

Android Studio IDE: INTRODUCTION

Source: https://developer.android.com/studio/intro/index.html#project_structure

Android Studio is the official Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for Android app development, based on [IntelliJ IDEA](#).

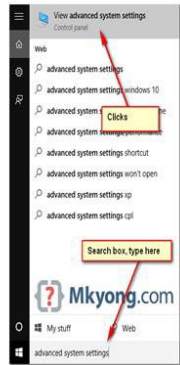
Java Development Kit (JDK)

Google Search "Java JDK":

Website:
<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html>
Select: Java SE (platform) → Windows x64

Installation process:

1. Click "Next" mostly → Until "successfully installed JDK" notice.
2. Two folders created:
 - Java\jdk1.8.0_91
 - Java\jre.8.0_91 (Java Runtime Environment)
3. Set environment variables so that Android studio can recognize it:
 - Copy path: C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.8.0_91
 - Open: Computer → Property → Advanced System Setting → "Advanced" tab: Environment Variables → Check whether "JAVA_HOME" exists?
 - If not exist, create a new **System variable** (NOT USER_VARIABLE_FOR_ACER):
 - Variable name: JAVA_HOME
 - Variable value: C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.8.0_91 (path to JDK);



Android Studio IDE

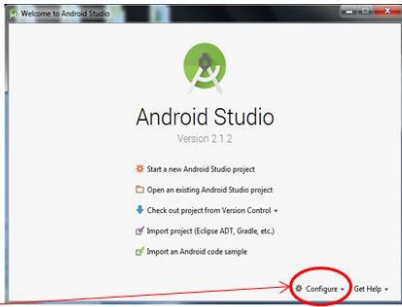
Search "Android Studio"
→ Website: <https://developer.android.com/studio/index.html>

Installation process:

- ❑ Click "Next" mostly → Until "successfully installed JDK" notice.
- ❑ Enable VT-x technology in BIOS setting.

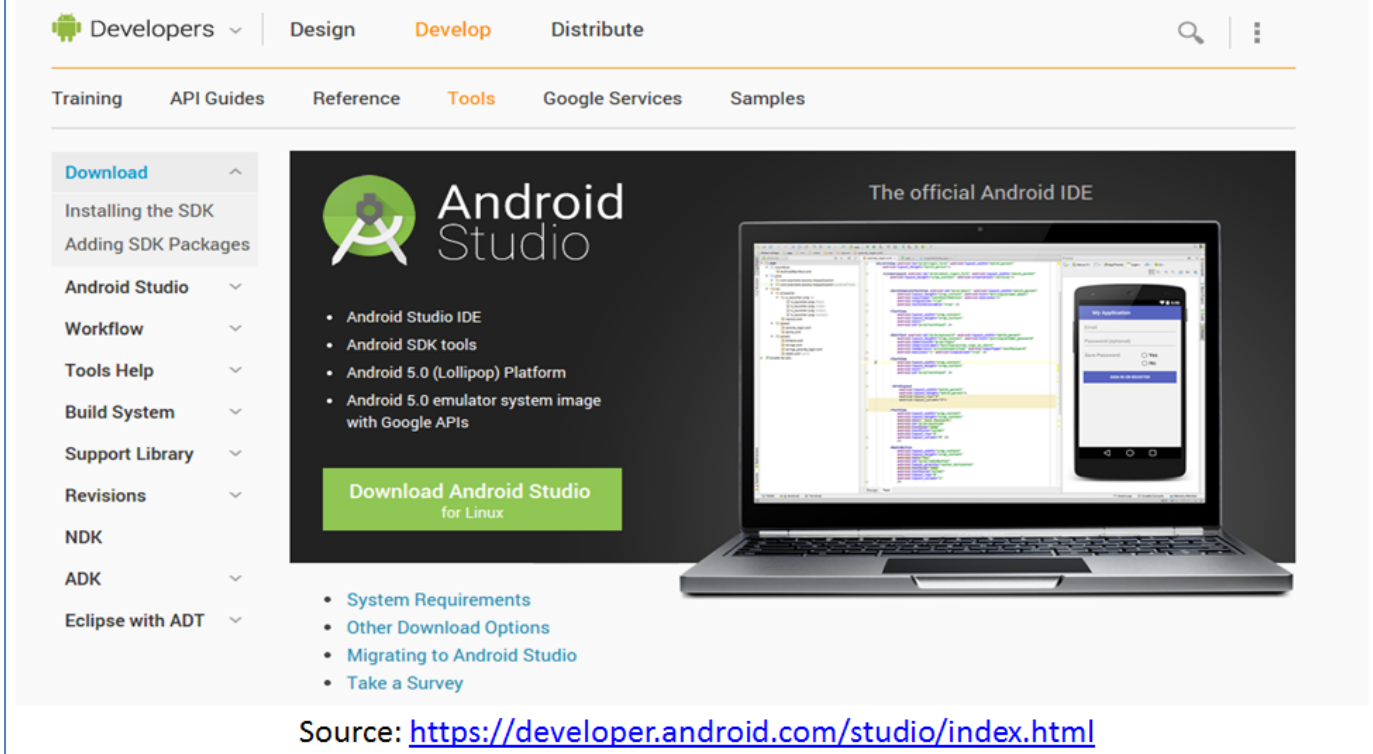
Before coding, configure:

