

# MET CS 683

# Mobile Application Development with Android

Security  
Graphics and Animation

# Android Platform Security

- Security Objectives:
  - Protect app and user data
  - Protect system resources (including the network)
  - Provide app isolation from the system, other apps, and from the user
- Key security features:
  - Robust security at the OS level through the Linux kernel
  - Mandatory app sandbox for all apps
  - Secure interprocess communication
  - App signing
  - App-defined and user-granted permissions
- <https://source.android.com/security>

# Store Data

- Internal storage
  - Use only `MODE_PRIVATE` (in older APIs)
  - Each application has its own data folder, which is isolated from other application through different UID&GID. It can only be accessed by its own application.
  - Shared preferences files are text files.
  - The internal storage is encrypted (Android 6 or above)
  - For highly sensitive data, additional protection is needed such as encryption or crypto provided by the security library.

```
drwx----- 4 u0_a96 u0_a96 4096 2018-04-28 17:12 edu.bu.myapplication1
drwx----- 6 u0_a92 u0_a92 4096 2018-04-25 13:28 edu.bu.projectportal
drwx----- 4 u0_a89 u0_a89 4096 2018-04-22 04:50 edu.bu.testmfcc
drwx----- 4 u0_a95 u0_a95 4096 2018-04-28 17:05 edu.bu.threadhandlerexample
drwx----- 4 u0_a94 u0_a94 4096 2018-04-26 04:50 edu.bu.useprojectportalprovider
drwx----- 4 u0_a86 u0_a86 4096 2018-04-03 19:39 edu.bu.widgetsexplore
```

# Store Data

- External storage
  - Universal accessible by all applications.
  - Not trusted and may not be encrypted at all
  - Never store any sensitive data directly
  - Not good for dynamic loading
  - Use security library to provide some protection
- Content providers
  - Mostly use it to export data to other applications
  - `Android:exported` is false by default in Android API 17

# Android Permissions

- The principle of least privilege
- Protect system resources
  - Cost-sensitive services, such as telephony, SMS/MMS, Network/Data, In-App Billing or NFC Access.
  - Personal information, such as the phone book or the calendar.
  - Sensitive data Input devices, such as GPS, camera, or microphone.
  - Device metadata, such as system logs, browser history, phone numbers, or hardware / network identification information.
- Protect communication between applications.
  - When executing certain security sensitive functions
  - When starting an activity
  - When starting or binding a service
  - When sending or receiving broadcasts
  - When accessing a content provider

# Use Permissions

- Request permissions

- Each application need to declare all permissions explicitly with a `<uses-permission>` element in the manifest file. Each permission is identified by a unique label, such as `INTERNET` and `ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION`.

```
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INTERNET" />
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.CALL_PHONE" />
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WAKE_LOCK" />
```

- Need to dynamically request dangerous permissions explicitly in the code when using it for the first time using `requestPermissions()` method. (Android 6 or above) The user can deny a permission and still continue to use the app.

# Installation Time Permission vs Runtime Permission

- All permissions in use need to be declared in the manifest file. Normal permissions are automatically granted without the need of the user's approval.
- Before Android 6, installation time permission mechanism is used
  - All permissions including dangerous permissions are granted if the user agrees to install the application at the installation time. Otherwise, the installation is canceled.
- In Android 6 and above,
  - The user can turn on and off individual permission for all installed apps.
  - For apps which is built for the older version, when used with Android 6. permissions are granted in the installation time for backwards compatibility.
  - For apps which is built for Android 6 and above, **dangerous permissions** declared in the manifest are not granted in the installation time, instead, the app need to request them explicitly in the runtime using `requestPermissions()` method. The user can deny a permission and still continue to use the app.

