

Lesson 8:
App architecture (UI layer)



Android app architecture

Avoid short-term hacks

- External factors, such as tight deadlines, can lead to poor decisions about app design and structure.
- Decisions have consequences for future work (app can be harder to maintain long-term).
- Need to balance on-time delivery and future maintenance burden.

Examples of short-term hacks

- Tailoring your app to a specific device
- Blindly copying and pasting code into your files
- Placing all business logic in activity file
- Hardcoding user-facing strings in your code

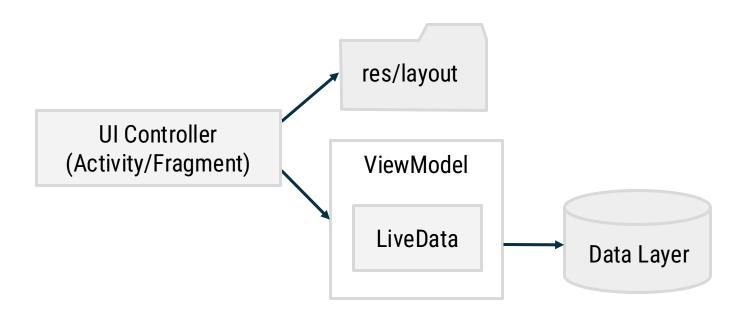
Why you need good app architecture

- Clearly defines where specific business logic belongs
- Makes it easier for developers to collaborate
- Makes your code easier to test
- Lets you benefit from already-solved problems
- Saves time and reduces technical debt as you extend your app

Android Jetpack

- Android libraries that incorporate best practices and provide backward compatibility in your apps
- Jetpack comprises the androidx.* package libraries

Separation of concerns



Architecture components

- Architecture design patterns, like MVVM, describe a loose template for what the structure of your app should be.
- Jetpack architecture components help you design robust, testable, and maintainable apps.

ViewModel

Gradle: lifecycle extensions

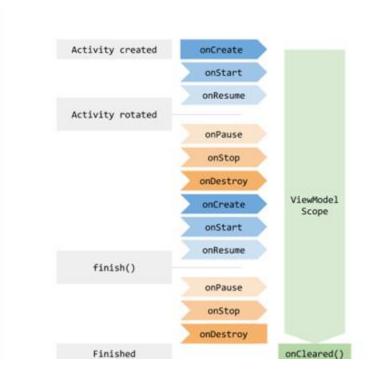
```
In app/build.gradle file:

dependencies {
   implementation "androidx.lifecycle:lifecycle-viewmodel-ktx:$lifecycle_version"
   implementation "androidx.activity:activity-ktx:$activity_version"
}
```

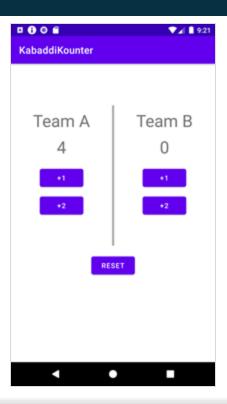
ViewModel

- Prepares data for the UI
- Must not reference activity, fragment, or views in view hierarchy
- Scoped to a lifecycle (which activity and fragment have)
- Enables data to survive configuration changes
- Survives as long as the scope is alive

Lifetime of a ViewModel



Kabaddi Kounter



ViewModel class

abstract class ViewModel

Summary

Public constructors

<init>()

ViewModel is a class that is responsible for preparing and managing the data for an Activity or a Fragment.

Protected methods

open Unit

onCleared()

This method will be called when this ViewModel is no longer used and will be destroyed.

Extension properties

From androidx.lifecycle

CoroutineScope

viewModelScope

CoroutineScope tied to this ViewModel.



Implement a ViewModel

```
class ScoreViewModel : ViewModel() {
    var scoreA : Int = 0
    var scoreB : Int = ∅
    fun incrementScore(isTeamA: Boolean) {
        if (isTeamA) {
            scoreA++
        else {
            scoreB++
```

Load and use a ViewModel

```
class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {
    // Delegate provided by androidx.activity.viewModels
    val viewModel: ScoreViewModel by viewModels()
   override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
        val scoreViewA: TextView = findViewById(R.id.scoreA)
        scoreViewA.text = viewModel.scoreA.toString()
```

Using a ViewModel

Within MainActivity onCreate():

val scoreViewA: TextView = findViewById(R.id.scoreA)
val plusOneButtonA: Button = findViewById(R.id.plusOne_teamA)

plusOneButtonA.setOnClickListener {
 viewModel.incrementScore(true)
 scoreViewA.text = viewModel.scoreA.toString()
}

Data binding

ViewModels and data binding

App architecture without data binding



ViewModels can work in concert with data binding



Data binding in XML revisited

Specify ViewModels in the data tag of a binding.

