

Coursework Report

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1 Introduction

This module aims to teach on how to build a android application. The main idea is to create an app that contains rock climbing material, such as videos and photos in which a user can gather information and view videos to check if the route is easy or not. This app was inspired by other users around the web that already have a YouTube channel and decided to create an app with their material so other users can benefit from the content. All the photo and video material used in the app is original, as taken during travel activities.

2 Software Design

As a start-up application, the design is very simple. The main page contains a title and a small description of the blogger, along with two buttons, in which button one will lead to a video gallery page and a second main button that will link to an image gallery. Underneath the title and buttons there is a picture thumbnail, generated from one of the YouTube videos. The video gallery shows a number of videos, automatically starting and aligned vertically. A small title and description at the top of the page, but no description was added along the Listview as all the videos have titles at the beginning. The videos in order to load correctly had to be hosted on a virtual drive, in this case drop-box was used to host the files and the share link feature was used to link them to the android page. To note that an exception "internet permission" needed to be added to the manifest to be able to use the net to recover the files. Two button are located at the top of the video page, one link to the homepage and the second button link to the image gallery page. The image gallery consist of a slide-show carousel, activated by a "next photo" button. The images are stored in the "drawable" folder and linked with a unique name. To maximize compatibility all the images were resized to no more than 600px and not overload the page. This page also include two more buttons, linking the main page as well the previous page, in this case the video gallery. A title and description are located at the top of the page.

3 Implementation

The app uses light colors, as well as the content is all centered in the middle of the page for easy access. Saving some space around the edges will help for future content implementation, as an app full of content can be distracting. Light colors are used to not strain the eyes and facilitate readability. The

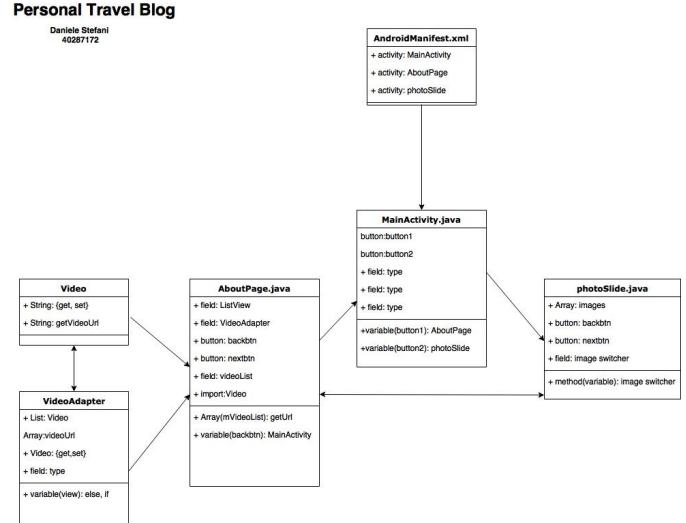


Figure 1: Software flowchart

button text is well marked and position in the middle of the layout for quick access to the content. Figure 1 is a screenshot of the main page displaying the app running on a mobile phone running android OS.

As shown in figure 2, the video page uses the same layout as of the main page and the same text color, to give a small description of the page. Right under the text all the 4 videos are running, by clicking on the box the audio will start while the other video will continued to play muted.

The photo gallery uses a slideshow to scroll through the images activated. As equal to the other pages, a title and description are added at the top and a back to main page button as well as a button to link the video page are present right under the scroll view button

4 Critical Evaluation

The app build as of now can be a bit scarce in content and descriptions, however as a first impact as a travel blog, the materials is within the app. Much improvement can be made on the layout, sometimes a bit empty on the layout, especially the main page, but a simple design was needed in order to not overload the app and not being able to run in older device that might not have access to a big memory to render the app. In term of other applications researched around the web, a lot of those app focus on guides, direction and businesses, but lack support for a full blog, where the user can input their own videos and photos, and can add description of