# Request Permission Dynamically

- `ActivityCompat.requestPermissions()`
- `ContextCompat.checkSelfPermission()`
- `ActivityCompat.shouldShowRequestPermissionRationale()`
- `onRequestPermissionsResult()`



# Define Custom Permissions

- Application can also define customized permissions with the <permission> element in the manifest file.

```
<manifest
  xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
  package="com.example.myapp" >

  <permission
    android:name="com.example.myapp.permission.DEADLY_ACTIVITY"
    android:label="@string/permlab_deadlyActivity"
    android:description="@string/permdesc_deadlyActivity"
    android:permissionGroup="android.permission-group.COST_MONEY"
    android:protectionLevel="dangerous" />
    ...
</manifest>
```

# Impose Permission

- A component can use “android:permission” attributes to restrict which applications can use this component(send intents to it)

```
<service
    android:name=".services.MyService"
    android:enabled="true"
    android:exported="true"
    android:permission="android.permission.ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION,
com.example.myapp.permission.DEADLY_ACTIVITY"
/>
```

- Can also programmatically check permission using checkCallingPermission()

# Secure Inter-Component Communication

- The core components of an application, such as its activities, services, and broadcast receivers, are activated by intents
- An Intent is a message object used for inter component communication.
- Intent Filter:
  - Defines what kind of intents can receive by action strings.
  - A component can have any number of filters, each one describing a different capability defined by action strings.

# Secure Inter-Component Communication

- Explicit Intents: specifying the receiving component.
- Implicit Intents: declare a general action without specifying the a specific receiving component.
  - When using an implicit intent, the Android system locates an appropriate component that can respond to the intent, launches a new instance of the component if one is needed, and passes it the Intent object
  - Explicitly show an app chooser if there are multiple apps that can match
- Pending Intents
  - A wrapper around an Intent object.
  - A token given to a foreign application (e.g. NotificationManager, AlarmManager, Home Screen AppWidgetManager, or other 3rd party applications), which allows the foreign application to use the sending application permissions to send the wrapped intent.

# Open Component

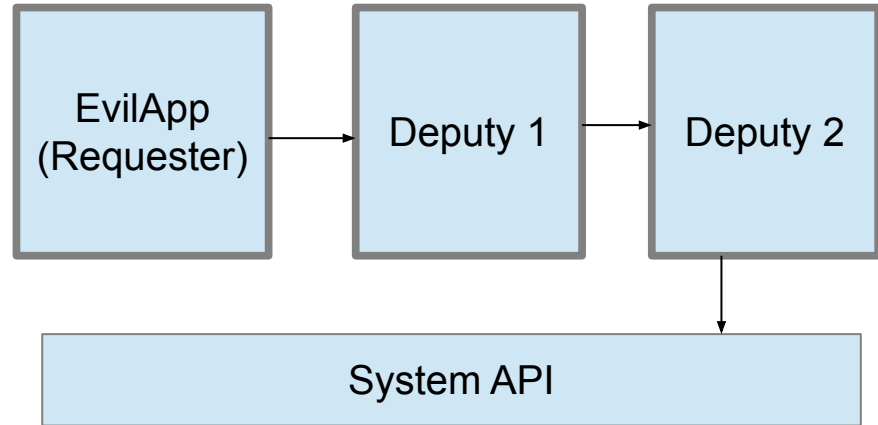
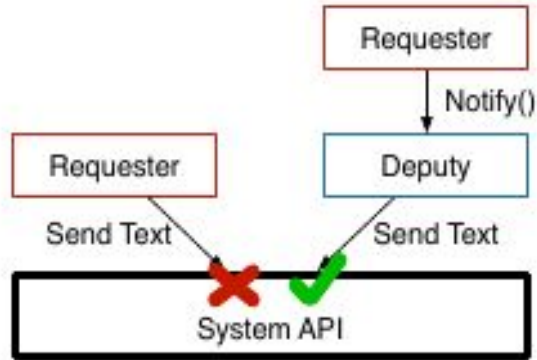
- An open component is a component that be reached by other applications through intents.
- In general, a component is private by default unless the exported attribute is true or an intent filter is defined.
- An open component can be exploited by malicious applications if not properly protected.

```
<activity
    android:name=".services.MyActivity"
    android:exported="true"
    android:permission="" />
<service
    android:name=".services.MyService"
    android:enabled="true"
    />
<receiver
    android:name=".services.MyReceiver"
    />
```

```
<activity
    android:name=".activities.MainActivity"
    android:label="@string/app_name"
    android:theme="@style/AppTheme.NoActionBar">
    <intent-filter>
        <action
            android:name="android.intent.action.MAIN" />
        <category
            android:name="android.intent.category.LAUNCHER" />
        </intent-filter>
    </activity>
```

