



Android - Introduction

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Summary

- Origins and nowadays
- Our App example
- App architecture
- Android development
 - Layout
 - Permissions
 - Content Providers
 - Lists
 - Images
 - App navigation
 - Storage
- Misc
- Useful libraries

Origin and nowadays



Android origin

- Mobile operating system
 - Based on Linux Kernel
 - With little of OpenSource
- Developed by Android Inc. since 2003
- Bought by Google in 2005
- Developed by Google since then
- Developed by the Open Handset Alliance since 2007
 - Texas Instruments, Qualcomm, Broadcam, Intel, Nvidia...
 - Google, Nuance, NXP Software...
 - Samsung, LG, HTC, Sony, Motorola, Huawei, ZTE...
 - Vodaphone, TMobile, China mobile, Bouygues Telecom...

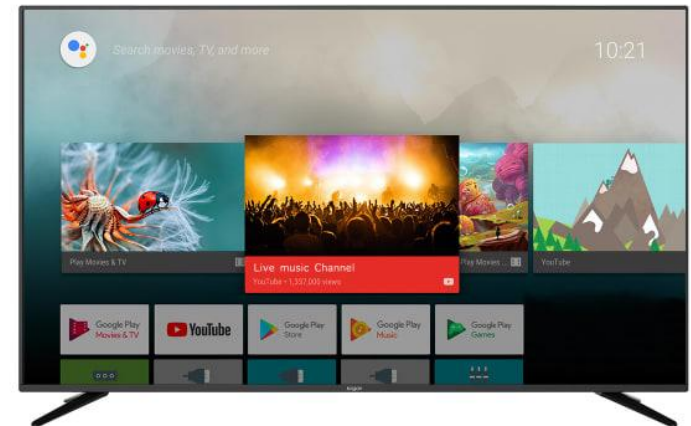
First Android phone 2008



~ Latest Android phone



Not only phones



UI evolution



Versions history





Customisation 定制化服务

- Most of manufacturers customize the stock Android
 - Samsung with One UI
 - Xiaomi MIUI
 - Huawei Emotion UI
 - ...
- Some don't (or not much)
 - OnePlus
 - Nokia
 - Lenovo (Motorola)
- Android Strength
 - Users can choose the UI there prefer

Customisation problems

- Not only UI modifications
- Some manufacturer goes too far
 - Not all phones works the way described in the Android documentation
- Widgets with strange behaviour
- Aggressive battery optimization
 - Randomly kill apps
 - Major problems for developers
- Majors culprits 犯过错者, 被告人
 - Xiaomi
 - Huawei
 - OnePlus
 - Nokia



Our App example

Apps everybody wants to develop



Apps everybody wants to develop



Apps everybody wants to develop



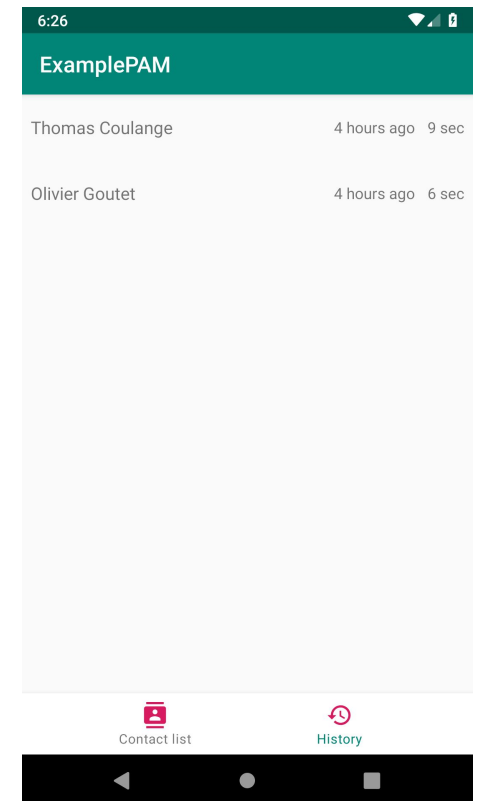
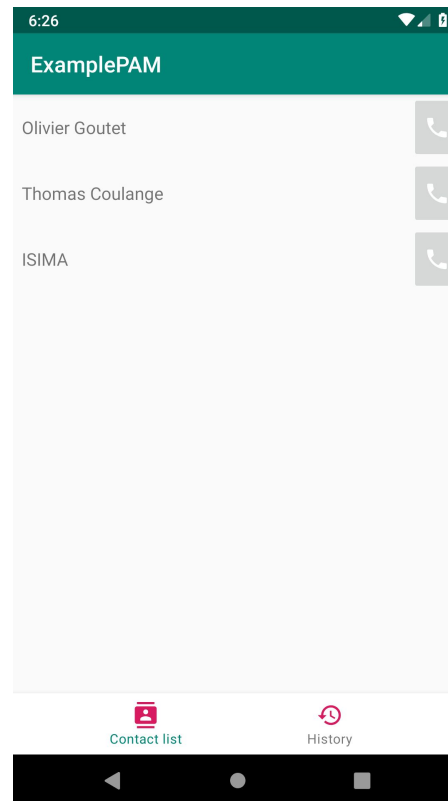
Apps everybody wants to develop