- Configure → SDK Manager
- Make sure the options ticked: Intel x86 Emulator Accelerator, Android SDK Build Tools.



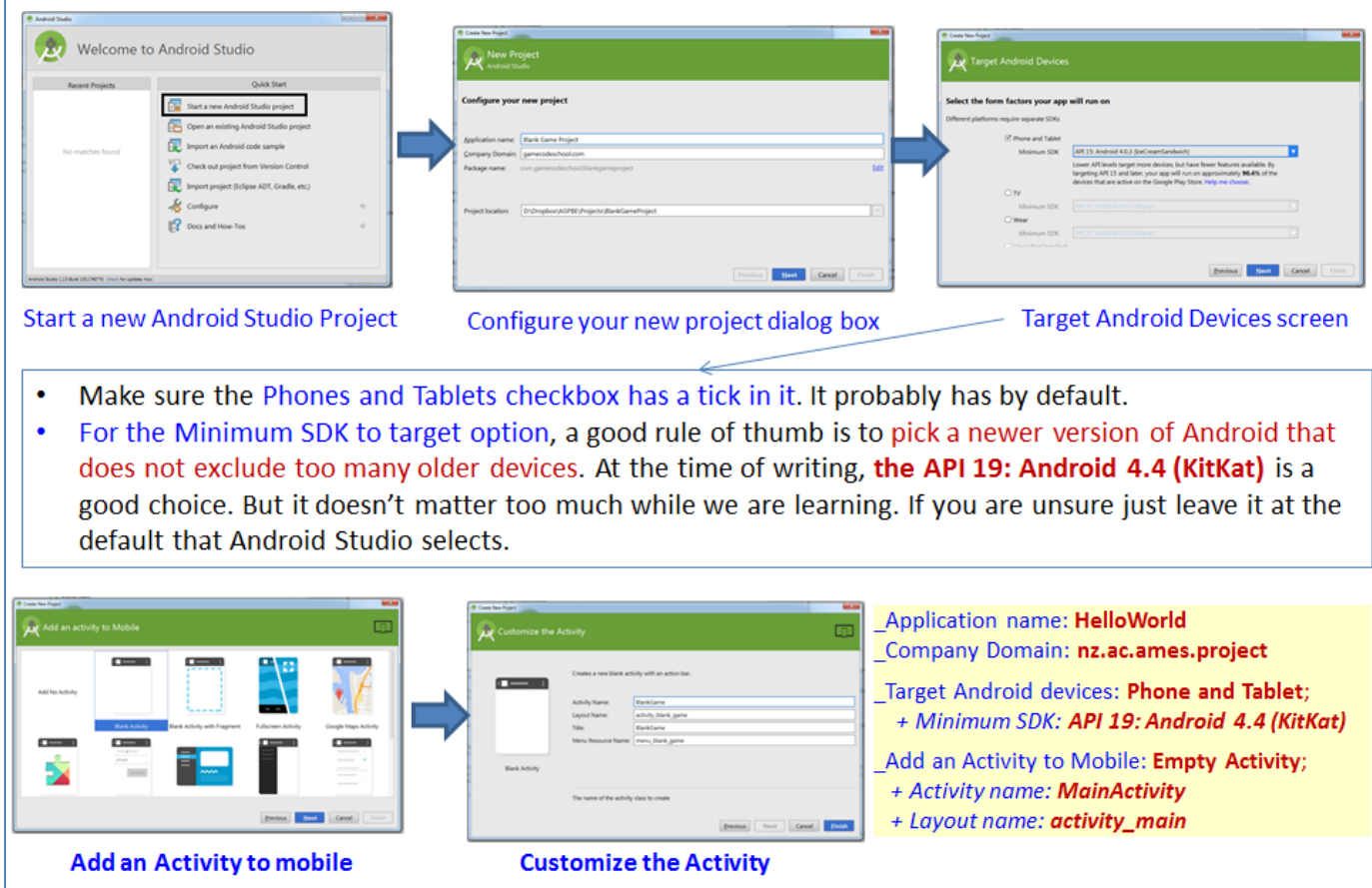
Source: <https://developer.android.com/studio/install.html>

