

# Introduction to Swift

Apple's Objective-C Replacement



# Agenda What we will cover

- How Apple arrived at Swift
- What's new in Swift
- Swift's syntax & basics



Objective-C is created

Created in 1983 by Brad Cox & Tom Love

Built right on top of C

Added Object Oriented ideas (classes, objects, etc)



Objective-C is engrained into Apple's technology stack

2 years later, Jobs licenses it for NeXT (NeXTSTEP)

1996, Jobs is back at Apple and NeXT is acquired

Object Oriented libraries separated out from the OS as an API called OpenStep

1997, Apples includes NeXT OS and APIs into new OS - "Rhapsody". This became Mac OS X.

This is where we get "NS" from - NeXT Step



Objective-C peaks

Objective-C became the native language for iOS/OS X

Improved and iterated upon over the years

Works fine - but starts to show its age



Objective-C's weaknesses

- Objective-C is not easy to learn
- Syntax is unusual and unfamiliar
- C is mixed in and heavily used in Foundation
- C baggage (.h & .m files, for example)
- No generics (leads to tedious casts)
- Overloading not supported



In comes Swift!

Keeps the best of Objective-C, such as named parameters

Brings in modern programming language advancements

Syntax is familiar - similar to C#, Python, and Rust



Cool new features

Type inference

```
keyword name type initial value

let aString: String = "String variable"
```



Type Inference

Omit the type - it's inferred to be a String let anotherString = "Another string variable"

Variables can be unicode characters



Types

String is lightweight like a C string

Powerful as an NSString

Concatenating is no longer a chore

```
NSURL *twitterURL = [[NSURL alloc] initWithString:
[twitterURL stringByAppendingString:twitterHandle]];
```



String Interpolation

Can even have expressions evaluated

```
let speakers = 20
let attendees = 300
```

```
let audience = "On average, there will be \
(attendees / speakers) people at each session."
```

No need for a mutable or immutable typed Strings



Constants

The let keyword defines a constant

```
let speakers = 20
let attendees = 300
```

```
let audience = "On average, there will be \
(attendees / speakers) people at each session."
```

- Opt for immutability
- Forces you to think about your declarations
- Safer for multithreaded environments
- Optimization gains



Variable Initialization

- Variables always initialized before use
- But what about nil?
- Objective C nil = Pointer to a non existent object
- Swift nil = Absence of a value of a certain type
- Optionals more on that later



Other notable additions

- Closures unified with function pointers
- Generics
- Tuples
- No more semicolons (though you can)
- and more



## If Statements

Some basic and minor changes

No parentheses required

Braces always required

```
if 1 < 2 {
    println("True")
} else {
    println("False")
}</pre>
```



Array and Dictionary

They can work with any type - primitives included

Concise and powerful:

```
let nums = [1]
```

Specify the type if you want:

```
let names: [String] = ["Harlan", "Hayden"]
```



Literal declarations

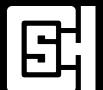
### Array

```
let names = ["Harlan", "Hayden", "Bryan", "David"]
```

### Dictionary

```
let namesAndAges = ["Harlan": 20, "Hayden": 26,
"Bryan": 30, "David": 33]
```

No more "@" in front of strings either



Easy to modify

```
Specify index
var modify = ["Harlan"]
modify[0] = "Hayden"
//["Hayden"]
Modify a collection with append(<T>):
var modify = ["Harlan"]
modify_append("Hayden")
//["Harlan","Hayden"]
Use range operators
var modify = ["Harlan","Hayden"]
modify[0...1] = ["Bryan", "David"]
//["Bryan","David"]
```



Modify a dictionary

Just define a new key

```
var family = ["Harlan": 20]
family["Hayden"] = 26
```

Editing value works the same way

```
var family = ["Harlan": 19]
family["Harlan"] = 20
```

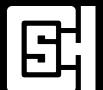


Varied types

If you want a collection with more than one type:
var multiTyped: [AnyObject] = ["foo", 01, true, 44.5]

That said, try to keep them strongly typed

For most intents and purposes, AnyObject is analogous to id



Ranges

```
Half open range
for i in 0..<2 {
    println(i)
}
//Output: 0,1</pre>
```

### Closed range

```
for i in 0...2 {
    println(i)
}
//Output: 0,1,2
```



#### Flexible

Easily loop through characters in a string

```
let abc = "abc"
for char in abc {
    println(char)
In Objective-C:
NSString *myStrings = @"abc";
for (NSInteger charIdx=0; charIdx < myStrings.length; charIdx++) {</pre>
    NSLog(@"%C", [myStrings characterAtIndex:charIdx]);
}
```



Loops cont.

