**IOS Architecture**

Apple describes the set of frameworks and technologies that are currently implemented within the iOS operating system as a series of layers. Each of these layers is made up of a variety of different frameworks that can be used and incorporated into your applications.The iOS Software Development Kit (SDK) contains the tools and interfaces needed to develop, install, run, and test native apps that appear on an iOS device’s Home screen. Native apps are built using the iOS system frameworks and Objective-C language and run directly on iOS. Unlike web apps, native apps are installed physically on a device and are therefore always available to the user, even when the device is in Airplane mode. They reside next to other system apps, and both the app and any user data is synced to the user’s computer through iTunes.

The implementation of iOS technologies can be viewed as a set of layers, which is shown below.

|  |
| --- |
| **Cocoa Touch** |
| **Media** |
| **Core Service** |
| **Core OS** |

**Cocoa Touch Layer**

Cocoa Touch Layer contains the key frame work for building ios apps. It also provides basic app infrastructure such as multitasking, push notification, and touch based input and many high level services for the app.

The following are the key technologies available in the cocoa touch layer.

* **App Extension:** An app extension lets you extend custom functionality and content beyond your app and make it available to users while they’re using other apps or the system. You create an app extension to enable a specific task; after users get your extension, they can use it to perform that task in a variety of contexts.

iOS supports app extensions for the following areas, which are known as extension points:

* [Share](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/General/Conceptual/ExtensibilityPG/ShareSheet.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40014214-CH12-SW1) - an extension that enables your app to share content with users on social networks and other sharing services.
* [Action](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/General/Conceptual/ExtensibilityPG/Services.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40014214-CH13-SW1) - an extension which allows creating custom action buttons in the Action sheet to let users view or transform content originating in a host app.
* [Photo Editing](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/General/Conceptual/ExtensibilityPG/Photos.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40014214-CH17-SW1) - an extension that lets users edit a photo or a video within the Photos app.
* [Document Provider](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/General/Conceptual/ExtensibilityPG/FileProvider.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40014214-CH18-SW1) - an extension used for allowing other apps to access the documents managed by your app.
* [Custom Keyboard](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/General/Conceptual/ExtensibilityPG/Keyboard.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40014214-CH16-SW1) - an extension that replaces the system keyboard.
* **Handoff:** Handoff lets users start an activity on one device and seamlessly resume the activity on another device. Provide continuity for users with multiple devices by supporting Handoff in your apps and websites. For example, a user who is browsing a long article in Safari moves to an iOS device that's signed into the same Apple ID, and the same webpage automatically opens in Safari on iOS, with the same scroll position as on the original device. Handoff makes this experience as seamless as possible.
* **Document Picker:** The document picker feature lets users select documents from outside your app’s sandbox. These include documents stored in iCloud Drive and documents provided by a third-party extension. Users can open these documents directly, editing them in place. This access simplifies sharing documents between apps and enables more complex workflows. For example, users can easily edit a single document using multiple apps.
* **AirDrop:** AirDrop lets users share photos, documents, URLs, and other kinds of data with nearby devices. Support for sending files to other iOS devices using AirDrop is built into the existing [UIActivityViewController](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/UIKit/Reference/UIActivityViewController_Class/index.html#//apple_ref/occ/cl/UIActivityViewController) class. This class displays different options for sharing the content that you specify. If you are not yet using this class, you should consider adding it to your interface.
* **TextKit:** Text Kit is a set of classes and protocols in the UIKit framework providing high-quality typographical services that enable apps to store, lay out, and display text with all the characteristics of fine typesetting, such as kerning, ligatures, line breaking, and justification. Text Kit is built on top of Core Text, so it provides the same speed and power. UITextView is fully integrated with Text Kit; it provides editing and display capabilities that enable users to input text, specify formatting attributes, and view the results. TextKit is a full-featured, high-level set of classes for handling text and fine typography. Using TextKit, you can lay out styled text into paragraphs, columns, and pages; you can flow text around arbitrary regions such as graphics; and you can use it to manage multiple fonts. If you were considering using Core Text to implement text rendering, you should consider TextKit instead. TextKit is integrated with all UIKit text-based controls to enable apps to create, edit, display, and store text more easily—and with less code than was previously possible in iOS.
* **UIKit Dynamics:** It is a full physics engine integrated into UIKit. It allows you to create interfaces that feel real by adding behaviors such as gravity, attachments (springs) and forces. You define the physical traits that you would like your interface elements to adopt, and the dynamics engine takes care of the rest.

