

## Volley Lab: ICS and BTC

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### Core Knowledge

1. Make an API call to a github *ENDPOINT* with Volley
2. Process the JSON data returned as response
3. Arrange and display the response on RecyclerView with Cardviews

### Additional side knowledge to gain in this tutorial will be

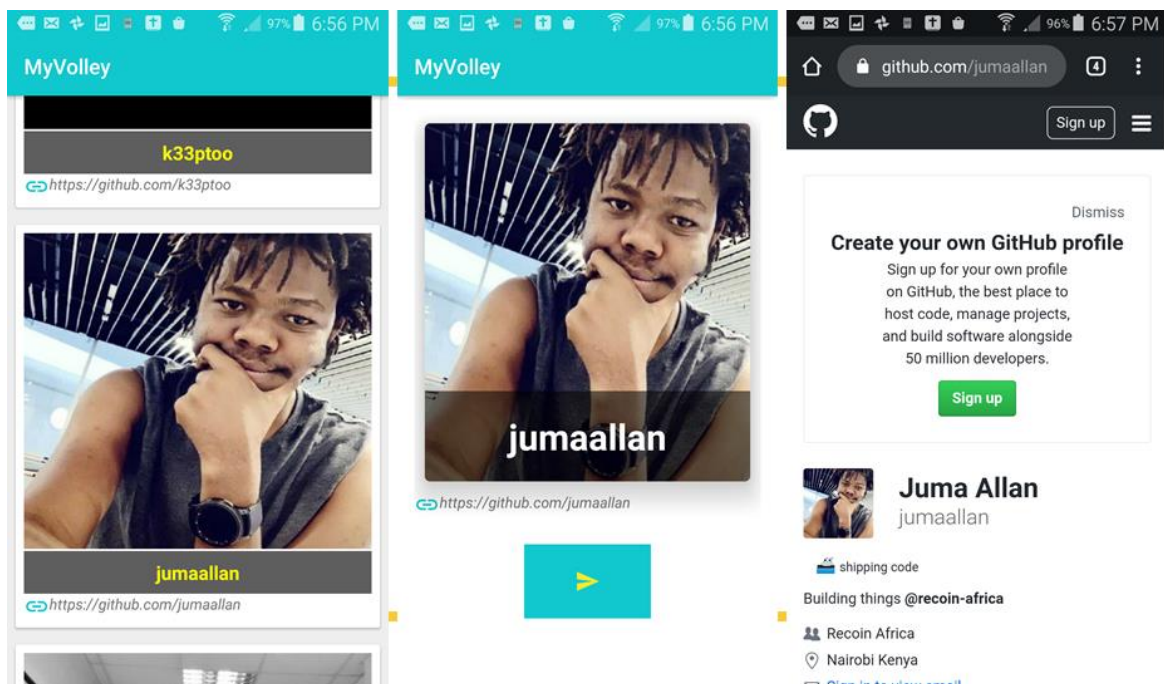
- How to populate the RecyclerView with Cards
- How to parse an image response data to a View with Picasso

First off, what we'll be building in this lab is an android app that will make a request to get a list of java developers in Nairobi from github using this API ENDPOINT  
private static final String URL\_DATA =

"https://api.github.com/search/users?q=language:java+location:nairobi";

We will then proceed to display the contents (developers image, developers username and developer git URL) on the RecyclerView with cards (CardView).

This is a visual idea of what we'll be building, just to feed your subconscious mind the end product



## Set Up

First off, launch android studio and create a new project [**File > New > New Project**]. While setting up your project feel free to give your project any name of your choice, in my case I'll name it My Volley.

Once your project has finished building, you'll need to add some dependencies to your app level Gradle file [**app > build.gradle**] then locate the dependency block and add these dependencies.

```
implementation 'com.google.android.material:material:1.1.0'
implementation 'androidx.cardview:cardview:1.0.0'
implementation 'com.android.volley:volley:1.1.0'
implementation 'com.squareup.picasso:picasso:2.5.2'
```

Then set internet permissions in the manifest file.

