

**CS 522—Spring 2020**  
**Mobile Systems and Applications**  
**Assignment Nine—Fragments**

In this assignment, you will augment the UI of the Web-based chat app from the previous assignment with a multi-pane interface. You will also get some practice with dialogs.

**Part 1: Multi-pane Navigation of Chat Rooms**

Up until now, we have been assuming a single chat room that all chat participants share. In this assignment, we will generalize this to allow multiple chat rooms. The Web chat server from the previous assignment already supports multiple chat rooms, although you only had to support communication through a “default” chat room. In this assignment, we will extend this with the ability for the chat app to navigate between chat rooms using a multi-pane UI. Ideally this would be used for a tablet interface, however it should also work for a large cell phone or small tablet (e.g. the Nexus 7).

1. For a wide screen (at least 900dp), show a user interface that has a navigation pane for chat rooms on the left (say 1/3 to 1/4 of the screen), listing the chat rooms that are available. Selecting one of these chat rooms from the list should open up, in the main pane, a list of messages posted to that chat room (along with the identity of the poster). Specify the fragments for the navigation pane (list of chatrooms) and for the details pane (list of messages for a chatroom) in the layout for the activity (using the fragment element<sup>1</sup>). The chat room view should initially be empty. If the user presses the BACK button while viewing the contents of a chat room, the chat room view should resume an empty view, but the navigation view should remain.
2. Otherwise, show (just) a list of the chat rooms. Selecting one of these chat rooms should replace the navigation pane with a details pane to display the messages in that chat room. In other words, the behavior of your app in portrait orientation, when viewing chat messages, is the same as it was in the previous assignment. Your app should be able to dynamically switch between these two forms of user interfaces as the orientation of the device changes. Android will perform this switching for you, as long as you don’t prevent adaptation to orientation changes.

The main change in the data model for your app is that you will need to add a table for chat rooms to the messages content provider, with a one-to-many relationship from chat rooms to messages:

```
CREATE TABLE Chatrooms (  
    _id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,  
    name TEXT NOT NULL UNIQUE,  
    ...  
);  
CREATE TABLE Messages (  
    ...
```

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<sup>1</sup> Anecdotally the dynamic addition and replacement of fragments appears to behave better with respect to changes like screen re-orientation, but we will work with static fragments for simplicity in this assignment.

```

...
sender_fk TEXT NOT NULL,
chatroom_fk TEXT NOT NULL,
FOREIGN KEY sender_fk REFERENCES Peers(name) ON DELETE CASCADE,
FOREIGN KEY chatroom_fk REFERENCES Chatrooms(name) ON DELETE CASCADE
);
CREATE INDEX MessagesSenderIdIndex ON Messages(sender_fk);
CREATE INDEX MessagesChatroomIdIndex ON Messages(chatroom_fk);

```

As before, the names of tables and columns should be defined as string literals, stitched into String-valued expressions that produce prepared SQL code. Input arguments (e.g. chat room names or peer names) should be factored into separate selection argument arrays, to prevent SQL injection attacks.

## Part 2: Dialogs for dialogues

A dialog should be used to post a message<sup>2</sup>. Use the floating action button to launch the dialog for sending a message. When pressed, it should display a dialog message that prompts the user for the text of the message. The user confirms the message to be sent by pressing a SEND button on the dialog. You should also provide a CANCEL button on the dialog. Note that the user can always cancel a dialog by pressing the BACK button, but also providing a CANCEL button can be good human factors.

As demonstrated in class, define a dialog class for each one of these dialogs. Follow these guidelines for each dialog class:

1. The class should inherit from `DialogFragment`.
2. The class should define a static method, called `launch`, that encapsulates the logic for launching the dialog. This dialog should create the dialog fragment, pass it any arguments from the client, and then use the `show()` method to launch the dialog.
3. Define an explicit interface that defines any functionality that the dialog fragment requires from the parent activity. The fragment should bind to the activity with this interface in the `onAttach` callback.
4. In general you can define the dialog user interface either in `onCreateView` or in `onCreateDialog`. To get you used to the more flexible and general way of doing things, you should always create your dialog UI in `onCreateView`. You may still want to define some customization logic in `onCreateDialog`, e.g., ensuring that there is no title bar for the dialog, but the UI should be defined in `onCreateView`.
5. The business logic for updating any databases or invoking background services should be defined in the parent activity, invoked from the dialog through the parent interface, or invoked from dialog callbacks that are defined in the parent activity.

## Submitting Your Assignment

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<sup>2</sup> You can just assume a fixed set of chatrooms (at least two!), injected into the database during initialization of the content provider.

Once you have your code working, please follow these instructions for submitting your assignment:

1. Create a zip archive file, named after you, containing a directory with your name. E.g. if your name is Humphrey Bogart, then name the directory Humphrey\_Bogart.
2. In that directory you should provide the Android Studio project for your Android app.
3. Include a completed rubric and the videos demonstrating your working assignment.

In addition, record short mpeg or Quicktime videos of a demonstration of your assignment working. Your videos should demonstrate starting the app, showing a list of chatrooms, navigating to the messages in a chatroom, and using a dialog to add a message to the chatroom. You should demonstrate the app working both the single-pane and dual-pane interfaces, using different devices or orientations (e.g. telephone vs tablet). You do not need to demonstrate interaction with the server<sup>3</sup>. Make sure that your name appears at the beginning of the video. For example, put your name in the title of the app. *Do not provide private information such as your email or cwid in the video.*

Your solution should be uploaded via the Canvas classroom. Your solution should consist of a zip archive with one folder, identified by your name. Within that folder, you should have a single Android Studio project, for the app you have built. You should also provide a completed rubric, as well as videos demonstrating your working app.

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<sup>3</sup> The flag `Settings.STANDALONE` is used to disable communication with the server.