

Project Android - Directed Practicals - Part 2 Richard Woodward September 2024

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1 Application 2: Movie Poster



2 Application 3 : Note Taker (version 1)

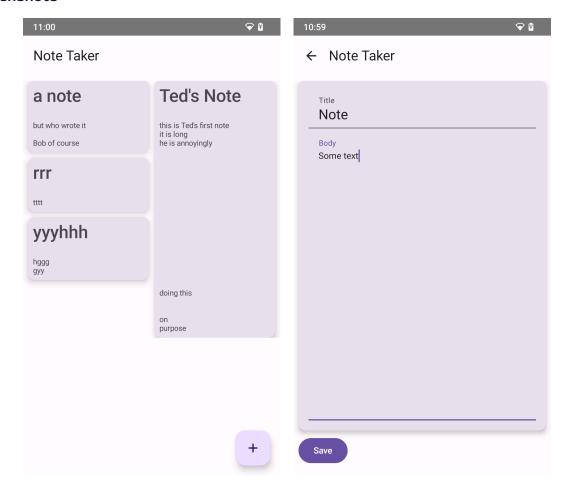
Introduction

A two screen application based upon Google keep - but much simpler..., allowing the user to:

- 1. View in a scrolling list the different notes made
- 2. Click a button to create a new note
- 3. Click a note to edit it
- 4. Either save or discard the created / modified note

However, we will not be able to persist the data (see later application updates)

Screenshots



Competences and Techniques

- · Using Compose
- Model View View-Model (MVVM)
 - with State
- · Compose Navigation API



Instructions

Whilst following these instructions, it will be sometimes necessary to fix missing imports¹, or add annotations to remove syntax warnings. This is left to the student to do.

Initial Project Creation

Within android studio, create a new project using the Empty Activity template for Phone and Tablet.

Name: Note Taker

Package name: fr.eseo.ld.<initials>.notes

Minimum SDK: API 24

Build configuration language: Kotlin DSL

Once Android Studio has finished configuring the project, launch the project to verify that the application works - you should just see the greeting screen.

Initial Data Structure

In this first iteration of the Note Taker application, we will use a Kotlin list of instances of a data class, to store the different notes. In the later iterations, we will use a local database and also a cloud based database for the data storage.

Each note, will be identified by an id, the title and body of the note, the name of the author, along with the creation and last modification dates.

- 1. Create the package model
- 2. Within this package create a Kotlin data class Note which will represent a note in our application
- 3. add read only properties to the primary constructor:

· id : String

· author : String

• creationDate : Date²

• modificationDate : Date

4. add read-write properties to the primary constructor:

title : Stringbody : String

Initial Summary Screen

The user of the note taker application, when they start it, will first have a screen that will show all the different notes that have already been created. As the number of notes which potentially can be created is rather large (up to the memory limits imposed by the system), there will possibly be more information than can be displayed in one screen. To get around this constraint, the user will be able to scroll to see the different notes. The way in which we can configure this in Compose is a lot easier than with the original Views api - We will create three different versions to show some of the different ways it is possible to do this.

Along with the scrolling list (where the different list items will be clickable, to be able to edit them), the user will be presented with a button to be able to create a new note. This button, will *float* above the list of notes.

As with the previous example, we will create a new Kotlin file to declare the composables, however as we are going to be creating multiple (here only two) screens, we will first create a sub-package to store the Kotlin code in.

1. Create the package screens in the ui package.

¹Unfortunately, sometimes Android Studio will highlight that an import is missing, but not be able to provide the correct choice in its quick-fix pop-up menu.

²java.util.Date



2. Create a new Kotlin file SummaryScreen within this package.

The basic structure will start off similar to the previous example, a Scaffold with an AppBar displaying the application's title. To this we will add a FloatingActionButton-with no functionality for the moment.

- 1. Create the composable functions in SummaryScreen to be able to create and preview the screen which will display the title within the AppBar.
- 2. Within the Scaffold composable, between the topBar and the content properties, add the following code which will add a FloatingActionButton in the bottom right-hand corner of the screen:

- 3. Extract the "Add_Notes" string to make it a string resource
- 4. Check the preview appears correctly within Android Studio.