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

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

    <application
        android:allowBackup="true"
        android:icon="@mipmap/ic_launcher"
        android:label="@string/app_name"
```

## Layout

By default you already have activity\_main.xml [**res > layout > activity\_main.xml**] this is the layout that will hold the RecyclerView, so set the layout to RelativeLayout initialize the RecyclerView here.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<RelativeLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    xmlns:app="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res-auto"
    xmlns:tools="http://schemas.android.com/tools"
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent"
    tools:context=".MainActivity">
    <androidx.recyclerview.widget.RecyclerView
        android:id="@+id/recycler_view"
        android:layout_width="match_parent"
        android:layout_height="match_parent"
    />
</RelativeLayout>
```

Open the MainActivity.java file and initialize the RecyclerView in the on create method and find it by the id you assigned to it in the activity\_main.xml file. In my case I set it's

id to be “recycler\_view” according to the snippet above. So open your MainActivity and do this:

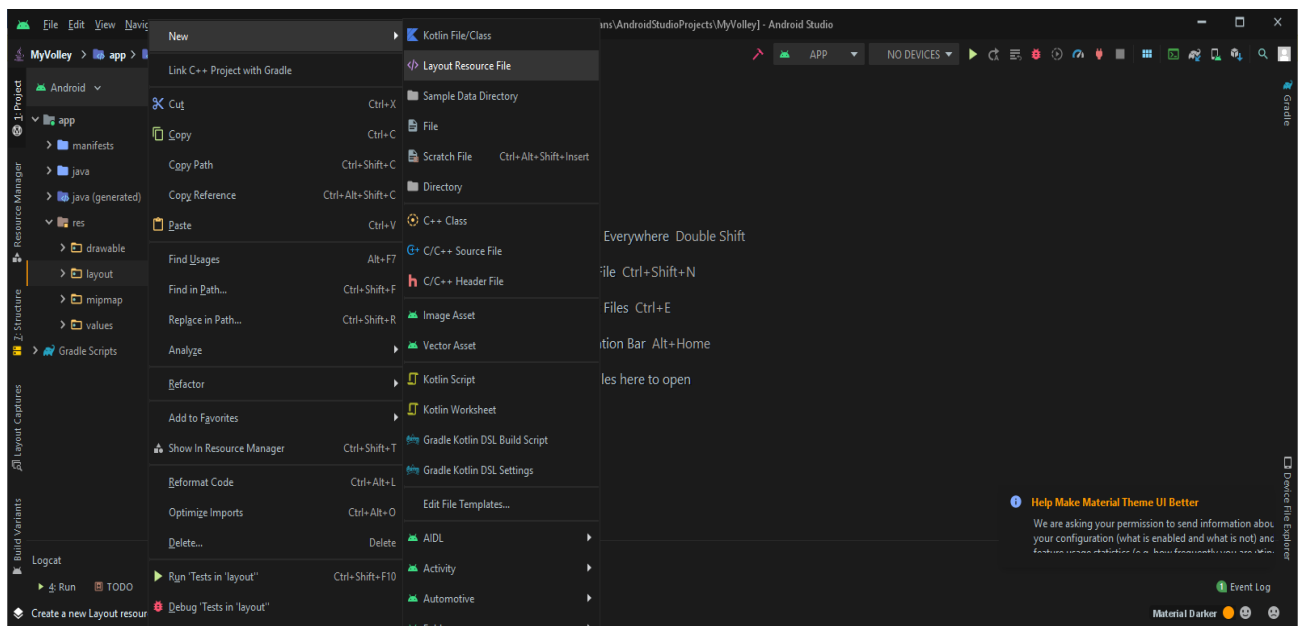
```
public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {

    //declare the recycler view
    private RecyclerView recyclerView;

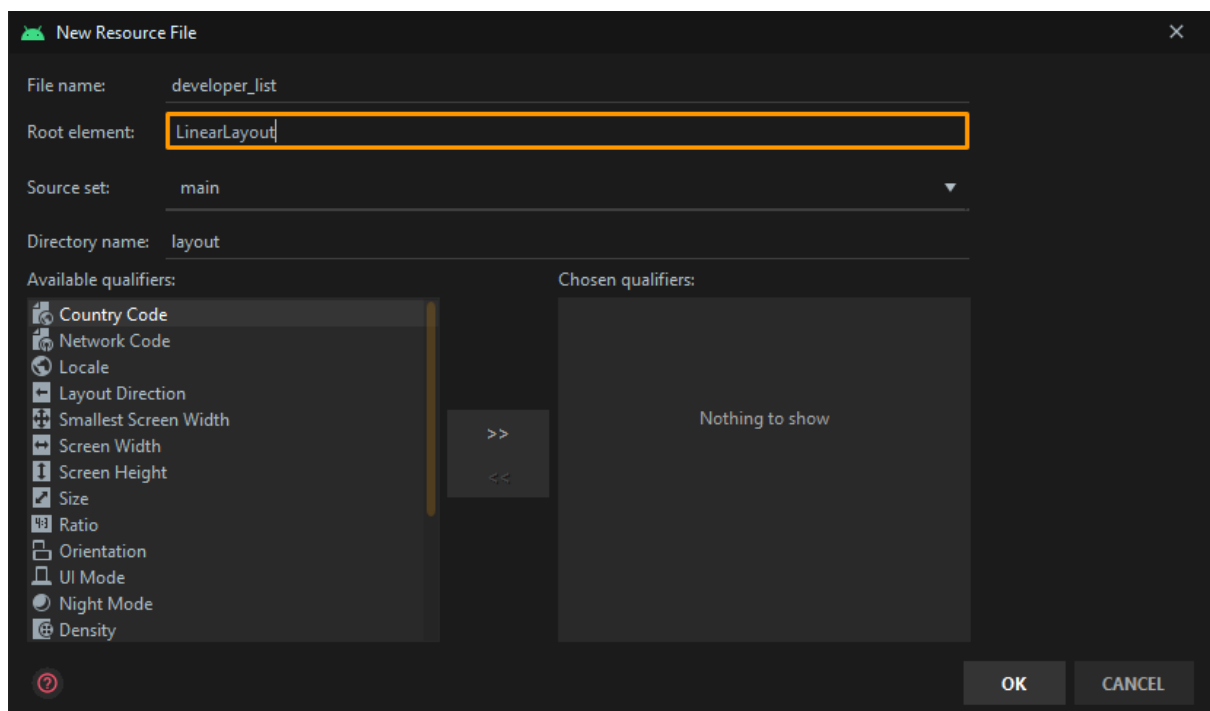
    @Override
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
        //Initialize the recycler view
        recyclerView=findViewById(R.id.recycler_view);
        recyclerView.setHasFixedSize(true);
        recyclerView.setLayoutManager(new LinearLayoutManager(this));
    }
}
```

