Gen

Android Basics: Components, project setup

Android Lecture 2

2024 Lukáš Prokop Simona Kurňavová















About this course

Course page: https://d3s.mff.cuni.cz/teaching/nprg056/

Garant: Jan Kofroň

Lecturers: Lukáš Prokop, Simona Kurňavová

Schedule for semestral projects:

- October 1 December 1: Forming project groups (1-3 students) and creating project specifications
- December 1: The project specification has to be accepted by a lecturer
- February 28: Final version of the project
- April 15: Issues identified by lecturers fixed

How to submit project specification:

Via email to Jan Kofroň (jan.kofron@d3s.mff.cuni.cz) with Lukáš Prokop (<u>Lukas.Prokop@gendigital.com</u>) and Simona Kurňavová (<u>Simona.Kurnavova@gendigital.com</u>) as cc. *Email should contain:*

- What is the purpose of the application
- Description of features and functionalities of the application
- Optionally: technical stack and other clarifying information.

How to hand over project:

Ideally using Github/Gitlab/Bitbucket repository link (please make sure it would be accessible to us).



Agenda

- Android UI Overview
- Project structure
- Android components
- Activity and back stack
- User Interface

Android UI Overview

Launcher

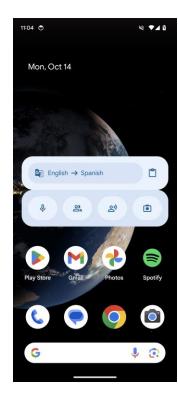
- Acts as home screen and app drawer
- **Contains apps and widgets**
- App widget vs. Widget:
 - Widget is UI item (button, checkbox, etc).
 - App widget is interactive component in launcher/home screen.
- Stock launcher vs. Third party

App widgets:





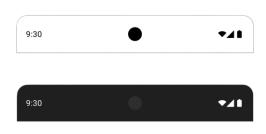


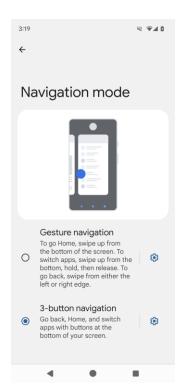


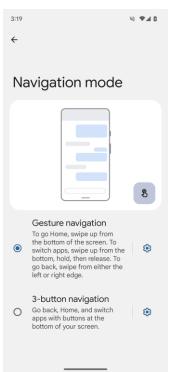


Status bar and navigation

- Purpose of status bar: Displays essential information about the device's current state and notifications.
- **Purpose of navigation bar**: Provides system-wide controls to navigate through apps and the Android system.

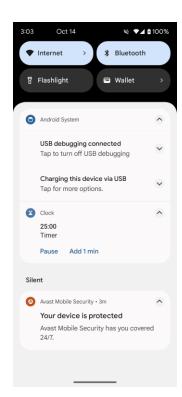


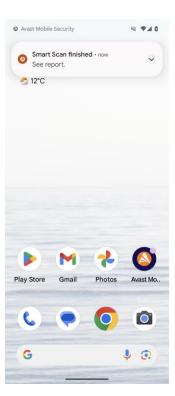




Notifications

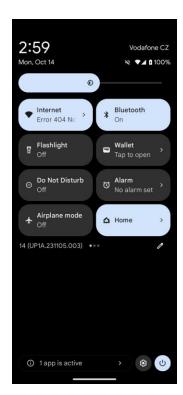
- Alerts that inform users about important events, updates, or actions from apps
- Notification actions (since Android 4.1)
- Can be visible in lock screen (since Android 5.0)
- Notification groups (since Android 7.0)
- Notification channels (since Android 8.0)
- Notification badges (dots) (since Android 8.0)
- Importance:
 - Urgent: makes a sound and appears as a heads-up notification.
 - High: makes a sound.
 - Medium: makes no sound.
 - Low: makes no sound and doesn't appear in the status bar.

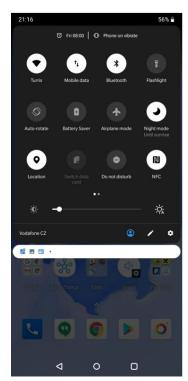




Quick settings

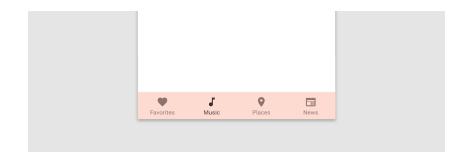
- Since API 16: part of the AOSP
- Since API 24: custom tiles
- Purpose of tile action:
 - Used often
 - Fast access needed
 - Ideally both

