

Lesson 6

The ActionBar, Fragments and the TabHost

Victor Matos

Cleveland State University

Portions of this page are reproduced from work created and <u>shared by Google</u> and used according to terms described in the <u>Creative Commons 3.0 Attribution License</u>.

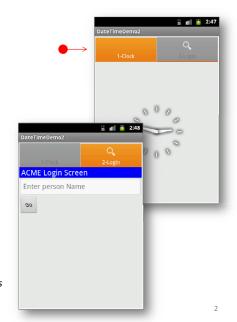
TabHost Selection Widget

TabHost Selector

- 1. Handheld devices usually offer limited screen space.
- Complex apps having many visual elements could benefit from the Tab Host Widget which maintains the awareness of the many pieces but shows only a few fragments at the time.

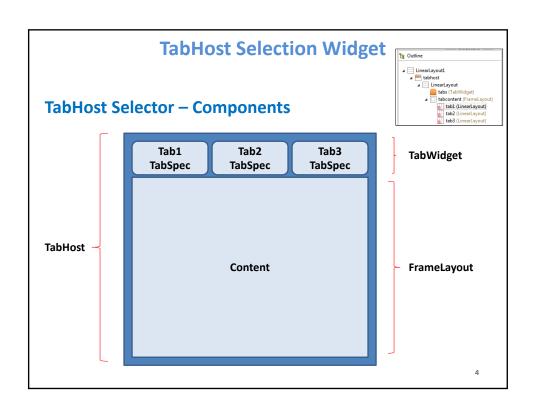
Note

This is an aging GUI control. It is supported but is running out of favor. TabHosts are still useful for apps on SDK 3.0 or older.



TabHost Selection Widget TabHost Anatomy Palette ☐ ▼ ☐ NexusOne17 ▼ ☐ ▼ ★ AppTher Form Widgets Text Fields A TabHost control consists of Layouts TabHostDemo three pieces that you need to set: ListView ExpandableListView GridView ScrollView 1. TabHost is the main container for the tab buttons and tab contents ₩ebView 2. TabSpec implements the row of tab buttons, which contain text labels (and optionally contain icons) **3. FrameLayout** is the container ime & Date for the tab contents Advanced Look for the Composite portion of the

Eclipse GUI Palette







Example 1: TabHost Selection Widget

XML Layout - TabHostDemo - main_tab1.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:id="@+id/tab1"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:orientation="vertical" >

    <AnalogClock
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent"
    android:layout_gravity="center_horizontal" />

</LinearLayout>
```

- This is the layout specification for main_tab1.xml.
- It is added to activity_main.xml using the clause
 <include layout="@Layout/main tab1" />
- This screen holds a centered AnalogClock widget

7

Example 1: TabHost Widget

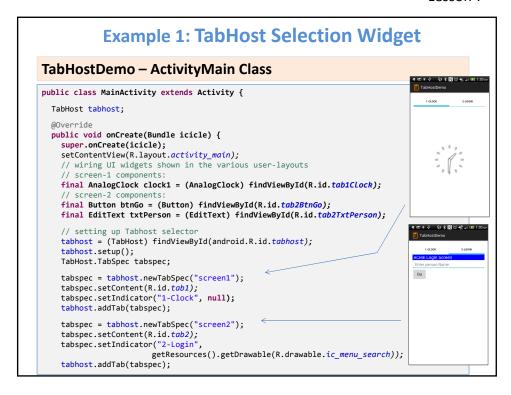
This is main_tab2.xml. It defines a *LinearLayout* holding a *label*, a textBox, and a *button*.

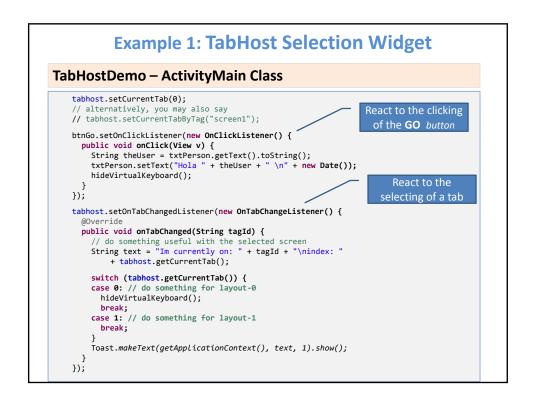
Inserted in main.xml using <include layout=@Layout/... >



XML Layout - TabHostDemo - main_tab2.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout
   android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android" android:id="@+id/tab2"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent"
    android:orientation="vertical" >
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:background="#ff0000ff"
android:text=" ACME Login Screen"
        android:textColor="@android:color/white"
        android:textSize="20sp" />
    <EditText
        android:id="@+id/tab2TxtPerson"
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:hint="Enter person Name
        android:inputType="textCapWords"
        android:textSize="18sp" />
    <Button
        android:id="@+id/tab2BtnGo"
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:text=" Go " />
</LinearLayout>
```





