

Android Eco-System

Source: http://www.vogella.com/tutorials/Android/article.html#androidstudio_installation

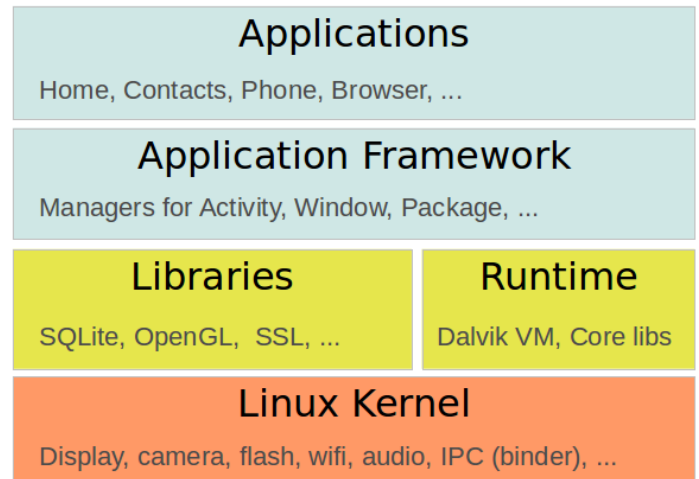
1.1. The Android Operating System (OS)

Android is an operating system **based on the Linux kernel**. The project responsible for developing the Android system is called the **Android Open Source Project (AOSP)** and it lead by Google.

This Android operating system can be divided into the four areas as depicted in the following graphic. An Android application developer typically works with the two layers on top to create new Android applications.

The levels can be described as:

- **Applications** - The Android Open Source Project contains several default application, like the Browser, Camera, Gallery, Music, Phone and more.
- **Application framework** - An API which allows high-level interactions with the Android system from Android applications.
- **Libraries and runtime** - The libraries for many common framework functions, like, graphic rendering, data storage, web browsing. It also contains the Android Runtime, as well as the core Java libraries for running Android applications.
- **Linux kernel** - Communication layer for the underlying hardware.



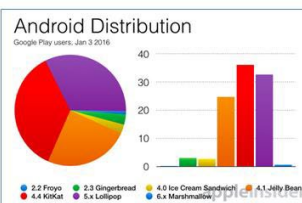
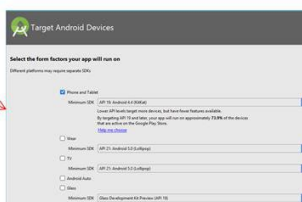
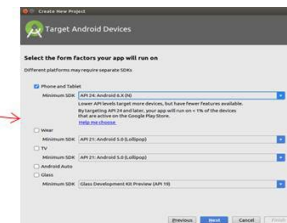
Android is published in different version which is listed in the following table.

Code name	Version	API level
Nougat	N	24
Marshmallow	6.0	23
Lollipop	5.1	22
Lollipop	5.0	21
KitKat	4.4 - 4.4.4	19
Jelly Bean	4.1.x - 4.3.x	16 - 18
Ice Cream Sandwich	4.0.1 - 4.0.4	14 - 15
Honeycomb	3.2.x	13
Honeycomb	3.0 - 3.1	11 - 12
Gingerbread	2.3 - 2.3.7	9-10
Froyo	2.2.x	8
Eclair	2.1	7
Eclair	2.0 - 2.0.1	5 - 6
Donut	1.6	4
Cupcake	1.5	3
(no code name)	1.1	2
(no code name)	1.0	1

Devices targeted:
<1%

Devices targeted:
~74%

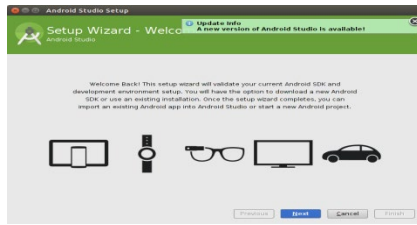
CHECK OTHER ANDROID
VERSION & API LEVEL?