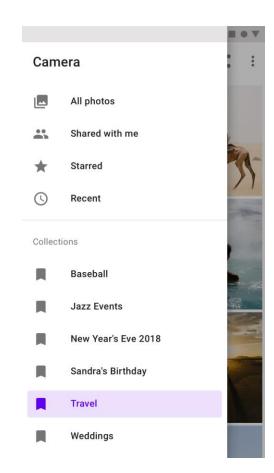




Navigation inside of the app

- Bottom navigation
- Drawer



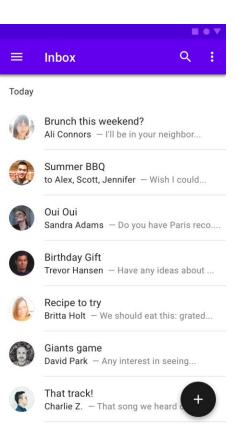


Navigation inside of the app

- Toolbar (or app bar)
- Floating action button

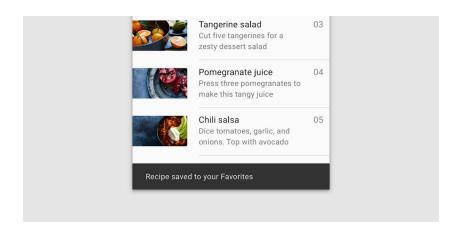


- Container
- Navigation icon
- Title
- Action items
- Overflow menu

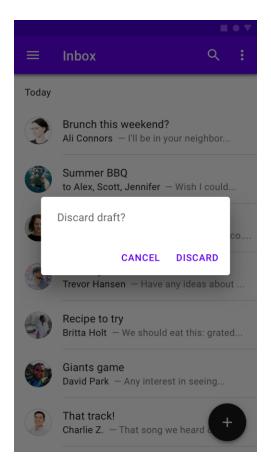


In-app messaging

- Dialogs
- **Toasts**
- Snackbars







Material design

- Design language from Google
- Material is the metaphor
- Inspired by physical world (reflecting light, cast shadow)
- Cross-platform (Android, iOS, Flutter, web)
- Material components available as library
- https://www.material.io/
- https://www.materialpalette.com/
- https://m3.material.io/styles

Android Components

AndroidManifest.xml

- Essential information about app for OS
- Package name (application unique id)
- Describes components
- Permissions
- Min required API level
- Target SDK
- Supported/required screens, features
- Used for filtering in app store

```
AndroidManifest.xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<manifest xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"</pre>
   package="com.example.myapp">
   <uses-sdk
       android:minSdkVersion="26"
       android:targetSdkVersion="34" />
   <supports-screens
       android:smallScreens="true"
       android:normalScreens="true"
       android:largeScreens="true"
       android:xlargeScreens="true"
       android:anyDensity="true" />
   <uses-feature</pre>
       android:name="android.hardware.camera"
       android:required="true" />
   <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INTERNET" />
   <application
       android:allowBackup="true"
       android:icon="@mipmap/ic launcher"
       android:label="@string/app_name"
       android:roundIcon="@mipmap/ic_launcher_round"
       android:supportsRtl="true"
       android: theme="@style/Theme.MyApp">
       <activity android:name=".MainActivity">
           <intent-filter>
                <action android:name="android.intent.action.MAIN" />
                <category android:name="android.intent.category.LAUNCHER" />
           </intent-filter>
   </application>
</manifest>
```

Activity

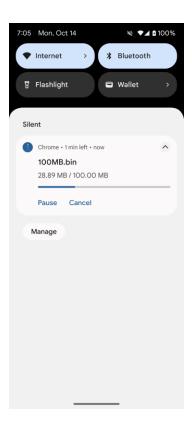
- Screen with UI
- Activity stack
- Lifecycle
- Single activity application is recommended by Google
- Can contain: Fragments, Views, Composables (when used with Jetpack Compose)

```
Activity example

class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {
    override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)
    }
}
```

Service

- No UI
- Optional notification (mandatory for foreground services)
- Operations that are not tight to activity lifecycle
- Long running tasks: Music playback, Download service



Content provider

- Manage and share application data
- Doesn't specify storage implementation (db, file, web)
- Query or modify data
- Optional permissions
 - Custom permissions who can access data
- Used by system for
 - **SMS**
 - Contacts
 - Call log
- Initialized before Application
 - Used by AndroidX App Startup library



Broadcast receiver

- Listens for actions invoked by system or other application
- Static or dynamic registration
- System-wide
- Limited since Android 8.0
 - Implicit broadcasts
- Examples:
 - **Incoming SMS**
 - Low battery, battery percentage changed
 - Connectivity change
 - Headphones connected/disconnected



Intent

- Asynchronous message between component
- Starts activities
- Starts or binds services
- Sends broadcast

```
Starting an Activity using intent
val intent = Intent(this, SomeActivity::class.java)
startActivity(intent)
```

Project setup

Consider

- Target audience
- Compatibility

	ANDROID PLATFORM VERSION	API LEVEL	CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION
4.4	KitKat	19	20 724
5	Lollipop	21	99.7%
5.1	Lollipop	22	99.6%
6	Marshmallow	23	98.8%
7	Nougat	24	97.4%
7.1	Nougat	25	96.4%
8	Oreo	26	95.4%
8.1	Oreo	27	93.9%
9	Pie	28	89.6%
10	Q	29	81.2%
11	R	30	67.6%
12	s	31	48.6%
13	т	33	33.9%
14	U	34	13.0%
Last updated: May 1, 2024			

