Android!

Android is an open source and Linux-based **Operating System** for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablet computers. Android was developed by the *Open Handset Alliance*, led by Google, and other companies.

Android offers a unified approach to application development for mobile devices which means developers need only develop for Android, and their applications should be able to run on different devices powered by Android.

The first beta version of the Android Software Development Kit (SDK) was released by Google in 2007 where as the first commercial version, Android 1.0, was released in September 2008.

On June 27, 2012, at the Google I/O conference, Google announced the next Android version, 4.1 **Jelly Bean**. Jelly Bean is an incremental update, with the primary aim of improving the user interface, both in terms of functionality and performance.

The source code for Android is available under free and open source software licenses. Google publishes most of the code under the Apache License version 2.0 and the rest, Linux kernel changes, under the GNU General Public License version 2.

Features of Android

Android is a powerful operating system competing with Apple 4GS and supports great features. Few of them are listed below:

Feature	Description
Beautiful UI	Android OS basic screen provides a beautiful and intuitive user interface.
Connectivity	GSM/EDGE, IDEN, CDMA, EV-DO, UMTS, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, LTE, NFC and WiMAX.
Storage	SQLite, a lightweight relational database, is used for data storage purposes.
Media support	H.263, H.264, MPEG-4 SP, AMR, AMR-WB, AAC, HE-AAC, AAC 5.1, MP3, MIDI, Ogg Vorbis, WAV, JPEG, PNG, GIF, and BMP
Messaging	SMS and MMS
Web browser	Based on the open-source WebKit layout engine, coupled with Chrome's V8 JavaScript engine supporting HTML5 and CSS3.

Multi-touch	Android has native support for multi-touch which was initially made available in handsets such as the HTC Hero.
Multi-tasking	User can jump from one task to another and same time various application can run simultaneously.
Resizable widgets	Widgets are resizable, so users can expand them to show more content or shrink them to save space
Multi-Language	Supports single direction and bi-directional text.
GCM	Google Cloud Messaging (GCM) is a service that lets developers send short message data to their users on Android devices, without needing a proprietary sync solution.
Wi-Fi Direct	A technology that lets apps discover and pair directly, over a high-bandwidth peer-to-peer connection.
Android Beam	A popular NFC-based technology that lets users instantly share, just by touching two NFC-enabled phones together.

Android Applications

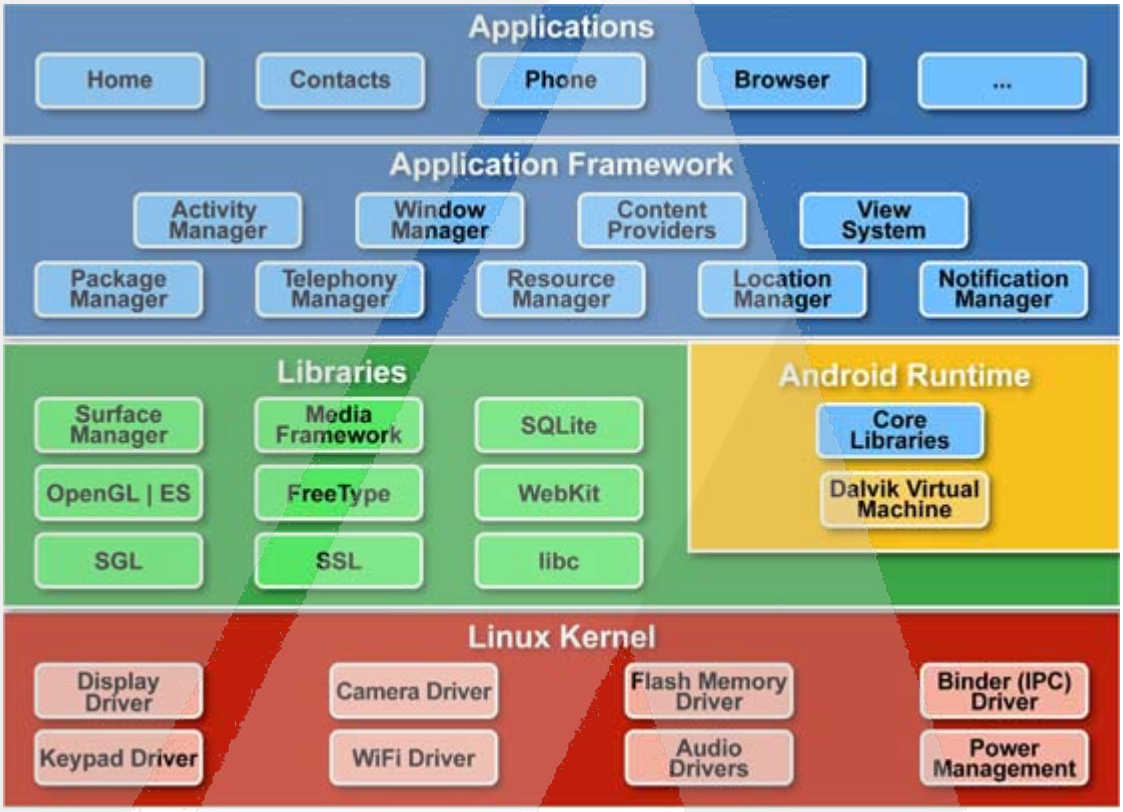
Android applications are usually developed in the Java language using the Android Software Development Kit.

