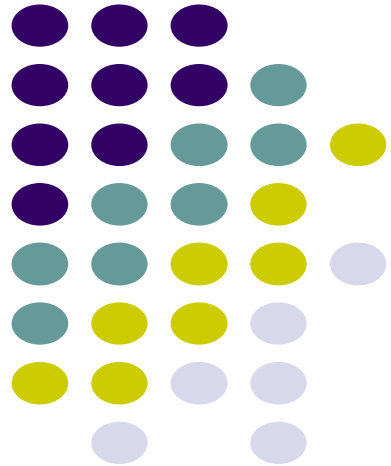
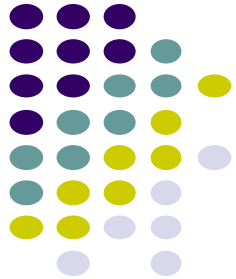
CS 528 Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing
Lecture 02b: Android UI Design

Emmanuel Agu





Resources

Android Resources

- Resources? Images, strings, dimensions, layout files, menus, etc that your app uses
- Basically app elements declared in other files
  - Easier to update, maintain code

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<resources>

    <string name="app_name">My Cool Theme Name</string>
    <string name="description">My Cool Theme Description</string>

    <string name="author">Your Name</string>
    <string name="email">your.email@example.com</string>
    <string name="url">http://YourWeb.com</string>

    <string name="donation_email">john@example.com</string>
    <string name="donation_currency">EUR</string>
    <string name="donation_amount">0.0</string>

</resources>
```

Declaring Strings in Strings.xml

- Can declare all strings in strings.xml

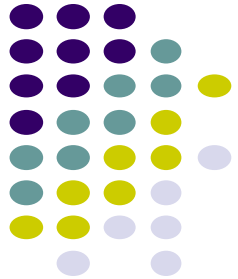
String declaration in strings.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<resources>

    <string name="app_name">EmPubLite</string>
    <string name="hello_world">Hello world!</string>

</resources>
```

- Then reference in any of app's xml files

```
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent"
    tools:context=".EmPubLiteActivity">

    <TextView
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:layout_centerHorizontal="true"
        android:layout_centerVertical="true"
        android:text="@string/hello_world"/>

</RelativeLayout>
```

Strings in AndroidManifest.xml



- Strings declared in strings.xml can be referenced by all other XML files (activity_my.xml, AndroidManifest.xml)

String declaration in strings.xml

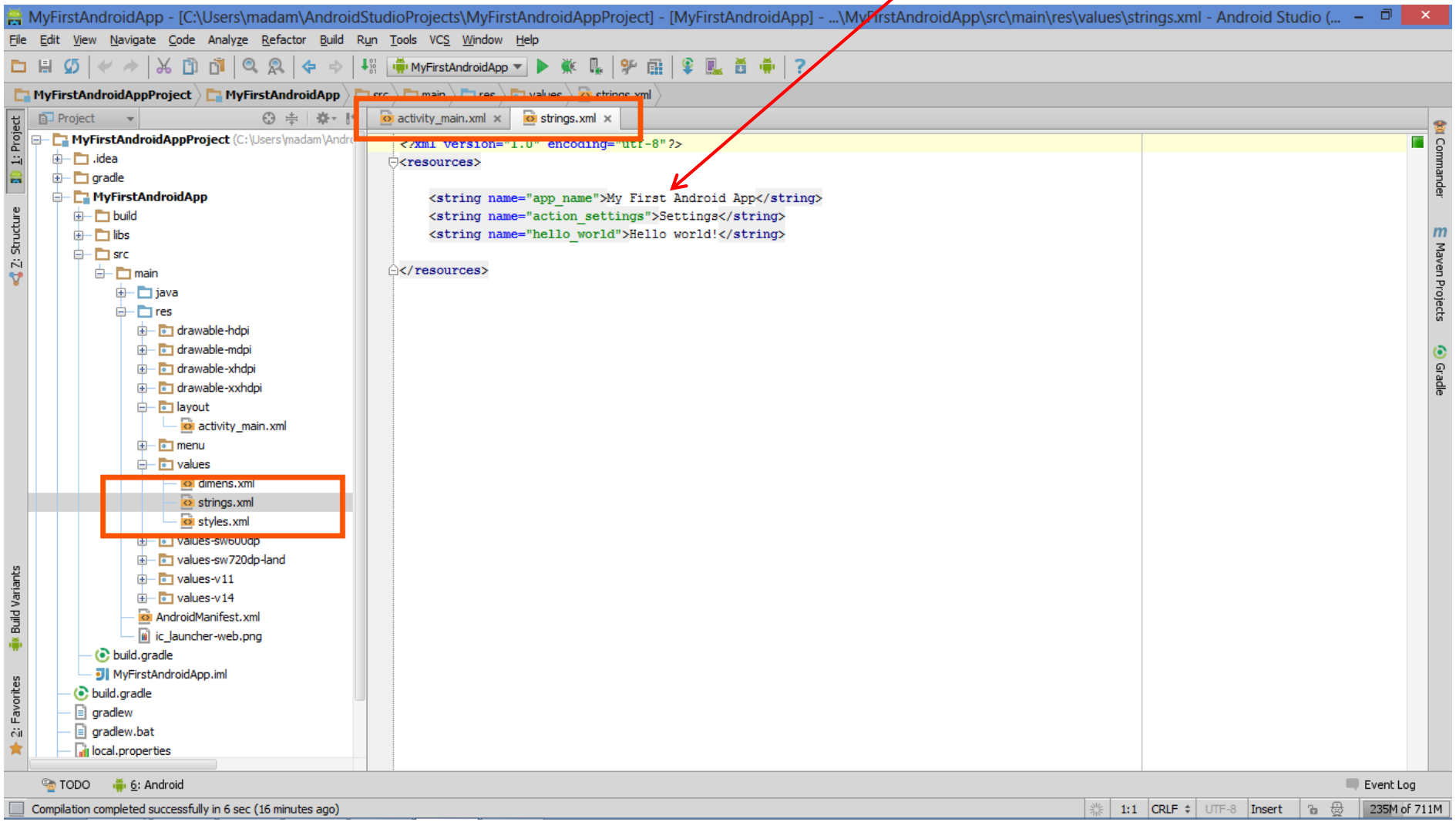
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<resources>

  <string name="app_name">EmPubLite</string>
  <string name="hello_world">Hello world!</string>

</resources>
```

String usage in AndroidManifest.xml

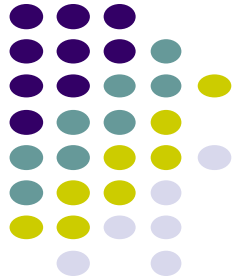
```
  <application
    android:allowBackup="false"
    android:icon="@drawable/ic_launcher"
    android:label="@string/app_name"
    android:theme="@style/AppTheme">
    <activity
      android:name="EmPubLiteActivity"
      android:label="@string/app_name">
      <intent-filter>
        <action android:name="android.intent.action.MAIN"/>

        <category android:name="android.intent.category.LAUNCHER"/>
      </intent-filter>
    </activity>
  </application>

</manifest>
```

Where is strings.xml in Android Studio?

Editting any string in strings.xml changes it wherever it is displayed



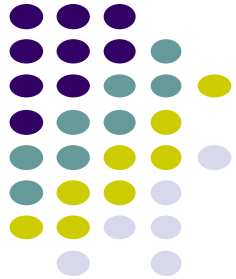
Styled Text



- In HTML, tags can be used for italics, bold, etc
  - E.g. Hello makes text *Hello*
  - <b> Hello <b> makes text **Hello**

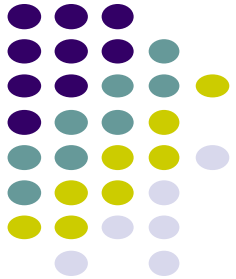
- Can use the same HTML tags to add style (italics, bold, etc) to Android strings

