How to Work with Threads, Files, adapters and intents

L9 – Threads, Files, Adapters & Intents

Ref: Chapter 10 Murach's Android Programming 2Ed

Learning Outcomes

Applied

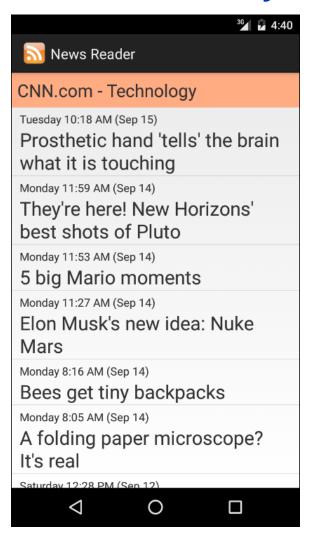
- Given a task that takes more than a few seconds to execute, create a new thread to begin executing that task right away.
- Given a task that takes more than a few seconds to execute, create a new thread that executes that that task after a specified delay or at a specified interval.
- After a thread finishes executing, update the UI thread.
- Given the URL for a file that's available from the Internet, write the code that downloads the file from the Internet and saves it to the file system of the Android device.
- Given data that's stored in an array, use an adapter to display the data in a ListView widget and to handle the events that occur on this data.
- Use an intent to pass data from one activity to another.
- Use an intent to start a web browser or to dial or call a phone number.

Learning Outcomes

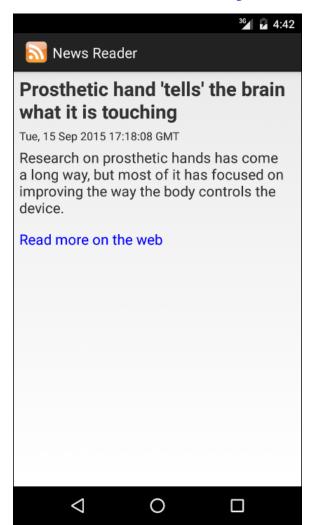
Knowledge

- Explain why you should use a separate thread for any task that might slow or stop the responsiveness of the UI thread for an Android app.
- In general terms, describe how an asynchronous task works.
- Describe the difference between an explicit intent and an implicit intent.

The Items activity



The Item activity



The URL for the RSS feed

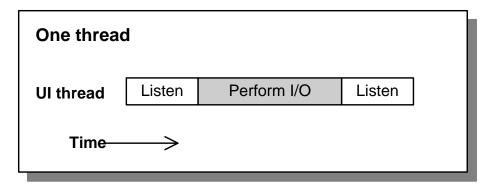
http://rss.cnn.com/rss/cnn_tech.rss

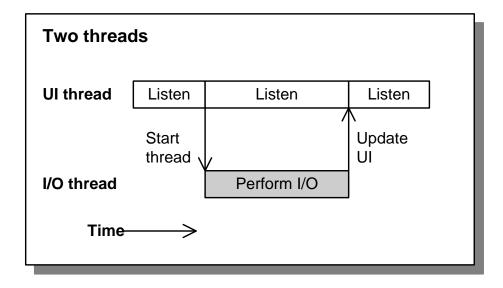
Simplified XML for the RSS feed

```
<rss xmlns:media="http://search.yahoo.com/mrss/"</pre>
    xmlns:feedburner=
         "http://rssnamespace.org/feedburner/ext/1.0"
    version="2.0">
<channel>
  <title>CNN.com - Technology</title>
  <pubDate>Tue, 15 Sep 2015 17:18:54 GMT</pubDate>
  <item>
    <title>Prosthetic hand 'tells' the brain what it is
      touching</title>
    <link>http://rss.cnn.com/c/35492/f/676960/s/story01.htm
       </link>
    <description>Research on prosthetic hands has come a long
       way, but most of it has focused on improving the way
       the body controls the device.</description>
    <pubDate>Tue, 15 Sep 2015 17:18:08 GMT</pubDate>
  </item>
```

Simplified XML for the RSS feed (continued)

