Getting starting with Ionic Framework

Ionic is a beautiful, free and opensource mobile SDK for developing

native and progressive web apps with ease!

I – Setup Ionic

In order to use Ionic Framework you have to do the following steps :

- Install Node.js
    - Download it here : https://nodejs.org/en/download/
    - Install it
    - Update it with the command : *npm install npm@latest -g*
- Install Cordova
    - Run the command : *npm install -g cordova ionic*

Now you can start a new project, you can run the command : *ionic start*

You have to name your project, and then choose the basic template that you'll be working with. There's a little description on the side of it. I can only advise you to try some of them to discover how Ionic work !

Now all you have to do, is to go to the directory of your project with a simple "cd" and then run the command: ionic serve

It'll open an explorer:

- Google Chrome (the best in my opinion): Press F12 and click on the blue button to switch to a phone view
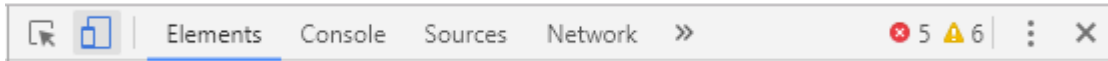
- Firefox: Press F12 and click on the blue button to switch to an adaptive view:

II – Setup IDE

Now everything is ready to develop your app! It's now time to get an IDE to write your code easily.

You can use every IDE, even a notepad if you want. I personally prefer to use Visual Studio Code, so go to this page to download it : https://code.visualstudio.com/

- Install it and open the folder where you project is (File > Open Folder…).

- This IDE already got some autocompletion but if it's not enough you got a plugin section where you can add a lot of features. (Display > Plugin)
  And there's some dedicated Ionic plugin, but I'm not sure that they are updated…

- You can also open a command line into the IDE (Display > Command Line)

IV – Documentation

You can find the documentation over there: https://ionicframework.com/docs/components/

There's some like of the example that you can take, there's also good illustration on the side!

- Component: All the component that exist in Ionic Framework.
- Native: Native function of the phone that you can use (Geolocation, Photo, Storage,…)
- Storage: Help you to use the SQLlite to store your data.
- IonIcons: A lot of icons that are already in the framework.
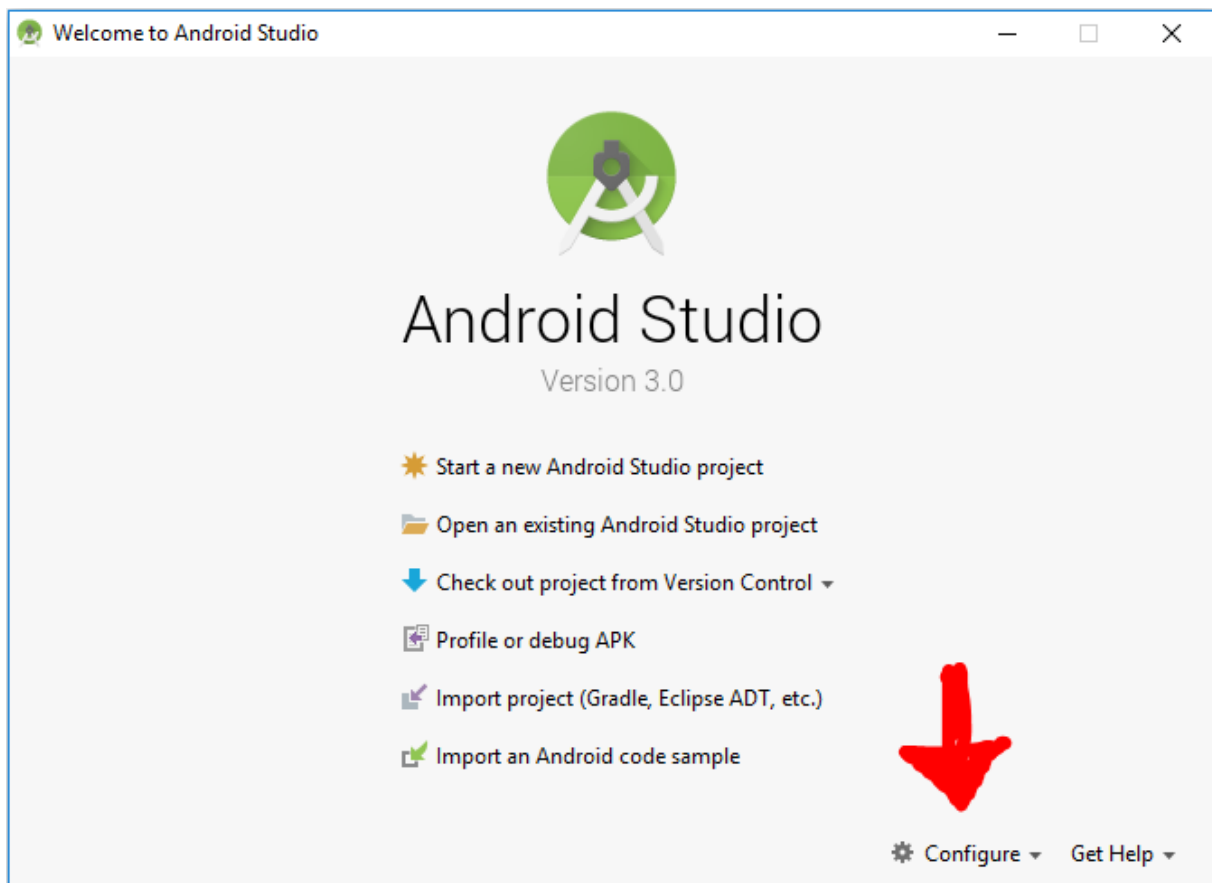
V – Testing your App

Some features like the natives function or the gesture cannot be testing on your explorer. To do so, you have to deploy it on a real device. Thanks to Cordova, you can deploy easily your application on an Android phone, an iPhone or a Windows Phone.

