

AND220

Publishing an Android application

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Objectives

1. Configure you app for publishing
2. Create a Google Play developer account
3. Create an app package
4. Submit your application for publishing





Configure you app for publishing



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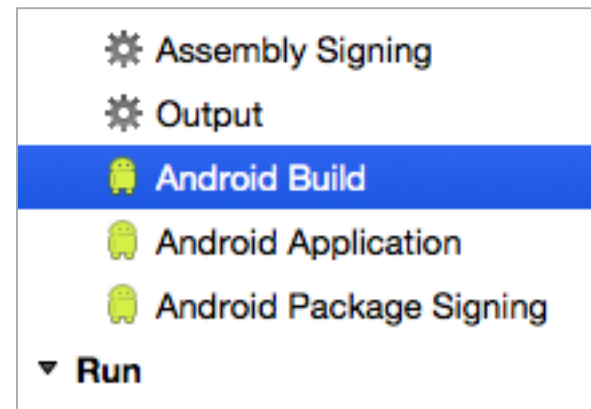
Tasks

1. Optimize the release build settings
2. Verify the app details
3. Set a version number



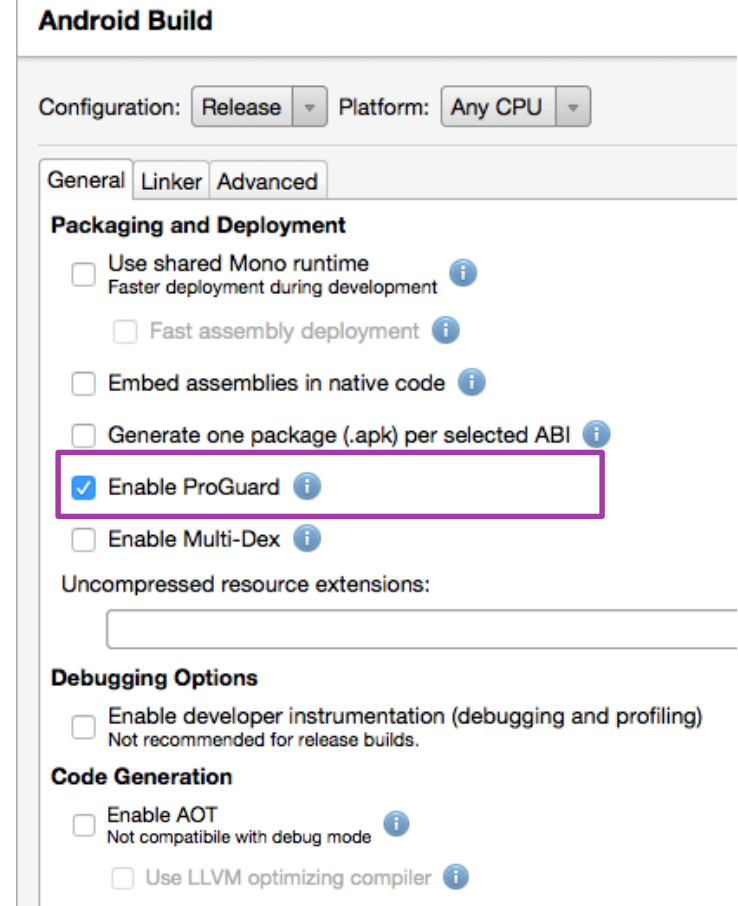
Setting Android app properties

- ❖ Android has several unique optimizations for:
 - Packaging
 - Code generation
 - Device compatibility
- ❖ All available from the project properties: **Android Build**



Packaging properties

- ❖ **ProGuard** is an Android SDK tool that will shrink the Java byte-code by removing unused methods
- ❖ This can be helpful to shrink your application if you rely on native 3rd party components such as Google Play
- ❖ Only supported for **Release** builds



Android Build

Configuration: **Release** Platform: **Any CPU**

General **Linker** Advanced

Packaging and Deployment

- ☐ Use shared Mono runtime
Faster deployment during development
- ☐ Fast assembly deployment
- ☐ Embed assemblies in native code
- ☐ Generate one package (.apk) per selected ABI
- ☒ **Enable ProGuard**
- ☐ Enable Multi-Dex

Uncompressed resource extensions:

Debugging Options

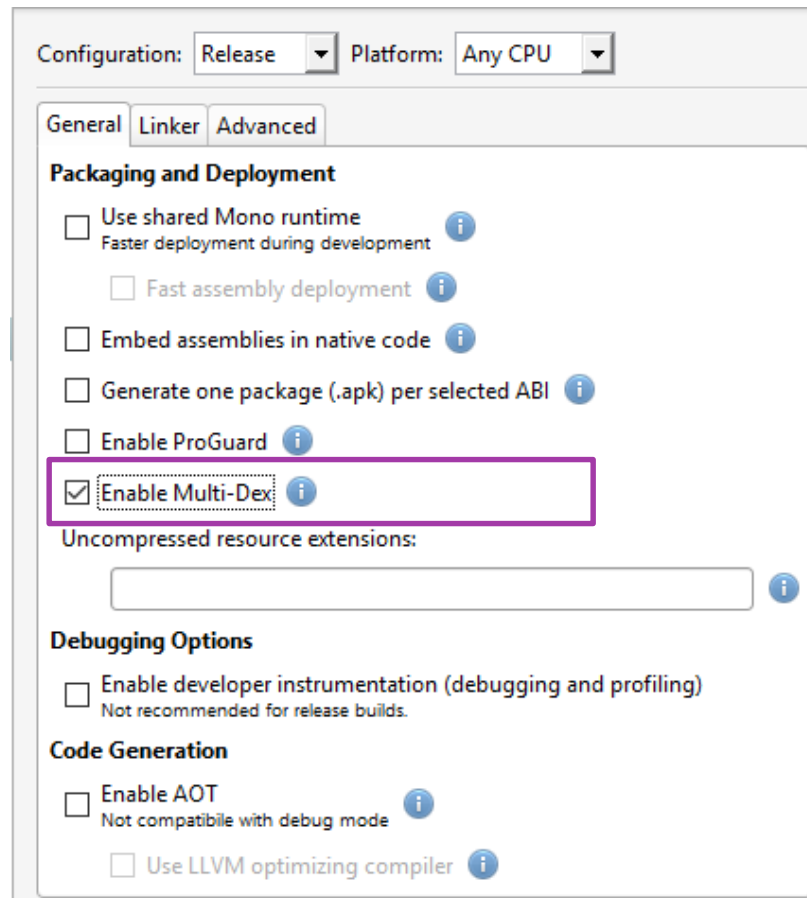
- ☐ Enable developer instrumentation (debugging and profiling)
Not recommended for release builds.

Code Generation

- ☐ Enable AOT
Not compatible with debug mode
- ☐ Use LLVM optimizing compiler

Packaging properties

- ❖ Dalvik executable file (.dex) format is limited to 65k Java method references internally
- ❖ ProGuard dramatically lifts this restriction by removing unused methods, but apps could still hit limit if they use a lot of components
- ❖ If you hit this limit, turn on Multi-Dex to break into multiple files



Packaging properties

- ❖ Some features require higher license

Can package your IL-based assemblies into a native Android library, makes them (slightly) harder to disassemble

Android Build

Configuration: Release Platform: Any CPU

General Linker Advanced

Packaging and Deployment

☐ Use shared Mono runtime
Faster deployment during development

☐ Fast assembly deployment

☐ Embed assemblies in native code

enterprise

☐ Generate one package (.apk) per selected ABI

☒ Enable ProGuard

☐ Enable Multi-Dex

Uncompressed resource extensions:

Debugging Options

☐ Enable developer instrumentation (debugging and profiling)
Not recommended for release builds.

Code Generation

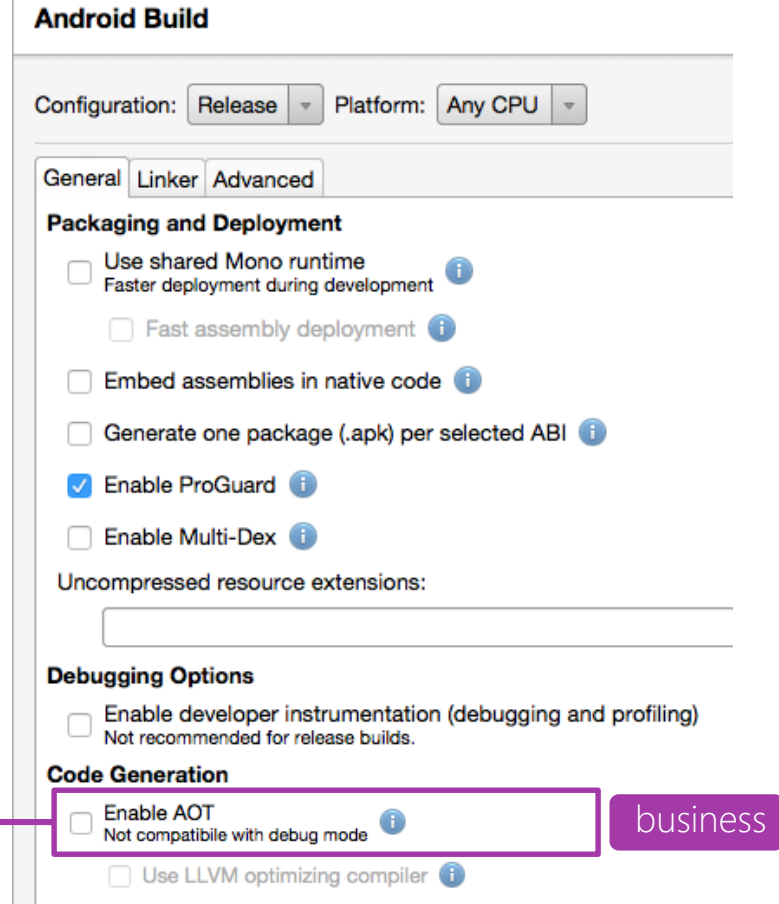
☐ Enable AOT
Not compatible with debug mode

☐ Use LLVM optimizing compiler

Packaging properties

- ❖ Some features require higher license

Xamarin.Android supports a pre-JIT code generation option (AOT) – this is a preview feature



Android Build

Configuration: Release Platform: Any CPU

General Linker Advanced

Packaging and Deployment

- ☐ Use shared Mono runtime
Faster deployment during development
- ☐ Fast assembly deployment
- ☐ Embed assemblies in native code
- ☐ Generate one package (.apk) per selected ABI
- ☒ Enable ProGuard
- ☐ Enable Multi-Dex

Uncompressed resource extensions:

Debugging Options

- ☐ Enable developer instrumentation (debugging and profiling)
Not recommended for release builds.