The final step in the initial summary screen is to be able to display a list of notes (we will modify the preview method to create a Kotlin list of instances of Note, using dummy data).

We could use a Column composable as in the previous example to display the different notes, however for this application, where we are not sure how many items are to be displayed (and there could be *many* items displayed), it would not be the most efficient way of doing this. Instead, we will use a LazyColumn, which will optimize the memory use.

Another advantage of a LazyColumn, is that it allows us to pass a list of items to it, and declare a composable function to describe how each item will be displayed.

To be able to implement this, we need to follow three steps:

- 1. Create the Composable function, which will have as a parameter an instance of our data class Note, and will display the information
- 2. Create the Composable function, which will take the List of Notes, and that will display the contents of the list within a LazyColumn composable, using the previous Composable function to declare how each item will be displayed.
- 3. Use the second function as the content of our Scaffold composable.

Displaying a single Note To display a single note, we will use a Card composable. The Card composable is one of the fundamental bases of the material design philosophy behind modern Android layouts. By default, a card is a rectangular widget which can have an *elevation*. We need to make sure that the elevation is lower than that of the FloatingActionButton.

- 1. Create a Composable function SummaryItem which takes an instance of Note as its first parameter and a modifier as its second parameter) within the SummaryScreen Kotlin file.
- 2. Inside this function, declare a Card composable using the following code:

```
Card(
    elevation = CardDefaults.cardElevation(defaultElevation = 6.dp)
){
}
```

- 3. Add to the card composable
 - a Text composable to display the note's title:



```
Text(
     text = note.title,
     fontSize = MaterialTheme.typography.headlineMedium.fontSize,
     fontWeight = FontWeight.Medium,
     modifier = Modifier
          .fillMaxWidth()
          .padding(8.dp)
 )
· a Spacer composable:
 Spacer(modifier = Modifier.height(8.dp))

    a Text composable to display the note's body:

 Text(
     text = note.body,
     fontSize = MaterialTheme.typography.bodySmall.fontSize,
     fontWeight = FontWeight.Normal,
     modifier = Modifier
          .fillMaxWidth()
          .padding(8.dp)
 )
```

Display a list of items in a LazyColumn The LazyColumn is a composable, that will display a list of items, which is scrollable and memory efficient.

1. Create the composable function SummaryList which will take a List of notes and a modifier as its two parameters, which will be used to display a list of notes.

```
fun SummaryList(notes : List<Note>, modifier : Modifier = Modifier)
```

2. Use a LazyColumn composable to display the list of items:

Adding the LazyColumn to the Scaffold composable Modify the content of the Scaffold composable to be:

```
content = {innerPadding ->SummaryList(modifier = Modifier.padding(innerPadding))}
```

Update the preview method Replace the annotated preview method with the following code to be able to preview how the screen will be displayed. (Note here we are bypassing the SummaryScreen function by implementing its functionality directly in the preview method, as this is the *easiest* way of ensuring that the class compiles and the preview can be displayed). *Note, you may have to modify certain names in this code*



```
.padding(
                       start = WindowInsets.safeDrawing
                           .asPaddingValues()
                           .calculateStartPadding(layoutDirection),
                       end = WindowInsets.safeDrawing
                           .asPaddingValues()
                           .calculateEndPadding(layoutDirection)
                   .background(MaterialTheme.colorScheme.primary)
               )
           floatingActionButton = {
               FloatingActionButton(onClick = {}) {
                   Icon(imageVector = Icons.Default.Add,
                       contentDescription = "Add<sub>□</sub>Notes")
               }
           }
       ) {
               innerPadding ->
           val dummyNotes= listOf(
               Note(
                   id="1'
                   title="My_{\sqcup}first_{\sqcup}note",
                   body = "Not_very_interesting",
                   author = "Bob"
                   creationDate = Date(),
                   modificationDate = Date()
               Note(
                   id="2"
                   title="My_second_note",
                   author = "Bob",
                   creationDate = Date();
                   modificationDate = Date()
               ),
           SummaryList(notes = dummyNotes, modifier = Modifier.padding(innerPadding))
       }
   }
}
```

Once the preview is visible, create more items in the list, so that there are more items than screen space, recheck the preview. Notice how the different cards are correctly sized for their contents.