UIKit dynamics supports the following types of behaviors:

* **UIGravityBehavior** – Provides gravitational behavior to your views.
* **UICollisionBehavior** – Provides collision detection.
* **UISnapBehavior** – Causes a view to move to and snap to a specific point on the interface as if connected to it.
* **UIAttachmentBehavior** – Specifies a dynamic connection between two dynamic items, or between a dynamic item and an anchor point.
* **UIPushBehavior** – Applies a continuous or instantaneous force to one or more dynamic items, causing those items to change position accordingly.

### Multitasking: Battery life is an important consideration for users of iOS devices and the multitasking model in iOS is designed to maximize battery life while giving apps the time they need to do critical work. When the user presses the Home button, the foreground app shifts to a background execution context. If the app has no more work to do, it is suspended from active execution and put into a "freeze-dried” state, where it remains in memory but does not execute any code. Apps that do need specific types of work can ask the system for background execution time.

**Cocoa Touch Frame Work:**

The following sections describe the frameworks of the Cocoa Touch layer and the services they offer.

**Address Book UI Framework:**

* Address Book UI is an iOS framework for displaying, selecting, editing, and creating contacts in a user’s Address Book. Similar to the Message UI framework, Address Book UI contains a number of controllers that can be presented modally, to provide common system functionality in a uniform interface.
* To use the framework, add both AddressBook.framework and AddressBookUI.framework to our project,under the “Link Binary With Libraries” phase.
* The Address Book technology for iOS provides a way to store people’s contact information and other personal information in a centralized database, and to share this information between applications. The technology has several parts:
* The Address Book framework provides access to the contact information.
* The Address Book UI framework provides the user interface to display the information.
* The Address Book database stores the information.
* The Contacts application provides a way for users to access their contact information.

**EventKit UI Framework:**

* To work with reminder and calendar events, we need to link against **EventKit**. We will also need a persistent store to save reminder items. Conveniently, EventKit provides this : **EKEventStore**. An **EKEventStore** allows us to fetch, create, edit, and delete events from a user’s Calendar database.
* Both reminders and calendar data are stored in the Calendar database. Ideally, we will have only one event store for your entire app, and you will instantiate it once. That’s because an **EKEventStore** object requires a relatively large amount of time to initialize and release.
* The Event Kit UI framework provides the classes needed to create, edit, and display events using a view controller. It provides several configurable view controller classes.

**GameKit Framework:**

Game Kit provides three separate pieces of functionality:

* Game Center offers a centralized game service that connects players to each other. Game Center implements many different features:
* Friends allow players to create anonymous online personas. Users connect to Game Center and interact with other players through analias. Players can set status messages as well as mark other players as friends.
* Multiplayer allows your game to create network matches that connect players through Game Center. Players can invite their friends or be connected to anonymous players. Most importantly, players can receive invitations to join a match even when your game is not running. Your game is running on each device and the instances of your game exchange match and voice data with each other.
* Turn-Based Gaming provides store-and-forward network match infrastructure where the match is played out over a series of discrete turns. This kind of match can be played without requiring all of the players to be connected to Game Center simultaneously.
* Leaderboards allow your game to store and fetch player scores from Game Center.
* Achievements provide the ability to track a player’s accomplishments in your game.
* Challenges allow a player to challenge other players to complete an achievement or to beat a leaderboard score.

**iAd Framework:**

* iAd allows our application to earn revenue by displaying advertisements to the user. Our application dedicates a portion of its user interface to display advertisements and in turn us to receive revenue when users view or click those advertisements.
* While we are developing our application, iAd sends test advertisements to help us to verify our implementation is correct. To receive live advertisements from iAd in a release application, we need to integrate the iAd Framework in our application and submit our binary using iTunes Connect.

**MapKit Framework:**

* MapKit is a really neat API available on the iPhone that makes it easy to display maps, jump to coordinates, plot locations, and even draw routes and other shapes on top
* The Map Kit framework provides an interface for embedding maps directly into your own windows and views. This framework also provides support for annotating the map, adding overlays, and performing reverse-geocoding lookups to determine placemark information for a given map coordinate.