Example 1: TabHost Selection Widget

TabHostDemo – ActivityMain Class

11

Example 1: TabHost Selection Widget

HINT: Adding Icons to Tabs

You may decorate the tab indicator Including text and image as shown below:



Note1

Open the application's manifest and experiment changing its style. For instance, under the Application tag use the clause: android:theme="@android:style/Theme.Black"

Note2

Many icons are available in: android-sdk-folder\docs\images\icon-design

Look also at: http://android-ui-utils.googlecode.com/hg/asset-studio/dist/index.html

12

Fragments & ActionBars

New way of doing things...

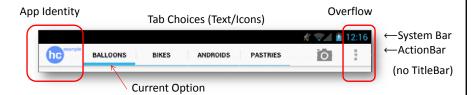
- It is very desirable to obtain a more common 'look-&-feel' appeal across applications and devices.
- This 'sameness' should make the user experience simpler and more enjoyable.



13

ActionBar Widget

The *action bar* is a dedicated strip-selector displayed at the top of each screen that is generally persistent throughout the app.

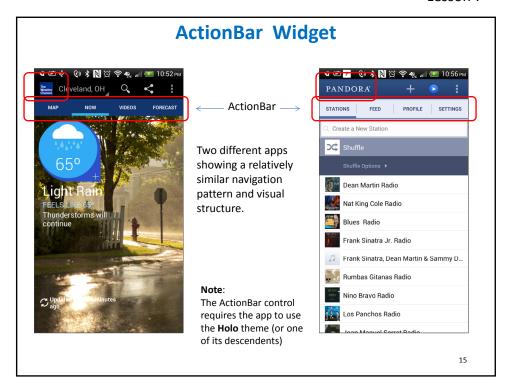


It provides several key functions:

- 1. Makes important actions prominent and accessible in a predictable way (such as *New* or *Search*).
- 2. Supports consistent navigation and view switching within apps.
- 3. Reduces clutter by providing an action overflow for rarely used actions.
- 4. Provides a dedicated space for giving your app an identity

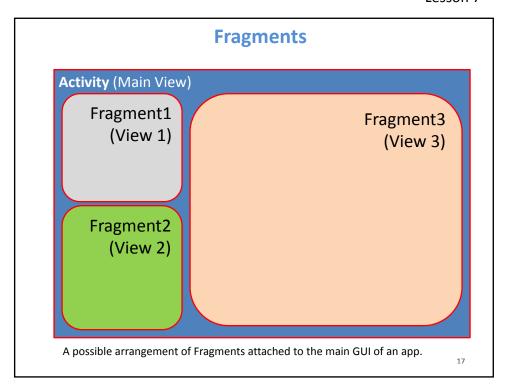
Statements taken from

http://developer.android.com/guide/topics/ui/actionbar.html#Tabs http://developer.android.com/design/patterns/actionbar.html



Fragments

- A **Fragment** is either an expression of behavior or a portion of user interface in an **Activity**.
- One or more Fragments could attach to the main GUI of the activity in which they exists.
- Notably, all of them could be visible and active at the same time.
- Fragments behave as separate threads each running its on input/outputs, events and business logic.
- Fragments could reach 'global data' held in the main activity to which they belong. Likewise, they could send values of their own to the main activity for potential dissemination to other fragments.



