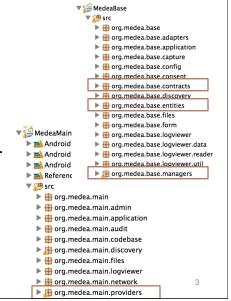
Content Providers

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DEFINING A CONTENT PROVIDER

- · Define contract class
 - contracts package
- Define entity class
 - entities package
- Define content provider
 - providers package
- Define manager class
 - managers package



CONTRACT CLASS

Contract Class

```
Authority:

Extension of app namespace:
"edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore"

Content path:

Name of table: ("books") or item ("books/17")

Content URI

CONTENT_URI(authority, path) =
new Uri.Builder().scheme("content")
.authority(authority)
.path(path)
.build();

CONTENT_URI = CONTENT_URI("edu...", "books")
Content://edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore/books
```

Contract Class

Useful operations

Contract Class

Useful operations

```
CONTENT_PATH(Uri uri) = uri.getPath().substring(1);
                        // Trim leading "/"
CONTENT_PATH = CONTENT_PATH(CONTENT_URI);
CONTENT_PATH_ITEM = CONTENT_PATH(CONTENT_URI("#"));
    content://edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore/books
                       books
                     books/#
```

Contract Class

· Content types

```
contentType(content) =
        "vnd.android.cursor/vnd."
               + APP NAMESPACE + "." + content + "s";
   vnd.android.cursor/vnd.edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore.books
    contentItemType(content) =
        "vnd.android.cursor.item/vnd."
              + APP_NAMESPACE + "." +content;
vnd.android.cursor.item/vnd.edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore.book
```

Contract Class

Column identifiers:

```
public static final String TITLE = "title";
public static final int TITLE_KEY = 1;
```

Accessor operations for columns

```
public String getTitle(Cursor cursor) {
   int colIndex = cursor.getColumnIndexOrThrow(TITLE);
   return cursor.getString(colIndex);
}

public void putTitle(ContentValues values, String title){
   values.put(TITLE, title);
}
```

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Contract Class

Identity Column:

```
public static final String _ID = "_id";
public static final int _ID_KEY = 0;
```

• Accessor operations for identity column:

```
public long getId(Cursor cursor) {
   int colIndex = cursor.getColumnIndexOrThrow(_ID);
   return cursor.getLong(colIndex);
}
```

Rely on database insertion to set value for _ID

DEFINE ENTITY CLASS

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Entity Class

- Define fields for entity
- Implement Parcelable
 - Constructor(Parcel in)
 - void writeToParcel(Parcel out, int flags)
- Accessor operations for provider
 - Use operations from contract
 - Constructor(Cursor in)
 - void writeToProvider(ContentValues values)

Entity Class: Example

```
public class Book implements Parcelable {
   public long id;
   public String title;

   public Book(Parcel in) { ... }
   public void writeToParcel(Parcel out) { ... }

   public Book(Cursor in) {
      this.id = BookContract.getId(in);
      this.title = BookContract.getString(in);
   }

   public void writeToProvider(ContentValues out) {
      BookContract.putTitle(this.title);
      ...
   }
}
```

DEFINE CONTENT PROVIDER

```
content://edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore/books/
content://edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore/books/17

public class BookProvider extends ContentProvider {

@Override
public boolean onCreate () {
    // TODO Construct the underlying database.
    return true;
}

// Create the constants used to differentiate
// between the different URI requests.
private static final int ALL_ROWS = 1;
private static final int SINGLE_ROW = 2;
```

Remember this?