Second Style Summary Screen

The Google Keep application presents the different notes in a grid and not a single column.

The LazyGrid composable allows us to do this. To implement the grid rather than the column, we need to make three modifications to our SummaryList method:

- 1. change the component from LazyList to LazyVerticalGrid³
- 2. define the number of columns in the grid columns = GridCells.Fixed(2)
- define the horizontalArrangement: horizontalArrangement = Arrangement.spacedBy(8.dp)

Final Style Summary Screen

By using the LazyVerticalGrid, we have an application similar to GoogleKeep, however each new row of notes are aligned at the top. If the height of each card is different, it could result in some wasted screen space. There is a component that can be used to remove this problem: A LazyVerticalStaggeredGrid. To be able to use one of these, make the three following changes:

- 1. modify the component LazyVerticalGrid to LazyVerticalStaggeredGrid
- 2. Replace the verticalArrangement by: verticalItemSpacing = 8.dp

³We could also make a horizontally scrolling grid



3. replace the GridCellsFixed to StaggeredGridCells

The layout of the first screen is now complete. The next step will be to create the second screen, before adding the functionality to each.

Initial Detail Screen

The second screen (the Details Screen) will allow the user to either create or modify a note. There will be two text fields to allow editing the title and the body of the note, a save button which will store any modifications, or a back button in the AppBar to return to the summary screen discarding the changes.

Up until now, we have created our own AppBar, for this screen we will use a composable already in the material library, the TopAppBar. This composable has space for a navigation icon (back arrow, or hamburger), title and space for one or more icons for tasks (if there are too many tasks, a menu is automatically created).

Under the TopAppBar, there will be a Card composable, that allows details to be added, or edited. In this first version, we will finish the layout with a save button.

Once more, at the moment, we are concentrating on displaying the interface, in a later section we will add the functionality.

Creating the TopAppBar

- 1. Create the DetailsScreen Kotlin file in the screens package.
- 2. Add the DetailsScreen composable function, add the Surface and Scaffold composables as previously.
- 3. For the Scaffold's topBar property, create a TopAppBar composable:

- 4. Add the @OptIn(ExperimentalMaterial3Api::class) to the method, as the TopAppBar composable is new in the current version of the material api and its declarations and/or functionalities could possibly change.
- 5. Declare the content of the Scaffold's topBar as an empty Text composable, to remove the error.
- 6. Create a preview function to display the DetailsScreen.
- 7. Modify the colour of the TopAppBar to use the *primary* and *onPrimary* colours of the application's theme:

```
colors = TopAppBarsColors(...)
```

Create the content for the Details Screen The content for the DetailsScreen will be a Column composable, containing a Card composable to display the details and a save Button composable.

- 1. Create the DetailsContent composable function, declare two parameters, the first existingNote : Note? and the second innerPadding : PaddingValues
- 2. Add the following code to create the layout:



```
Column(
    modifier = Modifier
        .padding(innerPadding)
        .padding(8.dp)
        .fillMaxSize()
) {
    // Card containing the title, spacer, and body text field
    Card(
        modifier = Modifier
            .fillMaxWidth()
                          // Make the card take up the remaining space
            .weight(1f),
        elevation = CardDefaults.cardElevation(defaultElevation = 5.dp)
    ) {
        Column(
            modifier = Modifier
                .fillMaxSize()
                .padding(8.dp)
        ) {
            TextField(
                value = existingNote?.title ?: "",
                singleLine = true,
                textStyle = MaterialTheme.typography.titleLarge,
                onValueChange = {},
                modifier = Modifier.fillMaxWidth(),
                label = { Text(text = "Title") },
                readOnly = if (existingNote == null || existingNote.author == "Bob")
                    false
                else
                    true
            )
            Spacer(modifier = Modifier.height(8.dp))
            TextField(
                value = existingNote?.body ?: "",
                singleLine = false.
                textStyle = MaterialTheme.typography.bodyMedium,
                onValueChange = {},
                modifier = Modifier
                    .fillMaxWidth()
                    .weight(1f),
                label = { Text(text = "Body") },
                readOnly = if (existingNote == null || existingNote.author == "Bob")
                    false
                else
                    true
            )
        }
    Spacer(modifier = Modifier.height(16.dp))
    if (existingNote == null || existingNote.author == "Bob"){
        Button(
            onClick = { /* Handle click */ },
            modifier = Modifier
                .align(Alignment.CenterHorizontally)
                .padding(bottom = 8.dp)
        ) {
            Text(text = "Save")
    }
}
```