How using threads improves user interface responsiveness





An activity with a nested AsyncTask class

```
package com.murach.newsreader;
import android.os.AsyncTask;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.app.Activity;
import android.content.Context;
import android.widget.Toast;
public class ItemsActivity extends Activity {
    private static String URL STRING =
            "http://rss.cnn.com/rss/cnn tech.rss";
    @Override
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity items);
        new DownloadFeed().execute(URL STRING);
```

An activity with a nested AsyncTask class (cont.)

```
class DownloadFeed extends AsyncTask<String, Void, String> {
    @Override
   protected String doInBackground(String... params) {
        // get the parameter
        String urlString = params[0];
        // download the feed and write it to a file
        // return a message
        return "Feed downloaded";
    @Override
   protected void onPostExecute(String result) {
        Context context = ItemsActivity.this;
        Toast.makeText(context,
                       result, Toast.LENGTH LONG).show();
```

The generic types for the AsyncTask class

AsyncTask<Params, Progress, Result>

Possible class declarations

```
class DownloadFeed extends AsyncTask<String, Integer, String> {}
class DownloadFeed extends AsyncTask<URL, Void, String> {}
class DownloadFeed extends AsyncTask<Void, Void, Void> {}
class ReadFeed extends AsyncTask<String, Integer, RSSFeed> {}
```

The AsyncTask class

Method	Is executed
onPreExecute()	On the UI thread.
doInBackground(Params)	On the background thread.
onProgressUpdate(Progress)	On the UI thread.
onPostExecute(Result)	On the UI thread.

The classes used to work with timed tasks

```
java.util.Timer
java.util.TimerTask
```

A method that starts a timed task

A constructor and method of the TimerTask class

```
TimerTask()
run()
```

A constructor and some methods of the Timer class

```
Timer(isDaemon)
schedule(task, delay)
schedule(task, delay, interval)
cancel()
```

A method that updates the UI thread

A method of the View class

post(runnable)

A method of the Runnable interface

run()

The classes for downloading from the Internet

java.net.URL
android.content.Context

How to download a file from the Internet

```
final String FILENAME = "news feed.xml";
try{
    // get the input stream
    URL url = new URL("http://rss.cnn.com/rss/cnn tech.rss");
    InputStream in = url.openStream();
    // get the output stream
    FileOutputStream out =
            openFileOutput(FILENAME, Context.MODE PRIVATE);
    // read input and write output
    byte[] buffer = new byte[1024];
    int bytesRead = in.read(buffer);
    while (bytesRead != -1)
        out.write(buffer, 0, bytesRead);
        bytesRead = in.read(buffer);
    out.close();
    in.close();
catch (IOException e) {
    Log.e("News reader", e.toString());
```

A method of the URL class

openStream()

The INTERNET permission in the AndroidManifest.xml file

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

A method of the Context class

openFileOutput(filename, mode)

The classes used to work with SAX

```
javax.xml.parsers.SAXParser
javax.xml.parsers.SAXParserFactory

org.xml.sax.InputSource
org.xml.sax.XMLReader
```

How to parse an XML file

```
final String FILENAME = "news feed.xml";
RSSFeed feed;
try {
    // get the XML reader
    SAXParserFactory factory = SAXParserFactory.newInstance();
    SAXParser parser = factory.newSAXParser();
    XMLReader xmlreader = parser.getXMLReader();
    // set content handler
    RSSFeedHandler theRssHandler = new RSSFeedHandler();
    xmlreader.setContentHandler(theRssHandler);
    // get the input stream
    FileInputStream in = openFileInput(FILENAME);
    // parse the data
    InputSource is = new InputSource(in);
    xmlreader.parse(is);
    // get the content handler and return it
    feed = theRssHandler.getFeed();
catch (Exception e) {
    Log.e("News reader", e.toString());
```

A method of the Context class

openFileInput(filename)