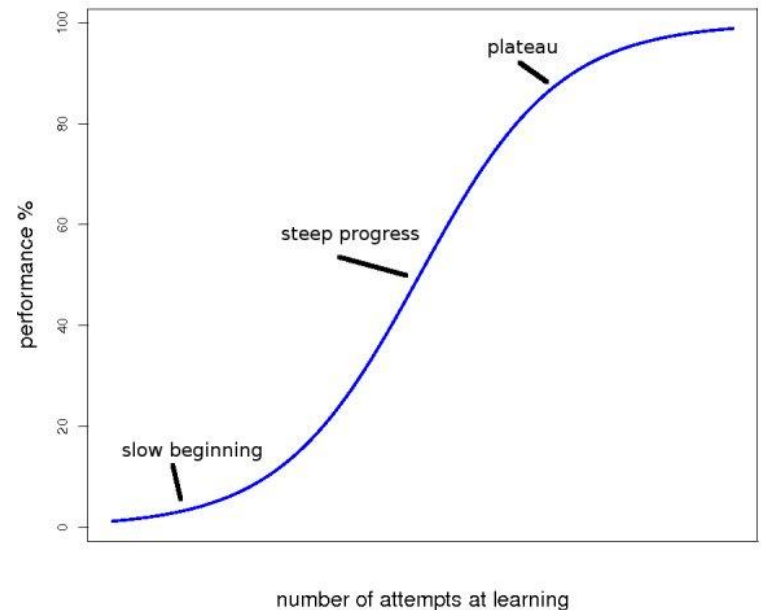
Simple call app

Source available at
<https://github.com/openium/examplepam>



Simple call app

- First use of many Android components
 - Activity/Fragment
 - Permissions
 - Layouts
 - Widgets (Buttons, TextView, ImageView...)
 - Content providers
- Good start for Android development





App architecture



Architecture of Android Apps

- Source code - src folder
 - Activity - Screen/Controller
 - Fragment - Part of Screen/Controller
 - View
 - Context - Provide access to resources of your app, and system APIs
 - Your code!
- Resources - res folder
 - Colors
 - Drawable
 - Strings
 - Style
- Build & Manifest
 - AndroidManifest.xml
 - build.gradle

