

Advanced Mobile Application Development

Week 3: Table Views and Search

Table Views

<https://developer.apple.com/design/human-interface-guidelines/ios/views/tables/>

Tables should be used to present a large set of items in the form of a list. A table presents data as a scrolling, single-column list of rows.

In conjunction with navigation controllers they are used to navigate through hierarchical data.

Table views have three styles:

- Plain
 - Rows can be separated into labeled sections
 - Can have an optional index along the right edge
- Grouped
 - Rows are displayed in groups
 - Must have at least 1 group and each group must have at least 1 row
 - No index
- Inset grouped
 - Rows are displayed in groups that are inset from the edges of the parent view
 - Groups have rounded corners
 - Must have at least 1 group and each group must have at least 1 row
 - Works best in a regular width
 - No index

All styles can have a header and footer

The **UITableViewController** class is a view controller that manages a table view.

<https://developer.apple.com/documentation/uikit/uitableViewController>

The **UITableView** class displays data in a table view rows in a single column.

<https://developer.apple.com/documentation/uikit/uitableview>

The **UITableViewDelegate** protocol manages table row configuration and selection, row reordering, highlighting, accessory views, and editing operations.

The **UITableViewDataSource** protocol handles constructing tables and managing the data model when rows of a table are inserted, deleted, or reordered.

Table views can have an unlimited number of rows but only display only a few rows at a time.

In order to show data in the tables quickly, table views don't load all the rows, only the ones that need to be displayed at the time. Then as rows scroll off the screen they are placed in a queue to be reused.

The `dequeueReusableCell(withIdentifier: for:)` method returns a reusable cell by dequeuing an existing cell if one is available otherwise by creating a new one

- The reuse identifier is a string used to identify a cell that is reusable

Reusing cells is the best way to guarantee smooth table view scrolling performance.

Table Rows

Each row in a table is a cell managed by the **UITableViewCell** class.

<https://developer.apple.com/documentation/uikit/uitableviewcell>

There are four standard table cell styles [enum UITableViewCell.CellStyle](https://developer.apple.com/documentation/uikit/uitableviewcell) or you can create a custom one. <https://developer.apple.com/design/human-interface-guidelines/ios/views/tables/>

1. Basic (default)
 - a simple cell style that has a single title left aligned and an optional image. Good option for displaying items that don't require supplementary information. ([UITableViewCellStyleDefault](#))
2. Subtitle
 - left-aligns the main title and puts a gray subtitle left aligned under it. It also permits an image in the default image location. This style works well in a table where rows are visually similar as the additional subtitle helps distinguish rows from one another. ([UITableViewCellStyleSubtitle](#))
3. Right Detail (Value 1)
 - left-aligns the main title with black text and right-aligns the subtitle with smaller blue text on the same line. ([UITableViewCellStyleValue1](#))
 - Used in Settings
4. Left Detail (Value 2)
 - puts the main title in blue and right-aligns it at a point that's indented from the left side of the row. The subtitle is left-aligned at a short distance to the right of this point. This style does not allow images. ([UITableViewCellStyleValue2](#))
 - Used in contacts

Search

A search bar lets you search through a large collection of values by typing text into a field. A search bar can be displayed alone, or in a navigation bar or content view.

<https://developer.apple.com/design/human-interface-guidelines/ios/bars/search-bars/>

The **UISearchController** class incorporates a search bar, **UISearchBar**, into a view controller that has searchable content <https://developer.apple.com/documentation/uikit/uisearchcontroller>

A search controller works with two custom view controllers that you provide. The first view controller is part of your app's main interface and displays your searchable content. The second view controller is created when you initialize a controller to display the search results. When the user interacts with a search bar, the search controller automatically displays a new view controller with the search results that you specify.

The **searchResultsUpdater** property is provided the search results from the search controller

The search results updater object must adopt the **UISearchResultsUpdating** protocol which has methods that update the search results as users enter data into the search bar.

