Android for .NET Developers Series Adopting the Android Mindset

Working with Fragments

Jim Wilson hedgehogjim.wordpress.com @hedgehogjim jimw@jwhh.com

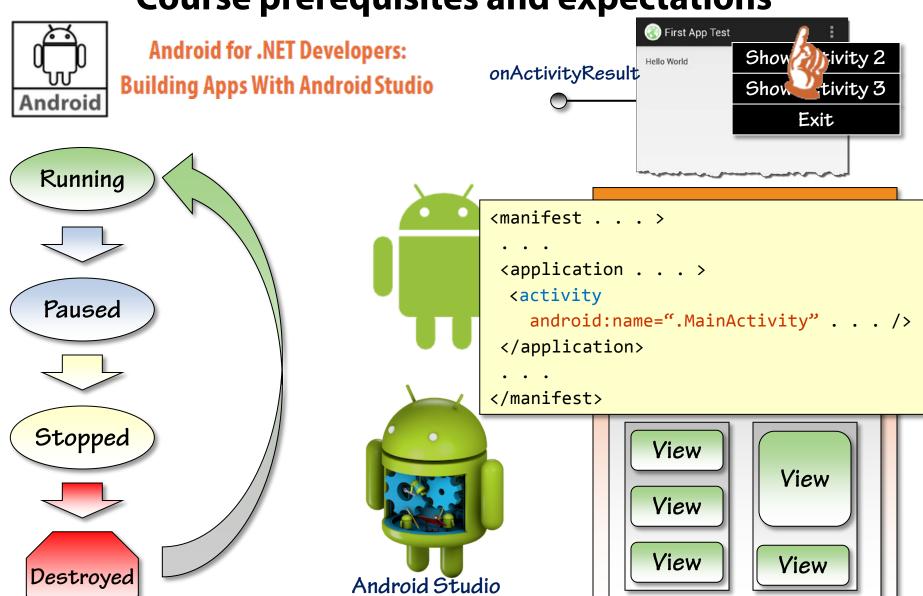




Outline

Course prerequisites and expectations
What are Fragments?
Fragment availability
Creating Fragments
Activity/Fragment relationship
Coordinating Activities and Fragments
Swipe navigation

Course prerequisites and expectations





Partition the user interface

Fragments



Fragments enable dividing the UI into sections

- Provide a group of user interface elements and their behavior
 - Can hold the same UI elements as an Activity
 - Can contain logic
- Create logical UI units

Allow reorganizing UI for device differences

- Can use static layout files
- Can be assembled dynamically in code



A key part of a many navigation behaviors

- Page-based navigation
- Tab navigation
- List-based navigation

Fragment Availability



Native OS support for devices running Android 3.1 or newer

API level 12 and above

Compatibility library support for devices running Android 1.6 through 2.3

- API levels 4 through 10
- Available from ...
 - http://bit.ly/AndroidV4SupportLib
- Example use ...
 - http://bit.ly/AndroidFragmentCompat

*Although Android 3.0 (API Level 11) technically exists - no devices in the marketplace run it

Creating Fragments



Creating a Fragment requires a few simple steps



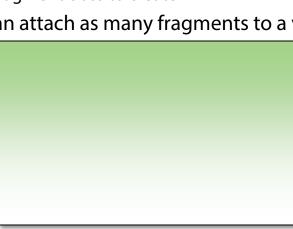
Provide the fragment's display contents

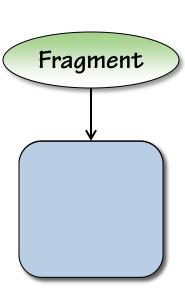
- Involves overriding onCreateView and/or onCreate
- Often uses an XML-based layout description much like an Activity
- Specialized Fragment-derived classes simplify special cases
 - More to come on this



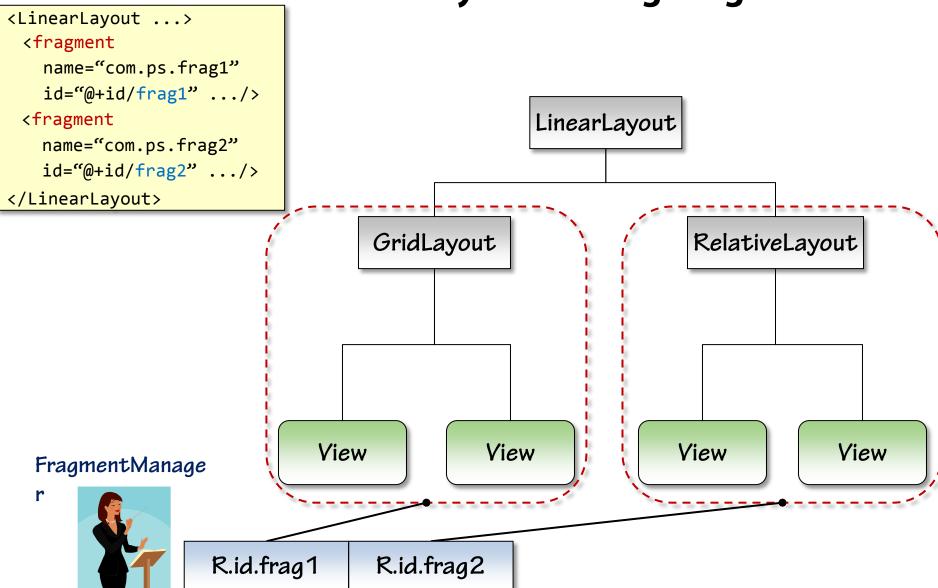
Attach your fragment to an Activity

- Use the <fragment> element in the Activity's XML layout
 - The "class" attribute identifies the fully qualified name of fragment class to create
- You can attach as many fragments to a view as you'd like





Structure of an Activity containing Fragments



Summary



Partition the user interface

Fragments enable dividing UI into sections

- Self-contained UI elements and code
- Allow reorganizing UI for device differences
- Central to many navigation behaviors



Fragments available to virtually all devices

Specific package depends on target platform



All Fragments inherit directly or indirectly from the Fragment class

Populate contents by overriding appropriate callback method



FragmentManager coordinates access to an Activity's Fragments