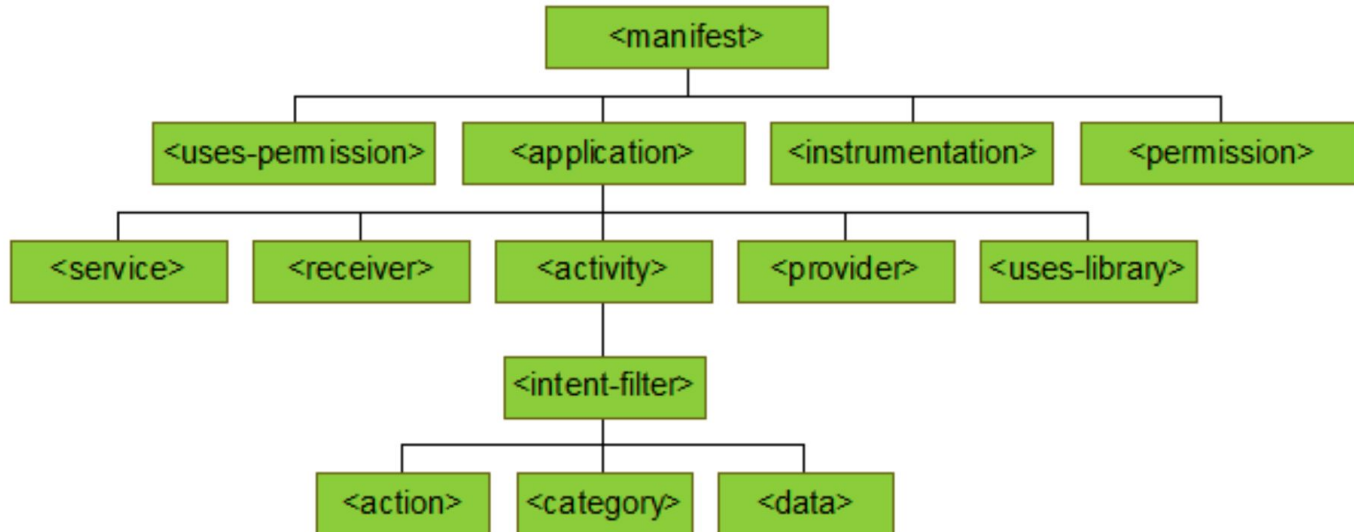
# Privilege Escalation

- Permission re-delegation occurs when an application with a permission performs a privileged task on behalf of an application without that permission.