<https://developer.apple.com/documentation/uikit/uisearchresultsupdating>. The one (iOS) method **updateSearchResults(for:)** handles the search bar interaction and is required.

scrabbleQ

File | New Project

iOS App

Product Name: scrabbleQ

Team: None

Org identifier: ATLAS (can be anything, will be used in the bundle identifier)

Interface: Storyboard

Language: Swift

Uncheck core data and include tests.

Uncheck create local git repo

Go into MainStoryboard. The initial scene is a view controller but we want a table view controller.

Click on the scene and delete it. Then drag onto the canvas a table view controller from the object library.

In the attributes inspector check Is Initial View Controller.

We want our class to be the controller so go into ViewController.swift and change its super class to `UITableViewController`.

Now go back into MainStoryboard and select the view controller and change its class to ViewController. Look in the document hierarchy and see what's in the scene.

Select the table view and note that it has the class UITableView.

In the Connections inspector check that the dataSource and delegate for the table view are set to View Controller. If not, drag from the circles to the View Controller icon.

In the attributes inspector see that the table view's style is plain. Try changing it to grouped and see how that looks.

Select the table view cell and in the attributes inspector you can see that the Table View Cell style is custom. We'll look at the others in a minute.

Select the Table View Cell and in the attributes inspector make the identifier "scrabbleCell".

If you run it at this point you should see a blank table view.

Add qwordswithoutul.plist into your project and make sure Copy Items if Needed is checked as well as your project target.

We'll create a class to load the data as we did for the picker data and use PropertyListDecoder to decode the plist.

File | New | File | Swift file
DataLoader.swift

We'll create a class with an array to hold the words and a method to load the plist data.

```
class DataLoader {

    var qNoUWords = [String]()

    func loadData(fileName: String){
        // URL for our plist
        if let pathURL = Bundle.main.url(forResource: fileName,
withExtension: "plist"){
            //creates a property list decoder object
            let plistdecoder = PropertyListDecoder()
            do {
                let data = try Data(contentsOf: pathURL)
                //decodes the property list
                qNoUWords = try plistdecoder.decode([String].self, from:
data)
            } catch {
                // handle error
                print(error)
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Since our plist is just an array of strings, we really don't need a custom data class. In the `decode(_:from:)` method we can just use `[String]` to decode the plist.

We'll also need a method to return the array of words.

```
func getWords()->[String]{  
    return qNoUWords  
}
```

Now let's use this class and methods. Go into `ViewController.swift` and add an array that will hold the words, an instance of our `DataController` class that we'll use to access our data and a constant with the filename.

```
var words = [String]()  
var data = DataLoader()  
let wordFile = "qwordswithoutu1"
```

In `viewDidLoad()` we'll call the methods in the `DataController` class to get our words array populated.

```
override func viewDidLoad() {  
    super.viewDidLoad()  
    data.loadData(filename: wordFile)  
    words=data.getWords()  
}
```

Now we implement the required methods for the `UITableViewDataSource` protocol

```
// Required methods for UITableViewDataSource  
// Customize the number of rows in the section  
override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView, numberOfRowsInSectionSection: Int) -> Int {  
    return words.count  
}  
  
// Displays table view cells  
override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView, cellForRowAt indexPath: IndexPath) -> UITableViewCell {  
    //dequeues an existing cell if one is available, or creates a new one and adds it to the table  
    let cell = tableView.dequeueReusableCell(withIdentifier: "scrabbleCell", for: indexPath)  
    var cellConfig = cell.defaultContentConfiguration()  
    cellConfig.text = words[indexPath.row]  
    cell.contentConfiguration = cellConfig  
    return cell  
}
```

Your identifier string here MUST match the identifier you used in interface Builder. If they don't match you will get an exception error: 'unable to dequeue a cell with identifier *WrongIdentifier* - must register a nib or a class for the identifier or connect a prototype cell in a storyboard'

You should now see your table view with the list of words.

Don't worry that the table scrolls under the status bar because table views are usually in navigation controllers and that will fix the problem.

Now let's add an image.

Drag scrabble_q30.png into Assets

Update tableView(_:cellForRowAt:) to assign the image