Fragment's Lifecycle

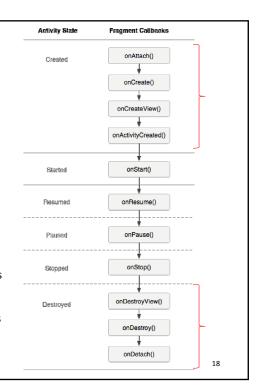
onAttach() Called when the fragment has been associated with the activity

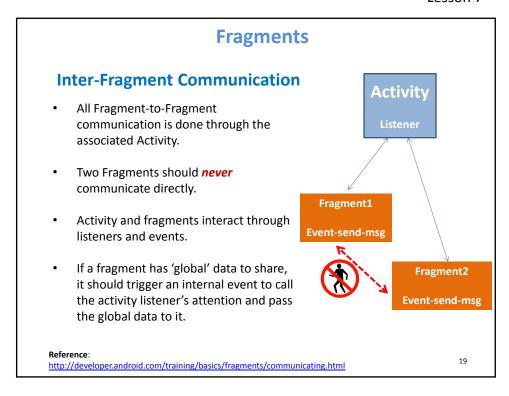
onCreateView() Called to create the view hierarchy associated with the fragment.

onActivityCreated() Called when the
activity's onCreate() method has
returned.

<u>onDestroyView()</u> Called when the view hierarchy associated with the fragment is being removed.

onDetach() Called when the fragment is being disassociated from the activity.





Example:

The application shows a multi-tabbed GUI from which a set of images could be examined. The 'look-&-feel' of the app is in line with the notion of standardization across devices /apps.

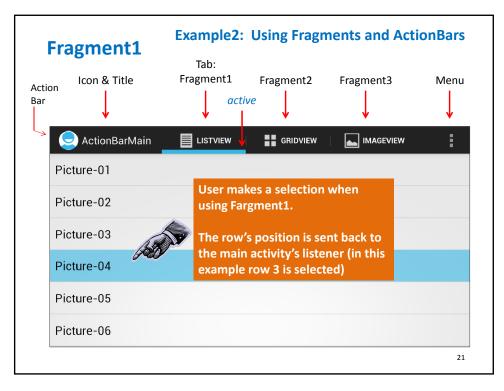
Individual tabs are implemented as Fragment objects. The screens operate as follows:

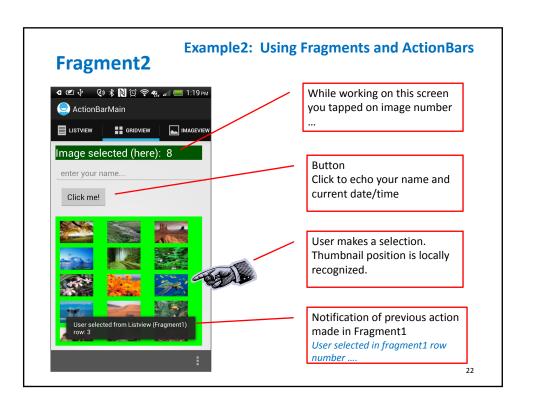
Tab1 Displays a list of picture *names*. When the fragment attaches to the main activity, a listener (in the main activity) is set to receive updates from the fragment's onltemSelected event. This strategy keeps the activity aware of selections made in fragment1.

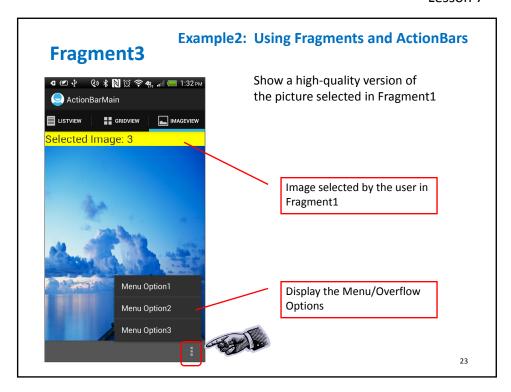
Tab2 A *GridView* depicting all the images whose names were shown in fragment1 (TODO: keep activity informed of user's choices).