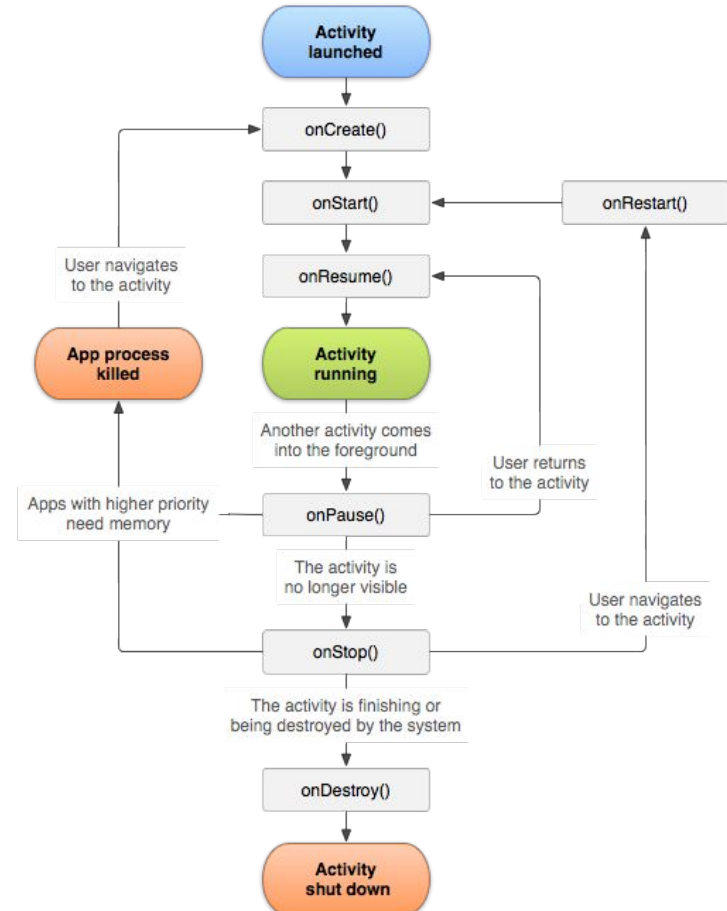


Architecture of Android Apps

Demo

Activity

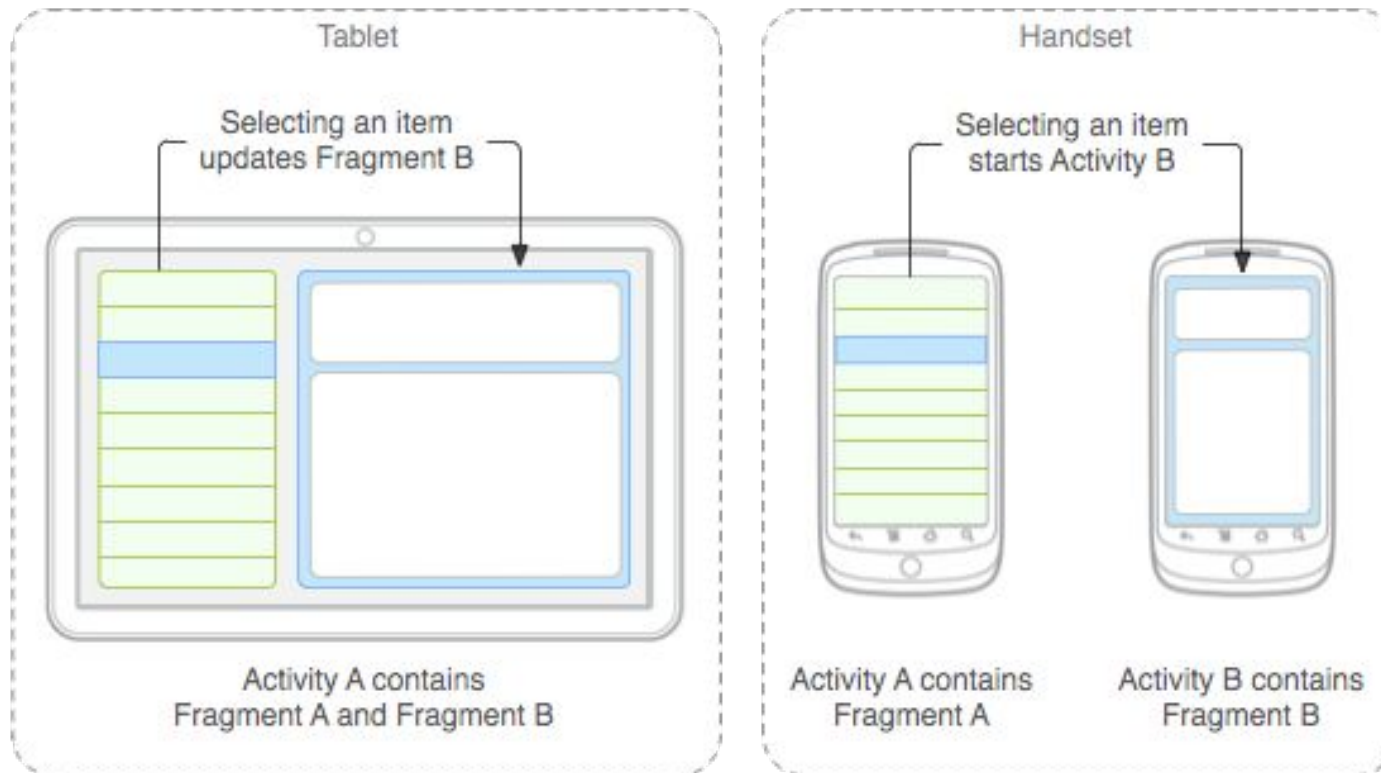
- Represent the screen displayed to the user
- Only one activity can be present at any time
- Has a specific lifecycle to know what the user is doing
- On rotation the activity is destroyed then recreated



Fragment

- Is contained by an activity
- There can be multiple fragments in one activity
- Has a different lifecycle than the activity
- Can be considered as a “complex” View

Fragment





Resources

- Stored in res folder of project
- Multiple type (strings, colors, images)
- Require a Context to get from your code
- Can use qualifier (device size, lang)
- Most files are declared in XML



Resources

Demo



Layout



Layout

A ViewGroup organizing its child View.

Every activity/fragment will use a layout file to describe its content.

It is stored in the layout folder of your resources, and wrote in XML

Types

- **LinearLayout**
 - Views are put one after the other, horizontally or vertically
- **RelativeLayout**
 - Each View is placed in a relative way to another view
- **FrameLayout**
 - Views are placed in a relative way to the layout
- **ConstraintLayout**
 - Complex and new layout meant to replace the RelativeLayout with tons of cool feature