The RSSFeedHandler class

```
package com.murach.newsreader;
import org.xml.sax.helpers.DefaultHandler;
import org.xml.sax.*;
public class RSSFeedHandler extends DefaultHandler {
   private RSSFeed feed;
   private RSSItem item;
    private boolean feedTitleHasBeenRead = false;
    private boolean feedPubDateHasBeenRead = false;
    private boolean isTitle = false;
    private boolean isDescription = false;
    private boolean isLink = false;
    private boolean isPubDate = false;
   public RSSFeed getFeed() {
        return feed;
```

```
public void startDocument() throws SAXException {
    feed = new RSSFeed();
    item = new RSSItem();
public void endDocument() throws SAXException { }
public void startElement(String namespaceURI, String localName,
        String qName, Attributes atts) throws SAXException {
    if (qName.equals("item")) {
        item = new RSSItem();
        return;
    else if (qName.equals("title")) {
        isTitle = true;
        return;
    else if (qName.equals("description")) {
        isDescription = true;
        return;
```

```
public void characters(char ch[], int start, int length) {
    String s = new String(ch, start, length);
    if (isTitle) {
        if (feedTitleHasBeenRead == false) {
            feed.setTitle(s);
            feedTitleHasBeenRead = true;
        else {
            item.setTitle(s);
        isTitle = false;
    else if (isLink) {
        item.setLink(s);
        isLink = false;
    else if (isDescription) {
        if (s.startsWith("<")) {</pre>
            item.setDescription("No description available.");
        } else{
            item.setDescription(s);
        isDescription = false;
```

```
else if (isPubDate) {
    if (feedPubDateHasBeenRead == false) {
        feed.setPubDate(s);
        feedPubDateHasBeenRead = true;
    }
    else {
        item.setPubDate(s);
    }
    isPubDate = false;
}
```

The RSSFeed class

```
package com.murach.newsreader;
import java.text.ParseException;
import java.text.SimpleDateFormat;
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.Date;
public class RSSFeed {
   private String title = null;
   private String pubDate = null;
    private ArrayList<RSSItem> items;
    private SimpleDateFormat dateInFormat =
            new SimpleDateFormat("EEE, dd MMM yyyy HH:mm:ss Z");
   public RSSFeed() {
        items = new ArrayList<RSSItem>();
```

The RSSFeed class (continued)

```
public void setTitle(String title) {
    this.title = title;
public String getTitle() {
    return title;
public void setPubDate(String pubDate) {
    this.pubDate = pubDate;
public long getPubDateMillis() {
    try {
        Date date = dateInFormat.parse(pubDate.trim());
        return date.getTime();
    catch (ParseException e) {
        throw new RuntimeException(e);
```

The RSSFeed class (continued)

```
public int addItem(RSSItem item) {
    items.add(item);
    return items.size();
}

public RSSItem getItem(int index) {
    return items.get(index);
}

public ArrayList<RSSItem> getAllItems() {
    return items;
}
```

The RSSItem class

```
package com.murach.newsreader;
import java.text.ParseException;
import java.text.SimpleDateFormat;
import java.util.Date;
public class RSSItem {
   private String title = null;
   private String description = null;
   private String link = null;
   private String pubDate = null;
   private SimpleDateFormat dateOutFormat =
        new SimpleDateFormat("EEEE h:mm a (MMM d)");
   private SimpleDateFormat dateInFormat =
        new SimpleDateFormat("EEE, dd MMM yyyy HH:mm:ss Z");
```

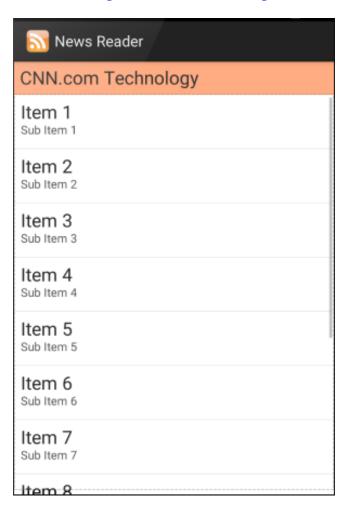
The RSSItem class (continued)

```
public void setTitle(String title) {
    this.title = title;
public String getTitle() {
    return title;
public void setDescription(String description) {
    this.description = description;
public String getDescription() {
    return description;
public void setLink(String link) {
    this.link = link;
public String getLink() {
    return link;
```

The RSSItem class (continued)

```
public void setPubDate(String pubDate) {
    this.pubDate = pubDate;
public String getPubDate() {
    return pubDate;
public String getPubDateFormatted() {
    try {
        Date date = dateInFormat.parse(pubDate.trim());
        String pubDateFormatted = dateOutFormat.format(date);
        return pubDateFormatted;
    catch (ParseException e) {
        throw new RuntimeException(e);
```

activity_items layout



listview_item layout



The ListView widget in the activity_items layout

```
<ListView
    android:id="@+id/itemsListView"
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent" />
```