```
cellConfig.image = UIImage(named: "scrabble_q30")
```

If your image is large you should resize it. But you can also set the row height for the table using `tableView.rowHeight`

The default row height is 44 points.

There's also the `tableView(_:heightForRowAt:)` method if you want to set a row for each row (useful if they might be different or just for specific rows).

Now when you run it you'll see the image.

Now let's add a subtitle.

Update tableView(_:cellForRowAt:) to assign the image

```
cellConfig.secondaryText="Q no U"
```

Now when you run it you'll see a subtitle as well.

Now what if you want to do something when the user selects a row. A method in the `UITableViewDelegate` handles this.

```
//UITableViewDelegate method that is called when a row is selected
override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView, didSelectRowAt
indexPath: IndexPath) {
    let alert = UIAlertController(title: "Row selected", message: "You
selected \(words[indexPath.row])", preferredStyle: .alert)
    let okAction = UIAlertAction(title: "OK", style: .default, handler:
nil)
    alert.addAction(okAction)
    present(alert, animated: true, completion: nil)
    tableView.deselectRow(at: indexPath, animated: true) //deselects the
row that had been choosen
}
```

Be very careful to implement the `didSelectRowAt` method and NOT the `didDeselectRowAt` method, they look a lot alike!

search

Let's add the ability to search our table view by creating a new controller class to handle search and its results.

File | New File

iOS | Cocoa Touch class

SearchResultsController

Subclass UITableViewController

Leave Also create xib file unchecked

Language: Swift

Save it in your project and target

Go into your new file and adopt the UISearchResultsUpdating protocol
`class` SearchResultsController: `UITableViewController`,
`UISearchResultsUpdating`

You will have an error that SearchResultsController does not conform to UISearchResultsUpdating until we implement the required methods for the protocol. You can click Fix for the 1 required method to be added.

SearchResultsController needs access to the list of words that the main view controller is displaying, so we'll need an array to store those words as well as an array to store the results of a search.

```
var allwords = [String]()  
var filteredWords = [String]()
```

Since we won't have a scene for this view controller in our storyboard we need to register our cell reuse identifier programmatically. Add to viewDidLoad()

```
//register our table cell identifier  
tableView.register(UITableViewCell.self, forCellReuseIdentifier:  
"scrabbleCell")
```

The `UISearchResultsUpdating` protocol only has 1 method and it's required

```
//UISearchResultsUpdating protocol required method to implement the  
search  
func updateSearchResults(for searchController: UISearchController) {  
    let searchString = searchController.searchBar.text //search string  
    filteredWords.removeAll(keepingCapacity: true) //removes all  
elements  
    if searchString?.isEmpty == false {  
        //closure that returns true if the search string is present in a  
String  
        let searchfilter: (String) -> Bool = { name in  
            //look for the search string as a substring of the word  
            let range = name.range(of: searchString!,  
options: .caseInsensitive)  
            return range != nil //returns true if the value matches and  
false if there's no match  
        } //end closure  
        //filter returns an array with the words that match the search  
string  
        let matches = allwords.filter(searchfilter)  
        filteredWords.append(contentsOf: matches)  
    }  
    tableView.reloadData() //reload table data with search results  
}
```

The Array filter method takes in a closure that takes an element of the sequence as its argument and returns a Boolean value indicating whether the element should be included in the returned array. The

filter method returns a new array of the words that matched the filter (returned true).

<https://developer.apple.com/documentation/swift/sequence/3018365-filter>

We use the range method to see if a word contains the search string and if it does, the closure returns true.

Then we reload the table so it shows the words returned from the search.

The file already contains some template code that provides a partial implementation of the UITableViewDataSource protocol and some commented-out methods UITableViewController subclasses often need. We'll implement the ones we need.

Then we need to implement the UITableViewDataSource methods to display the table view cells. We want the table rows to show the search results. Since SearchResultsController is a subclass of UITableViewController it automatically acts as the table's data source.

