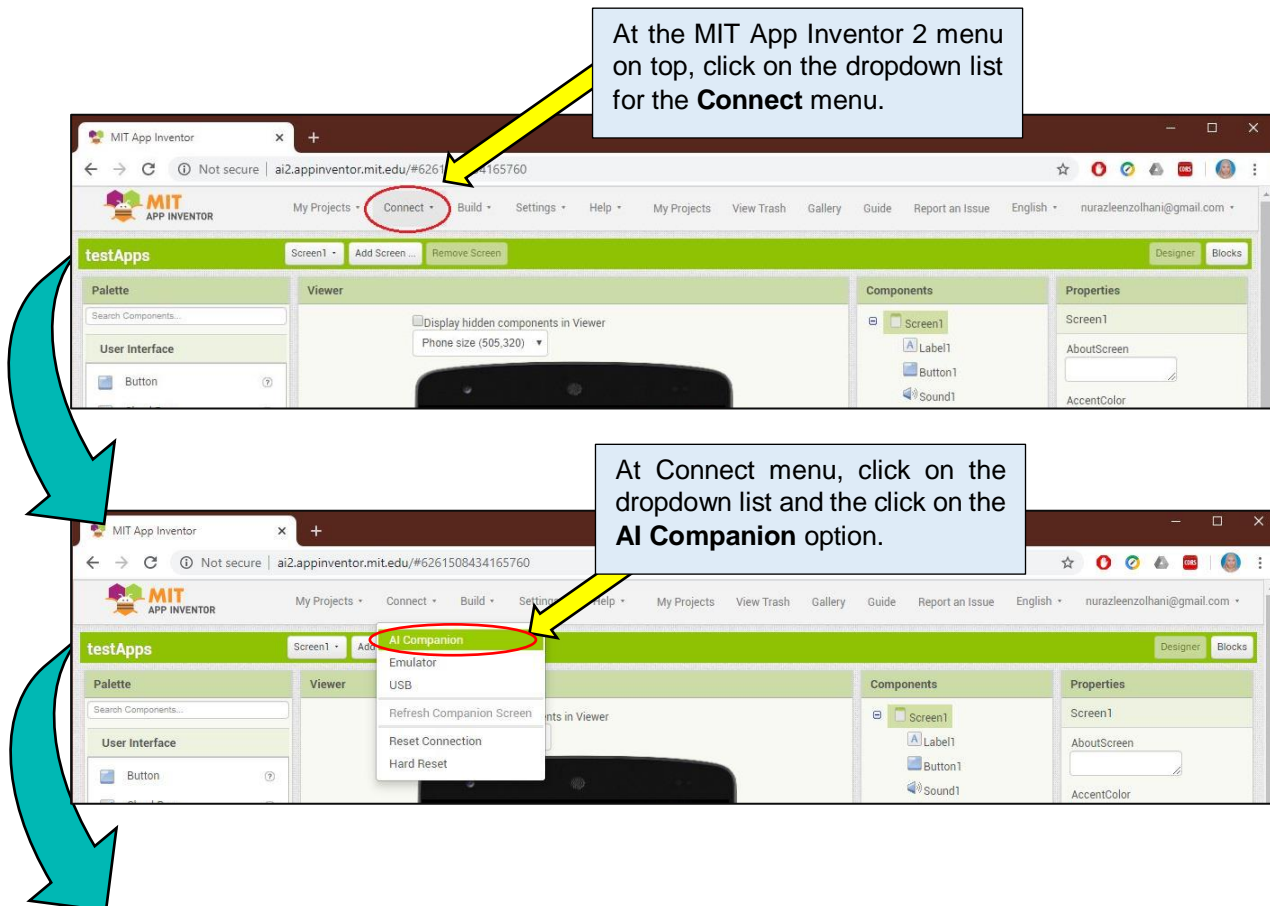
4. Over at your phone, launch your MIT AI2 Companion app, and in this lab we are going to scan the QR Code generated by the MIT App Inventor 2 web application.

Launch the **MIT AI2 Companion** app at your phone.

Then, tap on the scan QR code button. Your camera will open and you can scan over to the QR Code generated at the MIT App Inventor 2 web applications.

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References:

1. http://appinventor.mit.edu/explore/sites/all/files/teachingappcreation/unit1/MagicTrickHandout.pdf
2. https://appinventor.mit.edu/explore/library
3. https://appinventor.mit.edu/explore/ai2/tutorials
4. https://www.programwithappinventor.org/
5. https://www.amazon.com/Learning-MIT-App-Inventor-Hands-On/dp/0133798631/