
Interactivity and Asset

Learning Outcomes

After completing this lesson you should be able to explain

- How to **respond to taps** in Flutter application

- How to create a **custom widget**

- The difference between **stateless and stateful widgets**

- The common approaches used for **managing state** in Flutter

- How to **add assets**

Adding interactivity to your Flutter app

What we want to achieve

Tapping the star removes its favorited status, replacing the solid star with an outline and decreasing the count

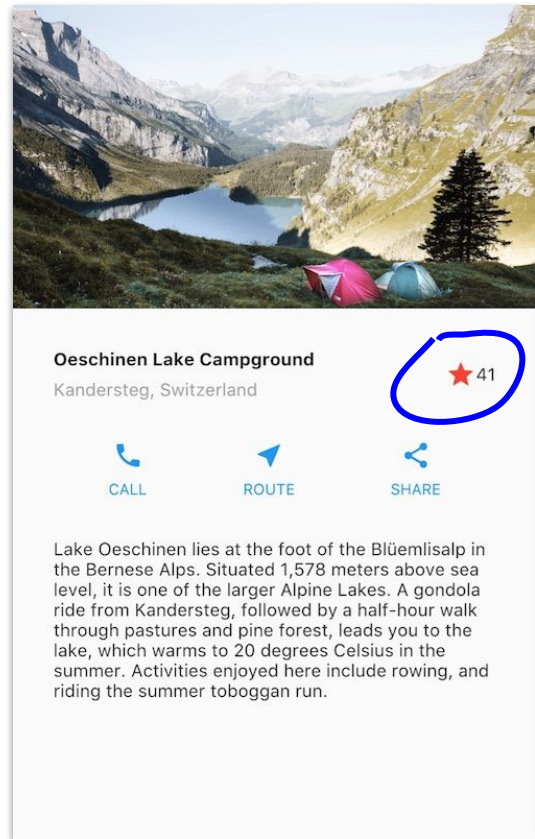
Tapping again favorites the lake, drawing a solid star and increasing the count.



Favorited



Not favorited



Adding interactivity to your Flutter app

To achieve this goal

We will create a single **custom widget** that includes both the star and the count, which are themselves widgets

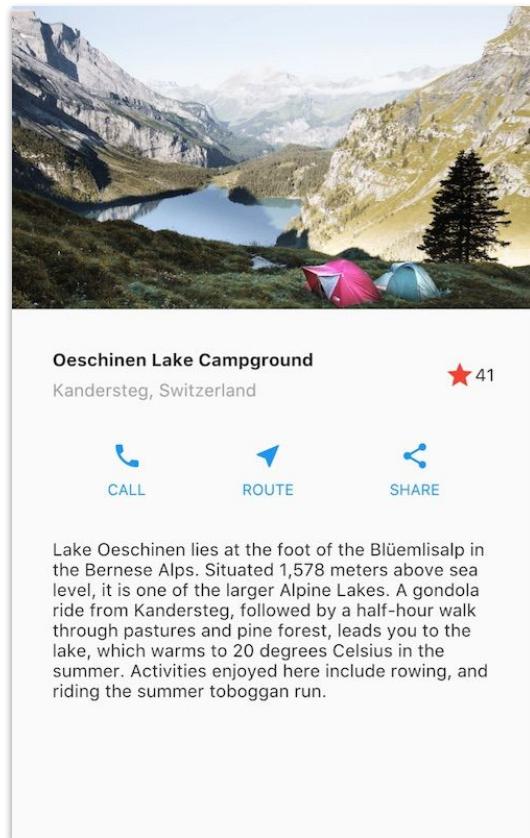
Tapping the star changes state for both widgets, so the same widget should manage both