• Useful contract operations

```
content://edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore/books/
                 content://edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore/books/17
public class BookProvider extends ContentProvider {
  . . .
 // Used to dispatch operation based on URI
  private static final UriMatcher uriMatcher;
 // uriMatcher.addURI(AUTHORITY, CONTENT PATH, OPCODE)
  static {
    uriMatcher = new UriMatcher(UriMatcher.NO MATCH);
    uriMatcher.addURI(AUTHORITY,
                      CONTENT_PATH, ALL_ROWS);
                                                       books
    uriMatcher.addURI(AUTHORITY,
                                                       books/#
                      CONTENT PATH ITEM, SINGLE ROW);
  }
                                                           17
```

Defining a Content Provider

```
content://edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore/books/
                 content://edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore/books/17
public class BookProvider extends ContentProvider {
  . . .
 @Override
 public Cursor query (Uri uri, String[] projection,
                                 String selection,
String[] selectionArgs,
                                 String sort) {
   switch (uriMatcher.match(uri)) {
      case ALL_ROWS :
         // query the database
      case SINGLE ROW:
         String selection = BookContract._ID + "=?";
         String[] selectionArgs = { getId(uri) };
         // query the database
 }
                                                             18
```

```
content://edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore/books/
content://edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore/books/17

public class BookProvider extends ContentProvider {
    ...

@Override
public Cursor insert(Uri uri, ContentValues values) {
    long row = db.insert(TABLE_NAME, null, values);
    if (row > 0) {
        Uri instanceUri = BookContract.CONTENT_URI(row);

        ContentResolver cr =
            getContext().getContentResolver();
        cr.notifyChange(instanceUri, null);

        return instanceUri;
    }
    throw new SQLException("Insertion failed");
}
```

Defining a Content Provider

Defining a Content Provider

• Register the new content provider in the application manifest:

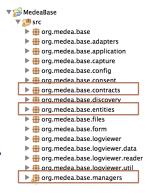
```
    android:name = ".providers.BookProvider"
    android:authorities =
        "edu.stevens.cs522.bookstore"
    android:exported = "false" />
```

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LOADING DATA

Best Practices

- Define entity classes
- Define contracts for providers
- Access provider via manager
- All accesses to 2^y storage are asynchronous
 - CursorLoader and LoaderManager
 - AsyncQueryHandler
 - persist, persistAsync, etc



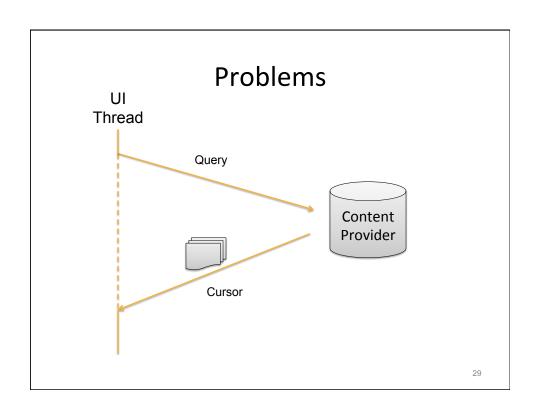
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How Not To Load Data

```
private void fillData(Cursor c) {
   // Which layout object to bind to which data object.
   String[] to = new String[] { CartDbAdapter.TITLE,
                                CartDbAdapter.AUTHOR };
   int[] from = new int[] { R.id.cart_row_title,
                            R.id.cart_row_author };
   this.adapter = new SimpleCursorAdapter(
                         // Context.
               this,
                R.layout.cart_row, // Row template
                         // Cursor encapsulates query result.
                          // Array of cursor columns to bind to.
                from);
                         // Parallel array of which layout objects
                          // to bind to those columns.
   ListView lv = (ListView)findViewById(android.R.id.list);
   lv.setAdapter(this.adapter);
```

Problems

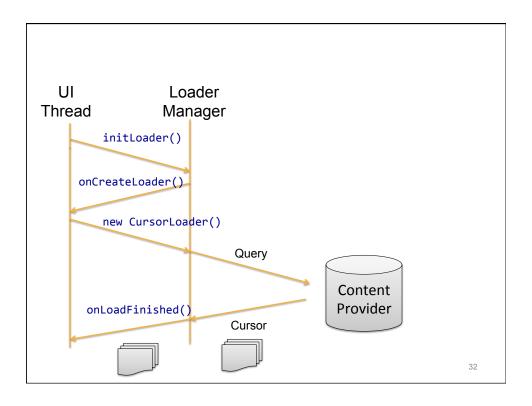
- managedQuery, startManagingCursor:
 - Re-queries database if activity is destroyed and recreated
- SimpleCursorAdapter constructor with cursor
 - Loads data on main UI thread