Code Generation

- ☐ Enable AOT
Not compatible with debug mode
- ☐ Use LLVM optimizing compiler

business

Packaging properties

- ❖ Some features require higher license

LLVM compiler produces smaller, faster executable code – requires AOT be enabled

Android Build

Configuration: Release Platform: Any CPU

General Linker Advanced

Packaging and Deployment

- ☐ Use shared Mono runtime
Faster deployment during development i
- ☐ Fast assembly deployment i
- ☐ Embed assemblies in native code i
- ☐ Generate one package (.apk) per selected ABI i
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Uncompressed resource extensions:

Debugging Options

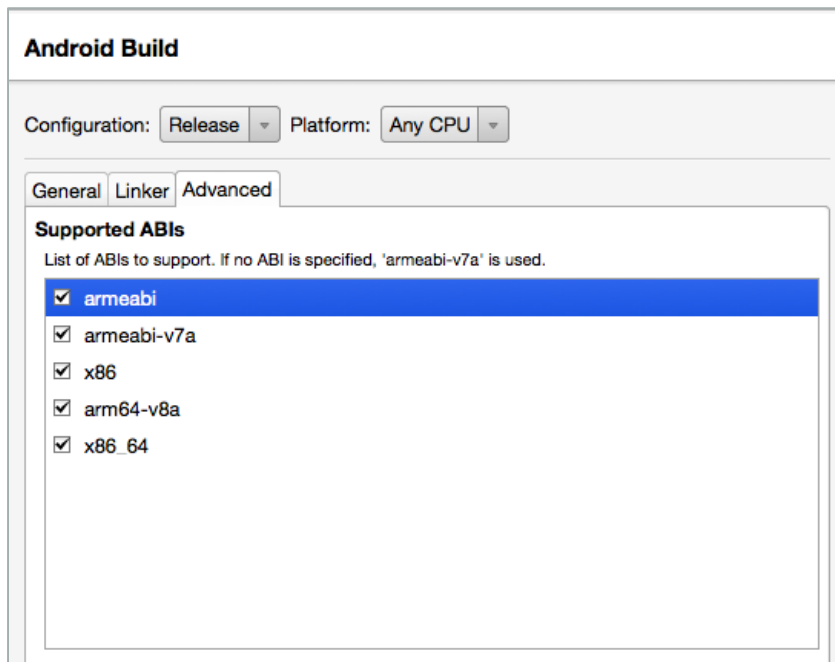
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Not recommended for release builds.

Code Generation

- ☐ Enable AOT
Not compatible with debug mode i
- ☐ Use LLVM optimizing compiler i

business

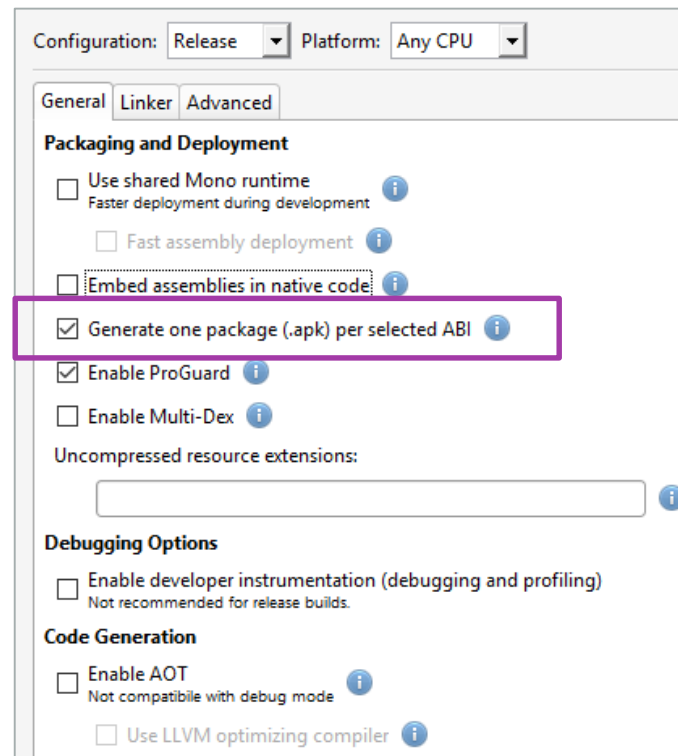
Select Android target platforms



- ❖ Android devices utilize a variety of different CPU architectures
- ❖ Must include the Application Binary Interface (ABI) layer for each CPU architecture your app can support
- ❖ Each ABI adds to the size of the final application

Generating one APK package per ABI

- ❖ To reduce the app package but still support a variety of CPUs, you can tell Visual Studio for Mac to generate a different app package (APK) for each ABI
- ❖ Default behavior is to generate a single (larger) package with all ABIs packaged together



Identifying the application

- ❖ Make sure the package name is unique and identifies the publisher

The screenshot shows the 'Android Application' settings panel in Visual Studio. The left sidebar lists various settings categories: General, Build, and Run. Under 'Build', 'Android Application' is selected. The main panel displays the following settings:

Android Application	
Application name	Phoneword
Package name	com.xamarin.phoneword
Application icon	@drawable/icon
Version number	1
Version name	1.0
Minimum Android version	Override - Android 4.0.3 (API level 15)
Target Android version	Automatic - use target framework version (API 15)
Install Location	Automatic

A red box highlights the 'Package name' field, and a callout bubble points to it with the text: 'Package name must be lowercase with no spaces and should be specified in reverse-DNS notation'.

Specify the Application Icon

- ❖ Make sure to provide a high-quality icon in multiple resolutions

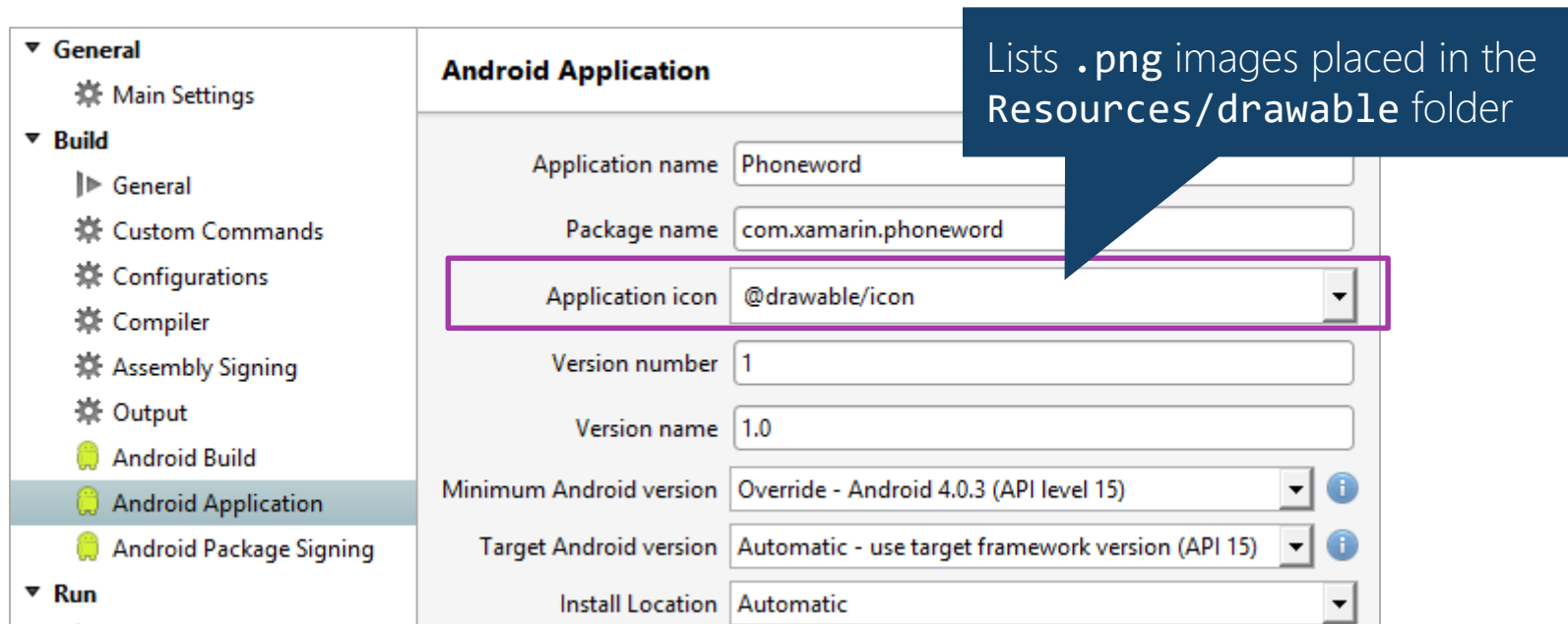


Image and Icon Sizes

- ❖ Ensure images and icons are provided in multiple resolutions in your **drawables** folder – use the naming qualifiers and Android will select the proper image at runtime; 3rd party tools can help create multiple versions