Android Studio IDE



Source: <https://developer.android.com/studio/index.html>

Create a new Android project



Start a new Android Studio Project Configure your new project dialog box Target Android Devices screen

- 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.

Add an Activity to mobile **Customize the Activity**

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 Project Structure

Each project in Android Studio contains one or more modules with **source code files** and **resource files**. Types of modules include:

- **Android app** modules
- **Library** modules
- **Google App Engine** modules

By default, Android Studio displays your project files in the **“Android” view**, as shown in figure 1. This view is organized by modules to provide quick access to your project's key source files.

All the **build files** are visible at the top level under **“Gradle Scripts”**.

“App” module contains the following folders:

- **manifests**: Contains the **AndroidManifest.xml** file.
- **java**: Contains the Java source code files, including JUnit test code.
- **res**: Contains all non-code resources, such as XML layouts, UI strings, and bitmap images.

The Android project structure on disk differs from this flattened representation. To see the **actual file structure of the project**, select **“Project”** from the **Project** dropdown.

You can also customize the view of the project files to focus on specific aspects of your app development. For example, selecting the **Problems** view of your project displays links to the source files containing any recognized coding and syntax errors, such as a missing XML element closing tag in a layout file.

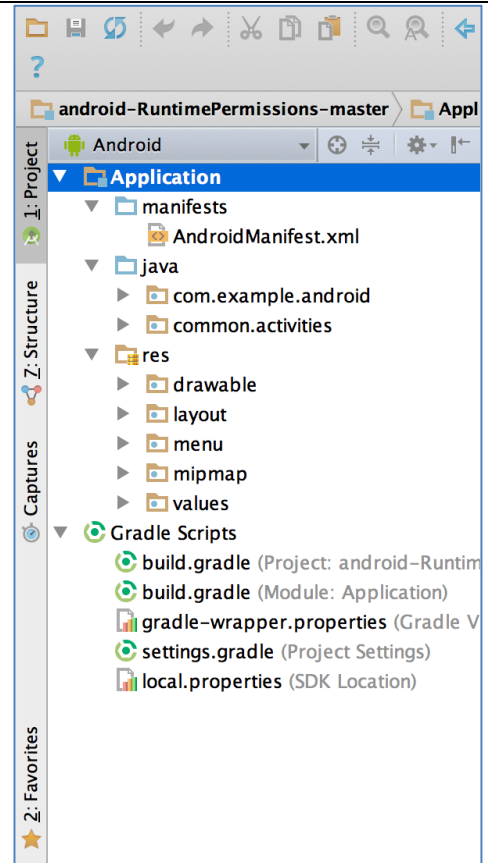


Figure 1. The project files in **“Android”** view.

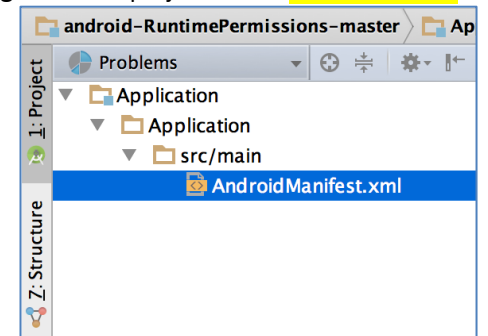
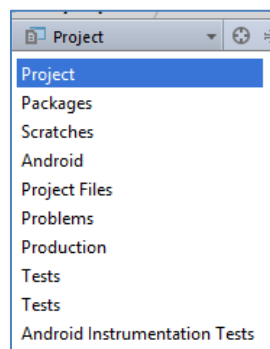


Figure 2. The project files in **“Problems”** view, showing a layout file with a problem.