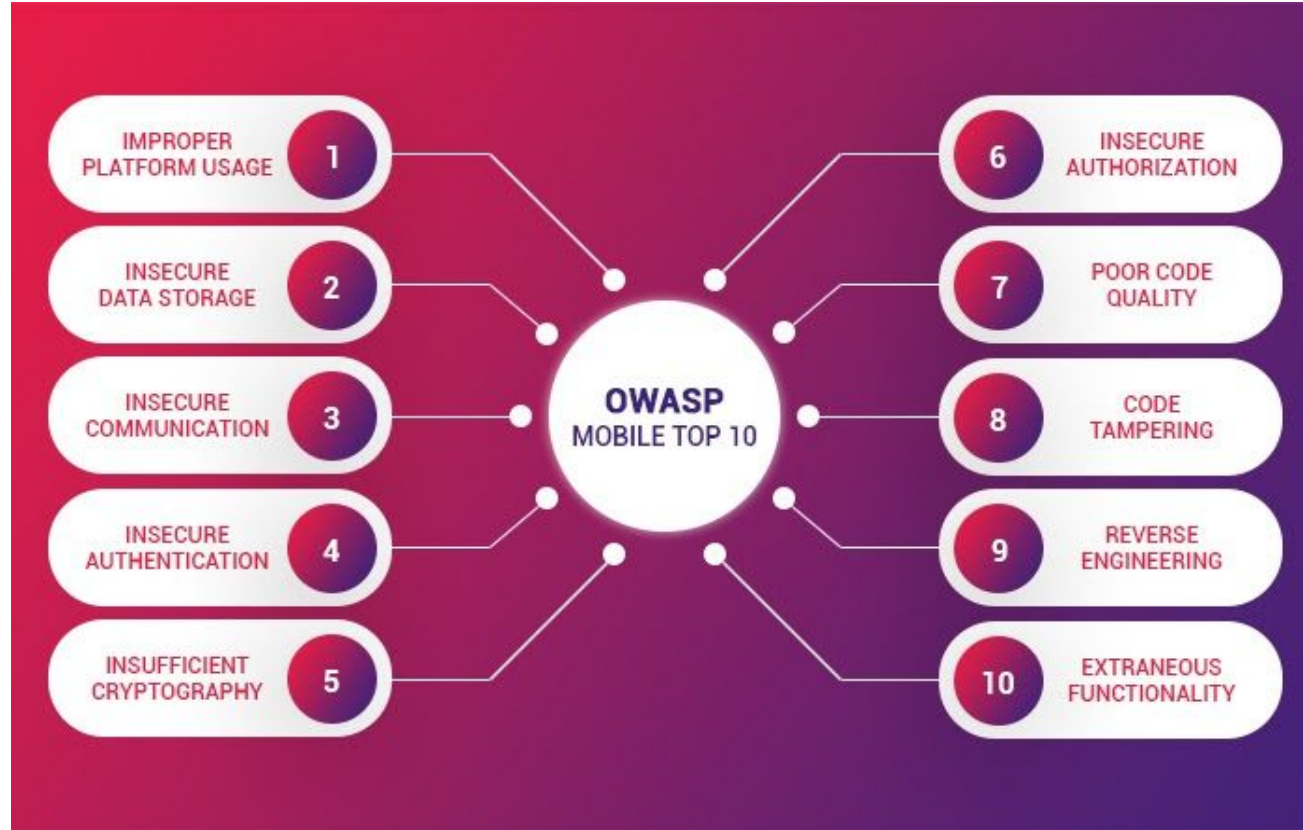


# A Brief Review of Manifest File

- Every application must have an AndroidManifest.xml file (with precisely that name) in its root directory
- The manifest file provides essential information about your app to the Android system, which the system must have before it can run any of the app's code



# OWASP Mobile Top 10



<https://www.appsealing.com/owasp-mobile-top-10-a-comprehensive-guide-for-mobile-developers-to-counter-risks/>