- 3. Replace the content of the Scaffold composable with a call to this function. passing **null** as the first argument and innerPadding as the second.
- 4. Verify that all the composables are visible in the preview.
- 5. Call the preview function, using an instance of the class Note (with and without the author being "Bob", to verify that the button appears or disappears correctly.



Final Style Details Screen

The save button could be placed on the AppBar, freeing up space - which in the v2 and v3 will allow us to display more information - author, dates, ...

- Delete the Spacer and Button composables within the Card from the DetailsContent composable function.
- 2. Add a parameter: existingNote: Note? = null to the DetailsScreen function
- 3. add the actions property to the TopAppBar composable:

- 4. modify the call to DetailsContent() so that the first argument is the existingNote instance that was passed as an argument to the DetailsScreen() method.
- 5. Modify the preview method to verify the correct display of the elements in the user interface.

Adding Navigation and View-Model

Now that we have the two screens, we need to be able to:

- 1. Navigate correctly between them
- 2. Modify the State of the components based upon the model

To be able to implement this functionality, we are going to use the compose navigation api and the view-model api.

Add the dependencies

- 1. Modify the [versions] section of libs.versions.toml, adding: navigationCompose = "3.7.7"
- 2. Modify the [libraries] section of libs.versions.toml, adding:

3. Modify the dependencies section of |build.gradle.kts(Module:app)|, adding:

```
implementation(libs.androidx.navigation.compose)
implementation(libs.androidx.lifecycle.viewmodel.compose)
```

4. Re-sync the project to download the correct dependencies.

Creating the View-Model The view-model in this first iteration of the Note Taker application will contain a list of Notes as State, along with the current Note (again as a State) along with the functions that allow to recuperate a Note from its id and to add or update a given Note.

- 1. In the ui package create a new package called viewmodels
- Within this new package create the Kotlin class NoteTakerViewModel, sub-class of androidx.lifecycle.ViewModel



3. Create the properties for the State of the list of all the notes:

```
private val _notes = MutableStateFlow<List<Note>>(emptyList())
val notes : StateFlow<List<Note>> = _notes.asStateFlow()
```

4. Create the properties for the State for a single Note:

```
private val _note = MutableStateFlow<Note?>(null)
val note : StateFlow<Note?> = _note.asStateFlow()
```

5. Create the function that will add or update a Note:

```
fun addOrUpdate(note : Note) {
    _notes.value = if(_notes.value.any{it.id == note.id}) {
        _notes.value.map(if(it.id==note.id) note else it)
    }
    else {
        _notes.value + note
    }
}
```

6. Create the function that will recuperate a Note from the list from its Id:

```
fun getNoteById(noteId : String) {
    _note.value = _notes.value.find {it.id == noteId}
}
```

Creating a Navigation Graph The navigation api, provides the functionality to navigate between screens, passing where needed different parameters.

The compose navigation api is based upon a number of concepts:

Destination Can be thought of as a Screen (or possibly part of a screen) to be displayed in the application.

Route Uniquely identifies a destination and the data that is required for it

Graph a data structure that defines all the destinations within the application and how they are joined together

Controller manages the navigation between the different destinations in the navigation graph, including handling correctly the back stack (where to go when the back button / gesture is activated).

Host A UI element (could be the complete UI, or part of the UI) that contains the current Destination. On navigation, the application swaps the content of the host to the new destination.