```
<resources>
  <string name="b">This has <b>bold</b> in it.</string>
  <string name="i">Whereas this has <i>italics</i>!</string>
</resources>
```



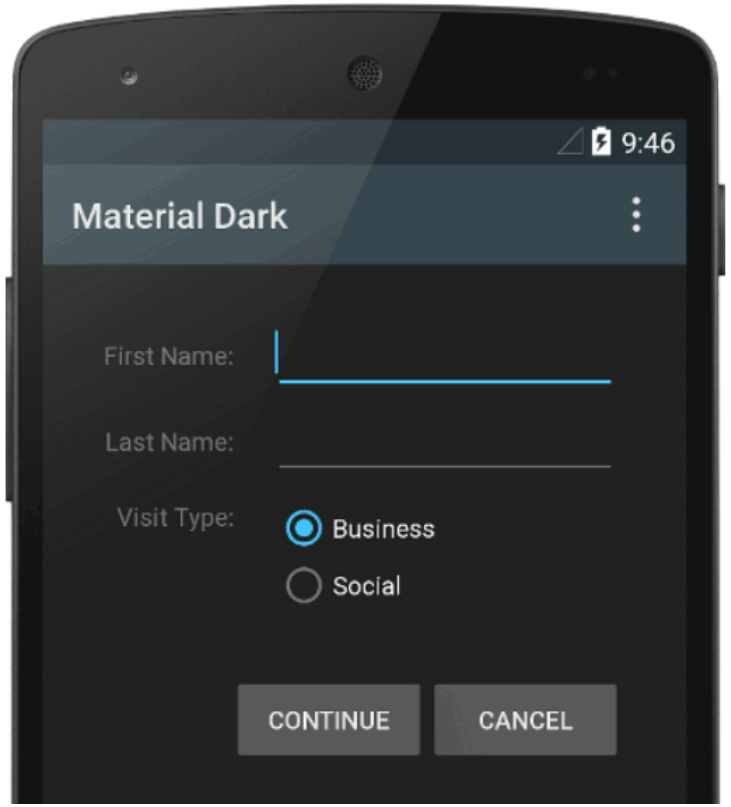
Android Themes

Styles

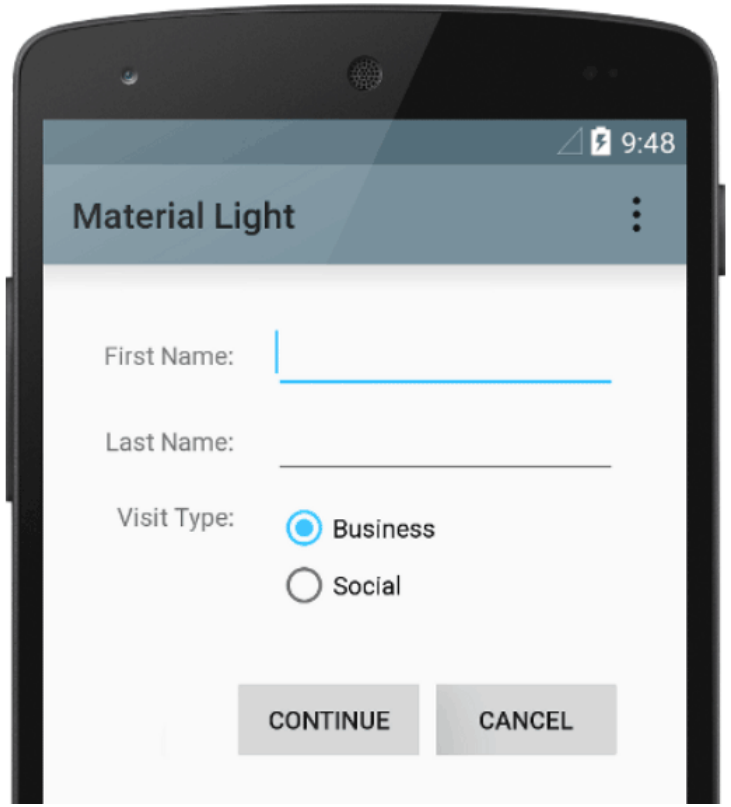


- Android widgets have properties
  - E.g. Foreground color = red
- **Styles in Android:** specifies properties for **multiple attributes** of **1 widget**
  - E.g. height, padding, font color, font size, background color
- Similar to Cascaded Style Sheets (CSS) in HTML
- Themes apply styles to **all widgets on an app screen (Activity)**
  - E.g. all widgets on a screen can adopt the same font

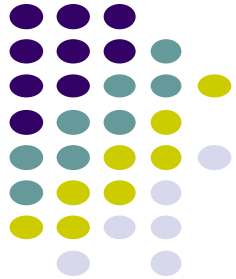
Examples: Different Themes Applied to Same Screen



Theme.AppCompat



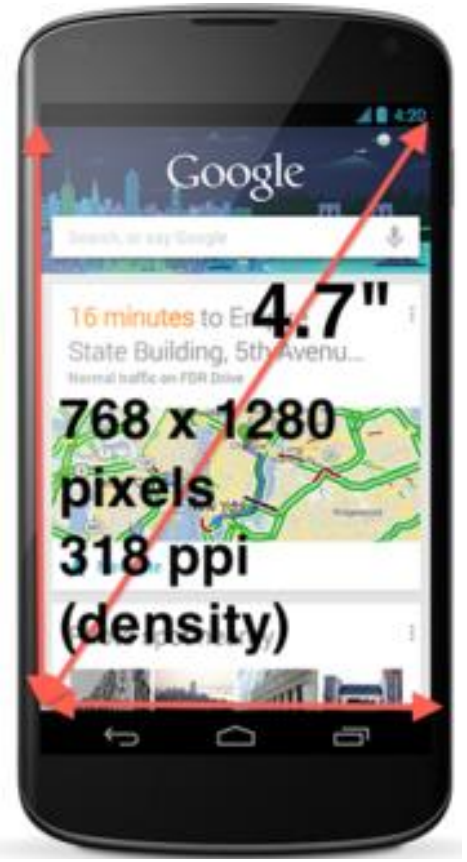
Theme.AppCompat.Light



Adding Pictures in Android

Phone Dimensions Used in Android UI

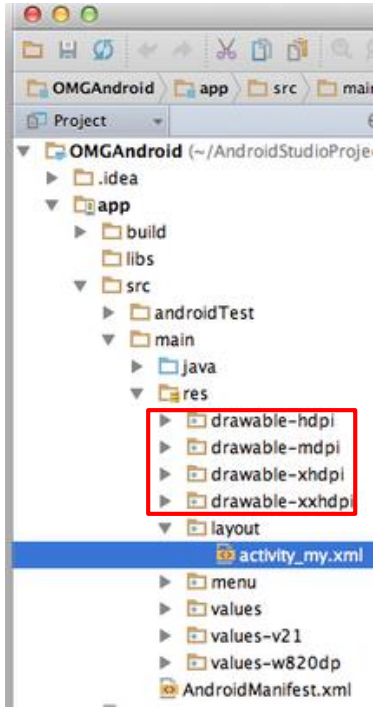
- Physical dimensions (inches) diagonally
  - E.g. Nexus 4 is 4.7 inches diagonally
- Resolution in pixels
  - E.g. Nexus 4 resolution 768 x 1280 pixels
  - No. of pixels diagonally: Sqrt[(768 x 768) + (1280 x 1280)]
- Pixels per inch (PPI) on diagonal =
  - Sqrt[(768 x 768) + (1280 x 1280)] / 4.7= 318



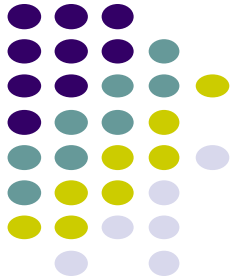
Adding Pictures

- Android supports images in PNG, JPEG and GIF formats
- Put different resolutions of **same image** into different directories
  - **res/drawable-ldpi:** low dpi images (~ 120 dpi of dots per inch)
  - **res/drawable-mdpi:** medium dpi images (~ 160 dpi)
  - **res/drawable-hdpi:** high dpi images (~ 240 dpi)
  - **res/drawable-xhdpi:** extra high dpi images (~ 320 dpi)
  - **res/drawable-xxhdpi:** extra extra high dpi images (~ 480 dpi)
  - **res/drawable-xxxhdpi:** high dpi images (~ 640 dpi)

res/drawable-mdpi
res/drawable-tvdpi
res/drawable-hdpi
res/drawable-xhdpi
res/drawable-xxhdpi
res/drawable-xxxhdpi



Adding Pictures



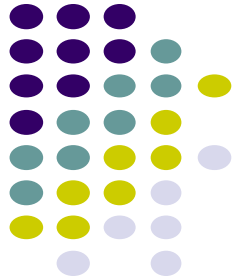
- Use generic picture name in code (no .png, .jpg, etc)
  - E.g. to reference an image **ic_launcher.png**

