

Build your first app

Lesson 1



Introduction to
Android

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1.0 Introduction to Android



Contents



- Android is an ecosystem
- Android platform architecture
- Android Versions
- Challenges of Android app development
- App fundamentals



Android Ecosystem



What is Android?

- Mobile operating system based on [Linux kernel](#)
- User Interface for touch screens
- Used on [over 80%](#) of all smartphones
- Powers devices such as watches, TVs, and cars
- Over 2 Million Android apps in Google Play store
- Highly customizable for devices / by vendors
- Open source



Android user interaction

- Touch gestures: swiping, tapping, pinching
- Virtual keyboard for characters, numbers, and emoji
- Support for Bluetooth, USB controllers and peripherals

Android and sensors

Sensors can discover user action and respond

- Device contents rotate as needed
- Walking adjusts position on map
- Tilting steers a virtual car or controls a physical toy
- Moving too fast disables game interactions



Android home screen

- Launcher icons for apps
- Self-updating widgets for live content
- Can be multiple pages
- Folders to organize apps
- "OK Google"



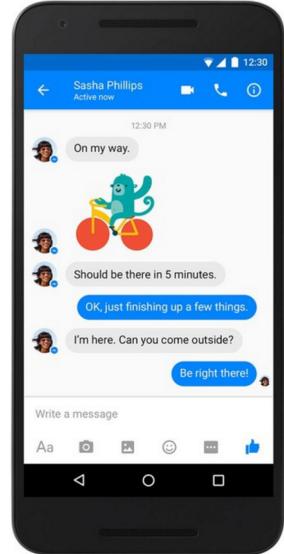
Android app examples



Pandora



Pokemon GO



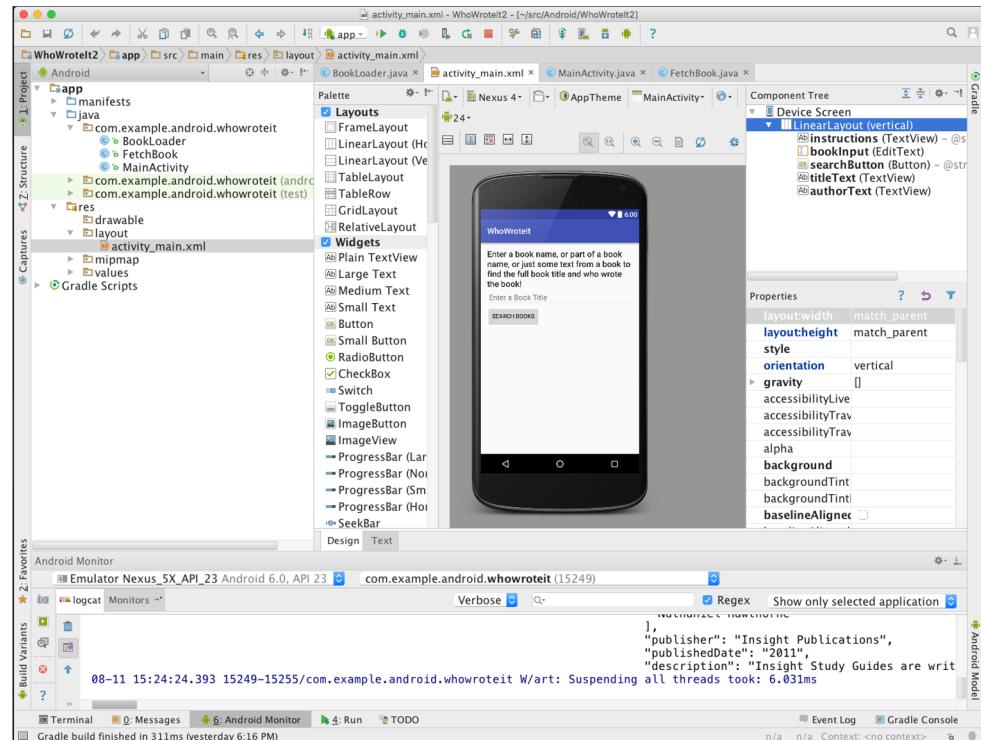
Facebook
Messenger

Android Software Developer Kit (SDK)

- Development tools (debugger, monitors, editors)
- Libraries (maps, wearables)
- Virtual devices (emulators)
- Documentation ([developers.android.com](https://developer.android.com))
- Sample code



Android Studio



- Official Android IDE
- Develop, run, debug, test, and package apps
- Monitors and performance tools
- Virtual devices
- Project views
- Visual layout editor

Google Play store

Publish apps through [Google Play](#) store:

- Official app store for Android
- Digital distribution service operated by Google

