

# Android Development

# Getting Started

Christopher Jenkins  
Developer - Mubaloo

# Who am I? Chris Jenkins

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- Plymouth Graduate
  - BSc (Hons) Computing
- 3 Years of Java Development
  - C#, Objective-C, PHP, bash
  - MySQL,PL/SQL, XML
  - HTML,JavaScript, jQuery
  - NodeJS
- Android Developer 2 years+
- Developed
  - Weather/Maps - MetOffice
  - Property
  - Finance
  - Retail
  - Gambling

@chrisjenx  
+Chris Jenkins

Mubaloo - App Developer 2012  
@mubaloo - <http://mubaloo.com>

# Summary

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- Quick Start
- What I wish I knew 2 years ago!
- Designing for Android
- Common Practice & Do's
- Demos and Examples

# Quick Start

# Quick Start - What is Android

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- Android is built on linux
- It's 4! (Born 20th of September 2008)
- Runs a Java virtual machine (dalvikvm)
- 480M Android Devices (1.3M activated daily)\*
- Over 1400+ devices
- Copen source - but very open community



\*As of 5th September 2012

# Quick Start -Android fundamentals

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Some pros n' cons:

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- Differentiation of hardware/software

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- Differentiation of hardware/software
  - Vendor Specific 'Enhancements'

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- Android SDK - (<http://developer.android.com/sdk/index.html>)
- Eclipse - (Recommend the Juno release)
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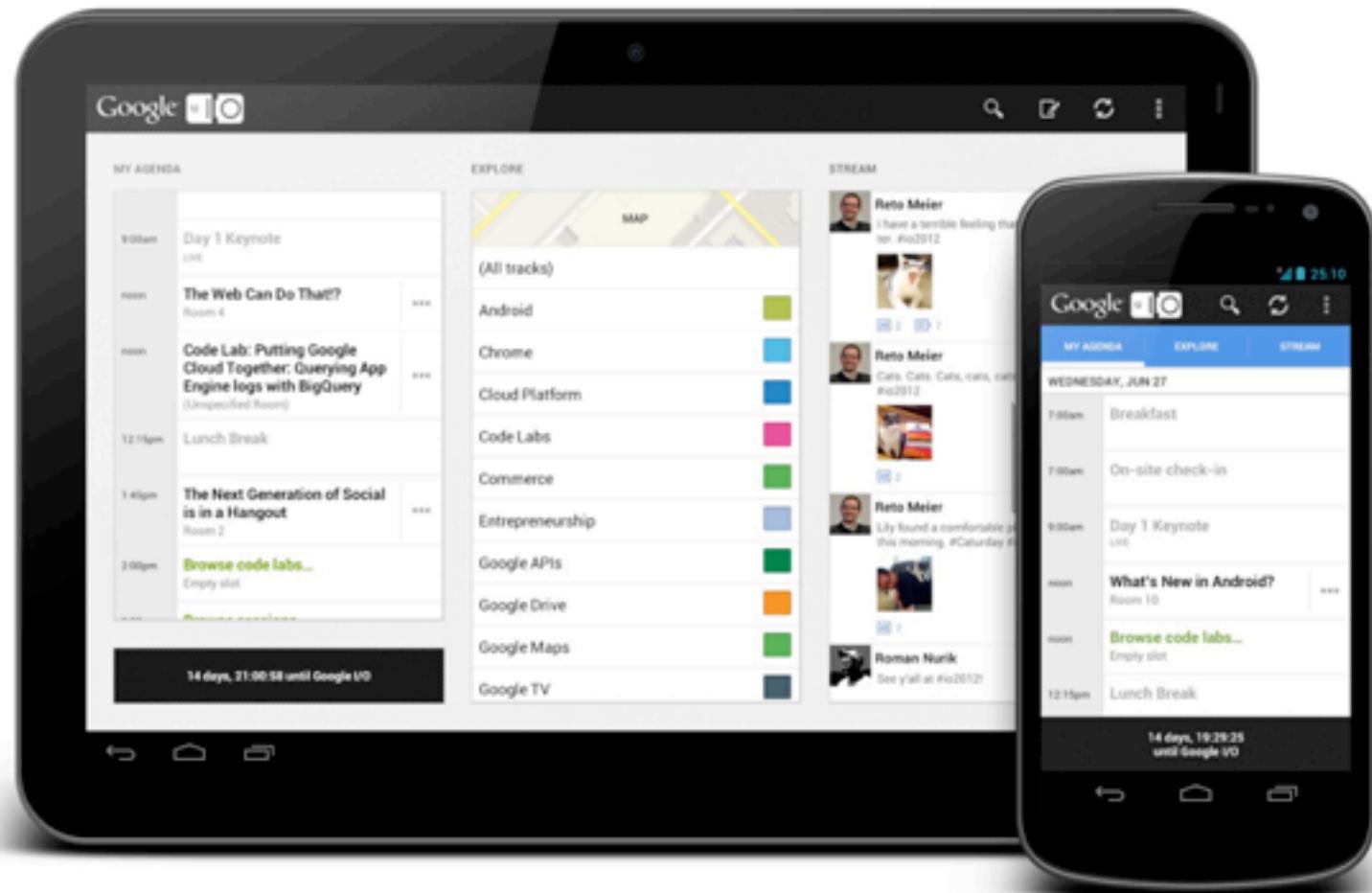
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# Quick Start - Forget your ruler...



What I wish I knew 2  
years ago!

# Have a plan

---

- Who is your market?
  - Young
  - Adults
  - Advanced
- Why will they care?
  - What's unique?
- How will you communicate with them?
- Getting paid?
  - In-App Purchases
  - Ads
  - Single Sale

# How will you distribute

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- Direct download - <http://mywebsite.com>
- Play store - <http://play.google.com>
- Amazon - <http://amazon.com/appstore>
- NOOK

# Target Devices

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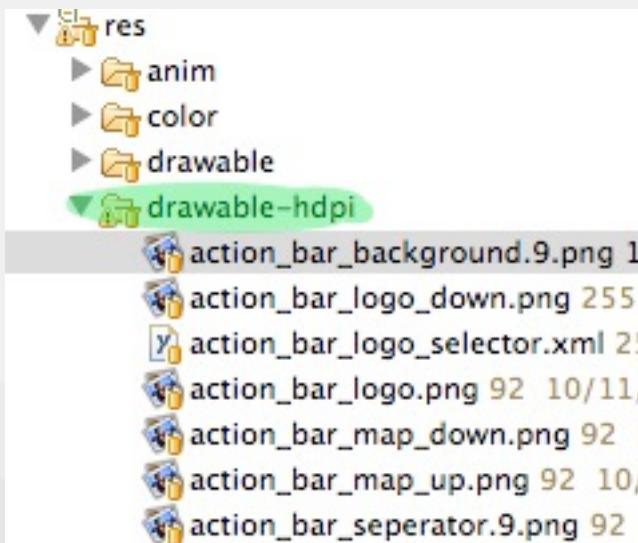
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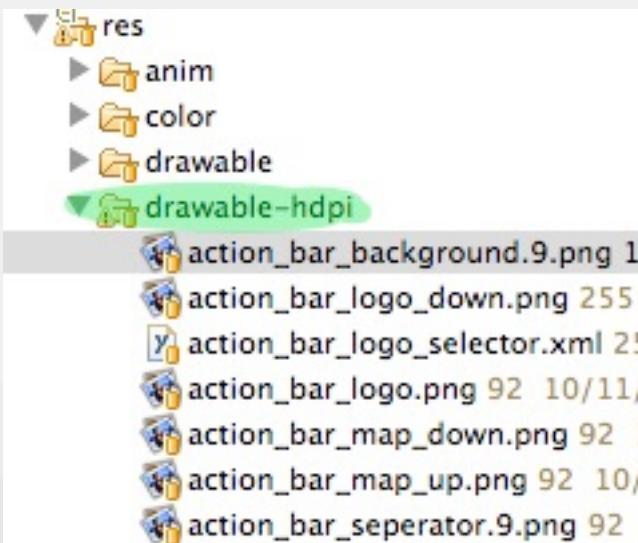
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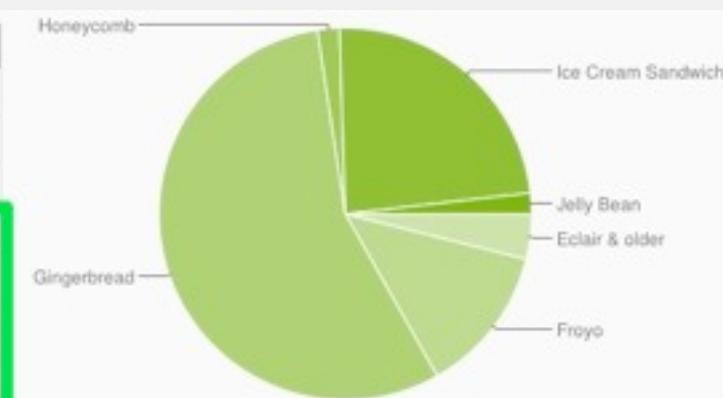
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Version	Codename	API	Distribution
1.5	Cupcake	3	0.1%
1.6	Donut	4	0.4%
2.1	Eclair	7	3.4%
2.2	Froyo	8	12.9%
2.3 - 2.3.2	Gingerbread	9	0.3%
2.3.3 - 2.3.7		10	55.5%
3.1	Honeycomb	12	0.4%
3.2		13	1.5%
4.0.3 - 4.0.4	Ice Cream Sandwich	15	23.7%
4.1	Jelly Bean	16	1.8%