MDPI
1x
48px



HDPI
1.5x
72px



XHDPI
2x
96px



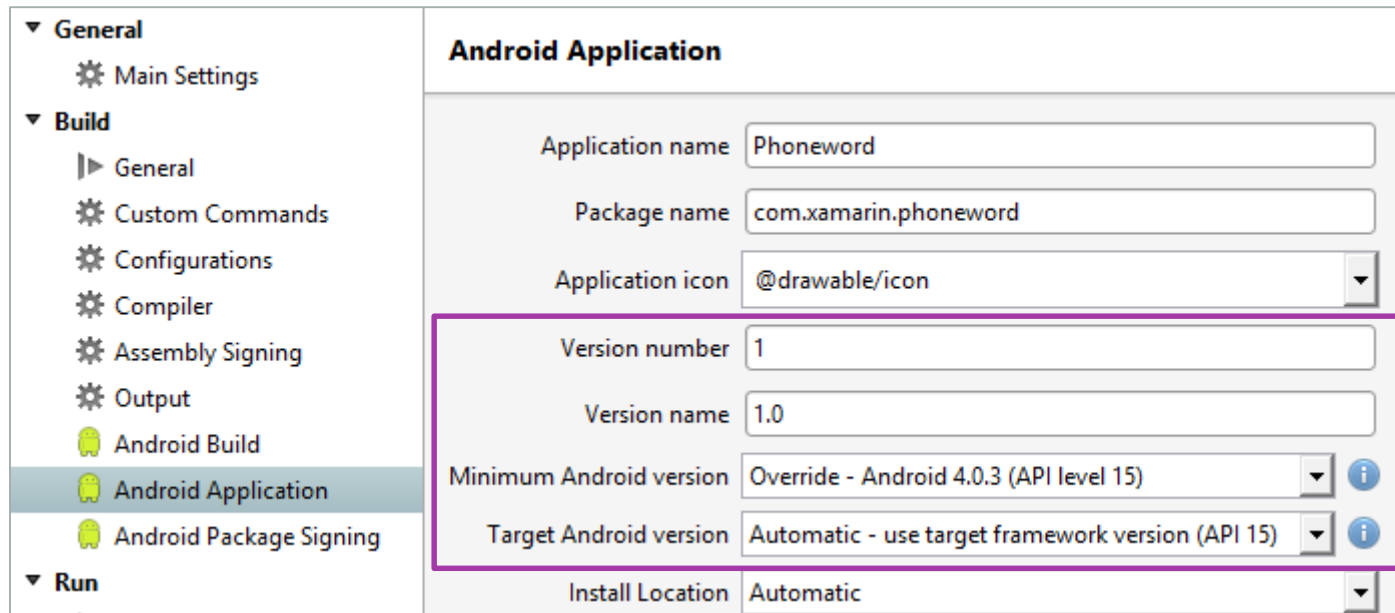
XXHDPI
3x
144px



XXXHDPI
4x
192px

Dealing with versioning

- ❖ Several versioning boxes in the properties to deal with both app version and supported Android versions



Android Application	
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Target Android version	Automatic - use target framework version (API 15)
Install Location	Automatic

What is the Version number?

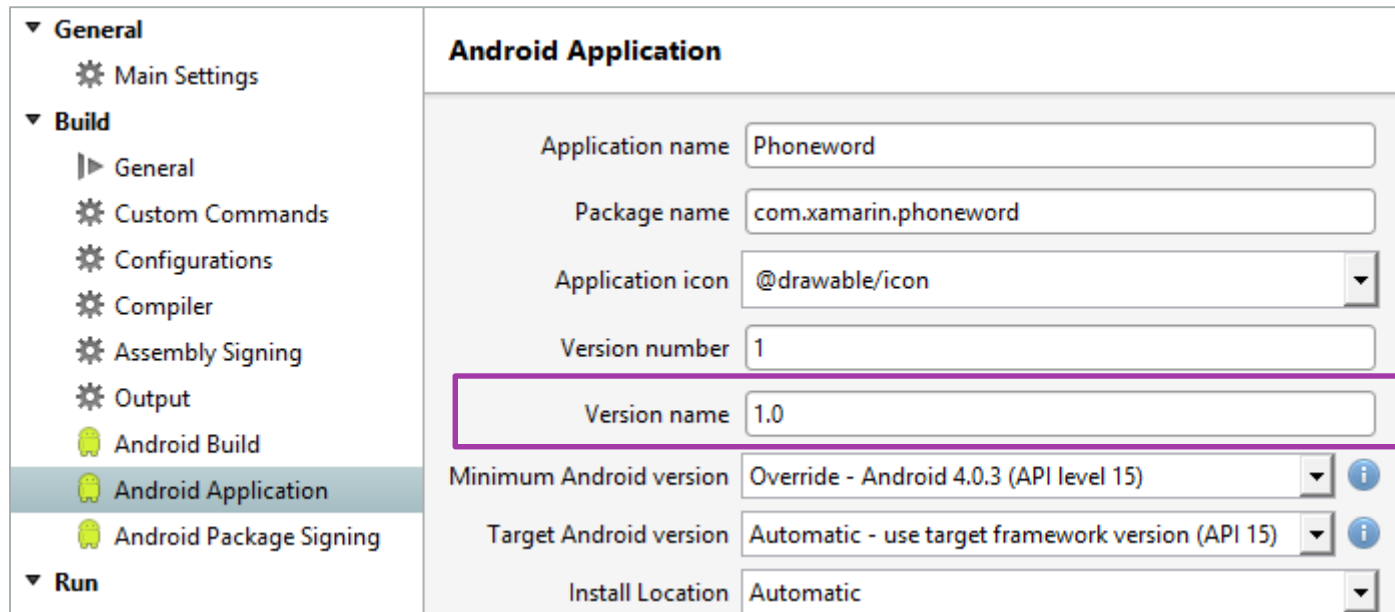
- ❖ App versioning utilizes the numeric version to determine when an update should be applied – increment this value on every release

The screenshot shows the 'Android Application' settings in an IDE. The left sidebar has a tree view with 'General' expanded, showing 'Main Settings' and 'Build'. Under 'Build', 'Android Application' is selected. The main panel displays various configuration fields for the Android application. The 'Version number' field, which contains the value '1', is highlighted with a red rectangular border. Other fields include 'Application name' (Phoneword), 'Package name' (com.xamarin.phoneword), 'Application icon' (@drawable/icon), 'Version name' (1.0), 'Minimum Android version' (Override - Android 4.0.3 (API level 15)), 'Target Android version' (Automatic - use target framework version (API 15)), and 'Install Location' (Automatic).

Android Application	
Application name	Phoneword
Package name	com.xamarin.phoneword
Application icon	@drawable/icon
Version number	1
Version name	1.0
Minimum Android version	Override - Android 4.0.3 (API level 15)
Target Android version	Automatic - use target framework version (API 15)
Install Location	Automatic

What is the Version name?

- ❖ Version name is the alphanumeric text that is displayed to the user to identify the version, should use the **Major.Minor.Revision** format

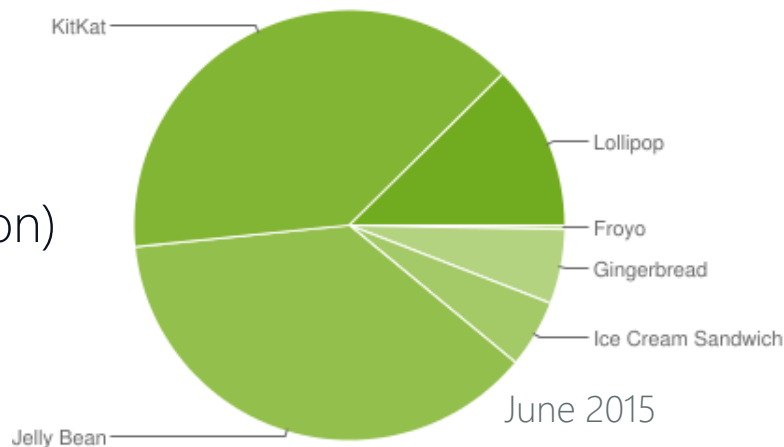


The screenshot shows the 'Android Application' build settings in Android Studio. The left sidebar lists various settings categories: General, Build, and Run. Under 'Build', 'Android Application' is selected. The main panel displays several configuration fields for the application. The 'Version name' field, which is highlighted with a purple border, contains the value '1.0'. Other fields include 'Application name' (Phoneword), 'Package name' (com.xamarin.phoneword), 'Application icon' (@drawable/icon), 'Version number' (1), 'Minimum Android version' (Override - Android 4.0.3 (API level 15)), 'Target Android version' (Automatic - use target framework version (API 15)), and 'Install Location' (Automatic).