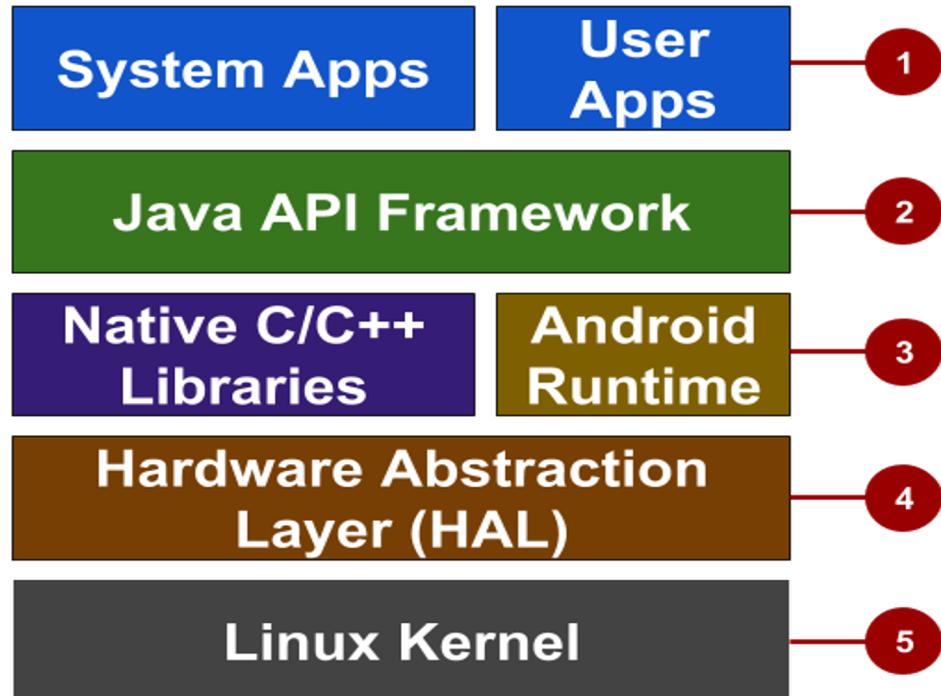


Android Platform Architecture



Android stack

1. System and user apps
2. Android OS API in Java framework
3. Expose native APIs; run apps
4. Expose device hardware capabilities
5. Linux Kernel



System and user apps



- System apps have no special status
- System apps provide key capabilities to app developers

Example:

Your app can use a system app to deliver a SMS message.



Java API Framework

The entire feature-set of the Android OS is available to you through APIs written in the Java language.

- View class hierarchy to create UI screens
- Notification manager
- Activity manager for life cycles and navigation



Android runtime

Each app runs in its own process with its own instance of the Android Runtime.

C/C++ libraries

- Core C/C++ Libraries give access to core native Android system components and services.

Hardware Abstraction Layer (HAL)

- Standard interfaces that expose device hardware capabilities as libraries

Examples: Camera, bluetooth module



Linux Kernel

- Threading and low-level memory management
- Security features
- Drivers



Older Android versions



Codename	Version	Released	API Level
Honeycomb	3.0 - 3.2.6	Feb 2011	11 - 13
Ice Cream Sandwich	4.0 - 4.0.4	Oct 2011	14 - 15
Jelly Bean	4.1 - 4.3.1	July 2012	16 - 18
KitKat	4.4 - 4.4.4	Oct 2013	19 - 20
Lollipop	5.0 - 5.1.1	Nov 2014	21 - 22

[Android History](#) and
[Platform Versions](#)
for more and earlier
versions before 2011

Newer Android versions



Codename	Version	Released	API Level
<i>Marshmallow</i>	6.0 - 6.0.1	Oct 2015	23
<i>Nougat</i>	7.0 - 7.1	Sept 2016	24 - 25
<i>Oreo</i>	8.0 - 8.1	Sept 2017	26 - 27
<i>Pie</i>	9.0	Aug 2018	28

App Development



What is an Android app?

- One or more interactive screens
- Written using Java Programming Language and XML
- Uses the Android Software Development Kit (SDK)
- Uses Android libraries and Android Application Framework
- Executed by Android Runtime Virtual machine (ART)



Challenges of Android development

- Multiple screen sizes and resolutions
- Performance: make your apps responsive and smooth
- Security: keep source code and user data safe
- Compatibility: run well on older platform versions
- Marketing: understand the market and your users
(Hint: It doesn't have to be expensive, but it can be.)



App building blocks

- Resources: layouts, images, strings, colors as XML and media files
- Components: activities, services, and helper classes as Java code
- Manifest: information about app for the runtime
- Build configuration: APK versions in Gradle config files



Learn more

- [Android History](#)
- [Introduction to Android](#)
- [Platform Architecture](#)
- [UI Overview](#)
- [Platform Versions](#)
- [Supporting Different Platform Versions](#)
- [Android Studio User's Guide](#)



What's Next?

- Concept Chapter: [1.0 Introduction to Android](#)
- No Practical



END