Layout

Demo

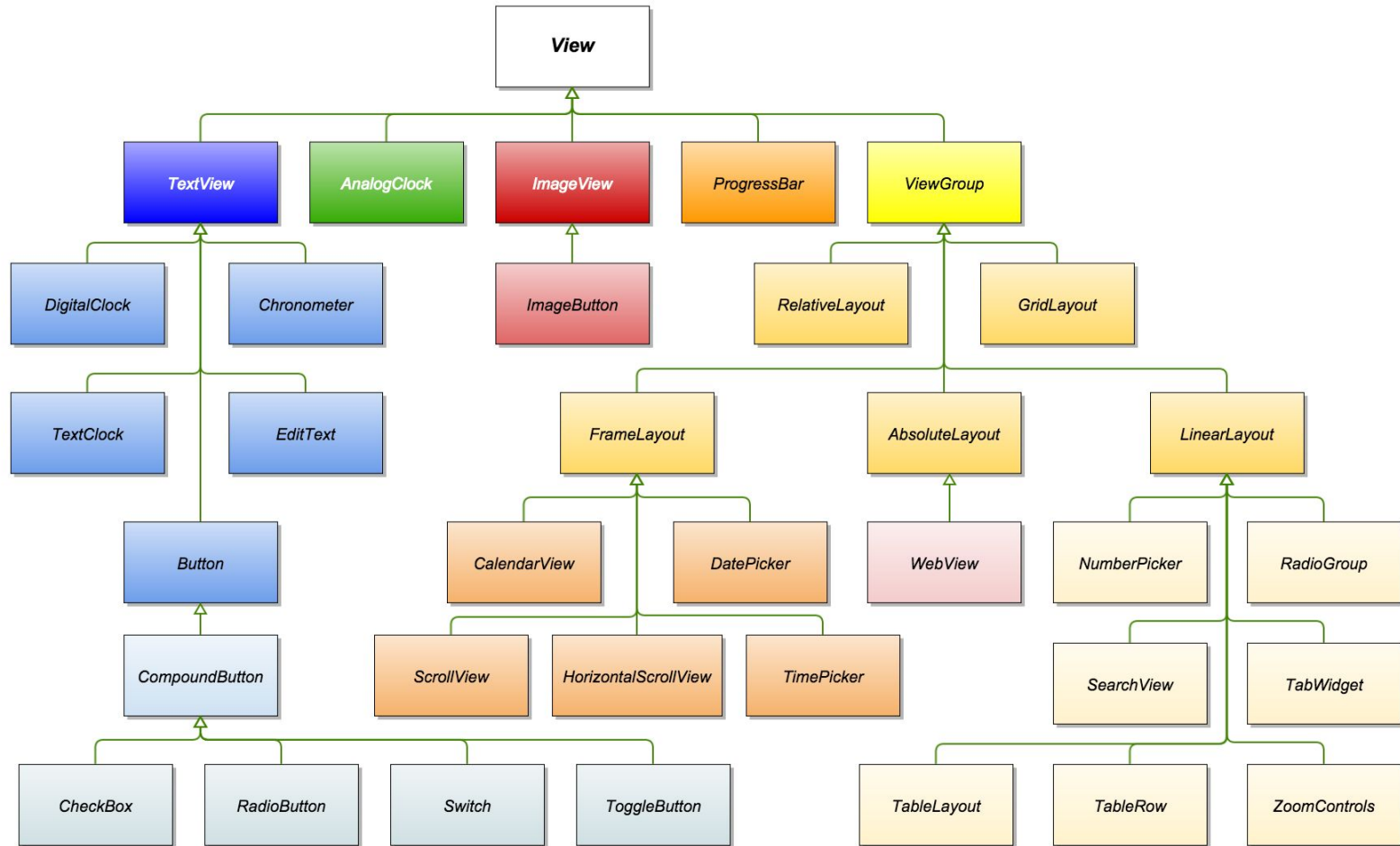


View

Types

- TextView - display text
- EditText - allows user input to enter text, inherit TextView
- ImageView - display image
- Many more, all extending the View class

View





Permissions

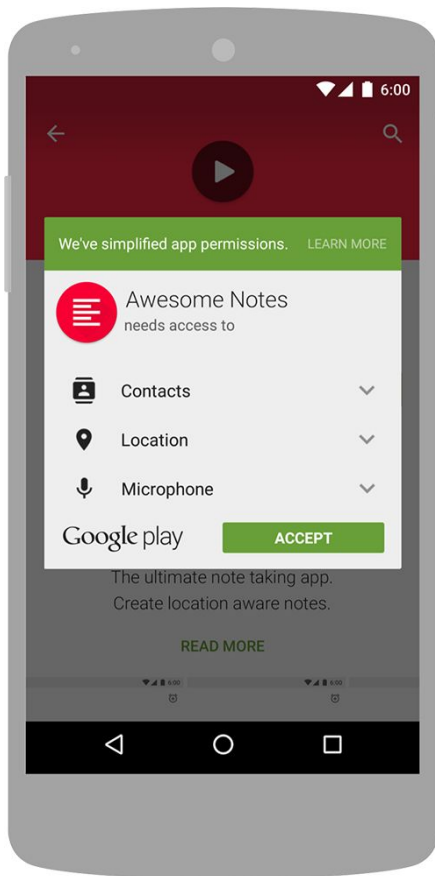
Permissions

- Android security system is based on permissions
- Explicit declaration of functionality needed by the app
- User validation to accept the permissions
 - Because it's based on user, it can be a problem...