Android Application	
Application name	Phoneword
Package name	com.xamarin.phoneword
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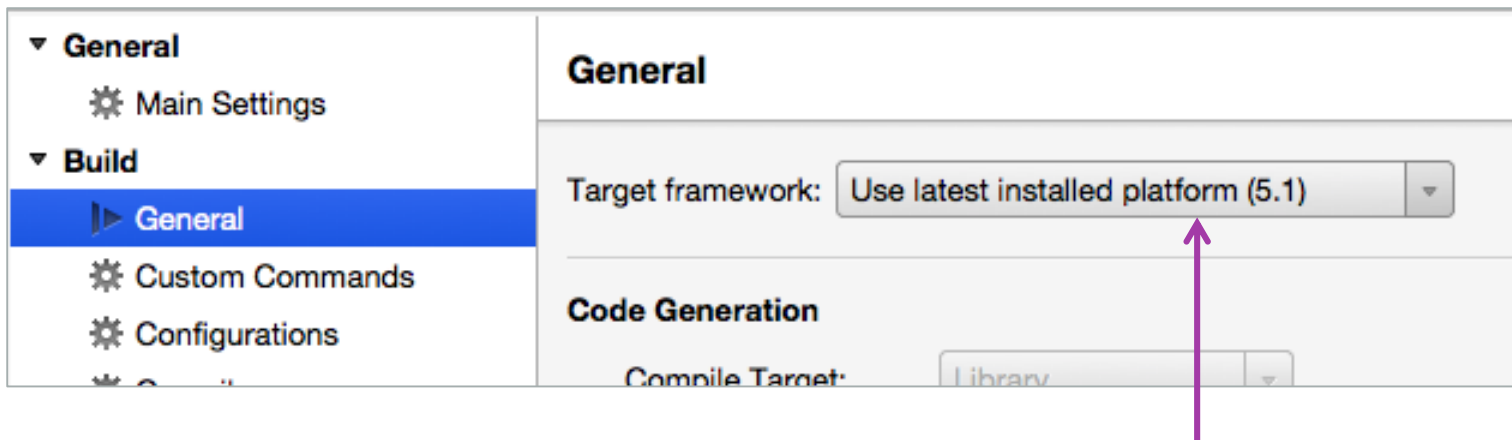
Reminder: Android API levels

- ❖ Three project level settings control the version of Android that your app:
 - **Builds against** (Target Framework)
 - **Supports** (Min. Android Version)
 - **Runs best on** (Target Android Version)



Target Framework

- ❖ Target Framework setting controls which libraries the *compiler* uses – this decides the features you can use in your code



Should be set to the latest released framework

Minimum Android version

- ❖ Set your **minimum version** to be the lowest possible version of Android you want your app to run on – this is used at *runtime*

The screenshot shows the 'Android Application' settings in an IDE. The left sidebar lists various settings categories: General, Build, and Run. Under 'Build', 'Android Application' is selected. The main panel displays the following settings:

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Minimum Android version	Override - Android 4.0.3 (API level 15)
Target Android version	Automatic - use target framework version (API 15)
Install Location	Automatic

The 'Minimum Android version' row is highlighted with a purple border, indicating the setting to be adjusted.

Target Android version

- ❖ Set the **target version** to be the Android version your app is intended to run on – this is used at *runtime*

The screenshot shows the 'Android Application' settings in the Xamarin Studio IDE. The left sidebar lists various settings categories: General, Build, and Run. Under 'Build', 'Android Application' is selected. The main panel displays the following settings:

Android Application	
Application name	Phoneword
Package name	com.xamarin.phoneword
Application icon	@drawable/icon
Version number	1
Version name	1.0
Minimum Android version	Override - Android 4.0.3 (API level 15)
Target Android version	Automatic - use target framework version (API 15)
Install Location	Automatic

The 'Target Android version' setting is highlighted with a red rectangular box.

Summary

1. Optimize the release build settings
2. Verify the app details
3. Set a version number



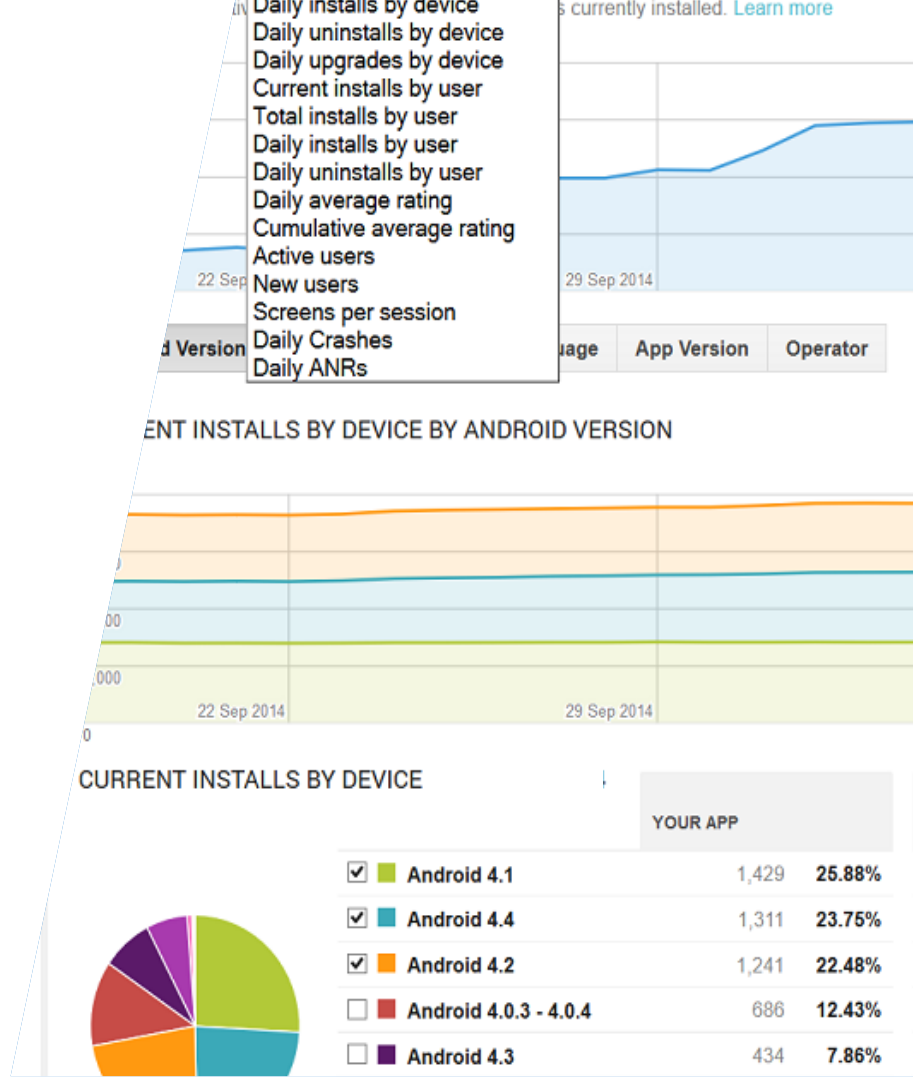
Create a Google Play developer account



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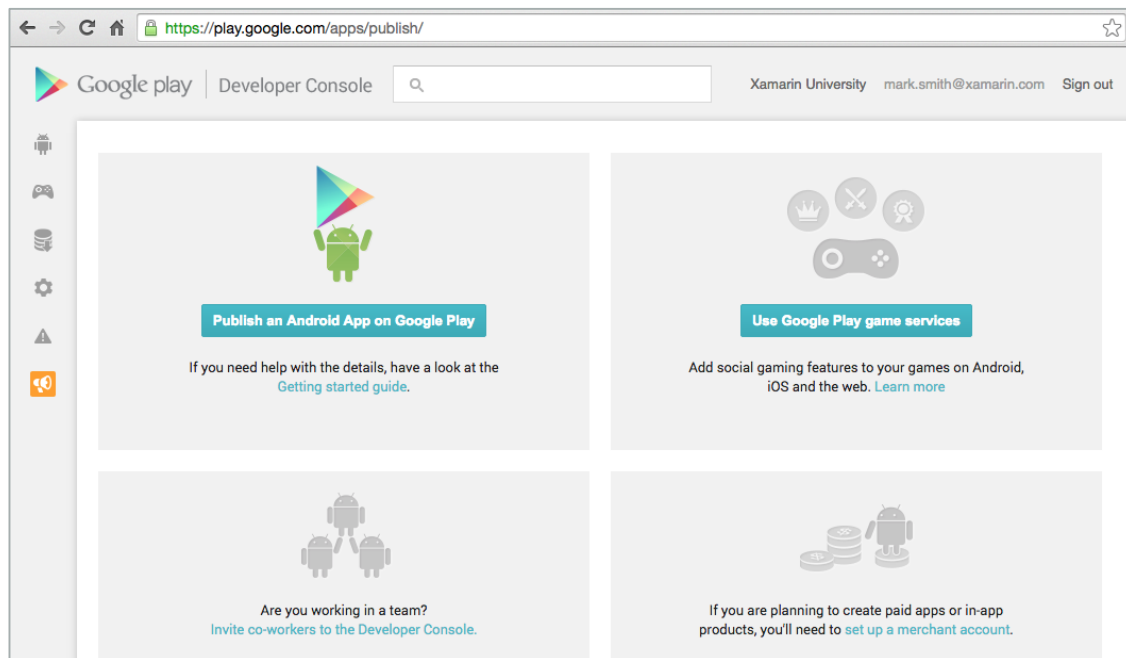
Tasks

1. Sign up for a Play account
2. Use the Developer Console



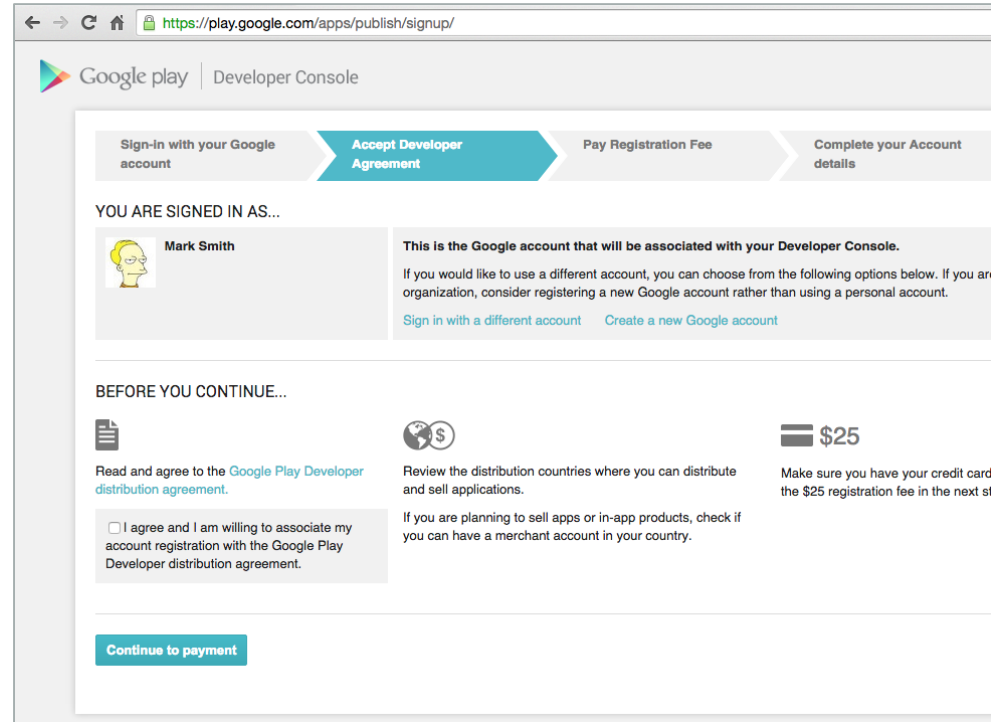
Google Play Developer Console

- ❖ Developer Console is the home for app publishing on Google Play



Registering for a publisher account

- ❖ Must register with Google Play Developer Console using a Google account (can create a new one)
- ❖ Enter basic information about identity and accept the licensing agreement for your region
- ❖ Pay \$25 USD one-time fee