Once developed, Android applications can be packaged easily and sold out either through a store such as **Google Play** or the **Amazon Appstore**.

Android powers hundreds of millions of mobile devices in more than 190 countries around the world. It's the largest installed base of any mobile platform and growing fast. Every day more than 1 million new Android devices are activated worldwide.

Android Application Archietecture:

Android operating system is a stack of software components which is roughly divided into five sections and four main layers as shown below in the architecture diagram.



Linux kernel

At the bottom of the layers is Linux - Linux 2.6 with approximately 115 patches. This provides basic system functionality like process management, memory management, device management like camera, keypad, display etc. Also, the kernel handles all the things that Linux is really good at such as networking and a vast array of device drivers, which take the pain out of interfacing to peripheral hardware.

Libraries

On top of Linux kernel there is a set of libraries including open-source Web browser engine WebKit, well known library libc, SQLite database which is a useful repository for storage and sharing of application data, libraries to play and record audio and video, SSL libraries responsible for Internet security etc.

Android Runtime

This is the third section of the architecture and available on the second layer from the bottom. This section provides a key component called **Dalvik Virtual Machine** which is a kind of Java Virtual Machine specially designed and optimized for Android.

The Dalvik VM makes use of Linux core features like memory management and multi-threading, which is intrinsic in the Java language. The Dalvik VM enables every Android application to run in its own process, with its own instance of the Dalvik virtual machine.

The Android runtime also provides a set of core libraries which enable Android application developers to write Android applications using standard Java programming language.

Application Framework

The Application Framework layer provides many higher-level services to applications in the form of Java classes. Application developers are allowed to make use of these services in their applications.

Applications

You will find all the Android application at the top layer. You will write your application to be installed on this layer only. Examples of such applications are Contacts Books, Browser, Games etc.

Android Application Components

Application components are the essential building blocks of an Android application. These components are loosely coupled by the application manifest file *AndroidManifest.xml* that describes each component of the application and how they interact.

There are following four main components that can be used within an Android application:

Components	Description
Activities	They dictate the UI and handle the user interaction to the smartphone screen
Services	They handle background processing associated with an application.

Broadcast Receivers	They handle communication between Android OS and applications.
Content Providers	They handle data and database management issues.

Activities

An activity represents a single screen with a user interface. For example, an email application might have one activity that shows a list of new emails, another activity to compose an email, and another activity for reading emails. If an application has more than one activity, then one of them should be marked as the activity that is presented when the application is launched.

An activity is implemented as a subclass of **Activity** class as follows:

```
public class MainActivity extends Activity {

}
```

Services

A service is a component that runs in the background to perform long-running operations. For example, a service might play music in the background while the user is in a different application, or it might fetch data over the network without blocking user interaction with an activity.

A service is implemented as a subclass of **Service** class as follows:

```
public class MyService extends Service {

}
```

Broadcast Receivers

Broadcast Receivers simply respond to broadcast messages from other applications or from the system. For example, applications can also initiate broadcasts to let other applications know that some data has been downloaded to the device and is available for them to use, so this is broadcast receiver who will intercept this communication and will initiate appropriate action.

A broadcast receiver is implemented as a subclass of **BroadcastReceiver** class and each message is broadcasted as an **Intent** object.

```
public class MyReceiver  extends  BroadcastReceiver {

}
```

Content Providers

A content provider component supplies data from one application to others on request. Such requests are handled by the methods of the *ContentResolver* class. The data may be stored in the file system, the database or somewhere else entirely.
A content provider is implemented as a subclass of **ContentProvider** class and must implement a standard set of APIs that enable other applications to perform transactions.

```
public class MyContentProvider extends  ContentProvider {

}
```

We will go through these tags in detail while covering application components in individual chapters.

Additional Components

There are additional components which will be used in the construction of above mentioned entities, their logic, and wiring between them. These components are:

Components	Description
Fragments	Represents a behavior or a portion of user interface in an Activity.
Views	UI elements that are drawn onscreen including buttons, lists forms etc.
Layouts	View hierarchies that control screen format and appearance of the views.
Intents	Messages wiring components together.
Resources	External elements, such as strings, constants and drawables pictures.
Manifest	Configuration file for the application.

Android SDK

A software development kit that enables developers to create applications for the Android platform. The Android SDK includes sample projects with source code, development tools, a debugger, an emulator, and required libraries to build Android applications. Applications are written using the Java programming

language and run on Dalvik, a custom virtual machine designed for embedded use which runs on top of a Linuxkernel. Currently supported development platforms include computers running Linux (any modern desktop Linux distribution), Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later, and Windows 7 or later.

Multimedia in Android

The Android multimedia framework includes support for playing variety of common media types, so that you can easily integrate audio, video and images into your applications. You can play audio or video from media files stored in your application's resources (raw resources), from standalone files in the filesystem, or from a data stream arriving over a network connection, all using MediaPlayer APIs.