Favorited



Not favored



Stateful and Stateless widgets

A widget is either **stateful** or **stateless**

Stateful widget changes state

`Checkbox`, `Radio`, `Slider`, `InkWell`, `Form`, and `TextField` are examples

A stateless widget never changes

`Icon`, `IconButton`, and `Text` are examples

Stateless widgets subclass **`StatelessWidget`**

Stateful widgets subclass **`StatefulWidget`**

Stateful widgets

A widget's state is stored in a **State** object, separating the widget's state from its appearance

The state consists of values that can change, for instance

- a slider's current value or

- whether a checkbox is checked

When the widget's state changes, the state object calls **setState()**, telling the framework to redraw the widget

Creating a stateful widget

A **stateful** widget is implemented by two classes

- a subclass of **StatefulWidget** and

- a subclass of **State**

The state class contains the widget's **mutable state** and the widget's **build()** method

Creating a stateful widget



Favorited



Not favorited

Let us see how to build a stateful widget, called `FavoriteWidget`

Step 1: Decide which object manages the widget's state

A widget's state can be managed in several ways

In this example, toggling the star is an isolated action that doesn't affect the parent widget or the rest of the UI

Therefore, `FavoriteWidget` itself can manage its own state internally

Creating a stateful widget



Favorited



Not favorited

Step 2: Subclass `StatefulWidget`

The `FavoriteWidget` class manages its own state, so it overrides `createState()` to create a `State` object

The framework calls `createState()` when it wants to build the widget.

`createState()` returns an instance of `_FavoriteWidgetState`

Creating a stateful widget



Favorited



Not favorited

Step 2: Subclass `StatefulWidget`

```
class FavoriteWidget extends StatefulWidget {  
  
  @override  
  _FavoriteWidgetState createState() =>  
    _FavoriteWidgetState();  
  
}
```

Creating a stateful widget



Favorited



Not favorited

Step 3: Subclass `State`

```
class _FavoriteWidgetState extends State<FavoriteWidget>
{
  bool _isFavorited = true;
  int _favoriteCount = 41;
  // ...
}
```

The `_FavoriteWidgetState` class stores the mutable data that can change over the lifetime of the widget

Creating a stateful widget



Favorited



Not favorited

Step 3: Subclass `State`

The `_FavoriteWidgetState` class also defines a `build()` method, which creates a row containing a red `IconButton`, and `Text`

The `build()` method is shown in the next slide

Creating a stateful widget



Favorited



Not favorited

```
class _FavoriteWidgetState extends State<FavoriteWidget> {  
  // ...  
  @override  
  Widget build(BuildContext context) {  
    return Row(  
      children: [  
        IconButton(  
          icon: (_isFavorited ? Icon(Icons.star):Icon(Icons.star_border)),  
          color: Colors.red[500],  
          onPressed: _toggleFavorite,  
        ),  
        Text('$favoriteCount'),  
      ],  
    );  
  }  
}
```

The `_toggleFavorite()` method is shown in the next slide

Creating a stateful widget

```
void _toggleFavorite() {  
  setState(() {  
    if (isFavorited) {  
      favoriteCount -= 1;  
      _isFavorited = false;  
    } else {  
      favoriteCount += 1;  
      _isFavorited = true;  
    }  
  });  
}
```



Favorited



Not favorited

This method is called when the **IconButton** is pressed

Calling **setState()** tells the framework that the widget's state has changed and that the widget should be redrawn

The function argument to **setState()** toggles the UI between the states highlighted in yellow

Managing state

Who manages the stateful widget's state?

The widget itself?

The parent widget?

Both?

Another object?