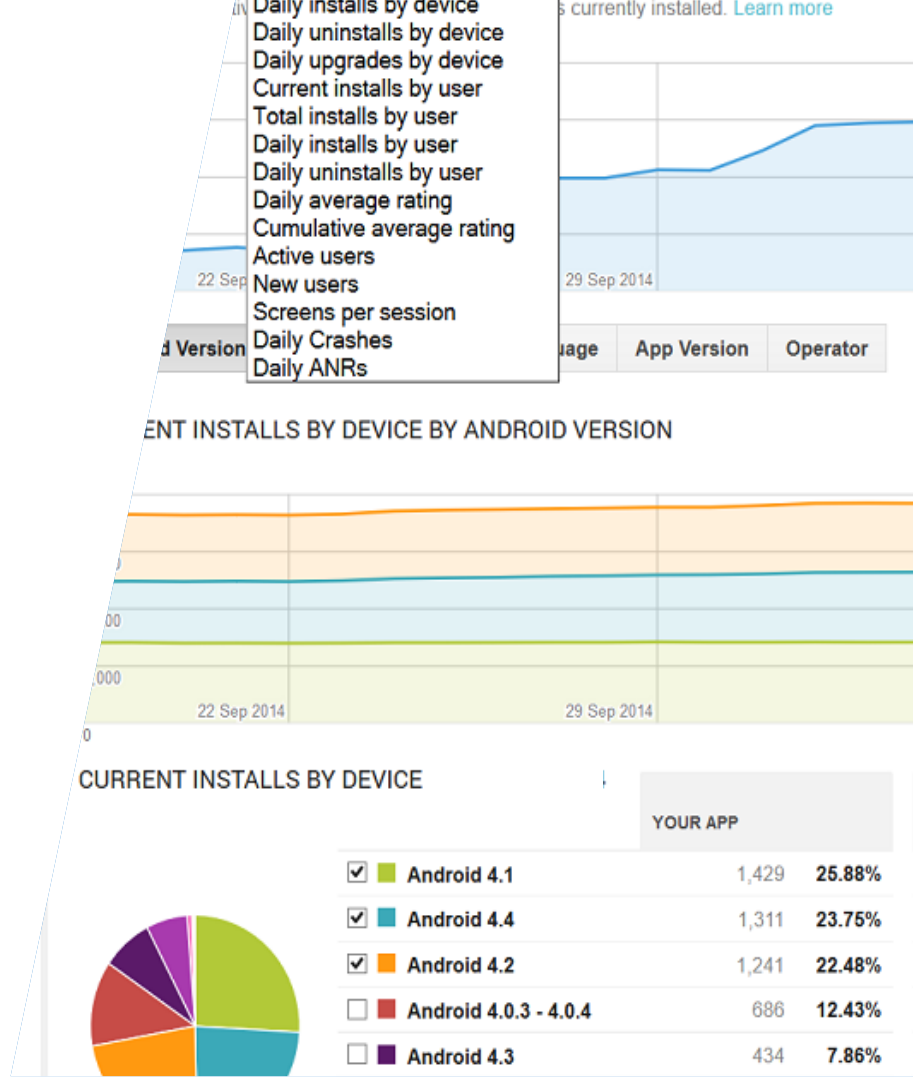
Getting paid

- ❖ To sell apps, you must sign up for a Google Payment Merchant account
 - Payments issued in your local currency via bank transfer
 - Pays just after month end with no minimum (currently)
 - 70/30 split
- ❖ Reports > Financial Reports > Setup a merchant account



Summary

1. Sign up for a Play account
2. Use the Developer Console





Create an app package



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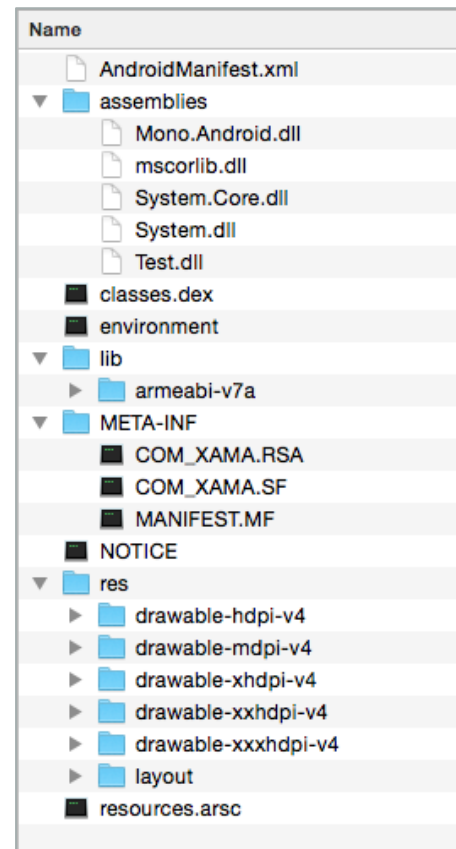
Tasks

1. Create an APK using Visual Studio
2. Sign your application using a keystore



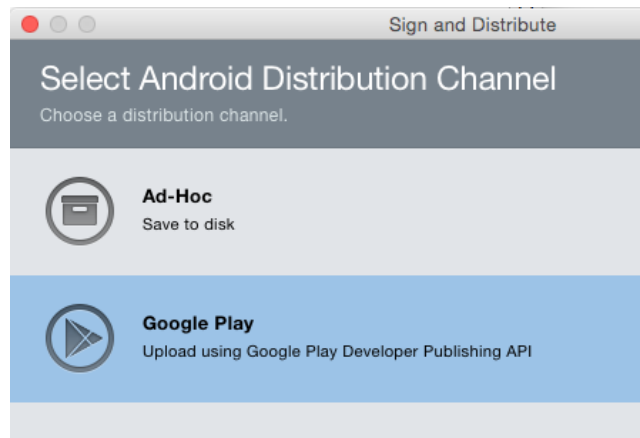
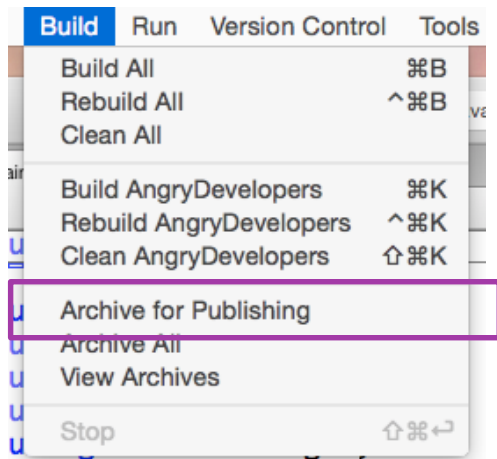
Reminder: what is an APK?


- ❖ Android applications are packaged as a zip file with the extension **.apk** (Android Package)
- ❖ Contains your IL code, runtime, framework assemblies, native .dex files, manifest, resources, ABIs and any components the app uses
- ❖ APKs can be downloaded and installed directly onto devices (more on this later)



Creating the APK [Mac]

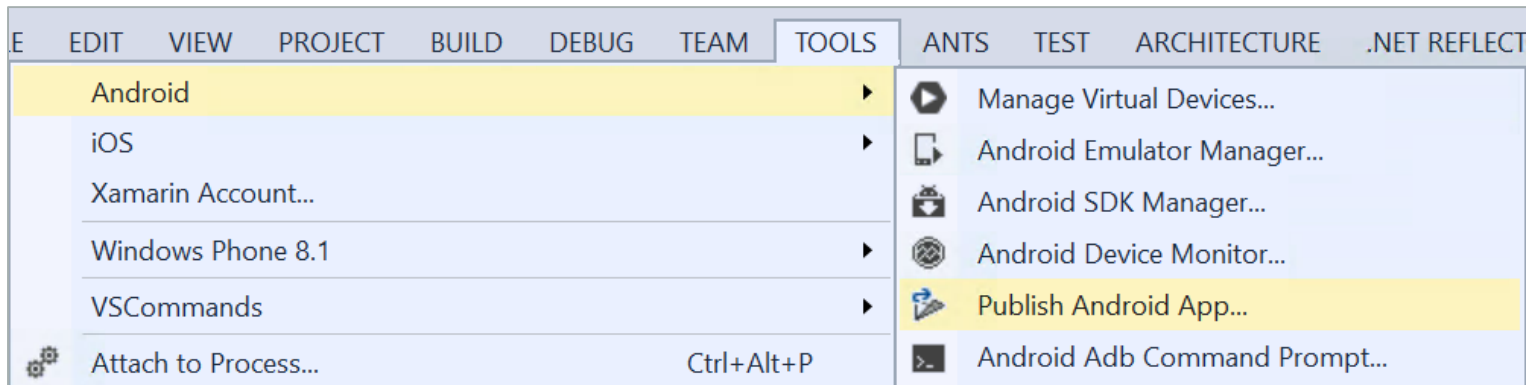
- ❖ **Build > Archive for Publishing** then **Sign and Distribute** will create the APK and either save it to your local machine, or upload it to Google



 **Note:** when the APK is built for release, the system will include the selected ABIs for the target Android version; you must have the correct Android SDK components installed!