Program Title: Write a program in android to display input text from one activity to another.
Software Used: Android Studio.
Theory: Android is a mobile operating system (OS) currently developed by Google based on the Linux kernel and designed primarily for touchscreen mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. Android's user interface is mainly based on direct manipulation, using touch gestures that loosely correspond to real-world actions, such as swiping, tapping and pinching, to manipulate on-screen objects, along with a virtual keyboard for text input. In addition to touchscreen devices, Google has further developed Android TV for televisions, Android Auto for cars, and Android Wear for wrist watches, each with a specialized user interface. Variants of Android are also used on notebooks, game consoles, digital cameras, and other electronics.

Program:
MainActivity.java

```
package com.example.dell2.androidexample;
import android.content.Intent;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.support.design.widget.FloatingActionButton;
import android.support.design.widget.Snackbar;
import android.support.v7.app.AppCompatActivity;
import android.support.v7.widget.Toolbar;
import android.view.View;
import android.view.Menu;
import android.view.MenuItem;
```

```
import android.widget.Button;
import android.widget.EditText;

public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {
    EditText et1,et2;
    Button btn;
    String st1,st2;
    Intent i;
    Bundle b;
    @Override
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
        Toolbar toolbar = (Toolbar) findViewById(R.id.toolbar);
        setSupportActionBar(toolbar);

        FloatingActionButton fab = (FloatingActionButton) findViewById(R.id.fab);
        fab.setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener() {
            @Override
            public void onClick(View view) {
                Snackbar.make(view, "Replace with your own action",
Snackbar.LENGTH_LONG)
                        .setAction("Action", null).show();
            }
        });

        et1= (EditText) findViewById(R.id.editText);
        et2= (EditText) findViewById(R.id.editText2);
        btn= (Button) findViewById(R.id.button);

        btn.setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener() {
            @Override
            public void onClick(View v) {
                st1=et1.getText().toString();
                st2=et2.getText().toString();
                i=new Intent(MainActivity.this,SecondActivity.class);
                b=new Bundle();
                b.putString("k1",st1);
                b.putString("k2",st2);
                i.putExtras(b);
                startActivity(i);
            }
        });
    }
}
```

Second.java

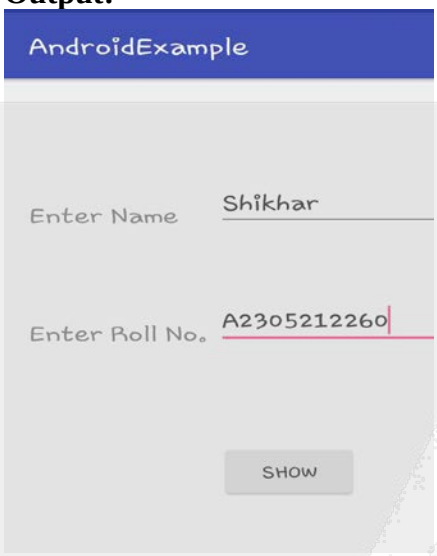
```
package com.example.dell2.androidexample;

import android.os.Bundle;
import android.support.design.widget.FloatingActionButton;
import android.support.design.widget.Snackbar;
import android.support.v7.app.AppCompatActivity;
import android.support.v7.widget.Toolbar;
import android.view.View;
import android.widget.TextView;

public class SecondActivity extends AppCompatActivity {
    Bundle b;
    TextView tv;
    String st1,st2;
    @Override
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_second);
        Toolbar toolbar = (Toolbar) findViewById(R.id.toolbar);
        setSupportActionBar(toolbar);

        FloatingActionButton fab = (FloatingActionButton) findViewById(R.id.fab);
        fab.setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener() {
            @Override
            public void onClick(View view) {
                Snackbar.make(view, "Replace with your own action",
Snackbar.LENGTH_LONG)
                        .setAction("Action", null).show();
            }
        });
        tv= (TextView) findViewById(R.id.textView4);
        b=getIntent().getExtras();
        st1=b.getString("k1");
        st2=b.getString("k2");
        tv.setText(st1 +"\n"+ st2);
    }
}
```

Output: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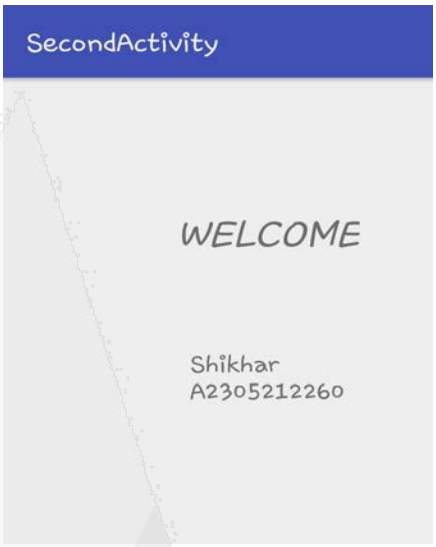
SecondActivity
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