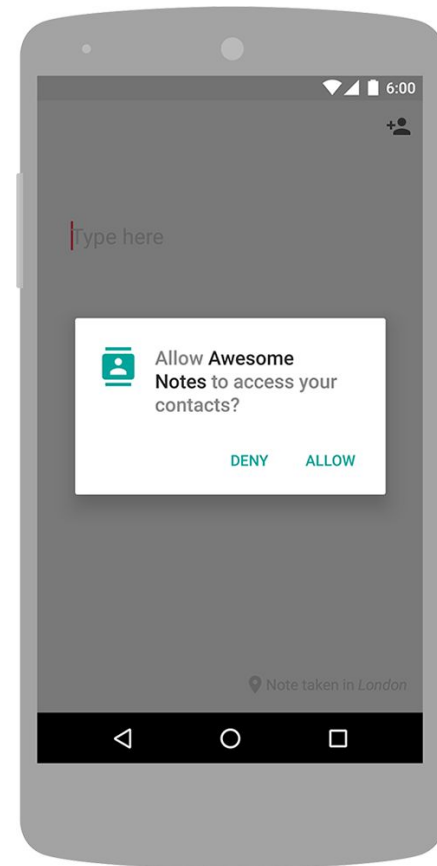


Permissions

- Since Android 1.0
 - Install-time request permissions



- Since Android 6.0
 - Runtime permissions



Permissions

- Normal permissions
 - Granted at install time
 - INTERNET
 - BLUETOOTH
 - VIBRATE
 - ACCESS_NETWORK_STATE
 - ...
- Dangerous permissions
 - Granted with explicit user agreement
 - READ_CALENDAR / WRITE_CALENDAR
 - READ_CALL_LOG / WRITE_CALL_LOG
 - RECORD_AUDIO
 - CAMERA
 - SEND_SMS / READ_SMS
 - WRITE_EXTERNAL_STORAGE
 - ...



Permissions

Demo

Content providers



What is a Content Provider

- A way of sharing data between apps
- Often linked to an SQLite storage
- The old way to store and access data in your own app



Accessing data from others app

- Usage of the content resolver
 - A service that connect to the content providers of all the app installed on the phone
- Use SQL queries to get the content on an URI ([Uniform Resource Identifier](#))
- Return a Cursor
 - An object that provide random read and write access on the query
- In our app, we request the user's contacts from a system Content Provider



Content Provider

Demo



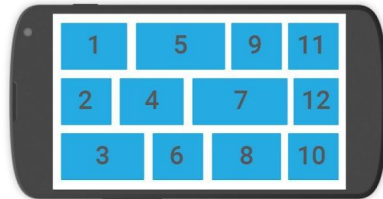
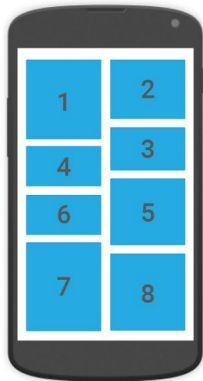
Lists



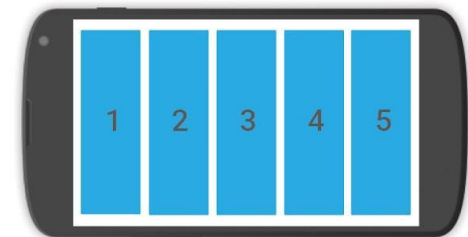
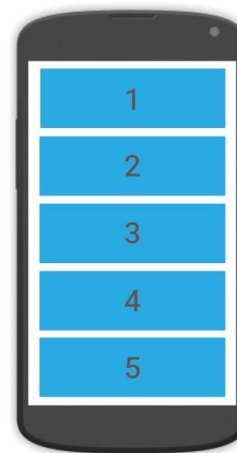
RecyclerView

- Called Recycler because it reuse cells
- Can display elements as horizontal/vertical list, or grid, called LayoutManager
- Except for choosing the LayoutManager, your code will only use the Adapter Class

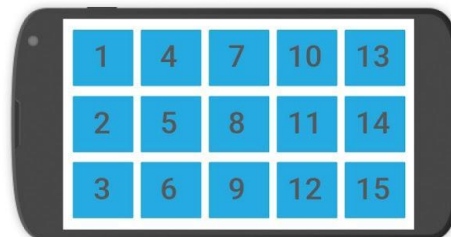
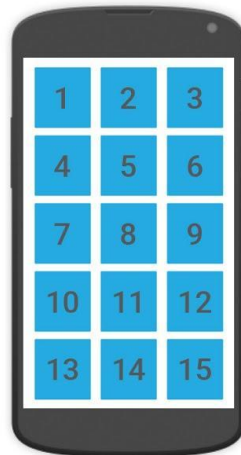
Layout Manager