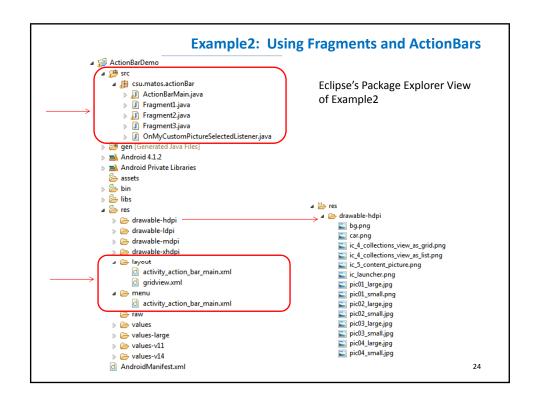
Tab3 A large *ImageView* display a 'good quality' version of the picture selected by the user in fragment1.

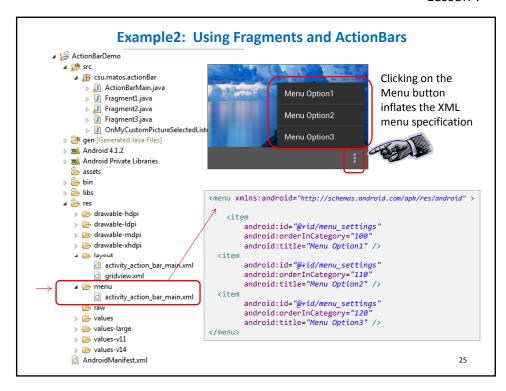
20

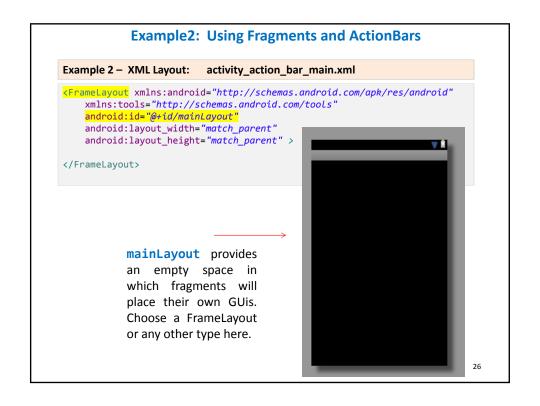


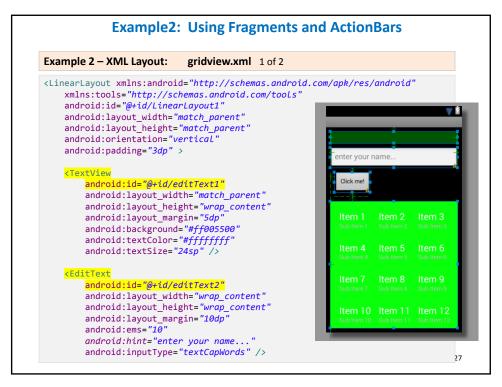


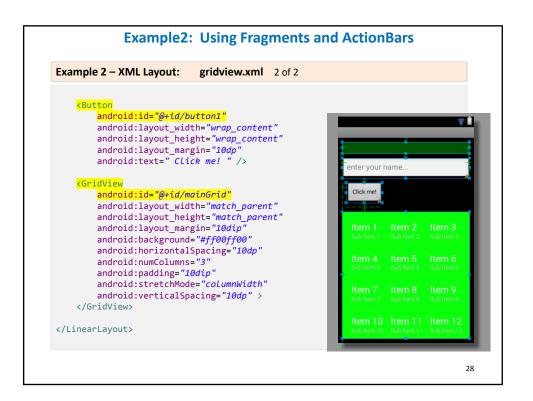


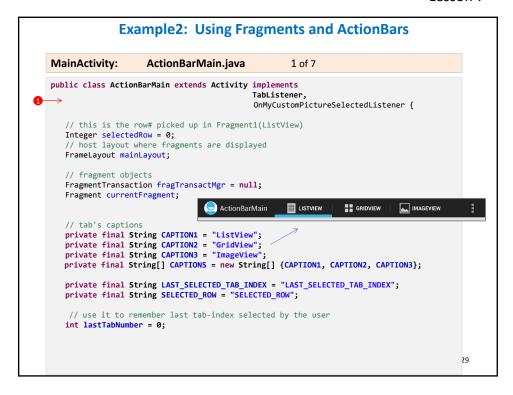














```
MainActivity:
                         ActionBarMain.java
                                                              3 of 7
           // dealing with device rotation & re-starting
           lastTabNumber = 0;
           selectedRow = 0;
           // if needed bring back previous state info including selected row // and last selected tab index, then destroy the bundle
           if (savedInstanceState != null) {
               lastTabNumber = savedInstanceState.getInt(LAST_SELECTED_TAB_INDEX, 0);
               selectedRow = savedInstanceState.getInt(SELECTED_ROW, 0);
               savedInstanceState = null;
           bar.setSelectedNavigationItem(lastTabNumber);
          bar.show();
       } catch (Exception e) {
          e.getMessage();
   }// onCreate
   @Override
   protected void onSaveInstanceState(Bundle outState) {
       super.onSaveInstanceState(outState);
       // close to the end (phone was rotated or app was terminated)
// Save the index of the currently selected tab
// and the selected row picked up from the listview
       int activeTab = getActionBar().getSelectedTab().getPosition();
       outState.putInt(LAST_SELECTED_TAB_INDEX, activeTab);
       outState.putInt(SELECTED_ROW, selectedRow);
```

Example2: Using Fragments and ActionBars

```
MainActivity:
                     ActionBarMain.java
                                                      4 of 7
   public boolean onCreateOptionsMenu(Menu menu) {
      // puff the XML menu definition (it shows a few entries)
      getMenuInflater().inflate(R.menu.activity_action_bar_main, menu);
      return true;
   }
   @Override
   public boolean onOptionsItemSelected(MenuItem item) {