Source: Android Studio

minSdk, compileSDK, targetSDK

- minSdk: Lowest supported SDK
 - Installation on older devices is not possible
 - New features are not available on older APIs
 - Supporting old SDK can take a lot of resources to maintain
 - compatibility API levels checks
 - Testing
- compileSDK: Always compile with the latest SDK!
 - Select newest available API at compile time
 - **Deprecations**
 - Lint checks
- targetSDK: Way how system provide forward compatibility
 - Change behavior of the app
 - Runtime permissions handling
 - Menu button deprecation handling

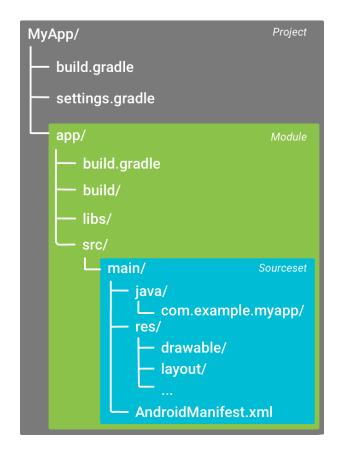




Project structure

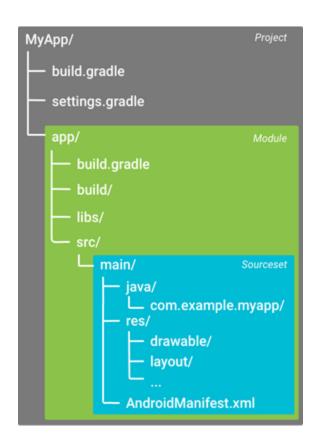
Project structure: Project

- Common configuration for modules
 - Common dependencies versions
 - 3rd party plugins configuration



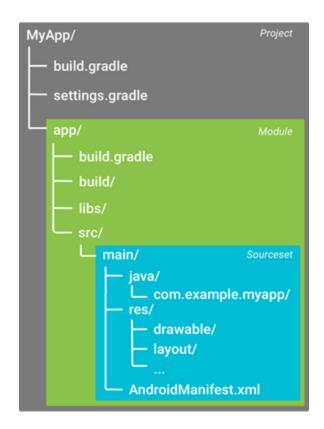
Project structure: Module

- Application or library
- Different module for phone/watch/tv app
- Multiple source sets (optional)
 - Different version of same app (paid vs. free)



Project structure: Sourceset

- Source code and resources.
- Source code from main source set available everywhere
- Resources can be overridden in different source set





Project level files: build.gradle and settings.gradle

```
build.gradle.kts (project)

// Top-level build file where you can add configuration options common to all sub-projects/modules.
plugins {
   id "com.android.application" version "8.7.1" apply false
   id "org.jetbrains.kotlin.android" version "1.9.24" apply false
}
```

- Configuration that applies to all modules
- Defines android build plugin version
- List of repositories where to download dependencies and gradle build plugin

```
settings.gradle.kts

pluginManagement {
    repositories {
        google()
        mavenCentral()
    }
}

dependencyResolutionManagement {
    repositoriesMode.set(RepositoriesMode.FAIL_ON_PROJECT_REPOS)
        repositories {
        google()
        mavenCentral()
    }
}

rootProject.name = "MyApp"
include(":app")
```

List of modules to build

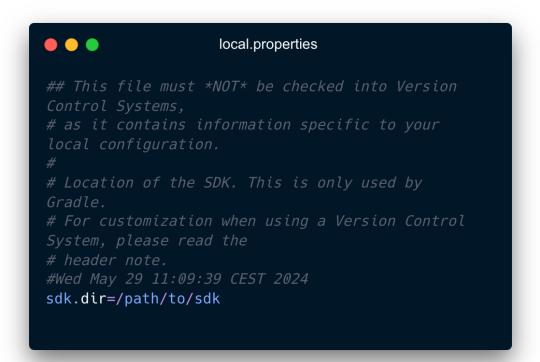
Project level files: gradle.properties

```
gradle.properties
org.gradle.jvmargs=-Xmx2048m -XX:MaxPermSize=512m -
XX:+HeapDumpOnOutOfMemoryError
org.gradle.daemon=true
java.home=/path/to/your/jdk
org.gradle.java.home=/path/to/your/jdk
org.gradle.jvmargs=-Dfile.encoding=UTF-8
org.gradle.parallel=true
android.useAndroidX=true
android.enableJetifier=true
org.gradle.debug=true
```

- Project wide gradle fields
- Customization of how it will run
 - Heap size
 - Daemon or not
 - Java home and java arguments
 - Parallel run
 - Proxv
 - And much more

Project level files: local.properties

- Contains paths to SDK and NDK
- Can't be shared between developers
- Generated during build, do not modify it manually
- Do not include this file in submitted projects
- .gitignore