Now we have the RecyclerView set, for the items that will be in the RecyclerView, we'll create another layout resource file that will store the data in a CardView and then use the cards to populate the RecyclerView.

Create a new layout resource file [**app > res > layout > New > layout resource file**] and name it developers\_list.xml.



We have created a layout resource file and specified its root view as linear layout.



Next, we'll create a `CardView` in the `developers_list.xml` to hold the contents that will be displayed to a user. Inside the card view we will nest a linear layout to specify the order of displaying details of a particular developer.

Below is the Screen shot of `developer_list.xml` layout resource file.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout
    xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:layout_height="wrap_content"
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:orientation="vertical">
    <androidx.cardview.widget.CardView
        android:layout_width="match_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:layout_margin="8dp"

        >
        <LinearLayout
            android:id="@+id/linearLayout"
            android:layout_width="match_parent"
            android:layout_height="wrap_content"
            android:orientation="vertical"
            android:padding="8dp">
            <ImageView
                android:id="@+id/imageView"
                android:layout_width="match_parent"
```

```

        android:layout_height="300dp"
        android:paddingBottom="2dp"
        android:scaleType="fitXY"
        android:adjustViewBounds="false"
    />
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/username"
        android:layout_width="match_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"

        android:gravity="center"
        android:background="#5E5E5E"
        style="@style/TextAppearance.AppCompat.Medium"
        android:textColor="#FFFF00"
        android:textStyle="bold"
        android:theme="@style/ThemeOverlay.AppCompat.Dark"
        android:padding="8dp"
        android:text="User Name"/>

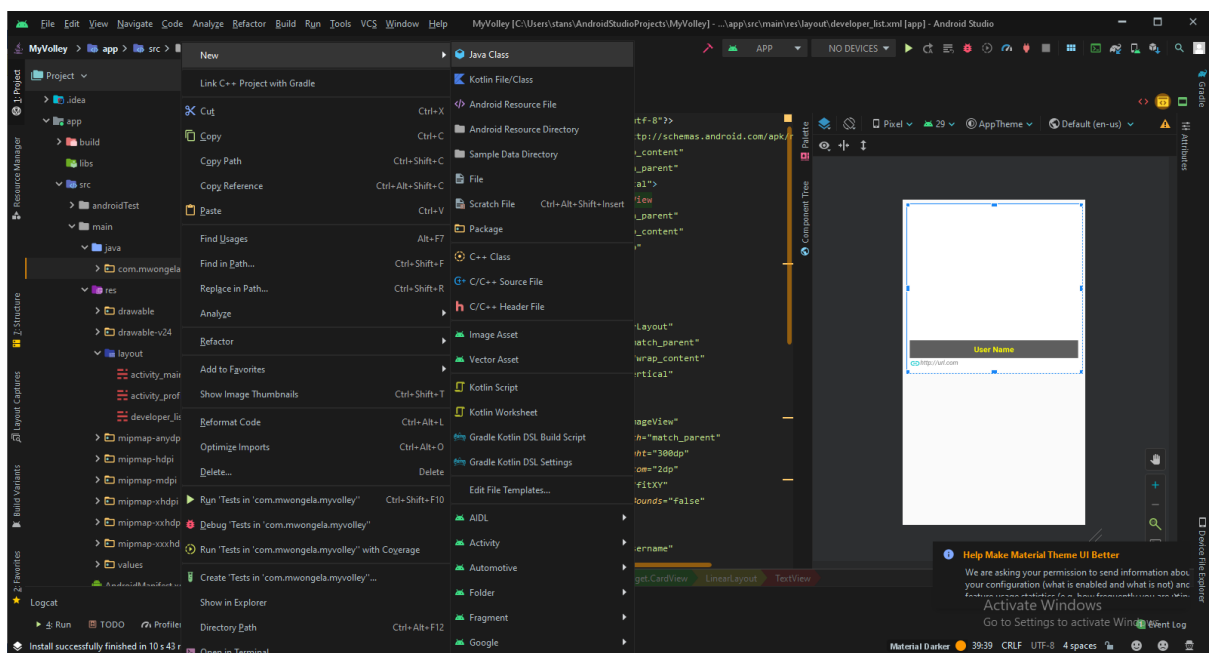
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/html_url"
        android:layout_width="match_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:textColor="?android:textColorSecondary"
        android:textStyle="italic"
        android:drawableStart="@drawable/ic_url_link"
        android:text="http://url.com"/>