Project Structure:

- + “Project” view
- + “Packages” view
- + “Scratches” view
- + “Android” view
- + “Project file” view
- + “Problems” view
- + “Production” view
- + Test view



The User Interface (UI)

The **Android Studio** main window is made up of several logical areas identified in figure 3.

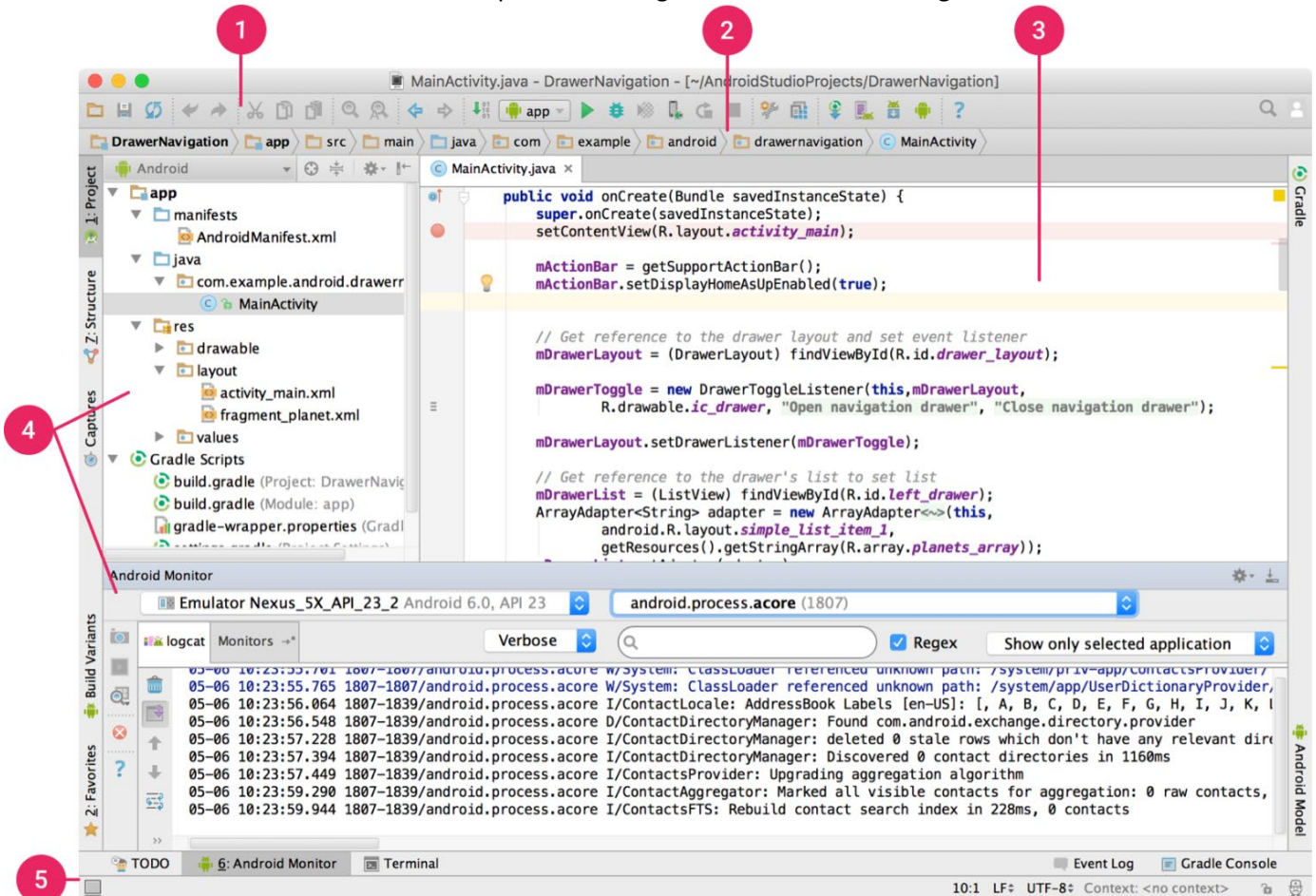


Figure 3: The Android Studio main window

1. The **toolbar** lets you carry out a wide range of actions, including **running your app** and **launching Android tools**.
2. The **navigation bar** helps you navigate through your project and **open files for editing**. It provides a more compact view of the structure visible in the Project tool window.
3. The **editor window** is where you **create and modify code**. Depending on the current file type, this window can change. For example, when viewing a layout file, the editor window displays the layout editor and offers the **option to view** the corresponding XML file.
4. **Tool windows** give you access to specific tasks like **project management**, search, version control, and more. You can expand them and collapse them.
5. The **status bar** displays the **status** of your project and the IDE itself, as well as any **warnings or messages**.

You can organize the main window to give yourself more screen space by hiding or moving toolbars and tool windows. You can also use keyboard shortcuts to access most IDE features.

At any time, you can search across your source code, databases, actions, elements of the user interface, and so on, by **double-pressing the Shift key**, or clicking the **magnifying glass** in the upper right-hand corner of the Android Studio window. This can be very useful if, for example, you are trying to locate a particular IDE action that you have forgotten how to trigger.

Tool Windows

You can also use keyboard shortcuts to open tool windows. Table 1 lists the shortcuts for the most common windows.

Table 1: Keyboard shortcuts for some useful tool windows

Tool Window	Windows and Linux	Mac
Project	Alt+1	Command+1
Version Control	Alt+9	Command+9
Run	Shift+F10	Control+R
Debug	Shift+F9	Control+D
Android Monitor	Alt+6	Command+6
Return to Editor	Esc	Esc
Hide All Tool Windows	Control+Shift+F12	Command+Shift+F12

Code Completion

Android Studio has three types of code completion, which you can access using keyboard shortcuts.

Table 2: Keyboard shortcuts for code completion

Type	Description	Windows/Linux	Mac
Basic Completion	Displays basic suggestions for variables, types, methods, expressions, and so on. If you call basic completion twice in a row, you see more results, including private members and non-imported static members.	Control+Space	Control+Space