Source: "Android development with Android Studio", at:
http://www.vogella.com/tutorials/Android/article.html#androidstudio_installation

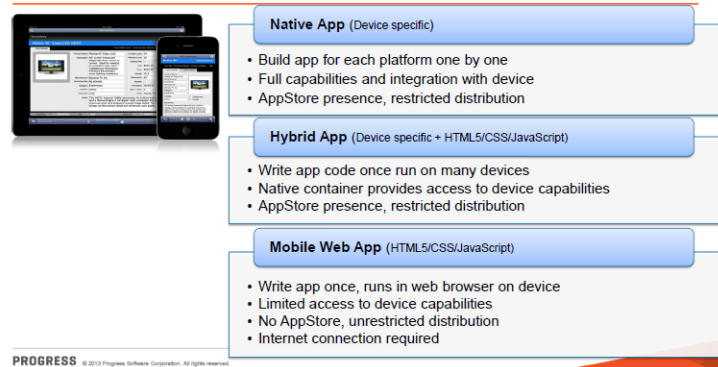
1.2. How to develop Android applications

Android applications are primarily written in the **Java programming language**. During development the developer creates the Android specific configuration files and writes the application logic in the Java programming language.



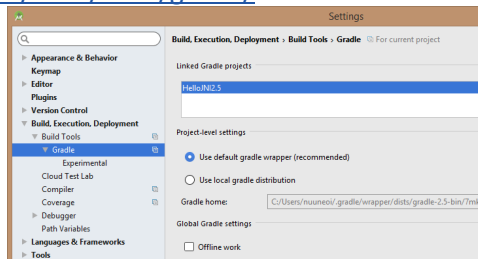
The Android development tooling converts these application files into an Android application. If the developer triggers the deployment, **the whole Android application is compiled, packaged, deployed and potentially started.**

Three Types of Mobile Applications

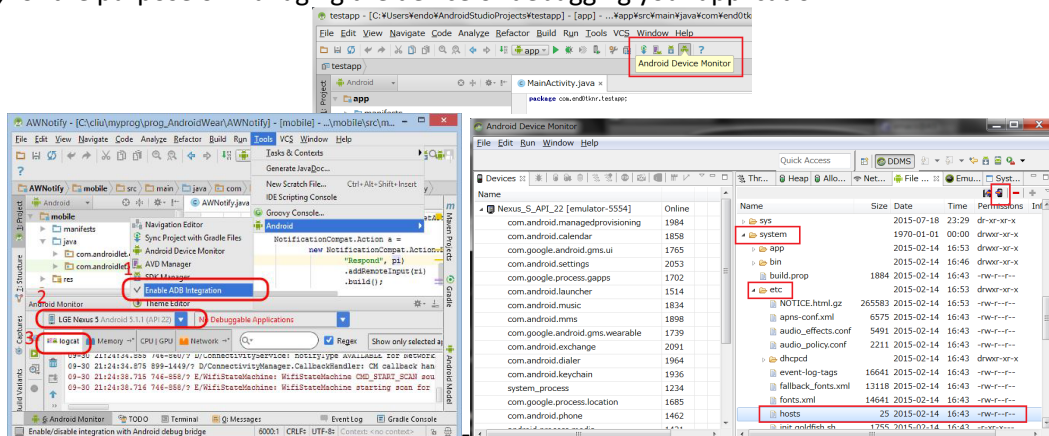


The **Android Software Development Kit (Android SDK)** and the **Gradle tooling** contain the necessary tools to create, compile and package Android applications. The Android team provides a **Gradle plug-in** to build Android applications. You find the available versions of this plug-in under the following URL:

