

Lab 2: ViewModel introduction

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In this lab session we will introduce the ViewModel component that stores and manages all UI-related data. We will update an existing app to use a ViewModel and LiveData. The app shows a quote together with a progressbar. Each quote is visible for five seconds before the next quote is displayed.



1 Assignment

- Download the startcode from Minerva. Open the project in Android studio and explore the source code.
 We used data binding and observable fields to easily update our View.
- The app still has a bug however. Rotating the device destroys and recreates the current activity which means that we again see the first quote.
- Modify the app to use a ViewModel to keep track of all the UI related data:
 - Add a ViewModel class to your project. Keep in mind that the QuoteDAO class needs a Context
 to be able to read the json file that contains the quotes.
 - Change the type of the attributes from ObservableField to LiveData. LiveData is also observable
 but in addition it is also lifecycle aware which means that it will not trigger an update of the view
 if the view is not visible.

- The ViewModel should expose the LiveData through public getter methods. Make sure you don't return MutableLiveData but instead return the upcasted LiveData objects.
- Obtain a reference to the ViewModel in your activity and bind it to the variable you created in your layout file.
- Do not forget to set the *LiveCycleOwner* of your DataBinding class. This will enable the View to listen to changes of your LiveData.