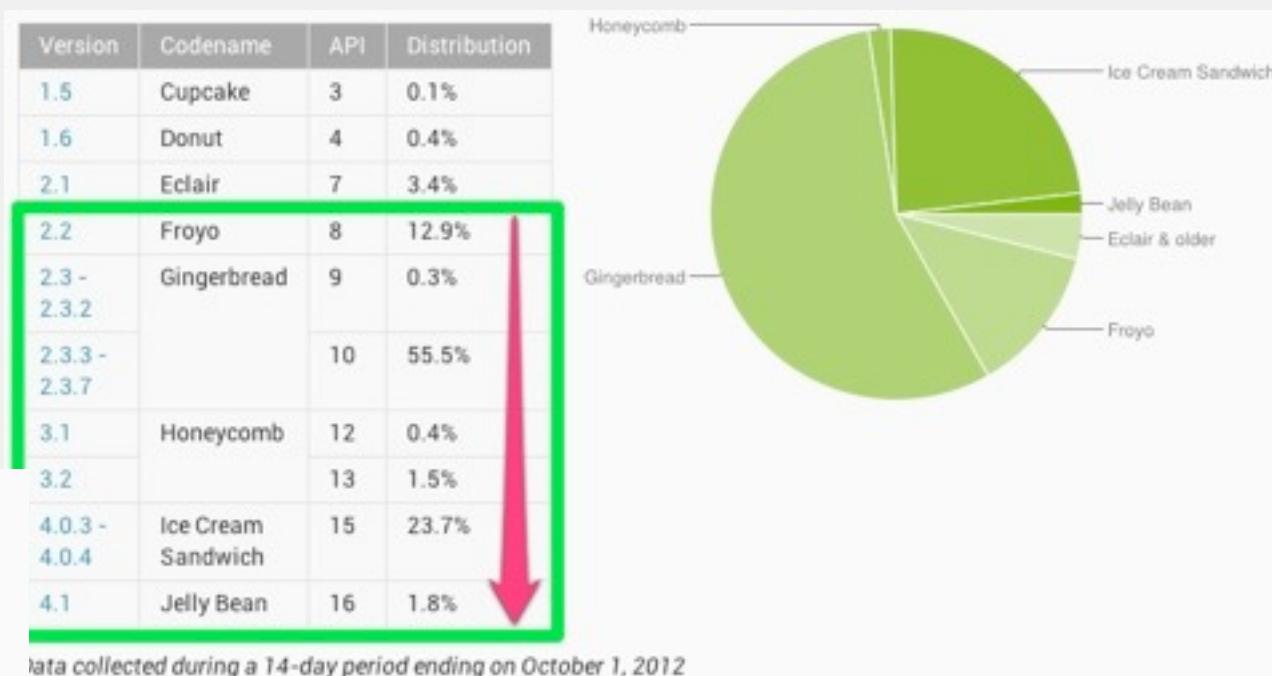
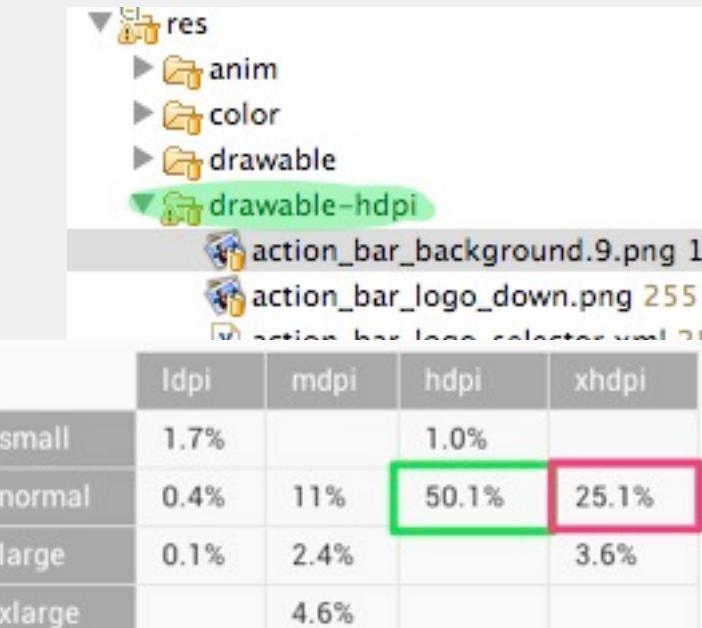


Data collected during a 14-day period ending on October 1, 2012

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Data collected during a 7-day period ending on October 1, 2012

# Target Devices - cont.

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- Phone
  - 3" - 5" devices most common
  - Gal S3/One X
- Tablets?
  - 7" Amazon Fire/Nexus 7
- Err 'Phablets'?

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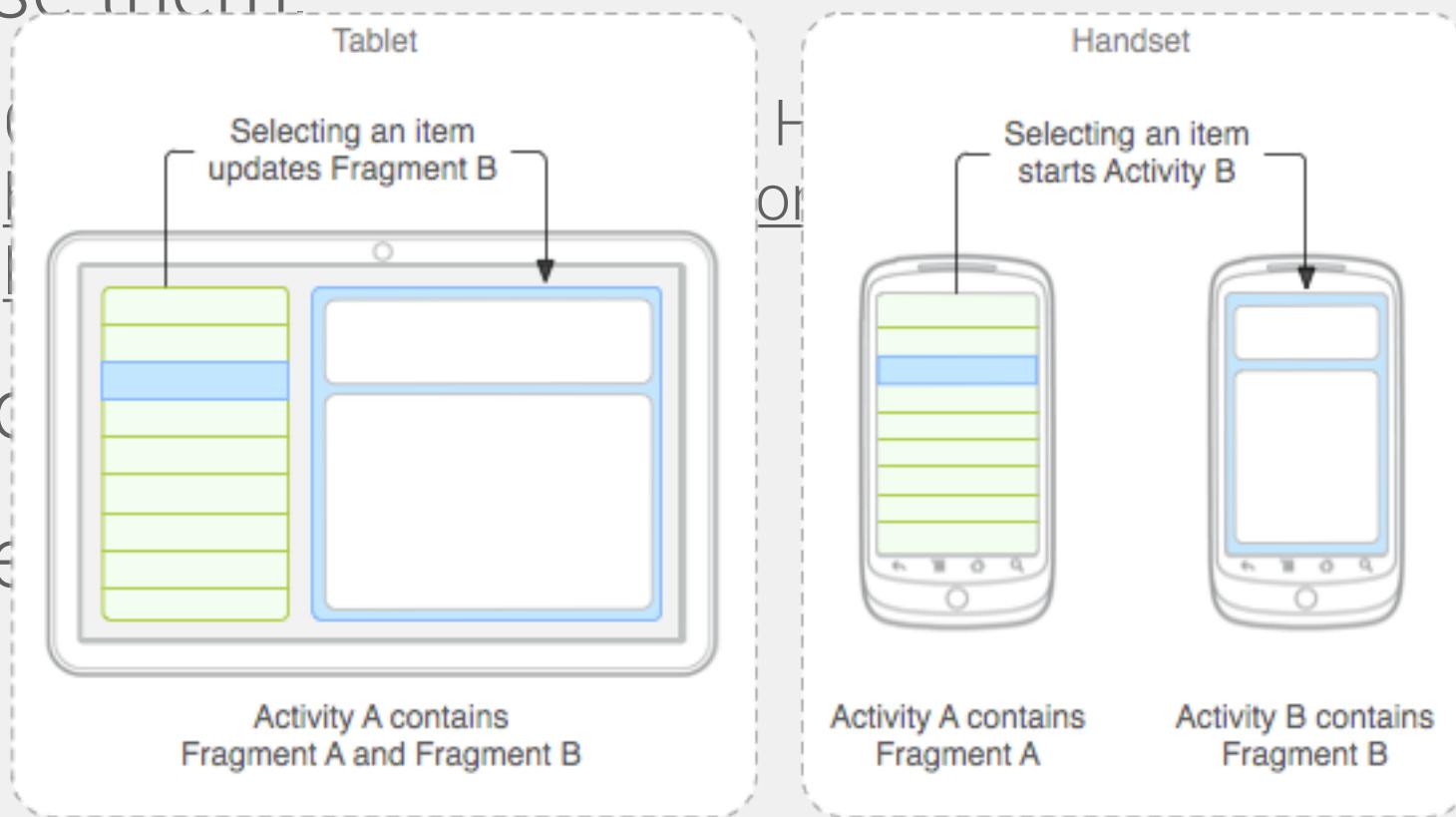
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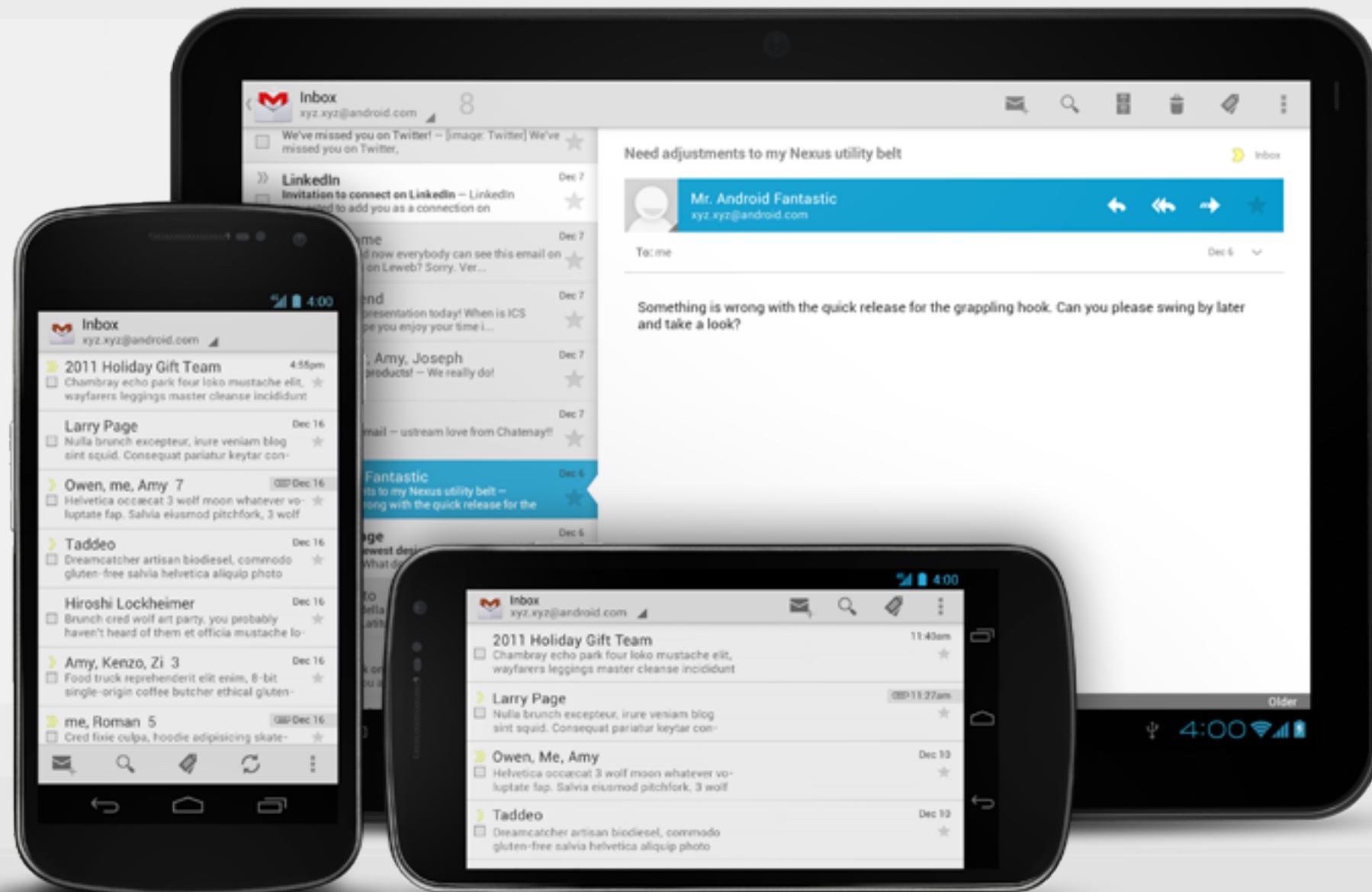
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# Action Bar