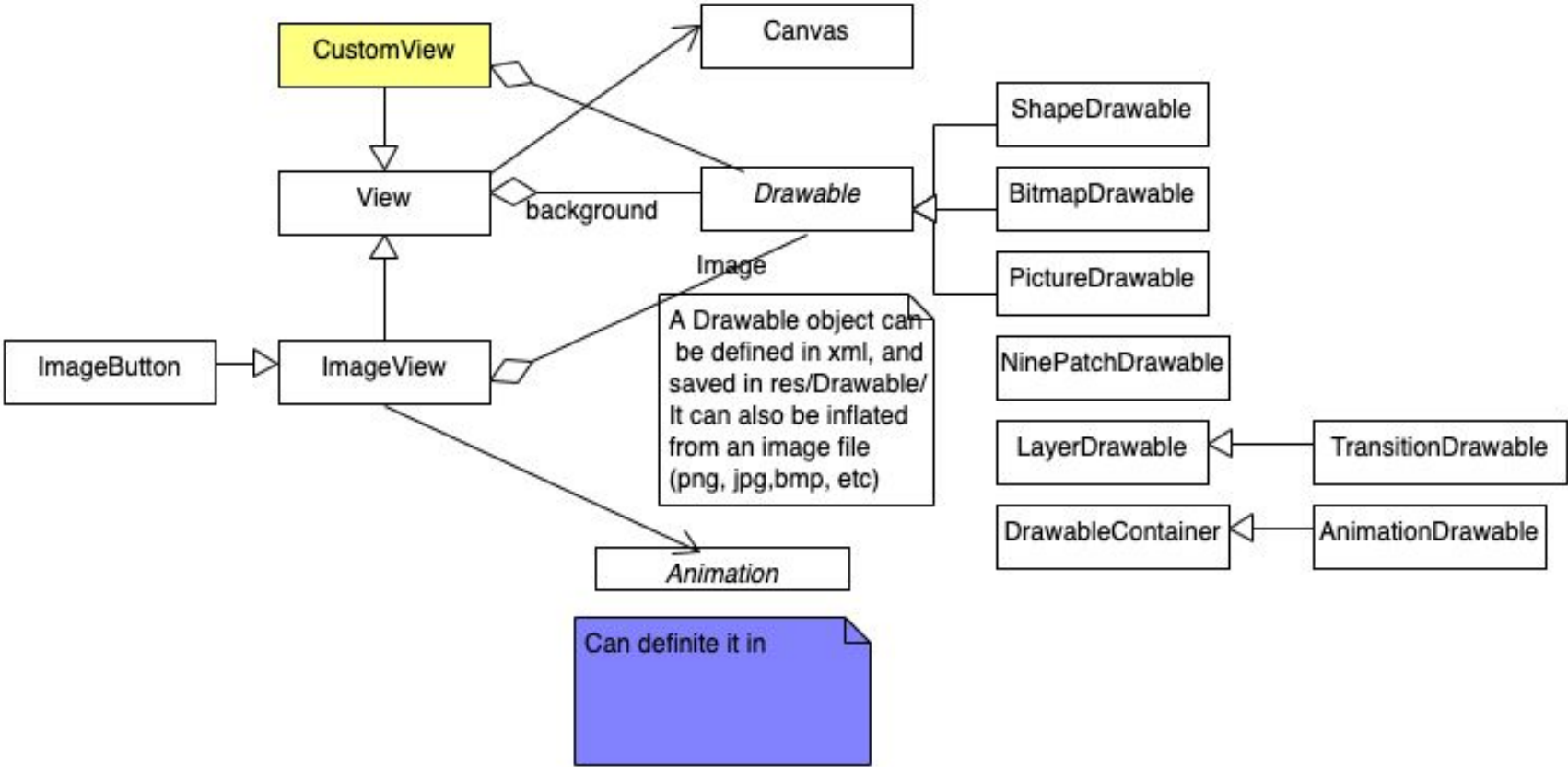
# 2D Graphics

- Simple graphics: display static graphic or predefined animation, within a relatively static app that don't need to change dynamically.
  - Draw into a View object from layout
    - handled by the system's normal View hierarchy
    - define the graphics to go inside the View
  - Common packages used for 2D drawing and animating:  
android.graphics.drawable, android.view.animation
- Interactive game (with the need of constantly redrawing) and 3D rendering.
  - Draw directly to a Canvas.
    - Call appropriate class's draw() (passing Canvas)
    - or a Canvas draw...() method (e.g.,
      - In the same thread as UI Activity, create custom View component in layout, call invalidate(), then handle onDraw() (invalidate() forces a View)
      - In separate thread, managing a SurfaceView ; perform draws to the Canvas as fast as thread can (no need for invalidate())

# Drawable

- Abstraction for "something that can be drawn"
- Only for display, cannot receive events or interact with the user.
  - The simplest case is a graphical file (bitmap), which would be represented in Android via a `BitmapDrawable` class.
- Drawables can be stored as individual files in one of the `res/drawable` folders.
  - Bitmap files (png, jpg): usually stored for different resolutions in the `-mdpi`, `-hdpi`, `-xhdpi`, `-xxhdpi` subfolders of `res/drawable`. The Android system selects the correct one automatically based on the device configuration.
  - XML drawables: used to describe shapes (color, border, gradient), state, transitions and more.
  - 9-patch graphics are used to define which part of a graphic should be stretched if the view which uses this graphic is larger than the graphic.
- Drawables can also be created directly in the Java code. Every object which implements `Drawable` can be used as a `Drawable` in code.

# Class Diagram



# Drawable

- An **abstract** class: `android.graphics.drawable.Drawable`
- SubClasses:
  - `BitmapDrawable`
  - `ShapeDrawable`
  - `PictureDrawable`
  - `NinePatchDrawable`
  - `LayerDrawable`
    - `TransitionDrawable`
  - `DrawableContainer`
    - `AnimationDrawable`
- Can also extend the class to custom Drawable objects
- Drawable objects are then used by view objects.

# Drawable

- In res/drawable folder
  - Image files: png, jpg, etc
  - Self defined XML file
- In res/layout
  - Refer to the drawable object in the XML layout using its resource id (filename without the extension name)
  - Layout can be inflated into the view
- In Java code
  - Load the drawable object in res/drawable using its resource id into a view object such as an ImageView object
  - Create a drawable object using the resource id of the drawable object in res/drawable
  - Load the drawable object created in the Java code into view or customized view objects.