      // let user know about the selectedd menu option
      Toast.makeText(this, "Option selected: " + item.getTitle(),
            Toast.LENGTH_SHORT).show();
      return true;
  }
   public void onTabReselected(Tab tab, FragmentTransaction ft) {
      \ensuremath{//\mathsf{TODO}} - nothing to do, needed by the interface
   public void onTabSelected(Tab tab, FragmentTransaction ft) {
      // the user has clicked on a tab - make the corresponding
      // fragment do its job(show a ListView, GridView, ImageView)
      // instantiate a new Fragment, its argument is the
      \ensuremath{//} selected
Row value. The argument must go in a bundle
                                                                                             32
```

```
MainActivity:
                       ActionBarMain.java
                                                          5 of 7
       // create the appropriate fragment based on the tag
      String tag = (String) tab.getText();
      if (tag.equals(CAPTION1)) {
          currentFragment = addArgsToFragment(new Fragment1(), selectedRow);
      } else if (tag.equals(CAPTION2)) {
          currentFragment = addArgsToFragment(new Fragment2(), selectedRow);
      } else if (tag.equals(CAPTION3)) {
         currentFragment = addArgsToFragment(new Fragment3(), selectedRow);
      // let new fragment be attached to the main GUI executeFragment(currentFragment, ft, tag);
   public void executeFragment(Fragment fragment, FragmentTransaction ft, String tag) {
      try {
         // replace any fragment currently attached to the GUI (if needed)
// with the fragment here provided (identified by tag)
          ft.replace(mainLayout.getId(), fragment, tag);
      } catch (Exception e) {
         Log.e("ERROR-executeFragment", e.getMessage());
   }// executeFragment
   public void onTabUnselected(Tab tab, FragmentTransaction ft) {
      //TODO - nothing to do, needed by the interface
                                                                                                   33
```