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- Best practice

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  - Follow them - but not religiously!
- Best example preferences
- If you don't know the best way to do something
  - ask/google/examples/other apps etc

# Sanity

---

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- Code validation
  - ADT Lint - Tells you when you're doing it wrong!

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---

- Code validation
  - ADT Lint - Tells you when you're doing it wrong!
- Testing
  - Robolelectric
  - Apkudo - online real device testing  
<http://www.apkudo.com/>

# Help!

---

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- Stack overflow - android tag  
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/android>
- Android Developer Blog  
<http://android-developers.blogspot.co.uk/>
- Android Developer site  
<https://developer.android.com/guide/components/index.html>
- Android Developer Group  
<https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/android-developers>
- Github  
<https://github.com/>
- OpenIntents - Android Library Listing  
<http://www.openintents.org/en/libraries>
- Android Developer Meetups  
<http://android-developers.meetup.com/>
- Chrome Omni Extension  
<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/android-sdk-reference-sea/hgcbffeicehlpmgmnhnkbjoldkfhoin>

# Help!

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**Google!**

# Designing for Android





# Design - It's all relative

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- No fixed screen size

# Design - It's all relative

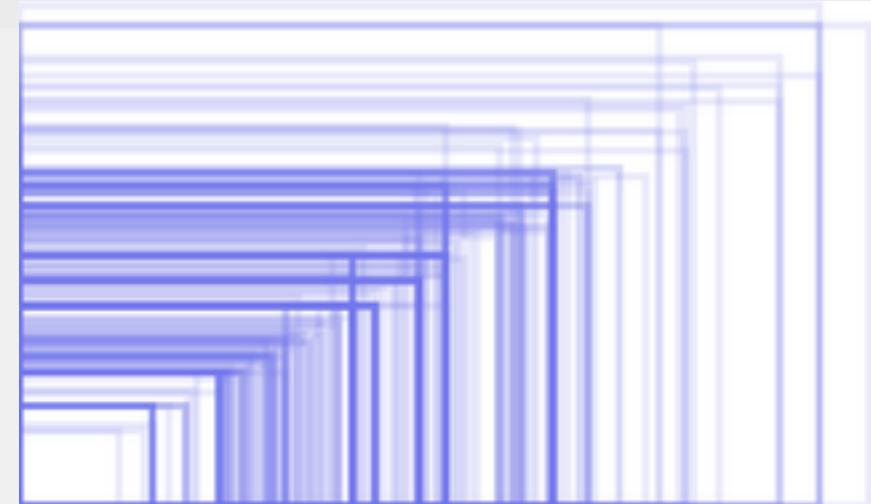
---

- No fixed screen size
- We work in "**dips**" density independent pixels  
<http://developer.android.com/training/multiscreen/screendensities.html>
- Galaxy Nexus =  $720 \times 1280 = 360\text{dp} \times 640\text{dp}$

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# Design - dips

---

- Should I need to worry?
  - Yes - You will ONLY use them!
- Calculate?
  - $32\text{dip} = \underline{32}\text{pixels} @ \text{mdpi } (\sim 160\text{dpi}) - x1.0$
  - $32\text{dip} = \underline{48}\text{pixels} @ \text{hdpi } (\sim 240\text{dpi}) - x1.5$
  - $32\text{dip} = \underline{64}\text{pixels} @ \text{xhdpi } (\sim 320\text{dpi}) - x2.0$
- Example

# Design - scaled pixels

---

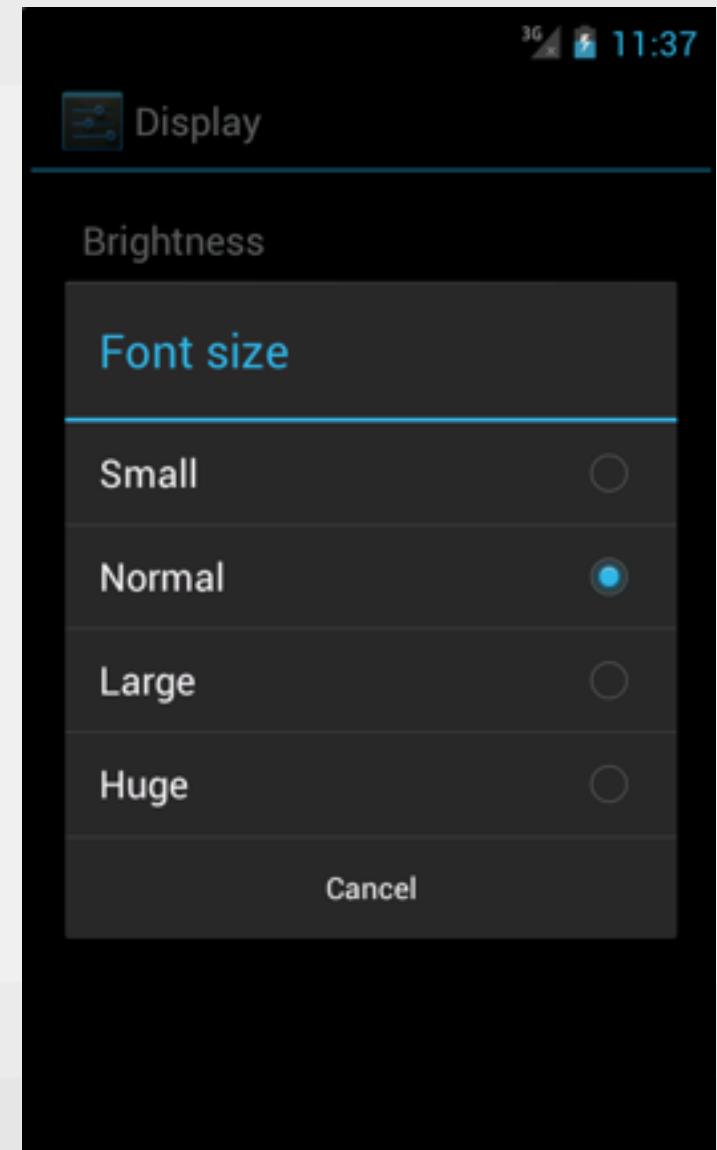
# Design - scaled pixels

---

- ScaledPixels?
  - What happens when you change the device text size size?