**Message UI Framework:**

* The Message UI framework provides specialized view controllers for presenting standard composition interfaces for email and SMS (Short Messaging Service) text messages. Use these interfaces to add message delivery capabilities without requiring the user to leave the app.
* To display a composition interface, present the corresponding view controller modally from our app. Once presented, the user has the option to customize the contents before sending or canceling the message.

**Notification Center Framework:**

* The Notification Center framework helps us to create and manage extensions—typically called widgets—in the Today view. The framework provides API we can use to specify whether a widget has content to display and to customize aspects of its appearance and behavior on both platforms.
* In OS X, the Notification Center framework provides ways to customize the editing and searching experience in a widget.

**PushKit Framework:**

* The PushKit framework (PushKit.framework) provides registration support for VoIP apps. This framework replaces the previous APIs for registering VoIP apps. Instead of keeping a persistent connection open, and thus draining the device’s battery, an app can use this framework to receive push notifications when there is an incoming call.

**UIKit Framework:**

* The UIKit framework (UIKit.framework) provides the crucial infrastructure needed to construct and manage iOS apps. This framework provides the window and view architecture needed to manage an app’s user interface, the event handling infrastructure needed to respond to user input, and the app model needed to drive the main run loop and interact with the system.

**Media Layer**

* The Media layer contains the graphics, audio, and video technologies we use to implement multimedia experiences in our apps. The technologies in this layer make it easy for us to build apps that look and sound great.
* The Media layer is distributed into several components that are specifically classified for graphical, audio or visual support frameworks. The graphical frameworks allow developers to create apps that provide graphical interfaces, animations, image input/output (I/O) readability and access to native visual elements of the device. The audio framework enables the playing, recording and integrating of audio within developed apps.

**Graphic Technology:**

* A graphical user interface (GUI) is an interface through which a user interacts with electronic devices such as computers, hand-held devices and other appliances. This interface uses icons, menus and other visual indicator (graphics) representations to display information and related user controls, unlike text-based interfaces, where data and commands are in text. GUIl representations are manipulated by a pointing device such as a mouse, trackball, stylus, or a finger on a touch screen.
* iOS provides built-in support for apps running on either Retina displays or standard-resolution displays. For vector-based drawing, the system frameworks automatically use the extra pixels of a Retina display to improve the crispness of your content. And if you use images in your app, UIKit provides support for loading high-resolution variants of your existing images automatically.

## Audio Technologies:

iOS offers a rich set of tools for working with sound in your application. These tools are arranged into frameworks according to the features they provide, as follows.

* Use the Media Player framework to play songs, audio books, or audio podcasts from a user’s iPod library. For details, see [Media Player Framework Reference](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/MediaPlayer/Reference/MediaPlayer_Framework/index.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40006952), [iPod Library Access Programming Guide](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/Audio/Conceptual/iPodLibraryAccess_Guide/Introduction/Introduction.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40008765), and the [AddMusic](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/samplecode/AddMusic/Introduction/Intro.html" \l "//apple_ref/doc/uid/DTS40008845" \t "_self) sample code project.
* Use the AV Foundation framework to play and record audio using a simple Objective-C interface. For details, see [AV Foundation Framework Reference](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/AVFoundation/Reference/AVFoundationFramework/index.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40008072) and the [avTouch](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/samplecode/avTouch/Introduction/Intro.html" \l "//apple_ref/doc/uid/DTS40008636" \t "_self) sample code project.
* Use the Audio Toolbox framework to play audio with synchronization capabilities, access packets of incoming audio, parse audio streams, convert audio formats, and record audio with access to individual packets. For details, see [Audio Toolbox Framework Reference](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/MusicAudio/Reference/CAAudioTooboxRef/index.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40002089) and the [SpeakHere](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/samplecode/SpeakHere/Introduction/Intro.html" \l "//apple_ref/doc/uid/DTS40007802" \t "_self) sample code project.
* Use the Audio Unit framework to connect to and use audio processing plug-ins. For details, see [Audio Unit Hosting Guide for iOS](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/MusicAudio/Conceptual/AudioUnitHostingGuide_iOS/Introduction/Introduction.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40009492).
* Use the OpenAL framework to provide positional audio playback in games and other applications. iOS supports OpenAL 1.1. For information on OpenAL, see the [OpenAL](http://openal.org/) website, OpenAL FAQ for iPhone OS, and the oalTouch sample code project.