Staggered Grid
Layout Manager

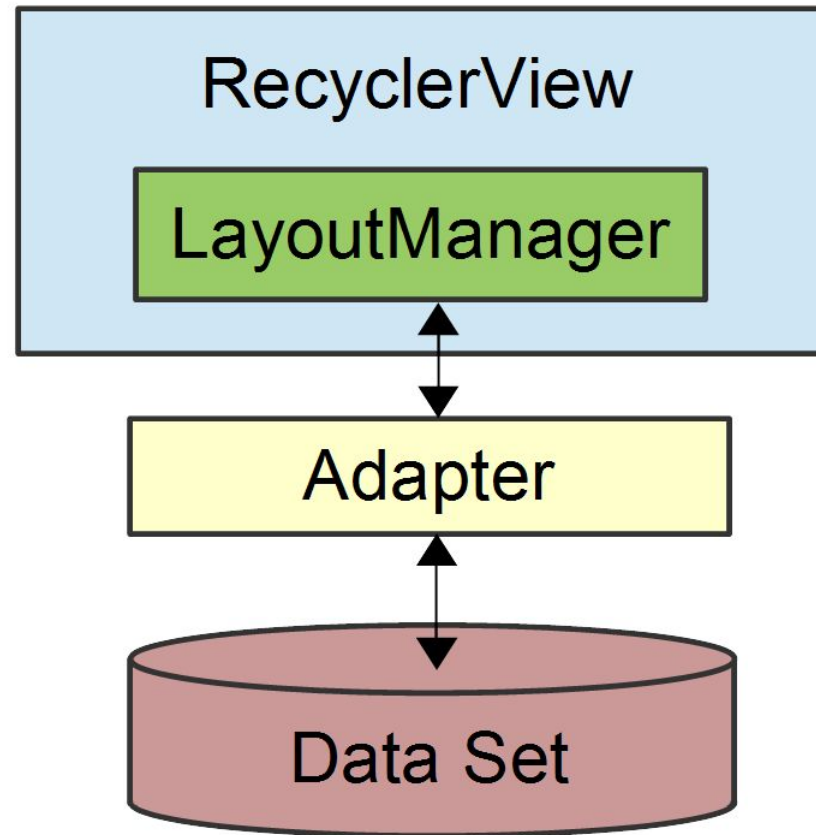


Linear Layout Manager



Grid Layout Manager

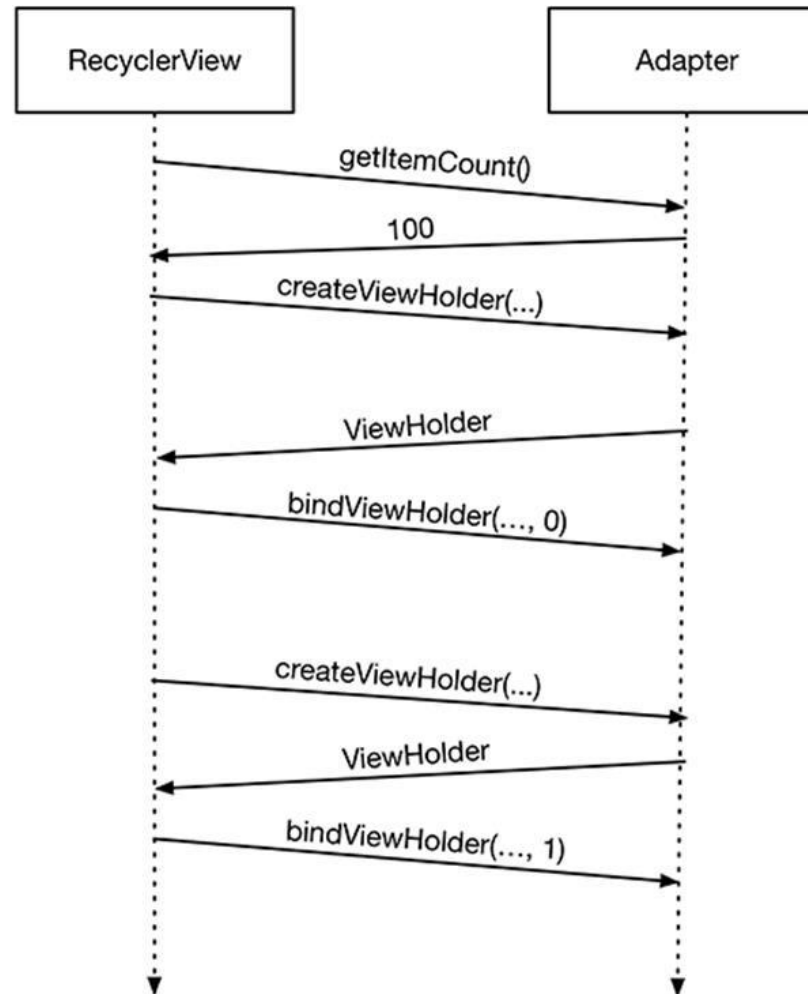
RecyclerView and Adapter



Adapters

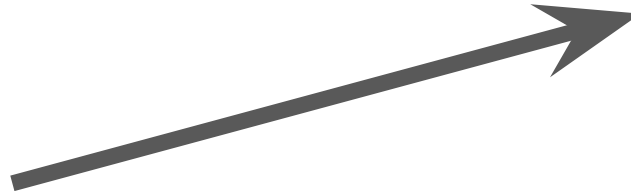
- The core of displaying list in an app
- The class `Adapter` must be extended and passed to the `Recyclerview`
- The `RecyclerView` will then call 3 methods on your adapter
- **`getItemCount()`** which provides the number of cells to display in your list
- **`createViewHolder()`** which creates as many `View` as visible cells in your screen
- **`bindViewHolder(position)`** which bind the view with the data for the position

RecyclerView and Adapter



Images

Images



Images

- DIY (Do It Yourself)
 - HttpURLConnection
 - InputStream
 - BitmapFactory
 - Bitmap → ImageView
- Can be problematic
 - Memory Management
 - ListView/RecyclerView...
- Libraries
 - **Picasso**
 - Glide
 - Fresco
 - Volley
 - ...