<https://jcenter.bintray.com/com/android/tools/build/gradle/>

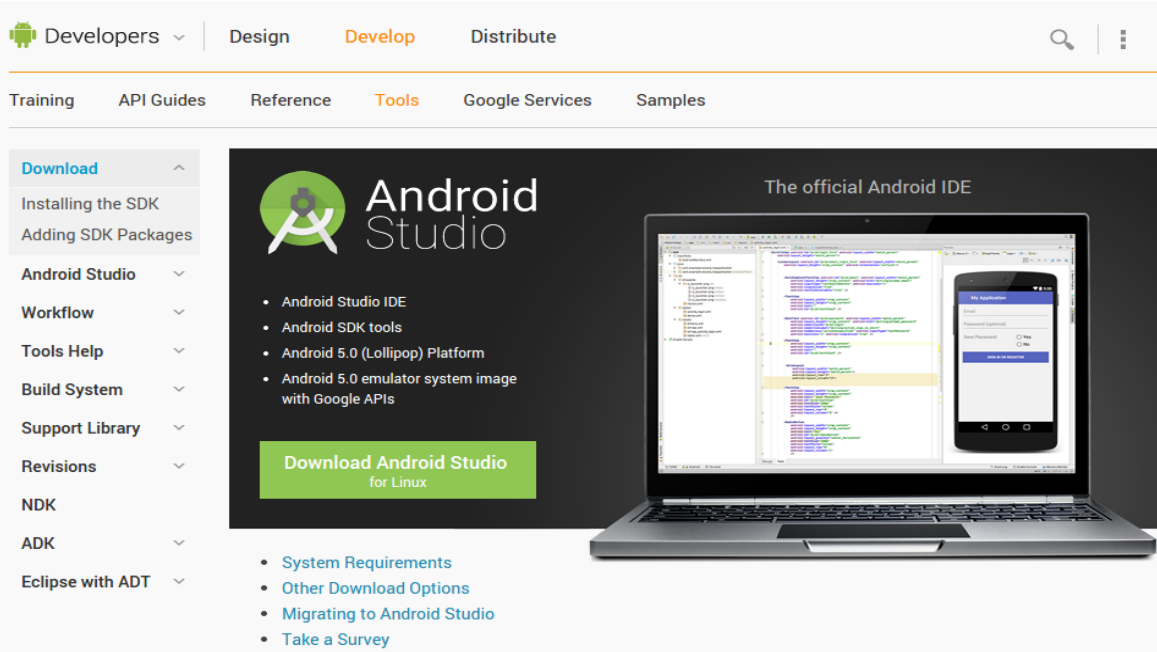


The Android SDK contains the **Android debug bridge (ADB)**. ADB is a tool that allows you to **connect to a virtual or real Android device**, for the purpose of managing the device or debugging your application.



1.3. Android Developer Tools: Android Studio

Google provides an IDE called *Android Studio* as the preferred development environment for creating Android applications. This IDE is based on the [IntelliJ IDE](#).



The Android tools provide specialized editors for Android specific files. Most of Android's configuration files are based on XML. In this case these editors allow you to switch between the XML representation of the file and a structured user interface for entering the data.

Create a new Android project

- Start a new Android Studio Project
- Configure your new project dialog box
- Target Android Devices screen
- Add an Activity to mobile
- Customize the Activity

- Make sure the **Phones and Tablets** checkbox has a tick in it. It probably has by default.
- For the **Minimum SDK** to target option, a good rule of thumb is to **pick a newer version of Android that does not exclude too many older devices**. At the time of writing, **the API 19: Android 4.4 (KitKat)** is a good choice. But it doesn't matter too much while we are learning. If you are unsure just leave it at the default that Android Studio selects.

Application name: **HelloWorld**
Company Domain: **nz.ac.ames.project**
Target Android devices: **Phone and Tablet**;
+ **Minimum SDK: API 19: Android 4.4 (KitKat)**
Add an Activity to Mobile: **Empty Activity**;
+ **Activity name: MainActivity**
+ **Layout name: activity_main**

Android Files

Layouts & Widgets

Real user interface

Android Monitor

(1) Default TextView (Hello World): layout_width, layout_height, text, ...

(2) layout_width, layout_height, text, ...

(3) RelativeLayout

(4) layout_width, layout_height, padding, margin, context, ...