Attaching a ViewModel to a data binding

```
class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {
    val viewModel: ScoreViewModel by viewModels()
    override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
        val binding: ActivityMainBinding = DataBindingUtil.setContentView(this,
            R.layout.activity main)
        binding.viewModel = viewModel
```

Using a ViewModel from a data binding

```
In activity_main.xml:

<TextView
    android:id="@+id/scoreViewA"
    android:text="@{viewModel.scoreA.toString()}" />
    ...
```

ViewModels and data binding

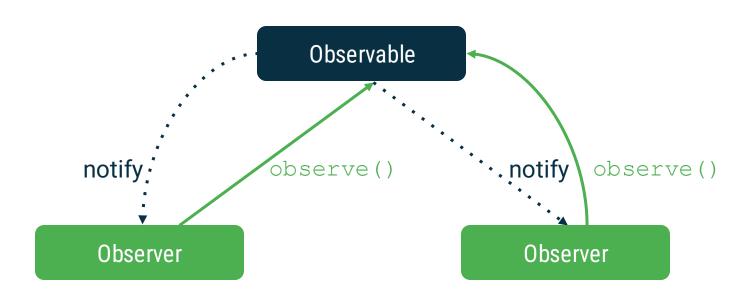
```
override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
   val binding: ActivityMainBinding = DataBindingUtil.setContentView(this,
        R.layout.activity main)
   binding.plusOneButtonA.setOnClickListener {
       viewModel.incrementScore(true)
       binding.scoreViewA.text = viewModel.scoreA.toString()
```

LiveData

Observer design pattern

- Subject maintains list of observers to notify when state changes.
- Observers receive state changes from subject and execute appropriate code.
- Observers can be added or removed at any time.

Observer design pattern diagram



LiveData

- A lifecycle-aware data holder that can be observed
- Wrapper that can be used with any data including lists (for example, LiveData<Int> holds an Int)
- Often used by ViewModels to hold individual data fields
- Observers (activity or fragment) can be added or removed
 - o observe(owner: LifecycleOwner, observer: Observer)
 removeObserver(observer: Observer)

LiveData versus MutableLiveData

LiveData <t></t>	MutableLiveData <t></t>
• getValue()	getValue()postValue(value: T)setValue(value: T)

T is the type of data that's stored in LiveData or MutableLiveData.

Use LiveData in ViewModel

```
class ScoreViewModel : ViewModel() {
   private val scoreA = MutableLiveData<Int>(0)
   val scoreA: LiveData<Int>
       get() = _scoreA
   fun incrementScore(isTeamA: Boolean) {
       if (isTeamA) {
           scoreA.value = scoreA.value!! + 1
```

Add an observer on LiveData

```
Set up click listener to increment ViewModel score:
binding.plusOneButtonA.setOnClickListener {
    viewModel.incrementScore(true)
Create observer to update team A score on screen:
val scoreA Observer = Observer<Int> { newValue ->
    binding.scoreViewA.text = newValue.toString()
Add the observer onto scoreA LiveData in ViewModel:
viewModel.scoreA.observe(this, scoreA Observer)
```

Two-way data binding

- We already have two-way binding with ViewModel and LiveData.
- Binding to LiveData in XML eliminates need for an observer in code.

Example layout XML

```
<layout>
   <data>
       <variable>
           name="viewModel"
           type="com.example.kabaddikounter.ScoreViewModel" />
   </data>
   <ConstraintLayout ..>
       <TextView ...
           android:id="@+id/scoreViewA"
           android:text="@{viewModel.scoreA.toString()}" />
   </ConstraintLayout>
</layout>
```

Example Activity

```
class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {
    val viewModel: ScoreViewModel by viewModels()
    override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
        val binding: ActivityMainBinding = DataBindingUtil
             .setContentView(this, R.layout.activity main)
        binding.viewModel = viewModel
        binding.lifecycleOwner = this
        binding.plusOneButtonA.setOnClickListener {
            viewModel.incrementScore(true)
```

Example ViewModel

```
class ScoreViewModel : ViewModel() {
    private val scoreA = MutableLiveData<Int>(0)
    val scoreA : LiveData<Int>
       get() = scoreA
    private val scoreB = MutableLiveData<Int>(0)
    val scoreB : LiveData<Int>
       get() = scoreB
    fun incrementScore(isTeamA: Boolean) {
        if (isTeamA) {
           scoreA.value = scoreA.value!! + 1
        } else {
           scoreB.value = scoreB.value!! + 1
```

Transform LiveData

Manipulating LiveData with transformations

LiveData can be transformed into a new LiveData object.

- map()
- switchMap()

Example LiveData with transformations

```
val result: LiveData<String> = Transformations.map(viewModel.scoreA) {
    x -> if (x > 10) "A Wins" else ""
}
```