Smart Completion	Displays relevant options based on the context. Smart completion is aware of the expected type and data flows. If you call Smart Completion twice in a row, you see more results, including chains.	Control+Shift+Space	Control+Shift+Space
Statement Completion	Completes the current statement for you, adding missing parentheses, brackets, braces, formatting, etc.	Control+Shift+Enter	Shift+Command+Enter

Navigation

Here are some tips to help you move around Android Studio.

- Switch between your recently accessed files using the *Recent Files* action. Press **Control+E** (**Command+E** on a Mac) to bring up the Recent Files action. By default, the last accessed file is selected. You can also access any tool window through the left column in this action.
- View the structure of the current file using the *File Structure* action. Bring up the File Structure action by pressing **Control+F12** (**Command+F12** on a Mac). Using this action, you can quickly navigate to any part of your current file.
- Search for and navigate to a specific class in your project using the *Navigate to Class* action. Bring up the action by pressing **Control+N** (**Command+O** on a Mac). Navigate to Class supports sophisticated expressions, including camel humps, paths, line navigate to, middle name matching, and many more. If you call it twice in a row, it shows you the results out of the project classes.
- Navigate to a file or folder using the *Navigate to File* action. Bring up the Navigate to File action by pressing **Control+Shift+N** (**Command+Shift+O** on a Mac). To search for folders rather than files, add a / at the end of your expression.
- Navigate to a method or field by name using the *Navigate to Symbol* action. Bring up the Navigate to Symbol action by pressing **Control+Shift+Alt+N** (**Command+Shift+Alt+O** on a Mac).
- Find all the pieces of code referencing the class, method, field, parameter, or statement at the current cursor position by pressing **Alt+F7**.

Style and Formatting

As you edit, Android Studio **automatically applies formatting and styles as specified in your code style settings**. You can customize the code style settings by programming language, including specifying conventions for tabs and indents, spaces, wrapping and braces, and blank lines.

To customize your code style settings, click: **File -> Settings -> Editor -> Code Style**

(Android Studio > Preferences > Editor > Code Style on a Mac.)

Although the IDE automatically applies formatting as you work, you can also explicitly call the **Reformat Code** action by pressing **Control+Alt+L** (Opt+Command+L on a Mac), or auto-indent all lines by pressing **Control+Alt+I** (Alt+Option+I on a Mac).