(5) activity_main.xml

(6) Design

(7) Test

Activity_main.xml

(1) Import packages, classes, interfaces

(2) "Class" name: MainActivity

(3) package dang.daniel.project.ames.cs102

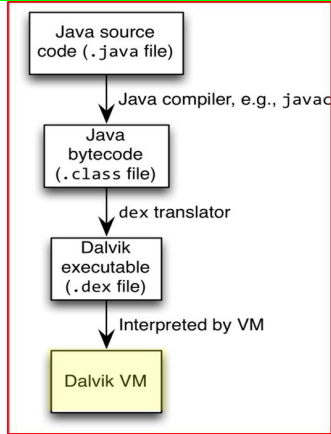
(4) MainActivity class

(1) Constructor: super.onCreate()

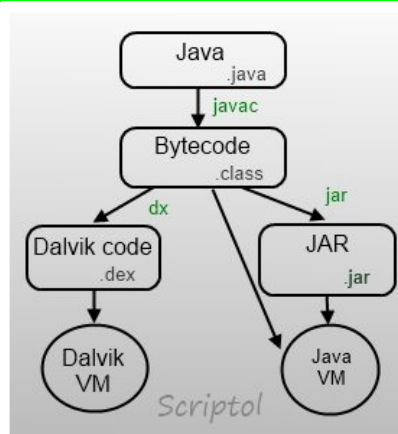
(2) setContentView() method: call and display "activity_main.xml" layout

MainActivity.java

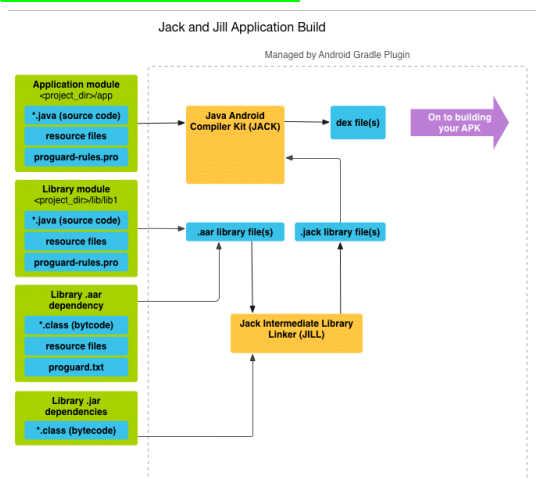
1.4. Conversion process from source code to Android application



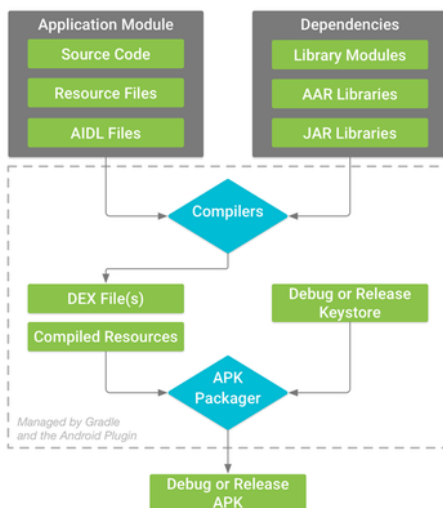
Application compilation process



Dalvik vs. Java ME



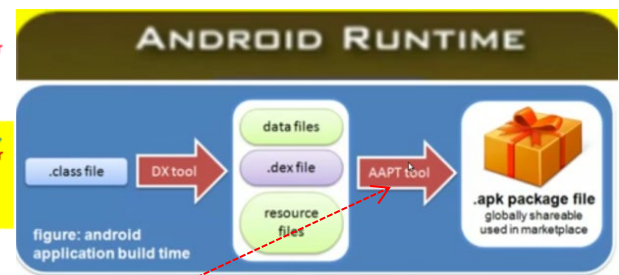
The **Java source files** are converted to **Java class files** by the **Java compiler**. The Android SDK contains a tool called **dex translator** which converts **Java class files** into a **.dex (Dalvik Executable) file**. All class files of the application are placed in this **.dex** file. During this conversion process redundant information in the class files are optimized in the **.dex** file. For example, if the same String is found in different class files, the **.dex** file contains only one reference of this String. These **.dex** files are therefore much smaller in size than the corresponding class files.