Module level files: build.gradle

- Configure build setting for specific module
- Defines build variants and their source sets
- applicationId
- Min and target SDK version
- compileSdkVersion and buildToolsVersion
- Dependencies
- Documentation

```
. .
                                         build.gradle (app)
plugins {
    id("com.android.application")
    id("org.jetbrains.kotlin.android")
android {
    namespace = "com.example.myapp"
    compileSdk = 34
    defaultConfig {
        applicationId = "com.example.myapp"
        minSdk = 21
        versionCode = 1
        versionName = "1.0"
    buildTypes {
        release {
            isMinifyEnabled = false
    compileOptions {
        sourceCompatibility = JavaVersion.VERSION_17
        targetCompatibility = JavaVersion.VERSION_17
    kotlinOptions {
dependencies {
    implementation("androidx.core:core-ktx:1.12.0")
    implementation("androidx.appcompat:appcompat:1.6.1")
    testImplementation("junit:junit:4.13.2")
    androidTestImplementation("androidx.test.ext:junit:1.1.5")
    androidTestImplementation("androidx.test.espresso:espresso-core:3.5.1")
```

Module level files: libs/

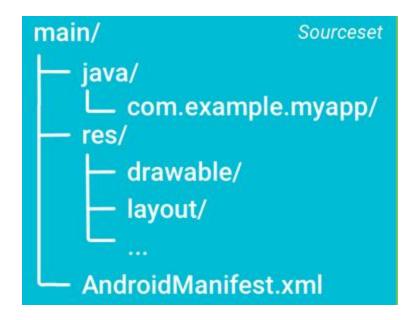
- *.jar libraries
- If it is possible use library as gradle dependency

Module level files: src/

- Source code
- Resources
- Assets
- Main default sourceset for all build variants
- Recommended to split code into packages

Source set

- java/
 - Source codes
- res/
 - Resources
 - Drawables
 - Layouts
 - Values
 - ...
- assets/
- AndroidManifest.xml



Resources

- Layout
- Strings
- Menu
- Animations
- Icons
- Dimensions
- Drawables
- Mipmap

Resource qualifiers

- Resources in different variants
- Drawable, drawable-mdpi...
- Values, values-cs, values-de
- Layout, layout-sw600dp

Resources: drawables

- Bitmaps
- 9-patch png
- State lists
- Vector drawables
 - Since API 21
 - Backward compatibility with support library
- Always prefer vectors over bitmaps



Resources: units

- Dp density independent pixel
 - On 160dpi screen 1dp = 1px
- Sp scale independent pixel (fonts)
 - Similar to dp, but scaled by the user's font size preference
- Never use px

Demo: Hello World

Activity & Back stack

Activity

- Presentation layer of application
- Only UI component
- Contains Views, Fragments, Composables
- Every activity must be defined in manifest
- Runs on UI (Main) thread
- All components run in one process by default
- Lifecycle
- Activity back stack

Starting activity

- Intent describes which activity to start
- Can contain data for new activity
- Flags manipulation with activity stack

```
Start an activity

val intent = Intent(context, SecondActivity::class.java)
intent.putExtra("key", "value")
intent.putExtra("keyInt", 5)

startActivity(intent)
```

Explicit vs. implicit intent

Explicit intent

- Specify component by fully qualified class name
- Typically component in our application

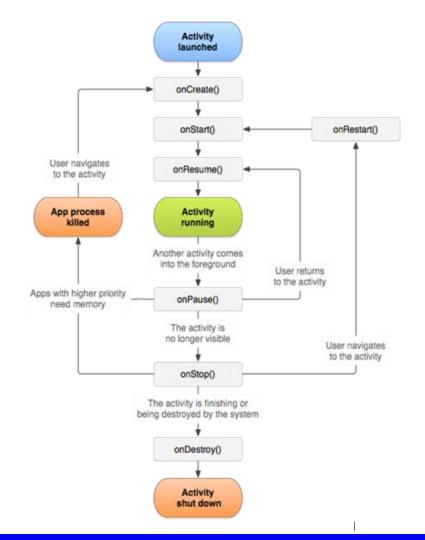
Implicit intent

- Just declare general action to perform
- Enables multiple apps to handle that action
- Examples
 - Send email ACTION_SEND
 - Open browser ACTION_VIEW
- If multiple apps are capable to handle intent, system shows picker
- Intent filters defined in manifest

Activity - states

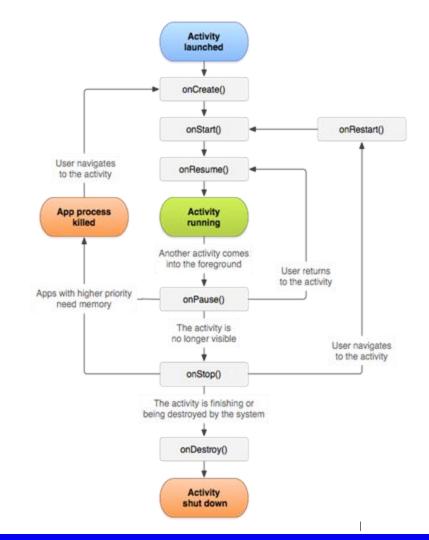
Documentation

- Activity changes state based on the user or OS actions:
 - User navigates to activity
 - User switches to different app and returns
 - User presses back button
 - Screen is automatically locked
 - Phone starts ringing
 - ...
- Lifecycle callbacks:
 - Methods called by OS when state of activity changes
 - Allows programmer to react to these changes