Solution: CursorLoader

- CursorLoader: Load data asynchronously in background
- LoaderManager: Manage cursor loaders (LoaderManager.LoaderCallbacks<Cursor>):
 - onCreateLoader()
 - onLoadFinished()



Create the Loader

- Implement the LoaderCallbacks interface
- Interact via callbacks with background loader

```
private static final int MY_LOADER_ID = 1;

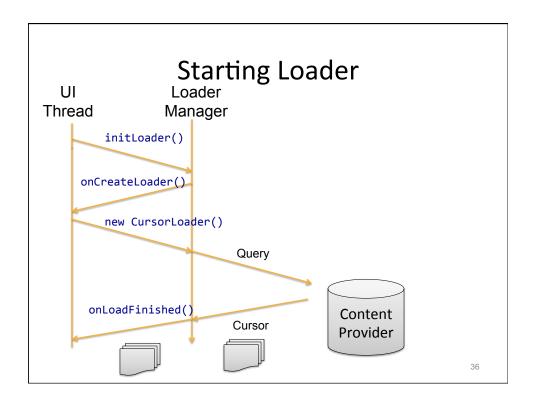
public class MyActivity extends Activity
    implements LoaderManager.LoaderCallbacks<Cursor>{

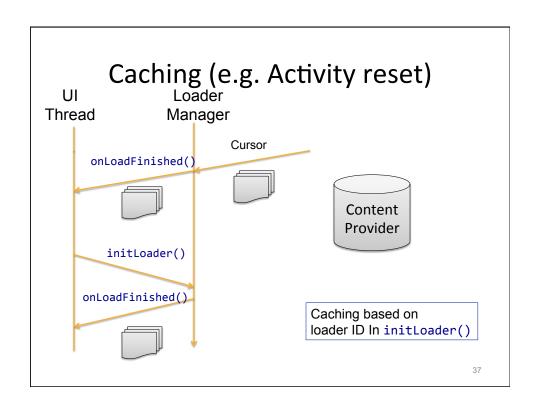
public void onCreate(Bundle instanceState) {
    ...
    fillData(null); // Initially no cursor

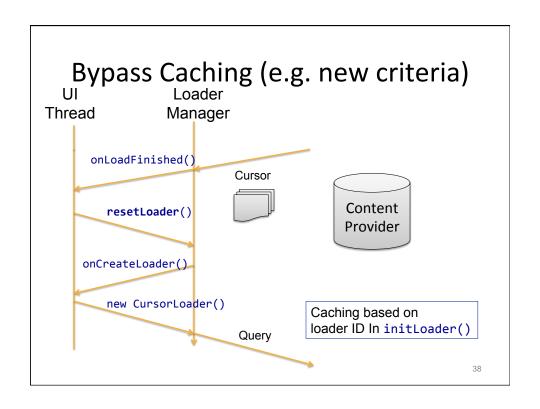
    LoaderManager lm = getLoaderManager();
    lm.initLoader(MY_LOADER_ID, null, this);
}
```

