How to have a default database

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SDK Version: M3

If you want to include a database (#) with initial data in your apk, you have to insert the database file (#) into the projects assets folder, then programmatically check if the database, and if it does not exists copy the one from the assets.

You will need a function to check if the database exists, fox example:

```
1.   private static final String (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Astring+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feeling%20Luck
     y) DATABASE_NAME = "testdatabase";
2.   private static final String (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Astring+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feeling%20Luck
     y) DB_PATH =
     "/data/data/"+mContext.getPackageName()+"/databases/";
3.
4.   private boolean isDataBaseExist() {
5.        File (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Afile+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feeling%20Lucky)
     dbFile = new File (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Afile+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feeling%20Lucky)
     (DB_PATH+DATABASE_NAME);
6.        return dbFile.exists();
7.   }
```

If the check shows that the the database does not exist, a function like this will copy it:

```
1.   private void copyDataBase() throws IOException
     (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Aioexception+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feeling%2
     0Lucky) {
2.        // Open your local db as the input stream
3.        InputStream (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Ainputstream+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feeling%2
     0Lucky) myInput =
     mContext.getAssets().open("databases/"+DATABASE_NAME);
4.        // Path to the just created empty db
5.        String (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Astring+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feeling%20Luck
     y) outFileName = DB_PATH + DATABASE_NAME;
6.        OutputStream (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Aoutputstream+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feeling%
     20Lucky) myOutput = new FileOutputStream
     (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Afileoutputstream+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feel
     ing%20Lucky) (outFileName);
7.        // transfer bytes from the inputfile to the outputfile
8.        byte[] buffer = new byte[1024];
9.        int length;
10.       while ((length = myInput.read(buffer)) > 0) {
```

```
11.                myOutput.write(buffer, 0, length);
12.        }
13.        // Close the streams
14.        myOutput.flush();
15.        myOutput.close();
16.        myInput.close();
17. }
```

I usually use SQLiteOpenHelper, so I add the methods above to the SQLiteOpenHelper class, and use the following code to open the database:

```
 1. try{
 2.        mDbHelper = new DatabaseHelper(mContext);
 3.        boolean isExist = mDbHelper.isDataBaseExist();
 4.        if(!mDbHelper.isDataBaseExist()){
 5.                //get database, we will override it in next steep
 6.                //but folders containing the database are created
 7.                mDb = mDbHelper.getWritableDatabase();
 8.                mDb.close();
 9.                //copy database
10.                mDbHelper.copyDataBase();

11.        }
12.        mDb = mDbHelper.getWritableDatabase();
13. }catch(SQLException (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Asqlexception+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feeling%
     20Lucky) eSQL){
14.        Log.e("log_tag","Can not open database");
15. }
16. catch (IOException (http://www.google.com/search?
     hl=en&q=allinurl%3Aioexception+java.sun.com&btnI=I%27m%20Feeling%2
     0Lucky) IOe) {
17.        Log.e("log_tag","Can not copy initial database");
18. }
```

As you can see each method handles the database as a general file, so it can be used for any file you want to have a default "value" in your application.

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