Managing state

Keep in mind the following principles while deciding which approach to use

The **parent** should manage the state If the state in question is user data, for example the checked or unchecked mode of a checkbox, or the position of a slider

The **widget itself** should manage the state If the state in question is aesthetic, for example an animation

If in doubt, start by managing state in the parent widget

Managing state: Example

Consider an application which has a star icon that, when tapped, toggles between a **solid** or **outline** star

The `_favorite` boolean variable determines the icon type: **solid** when `_favorite` is true or **outline** if false

We will have three versions of an application called **ToggleFavorite** to explore the three state management approaches



The widget manages its own state

Stateful Widget class

```
class ToggleFavorite extends StatefulWidget {  
  @override  
  _ToggleFavoriteState createState() {  
    return _ToggleFavoriteState();  
  }  
}
```

The widget manages its own state

The **state** class

```
class _ToggleFavoriteState extends State<ToggleFavorite> {  
  bool _favorite = true;  
  // ...  
}
```

Here the **_favorite** variable holds the state internally

The widget manages its own state

The **build** method

```
@override
Widget build(BuildContext context) {
  return IconButton(
    iconSize: 100.0,
    icon: _favorite ? Icon(Icons.star) : Icon(Icons.star_border),
    onPressed: _handlePress,
  );
}
```

The widget manages its own state

The `_handlePress` method

```
_handlePress() {  
  setState(() {  
    _favorite = !_favorite;  
  });  
}
```

The parent widget manages the widget's state

The **parent** stateful widget class

```
class ParentWidget extends StatefulWidget {  
  @override  
  _ParentWidgetState createState() {  
    return _ParentWidgetState();  
  }  
}
```

The parent widget manages the widget's state

The **parent** state class

```
class _ParentWidgetState extends State<ParentWidget> {  
  bool _favorite = true;  
  // ...  
}
```

The parent widget manages the widget's state

The `build` method

```
@override
Widget build(BuildContext context) {
  return ToggleFavorite(
    favorite: _favorite,
    onChanged: _handleToggle,
  );
}
```

Notice the highlighted child widget

The state and a callback function are passed as a constructor argument to the child widget **ToggleFavorite**

The parent widget manages the widget's state

The `_handleToggle` method

```
_handleToggle(bool newValue) {  
    setState(() {  
        _favorite = newValue;  
    });  
}
```

Notice that `_handleToggle` accepts an argument

The parent widget manages the widget's state

The **child stateless** widget class - **ToggleFavorite**

```
class ToggleFavorite extends StatelessWidget {  
  ToggleFavorite({this.favorite = false, this.onChanged});  
  final bool favorite;  
  final Function onChanged;
```

```
// ...  
}
```

Notice how the **favorite** and **onChanged** fields are initialized by the constructor

ValueChanged is a callback type which reports when value changes

The parent widget manages the widget's state

The **child stateless** widget class - **build** method

```
@override
Widget build(BuildContext context) {
  return IconButton(
    iconSize: 100.0,
    icon: favorite ? Icon(Icons.star) : Icon(Icons.star_border),
    onPressed: _handlePress,
  );
}
```

Now the state of **favorite** is managed at the parent widget

The parent widget manages the widget's state

The **child stateless** widget class - `_handlePress` method

```
_handlePress() {  
  onChanged(!favorite);  
}
```

`_handlePress` calls a callback function `onChange` that was passed to its class from the parent

A mix-and-match approach

In this scenario, the stateful widget manages some of the state, and the parent widget manages other aspects of the state

Exercise:

- Combine the previous two state management approaches

- Let the parent widget manage the toggle state

- Add a color state for the icon which changes together with the icon types

- `ToggleFavorite` widget should manage the color state

Widgets with built in interactivity

Standard widgets

Form

FormField

Material Components

Checkbox

DropDownButton

TextButton

TextField

Material Components

FloatingActionButton

IconButton

Radio

ElevatedButton

Slider

Switch

Adding assets

An **asset** is a file that is bundled and deployed with your app, and is accessible at runtime