The different destinations are defined by Strings. To add a simple compile time check to the navigation code, in our implementation, we are going to create an enumeration which will be used to limit the acceptable values⁴.

- 1. In the ui package, create the navigation sub-package
- In this package, create a Kotlin enum class NoteTakerScreens with a String read-only parameter called id
- 3. Add the following items:

```
SUMMARY_SCREEN("summary_screen"),
DETAILS_SCREEN("details_screen")
```

The next step is to create the class which will declare the NavController and NavHost.

- In the ui package create the Kotlin file NoteTakerApp
- 2. Create a composable function NoteTakerApp, containing a read-only property called viewModel which will be initialized as an instance of our NoteTakerViewModel class.

⁴avoiding possible typos in the code for example



3. Create a read-only property called navController, using the rememberNavController function, so that any time this function is called for recomposing, the same navController will be used, and not a new instance:

```
val navController = rememberNavController()
```

4. Create the NavHost, linking to the declared navController and declaring that the first screen to be displayed will be the summary screen:

```
NavHost(
    navController,
    startDestination = NoteTakerScreens.SUMMARY_SCREEN.id
) {
}
```

The next step is to modify the contents of the Kotlin file SummaryScreen, so that we can pass the navigation controller and the view-model to the screen.

1. Add two parameters to the SummaryScreen function:

```
navController : NavController,
viewModel : NoteTakerViewModel = viewModel()
```

2. In the body of the function, create a read-only variable notes that will recuperate as a State the list of notes from the view-model:

```
val notes by viewModel.notes.collectAsState()
```

Modify the Kotlin file DetailsScreen, to link the navigation and view-Model.

1. Modify the parameters of the DetailsScreen function:

```
fun DetailsScreen(
   navController : NavController,
   noteId : String,
   viewModel : NoteTakerViewModel = viewModel()
)
```

2. create the read-only variable existingNote

```
val existingNote by viewModel.note.collectAsState()
```

3. Add the following lines, which will ensure that the existingNote instance is correctly initialized when the composable is (re)launched:

```
LaunchedEffect(noteId) {
    viewModel.getNoteById(noteId)
}
```

4. Add the other variables which are going to be used to remember the state of the model:

```
var title by remember {mutableStateOf(existingNote?.title ?: "")}
var body by remember {mutableStateOf(existingNote?.body ?: "")}
val author = "Bob"
val date = Date()
```

5. Create a private function that returns a String representing a formatted date:

```
private fun formatDate(date : Date) : String {
return SimpleDateFormat("yyyy-MM-dd⊔hh:mm:ss").format(date)
}
```



6. Delete the DetailsContent method and replace the call to it with the following⁵:

```
Column(
    modifier = Modifier
        .padding(innerPadding)
        .padding(8.dp)
        .fillMaxSize()
        .verticalScroll(rememberScrollState())
) {
    Card(
        modifier = Modifier
            .fillMaxWidth()
            .weight(1f),
        elevation = CardDefaults.cardElevation(defaultElevation = 5.dp)
    ) {
        Column(
            modifier = Modifier
                .fillMaxSize()
                .padding(8.dp)
        ) {
            TextField(
                value = title,
                singleLine = true,
                textStyle = MaterialTheme.typography.titleLarge,
                onValueChange = {title = it},
                modifier = Modifier.fillMaxWidth(),
                label = { Text(text = "Title") },
                readOnly = if (existingNote == null || existingNote?.author == "Bob") false else true
            Spacer(modifier = Modifier.height(8.dp))
            TextField(
                value = body,
                singleLine = false,
                textStyle = MaterialTheme.typography.bodyMedium,
                onValueChange = {body = it},
                modifier = Modifier
                    .fillMaxWidth()
                    .weight(1f)
                label = { Text(text = "Body") },
                readOnly = if (existingNote == null || existingNote?.author == "Bob") false else true
            Spacer(modifier = Modifier.height(8.dp))
            Row(
                modifier = Modifier.fillMaxWidth(),
                horizontalArrangement = Arrangement.SpaceBetween
            ){
                Text(text = "Created_By")
                Text(text = existingNote?.author ?: "")
            Row(
                modifier = Modifier.fillMaxWidth(),
                horizontalArrangement = Arrangement.SpaceBetween
            ){
                Text(text = "Creation_Date")
                Text(text = formatDate(existingNote?.creationDate ?: date))
            Row(
                modifier = Modifier.fillMaxWidth(),
                horizontalArrangement = Arrangement.SpaceBetween
                Text(text = "Last_modification_Date")
                Text(text = formatDate(existingNote?.modificationDate ?: date))
            }
        }
   }
```