Start the Query

Respond to Query Completion







Multiple Loaders

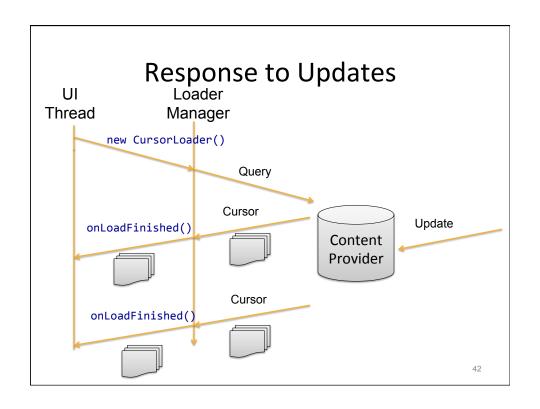
```
private static final int BOOKS_LOADER_ID = 1;
private static final int AUTHORS_LOADER_ID = 2;

public class MyActivity extends Activity
   implements LoaderManager.LoaderCallbacks<Cursor>{

public void onCreate(Bundle instanceState) {
   ...
   LoaderManager lm = getLoaderManager();
   lm.initLoader(BOOKS_LOADER_ID, null, this);
   lm.initLoader(AUTHORS_LOADER_ID, null, this);
   ...
}
```

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Multiple Loaders



Avoid This Scenario

- Example: Adding a book to a database
 - Read ISBN from UI
 - Query for ISBN already in database
 - If not found, insert into the database
 - (What happens next?)

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LoaderManager Don'ts

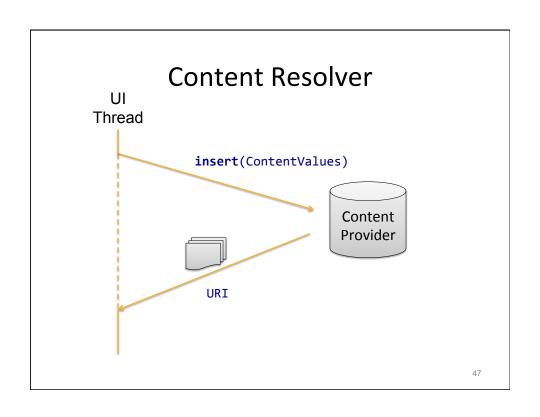
- Don't follow query with other work
- Don't reuse loader ID (within an activity)
 - onCreateLoader: create book cursor
 - onLoadFinished: swap into author adapter
- Don't close cursor
- Don't perform UI changes on loader callback
 - More next time

Loader Manager: Concluding Notes

- Pro
 - Asynchronous querying
 - Caching (fast UI reset)
 - Refresh after database update
- Con:
 - Only querying
 - Bureaucracy
 - Don't follow query with other work
- Purpose: Backend for list-driven UI

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ASYNC QUERY HANDLER





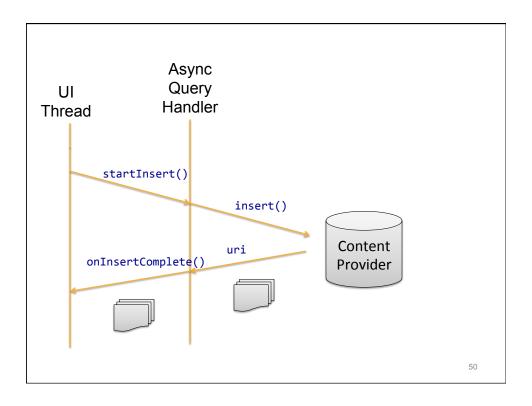
AsyncQueryHandler

• Defines API to start async operations

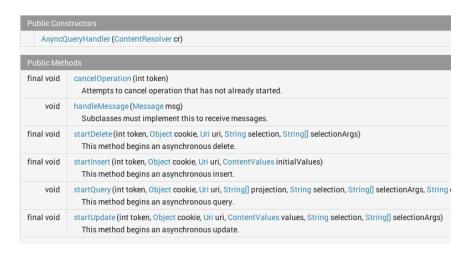
```
public class AsyncQueryHandler {
   public void startInsert(..., ContentValues v);
}
```

· Subclass to add callbacks

```
public class MyContentResolver extends AsyncQueryHandler {
    @Override
    public void onInsertComplete(..., Uri uri) {
        ...
}
```



AsyncQueryHandler



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AsyncQueryHandler



ASYNCHRONOUS CONTENT RESOLVER

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Continuation API

• Define this interface yourself:

```
public interface IContinue<T> {
    public void kontinue(T value);
}
```