Activity - states

- Created: Activity is being created
- **Started:** Activity is about to be visible
- **Resumed:** Running, is visible, user can interact
- **Paused:** Partially visible, remains in memory
- Stopped:
 - Different activity is on top
 - Moved to background
 - Still alive, remains in memory
 - Hosting process can be killed
- Destroyed



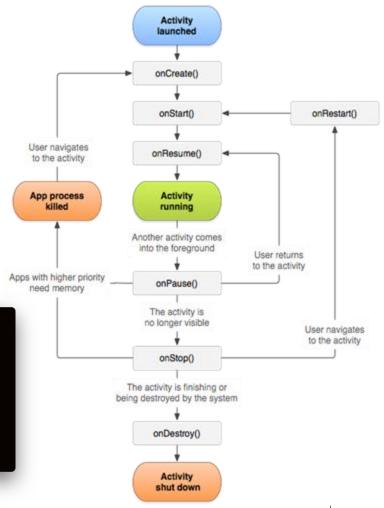
Activity#onCreate(Bundle)

- Activity is being created
- One-time event, called only once per instance
- Create views
- Passed Bundle object contains activity previous state
- Read data from starting intent
- Always followed by #onStart()

```
onCreate

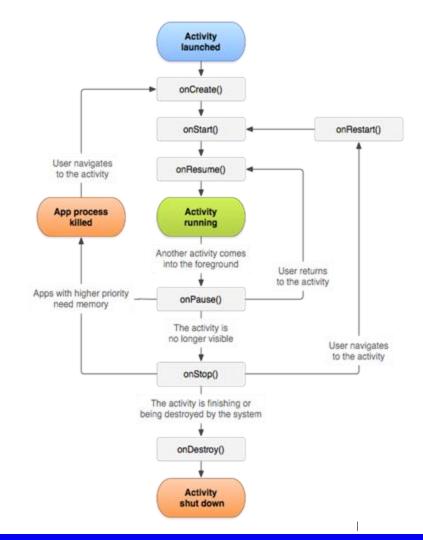
override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
    super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
    previousState = savedInstanceState?.getString(STATE_KEY)
    setContentView(R.layout.main_activity)

// TODO: initialize variables, bind data to list, ...
}
```



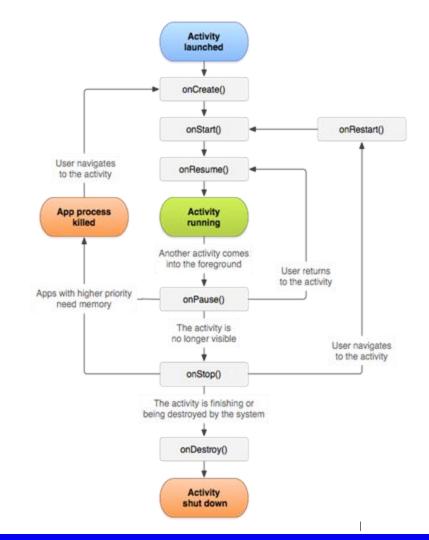
Activity#onStart()

- Called before the activity become visible to the user
- Can be called multiple times
- Followed by
 - onResume() if come to the foreground
 - onStop() if becomes hidden
- Activity is partially visible, register listeners for changing UI
- Register broadcast receivers



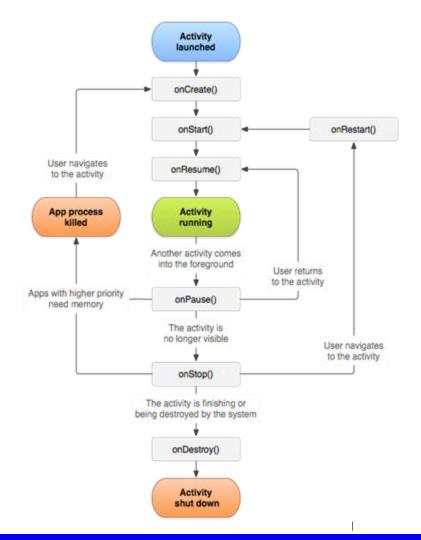
Activity#onResume()

- Called just before activity start interacts with user
- Activity is on top of activity stack
- Run stuff for user
- Always followed by onPause()