Common types of assets include

- static data** (for example, JSON files),

- configuration files,**

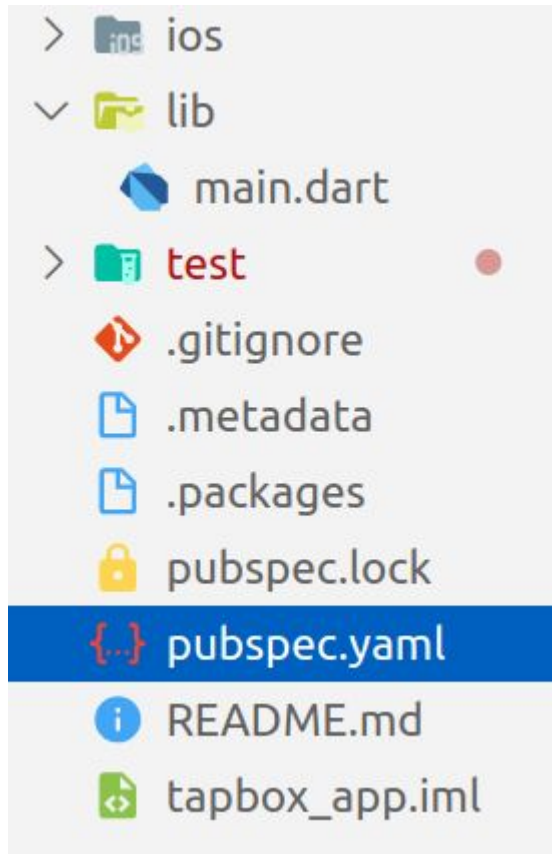
- icons,** and

- images** (JPEG, WebP, GIF, animated WebP/GIF, PNG, BMP, and WBMP)

Specifying assets

Flutter uses the `pubspec.yaml` file, located at the root of your project, to identify assets required by an app

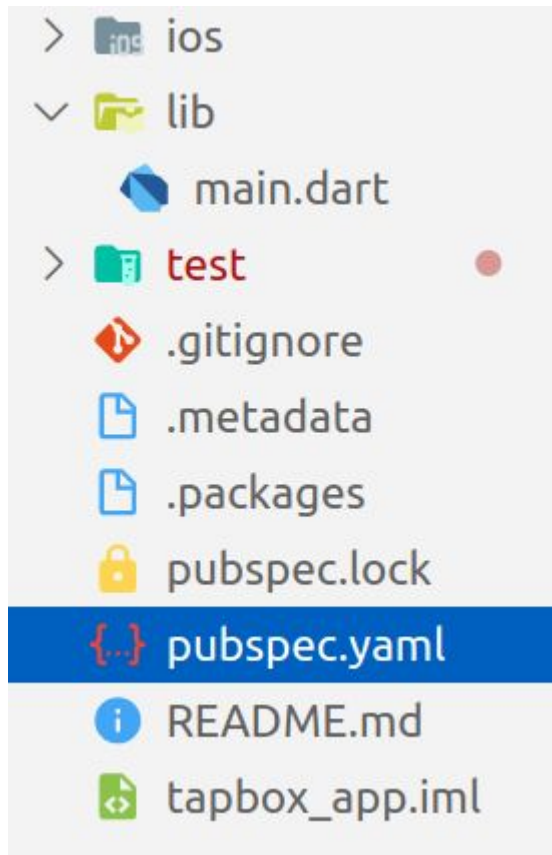
```
flutter:  
  assets:  
    - assets/my_icon.png  
    - assets/background.png
```



Specifying assets

To include all assets under a directory, specify the directory name with the `/` character at the end:

```
flutter:  
  Assets:  
    - directory/  
    - directory/subdirectory/
```



Asset bundling

The assets subsection of the flutter section specifies files that should be included with the app

During a build, Flutter places assets into a special archive called the **asset bundle** that apps read from at runtime

Asset variants

Refers to different versions of an asset that might be displayed in different contexts

When an asset's path is specified in the **assets** section of **pubspec.yaml**, the build process looks for any files with the same name in adjacent subdirectories and include them in the **asset bundle**

Flutter uses asset variants when choosing resolution-appropriate images

Asset variants

Let us assume you have the following files in your application directory:

```
.../pubspec.yaml  
.../graphics/my_icon.png  
.../graphics/background.png  
.../graphics/dark/background.png  
...etc
```