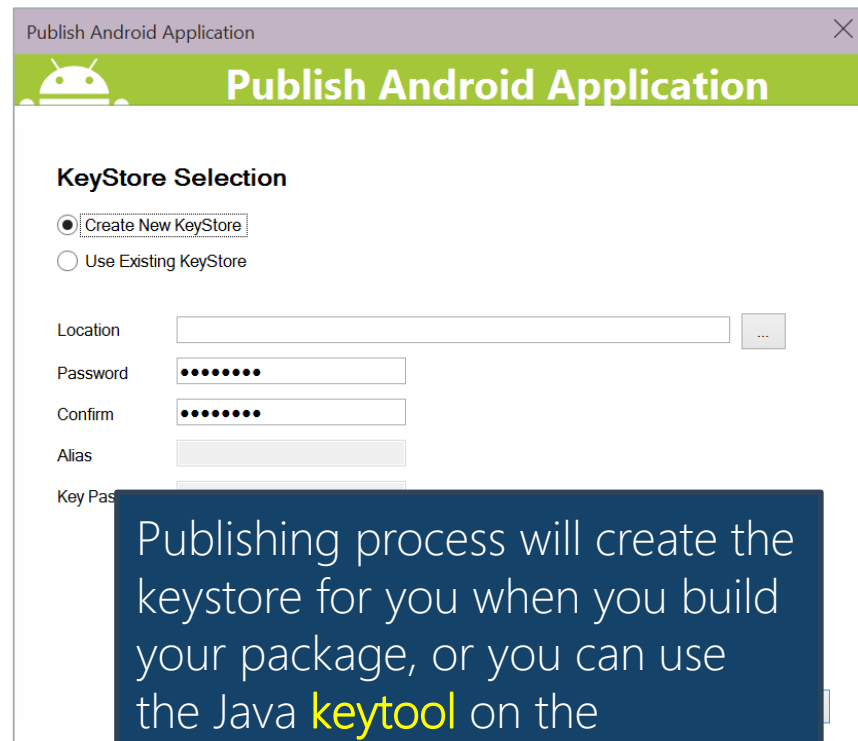
Creating the APK [Windows]

- ❖ Can create the APK in release-build configuration with **Tools > Android > Publish Android App**, this just saves the file to your local machine



What is a Keystore?

- ❖ The **keystore** is a certificate key pair used to sign your application and identify you as the publisher
- ❖ Typically will use the same release keystore for all your apps
- ❖ Should save off the release keystore, signing key is considered part of the app identity



Publish Android Application

Keystore Selection

☒ Create New KeyStore
☐ Use Existing KeyStore


Location: ...
 Password:
 Confirm:
 Alias:
 Key Password:

Publishing process will create the keystore for you when you build your package, or you can use the Java **keytool** on the command line

Summary

1. Create an APK using Visual Studio
2. Sign your application using a keystore





Submit your application
for publishing



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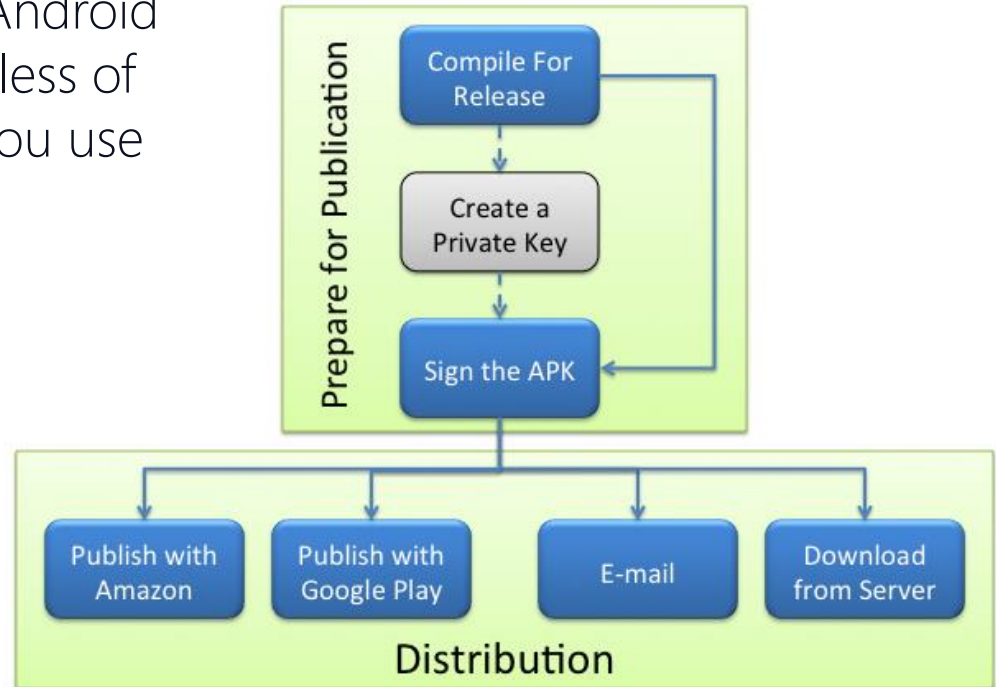
Tasks

1. Side-load an application
2. Submit your application to the Google Play Store
3. Submit your application to the Amazon app store



Publishing an Android app

- ❖ The steps used to publish an Android app is always the same regardless of the distribution method that you use



Android Deployment styles

- ❖ Android is quite flexible in terms of distributing applications (APK)

A blue parallelogram shape representing the side-loading deployment style.

Side-loading

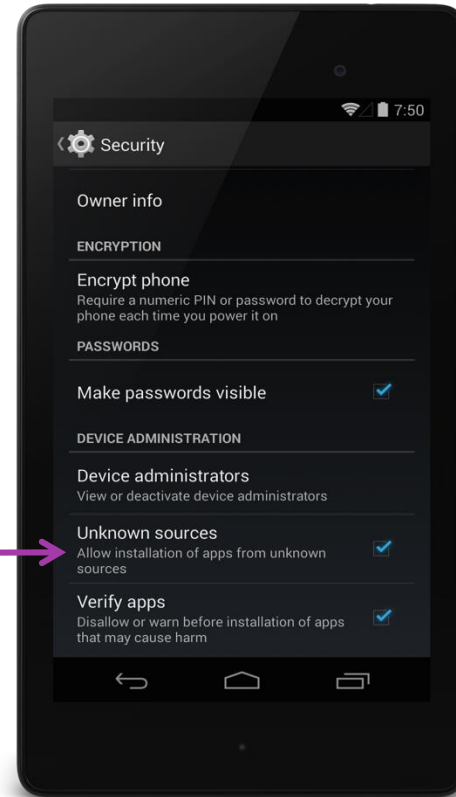
A purple parallelogram shape representing the store publishing deployment style.

Store
publishing

Side-loading

- ❖ The signed APK can be installed onto any Android device using the device browser, one of several GUI tools or **adb**

The device must allow
"unknown publishers" in
Settings > Security



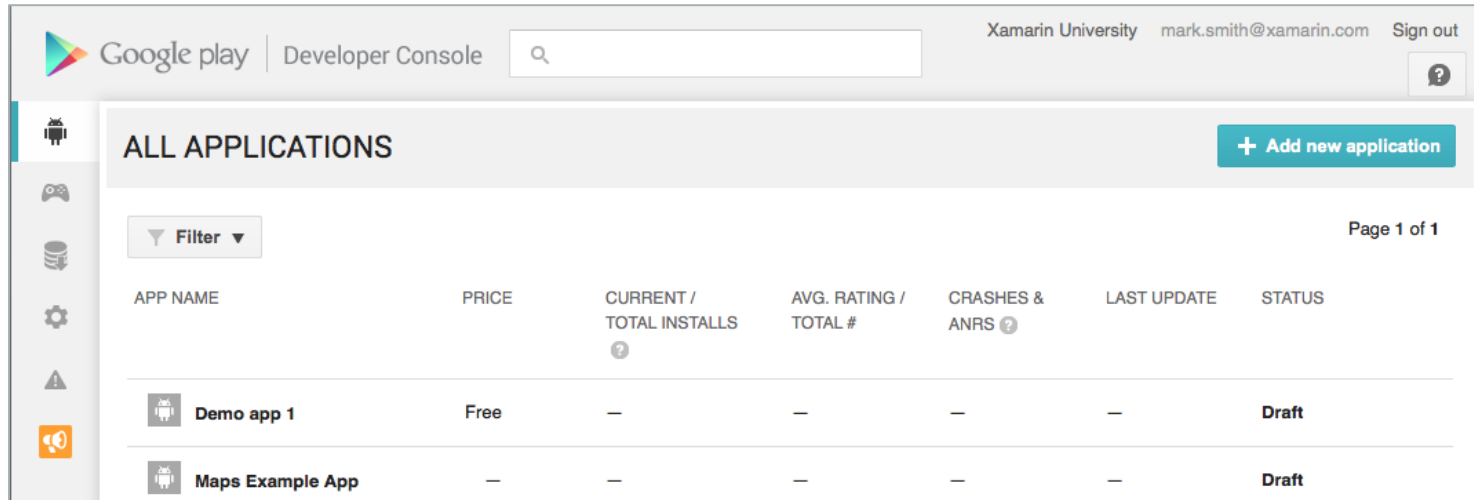
Store publishing

- ❖ Android has many stores you can publish your apps to, consider publishing to at least [Google Play](#) and [Amazon](#) for the broadest distribution and look at other online venues for more specialized audiences



Google Play

- ❖ Google Play store is the official distribution host from Google



The screenshot displays the Google Play Developer Console interface. At the top, the header includes the Google Play logo, 'Developer Console', a search bar, and user information for 'Xamarin University' with email 'mark.smith@xamarin.com' and a 'Sign out' link. A sidebar on the left contains navigation icons for various console features. The main content area is titled 'ALL APPLICATIONS' and includes a '+ Add new application' button. Below this is a 'Filter' dropdown and 'Page 1 of 1' indicator. A table lists the applications with columns for App Name, Price, Current / Total Installs, Avg. Rating / Total #, Crashes & ANRS, Last Update, and Status.

