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Contacts MRC

Introduction

The goal of this project is to solidify your understanding of the reference counting memory system by writing a project using Objective-C and manual reference counting (MRC).

Instructions

You will need to create your own Xcode project and repository. Commit regularly as you complete the requirements in this project.

You will be implementing a basic contacts manager app. It should include:

- A main view with a table view displaying contact names
- A plus button used to create a new contact
- A detail view controller used to display, enter, and edit more information for each contact, including at least: **name**, **email address**, **phone number**.
- Tapping a contact should show the detail view controller and allow you to **edit it**.

Part 0 - Preparation

When you create a new project, by default, ARC is enabled. You'll need to disable ARC so you can use manual reference counting. To do so, follow these steps:

1. Create the project
2. Select the project itself in the files navigator
3. Select the "Build Settings" tab
4. Select the Project itself under "PROJECT", not the app target
5. Search for "objective-c automatic" which will bring up the "Objective-C Automatic Reference Counting" setting.
6. Change the setting to **N0** to disable automatic reference counting.

Part 1 - Storyboard

Build your storyboard as you normally would. MRC makes no difference in Interface Builder, and you'll build things as you always have.

Part 2 - Write the Code

Implement the app code. At a high level, this code will be identical to what you're used to, except that you will be responsible for memory management. As you work, remember the 5 rules of MRC:

1. If you get an object from a method that starts with alloc/init, new, copy, or mutableCopy, you own it.
2. Otherwise, call retain to take ownership of an object.
3. If you own an object you must release it (or autorelease it) when you're done.
4. If you don't own an object you must not release it.
5. If you need an object to stick around longer than the current method, you must own it.

Part 3 - Testing and Analysis

Run the static analyzer using Product->Analyze in the menu (or command-shift-B). If the analyzer finds any problems, fix them. When you're done, the static analyzer **should not report any problems**.

Run the app and test to make sure it functions correctly.

Go Further

If you finish early or want to push yourself, here are a few additional features you can implement:

- Implement persistence using Core Data.
- Add support for contacts having a photo. Does this effect memory usage as the app runs?