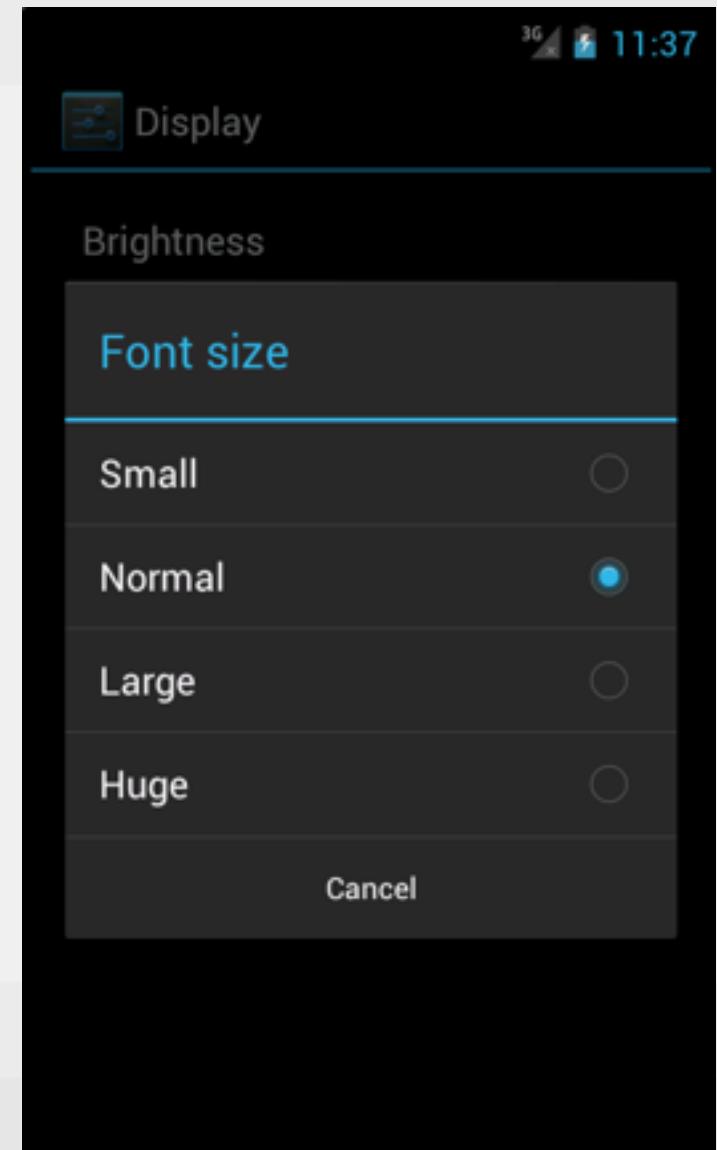
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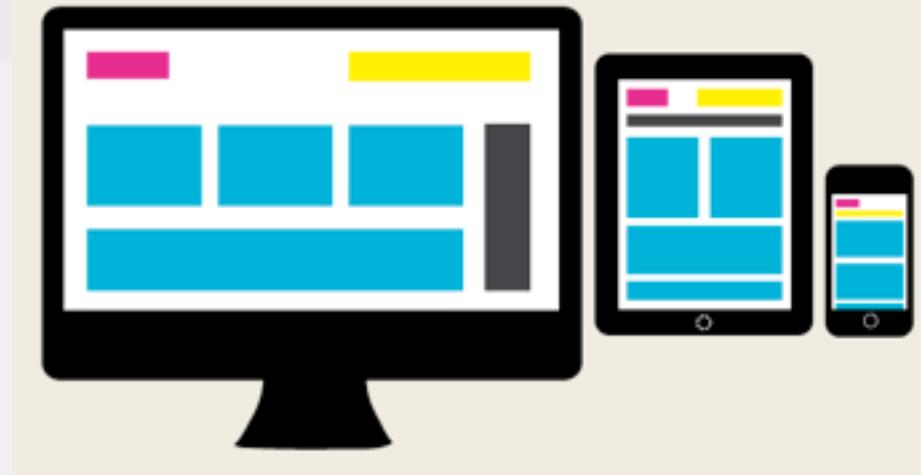
# Design - scaled pixels

- ScaledPixels?
  - What happens when you change the device text size size?
  - Just like dips but multiplied by font size
  - $1\text{sp} = 1\text{dp}$  at normal font size.



# Design - Layouts

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# Design - Layouts

---

- Think Web!



# Design - Layouts

---

- Think Web!
- Good:



# Design - Layouts

---

- Think Web!
- Good:
  - Frame Layout



# Design - Layouts

---

- Think Web!
- Good:
  - Frame Layout
  - Relative Layouts



# Design - Layouts

---

- Think Web!
- Good:
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  - Relative Layouts
  - LinearLayouts



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    - Careful with nesting, If your layout is more than 4 layers deep, maybe rethink your design.



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- DO NOT USE AbsoluteLayouts!
- Read: <http://developer.android.com/training/multiscreen/screensizes.html>



# Design - Styling

---

- styles.xml
  - ```
<style name="Text.Small">
    <item name="android:textColor">@color/greyish</item>
    <item name="android:textSize">@dimen/text_size_normal</item>
</style>
```
- dimens.xml
  - ```
<dimen name="text_size_small">16sp</dimen>
```
- colors.xml
  - ```
<color name="greyish">#111111</color>
```
- More Reading
  - <https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/ui/themes.html>
  - <http://stylingandroid.com/>

# Design - 9 Patches

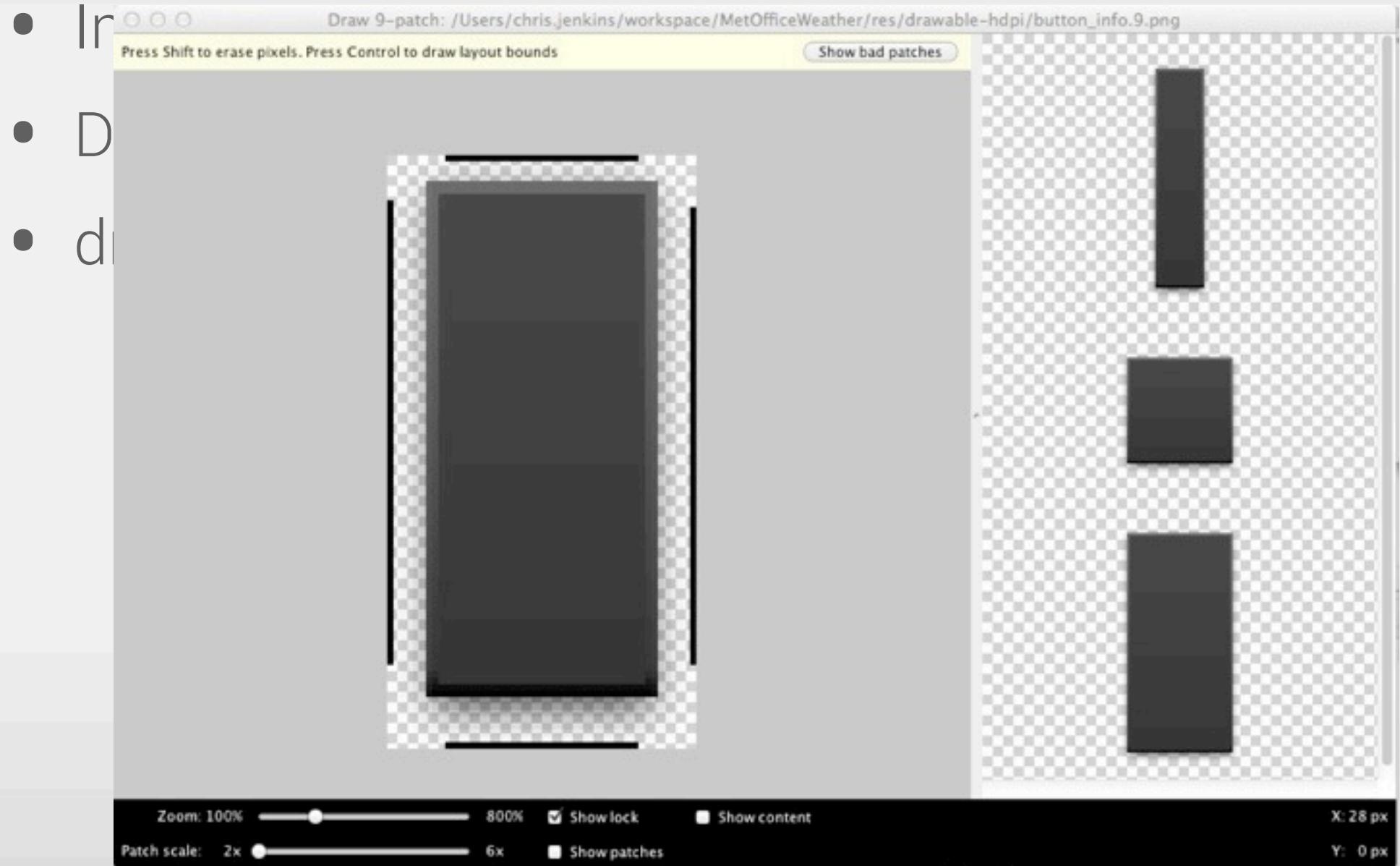
---

# Design - 9 Patches

---

- Images
- Definable stretchable regions
- draw9patch tool

# Design - 9 Patches



# Design - Pet peeves

---

- Don't port/copy from iOS!
- Not using native ActionBar (Or ActionBarSherlock)
  - Example of bad ActionBar implementation - *Olympics 2012 Results App*
- No splash screen (well try to avoid it!)