</LinearLayout>

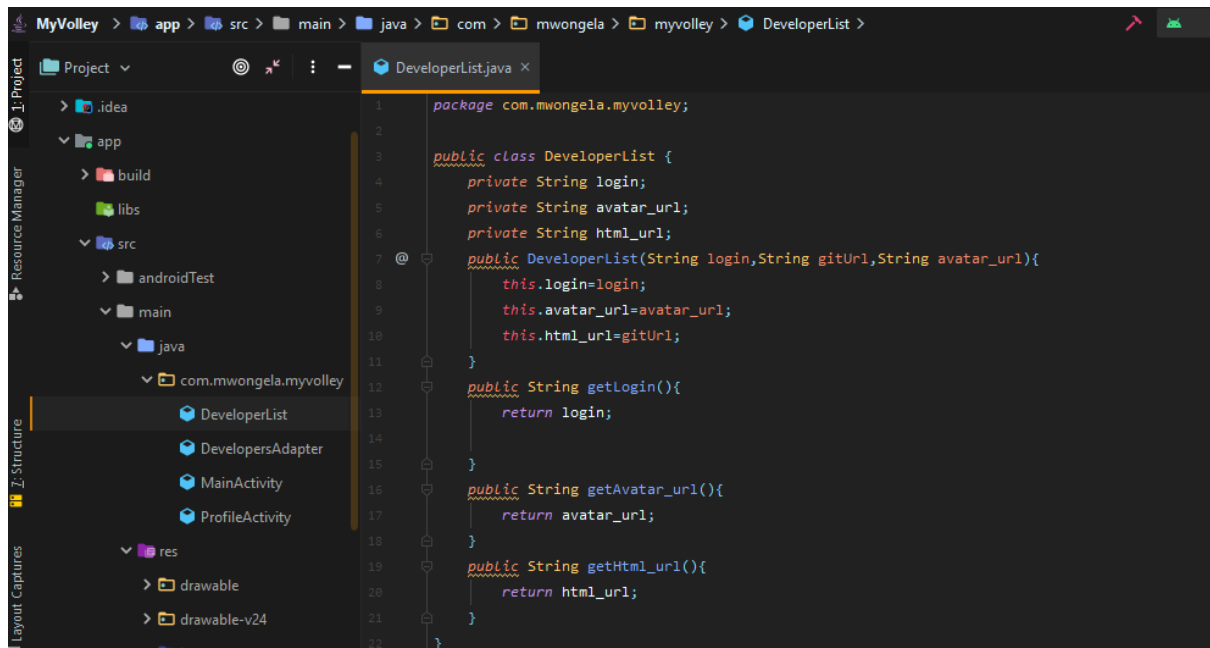
</androidx.cardview.widget.CardView>
</LinearLayout>

```

Now, we are done with the two layout files (activity\_main and developer\_list). To actually get the data with which we'll populate our developer\_list file, we need to create a java class for it, this is what we call a model class.



Name the Java class as you deem fit, in my case I called this java class DevelopersList and set it up like this



So here we define 3 String variables “login” to hold the developers name, “avatar\_url” to hold the developers image url and “html\_url” to hold the developers github url.

We then initialized them and generated their getters and constructors since we’ll be making use of them in the DevelopersAdapter class.

## The Adapter

**P.S:** If this is hard to follow please revisit the video I shared for creating recycler view adapter on e-learning.

Android uses adapters (from the [Adapter](#) class) to connect data with [View](#) items in a list. There are many different kinds of adapters available, and you can also write custom adapters. In this task you will create an adapter that associates your list of words with word list [View](#) items.

To connect data with [View](#) items, the adapter needs to know about the [View](#) items. The adapter uses a [ViewHolder](#) that describes a [View](#) item and its position within the [RecyclerView](#).

First, we will build an adapter that bridges the gap between the data in your Developer list and the [RecyclerView](#) that displays it:

1. Right-click **java/com.android.example.recyclerview** and select **New** > **Java Class**.
2. Name the class **DevelopersAdapter**.
3. Give DevelopersAdapter the following signature:

```
public class DevelopersAdapter extends
RecyclerView.Adapter<DevelopersAdapter.ViewHolder> { }
```

DevelopersAdapter extends a generic adapter for RecyclerView to use a View holder that is specific for your app and defined inside DevelopersAdapter. ViewHolder shows an error, because you have not yet defined it.

4. Click the class declaration (**DevelopersAdapter**), then click the red light bulb on the left side of the pane. Choose **Implement methods**.

A dialog appears that asks you to choose which methods to implement. Choose all three methods and click **OK**.

Android Studio creates empty placeholders for all the methods. Note how onCreateViewHolder and onBindViewHolder both reference the ViewHolder, which hasn't been implemented yet.

## Create the ViewHolder for the adapter

To create the ViewHolder, follow these steps:

1. Inside the DevelopersAdapter class, add a new ViewHolder inner class with this signature:

```
public class ViewHolder extends RecyclerView.ViewHolder { }
```

You will see an error about a missing default constructor. You can see details about the errors by hovering your mouse cursor over the red-underlined code or over any red horizontal line on the right margin of the editor pane. Ensure you add this constructor.

2. Add variables to the ViewHolder inner class for the developer name TextView, developer ImageView, developer GitHub Url and the Linear Layout that contained this three items (we will set a on click listener to this linear layout later)

Then initialize this variables in the constructor of the ViewHolder class;

```
public class ViewHolder extends RecyclerView.ViewHolder {
    //Define the view objects
    public TextView login;
    public ImageView avatar_url;
    public TextView html_url;
    public LinearLayout linearLayout;
    //the constructor
    public ViewHolder(@NonNull View itemView) {
        super(itemView);
        //initialize view objects
        login=itemView.findViewById(R.id.username);
        avatar_url=itemView.findViewById(R.id.imageView);
        html_url=itemView.findViewById(R.id.html_url);
        linearLayout=itemView.findViewById(R.id.LinearLayout);
    }
}
```



## Storing your data in the adapter

You need to hold your data in the adapter, and `DevelopersAdapter` needs a constructor that initializes the developers list from the data. Follow these steps:

1. To hold your data in the adapter, create a private list of `DeveloperList` (model Java Class) in `DevelopersAdapter` and call it `developerList`. Additionally create a private member variable for providing the context and call it `mContext`

```
public class DevelopersAdapter extends
RecyclerView.Adapter<DevelopersAdapter.ViewHolder> {
    //declare DeveloperList private member variable
    private List<DeveloperList> developerList;
    //context variable
    private Context mContext;
```

2. You can now fill in the `getItemCount()` method to return the size of `developerList`:

```
@Override
public int getItemCount() {
    //return the size of developer list
    return developerList.size();
}
```

3. Implement the constructor for `DevelopersAdapter`. The constructor needs to have a context parameter, and a List of developers which will be fetched remotely.

```
public DevelopersAdapter(List<DeveloperList>developerList,
Context context){
    this.developerList=developerList;
    this.mContext=context;
}
```

4. Fill out the `onCreateViewHolder()` method with this code:

```
public DevelopersAdapter.ViewHolder onCreateViewHolder(@NonNull
ViewGroup parent, int viewType) {
    return new
ViewHolder(LayoutInflater.from(parent.getContext()).inflate(
R.layout.developer_list,parent,false));
}
```

The `onCreateViewHolder()` method is similar to the `onCreate()` method. It inflates the `developer_list` layout, and returns a `ViewHolder` with the layout and the adapter.

5. Fill out the `onBindViewHolder()` method with the code below:

```
public void onBindViewHolder(@NonNull DevelopersAdapter.ViewHolder holder, final int
position) {
    //create a variable that get the current instance of the developer in the list
    final DeveloperList currentDeveloper=developerList.get(position);
    // populate the text views and image view with data
    holder.login.setText(currentDeveloper.getLogin());
    holder.html_url.setText(currentDeveloper.getHtml_url());
    //Use the library Picasso to load images to prevent crashing..loading images is
```