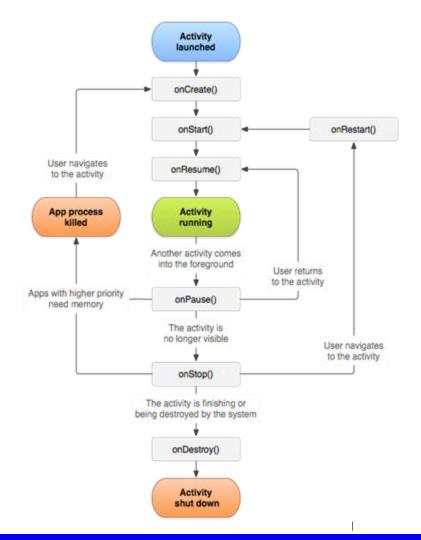
Activity#onPause()

- System is about to resume another activity
- Stop animations and CPU intensive stuff
- Should be very fast, because another activity onResume()
 waits until this finishes
- Followed by
 - onResume() if the activity returns back to the front
 - onStop() if became invisible to the user
- Activity can be killed by system
- Counterpart to onResume()



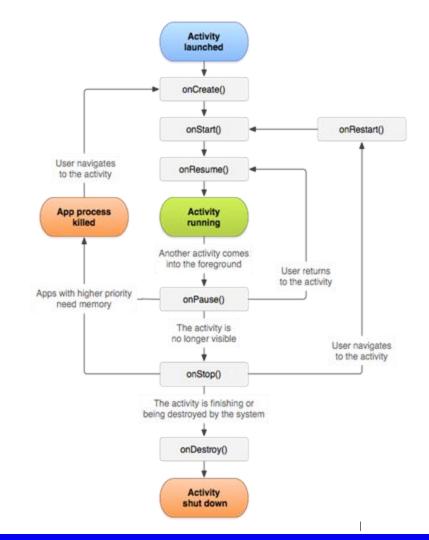
Activity#onStop()

- Called when it is no longer visible to the user
- It is being destroyed or another activity has been resumed and covering it.
- Finish stuff started in #onStart()
- Followed by
 - onRestart() coming back to interact with user
 - onDestroy() activity is going away
- Called when being minimized, navigate to another screen



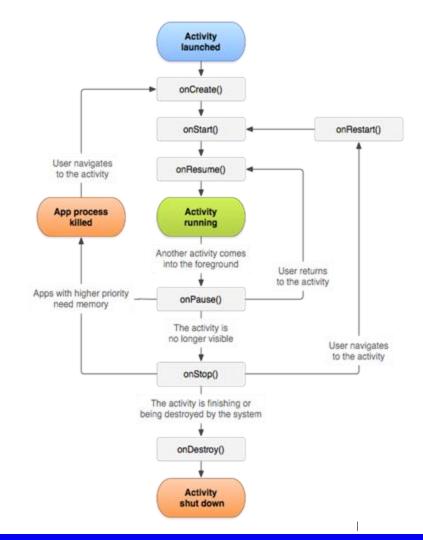
Activity#onDestroy()

- Called before activity is destroyed
- Activity is finished by #finish() method
- System needs more resources (RAM)



Activity#onRestart()

 Called after activity has been stopped, and before is started again



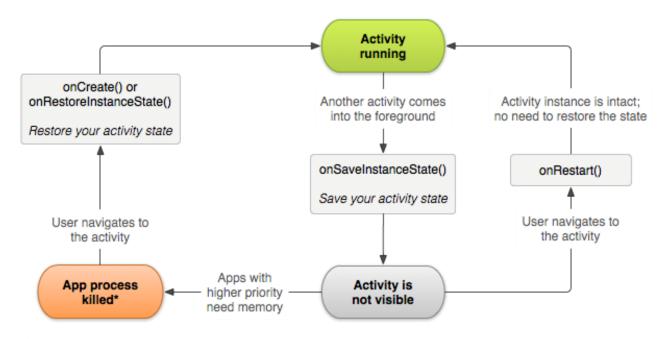
Bundle

- Mapping parcelable and serializable objects
- String keys
- #putString, #putInt
- #getString, #getInt
- Other java primitives

Configuration changes

- Activity is destroyed and recreated
 - Screen rotation
 - Language change
 - HW keyboard opens
 - Projector is connected
- Needs to be handled properly
 - Activity#onSaveInstanceState
 - Activity#onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?)
 - Activity#onRestoreInstanceState(savedInstanceState: Bundle)

Save activity state



*Activity instance is destroyed, but the state from onSaveInstanceState() is saved

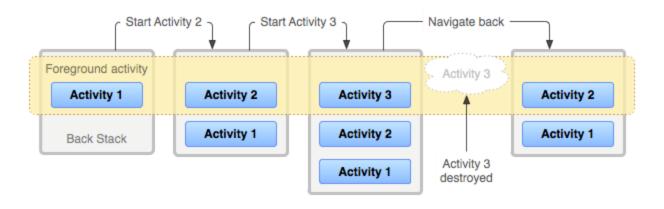


Saving activity state

- System can kill background activity to free up resources => state of the activity is lost
- Implement #onSaveInstanceState
 - Called before activity is vulnerable to destruction
 - Passed Bundle is for remembering its state
 - Bundle with the stored state is passed into #onCreate and #onRestoreInstanceState (called before #onStart())
 - Default implementation takes care of widget with unique id (user input), but doesn't store state (enabled/disabled)