```
<application
  android:allowBackup="false"
  android:icon="@drawable/ic_launcher"
  android:label="@string/app_name"
  android:theme="@style/AppTheme">
```

- At run-time, Android chooses appropriate resolution/directory (e.g. –mdpi) based on phone resolution

- **Image Asset Studio:** generates icons in various densities from original image

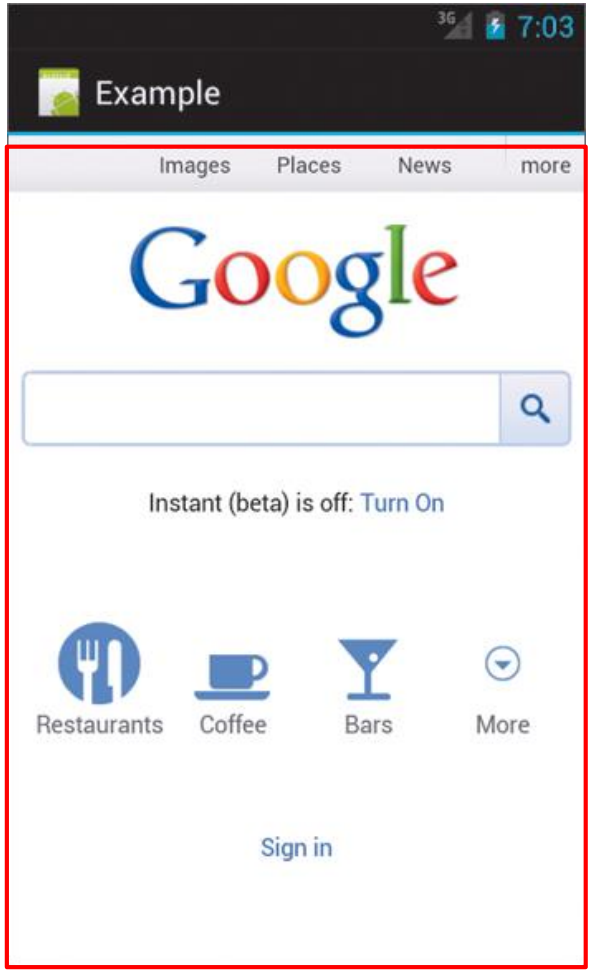
  Ref: https://developer.android.com/studio/write/create-app-icons



WebView Widget

WebView Widget

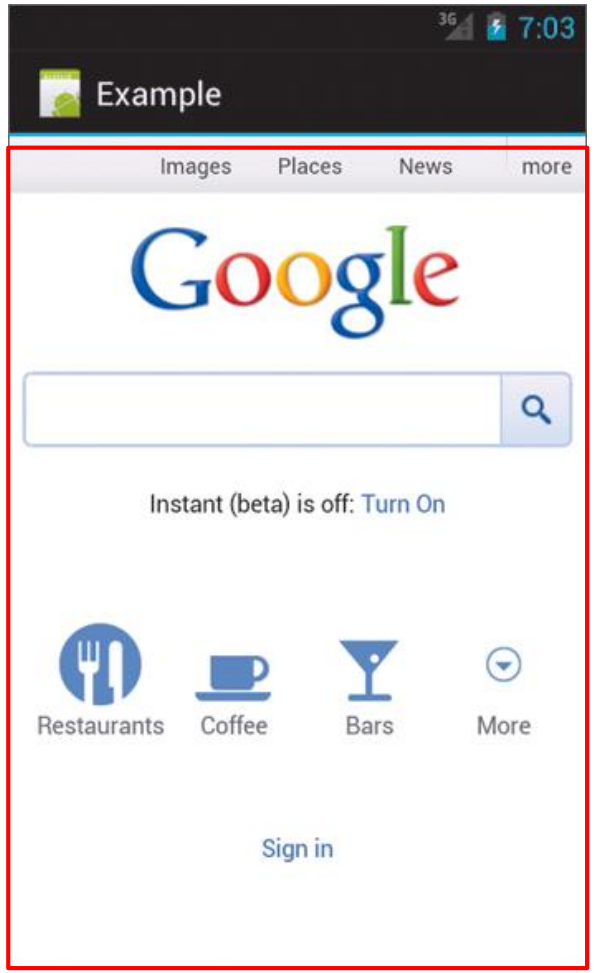
- A View that displays web pages
  - Can be used for creating your own web browser
  - OR just display some web content inside your app



WebView Widget

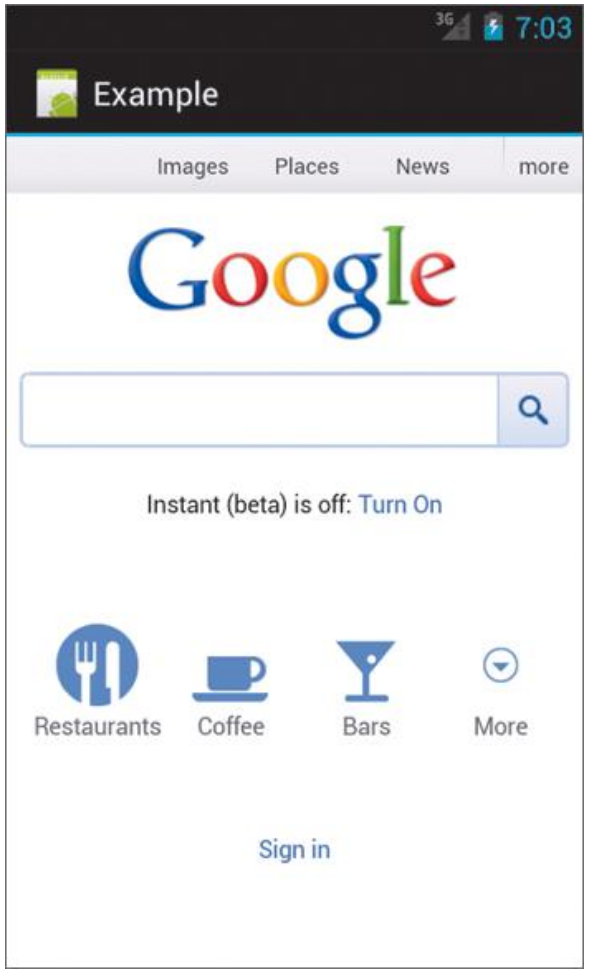
- Since Android 4.4, webviews rendered using:
  - Chromium open source project, engine used in Google Chrome browser (http://www.chromium.org/)

- Webviews on earlier Android versions supported webkit, which is used in many web browsers including Safari

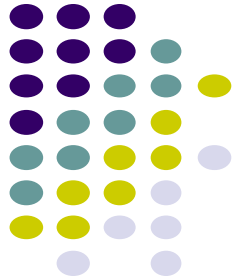


WebView Widget Functionality

- Supports HTML5, CSS3 and JavaScript
- Navigate previous URLs (back and forward)
- zoom in and out
- perform searches
- Can also:
  - Embed images in page
  - Search page for strings
  - Handle cookies



WebView Example



- Simple app to view and navigate web pages
- XML code (e.g in res/layout/main.xml) to declare WebView rectangle

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<WebView xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:id="@+id/webview"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent"
/>
```

WebView Activity

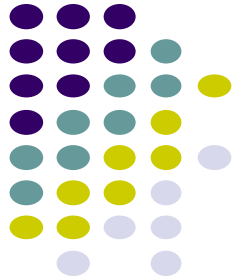
- In onCreate, use loadURL to specify website to load
- If website contains Javascript, enable Javascript
- loadUrl( ) can also load files on Android local filesystem (file://)

```
class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {

    override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)

        // WebViewClient allows you to handle
        // onPageFinished and override Url loading.
        webView.webViewClient = WebViewClient()

        // this will load the url of the website
        webView.loadUrl("https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/")

        // this will enable the javascript settings, it can also
        webView.settings.javaScriptEnabled = true

        // if you want to enable zoom feature
        webView.settings.setSupportZoom(true)
    }
```

WebView: Request Internet Access

- In AndroidManifest.xml, request owner of phone to grant **permission to use Internet**

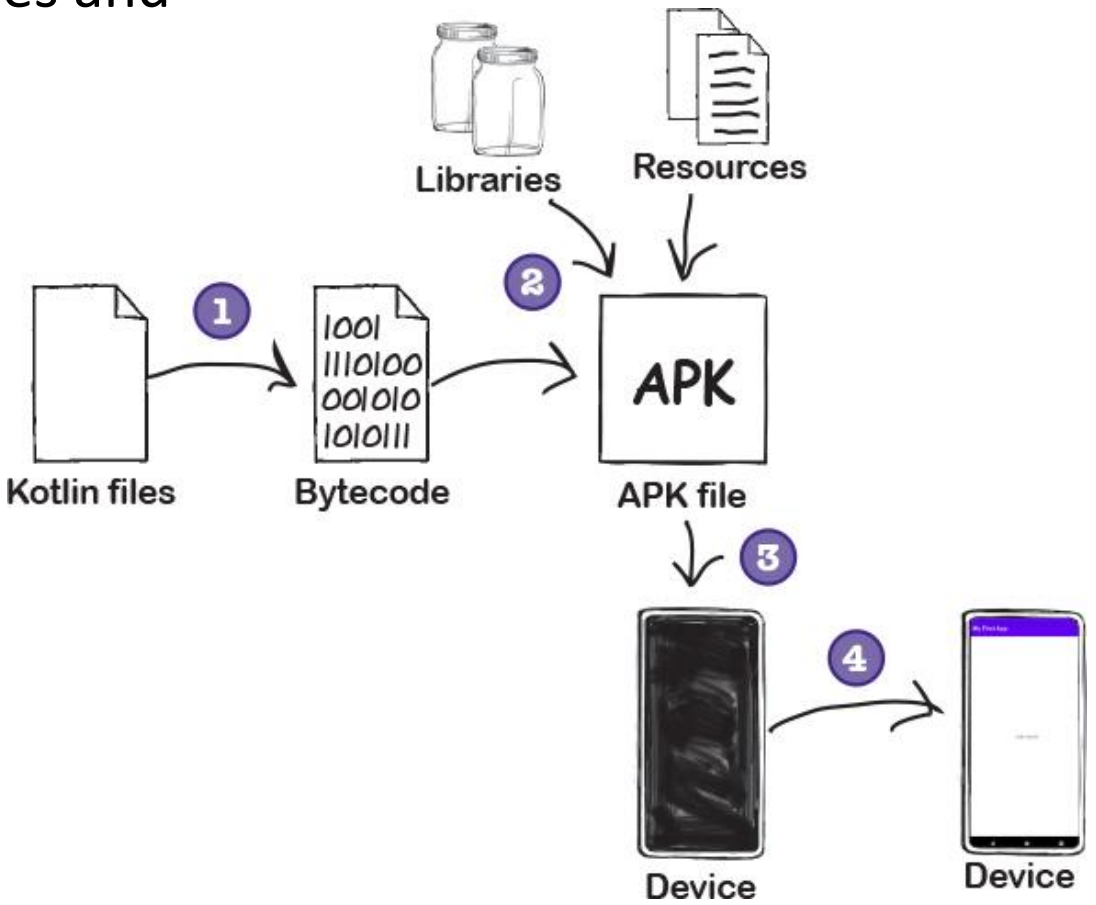
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<manifest xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    package="scottm.examples"
    android:versionCode="1"
    android:versionName="1.0" >