# Using Drawable in Views

- Drawables stored in the res/drawable are referred via its resource id, which is the filename without the file extension.
  - In XML Layout, it is referred via @drawable/resourceid
  - In Java code, it is referred via R.drawable.resourceid resource ID as input parameter.
- Most view can use a drawable to set its background. Imageviews also use a drawable as its image source.
  - In XML Layout, the resource id can be used in some attributes such as android:background or android:src.
  - In Java code, the resource id can be passed to views, e.g. through **setBackgroundResource(int resId)** or **setImageResource(int resId)**
  - Or create a drawable object and pass to views, e.g. through **setBackground(Drawable drawable)**

# Example: LayerDrawable & TransitionDrawable

- LayerDrawable is a Drawable that manages an array of other Drawables.
- These are drawn in the array order, the element with largest index being drawn on top.
- TransitionDrawable is a subclass of LayerDrawable
- It provides a cross-fade between the first and second layer, is definable in XML and executed with startTransition().
- <https://developer.android.com/reference/android/graphics/drawable/TransitionDrawable.html>

# Example: ShapeDrawable

- To dynamically draw 2D graphics, a ShapeDrawable object can be used programmatically draw primitive shapes and style them
- Extends the Drawable class, so it can be used wherever the Drawable is expected (e.g., background of a View, set with setBackgroundDrawable()).
- Can also draw shape as its own custom View, to be added to layout.
- Can create a subclass of View that draws the ShapeDrawable during View.onDraw() execution. (ShapeDrawable has its own draw() method)
- Can draw the shape programmatically in an Activity.



# Example

- To draw this from the XML layout instead of from the Activity, add a CustomDrawable element to the XML:  

```
<com.example.shapedrawable.CustomDrawableView  
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"  
    android:layout_height="wrap_content" />
```
- CustomDrawable must override View(Context, AttributeSet) constructor
  - called when instantiating a View via “inflation” from XML.

# Using Canvas

- When writing an app requiring specialized drawing and/or control the animation of graphics
- A canvas serves as a pretense, or interface, to the actual surface upon which your graphics are drawn—
- You can perform your draw operations to the canvas.
- Drawing actually performed on an underlying Bitmap, which is placed into the window
- Android framework provides canvas for View objects. You can create a subclass of View and implement the `onDraw(Canvas)` callback
- The Android framework **only calls `onDraw(Canvas)` when necessary. To redraw your app, you must first call `invalidate()`**. Then Android calls your view's `onDraw(Canvas)` method, though the call isn't guaranteed to be instantaneous.

# Using Canvas

- Can also acquire a Canvas from `SurfaceHolder.lockCanvas()`, when dealing with a `SurfaceView` object. The goal is to offer this drawing surface to an app's worker thread.
- Canvas has drawing methods: `drawBitmap(...)`, `drawRect(...)`, `drawText(...)`, ...
- Other drawing classes also have `draw(canvas)` methods
  - E.g., `Drawable` objects for placement on the Canvas
  - `Drawable` has its own `draw()` method with `Canvas` argument
- Customize `View`'s `onDraw(canvas)` method using various drawing methods of `canvas` or `Drawables`' `draw()` method, passing `canvas` to `drawables`.
- If need to create new Canvas, define its `Bitmap` first

```
Bitmap b = Bitmap.createBitmap(100, 100, Bitmap.Config.ARGB_8888);  
Canvas c = new Canvas(b);
```

# Property Animation

- Property Animation: changes a property's (a field in an object) value over a specified length of time.
  - Java classes: `ObjectAnimator`, `ValueAnimator`, `AnimatorSet`
  - Resource file location: `res/animator/filename.xml`
  - Reference: `@[package:]animator/filename`, `R.animator.filename`

# View Animation

- Tween animation: performing a series of transformations on a single image with an Animation (such as fading, moving, stretching)
  - Java classes: Animation
  - Resource file location: res/anim/filename.xml
  - Reference: @[package:]anim/filename(in XML), R.anim.filename(in Java)
- Frame animation: showing a sequence of images in order (like a film) with an AnimationDrawable.
  - Java classes: AnimationDrawable
  - Resource file location: res/drawable/filename.xml
  - Reference: @[package:]drawable/filename(in XML), R.drawable.filename(in Java)
- <https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/resources/animation-resource.html#Property>

Question?