Figure 4: Code before formatting and Code after formatting

Version Control Basics

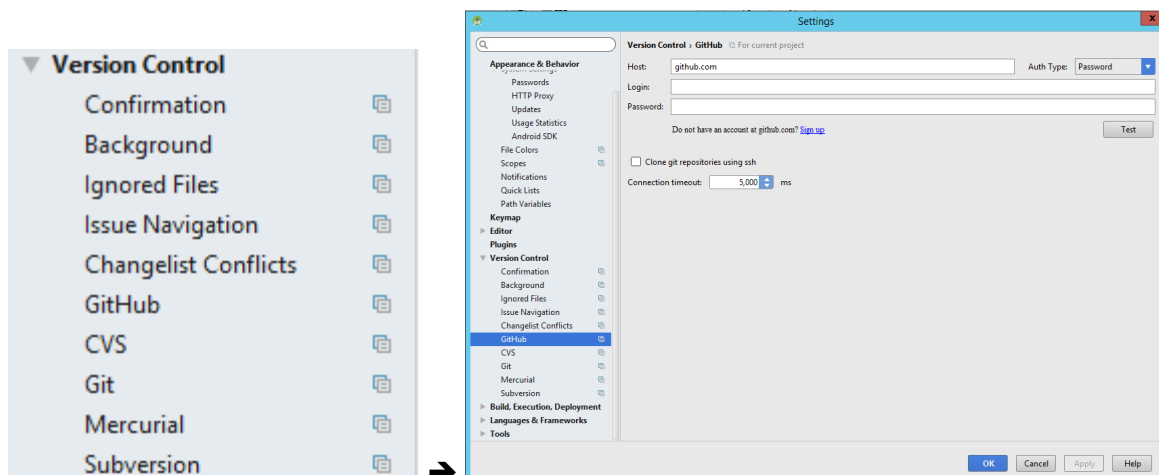
Android Studio **supports a variety of version control systems (VCS's)**, including **Git**, **GitHub**, **CVS**, **Mercurial**, **Subversion**, and **Google Cloud Source Repositories**.

After importing your app into Android Studio, use the **Android Studio VCS menu options** to enable VCS support for the desired version control system, create a repository, import the new files into version control, and perform other version control operations:

1. From the Android Studio **VCS** menu, click **Enable Version Control Integration**.
2. From the drop-down menu, select a version control system to associate with the project root, and then click **OK**.

The VCS menu now displays a number of version control options based on the system you selected.

Note: You can also use the **File->Settings->Version Control menu option** to set up and modify the version control settings.



The Build Process

The build process involves many tools and processes that convert your project into an **Android Application Package (APK)**. The build process is very flexible, so it's useful to understand some of what is happening under the hood.