    <uses-sdk android:minSdkVersion="10" />

    <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INTERNET" />

```



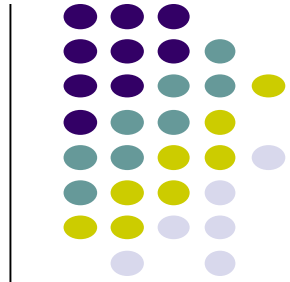
Android Compilation Process (In more detail)

Android: Compile, Package, Deploy, Run

1. Kotlin files get compiled into bytecode
2. APK file gets created from bytecode, libraries and resources
3. APK is installed (copied) on device
4. Device starts app's main activity



Ref: HFAD (3rd edition), page 25

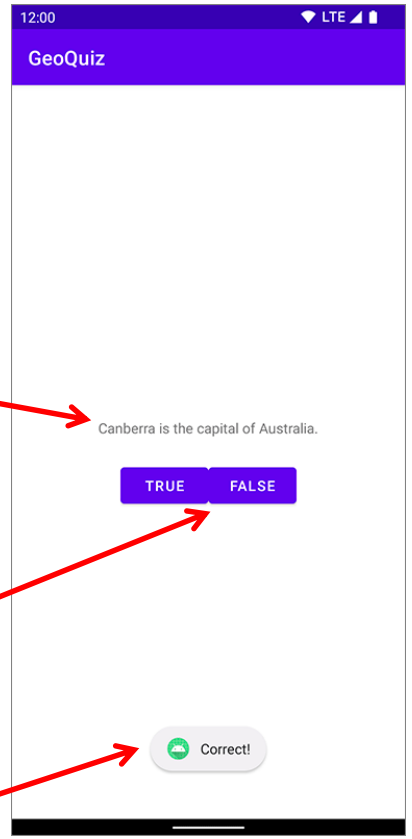


Android UI Design Example

GeoQuiz App

Ref: Android Nerd Ranch (5th edition), pgs 1-32

- App makes statements about geography, with goal to test user's knowledge of geography
- User answers by pressing **True** or **False** buttons
- How to get this book?

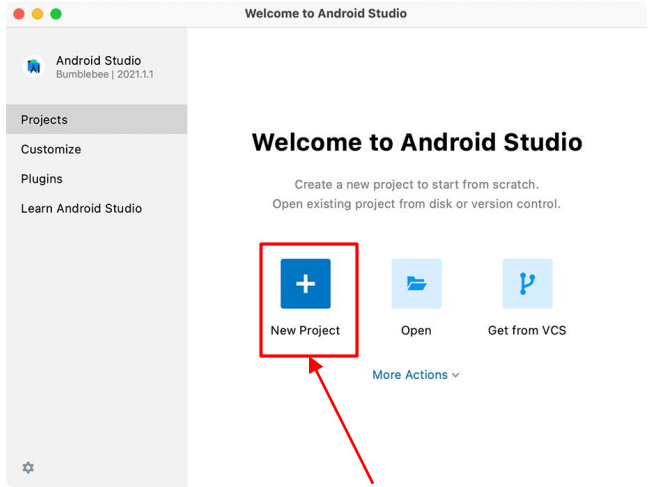


Statement

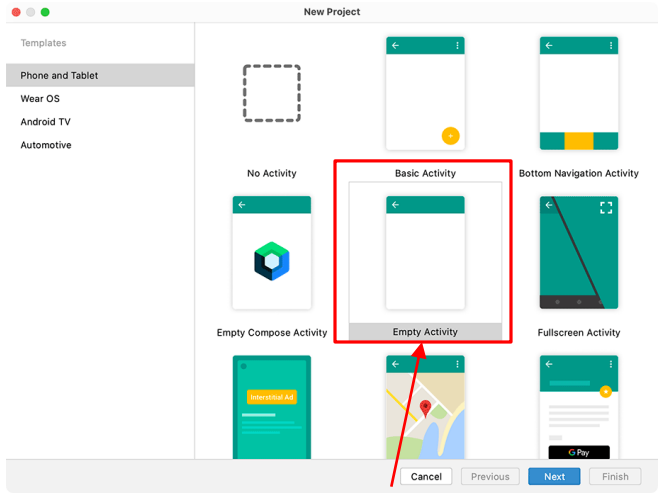
User responds by clicking True or False

App grades User's response Using toast msg

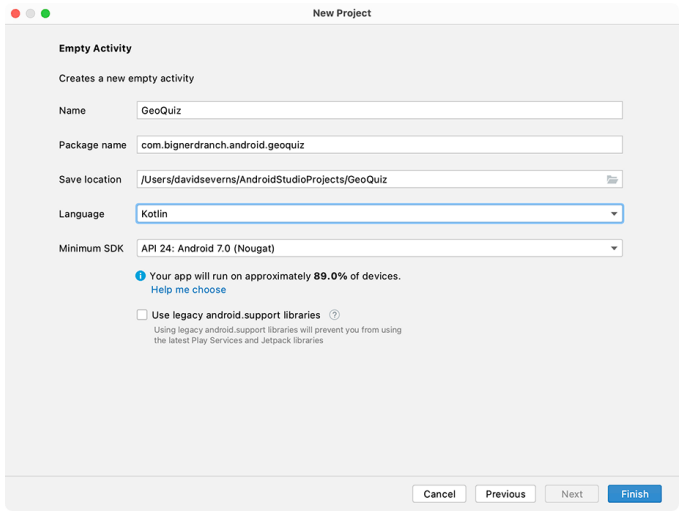