Example2: Using Fragments and ActionBars

```
MainActivity:
                        ActionBarMain.java
                                                            7 of 7
   // Accept a fragment, and simple arguments, put those arguments // into a bundle and bind the fragment with the bundle (only one here).
    // This approach is required for apps running SDK4.x
    public static final <E extends Fragment> E addArgsToFragment (E fragment,
          int selectedRow) {
       // E represents: Fragment1, Fragment2, or Fragment3 classes
       Bundle bundle = new Bundle();
bundle.putInt("selectedRow", selectedRow);
fragment.setArguments(bundle);
       return fragment;
   // this method supports fragment-to-Activity communication. When
    // a row in Fragment1 is selected, this custom callBack is invoked.
    // It updates the valued of 'selectedRow' held in the main activity.
    @Override
   public void onMyCustomPictureSelected(Integer selectedRow) {
       // as soon as the user picks a row in fragment1,
       // its value (position in the list) is saved here
       this.selectedRow = selectedRow;
   }
}// class
                                                                                                       34
```

MainActivity: ActionBarMain.java

COMMENTS

- The class ActionBarMain (MainActivity) implements two interfaces:
 TabListener and a custom callback mechanism here named
 MyCustomPictureSelectedListener. The first allows the user to trigger a new action after clicking on a tab (or Menu button), the second allows the main activity to hear messages sent by running Fragments.
- 2. The getActionBar() method returns a handle to the GUI ActionBar.
- 3. The ActionBar is populated, tabs are created, each receiving a caption, an icon, and a listener. Finally you choose the navigation mode (TAB clicking or LIST scrolling), as well as the displaying of a title and icon for the app (HomeEnable, TitleEnable). These actions are processed inside a transaction framework (BeginTransaction, commit)

35

Example2: Using Fragments and ActionBars

MainActivity: ActionBarMain.java

COMMENTS

- 4. If this is a fresh execution the state bundle (savedInstanceState) does not exist, and the control variables selectedRow, and lastSelectedTab are set to zero. Otherwise their values are extracted from the bundle. We do this to cope with hardware changes, such as the rotation of the device.
- 5. Before the app is stopped, we save critical data into a bundle to gracefully recover if necessary. The variables selectedRow (a choice from the ListView) and activeTab (last tab clicked by the user) are recorded for potential use in the future (onCreate will attempt the reading of those values).
- 6. An XML menu specification is inflated to provide additional functionality. This is also called "Overflow" options (three dots on the UI either on top or bottom of the screen).

MainActivity: ActionBarMain.java

COMMENTS

- 7. A brief message is displayed after a menu option is chosen.
- 8. Each fragment class requires its own set of arguments to operate. The convention is to put all those arguments into a single bundle. This approach makes recovery more manageable (better than several overridden constructors with various sets of arguments).
- 9. When a fragment is executed it asks the FragmentManager to remove from the host layout any other fragment currently occupying the indicated portion of GUI. Afterward, control is transferred to the calling fragment with becomes visible and active
- 10. The method addArgsToFragment accepts a newly created fragment (three possible types) and its parameter selectedRow. It creates a bundle, drops the argument inside, and instructs the system (.setArguments(bundle)) to wrap the fragment an bundle together.

27

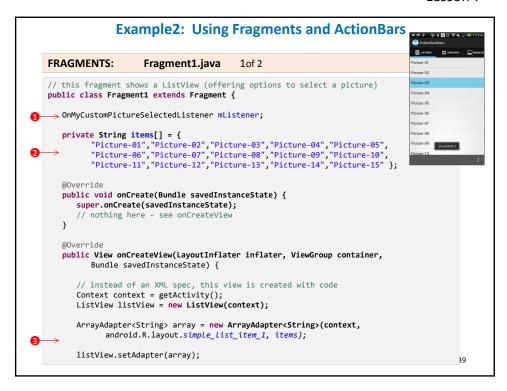
Example2: Using Fragments and ActionBars