Tasks and back stack

- Task is collection of activities, to perform certain job
 - Activity in task can be from different application (send email)
- Activities arranged in a stack, in order in which there were opened
- Task has its own back stack





Tasks and back stack

- Sometimes is necessary to change behavior of back stack
- Manifest attributes
 - o taskAffinity
 - o launchMode
 - o allowTaskReparenting
 - o clearTaskOnLaunch
 - o alwaysRetainTaskState
 - o finishOnTaskLaunch
- Intent flags
 - FLAG_ACTIVITY_NEW_TASK
 - Start activity in new task, or bring task with that activity
 - FLAG_ACTIVITY_CLEAR_TOP
 - If the activity is in stack, pick them and destroy all other activities on top
 - FLAG_ACTIVITY_SINGLE_TOP
 - Do not start new instance of activity, if is already on top of stack

Task affinity

- If you need that flag FLAG_ACTIVITY_NEW_TASK open activity in new task you need to set different
 affinity for that activity
- It needs to be set for independent apps in one APK, we use it for debug tools (separate app which allows us to (re)set some values in main app)

Toast

- Simple non-modal information
- Displayed for short period of time
- Doesn't have user focus
- android.widget.Toast



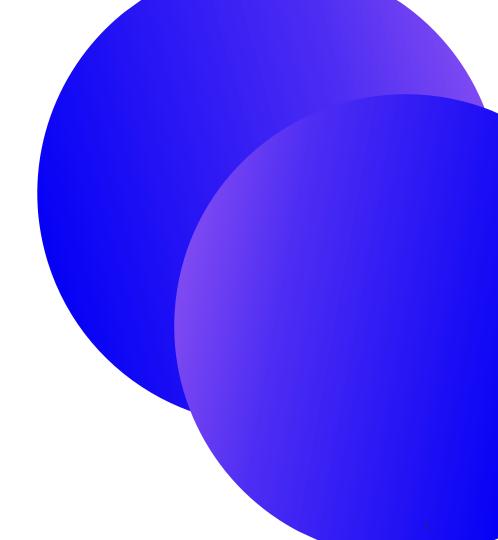
```
Toast.makeText(context, "Toast example", Toast.LENGTH_LONG).show()
```



Log messages

- Static method in Log class
- android.util.Log
- Log.{v,d,i,w,e,wtf}(tag: String, message: String, e: Throwable)
- Verbose
- Debug
- Info
- Warning
- Error
- What a terrible failure

Context



Context

- Abstract class implemented by components
- android.content.Context
- Resources access
- Register/unregister BroadcastReceivers
- Run Activity, Services
- Binds Services

Context

- Application
 - Single instance
 - Extends Context
- Activity/Service
 - Multiple instances
 - Extends Context
 - Can be easily leaked
- BroadcastReceiver
 - Receive instance of Context in BroadcastReceiver#onReceive()
 - registerReceiver() and bindService() doesn't work
- ContentProvider
 - Not instance of Context
 - getContext() returns Context of application which called the receiver

User Interface

Approaches to writing UI

- XML
- Jetpack Compose



XML: Layouts

- Definition of UI
- Used for Activity or Fragment
- Extends ViewGroup
- Defined in XML or programmatically
- Folder res/layout
- Options: FrameLayout, LinearLayout, RelativeLayout,
 TableLayout, GridLayout, ConstraintLayout (Google IO 2016,
 Available as support library)



XML: Binding between layouts and java

- XML elements has id generated in R.java:
- R.id.txt_headline
- R.layout.activity_main



- Manual
- View binding preferred way
 - https://developer.android.com/topic/libraries/view-binding
- Data binding
- Kotlin synthetics (deprecated)



Layout - FrameLayout

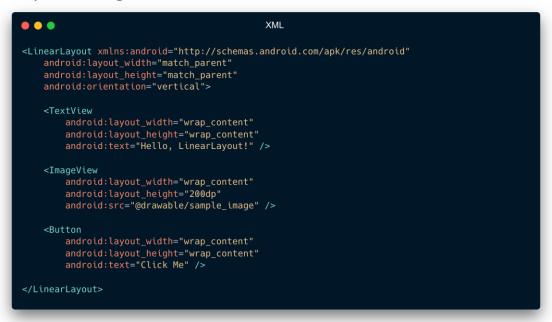
- Places all items in top left corner
- Usage as placeholder for other view/fragment
- Fast





Layout - LinearLayout

- Places childs vertically or horizontally (orientation)
- Possible to use weight to size item in some ratio
- Usually leads to layout nesting





Layout - Constraint layout

- "Extended relative layout"
- Constraint is connection or alignment to another view/parent/guideline
- Recommended today
- Documentation
- Available as dependency:

"androidx.constraintlayout:constraintlayout"

```
XML
<androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout</pre>
xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
   android:layout_width="match parent"
   android:layout height="match parent">
   <TextView
        android:id="@+id/textView"
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout height="wrap content"
        android:text="Hello, ConstraintLayout!"
        app:layout constraintTop toTopOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintStart_toStartOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintEnd_toEndOf="parent" />
   <Button
        android:layout width="wrap content"
        android: layout height="wrap content"
        android:text="Click Me"
        app:layout_constraintTop_toBottomOf="@id/textView"
        app:layout constraintStart toStartOf="parent"
        app:layout constraintEnd toEndOf="parent" />
</androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
```

Widgets – UI elements

- Extend View
- width and height needs to be set
 - Can be replaced by weight
 - match_parent: Fills the whole width/height of parent
 - wrap_content: Wraps around the content
 - Specific dimension

- Button
- TextView
- EditText
- ImageView
- CheckBox
- RadioButton
- WebView
- AdapterView
 - ListView
 - Spinner
- RecyclerView



Navigation

- Navigation = how user moves between "screens"
- Options:
 - Between activities: Intents
 - Between fragments: fragment transactions, navigation component



Demo: Simple UI in XML



Jetpack Compose

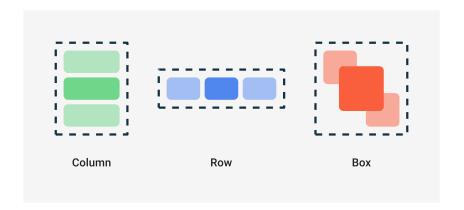
- Modern toolkit for building native UI
- Intuitive Kotlin API
- UI in Kotlin instead of XML
- Reusability and modularity of the UI components
- Emphasizes "what" over "how"
- Previews
- Any UI element in Compose is a Composable function
- Documentation

```
@Composable
fun SimpleText() {
    Box {
        Text("Hello!")
@Preview(showBackground = true)
@Composable
fun PreviewSimpleText() {
    SimpleText()
```



Jetpack Compose: Layouts

- Box
- Column, Row
- LazyColumn, LazyRow
- LazyVerticalGrid, LazyHorizontalGrid
- LazyVerticalStaggeredGrid, LazyHorizontalStaggeredGrid (experimental)
- <u>Scaffold</u>





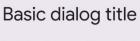
LazyVerticalStaggeredGrid



Jetpack Compose: Basic components



- Text
- ClickableText
- Image
- Button
- FloatingActionButton
- Spacer, Divider
- Circular Progress Indicator, Linear Progress Indicator
- AlertDialog, Popup
- Snackbar
- https://m3.material.io/components



A dialog is a modal window that appears in front of app content to provide critical information or ask for a decision

Text button

Text button







Outlined

Text





Jetpack Compose: Modifiers

- Layout, styling, interactivity
- Chainable
- Order matters!
- Examples:
 - padding()
 - background()
 - align()
 - clickable()
 - scrollable()
 - ..

```
@Composable
  2 fun StyledText() {
       Text(
            text = "Hello, Compose!",
           modifier = Modifier
                .padding(16.dp)
                .background(Color.LightGray)
                .clickable {
                    // Handle click action
11
           color = Color.Black,
            fontWeight = FontWeight.Bold,
12
13
            textAlign = TextAlign.Center
14
15 }
```



Jetpack Compose: Basic components (example)

Hello, Compose!

Click Me

```
Kotlin basics
@Composable
fun SimpleComposeExample() {
    Column(
        modifier = Modifier.padding(16.dp)
        Text("Hello, Compose!")
        Spacer(modifier = Modifier.padding(4.dp))
        Button(onClick = { /* Do something */ }) {
            Text("Click Me")
@Preview(showBackground = true)
@Composable
fun PreviewSimpleComposeExample() {
    SimpleComposeExample()
```



Jetpack Compose: Lifecycle

- Key stages: Composition, Recomposition, Disposal
- Side-effect: Change to the state of the app that happens outside the scope of a composable function
- **Effects**: Code that is triggered in response to changes in state or composition
 - LaunchedEffect, SideEffect, DisposableEffect, ...

Enter the Composition Enter the Composition Composable Composition Composition



Jetpack Compose: State

- State = mutable data that can affect UI
- Changes in state trigger recomposition
- remember, rememberSaveable
- State hoisting (careful usage)

```
@Composable
fun SimpleCounter() {
   val count = remember { mutableStateOf(0) }

   Button(onClick = { count.value++ }) {
       Text("Count: ${count.value}")
   }
}
```



Navigation

- Navigation component
- **Destinations are Composables**
- *NavController*: Holds navigation graphs and provides API to move between Composables
- NavHost: Manages which composable is currently displayed based on NavController
- Documentation

```
Compose navigation
val navController = rememberNavController()
NavHost(navController, startDestination = "home") {
    composable("home") { HomeScreen() }
    composable("details") { DetailsScreen() }
```

Demo: Simple UI in Compose

Thank you

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