The "build" process of a typical Android app module:

1. The compilers convert your source code into DEX (Dalvik Executable) files;
2. The APK Packager combines the DEX files and compiled resources into a single APK (Android Application Package);
3. The APK Packager signs your APK using either the debug or release keystore;

At the end of the build process, you have either a **debug APK** or **release APK** of your app that you can use to deploy, test, or release to external users.



The **.dex file** and **the resources** of an Android project, e.g., the images and XML files, are packed into an **.apk (Android Package) file**. The program **aapt (Android Asset Packaging Tool)** performs this step. The resulting **.apk** file contains all necessary data to run the Android application and can be deployed to an Android device via the **ADB tool**.

As of Android 5.0, the **Android RunTime (ART)** is used as runtime for all Android applications. ART uses **Ahead Of Time compilation**. During the installation of an application on an Android device, the application code is translated into machine code.

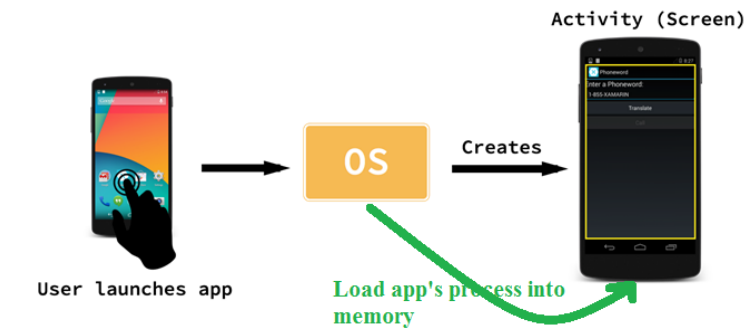
- This results in approx. 30% larger compile code, but allows faster execution at startup.
- This also saves battery life, as the compilation is only done once, during the first start of the application.

The **dex2oat tool** takes the **.dex file** created by the Android tool change and compiles that into an **Executable and Linkable Format (ELF file)**. This file contains the **dex code**, **compiled native code** and **meta-data**. Keeping the **.dex** code allows that existing tools still work.

The **garbage collection in ART** has been optimized to reduce times in which the **application freezes**.