Asset variants

And your `pubspec.yaml` file contains the following

```
flutter:  
  assets:  
    - graphics/background.png
```

Main Asset



Then both `graphics/background.png` and `graphics/dark/background.png` are included in your asset bundle

Variant

Asset variants

If your `pubspec.yaml` file contains the following

```
flutter:  
  assets:  
    - graphics/
```

Then the `graphics/my_icon.png`, `graphics/background.png` and `graphics/dark/background.png` files are included in the asset bundle

Loading assets

Your app can access its assets through an **AssetBundle** object

Below are the two main methods that are available in **AssetBundle** for loading **string/text** asset or an **image/binary** asset

```
loadString()
```

```
load()
```

You can use a **logical key** to access the assets

The logical key maps to the path to the asset specified in the **pubspec.yaml** file at build time

Loading text assets

Each Flutter app has a **rootBundle** object for easy access to the main asset bundle

It is possible to load assets directly using the **rootBundle** global static from **package:flutter/services.dart**

```
import 'dart:async' show Future;
import 'package:flutter/services.dart' show rootBundle;

Future<String> loadAsset() async {
  return await rootBundle.loadString('assets/config.json');
}
```


Loading text assets

However, it's recommended to obtain the `AssetBundle` for the current `BuildContext` using `DefaultAssetBundle`

This approach enables a parent widget to substitute a different `AssetBundle` at runtime, which can be useful for **localization** or **testing** scenarios

Typically, you'll use `DefaultAssetBundle.of()` to indirectly load an asset

Loading images

Flutter can load **resolution-appropriate** images for the current device pixel ratio

Declaring resolution-aware image assets

AssetImage understands how to map a logical requested asset onto one that most closely matches the current device pixel ratio

Assets should be arranged according to a particular directory structure so that **AssetImage** use the appropriate image for the **current device pixel ratio**

Loading images

To load an image, you can use the **AssetImage** class in a widget's **build()** method

```
Widget build(BuildContext context) {  
    return Image(image: AssetImage('graphics/background.png'));  
}
```

Platform assets

Updating the app icon for Android

In your Flutter project's root directory, navigate to

`.../android/app/src/main/res`

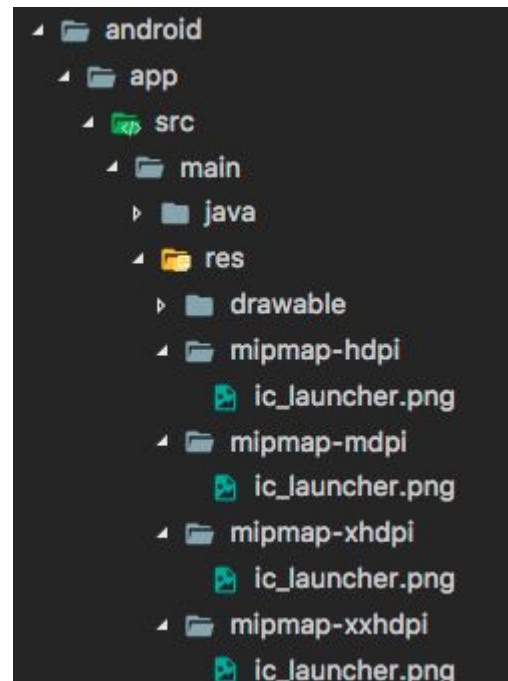
The various **bitmap** resource folders such as `mipmap-hdpi` already contain placeholder images named `ic_launcher.png`

Replace them with your desired assets respecting the recommended icon size per screen density



Platform assets

Updating the app icon for Android



Platform assets

Updating the app icon for iOS

In your Flutter project's root directory, navigate to
`.../ios/Runner`

The `Assets.xcassets/AppIcon.appiconset` directory already contains placeholder images

Replace them with the appropriately sized images as indicated by their filename



Platform assets

Updating the app icon for iOS