GeoQuiz App: Getting Started in Android Studio



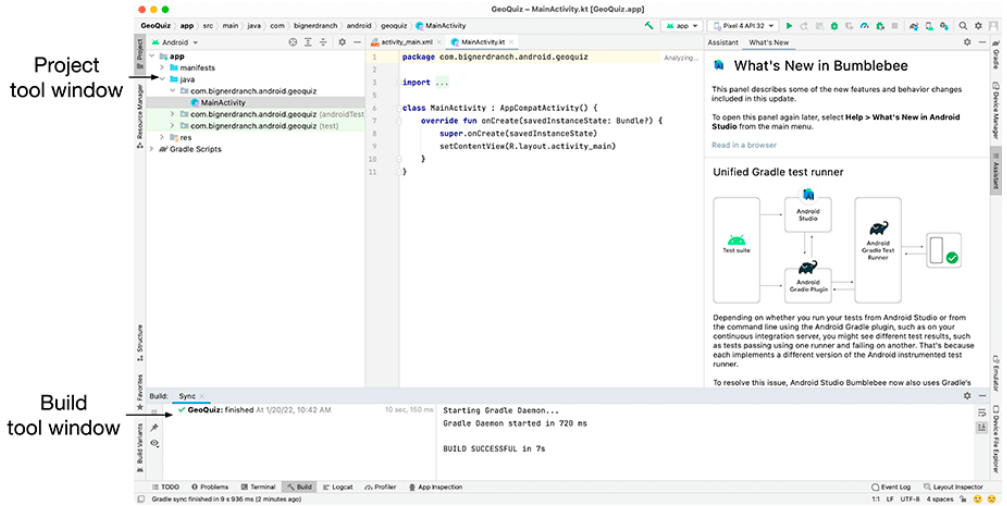
1. Start Android app, select “New Project”



2. Select Android “Empty Activity” template



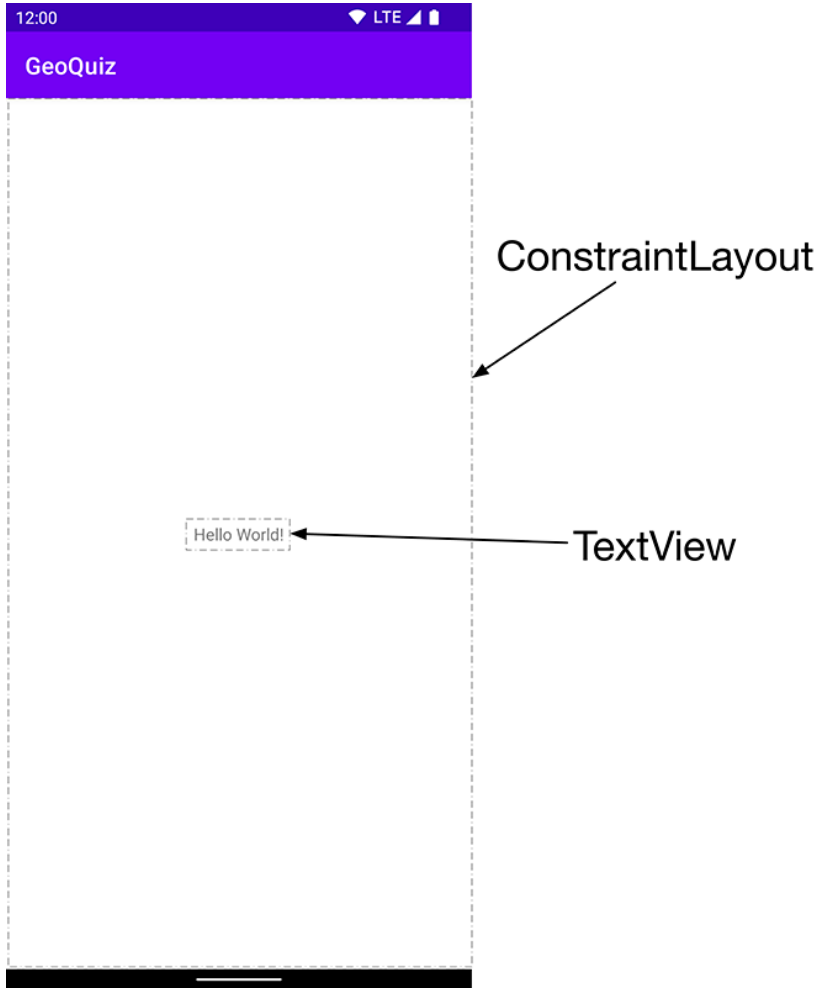
3. Configure New Project, select kotlin as language



4. Land in Android fresh project window

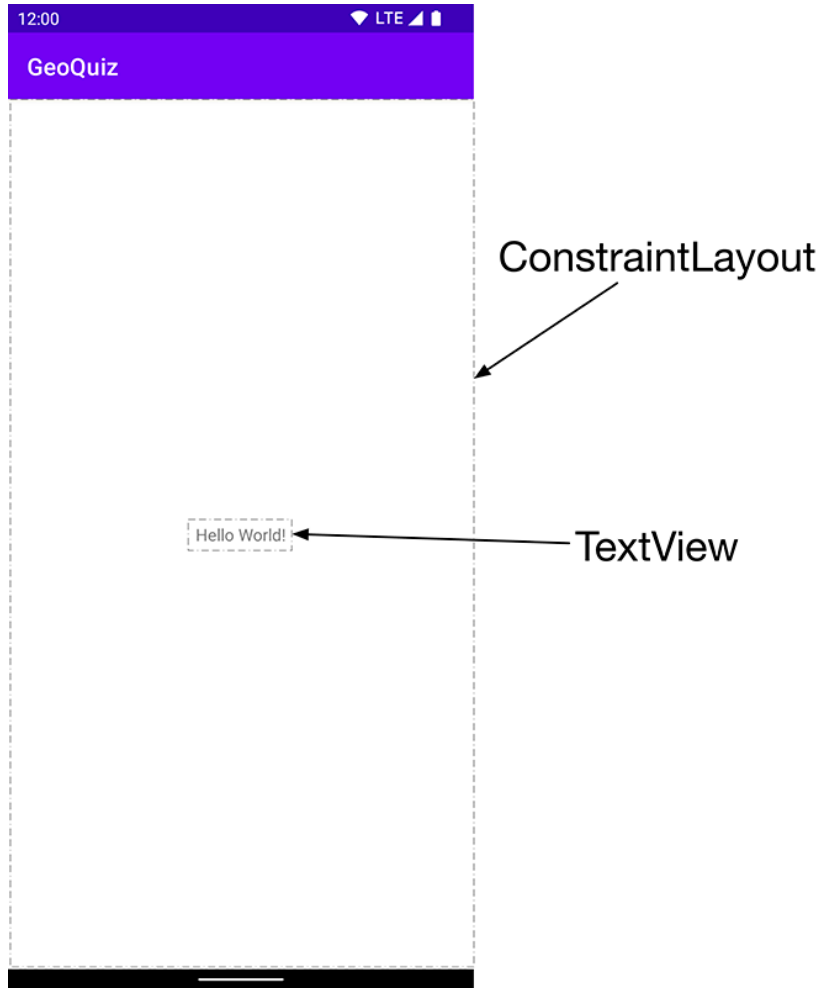
QeoQuiz: Default views

- Default XML generates:
  - ConstraintLayout
  - Textview (with string “Hello World!”)



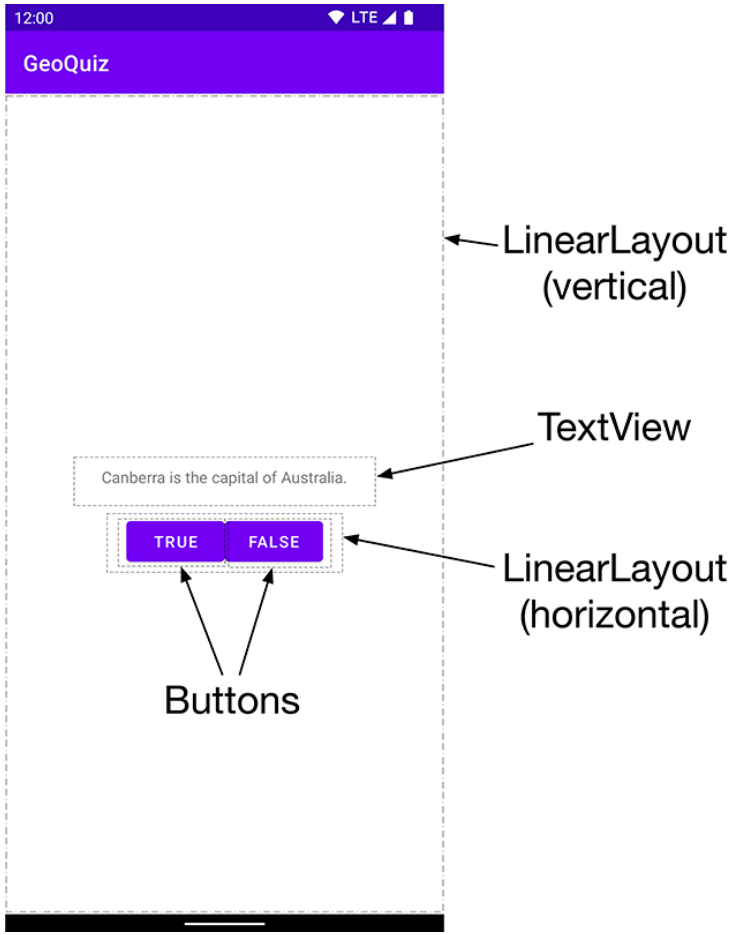
GeoQuiz App Files

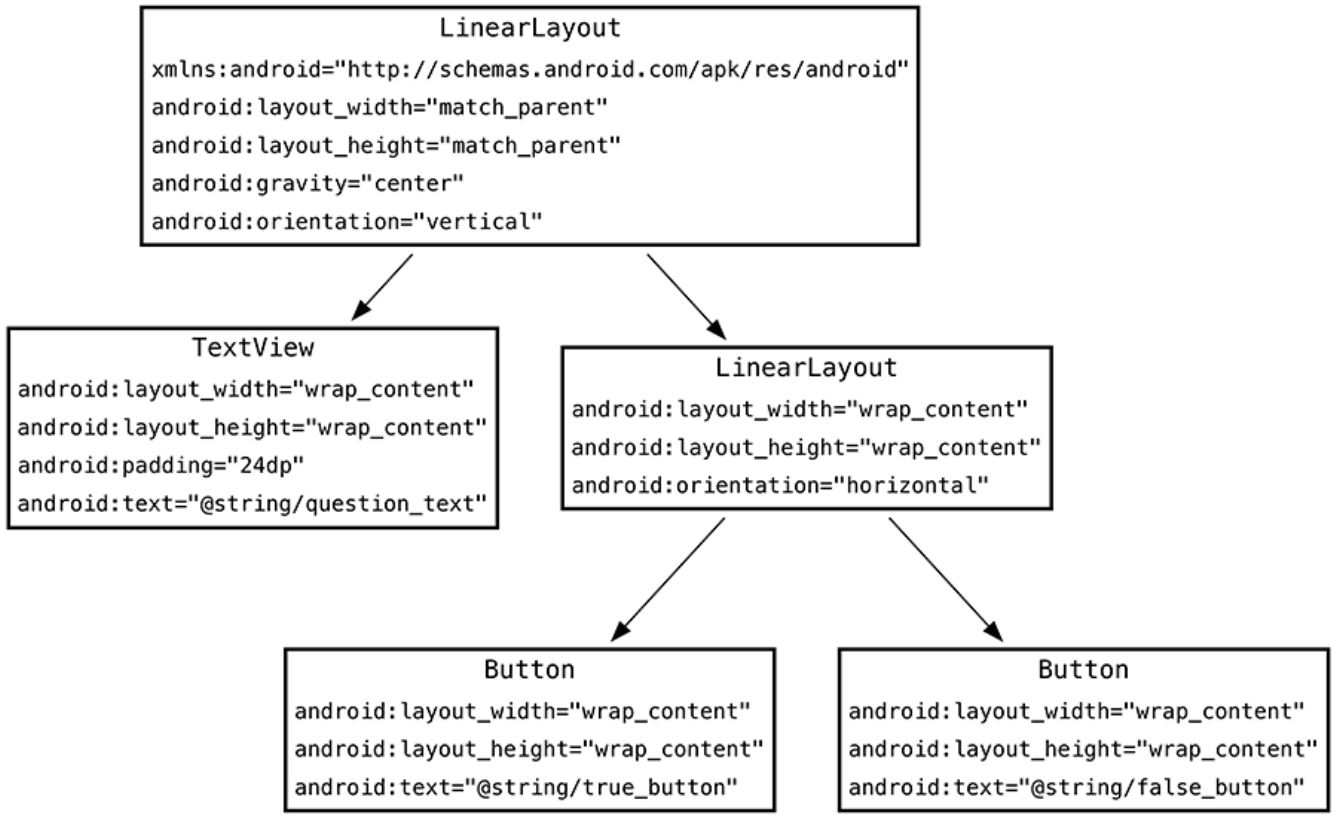
- 2 main files:
  - **activity_quiz.xml:** to format app look
  - **MainActivity** (Kotlin/java file) to manage UI, present question, accept True/False response
- **AndroidManifest.xml** lists all app components, auto-generated



GeoQuiz: Plan Out App Widgets (in activity_quiz.xml)

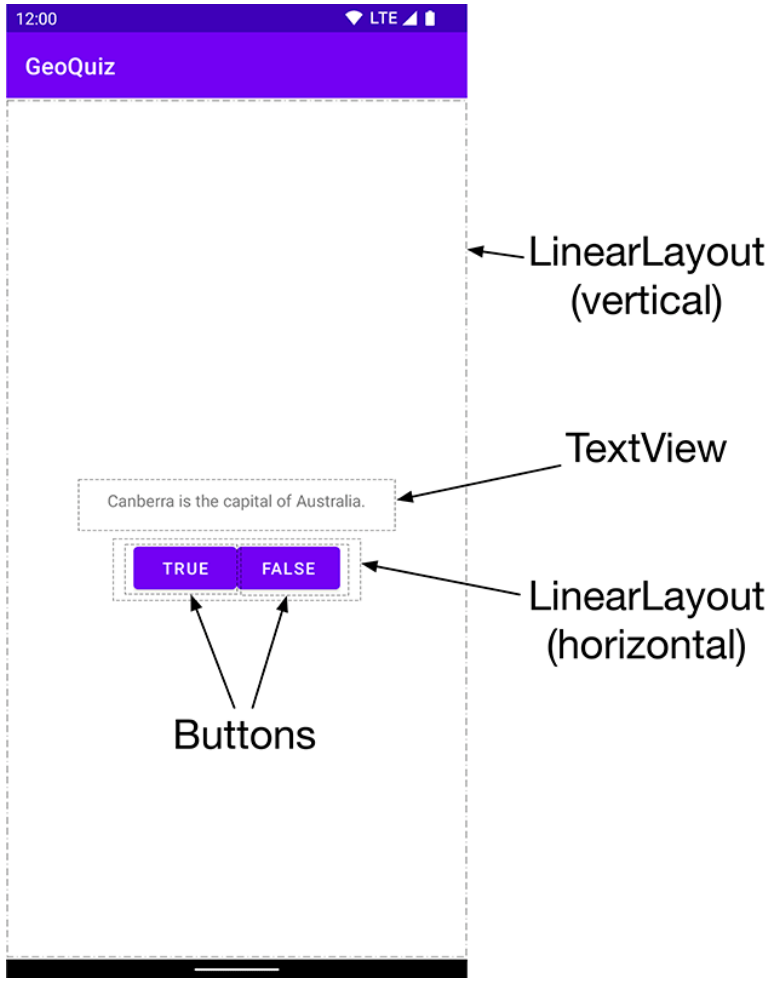
- 5 Widgets arranged hierarchically





GeoQuiz: activity_quiz.xml File listing

