

Android Developer Fundamentals V2

Preferences and settings

Lesson 9



9.1 Shared Preferences

Contents

- Shared Preferences
- Listening to changes

What is Shared Preferences?

- Read and write small amounts of primitive data as key/value pairs to a file on the device storage
- SharedPreferences class provides APIs for reading, writing, and managing this data
- Save data in onPause()
restore in onCreate()

Shared Preferences AND Saved Instance State

- Small number of key/value pairs
- Data is private to the application

Shared Preferences vs. Saved Instance State

- Persist data across user sessions, even if app is killed and restarted, or device is rebooted
 - Data that should be remembered across sessions, such as a user's preferred settings or their game score
 - Common use is to store user preferences
- Preserves state data across activity instances in same user session
 - Data that should not be remembered across sessions, such as the currently selected tab or current state of activity.
 - Common use is to recreate state after the device has been rotated

Creating Shared Preferences

- Need only one Shared Preferences file per app
- Name it with package name of your app—unique and easy to associate with app
- MODE argument for `getSharedPreferences()` is for backwards compatibility—use only `MODE_PRIVATE` to be secure

getSharedPreferences()

```
private String sharedPrefFile =  
    "com.example.android.hellosharedprefs";  
  
mPreferences =  
    getSharedPreferences(sharedPrefFile,  
        MODE_PRIVATE);
```


Saving Shared Preferences

- [SharedPreferences.Editor](#) interface
- Takes care of all file operations
- put methods overwrite if key exists
- apply() saves asynchronously and safely

SharedPreferences.Editor

```
@Override
protected void onPause() {
    super.onPause();
    SharedPreferences.Editor preferencesEditor =
        mPreferences.edit();
    preferencesEditor.putInt("count", mCount);
    preferencesEditor.putInt("color", mCurrentColor);
    preferencesEditor.apply();
}
```

Restoring Shared Preferences

- Restore in onCreate() in Activity
- Get methods take two arguments—the key, and the default value if the key cannot be found
- Use default argument so you do not have to test whether the preference exists in the file

Getting data in onCreate()

```
mPreferences = getSharedPreferences(sharedPrefFile, MODE_PRIVATE);  
if (savedInstanceState != null) {  
    mCount = mPreferences.getInt("count", 1);  
    mShowCount.setText(String.format("%s", mCount));  
  
    mCurrentColor = mPreferences.getInt("color", mCurrentColor);  
    mShowCount.setBackgroundColor(mCurrentColor);  
  
    mNewText = mPreferences.getString("text", "");  
} else { ... }
```

Clearing

- Call `clear()` on the `SharedPreferences.Editor` and apply changes
- You can combine calls to `put` and `clear`. However, when you `apply()`, `clear()` is always done first, regardless of order!

clear()

```
SharedPreferences.Editor preferencesEditor =  
    mPreferences.edit();  
preferencesEditor.clear();  
preferencesEditor.apply();
```

Listening to Changes

Listening to changes

- Implement interface [SharedPreferences.OnSharedPreferenceChangeListener](#)
- Register listener with [registerOnSharedPreferenceChangeListener\(\)](#)
- Register and unregister listener in [onResume\(\)](#) and [onPause\(\)](#)
- Implement on onSharedPreferenceChanged() callback

Interface and callback

```
public class SettingsActivity extends AppCompatActivity
    implements OnSharedPreferenceChangeListener { ...

    public void onSharedPreferenceChanged(
        SharedPreferences sharedPreferences, String key) {
        if (key.equals(MY_KEY)) {
            // Do something
        }
    }
}
```

Creating and registering listener

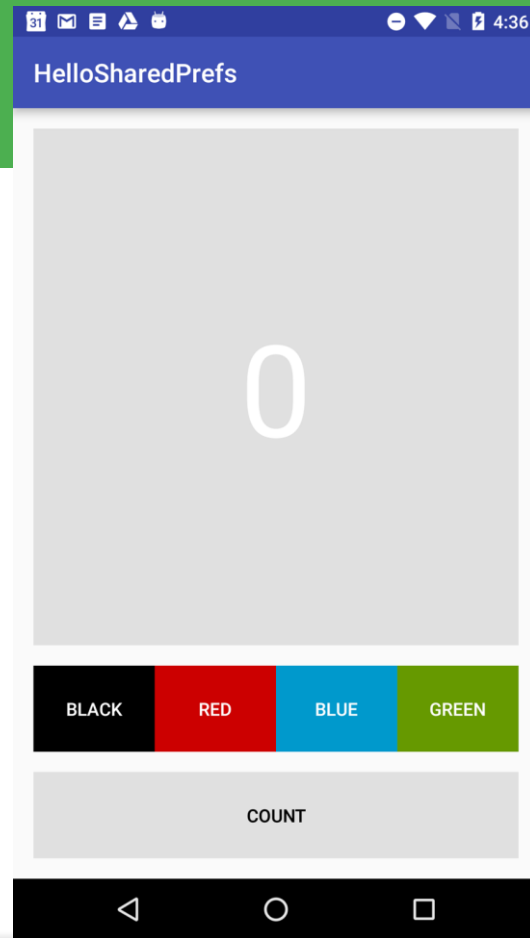
```
SharedPreferences.OnSharedPreferenceChangeListener listener =  
    new SharedPreferences.OnSharedPreferenceChangeListener() {  
        public void onSharedPreferenceChanged(  
            SharedPreferences prefs, String key) {  
            // Implement listener here  
        }  
    };  
prefs.registerOnSharedPreferenceChangeListener(listener);
```

You need a **STRONG** reference to the listener

- When registering the listener the preference manager does not store a strong reference to the listener
- You must store a strong reference to the listener, or it will be susceptible to garbage collection
- Keep a reference to the listener in the instance data of an object that will exist as long as you need the listener

Practical: HelloSharedPreferences

- Add Shared Preferences to a starter app
- Add a "Reset" button that clears both the app state and the preferences for the app



Learn more

- [Saving Data](#)
- [Storage Options](#)
- [Saving Key-Value Sets](#)
- [SharedPreferences](#)
- [SharedPreferences.Editor](#)

Stackoverflow

- [How to use SharedPreferences in Android to store, fetch and edit values](#)
- [onSavedInstanceState vs. SharedPreferences](#)

What's Next?

- Concept Chapter: [9.1 Shared Preferences](#)
- Practical: [9.1 Shared Preferences](#)

END