Continuation API

• Synchronous API:

```
Y foo(X arg) { ... return result; }
```

• Asynchronous API:

```
public interface IContinue<T> {
    public void kontinue(T value);
}
void fooAsync(X arg, IContinue<Y> callback) {
    ... callback.kontinue(result);
}
```

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AsyncQueryHandler

AsyncContentResolver

AsyncContentResolver Client

AsyncContentResolver Client

A sync Content Resolver

```
public class AsyncContentResolver extends AsyncQueryHandler {
  public void queryAsync(Uri uri, String[] projection,
                         String selection, String[] selectionArgs,
                         String sortOrder,
                         IContinue<Cursor> callback) {
    this.startQuery(0, callback, uri, projection,
                    selection, selectionArgs, sortOrder);
  }
  @Override
  public void onQueryComplete(int token, Object cookie, Cursor c) {
    if (cookie != null) {
      @SuppressWarnings("unchecked")
      IContinue<Cursor> callback = (IContinue<Cursor>) cookie;
      callback.kontinue(c);
    }
  }
                                                               60
```

AsyncContentResolver

ASYNCHRONOUS QUERY FACTORIES

Entity Creator

• Interface for entity factory

```
public interface IEntityCreator<T> {
    public T create(Cursor cursor);
}
```

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Simple Query Listener

• Callback for query results

```
public interface ISimpleQueryListener<T> {
    public void handleResults(List<T> results);
}
```