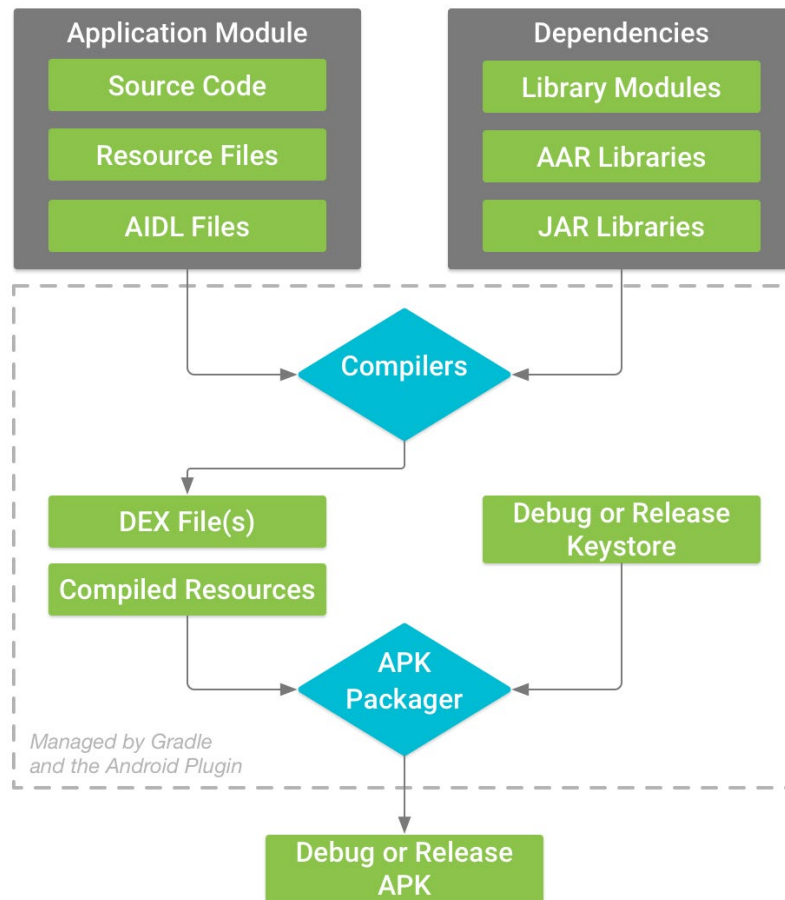


Figure 1: The build process of a typical Android app module

The build process for a typical Android app module, as shown in figure 1, follows these general steps:

1. **The compilers convert your source code into DEX (Dalvik Executable) files**, which include the bytecode that runs on Android devices, and everything else into compiled resources.
2. **The APK Packager combines the DEX files and compiled resources into a single APK**. Before your app can be installed and deployed onto an Android device, however, the APK must be signed.
3. **The APK Packager signs your APK** using either the debug or release keystore:
 - a. If you are building a **debug version of your app**, that is, an app you intend only for testing and profiling, the packager signs your app with the **debug keystore**. Android Studio automatically configures new projects with a debug keystore.
 - b. If you are building a **release version of your app** that you intend to release externally, the packager signs your app with the release keystore. To create a release keystore, read about [signing your app in Android Studio](#).
4. Before generating your final APK, the packager uses the **zipalign** tool to **optimize your app** to use less memory when running on a device.

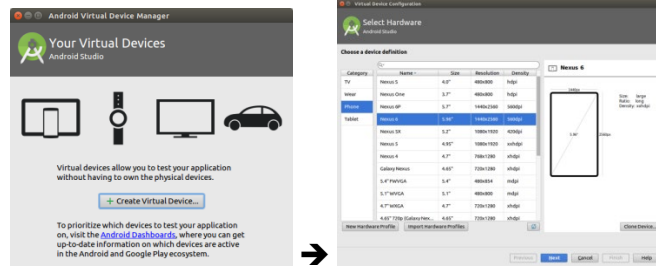
At the end of the build process, you have either a **debug APK** or **release APK** of your app that you can use to deploy, test, or release to external users.

Debug Tools

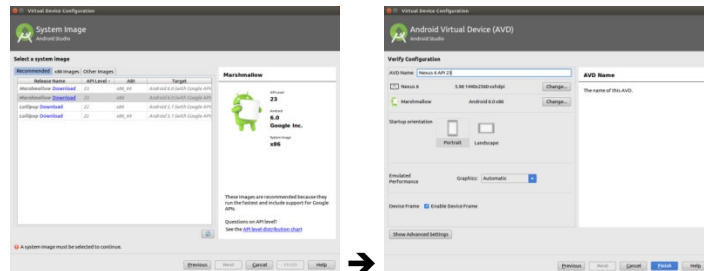
Create a virtual device (AVD)

+ Define a new Android Virtual Device (AVD) by opening the **AVD Manager**:

Tools → **Android** → **AVD Manager** → Press the **"Create Virtual Device"** button;



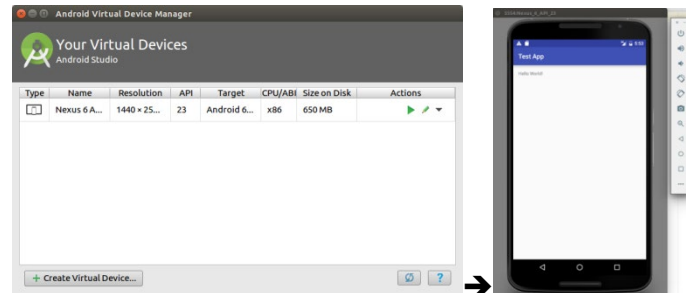
+ On the next screen **select the latest API level for your AVD**. You may need to **select the option for additional images** as highlighted in the following screenshot.



+ Afterwards press the **Finish** button. This will create the AVD configuration and display it under the list of available virtual devices.