The listview_item layout

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout xmlns:android=</pre>
        "http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:layout width="match parent"
    android:layout height="match parent"
    android:orientation="vertical" >
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/pubDateTextView"
        android:layout width="wrap content"
        android:layout height="wrap content"
        android:layout marginLeft="10dp"
        android:layout marginTop="5dp"
        android:text="@string/item pub date" />
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/titleTextView"
        android:layout width="wrap content"
        android:layout height="wrap content"
        android:layout marginLeft="10dp"
        android:layout marginRight="10dp"
        android:text="@string/item title"
        android:textSize="24sp" />
</LinearLayout>
```

Code that creates and sets the adapter

```
// get the items for the feed
ArrayList<RSSItem> items = feed.getAllItems();
// create a List of Map<String, ?> objects
ArrayList<HashMap<String, String>> data =
        new ArrayList<HashMap<String, String>>();
for (RSSItem item : items) {
    HashMap<String, String> map = new HashMap<String, String>();
    map.put("date", item.getPubDateFormatted());
    map.put("title", item.getTitle());
    data.add(map);
// create the resource, from, and to variables
int resource = R.layout.listview item;
String[] from = {"date", "title"};
int[] to = {R.id.pubDateTextView, R.id.titleTextView};
// create and set the adapter
SimpleAdapter adapter =
    new SimpleAdapter(this, data, resource, from, to);
itemsListView.setAdapter(adapter);
```

The constructor for the SimpleAdapter class

Parameter	Description
context	The context of the View associated with this SimpleAdapter object.
data	A List object that contains Map objects that contain the data for the items in the list.
resource	The ID of a layout for each item in the list.
from	An array of column names that are in the Map objects.
to	An array of IDs for the widgets that should display the data.

How to handle events for an adapter

Step 1: Import the interface for the listener

```
import android.widget.AdapterView.OnItemClickListener;
```

Step 2a: Implement the interface for the listener

```
public class ItemsActivity extends Activity
implements OnItemClickListener {
```

Step 2b: Implement the interface for the listener

Step 3: Set the listeners

```
itemsListView.setOnItemClickListener(this);
```

Code in the ItemsActivity class

```
// create the intent
Intent intent = new Intent(this, ItemActivity.class);

// put data in the intent
intent.putExtra("title", item.getTitle());
intent.putExtra("position", position);

// start the intent
this.startActivity(intent);
```

Code in the ItemActivity class

```
// get the intent
Intent intent = getIntent();

// get data from the intent
String pubDate = intent.getStringExtra("pubDate");
int position = intent.getIntExtra("position", 0);
```

A constructor and some methods of the Intent class

```
Intent(context, class)
putExtra(name, value)
getStringExtra(name)
getIntExtra(name, default)
```

How to view a URL in a web browser

```
// create a Uri object for the link
String link = "http://rss.cnn.com/~r/rss/cnn_tech/~3/N9m_DSAe5rY/";
Uri uri = Uri.parse(link);

// create the intent and start it
Intent viewIntent = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_VIEW, uri);
startActivity(viewIntent);
```

How to call a phone number

```
// get the Uri for the phone number
String number = "tel:800-111-1111";
Uri callUri = Uri.parse(number);

// create the intent and start it
Intent callIntent = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_DIAL, callUri);
startActivity(callIntent);
```

Another constructor of the Intent class

Intent(action, uri)

Some action constants of the Intent class

```
ACTION_VIEW
ACTION_DIAL
ACTION CALL
```

The CALL_PHONE permission in the AndroidManifest.xml file

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

Explicit vs. implicit intents

- An *explicit intent* specifies a component such as an activity.
- You can use an explicit intent to pass data from one activity to another.
- An *implicit intent* specifies the action you want to perform. Then, Android determines the best app to perform that action.
- You can use an implicit intent to view a URL in a web browser or to call a phone number.

The activity_items layout

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout</pre>
    xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:layout width="match parent"
    android:layout height="match parent"
    android:orientation="vertical" >
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/titleTextView"
        android:layout width="match parent"
        android:layout height="wrap content"
        android:background="#FFAC83"
        android:padding="7dp"
        android:text="@string/items title"
        android:textSize="22sp" />
    <ListView
        android:id="@+id/itemsListView"
        android:layout width="match parent"
        android:layout height="match parent" />
</LinearLayout>
```