For Android, you have to install the Android SDK Tools, and for running Android SDK Tools you have to install a JDK (Java Development Kit). You should install JDK 8 or later (206Mo), here's the link: http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/jdk8-downloads-2133151.html

a) Setup your computer

Then you should can install Android SDK Tools, the easiest way is to install Android Studio (681Mo), so here's the link: https://developer.android.com/studio/index.html

When it's done, open Android Studio and go in Configure > SDK Manager

Then check the following package:

Then click "Apply" and "Ok".

b) Setup your phone

To test any app on your phone you have to switch it to the "USB Debugging Mode". In orders to do that, go in Settings > Developer Options > USB Debugging.
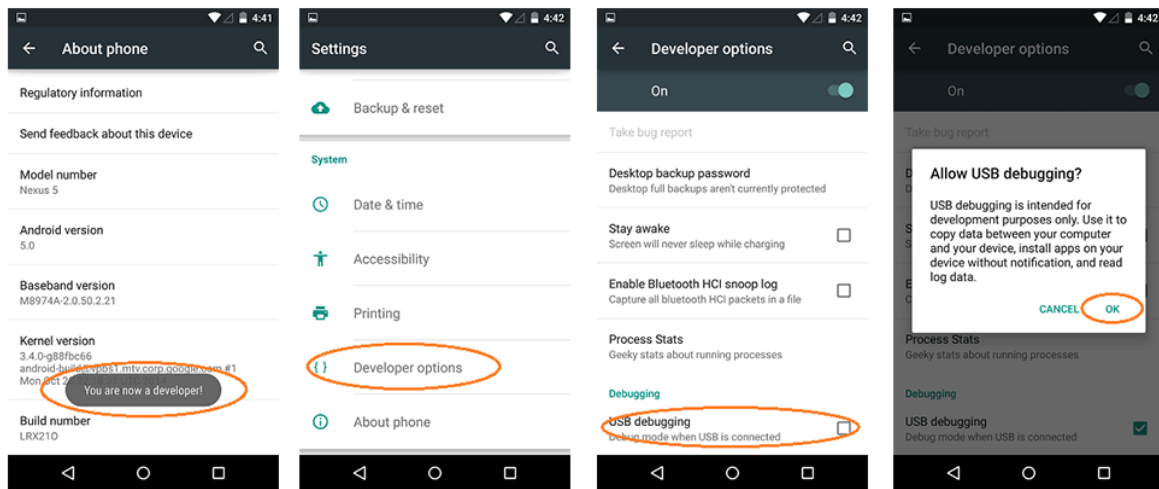
If you don't have "Developer Options, go in Settings > About Phone > Build Number and tap 7 times on it (yeah strange I know.. and if you tap 2/3 times on the Android Version, something weird pop! The more you know..)
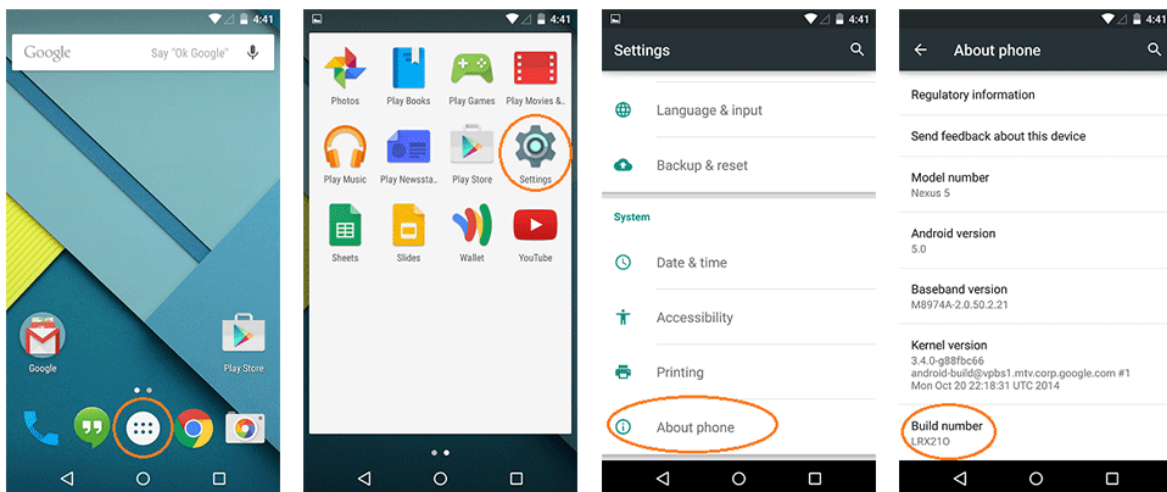
c) Run your App

It's been a long way but now you can run an app on your phone anytime you want! So simply run the command:

ionic cordova run android

It should automatically add the plateform to your application, if not, you should have and error like "no plateform found", then you should simply run this command:

cordova platform add android –save

Unfortunatly, I cannot show you how to do it on iPhone, because to test on an iPhone, you need a Mac, and XCode! So, if you want to try it, you should look it up!

VI – The easy way

I never used it, but there's an easy way of using Ionic:

http://ionic.io/products/creator

Enjoy!