```
    override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView, numberOfRowsInSectionSection: Int) -> Int {
        return filteredWords.count
    }

    override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView, cellForRowAt indexPath: IndexPath) -> UITableViewCell {
        let cell = tableView.dequeueReusableCell(withIdentifier: "scrabbleCell", for: indexPath)
        var cellConfig = cell.defaultContentConfiguration()
        cellConfig.text = filteredWords[indexPath.row]
        cell.contentConfiguration = cellConfig
        return cell
    }
```

Note that this method is included with a return of 0. You either need to change it to return 1 section or comment/delete it as 1 is the default if the method isn't present.

```
    override func numberOfSections(in tableView: UITableView) -> Int {
        return 1
    }
```

If you want to do something when the user selects a row you can use the UITableViewDelegate method that gets called when a row is selected.

```
    override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView, didSelectRowAt indexPath: IndexPath) {
        let alert = UIAlertController(title: "Row selected", message: "You selected \(filteredWords[indexPath.row])", preferredStyle: .alert)
        let okAction = UIAlertAction(title: "OK", style: .default, handler: nil)
        alert.addAction(okAction)
        present(alert, animated: true, completion: nil)
        tableView.deselectRow(at: indexPath, animated: true) //deselects the row that had been chosen
    }
```

Now we have to set up ViewController.swift to add the search bar.

In ViewController.swift add an instance of UISearchController

```
var searchController = UISearchController()
```

Update viewDidLoad() to implement and configure the search bar.

```
//search results
let resultsController = SearchResultsController() //create an
instance of our SearchResultsController class
resultsController.allwords = words //set the allwords property to
our words array
searchController = UISearchController(searchResultsController:
resultsController) //initialize our search controller with the
resultsController when it has search results to display

//search bar configuration
searchController.searchBar.placeholder = "Enter a search term"
//place holder text
searchController.searchBar.sizeToFit() //sets appropriate size for
the search bar
tableView.tableHeaderView=searchController.searchBar //install the
search bar as the table header
searchController.searchResultsUpdater = resultsController //sets the
instance to update search results
```

Each time the user types something into the search bar, UISearchController uses the object stored in its searchResultsUpdater property to update the search results.

Now you should be able to search through the data in your table view which is very useful for tables with a lot of data.

Grouped

Now let's look at the table view grouped style. (scrabbleQgrouped)

This uses qwordswithoutu3.plist which is an array of dictionaries with the key letter, value String and key words, value an array of String. The key letter is used to group the table and create an index. In the storyboard the only difference is in the attributes inspector for the table view the style is Grouped.

We'll create a struct for our model and a class to load the data and use PropertyListDecoder to decode the plist.

File | New | File | Swift file
GroupedWords.swift

Data model:

```
struct GroupedWords: Decodable {
    let letter : String
    let words : [String]
}
```

Then we'll update our DataLoader class methods to load the data from this plist, return all the data, and return the letters which we'll need for the index.


```

class DataLoader {
    var allData = [GroupedWords]()

    func loadData(fileName: String){
        if let pathURL = Bundle.main.url(forResource: fileName,
withExtension: "plist"){
            //creates a property list decoder object
            let plistdecoder = PropertyListDecoder()
            do {
                let data = try Data(contentsOf: pathURL)
                //decodes the property list
                allData = try plistdecoder.decode([GroupedWords].self, from:
data)
            } catch {
                // handle error
                print(error)
            }
        }

        func getWords()->[GroupedWords]{
            return allData
        }

        func getLetters()->[String]{
            var letters = [String]()
            for firstLetter in allData{
                letters.append(firstLetter.letter)
            }
            // sorts the array
            letters.sort(by: {$0 < $1})
            return letters
        }
    }
}

```

The Array class has a method called sort that sorts the array and assigns it back to itself. It takes a closure for how to do the sort. This is the shorthand way to sort Strings in ascending order. For more complex sorts you can write a function.

Now let's use this class and methods. Go into ViewController.swift and add an array that will hold all the data, and array for the letters, and an instance of our DataController class

```

var words = [GroupedWords]()
var letters = [String]()
var data = DataLoader()
let wordFile = "qwordswithoutu3"

```

In viewDidLoad() we'll call the methods in the DataLoader class to load the data from the plist, get all the words, and get the letters and assign them to their respective arrays.