7. Modify the onClick property of the IconButton in the actions so that it updates the view-model:

⁵Before deleting, a lot of this could be recuperated from the DetailsContent method



```
onClick = {
    val newNote = Note(
        creationDate = existingNote?.creationDate ?: date,
        id = existingNote?.id ?: System.currentTimeMillis().toString(),
        title = title,
        body = body,
        author = author,
        modificationDate = date
    )
    viewModel.addOrUpdate(newNote)
}
```

The last step is to finish creating the navigation graph and correctly handling the navigation between screens.

- 1. Modify the NoteTakerApp function, to add the possible routes:
 - to the summary screen
 - · to and from the details screen
- 2. Add a composable route to the summary screen inside the NavHost declaration:

```
composable(
    NoteTakerScreens.SUMMARY_SCREEN.id
) {
    SummaryScreen(navController, viewModel)
}
```

3. Add a composable route to and from the details screen:

```
composable(
   NoteTakerScreens.DETAILS_SCREEN.id+"/{noteId}",
   arguments = listOf(
        navArguments("noteId") {
            type = NavType.StringType
        }
   ))
) {
   backStackEntry ->
      val noteId = backStackEntry.arguments?.getString("noteId") ?: "NEW"
      DetailsScreen(navController, noteId, viewModel)
}
```

Modify the SummaryScreen so that when a user clicks on the floating action button, they will navigate to the Details Screen to be able to create a new Note:

```
FloatingActionButton(onClick = {
    navController.navigate(NoteTakerScreens.DETAILS_SCREEN.id+"/NEW")
})
```

Modify the SummaryScreen so that when a user clicks on a card in the grid, they will navigate to the Details Screen to be able to modify an existing Note:

modify the SummaryItem method:

```
fun SummaryItem(note : Note, onClick : (String) -> Unit){
   Card(
        onClick = {onClick(note.id)},
        //...
```

2. modify the SummaryList method



```
fun SummaryList(
    modifier : Modifier = Modifier,
    notes: List<Note> = emptyList<Note>(),
    onClick : (String) -> Unit
){
    //...
    note ->
        SummaryItem(note, onClick = {onClick(it)})
```

3. Modify the call to the SummaryList method (in the SummaryScreen method):

```
SummaryList(modifier = Modifier.padding(innerPadding),
   notes = notes,
   onClick = {navController.navigate(
            NoteTakerScreens.DETAILS_SCREEN.id+"/${it}"
   )}
)
```

Modify the DetailsScreen Kotlin file, to take into account that the user wishes to save the modifications made:

1. In the onClick property of the IconButton in the actions, after updating the view model, add the following line:

```
navController.navigateUp()
```

2. To navigate back to the Summary Screen without saving the modifications (using the back naviagation button on the app bar, modify the onClick property of the IconButton:

```
IconButton(onClick = {navController.popBackStack()})
```

For that the application can be tested on a real device, the code in the MainActivity Kotlin class needs to be modified. Simply call the NoteTakerApp constructor from within the setContents() block and delete the example composable code.

The application is complete, but contains some bugs. The list of notes is not persisted. If you close and reopen the app, (or just rotate the device) the notes have disappeared. Two solutions for this will be seen later in the Applications 5 and 6. Also, there is a small bug when the user wishes to edit the note. Occasionally, the note's contents are not displayed, and the user needs to use the back button and reopen the note. Again, with the solutions proposed in the later apps, this problem will disappear.



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- 4 Application 5: Note Taker (version 2)
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