```
<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent"
    android:gravity="center"
    android:orientation="vertical">

    <TextView
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:padding="24dp"
        android:text="@string/question_text" />

    <LinearLayout
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:orientation="horizontal">

        <Button
            android:layout_width="wrap_content"
            android:layout_height="wrap_content"
            android:text="@string/true_button" />

        <Button
            android:layout_width="wrap_content"
            android:layout_height="wrap_content"
            android:text="@string/false_button" />

    </LinearLayout>

</LinearLayout>
```

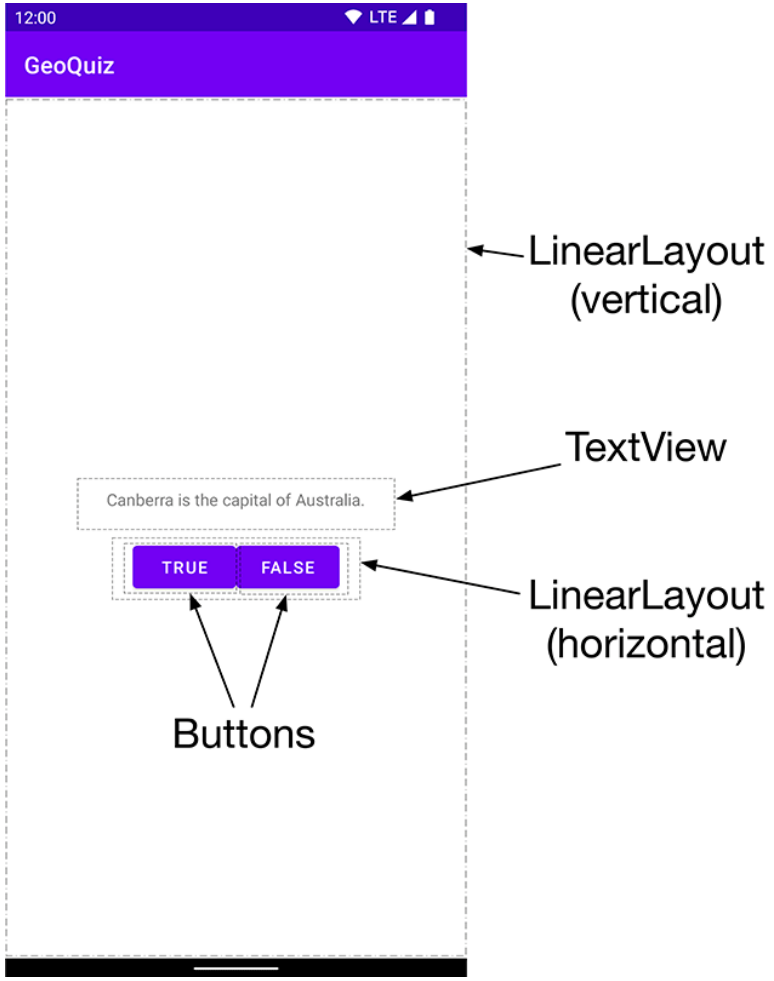


GeoQuiz: strings.xml File listing

- Define all strings app will use
  - Question: “Canberra is the capital .... “
  - True
  - False

res/values/strings.xml

```
<resources>
    <string name="app_name">GeoQuiz</string>
    <string name="question_text">Canberra is the capital of Australia.</string>
    <string name="true_button">True</string>
    <string name="false_button">False</string>
</resources>
```



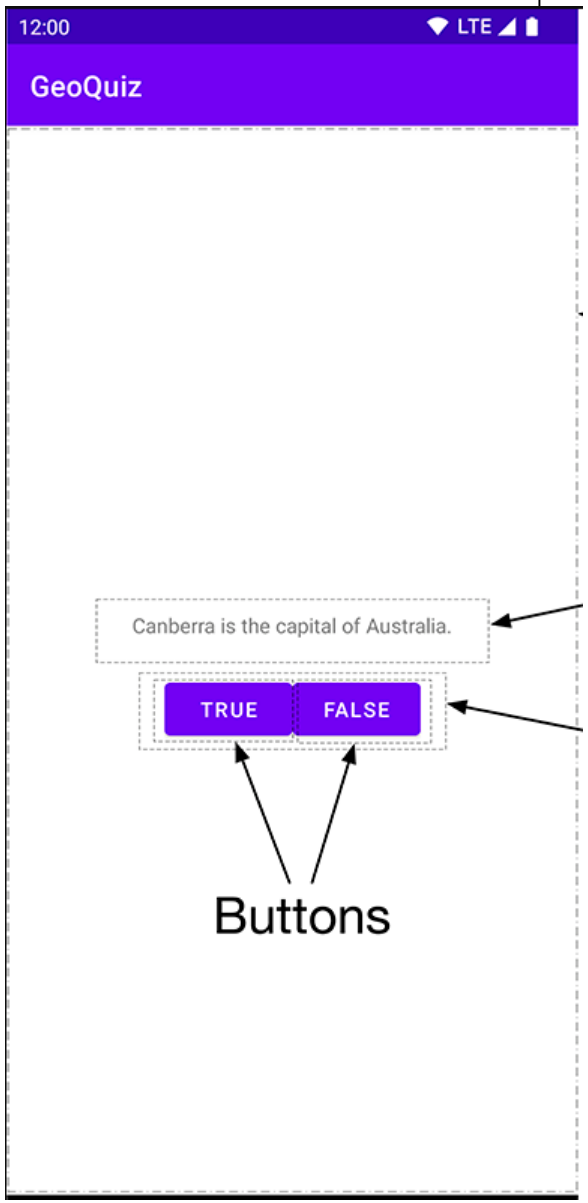
Initial QuizActivity.kt Code (in ../java Directory)

- MainActivity derived from Android AppCompatActivity class, ensures compatibility with older Android versions

```
package com.bignerdranch.android.geoquiz

import androidx.appcompat.app.AppCompatActivity
import android.os.Bundle

class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {

    override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)
    }
}
```

onCreate Method is called once Activity is created (like a constructor?)

specify layout XML file (**activity_quiz.xml**)



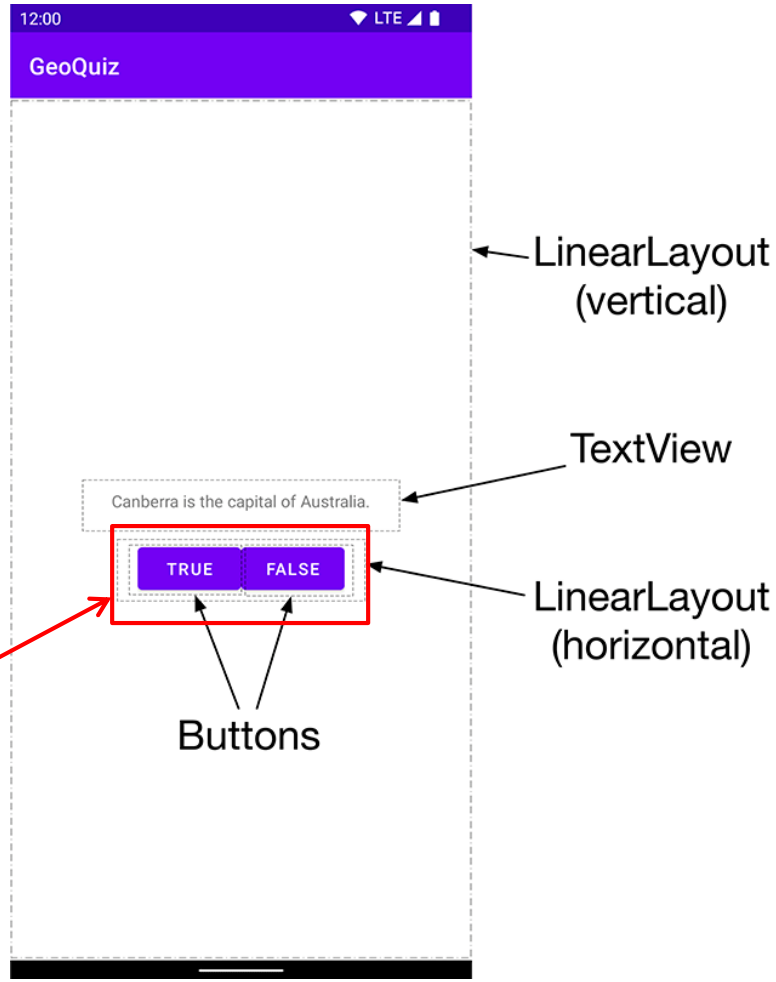
- Would like kotlin code to respond to True/False buttons being clicked

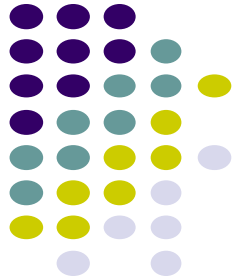
Responding to True/False Buttons in Kotlin File

XML file

```
<LinearLayout ... >

    <TextView
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:padding="24dp"
        android:text="@string/question_text" />

    <LinearLayout
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:orientation="horizontal">

        <Button
            android:id="@+id/true_button"
            android:layout_width="wrap_content"
            android:layout_height="wrap_content"
            android:text="@string/true_button" />

        <Button
            android:id="@+id/false_button"
            android:layout_width="wrap_content"
            android:layout_height="wrap_content"
            android:text="@string/false_button" />

