

Michael Evans

A bunch of technobabble.

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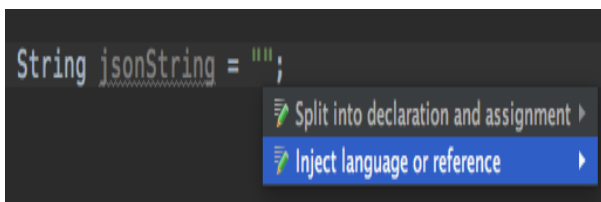
Android Studio Tips and Tricks

Jan 6th, 2016 | [Comments](#)

I recently attended Google's [Android Dev Summit](#) where the Tools team presented a talk entitled [Android Studio For Experts](#). The room was packed for the 90 minute session, where a lot of great Android Studio tips were shared. This gave me the idea of showing off some of my favorite Android Studio tips!

Language Injection

Ever needed to type a JSON String? Perhaps you've used one as a text fixture for one of your GSON deserializers and know that it's a huge pain to manage all those backslashes. Fortunately, IntelliJ has a feature called *Language Injection*, which allows you to edit the JSON fragment in its own editor, and then IntelliJ will properly inject that fragment into your code as an escaped String.



Inject Language/Reference is an intention action¹, so you can start it by using `⇧+Return`, or `⌘+⇧+A` and searching for it.

```
4
5 String jsonString = "{\"name\": \"foo\"}";
6 |
7 }
8
```

JSON Fragment (Main.java:86).json x

name

```
1 {"name": "foo"}
```

Check RegExp

This is pretty similar to the last tip, but if you select the language of the fragment as “RegExp”, you’ll get a handy regular expression tester!

```
String colorRegex = "^#?([a-f0-9]{6}|[a-f0-9]{3})$";
}
```

- Extract string resource
- Move initializer to constructor
- Split into declaration and initialization
- Check RegExp**
- Edit RegExp Fragment

```
String colorRegex = "^#?([a-f0-9]{6}|[a-f0-9]{3})$";
}
```

RegExp: `^#?([a-f0-9]{6}|[a-f0-9]{3})$`

Sample: `#dddddd`

Matches!

```
String colorRegex = "^#?([a-f0-9]{6}|[a-f0-9]{3})$";
}
```

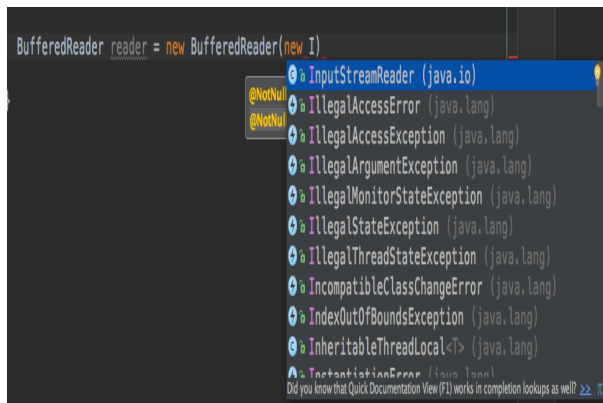
RegExp: `^#?([a-f0-9]{6}|[a-f0-9]{3})$`

Sample: `#ggg`

no match

Smart(er) Completion

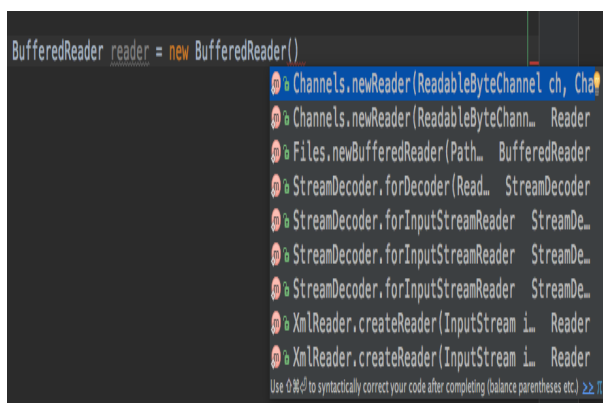
Now I'm pretty sure most of you have used IntelliJ's code completion features. Press `⌘+Space`, and IntelliJ/Android Studio lists options to complete the names of classes, methods, fields, and keywords within the visibility scope. But have you ever noticed that the suggestions seem to be based off the characters you've typed, rather than the actual *types* that are expected in the scope of the caret? Something like this:



Well if you use *Type Completion* (by pressing `⌘+⌥+Space`), you will see a list of suggestions containing only those types that are applicable to the current context. In the example below, you'll only get types that return a `Reader`, which is the type that the `BufferedReader`'s constructor expects:



What's even cooler is that you can press it an additional time, and IntelliJ will do a deeper scan (looking at static method calls, chained expressions, etc.) to find more options for you:



Discovering Your Own Tips and Tricks

Another really cool feature is the *Productivity Guide*. It shows you usage statistics for a lot of IntelliJ's features, such as how many keystrokes you have saved or possible bugs you've avoided by using the various shortcuts. It's also very helpful for discovering features you might not have known about; you can scroll

through the list of unused features to see what you're missing out on! To find the productivity guide, go to Help -> Productivity Guide.

Productivity Guide

IntelliJ IDEA uptime: 7 minutes, idle time: 4 minutes

Code completion has saved you from typing at least 3.7K characters since 1/11/15 (~209 per working day)

Quick fixes have saved you from 89 possible bugs since 1/11/15 (~5 per working day)

Feature	Group	Used	Last used ▲
Smart type completion	Code Completion	17 times	moments ago
Go to action	UI Usability Features	9 times	moments ago
Variable name completion	Code Completion	781 times	21 minutes ago
Basic code completion	Code Completion	656 times	21 minutes ago
Syntax aware selection	Code Editing	383 times	24 minutes ago
Go to declaration	Navigation	132 times	33 minutes ago
Comment/Uncomment cu...	Code Assistants	51 times	54 minutes ago
Camel prefixes in code c...	Code Completion	3 times	56 minutes ago
Postfix completion	Code Completion	Once	one hour ago
Override/Implement met...	Code Assistants	6 times	one month ago

?

Close

Bonus Round – IntelliJ 15 Only

Did you know IntelliJ has [its own REST client](#)? Super handy for testing out API calls without something like [Paw](#) or [Postman](#).

Have any other favorite tips or tricks? Let me know!

1. [Intention Actions](#) are those suggestions in the little popup menus that allow you to quick-fix things like classes that haven't been imported, etc.[↪](#)

Posted by Michael Evans Jan 6th, 2016 [Android](#), [Development](#)

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Rafael de Araújo • a year ago

Nice tips, but how about put the shortcuts for non mac users also?
regards!

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Mike Evans Mod ➔ Rafael de Araújo • a year ago

Thanks for the feedback, I'll make sure to do that in future posts (and go back and update this one)!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



fantasy1022 • a year ago

Awesome! Help me a lot.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Seth Feng • a year ago

Nice!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Catalin George Festila • a year ago

The article is good , but can I ask to make one article about Android Studio - news, files , settings and update the old projects. Or maybe steps into Android Studio - testing projects. I don't see a newsfeed or newsletter into your website. Why ?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Mike Evans Mod ➔ Catalin George Festila • a year ago

What exactly would you like to read about?

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^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Catalin George Festila ➔ Mike Evans • a year ago

I add it to feddly. I try ADB over WiFi , but seam not working . I need more tutorials about Android Studio because come with many icons and way to used and I don't see any tutorials about that issue (for example: Refractor system).

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Jenus • a year ago

Good Article, but minor part to explain more detail please, thanks. "edit the JSON fragment in its own editor?" How to connected? Use what kind of editor to edit original Json fragment?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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