

Flutter Project Files

A Beginner's Guide to Important Configuration Files

Android **AndroidManifest.xml**

android/app/src/main/AndroidManifest.xml

The main configuration file for the Android system. It tells the OS "who" the app is and "what" it needs.

- **manifest (package="...")**: The unique internal identifier for the app package.
- **uses-permission**: This is where you declare permissions like Internet, Camera, or Location.
- **application > android:label**: The name of the app as it appears to the user (e.g., "bootcamp_01").
- **activity > .MainActivity**: The entry point for the Android app. The **intent-filter** with `action.MAIN` and `category.LAUNCHER` makes this the first screen.
- **meta-data**: Configuration tags used by the Flutter engine to set themes or integration settings.

Android **build.gradle.kts**

Multiple Locations

Android uses Gradle for building. There are TWO main files you need to distinguish:

A. Project Level

android/build.gradle.kts

- **Purpose:** Configuration for the *entire* workspace/project.
- **allprojects { repositories }**: Tells Gradle where to download libraries from (e.g., google(), mavenCentral()).
- **Role:** It acts as the "Parent". Generally, you touch this file less often.

B. App Level

android/app/build.gradle.kts

- **Purpose:** Configuration specific to the **App Module** (your code). Edited most often.
- **defaultConfig > applicationId**: The unique ID for the Play Store (e.g., com.example.app).
- **minSdk / targetSdk**: Defines which Android versions your app supports.
- **versionCode / versionName**: Automatically pulled from `pubspec.yaml`.

iOS AppDelegate.swift

ios/Runner/AppDelegate.swift

The entry point for the iOS application code.

- **@main**: The annotation that tells iOS "Start here".
- **FlutterAppDelegate**: The class inherits from this to give your iOS app Flutter capabilities.
- **GeneratedPluginRegistrant.register(with: self)**: A critical line that initializes all your Flutter plugins so they work on the iOS side.

iOS Info.plist

ios/Runner/Info.plist

A property list that stores configuration data for the iOS app.

- **CFBundleDisplayName**: The app name shown on the iPhone home screen.
- **CFBundleIdentifier**: The unique Bundle ID for the App Store.
- **NS...UsageDescription Keys**: Keys you MUST add to explain why you need permissions (Camera, Location, etc.) or the app will crash on iOS.
- **CFBundleVersion / ShortVersionString**: Mapped from your Flutter build version.

Flutter `pubspec.yaml`

root/pubspec.yaml

The heart of a Flutter project. It manages dependencies, versioning, and assets.

- **name & description**: Internal project metadata.
- **version**: The single source of truth (e.g., `1.0.0+1`). Used for both Android and iOS versions.
- **environment**: Specifies the Dart SDK version required.
- **dependencies**: Where you add libraries (e.g., `http`, `provider`).
- **flutter > assets**: Where you list images to bundle with the app.
- **flutter > fonts**: Where you register custom font files.