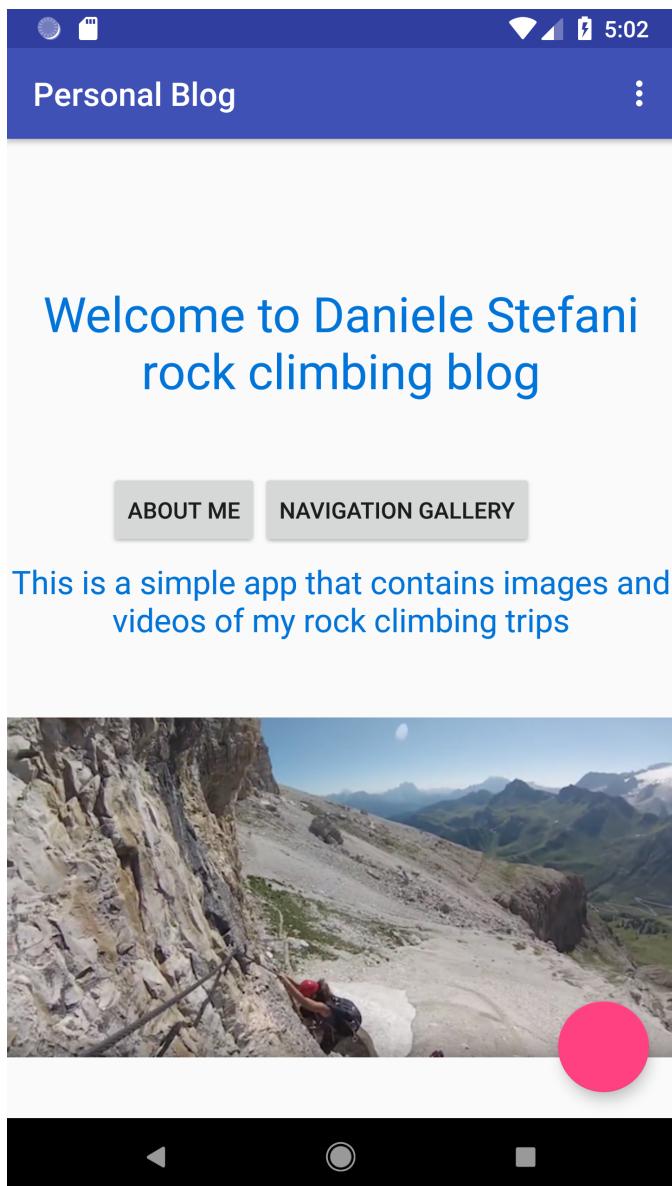


Figure 2: Screen-shot of the main page in the app

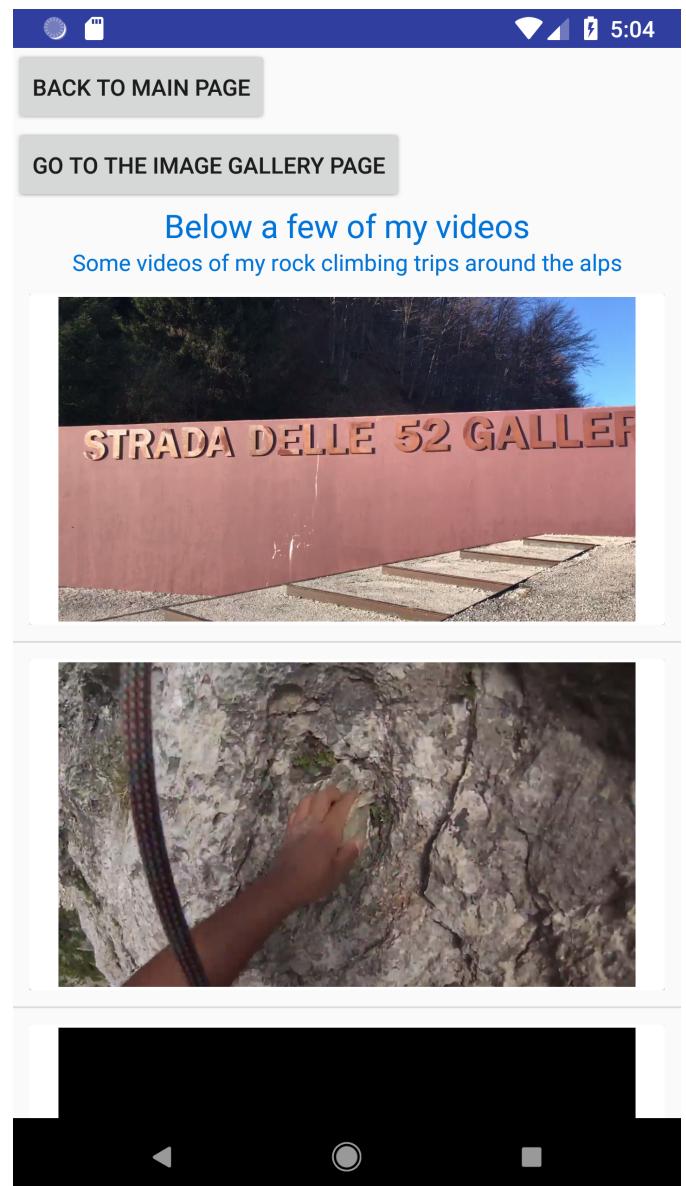


Figure 3: Screen-shot video gallery

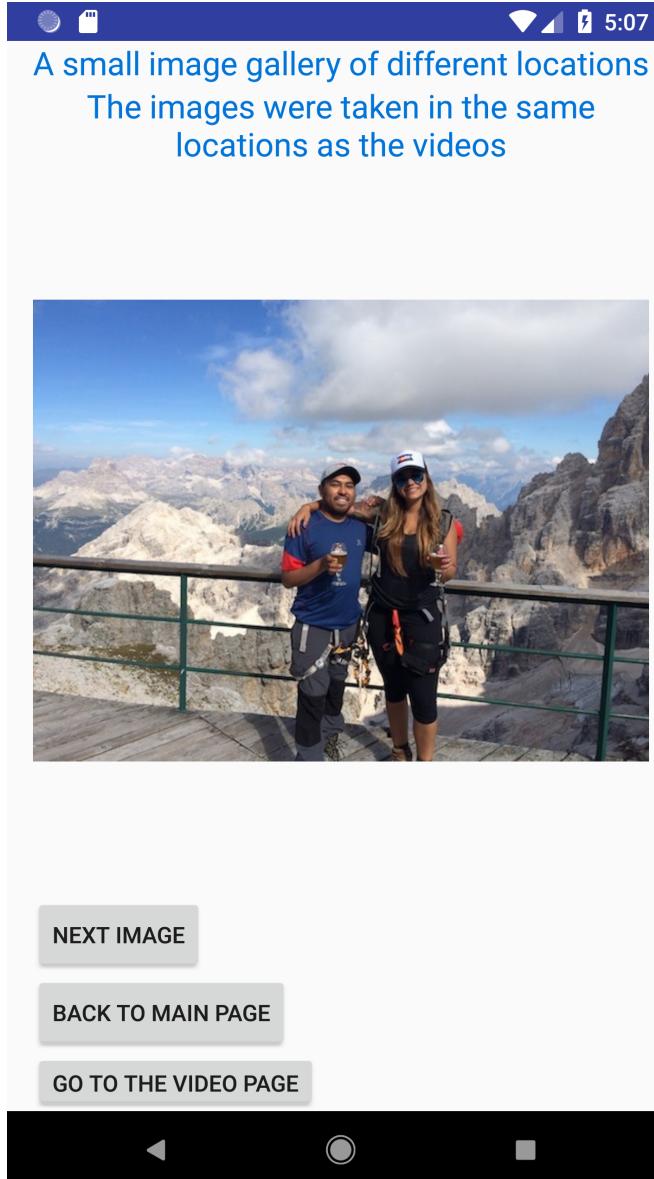


Figure 4: Screen-shot photo gallery

a personal experience rather than focusing on a step by step guide. Most of the app point to social media to maximize the user experience and social media. The app can improve by adding a bit more content description but not overload the layout as seen in most of the app where lots of links can lead out of the actual application. Possibly a better use of navigation button, such as aligning in a different way can be more aesthetically pleasing but the app was mainly focused on the blogger content. Some users provided feedback and even tho the app is not fully built, users were positive on how the navigation work and how they can go around the pages without issues at all. Even tho a lack of more content description left some user wondering about the location. More improvement is needed by adding a different layout and more content along with descriptions.

5 Personal Evaluation

This android application was kind of a challenge to achieve as I encountered a number of issues with the layout constraints. Some libraries were conflicting between windows and osx so had to rebuild a couple of layout files and relink them respectively. Another great challenge I found is building a pleasing color hue to the app, as most of the time I find hard to distinguish between different hues and colors so I tend to build something that people might like anyway without the use of flashy bright blinking images or button that might fuse the colors together. So far given the feedback from a couple of users, no one noticed the colors hue, even tho they felt the app had a lot of blank space. Still room to improve as I would like to finish this app with more content and make the layout look better and pleasing for the users.

References

appcrawlr (2018). Researched app: <http://appcrawlr.com/android-apps/best-apps-travel-blog> 13/03/2018. sitepoint(2018). For the image gallery <https://www.sitepoint.com/handling-displaying-images-android/> 13/03/2018. codestart(2017).codestart Video adapter:<http://codestart.info/android-play-a-list-of-videos-from-url-on-listview/> Last accessed 13/03/2018. Lecture 07 (graphics) for the images code Last accessed 11/03/2018.