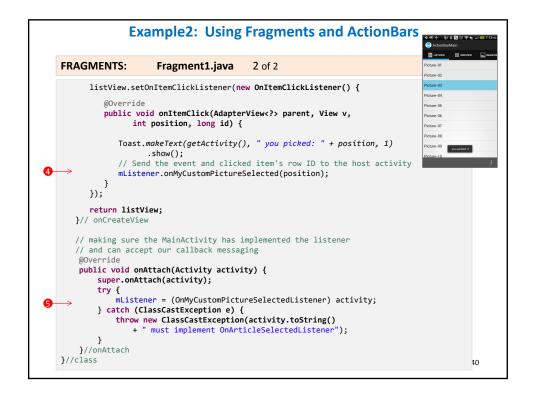
MainActivity: ActionBarMain.java

COMMENTS

11. The main activity implements the custom interface MyCustomPictureSelectedListener.

This interface —similar to onClickListener- has only one method: onMyCustomPictureSelected which is called by Fragment1 when the user chooses a row from a ListView. The chosen row position is passed in the argument: selectedRow.





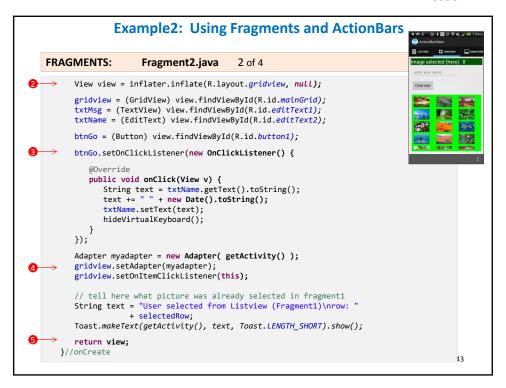
FRAGMENTS: Fragment1.java

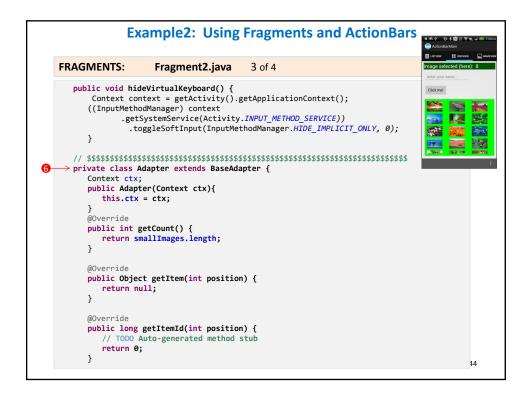
COMMENTS: This fragment shows a ListView

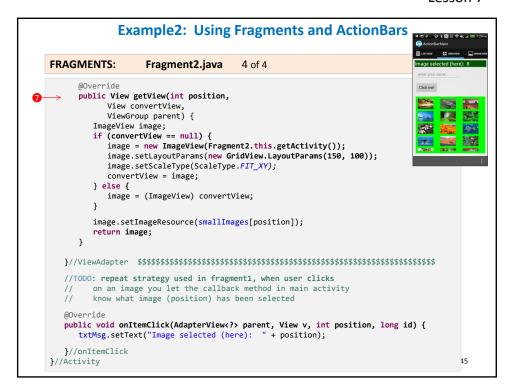
- 1. The custom listener defined by the user's supplied interface is needed in order to pass data to the host main activity.
- 2. A list of String-type values will supply input to the ListView.
- 3. The ListView and adapter are bound. The adapter uses a pre-defined android layout for the list, and the data items mentioned above.
- 4. When the user clicks on a ListView row the local ItemClickListener is activated. A brief message is displayed announcing the row selection and the method mListener.onMyCustomPictureSelected(position) is invoked to tell the host main activity of the position chosen.
- 5. Before the fragment 's view is created the onAttach method is called. Here we check the host activity has implemented the listener, otherwise the fragment –having no way to pass data to the activityends with an error.

41

Example2: Using Fragments and ActionBars FRAGMENTS: Fragment2.java 1 of 4 public class Fragment2 extends Fragment implements OnItemClickListener { TextView txtMsg; EditText txtName; GridView gridview; Button btnGo; Integer[] smallImages = { R.drawable.pic01_small, R.drawable.pic02_small, R.drawable.pic03_small R.drawable.pic04_small, R.drawable.pic05_small, R.drawable.pic06_small, R.drawable.pic07_small, R.drawable.pic08_small, R.drawable.pic09_small, R.drawable.pic10_small, R.drawable.pic11_small, R.drawable.pic12_small, R.drawable.pic13_small, R.drawable.pic14_small, R.drawable.pic15_small }; Integer selectedRow; public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) { super.onCreate(savedInstanceState); this.selectedRow = getArguments().getInt("selectedRow",0); // this view is inflated using an XML layout file public View onCreateView(LayoutInflater inflater, ViewGroup container, Bundle savedInstanceState) { 12