## Video Technologies:

* The iOS video technologies provide support for managing static video content in your app or playing back streaming content from the Internet. For devices with the appropriate recording hardware, we can also record video and incorporate it into our app.

iOS supports many industry-standard video formats and compression standards, including the following:

* H.264 video, up to 1.5 Mbps, 640 by 480 pixels, 30 frames per second, Low-Complexity version of the H.264 Baseline Profile with AAC-LC audio up to 160 Kbps, 48 kHz, stereo audio in .m4v, .mp4, and .mov file formats
* H.264 video, up to 768 Kbps, 320 by 240 pixels, 30 frames per second, Baseline Profile up to Level 1.3 with AAC-LC audio up to 160 Kbps, 48 kHz, stereo audio in .m4v, .mp4, and .mov file formats
* MPEG-4 video, up to 2.5 Mbps, 640 by 480 pixels, 30 frames per second, Simple Profile with AAC-LC audio up to 160 Kbps, 48 kHz, stereo audio in .m4v, .mp4, and .mov file formats
* Numerous audio formats, including the ones listed in [Audio Technologies](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/Miscellaneous/Conceptual/iPhoneOSTechOverview/MediaLayer/MediaLayer.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40007898-CH9-SW2)

## AirPlay

* With AirPlay, we can stream music, photos, and videos to our Apple TV, or stream music to our AirPort Express or AirPlay-enabled speakers. And with AirPlay Mirroring, we can display your iOS screen on our Apple TV.
* AirPlay lets our app stream audio and video content to Apple TV and stream audio content to third-party AirPlay speakers and receivers. AirPlay support is built into numerous frameworks—UIKit framework, Media Player framework, AV Foundation framework, and the Core Audio family of frameworks—so in most cases we do not need to do anything special to support it. Any content we play using these frameworks is automatically made eligible for AirPlay distribution. When the user chooses to play your content using AirPlay, it is routed automatically by the system.
* To extend the content displayed by an iOS device, create a second window object and assign it to any [UIScreen](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/UIKit/Reference/UIScreen_Class/index.html" \l "//apple_ref/occ/cl/UIScreen" \t "_self) objects that are connected to the device through AirPlay. Use this technique when the content we display on the attached screen is different than the content displayed on the iOS device.
* The playback classes of the Media Player framework automatically support AirPlay. We can also display Now Playing content on a connected Apple TV using AirPlay.
* Use the [AVPlayer](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/AVFoundation/Reference/AVPlayer_Class/index.html" \l "//apple_ref/occ/cl/AVPlayer" \t "_self) class in AV Foundation to manage our app’s audio and video content. This class supports streaming its content via AirPlay when enabled by the user.

**Media Layer Framework:**

The following data describes the media layer frameworks and the services they offer.

**Assets Library Framework:**

* The assets framework used to access the user photos and video’s stored in the devices managed by the photo application.
* Instances of the Photos framework model classes ([PHAsset](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/Photos/Reference/PHAsset_Class/index.html" \l "//apple_ref/occ/cl/PHAsset), [PHAssetCollection](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/Photos/Reference/PHAssetCollection_Class/index.html" \l "//apple_ref/occ/cl/PHAssetCollection), and[PHCollectionList](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/Photos/Reference/PHCollectionList_Class/index.html#//apple_ref/occ/cl/PHCollectionList)) represent the entities a user works with in the Photos app: assets (images or videos), collections of assets (such as albums or moments), and lists of collections (such as album folders or moment clusters). These objects, also called photo entities, are read-only, immutable, and contain only metadata.
* You work with assets and collections by fetching the photo entities you’re interested in and then using those objects to fetch the data you need to work with. To make changes to photo entities, you create change request objects and explicitly commit them to the shared[PHPhotoLibrary](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/Photos/Reference/PHPhotoLibrary_Class/index.html#//apple_ref/occ/cl/PHPhotoLibrary) object. This architecture makes it easy, safe, and efficient to work with the same assets from multiple threads or multiple apps and app extensions.