Simple Query

· Factory for queries

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Simple Query

Factory for queries

Simple Query

· Factory for queries

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Simple Query

Example client

Simple Query

Example client

Simple Query

· Factory for queries

Loader Queries

• Callback for loader-managed queries

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Loader Queries

Loader Queries

Loader Queries

Loader Queries

Loader Queries

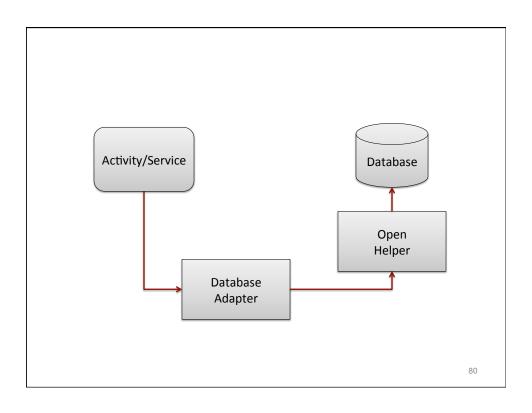
Loader Queries

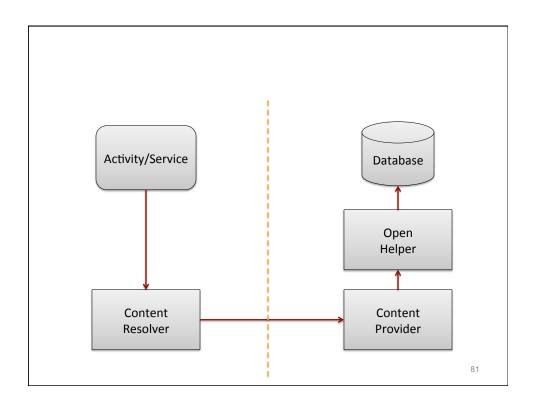
Example client

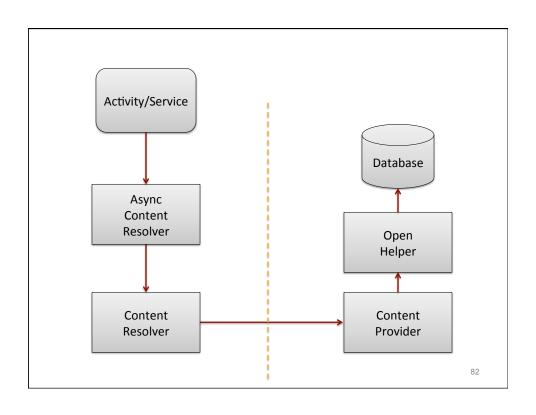
ENTITY MANAGER

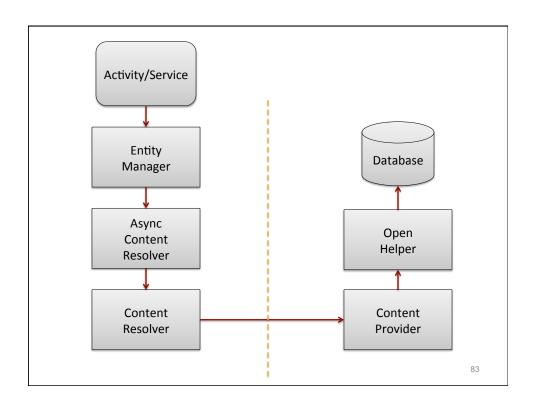
Entity Manager

- Data Access Object (DAO) for entities
 Client-side adapter for content provider
- Encapsulates asynchronous operations
- Encapsulates use of content provider
- Type-safe application-specific operations









Manager Class

Manager Class

```
public abstract class Manager<T> {
   private ContentResolver syncResolver;
   private AsyncContentResolver asyncResolver;

   protected ContentResolver getSyncResolver() {
     if (syncResolver == null)
        syncResolver = context.getContentResolver();
     return syncResolver;
   }

   protected AsyncContentResolver getAsyncResolver() {
     if (asyncResolver == null)
        asyncResolver =
        new AsyncContentResolver(context.getContentResolver());
     return asyncResolver;
   }
}
```

Manager Class

Manager Class

Synchronous vs Asynchronous Operations

- Synchronous
 - Use on background threads
 Uri insert(Book book);
- Asynchronous (UI thread)
 - (Typically) Continuation as last parameter

Synchronous vs Asynchronous Operations

- Synchronous
 - Use on background threads
 Book search(String title);
- Asynchronous (UI thread)
 - (Typically) Continuation as last parameter

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Synchronous vs Asynchronous Operations

- Synchronous
 - Use on background threads
 List<Book> search(String title);
- Asynchronous (UI thread)
 - (Typically) Continuation as last parameter

Synchronous vs Asynchronous Operations

- Synchronous
 - Use on background threads
 TypedCursor<Book> getAll();
- Asynchronous (UI thread)
 - (Typically) Continuation as last parameter

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FILE PROVIDER

File Content

- · Remote access to files
- Server side:

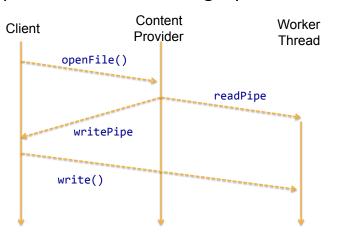
• Client side:

```
getContentResolver().openOutputStream(uri)
```

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File Processing

• Example: Want to check integrity of new files



File Processing with Pipes

```
public ParcelFileDescriptor openFile(Uri uri, String mode) {
   ParcelFileDescriptor[] pipe =
        ParcelFileDescriptor.createPipe();
   final ParcelFileDescriptor readPipe = pipe[0];
   ParcelFileDescriptor writePipe = pipe[1];

final File file = ... // identify file from uri
   new Thread(new Runnable() {
        public void run() {
            InputStream is = new AutocloseInputStream(readPipe);
            // read into a buffer and check integrity
            OutputStream os = new FileOutputStream(file);
            // copy from the buffer to this output file
        }
        }).start();
    return writePipe;
}
```

CONCLUSIONS

Content Providers vs Databases

- Pro:
 - Shares data between apps
 - Supported by cursor loader & loader manager
 - Cache database connections
 - All operations routed through singleton object
 - Synchronization not relying on database
- Con:
 - Bureaucracy
 - Security (exported = "false" in Manifest)
 - Encapsulate transactions

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Resource Leaks

- Always close your cursor
 - Unless using a cursor loader & loader manager
- Always close your DB connections
 - Except in a content provider