    </LinearLayout>

</LinearLayout>
```

Write code in Kotlin file to specify app's response when True/False buttons are clicked



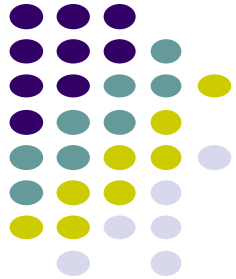


2 Alternative Ways to Respond to Button Clicks

1. In XML: set android:onClick attribute (already seen this!!)

2. In kotlin, create a ClickListener object, override onClick method

Recall: Approach 1: Responding to Button Clicks



- May want Button press to trigger some action
- How?

1. In XML file (e.g. Activity_my.xml), set android:onClick attribute to specify method to be invoked

2. In Kotlin file (e.g. MainActivity.kt) declare method/handler to take desired action

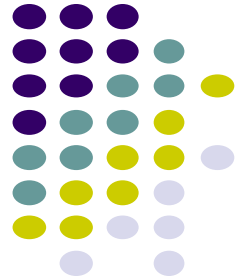
Activity_my.xml

```
<Button
  android:onClick="someMethod"
  ...
/>
```

MainActivity.kt

… declare someMethod function

Approach 2: Create a ClickListener object, override onClick

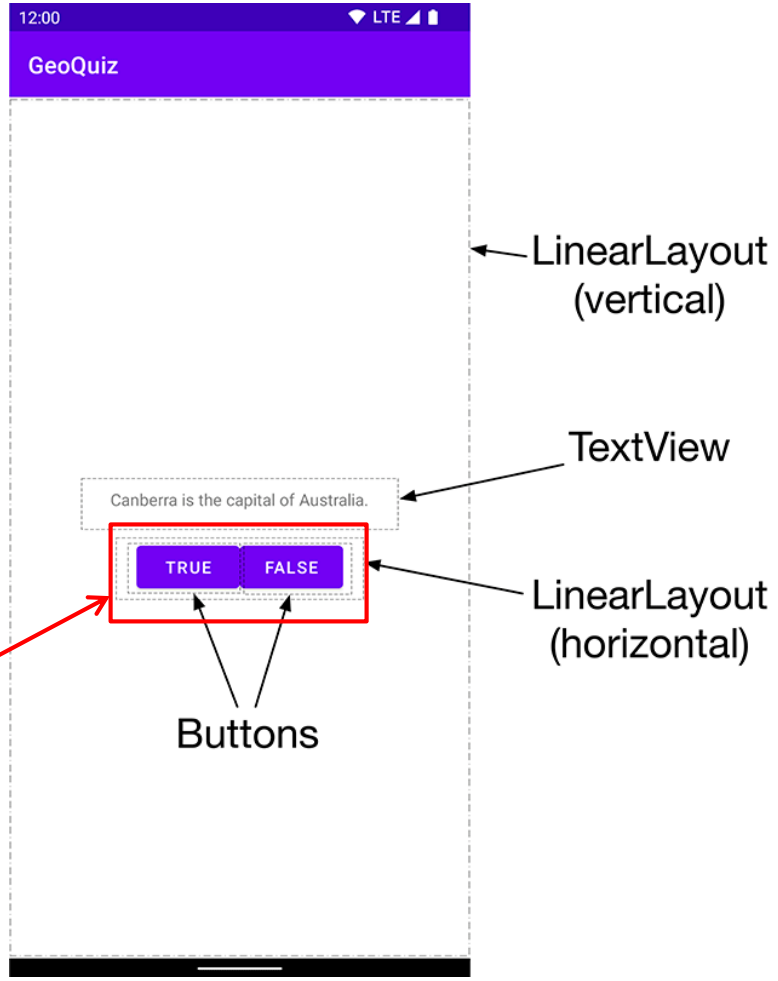


- First, get reference to Button in our kotlin file. How?

```
<Button
  android:id="@+id/true_button"
  android:layout_width="wrap_content"
  android:layout_height="wrap_content"
  android:text="@string/true_button" />
```

```
<Button
  android:id="@+id/false_button"
  android:layout_width="wrap_content"
  android:layout_height="wrap_content"
  android:text="@string/false_button" />
```

Need reference to Buttons



QuizActivity.kt: Getting References to Buttons

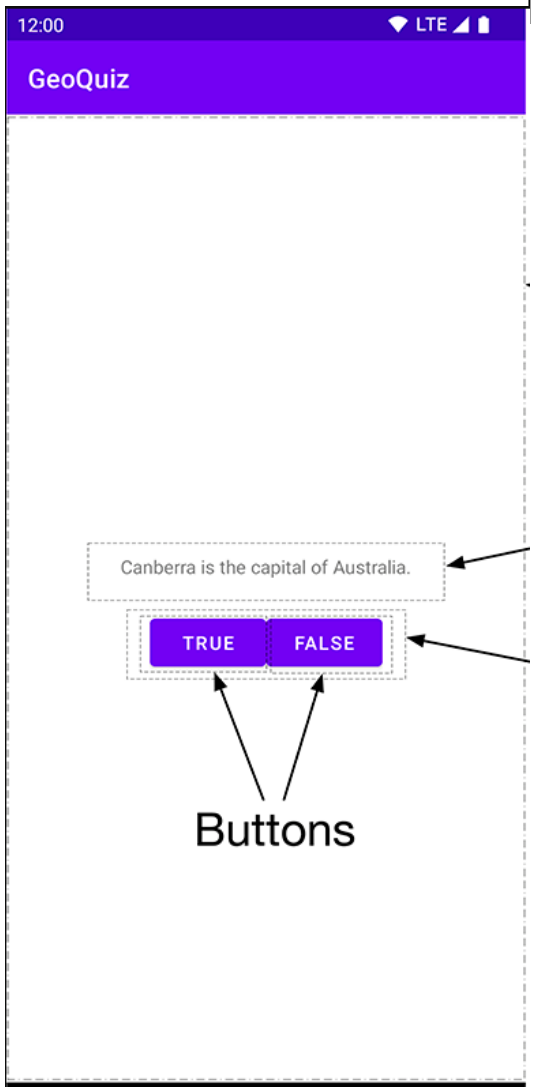
- Compiler assigns each resource an ID
- Use **findViewByID** to find ID of true, false buttons

```
class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {

    private lateinit var trueButton: Button
    private lateinit var falseButton: Button

    override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)

        trueButton = findViewById(R.id.true_button)
        falseButton = findViewById(R.id.false_button)
    }
}
```

Declaration in XML

```
<Button
  android:id="@+id/true_button"
  android:layout_width="wrap_content"
  android:layout_height="wrap_content"
  android:text="@string/true_button" />
```

```
<Button
  android:id="@+id/false_button"
  android:layout_width="wrap_content"
  android:layout_height="wrap_content"
  android:text="@string/false_button" />
```

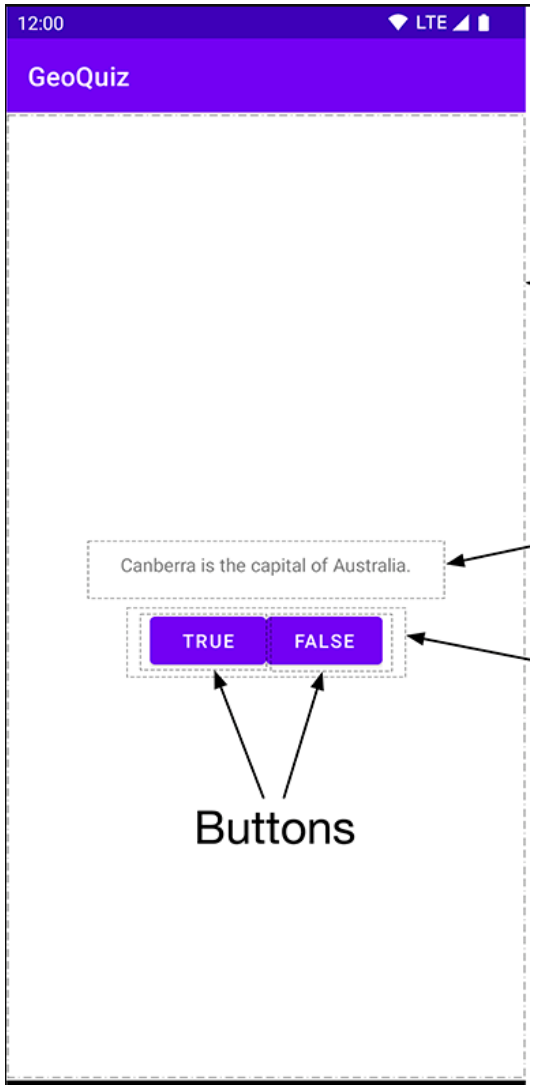


QuizActivity.kt: Setting Listeners

- Set listeners for **True** and **False** button clicks
- Implements **View.onClickListener** interface
  - Has one method: **onClick(View)**

```
trueButton.setOnClickListener { view: View ->
    // Do something in response to the click here
}
```