# Design - Resources

---

- Android Design  
<http://developer.android.com/design/index.html>
- 9-Patch  
<http://radleymarx.com/blog/simple-guide-to-9-patch/>
- UI Patterns  
<http://www.androiduipatterns.com/>

# Do's n' Don'ts

# Threading - ANR

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- ANR?

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---

- ANR?
  - Activity Not Responding.

# Threading - ANR

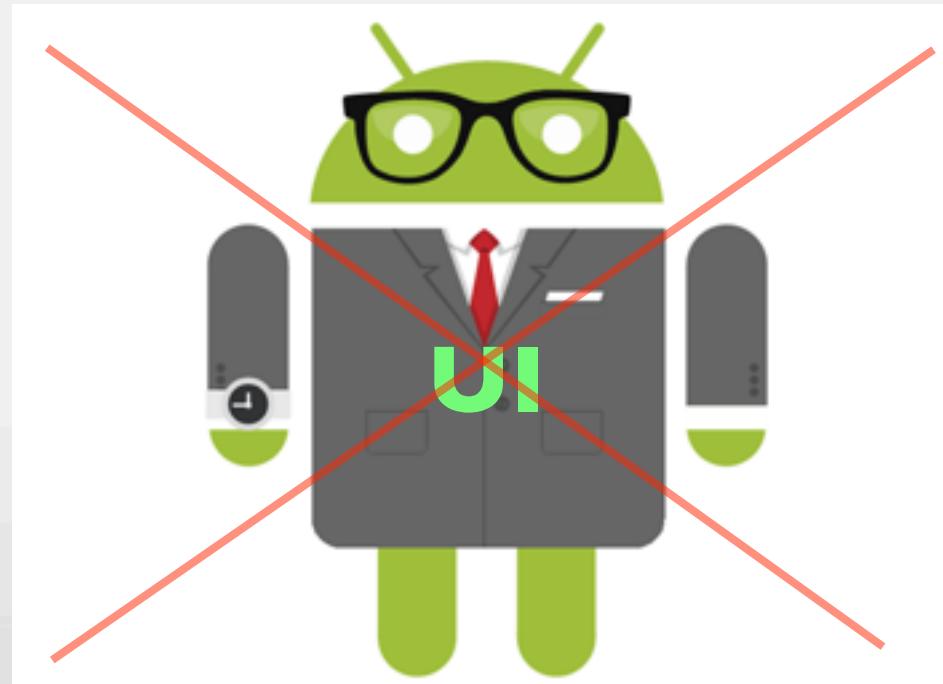
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- ANR?
  - Activity Not Responding.
  - Do not work on the UI thread!

# Threading - ANR

---

- ANR?
  - Activity Not Responding.
  - Do not work on the UI thread!



# Threading

---

- Simplest use
  - `AsyncTask<Params, Progress, Result>`
  - Managed Thread pool
  - `doInBackground` runs on a background thread.
  - `PreExecute` & `PostExecute` run on the UI thread.
- What should you thread?
  - Web requests - Data/Images etc
  - Database
  - IO/Preferences etc

# Threading - cont'd

---

- **ContentProviders**

- Will listen to database changes and asynchronously update UI.

<https://developer.android.com/reference/android/content/ContentProvider.html>

- **IntentService** - Queued Background Threaded Service

- **WakeFullIntentService** - Does work in the background service but will wake the device to do work

MarkMurphy - <https://github.com/commonsguy/cwac-wakeful>

# Fragments

---

- ModularUI
  - Not just for Phone&Tablet apps
  - Break up UI into manageable buckets/modules
  - No Gargantuan Activities!
  - Ideally don't need to be linked, ContentProviders + Fragment lifecycle.
    - Similar lifecycle to Activities.

# Fragments - Cont'd

---

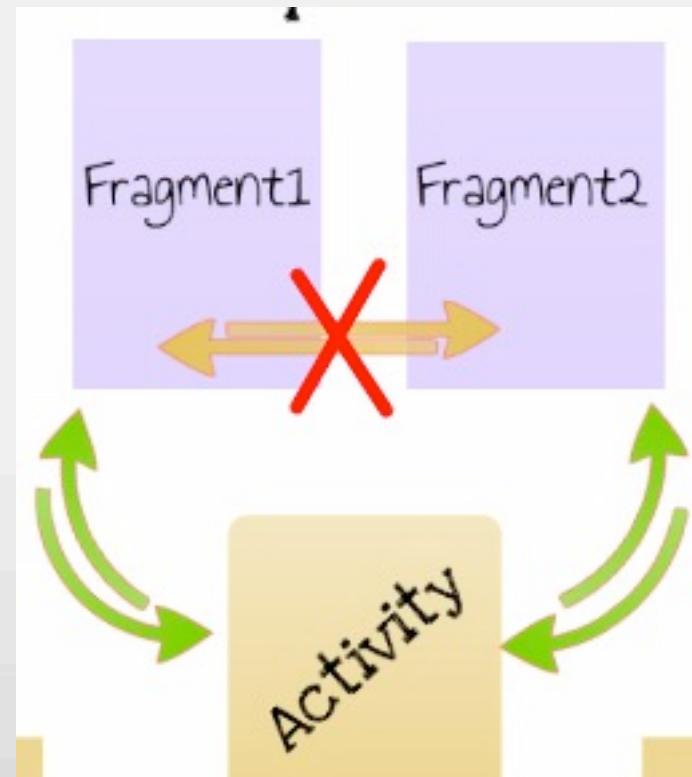
- "If you're not writing fragments, you're writing legacy code" - Berry Drinkwater
- Opens up new possibilities and API's
  - ActionBar + Tabs
  - Transition Animations
  - Automatic BackStack management
  - ViewPager

# Fragment Idea

- Sub-Activity?

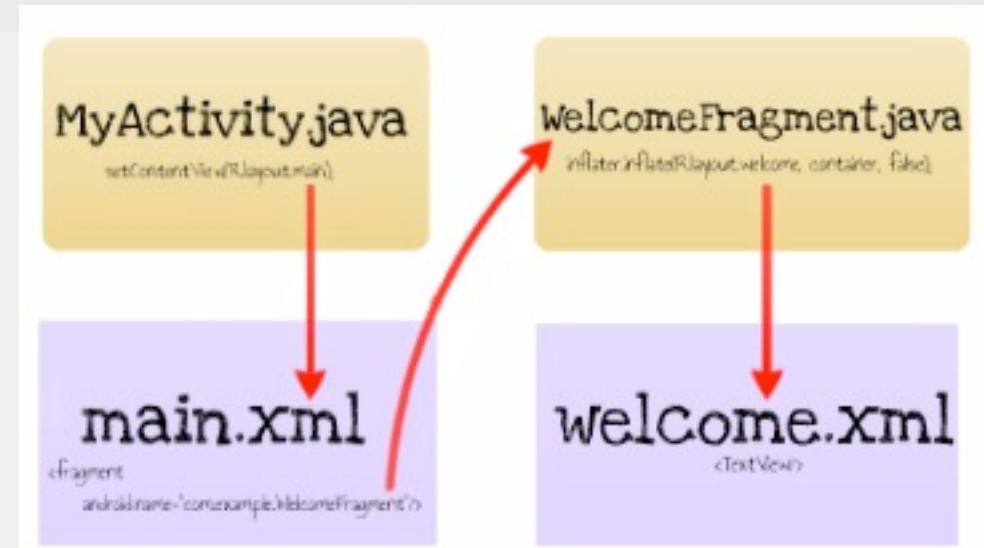


- Independent



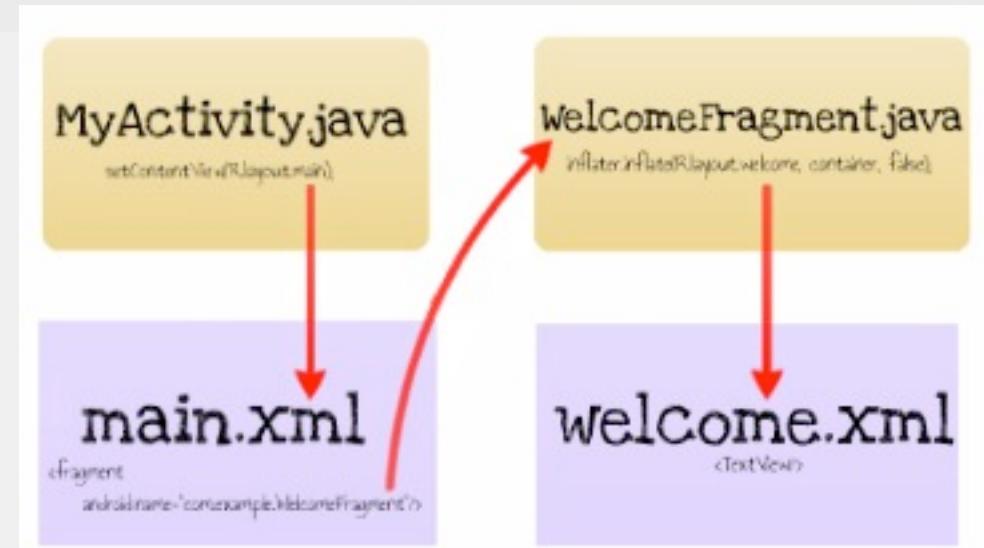
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- Simple Idea



