G54MDP Lab Session 02 – Activities and Views

The aim of this exercise is for you to implement a simple application that uses multiple (i.e. at least two) different Activities, uses Intents to move between Activities, and Views to define how the use interface of an Activity is laid out.

Necessarily this will be similar to the example application shown in lecture 5, so spend some time reviewing the code provided, however it is important to try and implement a similar application yourself rather than cutting and pasting code, so that you get used to the coding style required.

Views and Layouts

Create a new application with a single activity. Override the appropriate lifecycle methods within the Activity, and print something out to the debug log so that you can inspect when these methods are called. You can do this by hand, or make use of the *Source -> Override/Implement Methods* function in Eclipse.

Make use of the View editor, or hand code XML in order to use Layouts and Widgets to construct a simple interface with at least one Button and one TextField. Attach an onClick handler to the Button that either retrieves or modifies the text in the TextField.

Try to nest a ViewGroup within a ViewGroup (i.e. a layout within an layout) to achieve a more sophisticated user interface layout for your activity.

Multiple Activities

Create a second Activity within your application, either using the wizard within Eclipse, or by manually creating a second resource file, and a second class that extends the Activity class.

Ensure that you add this new Activity to the application manifest.

Intents and Results

Add a Button to the layout of your first activity, and configure the button to send an Intent to start the new activity.

Extend this functionality to send the contents of the TextField from the first Activity to the second, and return a result from the second Activity to the first.

You may find it useful to consult the developers guide, which also contains snippets of code:

http://developer.android.com/guide/components/activities.html