The listview_item layout

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout</pre>
   xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:layout width="match parent"
    android:layout height="match parent"
    android:orientation="vertical" >
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/pubDateTextView"
        android:layout width="wrap content"
        android:layout height="wrap content"
        android:layout marginLeft="10dp"
        android:layout marginTop="5dp"
        android:text="@string/item pub date" />
   <TextView
        android:id="@+id/titleTextView"
        android:layout width="wrap content"
        android:layout height="wrap content"
        android:layout marginLeft="10dp"
        android:layout marginRight="10dp"
        android:text="@string/item title"
        android:textSize="24sp" />
</LinearLayout>
```

The ItemsActivity class

```
package com.murach.newsreader;
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.HashMap;
import android.os.AsyncTask;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.app.Activity;
import android.content.Intent;
import android.util.Log;
import android.view.View;
import android.widget.AdapterView;
import android.widget.ListView;
import android.widget.SimpleAdapter;
import android.widget.TextView;
import android.widget.AdapterView.OnItemClickListener;
```

```
public class ItemsActivity extends Activity
implements OnItemClickListener {
   private RSSFeed feed;
   private FileIO io;
   private TextView titleTextView;
   private ListView itemsListView;
    @Override
   protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity items);
        io = new FileIO(getApplicationContext());
        titleTextView = (TextView) findViewById(R.id.titleTextView);
        itemsListView = (ListView) findViewById(R.id.itemsListView);
        itemsListView.setOnItemClickListener(this);
        new DownloadFeed().execute();
```

```
class DownloadFeed extends AsyncTask<Void, Void, Void> {
    @Override
   protected Void doInBackground(Void... params) {
        io.downloadFile();
        return null;
    @Override
   protected void onPostExecute(Void result) {
        Log.d("News reader", "Feed downloaded");
        new ReadFeed().execute();
class ReadFeed extends AsyncTask<Void, Void, Void> {
    @Override
   protected Void doInBackground(Void... params) {
        feed = io.readFile();
        return null;
```

```
@Override
   protected void onPostExecute(Void result) {
        Log.d("News reader", "Feed read");
        // update the display for the activity
        ItemsActivity.this.updateDisplay();
public void updateDisplay() {
    if (feed == null) {
        titleTextView.setText("Unable to get RSS feed");
        return;
   // set the title for the feed
    titleTextView.setText(feed.getTitle());
    // get the items for the feed
   ArrayList<RSSItem> items = feed.getAllItems();
```

```
// create a List of Map<String, ?> objects
ArrayList<HashMap<String, String>> data =
        new ArrayList<HashMap<String, String>>();
for (RSSItem item : items) {
    HashMap<String, String> map =
        new HashMap<String, String>();
    map.put("date", item.getPubDateFormatted());
    map.put("title", item.getTitle());
    data.add(map);
// create the resource, from, and to variables
int resource = R.layout.listview item;
String[] from = {"date", "title"};
int[] to = {R.id.pubDateTextView,
            R.id.titleTextView};
// create and set the adapter
SimpleAdapter adapter =
    new SimpleAdapter(
        this, data, resource, from, to);
itemsListView.setAdapter(adapter);
Log.d("News reader", "Feed displayed");
```

```
@Override
public void onItemClick(AdapterView<?> parent, View v,
        int position, long id) {
    // get the item at the specified position
    RSSItem item = feed.getItem(position);
    // create an intent
    Intent intent = new Intent(this, ItemActivity.class);
    intent.putExtra("pubdate", item.getPubDate());
    intent.putExtra("title", item.getTitle());
    intent.putExtra("description", item.getDescription());
    intent.putExtra("link", item.getLink());
    this.startActivity(intent);
```

The FileIO class