1.5. Android Application Packages & Components

Android Application Packages/Components



Four main components of Android app

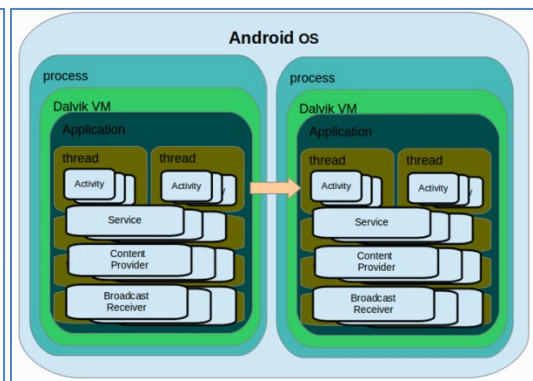
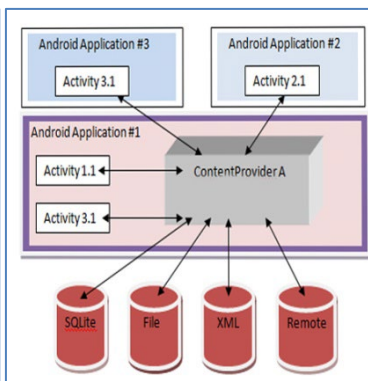
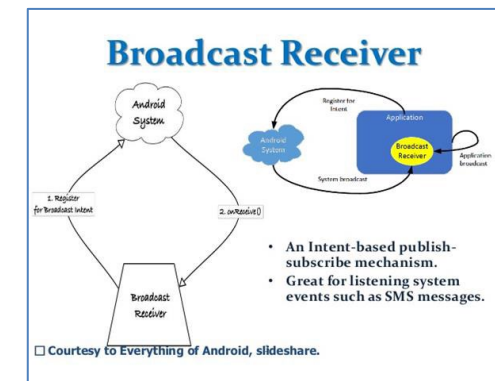
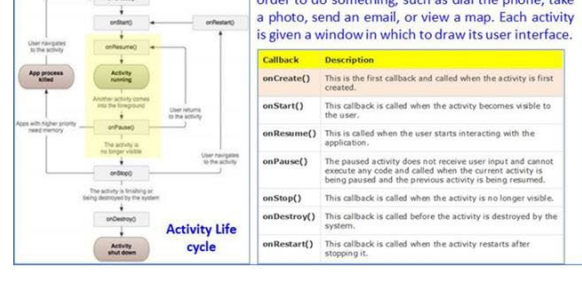
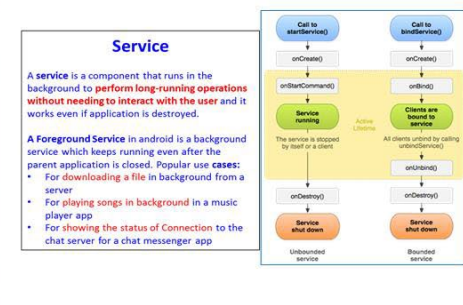
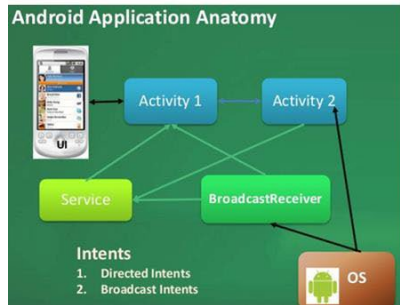
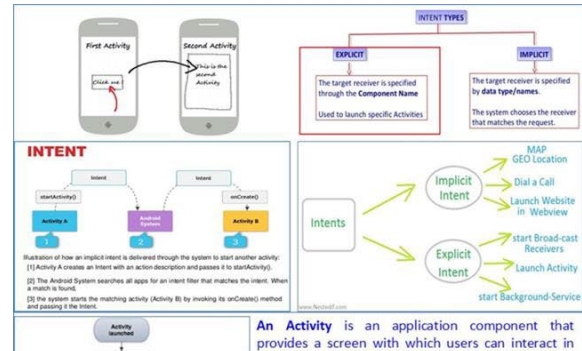
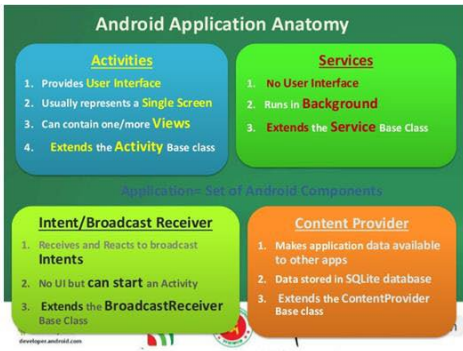
1. **Activity:** A "single screen" that's visible to user;
2. **Service:** Long-running background "part" of app (not separate process or thread);
3. **ContentProvider:** Manages app data (usually stored in database) and data access for queries;
4. **BroadcastReceiver:** Component that listens for particular Android system "events", e.g., "found wireless device", and responds accordingly;