Exclude value from the range (use \_)

```
let base = 3
let power = 10
var answer = 1
for _ in 1...power {
    answer *= base
}
```

Iterating over collections

```
let family = ["Harlan": 20,"Hayden": 26,"Bryan": 30, "Bryan": 30]
//KVPs from dictionary come back as tuples
for (name,age) in family {
    println("\(name) is \(age) years old.")
}
```



Traditional C-style iteration

Condition - increment looping

```
for var idx = 0; idx < MAX; idx++ {
    println("Index is \(idx)")
}</pre>
```

No parentheses

Initialization with var and not let

While loops are here too



### Switch Statements

Fallthrough

No implicit fall through

You can still "break" out before execution is finished

If you want to fallthrough, you can use fallthrough



## Switch Statements

Switches cont.

You can do Haskell-esque pattern-matching with them

```
let anInt = 40
switch anInt {
case 0, 1, 2:
    println("Tiny")
case 3...5:
    println("Medium")
case 6..<39:
    println("Large")
case _ where anInt % 2 == 1:
    println("It's odd")
case _ where anInt % 2 == 0:
    println("Nope, it's not odd, it's even")
default:
    break
}</pre>
```



## Switch Statements

Compared to Objective-C

### The old days

```
NSString *familyMember = @"Harlan";

if ([familyMember isEqualToString:@"Harlan"]) {
    NSLog(@"It's me!");
} else if([familyMember isEqualToString:@"Hayden"]) {
    NSLog(@"It's brother #1!");
} else if([familyMember isEqualToString:@"Bryan"]) {
    NSLog(@"It's brother #2!");
} else if([familyMember isEqualToString:@"David"]) {
    NSLog(@"It's brother #3!");
} else {
    NSLog(@"We don't know who it is.");
}
```

### The new days

```
let familyMember = "Harlan"

switch familyMember {
  case "Harlan":
     println("It's me!")
  case "Hayden":
     println("It's brother #1!")
  case "Bryan":
     println("It's brother #2!")
  case "David":
     println("It's brother #3!")
  default:
     println("We don't know who it is.")
}
```



A core concept of Swift

We want the value - or to know it wasn't found

Means we get a value back - or nothing at all

Optionals have? by them



Cont.

We could use magic numbers (i.e. -1)

NSNotFound if in Objective-C

Returns nil -or no value, or an int (Need to specify type)

```
let harlansAge: Int? = family["Harlan"]
```



Unwrapping

So if it's there, how do we get it?

```
let harlansAge: Int? = family["Harlan"]

if harlansAge == nil {
    println("Harlan is apparently timeless.")
} else {
    let foundAge = harlansAge!
    println("Harlan is \((foundAge)\) years old.")
}
```

Unwrap the value (i.e. the!)

No need to specify the type, the compiler knows



Short syntax

This is a common pattern, shorthand is like so (no!):

```
if let foundAge = harlansAge {
    println("Harlan is \(foundAge) years old.")
}
```

If you know the value is there, you can unwrap it directly:

```
var name: String? = "Harlan"
let anotherHarlan = name!
println(anotherHarlan)
```

You're crashing if you're wrong

If forced unwrapped, you don't need to set it to a var.



# Optional Chaining

Query multiple optionals

What if you want a value that could be housed around other nil values?

```
class Residence {
    var street: String?
}

class Person {
    var humbleAbode: Residence?
}

var aPerson = Person()
```



# Optional Chaining

Cont.

Use? operator to use optional chaining

```
class Residence {
    var street: String?
}

class Person {
    var humbleAbode: Residence?
}

var aPerson = Person()

if let theStreet = aPerson.humbleAbode?.street {
    println("The street is \(theStreet)")
} else {
    println("Person has no street")
}
```

Remember, any optional must be unwrapped via!



## Functions

Overview

Defined with func keyword

```
func printName() {
    println("It's Harlan")
}
```

Named parameters, like Objective-C

```
func printName(name:String) {
    println("It's \((name)"))
}
```



## Functions

Return types

### Denote return type with ->

```
func printNameWithGreeting(name: String) -> String {
   return "It's \((name), how ya doin' today?"
}
```

### Define default values

```
func printNameWithGreeting(name: String = "Hayden") -> String {
    return "It's \(name), how ya doin' today?"
}
```



# Functions

Multiple return types

### Return tuples

```
func nameAndAge() -> (String, Int) {
    return ("Harlan", 20)
}
```

### Decompose them to access values

```
let (name,age) = nameAndAge()
println("\(name) is \(age) years old.")
```



#### Functions

Name multiple return values

Give meaningful names to return values

```
func nameAndAge() -> (name: String, age: Int) {
    return ("Harlan", 20)
}
let harlan = nameAndAge()
println("\(harlan.name) is \(harlan.age) years old.")
//Harlan is 20 years old.
```



Similar functionality

Much like blocks in Objective-C

Contain some code, you can pass them around

Lambdas or anonymous functions

```
let aClosure = {
    println("This is a closure")
}
```