```
package com.murach.newsreader;
import java.io.FileInputStream;
import java.io.FileOutputStream;
import java.io.IOException;
import java.io.InputStream;
import java.net.URL;
import javax.xml.parsers.SAXParser;
import javax.xml.parsers.SAXParserFactory;
import org.xml.sax.InputSource;
import org.xml.sax.XMLReader;
import android.content.Context;
import android.util.Log;
public class FileIO {
   private final String URL STRING =
       "http://rss.cnn.com/rss/cnn tech.rss";
    private final String FILENAME = "news feed.xml";
    private Context context = null;
```

```
// read input and write output
byte[] buffer = new byte[1024];
int bytesRead = in.read(buffer);
while (bytesRead != -1)
{
    out.write(buffer, 0, bytesRead);
    bytesRead = in.read(buffer);
}
out.close();
in.close();
}
catch (IOException e) {
    Log.e("News reader", e.toString());
}
```

```
public RSSFeed readFile() {
    try {
        // get the XML reader
        SAXParserFactory factory = SAXParserFactory.newInstance();
        SAXParser parser = factory.newSAXParser();
        XMLReader xmlreader = parser.getXMLReader();
        // set content handler
        RSSFeedHandler theRssHandler = new RSSFeedHandler();
        xmlreader.setContentHandler(theRssHandler);
        // read the file from internal storage
        FileInputStream in = context.openFileInput(FILENAME);
        // parse the data
        InputSource is = new InputSource(in);
        xmlreader.parse(is);
        // set the feed in the activity
        RSSFeed feed = theRssHandler.getFeed();
        return feed;
```

```
catch (Exception e) {
     Log.e("News reader", e.toString());
     return null;
}
}
```

The activity_item layout

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<ScrollView
   xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:layout width="fill parent"
    android:layout height="fill parent"
    android:orientation="vertical" >
   <LinearLayout</pre>
        android:layout width="match parent"
        android:layout height="wrap content"
        android:orientation="vertical" >
        <TextView
            android:id="@+id/titleTextView"
            android:layout width="match parent"
            android:layout height="wrap content"
            android:paddingLeft="7dp"
            android:paddingRight="7dp"
            android:paddingTop="5dp"
            android:text="@string/item title"
            android:textSize="24sp"
            android:textStyle="bold" />
```

The activity_item layout (continued)

```
<TextView
    android:id="@+id/pubDateTextView"
    android:layout width="match parent"
    android:layout height="wrap content"
    android:paddingLeft="7dp"
    android:paddingTop="5dp"
    android:text="@string/item pub date" />
<TextView
    android:id="@+id/descriptionTextView"
    android:layout width="match parent"
    android:layout height="wrap content"
    android:paddingLeft="7dp"
    android:paddingRight="7dp"
    android:paddingTop="5dp"
    android:text="@string/item description"
    android:textSize="18sp" />
```

The activity_item layout (continued)

The ItemActivity class

```
package com.murach.newsreader;
import android.net.Uri;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.View;
import android.view.View.OnClickListener;
import android.widget.TextView;
import android.app.Activity;
import android.content.Intent;
public class ItemActivity extends Activity
implements OnClickListener {
    @Override
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity item);
        // get references to widgets
        TextView titleTextView = (TextView)
            findViewById(R.id.titleTextView);
```

```
TextView pubDateTextView = (TextView)
    findViewById(R.id.pubDateTextView);
TextView descriptionTextView = (TextView)
    findViewById(R.id.descriptionTextView);
TextView linkTextView = (TextView)
    findViewById(R.id.linkTextView);
// get the intent and its data
Intent intent = getIntent();
String pubDate = intent.getStringExtra("pubdate");
String title = intent.getStringExtra("title");
String description =
    intent.getStringExtra("description").replace('\n', '');
// display data on the widgets
pubDateTextView.setText(pubDate);
titleTextView.setText(title);
descriptionTextView.setText(description);
// set the listener
linkTextView.setOnClickListener(this);
```

```
@Override
public void onClick(View v) {
    // get the intent and create the Uri for the link
    Intent intent = getIntent();
    String link = intent.getStringExtra("link");
    Uri viewUri = Uri.parse(link);

    // create the intent and start it
    Intent viewIntent = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_VIEW, viewUri);
    startActivity(viewIntent);
}
```