APP NAME	PRICE	CURRENT / TOTAL INSTALLS	AVG. RATING / TOTAL #	CRASHES & ANRS	LAST UPDATE	STATUS
Demo app 1	Free	—	—	—	—	Draft
Maps Example App	—	—	—	—	—	Draft

play.google.com/apps/publish/

Creating a new app in Google Play

- ❖ Simple process to add a new app into the store

Google play | Developer Console

Xamarin University mark.smith@xamarin.com Sign out

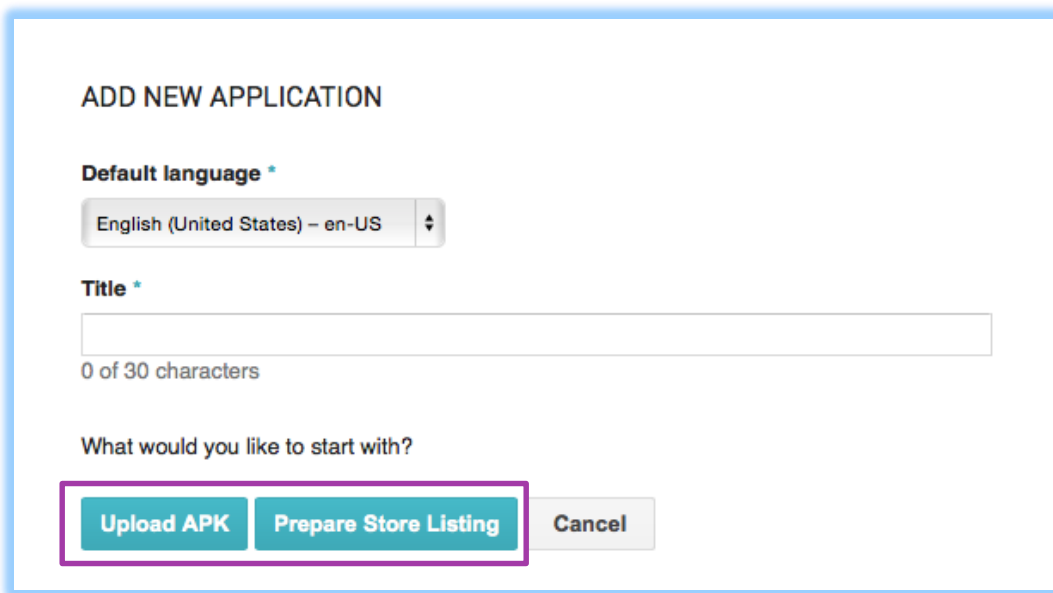
ALL APPLICATIONS + Add new application

Filter ▼ Page 1 of 1

APP NAME	PRICE	CURRENT / TOTAL INSTALLS	AVG. RATING / TOTAL #	CRASHES & ANRS	LAST UPDATE	STATUS
Demo app 1	Free	—	—	—	—	Draft
Maps Example App	—	—	—	—	—	Draft

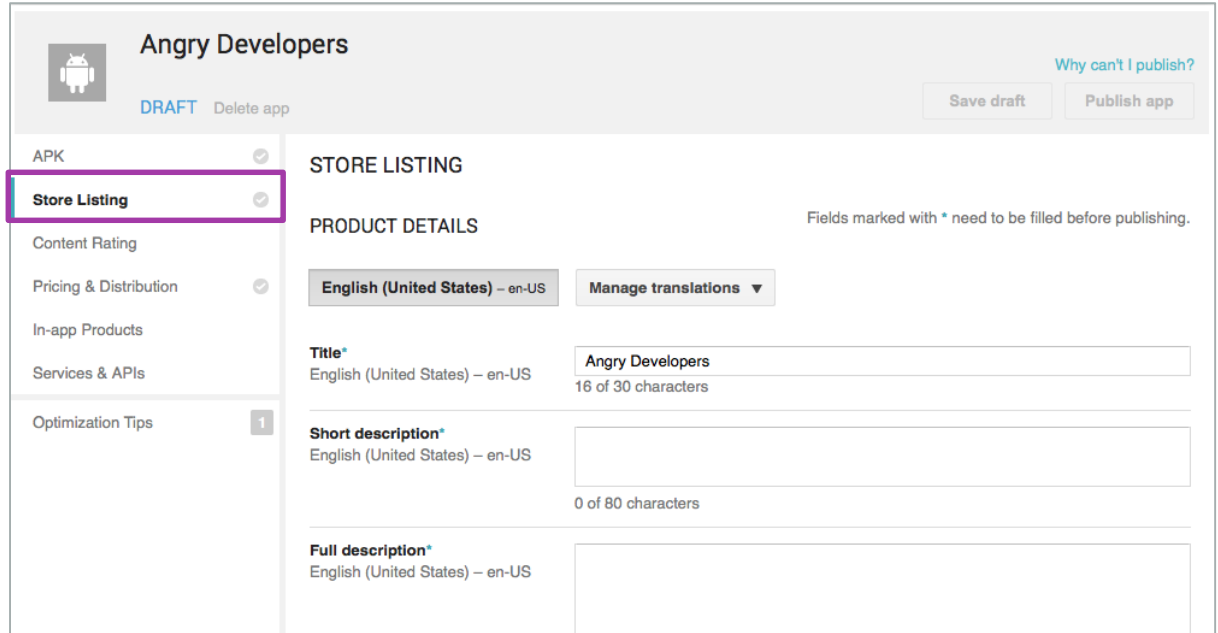
Creating a new app in Google Play

- ❖ Simple process to add a new app into the store

A screenshot of the 'ADD NEW APPLICATION' form in the Google Play Console. The form is titled 'ADD NEW APPLICATION' in bold. Below the title, there is a 'Default language *' section with a dropdown menu showing 'English (United States) - en-US'. Below that is a 'Title *' section with a text input field and a character count '0 of 30 characters'. At the bottom, there is a question 'What would you like to start with?' followed by three buttons: 'Upload APK', 'Prepare Store Listing', and 'Cancel'. The 'Upload APK' and 'Prepare Store Listing' buttons are highlighted with a purple border.

Fill in the application info

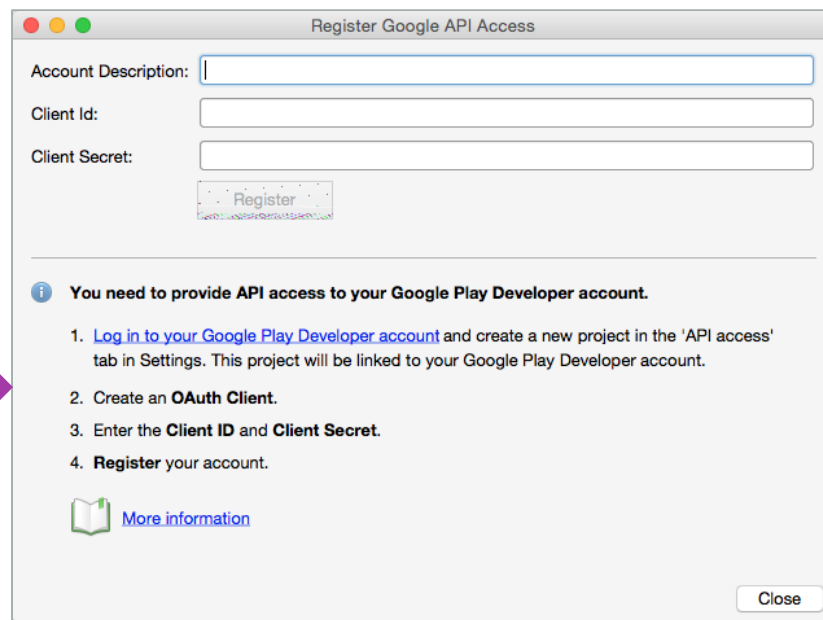
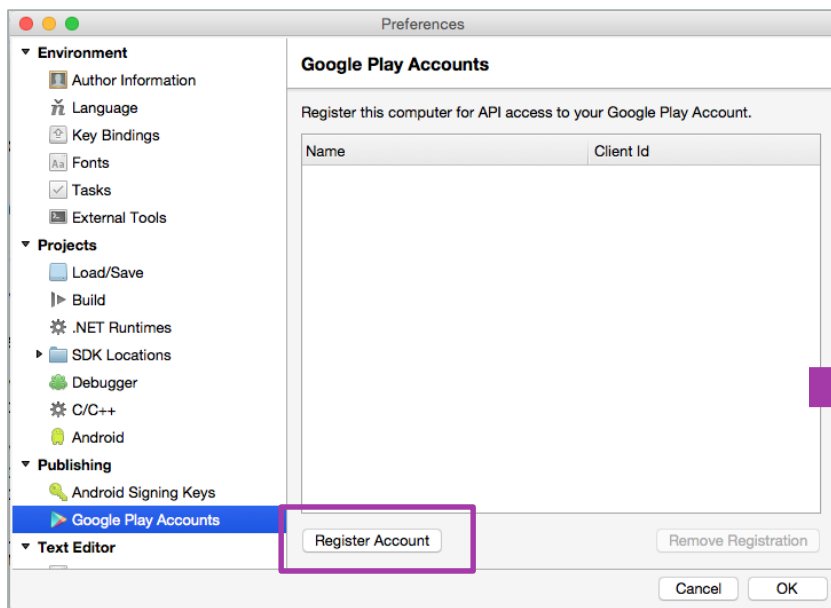
- Title
- Description
- Price
- Phone Screenshots
- Tablet Screenshots
- High-Res Icon
- Category Information
- Contact Details
- Rating Information
- Available Countries
- ...