```
resource intensive
Picasso.with(mContext)
    .load(currentDeveloper.getAvatar_url())
    .into(holder.avatar_url);
```

The onBindViewHolder () method connects your data to the view holder.

- \* @param holder Refers to the ViewHolder into which the data should be put.
- \* @param position Refers to the adapter position.

6. Run your app to make sure that there are no errors.

## Fetching the remote json data.

First off this is the structure of the json data we'll be returning  
Check this link

<https://api.github.com/search/users?q=language:java+location:nairobi>

As seen the data is in JSON format with other {Json Objects} all wrapped in a [Json Array], so we'll be returning the data in the same format. However we are not particularly interested in all the keys of the objects, we only need the login, the html\_url and the avatar\_url. These are the variables we defined in the DevelopersList class. So we'll be parsing the respective values to their corresponding variables.

Goto MainActivity and define a String variable for the api **private static final String URL\_DATA = "api-url here";**

```
public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {
    //api
    private static final String URL_DATA =
"https://api.github.com/search/users?q=language:java+location:nairobi";
```

Additionally create instances of the developer adapter and developer list you defined.

```
public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {
    //api
    private static final String URL_DATA =
"https://api.github.com/search/users?q=language:java+location:nairobi";
    //declare the recycler view
    private RecyclerView recyclerView;
    //declare the adapter
    private DevelopersAdapter myAdapter;
    //declare the Developers List
    private List<DeveloperList> developerList;
```

Initialize the developers list in the on create method...this list will hold the contents of our remote JSON and pass it to recycler view

```
protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
    setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
    //Initialize the recycler view
    recyclerView=findViewById(R.id.recycler_view);
```

```

recyclerView.setHasFixedSize(true);
recyclerView.setLayoutManager(new LinearLayoutManager(this));
//Initialize the developers list...THIS LIST WILL HOLD THE CONTENTS OF OUR REMOTE JSON
AND PASS IT TO RECYCLERVIEW
developerList= new ArrayList<>();

loadUrlData();
}

```

Now, create a method loadUrlData() to fetch the url data for the RecyclerView and we'll call this method in the onCreate() .

```

private void loadUrlData(){
    final ProgressDialog progressDialog = new ProgressDialog(this);
    progressDialog.setMessage("Loading...");
    progressDialog.show();
    StringRequest stringRequest = new StringRequest(Request.Method.GET, URL_DATA, new
Response.Listener<String>() {
        @Override
        public void onResponse(String response) {
            Log.w("res","Response:" + response);
            progressDialog.dismiss();
            try {
                JSONObject jsonObject = new JSONObject(response);
                JSONArray array = jsonObject.getJSONArray("items");
                for (int i = 0; i < array.length(); i++) {
                    JSONObject jo = array.getJSONObject(i);
                    DeveloperList developers = new DeveloperList(jo.getString("login"),
jo.getString("html_url"), jo.getString("avatar_url"));
                    developerList.add(developers);
                    Log.d("res","developers"+ developers);
                }
                myAdapter = new DevelopersAdapter(developerList, getApplicationContext());
                recyclerView.setAdapter(myAdapter);