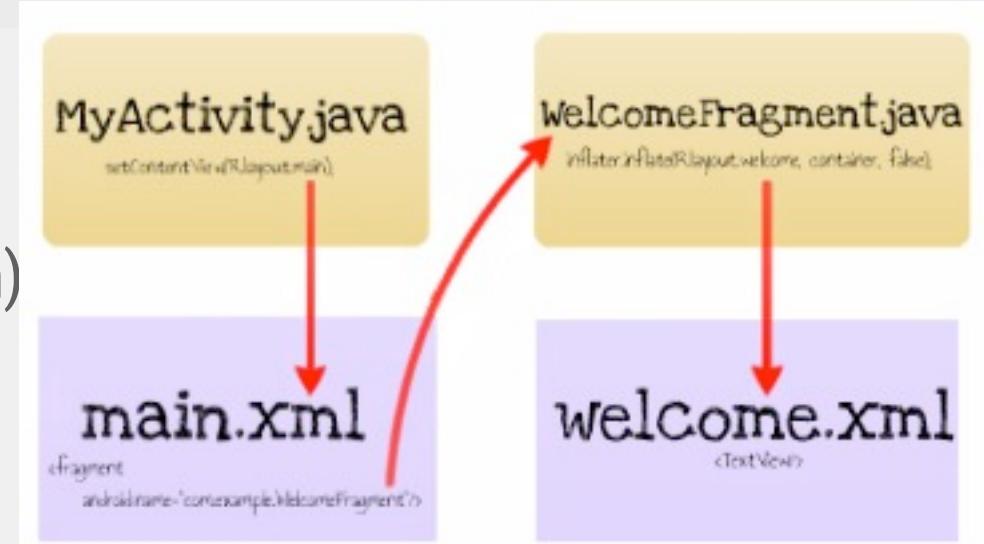
# Fragments...

- Simple Idea
- MainActivity.java



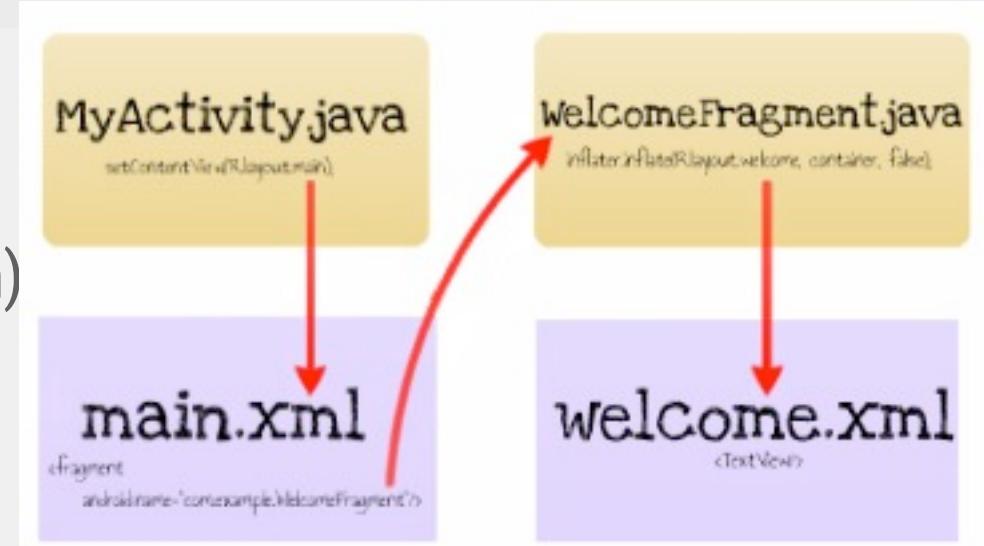
# Fragments...

- **Simple Idea**
- MainActivity.java
  - setContentView(R.layout.main)



# Fragments...

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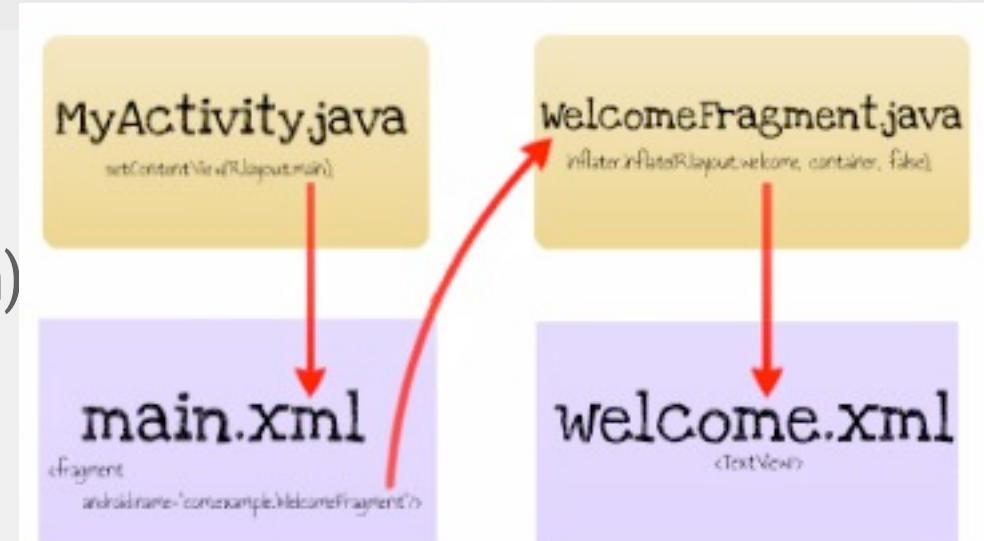


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    - <fragment android:name="com.example.fragments.WelcomeFragment"/>
- 
- The diagram illustrates the fragment architecture. It shows two Java files: 'MyActivity.java' and 'WelcomeFragment.java'. 'MyActivity.java' contains the code 'setContentView(R.layout.main);'. 'WelcomeFragment.java' contains the code 'inflate(R.layout.welcome, container, false);'. Below these files are their corresponding XML layout files: 'main.xml' and 'welcome.xml'. 'main.xml' contains a single fragment element with the name 'com.example.fragments.WelcomeFragment'. 'welcome.xml' contains a single TextView element. Red arrows point from each Java file to its respective XML file, indicating the mapping between the code and the layout.