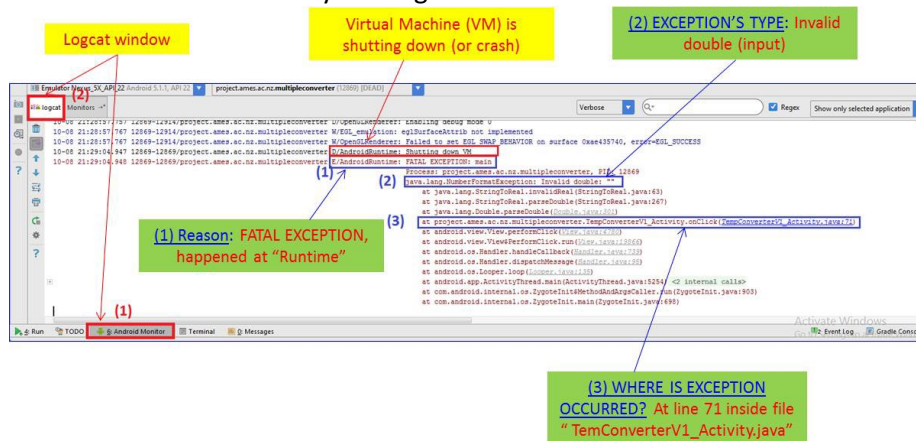
Start your virtual device

Select **"Run"** → **Run 'app'** to start your application. This opens a dialog in which you can select your device to deploy your application to.



Log messages

When you build and run your app with Android Studio, you can view **adb** output and device log messages (**logcat**) by clicking **Android Monitor** at the bottom of the window. If you want to debug your app with the **Android Device Monitor**, you can launch the Device Monitor by clicking **Tools** -> **Android** -> **Android Device Monitor**.

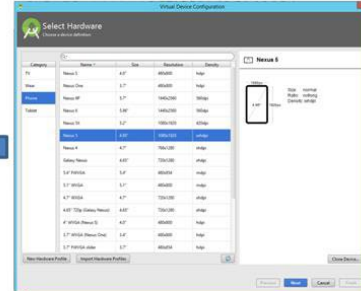
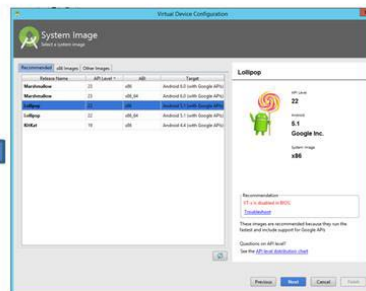
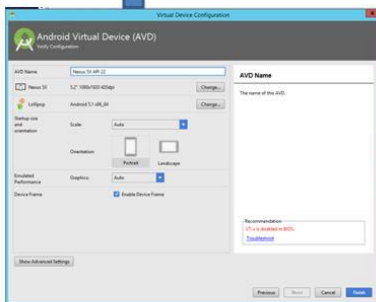


Emulator

Create a Android Virtual Device (AVD)

Click **"AVD Manager"** to create Android Virtual Device to test applications without the physical devices

- ✓ Click **"AVD Manager"** on toolbar;
- ✓ Select: Phone -> **Nexus 5**;
- ✓ Select system image: **Recommended**



API level: 22 & Android: 5.1

• Investigate "AVD – verify configuration":

- **AVD Name:** **Nexus 5X API 22**
- **Configuration:**
 - 5.2"; 1080x1920; 420dpi,
 - Lollipop Android 5.1
- **Start-up size and orientation:**
 - Start-up size (1px on screen, 2px on screen, 3px on screen) → **Select "AUTO"**
 - Orientation: portrait or landscape
- **Emulated Performance:**
 - Different between software, hardware, and auto → **Select "auto"**
- **Device frame:** tick "Enable Device Frame"

• Investigate "Advanced settings":

- **Camera:**
 - Front camera: None, Emulated, Webcam0 → Select "none" for this exercise;
 - Back camera: Non, Emulated, Webcam 0 → Select "none" for this exercise;
- **Network:**
 - Speed: FULL, GSM, HSCSD, GPRS, EDGE, UMTS, HSDPA → **Select 'FULL'**
 - Latency: None, UMTS, EDGE, GPRS → **Select 'None'**