            } catch (JSONException e) {
                e.printStackTrace();
            }
            Log.d("Tag",response);
        }
    }, new Response.ErrorListener() {
        @Override
        public void onErrorResponse(VolleyError error) {
            Toast.makeText(MainActivity.this,"Error"+
error.toString(),Toast.LENGTH_SHORT).show();
        }
    });
    RequestQueue requestQueue = Volley.newRequestQueue(this);
    requestQueue.add(stringRequest);
}
}

```

This is a lot of code in one block, yeah I know so am going to try and explain what is going in this block and hopefully you'll get it. So we start by using StringRequest (From the volley dependency) to define the request and RequestQueue to then send the request. We then create an instance of the DevelopersList to store the individual objects we'll be getting from the items Array.

Once the request is sent, we need to display a progress dialog to keep the user engaged while the task is performed. So we initialize the ProgressDialog globally and define it inside the loadUrlData() method.

We'll then process the JSON file that will be returned so we can easily parse it into the defined variables we've already set for them. So we create a new JSONObject and pass in (response) as a parameter, then surround it with (try and catch) to catch all the possible exceptions. Next we define a JSONArray from the jsonObject we just created, this is to enable us gain access to the "items" array inside the jsonObject thus we'll pass in "items" as a parameter.

Now we have the array, to get the data we want from the array, we'll need a for-loop, like the one we defined in the snippet above. This is to enable us get the data from the array according to their index. Inside the loop, we create another JSONObject that will allow us get data from the array according to the current index.

Next we create a DevelopersList object called developers and pass in the data we'll be getting from the jsonObject(o) as parameters with the getString method. This will get the data as a String and save it to the corresponding variable as earlier defined in the DevelopersList class. When this is all done, we then add the list into developersLists.

Then after the loop, we create the adapter and pass in the developersLists and the application context as its parameters, after which we'll set it as the RecyclerView adapter.

## The Profile Activity

So far we've been able to set up our layouts, used volley StringRequest and RequestQueue to define and send our request, we've fetched the data from the server and set it to display on the layout. Next we'll handle what happens when an item is clicked on the list. What we want is to have an intent that will launch a profile page for every developer clicked on.

So first we create a new empty activity for profiles, call it ProfileActivity. This will be the profile page for every developer, we'll use an intent to pass their information from the developerslist to this profile page and display their image, username (login) and github link (html\_url). We'll also add a share button that will use intent to share their profile with some hardcoded messages on other apps.

1. Create an activity using empty activity template and name the Activity : **Profile Activity**
2. Create the layout for the Profile activity.

This is how the layout for the profile activity should look like

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    xmlns:app="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res-auto"
    xmlns:tools="http://schemas.android.com/tools"
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent"
    android:padding="16dp"
    android:background="#FFFFFF"
    android:orientation="vertical"
    tools:context=".ProfileActivity">

    <androidx.cardview.widget.CardView
        android:layout_width="match_parent"
        android:layout_height="0dp"
        android:layout_weight="2"
```

```

        app:cardCornerRadius="5dp"
        android:background="#FFFFFF"
        app:cardElevation="20dp"
        android:layout_margin="10dp">

        <RelativeLayout
            android:layout_width="match_parent"
            android:layout_height="wrap_content">

            <ImageView
                android:id="@+id/profileImageView"
                android:layout_width="match_parent"
                android:layout_height="match_parent"
                android:scaleType="fitXY"
            />

            <TextView
                android:id="@+id/usernameTextView"
                android:layout_width="match_parent"
                android:layout_height="wrap_content"
                android:layout_alignParentBottom="true"
                android:gravity="center"
                android:padding="20dp"
                android:textColor="@android:color/white"
                android:textSize="34sp"
                android:textStyle="bold"
                tools:text="Stanslaus"
                android:background="#8c000000" />

        </RelativeLayout>

    </androidx.cardview.widget.CardView>

    <RelativeLayout
        android:layout_width="match_parent"
        android:layout_height="0dp"
        android:layout_weight="1">

        <TextView
            android:id="@+id/developerUrl"
            android:layout_width="match_parent"
            android:layout_height="wrap_content"
            android:textColor="?android:textColorSecondary"
            android:textStyle="italic"
            android:drawableStart="@drawable/ic_url_link"
            android:text="http://url.com"
            android:layout_marginBottom="30dp"
        />

        <ImageButton
            android:id="@+id/shareProfile"
            android:layout_width="120dp"
            android:layout_height="70dp"
            android:layout_marginTop="40dp"
            android:background="#10C8CD"
            android:layout_centerInParent="true"
            android:src="@drawable/ic_send" />

    </RelativeLayout>
</LinearLayout>

```

This is basically just setting up the Profile layout file. We define a Cardview inside the parent layout to hold the image and username in a relative layout. Then we create

another Relative layout to hold the developers github link (html\_url) and the share button. So basically we have 3 new views and a button, we'll initialize them with their id's in the onCreate method of the profile activity

```
public class ProfileActivity extends AppCompatActivity {

    @Override
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_profile);
        //Initialize the views using the ID's you set in activity_profile.xml
        ImageView profileImageView = findViewById(R.id.profileImageView);
        TextView userNameTextView = findViewById(R.id.usernameTextView);
        ImageButton shareProfile = findViewById(R.id.shareProfile);
        TextView developerUrl = findViewById(R.id.developerUrl);
    }
}
```

## Handling Intents

We need to be able to pass data from the MainActivity to the ProfileActivity since we'll be displaying the developers image, username and link (in their profile page). Notice that we defined 3 global static variables (KEY\_NAME, KEY\_IMAGE and KEY\_URL) in the DevelopersAdapter class.

```
public class DevelopersAdapter extends RecyclerView.Adapter<DevelopersAdapter.ViewHolder> {
    //declare DeveloperList private member variable
    private List<DeveloperList> developerList;
    //context variable
    private Context mContext;
    //Keys for our intents
    public static final String KEY_NAME = "name";
    public static final String KEY_IMAGE = "image";
    public static final String KEY_URL = "url";
}
```