The screenshot shows the Google Play Store interface for an app named "Angry Developers". The app is currently in a "DRAFT" state. The left sidebar contains a list of sections: APK, Store Listing (highlighted with a purple box), Content Rating, Pricing & Distribution, In-app Products, Services & APIs, and Optimization Tips. The main content area is titled "STORE LISTING" and "PRODUCT DETAILS". It shows the app is listed for "English (United States) - en-US". The "Title" field is filled with "Angry Developers" (16 of 30 characters). The "Short description" field is empty (0 of 80 characters). The "Full description" field is also empty. A note at the top right states: "Fields marked with * need to be filled before publishing."

Registering Google dev account [Mac]

- ❖ Visual Studio for Mac has built-in support to publish to the Google Play Store



Uploading the APK manually

- ❖ Click the Upload Application button on your application's developer console page to prompt you to upload the APK manually

Upload new APK

Required: Select your application's APK

Choose File

No file chosen

Upload

Optional: Add an expansion file

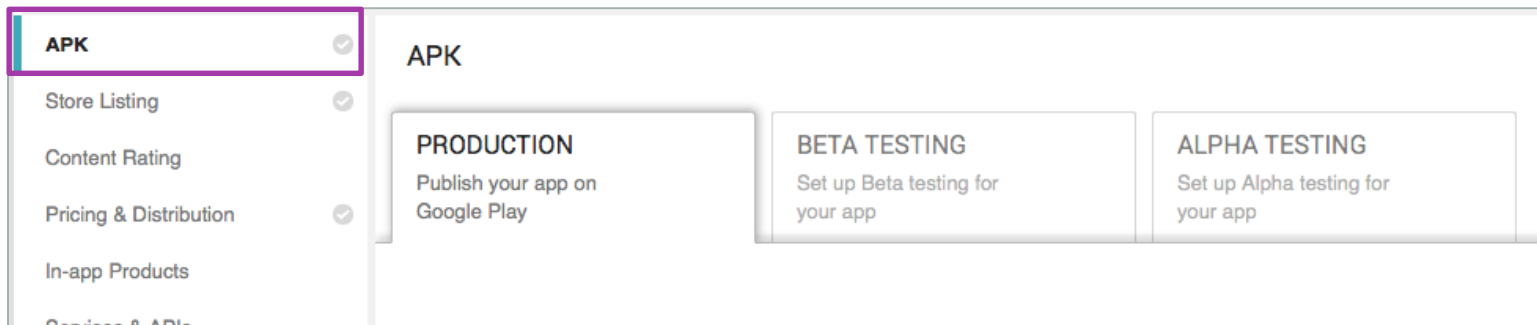
If your app exceeds the 50MB APK limit, you can add expansion files. [Learn more](#)

Add file

Close


Alpha and Beta Testing

- ❖ Can invite alpha and beta testers to privately test your app



Review process

- ❖ Once you publish the application on the Google Play Store, your app will enter a review process – similar to the Apple AppStore
- ❖ Reviewers look for violations of the published Developer program policies
- ❖ Can check publishing status on the app page in the developer console

The Google Play logo, consisting of a colorful triangle made of four smaller triangles in green, yellow, red, and blue.

Google play

Google Play Developer Program Policies

The policies listed below play an important role in maintaining a positive experience for everyone using Google Play. Defined terms used here have the same meaning as in the [Developer Distribution Agreement](#). Be sure to check back from time to time, as these policies may change.

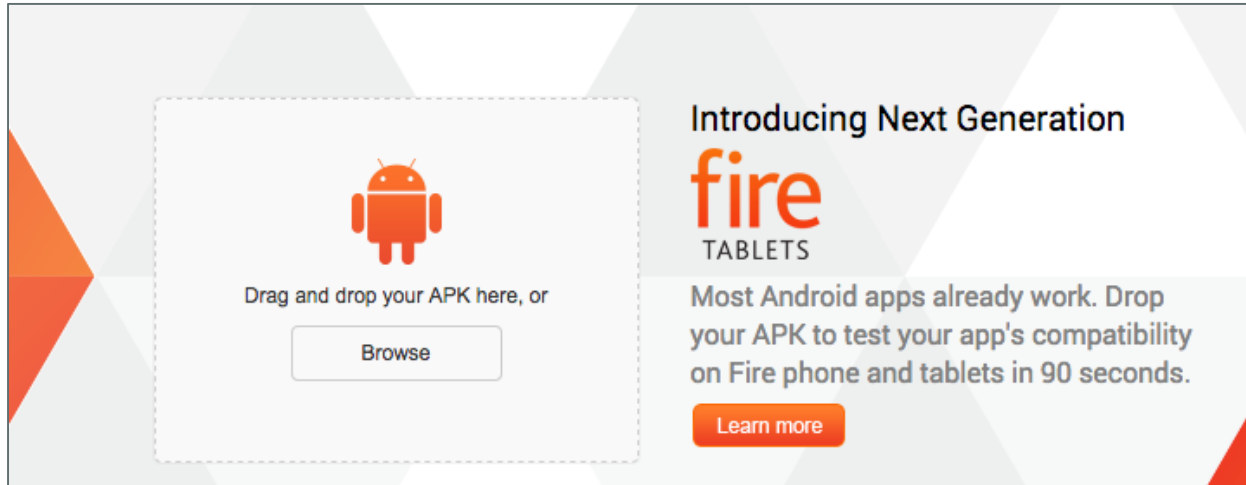
Content Policies

Our content policies apply to any content your app displays or links to, including any ads it shows to users and any user-generated content it hosts or links to. Further, they apply to any content from your developer account which is publicly displayed in Google Play, including your developer name and the landing page of your listed developer website. In addition to complying with these policies, the content of your app must be rated in accordance with our [Content Rating Guidelines](#).

- **Sexually Explicit Material:** Apps that contain or promote pornography are prohibited; this includes sexually explicit or erotic content, icons, titles, or descriptions. Google has a zero-tolerance policy against child sexual abuse imagery. If we become aware of content with child sexual abuse imagery, we will report it to the appropriate authorities and delete the Google Accounts of those involved with the distribution.
- **Violence and Bullying:** Depictions of gratuitous violence are not allowed. Apps should not contain materials that threaten, harass or bully other users.
- **Hate Speech:** We don't allow content advocating against groups of people based on their race or ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender, age, veteran status, or sexual orientation/gender identity.
- **Impersonation or Deceptive Behavior:** Don't pretend to be someone else, and don't represent that your app is authorized by or produced by another company

Amazon Appstore for Android

- ❖ Amazon has a store intended for their Fire devices, your app must run properly on Fire to be accepted into their store



developer.amazon.com/appsandservices/

Adding a new application

- ❖ Once you have a registered (free) account, you can use the developer console to add a new application

The screenshot displays the Xamarin Developer Console interface. At the top, there are two main sections: 'Developer Communications' and 'Services'. The 'Developer Communications' section contains a table of announcements. The 'Services' section includes a 'Mobile Ads' card and a list of 'Additional Services'. At the bottom, there is a 'Dashboard' section. A large yellow button labeled 'Add a New App' is prominently displayed in the center-right, circled by a white oval. Below this button, there is a smaller, similar button.

Developer Communications

Announcements	Notifications
Fire, Amazon's First Smartphone, N...	Sep 8, 2014
New IDC Report - The Case for Dev...	Jun 11, 2014
Introducing Amazon Fire TV	Apr 2, 2014
Introducing HTML5 Paid Web Apps	Jan 28, 2014

Services

Mobile Ads
Use Mobile Ads to monetize your iOS, Android and Fire OS apps with great eCPM.

Additional Services
Earn: Monetize your apps with [Mobile Ads](#), [In-App Purchase](#), and [Mobile Associates](#).
Engage: Connect with your customers using [Login with Amazon](#), [GameCircle](#), and [Device Messaging](#).
Test: Optimize your apps with [App Testing Service](#), [Live App Testing](#), and [A/B Testing](#).
Promote: Market your app using the [Promotions Console](#), [Free App of the Day](#), and [Appstore Developer Select](#).

Dashboard

[App Sales \(Units\)](#) | [In-App Item Sales \(Units\)](#) | [Mobile Ad Earnings](#)
Nothing Found

Add a New App

Uploading your app

- ❖ Entered information is almost identical to what is used in the Google Play Store, but tailored to Amazon's ecosystem

Select the Fire devices your app is compatible with

Test App

Current Version (Incomplete) | Live App Testing | Reviews | In-App Items (0) | GameCircle | Maps | Device Messaging | Security Profile | Login with Amazon

General Information | Availability & Pricing | Description | Images & Multimedia | Content Rating | **Binary File(s)**

* indicates a required field.

Save and Add a Binary

Apply Amazon DRM? *
Protect your application from unauthorized use. Without DRM, your app can be used without restrictions by any user.
☒ Yes (Recommended) ☐ No

Binary file *
Please SFTP binary files larger than 150MB.
[SFTP instructions and naming convention](#)

Device Support *
Please select only the devices you intend to target with this binary file. If you are providing multiple binaries, options selected here will be disabled on subsequent uploads.

- ☒ All non-Amazon Android devices based on my manifest
- ☒ Kindle Fire (1st Gen)
- ☒ Kindle Fire (2nd Gen)
- ☒ Kindle Fire HD 7 (2nd Gen)
- ☒ Kindle Fire HD 8.9 (2nd Gen)
- ☒ Kindle Fire HD 7 (3rd Gen)
- ☒ Kindle Fire HDX 7 (3rd Gen)
- ☒ Kindle Fire HDX 8.9 (3rd Gen)
- ☐ Amazon Fire TV

Summary

1. Publish an application
2. Side-load an application for testing



Thank You!

Please complete the class survey in your profile:
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