Android Features

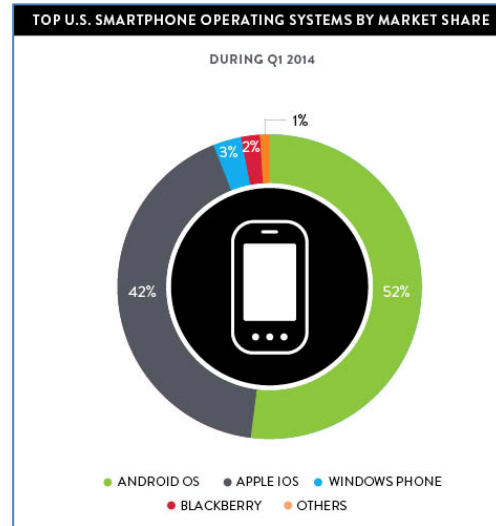
- Application framework enabling reuse and replacement of components
- Optimized Java virtual machine: Dalvik
- Optimized Graphics Processing, supporting 2D and 3D graphics (OpenGL ES 1.0)
- Integrated open source web browser: WebKit
- SQLite for structured data storage
- Multimedia capability, supporting varieties of audio, video and still image formats
- GSM Telephony
- Bluetooth, EDGE, 3G and Wi-Fi support
- Camera, GPS, compass, accelerometer and other sensors support
- Rich development environment, including an emulator, debugging tools, memory probe tools, log tools and powerful eclipse plugins;

Hardware dependent

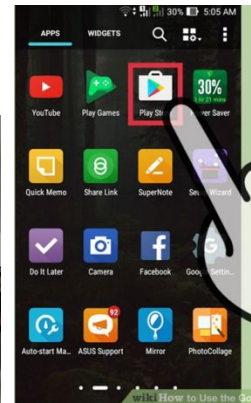
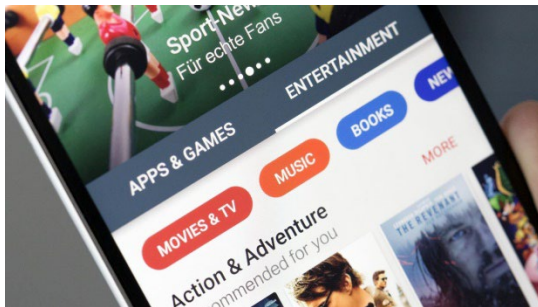
5. **Graphic User Interface: Views classes** (TextView, EditText, Button, RadioButton, ImageView, ListView, Spinner, etc.)



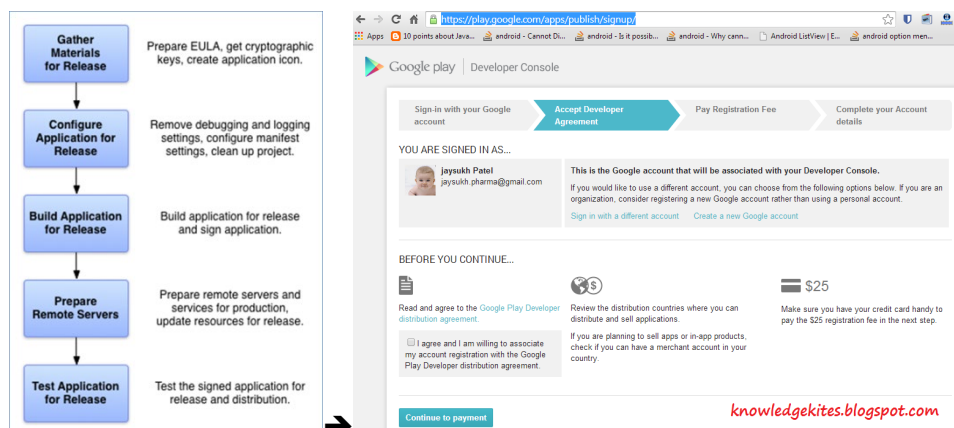
1.6. Google Play



Google offers the *Google Play* service, a marketplace in which programmers can offer their application to Android users. Customers use the *Google Play* application which allows them to buy and install applications from the Google Play service.



Google Play also offers an update service. If an application developer uploads a new version of his application to Google Play, this service notifies existing users about the update allows them to install the update. Google Play provides access to services and libraries for Android application programmers, too. For example, it provides a service to use and display Google Maps. Providing these services via Google Play has the advantage that they are available for older Android releases. Google can update them without the need for an update of the Android release on the phone.



Any apps which violate the terms and conditions will be suspended from the store and repeated violations can result in the termination of your developer account. That probably sounds worse than it actually is. If you are creating original and well behaved apps then you don't really have to worry.