These variables will help us achieve that task. So in the onBindViewHolder method inside the DevelopersAdapter class, we'll set an OnClickListener on the linear layout holding the CardViews so that upon clicking any card on the RecyclerView, it'll open the profile page of the developer on that card with an Intent.

```
public void onBindViewHolder(@NonNull DevelopersAdapter.ViewHolder holder, final int position) {
    //create a variable that get the current instance of the developer in the list
    final DeveloperList currentDeveloper=developerList.get(position);
    // populate the text views and image view with data
    holder.login.setText(currentDeveloper.getLogin());
    holder.html_url.setText(currentDeveloper.getHtml_url());
    //Use the library Picasso to Load images to prevent crashing..Loading images is
    resource intensive
    Picasso.with(mContext)
        .load(currentDeveloper.getAvatar_url())
        .into(holder.avatar_url);
    //Set on click listener to handle click events
    holder.linearLayout.setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener() {
        @Override
        //ensure you override the onClick method
        public void onClick(View v) {
            //create an instance of the developer list and initialize it
            DeveloperList developersList1 = developerList.get(position);
            //create an intent and specify the target class as Profile Activity
            Intent skipIntent = new Intent(v.getContext(), ProfileActivity.class);
            //Use intent EXTRA TO Pass data from Main Activity to Profile Activity
        }
    });
}
```

```

        skipIntent.putExtra(KEY_NAME, developersList1.getLogin());
        skipIntent.putExtra(KEY_URL, developersList1.getHtml_url());
        skipIntent.putExtra(KEY_IMAGE, developersList1.getAvatar_url());
        v.getContext().startActivity(skipIntent);
    }
});
}

```

So to achieve this we'll define an object of the DevelopersList class inside the OnClickListener and get the values we need from it (developersList1). Then we save these values (**Login, Html\_url and Avatar\_url**) into the global static variables (**KEY\_NAME, KEY\_URL and KEY\_IMAGE**) so that we can get the values from them in the ProfileActivity. To open the ProfileActivity we create an Intent (in this context) which I called skipIntent and put the values into the static variables.

## Getting the Intents

In the ProfileActivity java class, we'll create an intent to get these values from the holding variables and set them into the display String variables we've defined. For the image we'll still use Picasso to display it on the imageView of the profile page. So in the onCreate() of the ProfileActivity java file add:

```

//Getting the intents send from main Activity
Intent intent = getIntent();
final String userName = intent.getStringExtra(DevelopersAdapter.KEY_NAME);
String image = intent.getStringExtra(DevelopersAdapter.KEY_IMAGE);
final String profileUrl = intent.getStringExtra(DevelopersAdapter.KEY_URL);
//Setting the views
Picasso.with(this)
    .load(image)
    .into(profileImageView);

userNameTextView.setText(userName);
developerUrl.setText(profileUrl);

```

Recall we've set the id's of the TextView in the ProfileActivity layout file to userNameTextView and developerUrl . so here we just set the Texts on them whilst displaying the image on the profileImageView with Picasso.

## Handling OnItem Clicks

Then we want to launch the browser to load the developers github profile page upon clicking the developerUrl on the profile page so we set an OnClickListener on the developerUrl.

```

//set on click listener to developerUrl so as to open the developer link using implicit
intent
developerUrl.setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener() {
    @Override
    public void onClick(View v) {

        String url = profileUrl;
        Intent i = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_VIEW);
        i.setData(Uri.parse(url));
        startActivity(i);
    }
});

```

```
    }  
});
```

The last functionality we want for the app is to have a button in the Profile page that will share the contents of the profile page via other social media apps, so we'll define the intent to handle this with an `onClickListener` on the button.

```
//set onclickLister to the image button shareProfile and implement implicit intent for  
sharing developers profile  
shareProfile.setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener() {  
    @Override  
    public void onClick(View v) {  
  
        Intent shareIntent = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_SEND);  
        shareIntent.setType("text/plain");  
        shareIntent.putExtra(Intent.EXTRA_TEXT, "Check out this awesome developer " +  
userName +  
        ", " + profileUrl);  
        Intent chooser = Intent.createChooser(shareIntent, "Share via");  
        if (shareIntent.resolveActivity(getPackageManager()) != null) {  
            startActivity(chooser);  
        }  
    }  
});
```

We have achieved all we set out to do in this tutorial, we've successfully built an android app that returns a list of java developers from a github api and parse it to a RecyclerView with CardViews.

### Coding Challenge:

1. Redo the Lab using Retrofit Library.
2. Create the REST API for your group project and connect your Android Client to your remote Server.