Compiler sees it like this:

```
let aClosure: () -> () = {
    println("This is a closure")
}
```



Syntax

Notice that's similar to a function's signature

```
let aClosure: () -> () = {
    println("This is a closure")
}
```

Functions are just named closures

```
func aClosure: () -> () = {
    println("This is a closure")
}
```



Passed as a parameter

#### Define in the formal parameter list

```
func doTaskRepeated(count: Int, theTask: () -> ()) {
    for i in 0..<count {
        theTask()
    }
}</pre>
```

#### Calling it

```
doTaskRepeated(10, {
    println("A complex and awesome task.")
})
```



Trailing closure

Define closure as the last parameter in formal parameter list

Looks like control flow statement

```
doTaskRepeated(10) {
    println("A complex and awesome task.")
}
```



Much like Java and .NET

No more import because Swift has no implementation file No need to explicitly define a base class

```
class Person {
}
```



**Properties** 

Swift provides the backing store for you

```
class Harlan {
    let name = "Harlan"
}
```

By default, all entities have internal access

```
class Harlan {
    let name = "Harlan"
    private let showMostWatchedPastMonth = "SpongeBob"
}
```



Exposing properties

Use internal, or nothing at all

```
class Harlan {
    let name = "Harlan"
    internal var age = 30
    private let showMostWatchedPastMonth = "SpongeBob"
}
let aHarlan = Harlan()

//Grew up quick during this talk
aHarlan age = 35
```

Notice you don't need "new" in front of the type



Computed properties

You can define custom getters and setters

```
class Harlan {
    let name = "Harlan"

    var location:(x: Float, y: Float) {
        get {
            return (43.08, -77.67)
        }
        set {
            self.location.x = newValue.x
            self.location.y = newValue.y
        }
    }
}
```

...can even use tuples

Create a read only computed property - just omit setter



#### Initialization

init() keyword - if you are inheriting, call super.init()

```
class Harlan {
   let name = "Harlan"
   var age = 20

   init() {
       //No need to return self
   }
}
```

#### Can also initialize constant values

```
class Harlan {
    let name = "Harlan"
    let hobby = ""

    init() {
        //No need to return self
    }

    init(hobby: String) {
        self.hobby = hobby
    }
}

var aHarlan = Harlan(hobby: "Programming")
```



#### **Property Observers**

Fires just before and right after value changes

```
class Kettle {
    private let fireDate = 9 //p.m.

var date: Int {
    willSet {
        if date == fireDate {
            println("DING DING")
        }
    }
    didSet {
        if date == fireDate {
            self.fireDate = 0
        }
    }
}

init() {
    self.date = fireDate
}
```



Methods

Work the same way as functions

Only need to use self when property has the same name as a parameter in the function's signature

```
class Hayden {
    var nickName = "Fabio"

    func changeNickName(nickName: String) {
        self.nickName = nickName
            println("Hayden's new nickname is \((self.nickName)"))
    }
}
```



A note on initializers

You don't even need to specify one

super.init needs to happen last in custom initializers

Sole purpose is to initialize values for the class



## Structs

Not much has changed

Still works the same way

- Doesn't support inheritance
- Value types

Think of them as you do in your OOP language of choice



# Enumerations

Enums

Value types

They can have raw values (like in C)

```
enum NFLTeams: Int
{
    case StLouisRams = 1, Patriots, Bucs, Chiefs
}

NFLTeams.StLouisRams.toRaw()
//Prints 1
```



#### Enumerations

Don't always need underlying values

```
enum Directions {
    case North, South, East, West
}

//Compiler infers Directions as type
var directionToGo = Directions North
```

Also, compiler will again infer the type

```
let lbl = UILabel()
lbl.textAlignment = .Right
```

Value type constants have all constant members
Reference type constants can have mutable members



### Enumerations

#### **Associated Values**

enum RamsVictory {

Associate values within an enum

```
case ByOnePoint
   case ByPoints(Int)
let ramsWinBig = RamsVictory.ByPoints(24)
Even custom properties
enum RamsVictory {
   case ByOnePoint, ByPoints(Int)
   var winSummary: String{
       switch self {
       case .ByOnePoint:
           return "Rams by one."
       case .ByPoints(let points):
           return "Rams win big by \(points)!"
var ramsWinBig = RamsVictory.ByOnePoint
println(ramsWinBig.winSummary) //Rams by one.
ramsWinBig = RamsVictory.ByPoints(14)
println(ramsWinBig.winSummary) //Rams win big by 14!
```



#### Access Modifiers

Recently Added

#### Three modifiers

- Private Available only from within source file
- Internal Available to entire module that includes the definition (i.e. app or framework)
- Public Intended for use with APIs, means entity can be accessed by any file that imports the module



#### There's much more

Lots of new features

Interoperability with Objective-C

Extensions

Automatic Reference Counting

Pattern Matching

**Functional Programming** 