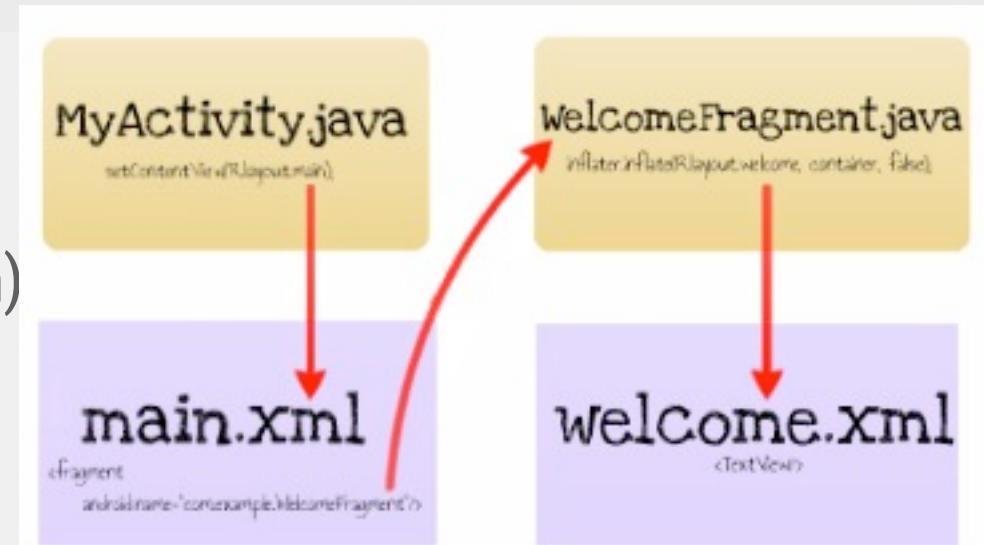
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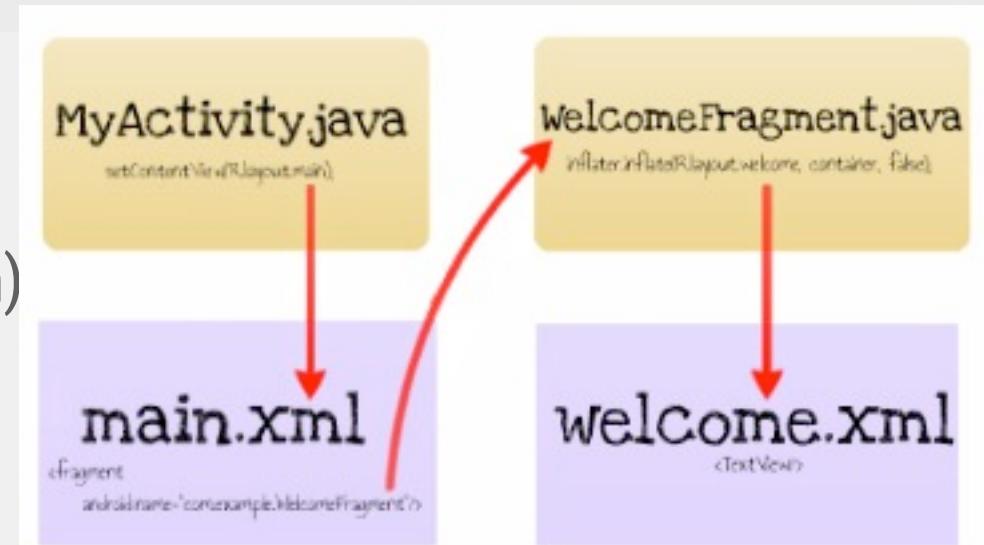
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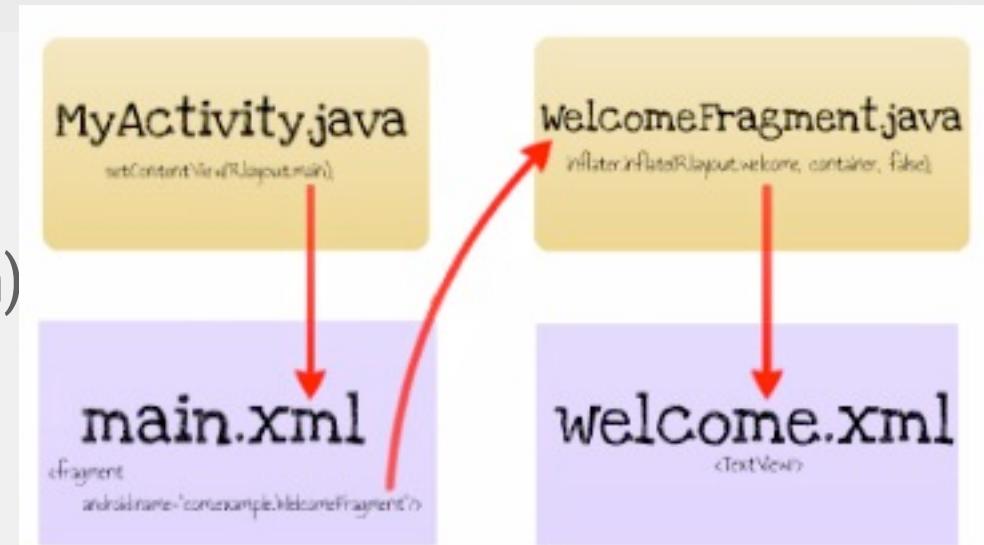
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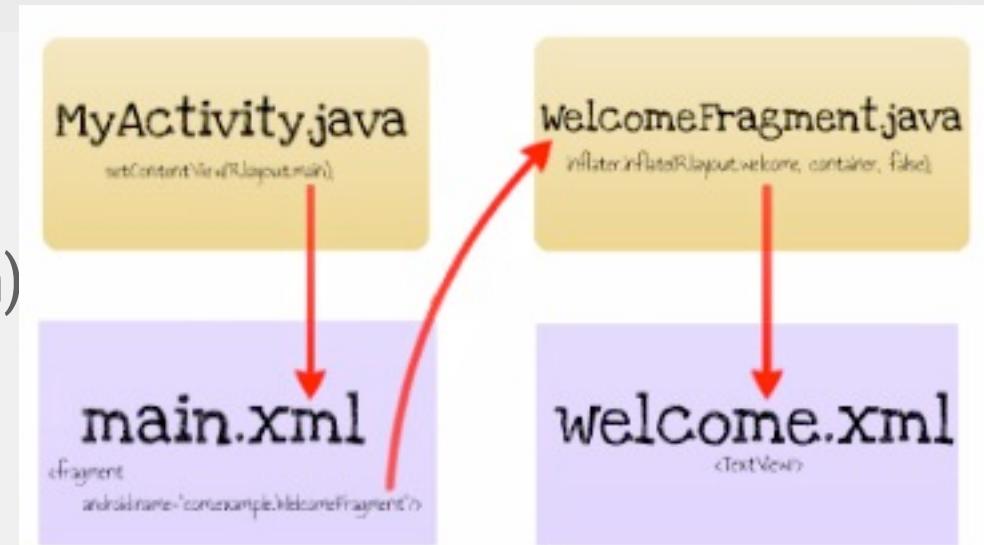
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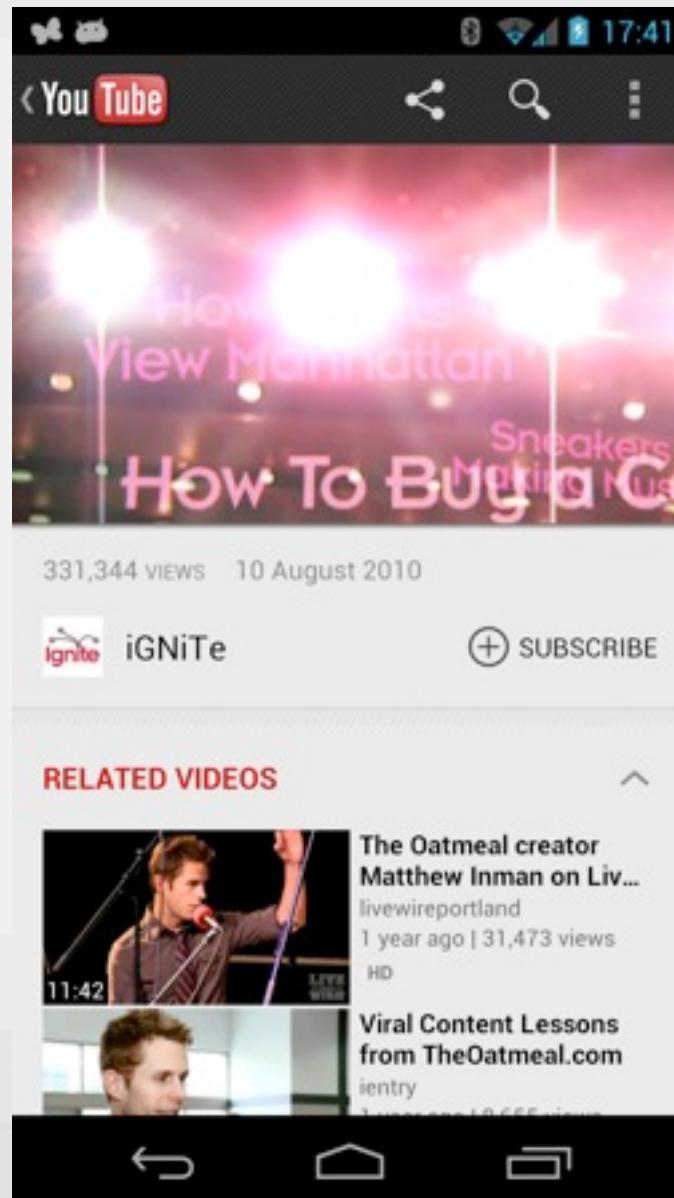


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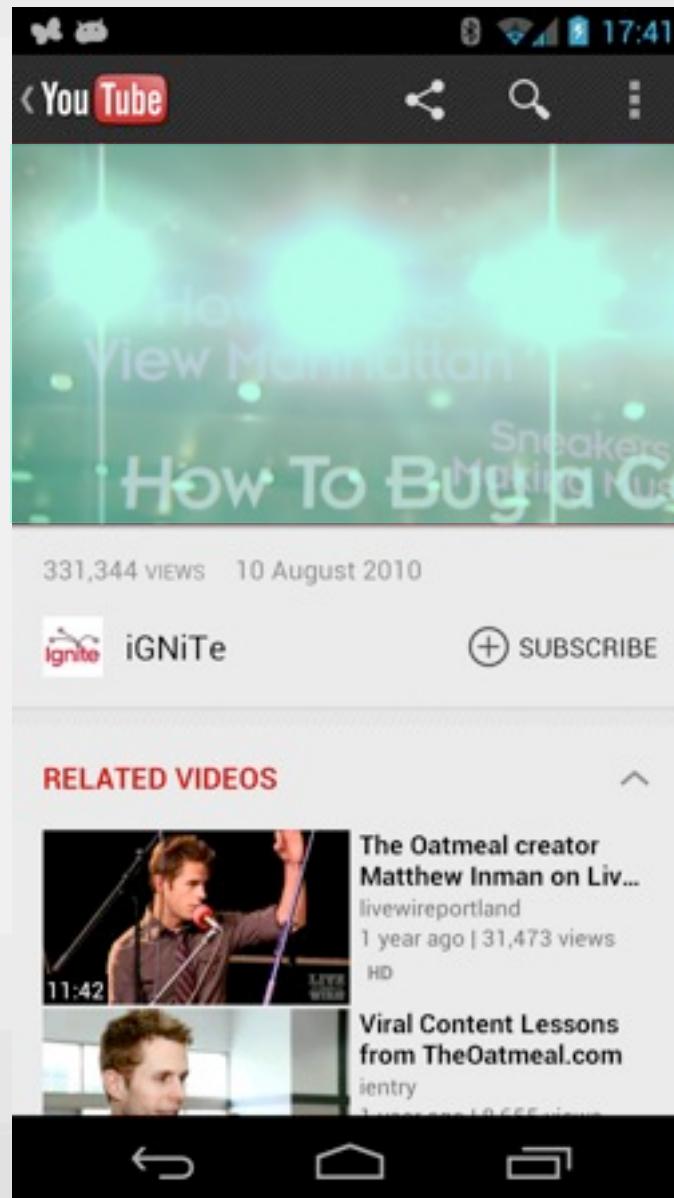
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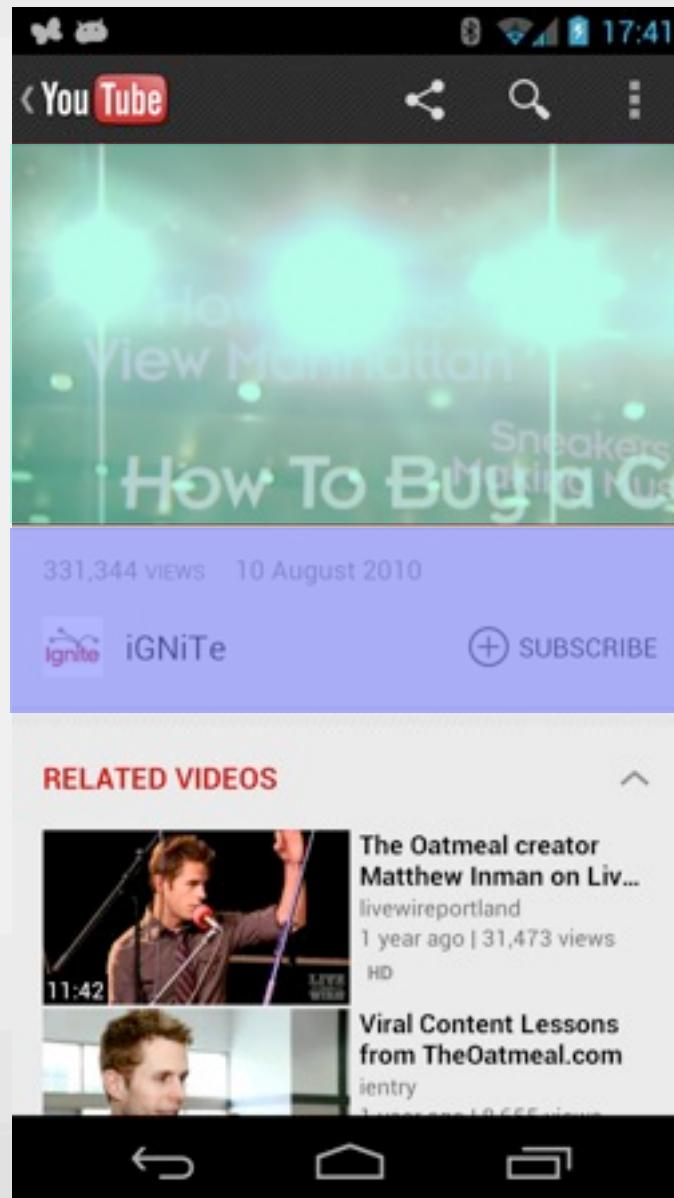
# Fragments - Bigger Picture