**AV Foundation Framework:**

* AVFoundation is one of several frameworks that we can use to play and create time-based audiovisual media.
* It provides an Objective-C interface we use to work on a detailed level with time-based audiovisual data.
* For example, We can use it to examine, create, edit, or reencode media files. We can also get input streams from devices and manipulate video during realtime capture and playback.
* The primary class that the AV Foundation framework uses to represent media is [AVAsset](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/AVFoundation/Reference/AVAsset_Class/index.html" \l "//apple_ref/occ/cl/AVAsset" \t "_self).
* The design of the framework is largely guided by this representation. Understanding its structure will help us to understand how the framework works.
* An AVAsset instance is an aggregated representation of a collection of one or more pieces of media data (audio and video tracks).
* It provides information about the collection as a whole, such as its title, duration, natural presentation size, and so on. AVAsset is not tied to particular data format.

**Core Audio:**

* Core Audio provides software interfaces for implementing audio features in applications you create for iOS .
* In iOS, Core Audio capabilities include recording, playback, sound effects, positioning, format conversion, and file stream parsing will be done.
* Audio Queue Services provides a straightforward, low overhead way to record and play audio in iOS.
* It is the recommended technology to use for adding basic recording or playback features to our iOS.
* A built-in equalizer and mixer that we can use in our applications
* Automatic access to audio input and output hardware.
* APIs to let us manage the audio aspects of our application in the context of a device that can take phone calls
* Optimizations to extend battery life without impacting audio quality.

**CoreAudioKit Framework:**

* The CoreAudioKit framework (CoreAudioKit.framework) provides standard views for managing connections between apps that support inter-app audio.
* One view provides a switcher that displays the icons of other connected apps and the other view displays the transport controls that the user can use to manipulate the audio provided by the host app.

**Core Graphics Framework:**

* The Core Graphics framework is a C-based API that is based on the Quartz advanced drawing engine.
* It provides low-level, lightweight 2D rendering with unmatched output fidelity.
* We use this framework to handle path-based drawing, transformations, color management, offscreen rendering, patterns, gradients and shadings, image data management, image creation, masking, and PDF document creation, display, and parsing.
* Quartz 2D is an advanced, two-dimensional drawing engine available for iOS application development.
* Quartz 2D provides low-level, lightweight 2D rendering with unmatched output fidelity regardless of display or printing device.
* The Quartz 2D API is easy to use and provides access to powerful features such as transparency layers, path-based drawing, offscreen rendering, advanced color management, anti-aliased rendering, and PDF document creation, display, and parsing.

**Core Image Framework:**

* Core Image is an image processing and analysis technology designed to provide near real-time processing for still and video images. In iOS and OS X we can use Core Image classes to.
* Process images using the many built-in image filters.
* Chain together filters and then archive them for later use.
* Detect features (such as faces and eyes) in still and video images, and track faces in video images.
* Analyze images to get a set of auto adjustment filters.
* Create custom filters for use in our app.

**Core Text Framework:**

* Core Text is for apps that need a low-level text-handling technology correlating with the Core Graphics framework (Quartz).
* If we work directly with Quartz and you need to draw some text, use Core Text.
* for example, we have our own page layout engine—we have some text and we know where it needs to go in our view—we can use Core Text to generate the glyphs and position them relative to each other with all the features of fine typesetting, such as kerning, ligatures, line-breaking, hyphenation, and justification.

**Image I/O Framework:**

* imageProperties Reference defines constants that represent characteristics of images used by the Image I/O framework.
* The Image I/O framework (ImageIO.framework) provides interfaces for importing and exporting image data and image metadata.
* This framework makes use of the Core Graphics data types and functions and supports all of the standard image types available in iOS.
* we can also use this framework to access Exif and IPTC metadata properties for images.

**Media Player Framework:**

* The Media Player framework provides facilities for playing movie, music, audio podcast, and audio book files.
* This framework also gives application access to the iPod library, letting us find and play audio-based media items synced from iTunes on the desktop. iPod library access is read-only.
* This framework’s [MPVolumeView](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/MediaPlayer/Reference/MPVolumeView_Class/index.html" \l "//apple_ref/occ/cl/MPVolumeView) class lets us present a control to let the user adjust system audio output volume and choose among the available output routes, such as for sending audio to an AirPlay-enabled device.
* The [MPMoviePlayerController](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/MediaPlayer/Reference/MPMoviePlayerController_Class/index.html" \l "//apple_ref/occ/cl/MPMoviePlayerController) and [MPTimedMetadata](https://developer.apple.com/library/ios/documentation/MediaPlayer/Reference/MPTimedMetadata_Class/index.html" \l "//apple_ref/occ/cl/MPTimedMetadata) classes let user play streamed video content and respond to time-based metadata contained in the stream.