Picasso

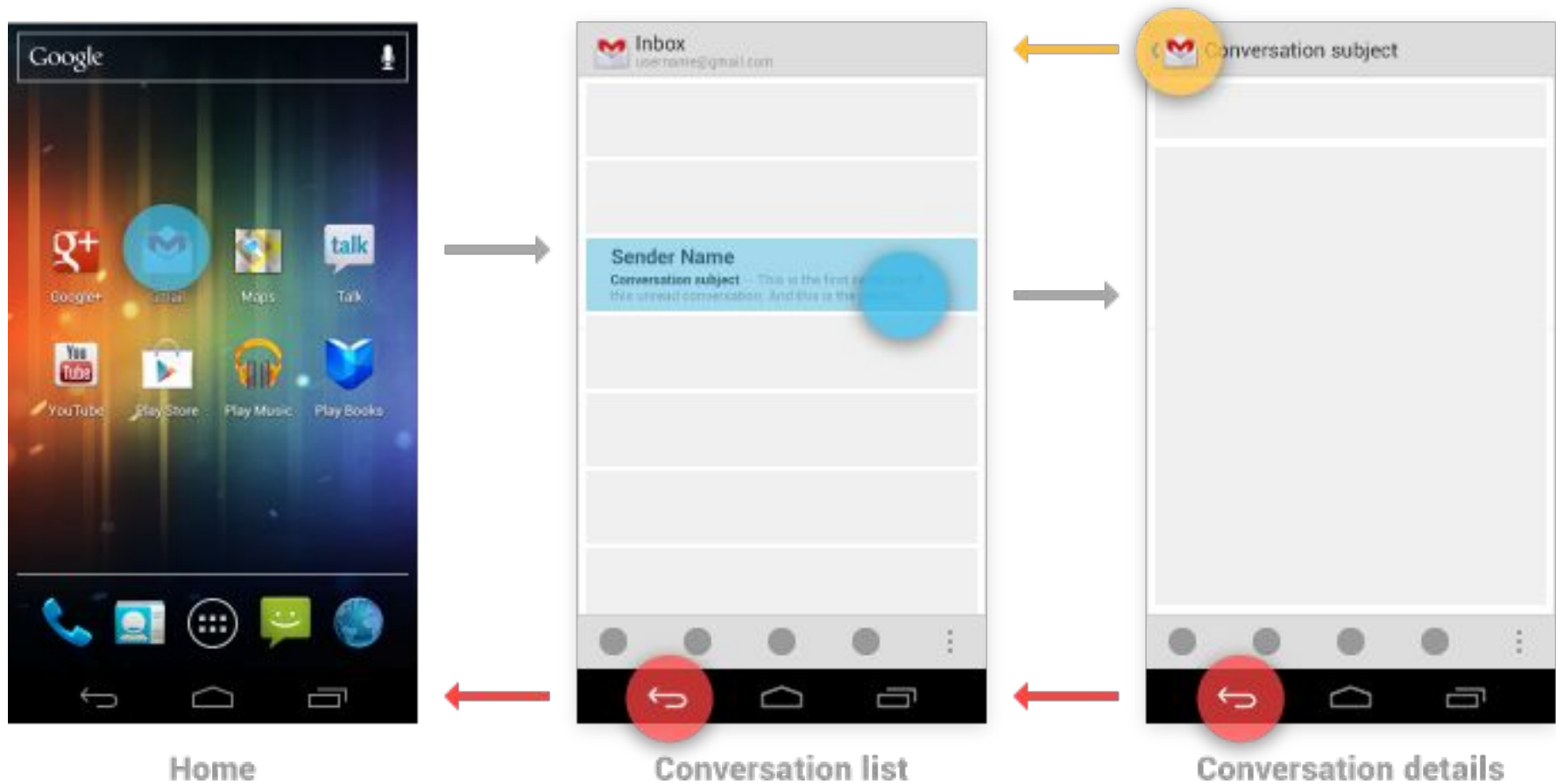
```
Picasso.get().load(url).into(imageView1);
```

```
Picasso.get()  
    .load(url)  
    .placeholder(R.drawable.user_placeholder)  
    .error(R.drawable.user_placeholder_error)  
    .into(imageView);
```