```

override func viewDidLoad() {
    super.viewDidLoad()

```

```

        data.loadData(filename: wordFile)
        words =data.getWords()
        letters=data.getLetters()

        //search code
    }

```

The delegate methods now all need to take into account the section.

Need to calculate the number of words for a given section.

```

    override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView, numberOfRowsInSectionSection: Int) -> Int {
        return words[section].words.count
    }

```

Need to get the section before the word.

```

    override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView, cellForRowAt indexPath: IndexPath) -> UITableViewCell {
        let section = indexPath.section
        let wordsSection = words[section].words
        //configure the cell
        let cell = tableView.dequeueReusableCell(withIdentifier: "scrabbleCell", for: indexPath)
        var cellConfig = cell.defaultContentConfiguration()
        cellConfig.text = wordsSection[indexPath.row]
        cell.contentConfiguration = cellConfig
        return cell
    }

```

```

    override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView, didSelectRowAt indexPath: IndexPath) {
        let section = indexPath.section
        let wordsSection = words[section].words
        let alert = UIAlertController(title: "Row selected", message: "You selected \(wordsSection[indexPath.row])", preferredStyle: .alert)
        let okAction = UIAlertAction(title: "OK", style: .default, handler: nil)
        alert.addAction(okAction)
        present(alert, animated: true, completion: nil)
        tableView.deselectRow(at: indexPath, animated: true) //deselects the row that had been chosen
    }

```

The number of sections is not 1 so we have to implement these UITableViewDatasource methods.

Returns the number of sections. (The default is 1 so we didn't need to implement it earlier)

```

    override func numberOfSections(in tableView: UITableView) -> Int {
        return letters.count
    }

```

Sets the header value for each section.

```

    override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView,
titleForHeaderInSection section: Int) -> String? {
        //tableView.headerView(forSection:
section)?.textLabel?.textAlignment = NSTextAlignment.center
        return letters[section]
    }

```

Adds a section index

```

    override func sectionIndexTitles(for tableView: UITableView) ->
[String]? {
        return letters
    }

```

An optional method that allows you to configure a custom view for the section headers.

Make sure you have the scrabble_q30 image in the Assets folder so we can use it in our header.

```

    override func tableView(_ tableView: UITableView, viewForHeaderInSection
section: Int) -> UIView? {
        let headerview = UITableViewHeaderFooterView()
        var headerConfig = headerview.defaultContentConfiguration()
        headerConfig.textProperties.font = UIFont(name: "Helvetica", size:
20)!
        headerConfig.textProperties.alignment = .center
        headerConfig.text = letters[section]
        headerConfig.image = UIImage(named: "scrabble_q30")
        headerview.contentConfiguration = headerConfig
        return headerview
    }

```

We only have 4 different sections so it doesn't look great, but this is especially helpful for really long lists.

To update search in SearchResultsController you'll need to update the type of allwords to our custom class.

```

var allwords = [GroupedWords]()

```

Then we need to update how we find matches in the method that returns search results.

```

func updateSearchResults(for searchController: UISearchController) {
    let searchString = searchController.searchBar.text //search string
    filteredWords.removeAll(keepingCapacity: true) //removes all
elements
    if searchString?.isEmpty == false {
        if searchString?.isEmpty == false {
            //closure that will be called for each word to see if it matches
the search string
            let filter: (String) -> Bool = { name in
                //look for the search string as a substring of the word
                let range = name.range(of: searchString!,
options: .caseInsensitive)
                return range != nil //returns true if the value matches and
false if there's no match
            }
            //iterate over all the letters

```

```

        for item in allwords {
            let wordsForLetter = item.words //array of words for each
letter
            let matches = wordsForLetter.filter(searchfilter) //filter
using the closure
            filteredWords.append(contentsOf: matches) //add words that
match
        }
    }
    tableView.reloadData() //reload table data with search results
}

```