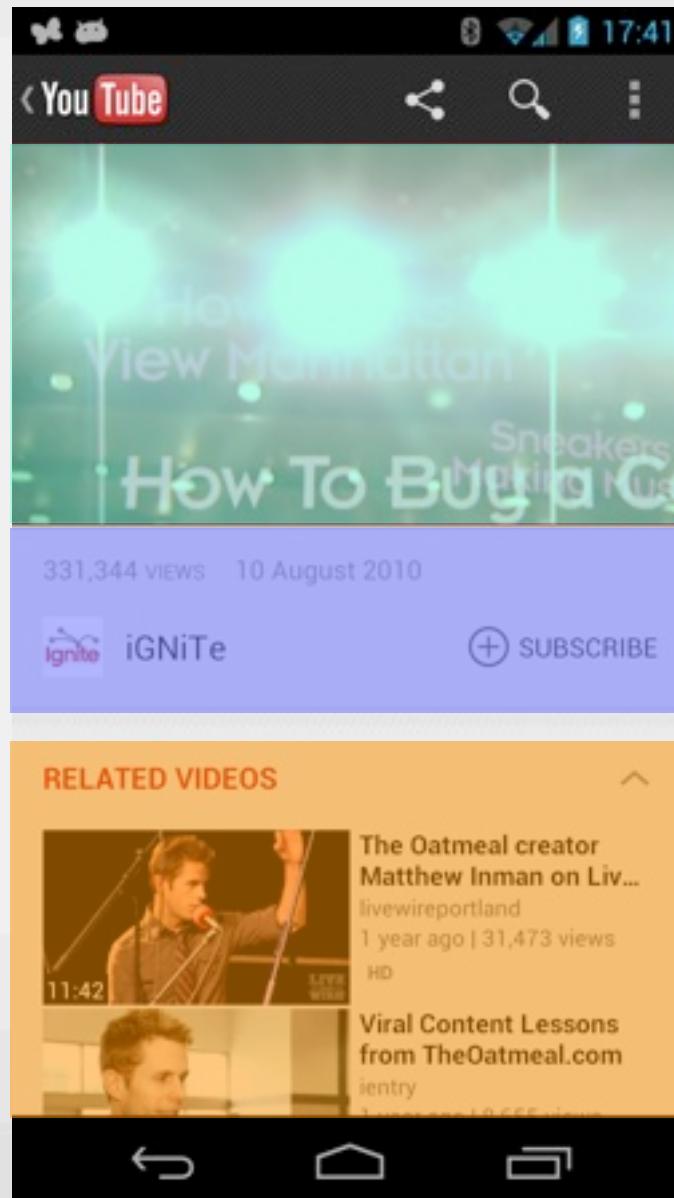
# Fragments - Bigger Picture



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# Fragments - Bigger Picture



# Fragments - Dialog

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- **DialogFragment**
  - Stop using **Dialog**!
- DialogFragments maintain their lifecycle and modularise your code - win/win.
  - Can convert your old Dialogs using:
    - **onDialogCreate()** method.
- <http://prezi.com/fh2uslbr1xs3/the-fragment-transition/>
- <https://developer.android.com/reference/android/app/DialogFragment.html>

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- Getters n' Setters - Best Programming practice, but slower than accessing a field.

# Performance Cont.

---

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---

- For loops
  - ```
public void two() {  
  
    int sum = 0;  
    for (Foo a : mArray) {  
        sum += a.mSplat;  
    }  
}
```
  - Has the most efficient execution on pre/post JIT devices.
  - Avoid InnerClass to OuterClass Field access in high performance code spots.
  - <https://developer.android.com/guide/practices/performance.html>

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---

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- Singleton pattern is popular in Android.
  - Careful not to hold reference to unneeded classes!

Any questions..?

# Examples and Demo's

# ActionBar

---

- Standard UI/UX Experience
- Play/Facebook/Twitter/Maps/Google+ etc..
- ActionBarSherlock - *Jake Wharton*  
<http://actionbarsherlock.com/>
- Always use it (Unless 3.0+ only)
- Solves menu deprecation issues
- Example



# Draggable Sort ListView

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- DragSortListView - *Carl A. Bauer*  
<https://github.com/bauerca/drag-sort-listview>
- Example..
- Other
  - cwac-touchlist - *Mark Murphy*  
<https://github.com/commonsguy/cwac-touchlist>  
Although *Deprecated* now



# RoboSpice - async network lib

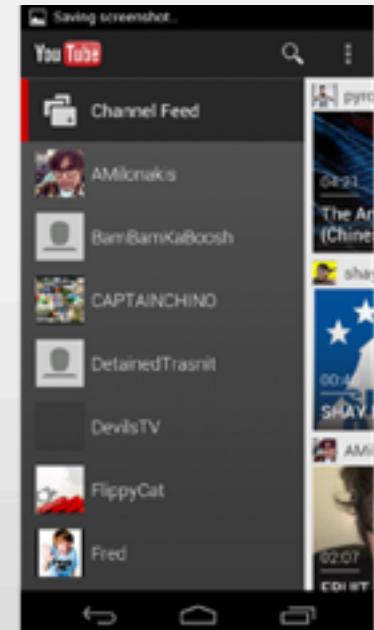
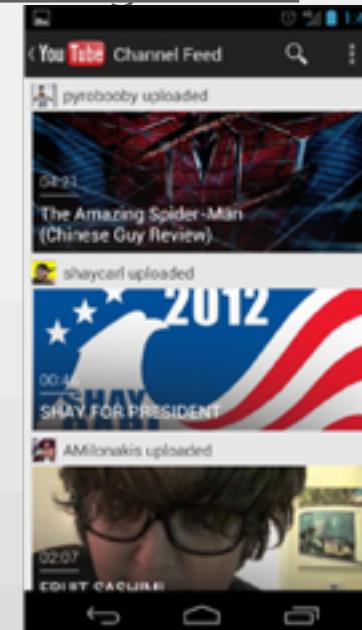
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- Async Done Right
- Built of Google 2010 IO thought process
  - Decoupling REST and UI components correctly
- <https://github.com/octo-online/robospice>
- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.octo.android.robospice.motivations>



# SlidingMenu

- Creates a singular parallel user flow
- Google Plus / You tube / Facebook
- Plays nice with ActionBarSherlock
- Jeremy Feinstein / SlidingMenu  
<https://github.com/jfeinstein10/SlidingMenu>



# Bluetooth example

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- SDK Sample

# Books

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- <http://commonsware.com/>  
Almost wrote the book on android... regularly updated and LOTS of smaller examples
- [http://www.amazon.co.uk/Professional-Android-Application-Development-Guides/dp/1118102274/ref=ntt\\_at\\_ep\\_dpt\\_1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Professional-Android-Application-Development-Guides/dp/1118102274/ref=ntt_at_ep_dpt_1)  
Professional Android 2 App Development - By Reto Meier  
One of the Android evangelists at google, knows his stuff.
- [http://www.amazon.co.uk/Smashing-Android-UI-Magazine-Book/dp/1118387287/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1351591674&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Smashing-Android-UI-Magazine-Book/dp/1118387287/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1351591674&sr=1-1)  
the 'Smashing' books are good too although a little less well established.

# Thanks to

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- Presentation Ideas
  - @mubaloo
  - @scottyab
  - @commonsguy
  - @JakeWharton
  - @corey\_latislaw

# Questions?