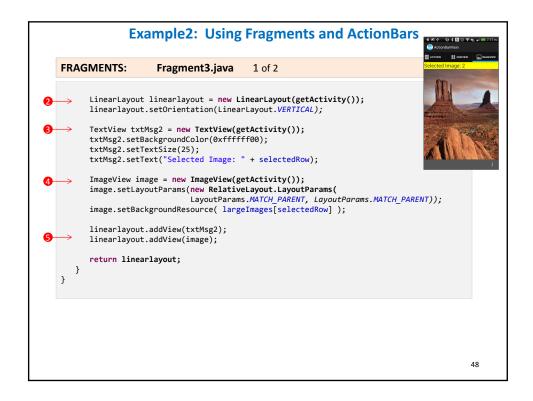


FRAGMENTS: Fragment2.java

COMMENTS: This fragment shows a GridView

- 1. The parameter selectedRow is extracted from the incoming argument-bundle.
- The user supplied file res/layout/gridview.xml identified as R.layout.gridview is inflated to provide a visual representation of this fragment.
- 3. The GUI components in the view (a TextView, EditText, Button and GridView) are wired-up to the fragment.
- 4. A custom adapter –capable of formatting thumbnails- and the GridView are bound together.
- 5. Once all the fragment's components are created and populated, the entire view is returned. This view is subsequently attached and displayed in the host GUI container.
- 6. A custom DataAdapter is defined to deal with the GridView images.
- 7. The method getView() —defined in the custom data adapter- provides details about the making/placing of the thumbnail images used to populate the GridView.

Example2: Using Fragments and ActionBars •ଅଟ ଓା≮ଆସିଙ୍କ୍⊿ା= FRAGMENTS: Fragment3.java 1 of 2 public class Fragment3 extends Fragment { private Integer selectedRow; Integer[] largeImages = { R.drawable.pic01_large, R.drawable.pic02_large, R.drawable.pic03_large R.drawable.pic04_large, R.drawable.pic05_large, R.drawable.pic06_large R.drawable.pic07_large, R.drawable.pic08_large, R.drawable.pic09_large R.drawable.pic10_targe, R.drawable.pic11_targe, R.drawable.pic12_targe, R.drawable.pic13_targe, R.drawable.pic14_targe, R.drawable.pic15_targe }; public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) { super.onCreate(savedInstanceState); // this is the index of the picture to be displayed here this.selectedRow = getArguments().getInt("selectedRow"); // This GUI is entirely created by code. It consists of a // LinearLayout holding a TextView and an ImageView // showing a 'high-quality' version of the selected image. public View onCreateView(LayoutInflater inflater, ViewGroup container, Bundle savedInstanceState) {



FRAGMENTS: Fragment3.java

COMMENTS: This fragment shows an ImageView

- 1. The parameter selectedRow is extracted from the incoming argument-bundle.
- 2. The fragment defines a LinearLayout on which its UI components, a TextView and ImageView (see bubbles 3 & 4) will be included.
- 3. TextView is created, formatted and populated.
- 4. ImageView is created displaying the image selected in Fragment1.
- 5. The TextView and ImageView are added to the locally defined LinearLayout. The assembled fragment's view is returned for its attachment to the host UI.

49

Example2: Using Fragments and ActionBars

INTERFACE: MyCustomPictureSelectedListener

```
package csu.matos.actionBar;

// Note: The MainActivity must implement this interface !!!

// Used to tell the MainActivity what row from ListView the user

// has selected when interacting with Fragment1 (this is

// functionally equivalent to an onClickLister)

public interface OnMyCustomPictureSelectedListener {
    public void onMyCustomPictureSelected(Integer selectedRow);
}
```

50

TabHost, Fragments, ActionBar

Questions?

E1