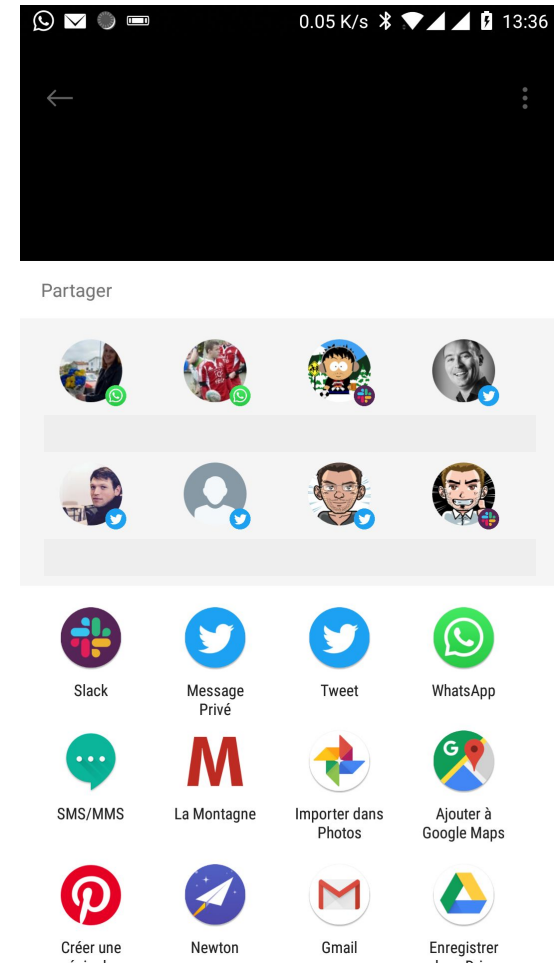
App navigation

Activity



Intent

- Allows communication with the system
- Example of use
 - Start your trip on Google Maps
 - Phone call your buddy
 - Share data on Twitter
 - Send an SMS
 - Pick a picture in your gallery
 - ...
- Example with Picture Sharing



Intents

- In the official documentation :
An intent is an abstract description of an operation to be performed.
- Message to an
 - Activity (our application or another)
 - Service
 - BroadcastReceiver
- It's a fundamental tool on Android. It allows different applications of different developers to communicate and work together in a loose coupling maner.



Storage

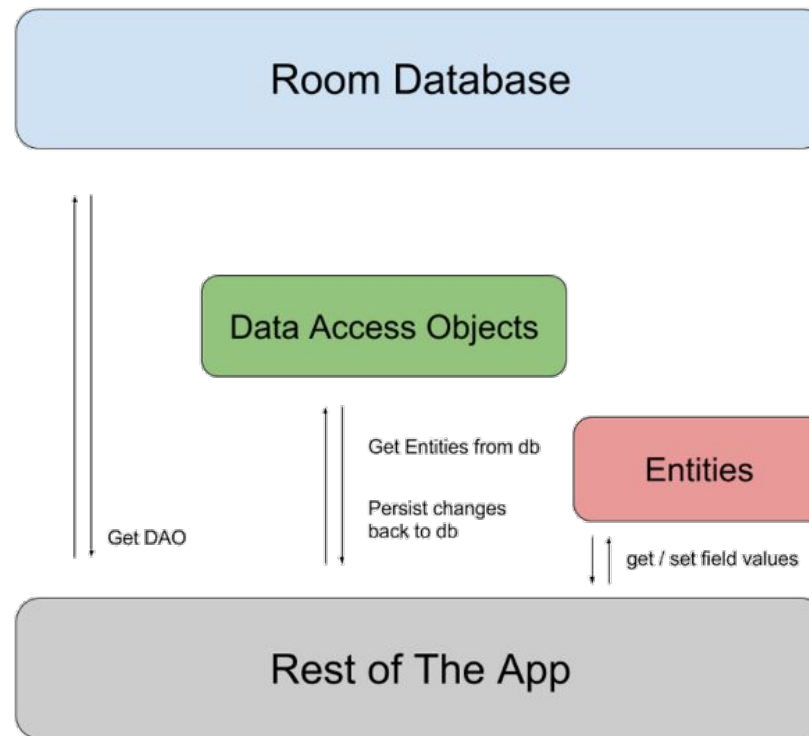


Storage

- When the app is killed, everything in memory disappear
- Three common way to store data :
 - PreferenceManager, to store primitive data (String, int, float)
 - Serialize data into a file
 - Use a SQL database or alternative (Realm)

Room

- ORM made by Google
- Provide an easy way to integrate an SQLite database storage into your app





Room

Demo



Misc

Service

- Background process (same as the app)
- Doesn't display anything
- Can work while your app is in foreground or in background
- Service has been mostly replaced by JobScheduler (background tasks)
- Still used for foreground service, for bluetooth app or music
- Needs to have a notification since Android 8.0

Useful libraries



Android Jetpack

Bunch of libraries made by Google to provide solutions to common problem

- **Lifecycle** - Provide solutions to the complex lifecycle of activities and fragment
- **ViewModel** - MVVM architecture for Android App
- **LiveData** - observe data changes everywhere in your code
- **WorkManager** - background task execution on all devices
- **Room** - SQLite database ORM



Firebase

- Created in 2011, bought by Google in 2014
- Started as a NoSQL storage
- Now provide tens of services to servers, Android and iOS app.



Firestore

Some examples :

- **Storage** : Provide a remote database
- **Cloud Messaging** : Provide push and remote notification
- **Analytics** : Provide analytics insight of your app
- **Crash Reporting** : App crashes informations
- **Remote Config** : Remote configuration of app settings like a Summer/Winter mode for your app
- **Invites** : Provide URL to share your apps with parameters



Square

Square is a company that provide most of the greatest Android libraries

- **OkHttp** and Retrofit to make network calls
- **Picasso** to get image from URL and put them into ImageView
- **Timber** for logging
- Many more



Useful links

<https://developer.android.com/docs/>