```
falseButton.setOnClickListener { view: View ->
    // Do something in response to the click here
}
```

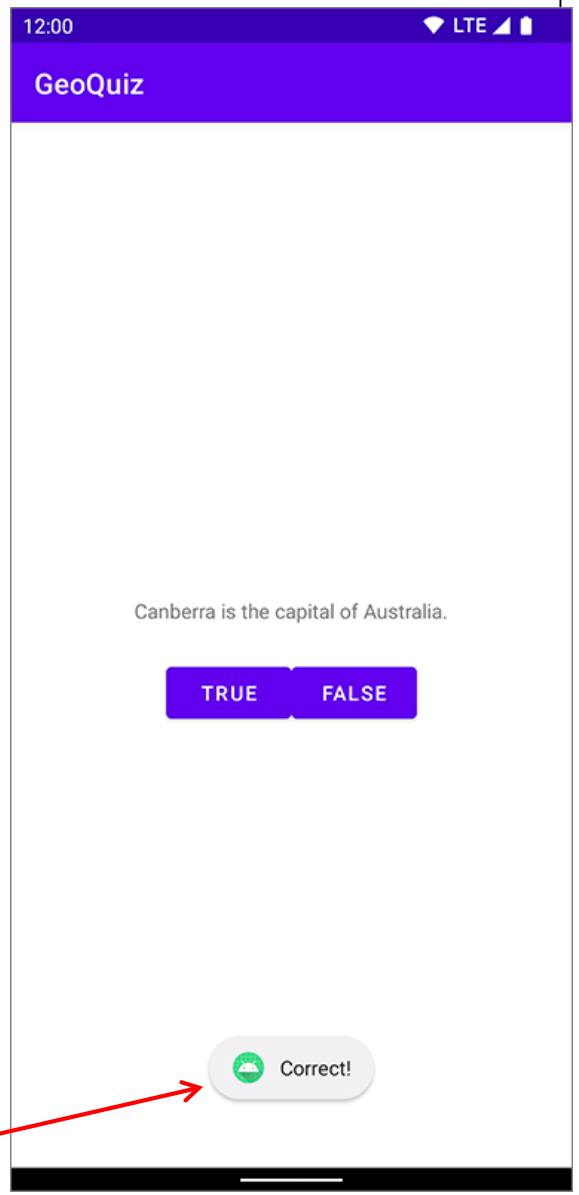


QuizActivity.kt: Adding a Toast

- A toast is a short pop-up message
- Does not require any input or action
- After user clicks True or False button, our app will pop-up a toast to inform the user if they were right or wrong

- First, we need to add toast strings (Correct, Incorrect) to strings.xml

```
<resources>
    <string name="app_name">GeoQuiz</string>
    <string name="question_text">Canberra is the capital of Australia.</string>
    <string name="true_button">True</string>
    <string name="false_button">False</string>
    <string name="correct_toast">Correct!</string>
    <string name="incorrect_toast">Incorrect!</string>
</resources>
```



QuizActivity.java: Adding a Toast

- To create a toast, call the method:

```
makeText(context: Context, resId: Int, duration: Int)
```

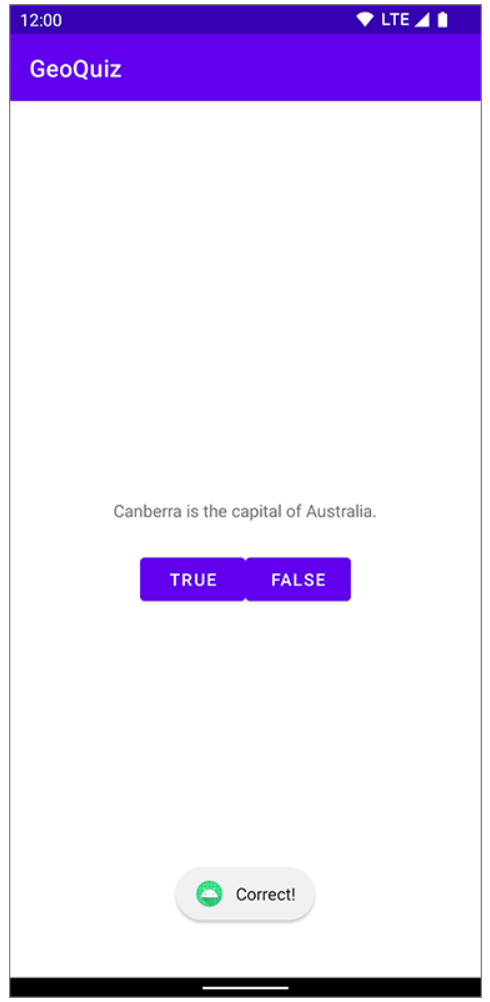
Instance of Activity (Activity is a subclass of context)

Resouce ID of the string that toast should display

Constant to specifiy how long toast should be visible

- After creating toast, call **toast.show( )** to display it.
- E.g, code to wire up trueButton

```
Toast.makeText(
    this,
    R.string.correct_toast,
    Toast.LENGTH_SHORT
).show()
```



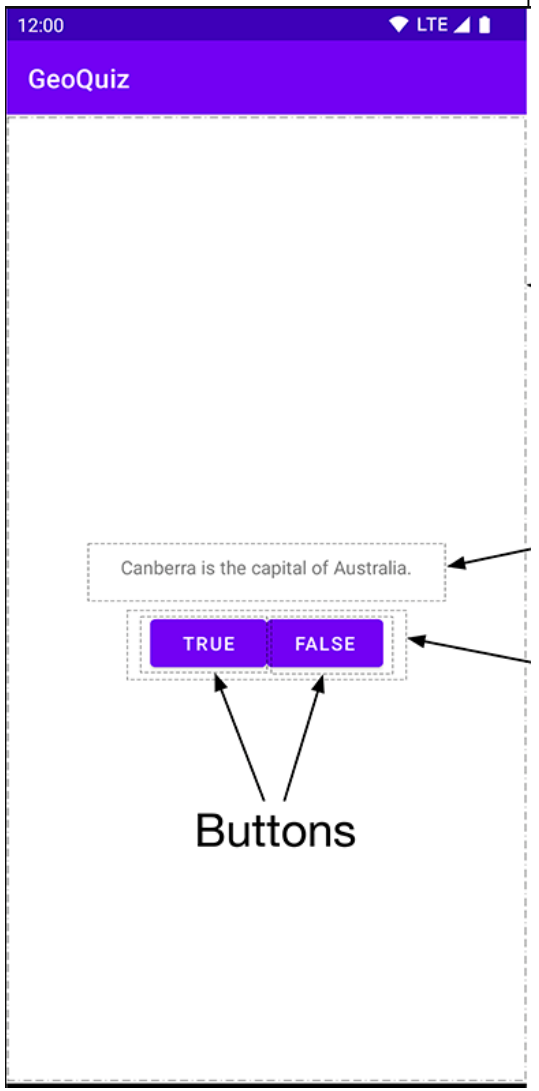
QuizActivity.java: Adding a Toast

- Code for adding a toast to both buttons

```
override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
    ...
    trueButton.setOnClickListener { view: View ->
        // Do something in response to the click here
        Toast.makeText(
            this,
            R.string.correct_toast,
            Toast.LENGTH_SHORT
        ).show()
    }

    falseButton.setOnClickListener { view: View ->
        // Do something in response to the click here
        Toast.makeText(
            this,
            R.string.incorrect_toast,
            Toast.LENGTH_SHORT
        ).show()
    }
}
```

Display "correct" toast

Display "Incorrect" toast



MainActivity.kt: Complete Listing

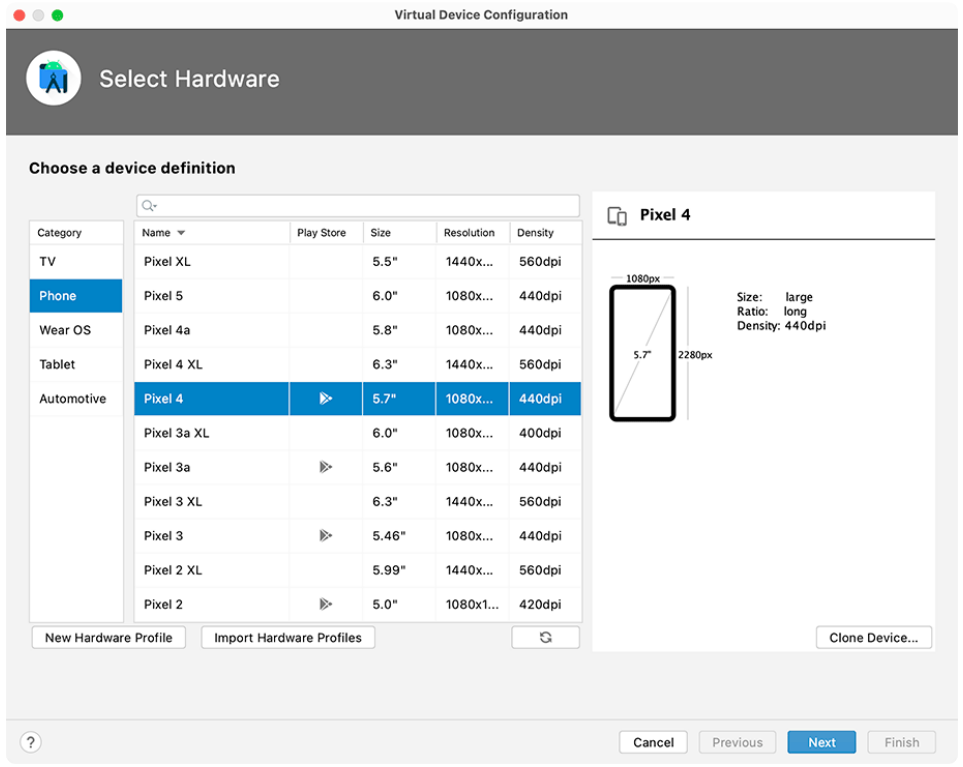
```
package com.bignerdranch.android.geoquiz

import androidx.appcompat.app.AppCompatActivity
import android.os.Bundle
import android.view.View
import android.widget.Button
import android.widget.Toast

class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {

    private lateinit var trueButton: Button
    private lateinit var falseButton: Button

    override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)

        trueButton = findViewById(R.id.true_button)
        falseButton = findViewById(R.id.false_button)
```

```
trueButton.setOnClickListener { view: View ->
        Toast.makeText(
            this,
            R.string.correct_toast,
            Toast.LENGTH_SHORT)
            .show()
    }

    falseButton.setOnClickListener { view: View ->
        Toast.makeText(
            this,
            R.string.incorrect_toast,
            Toast.LENGTH_SHORT)
            .show()
    }
  }
}
```

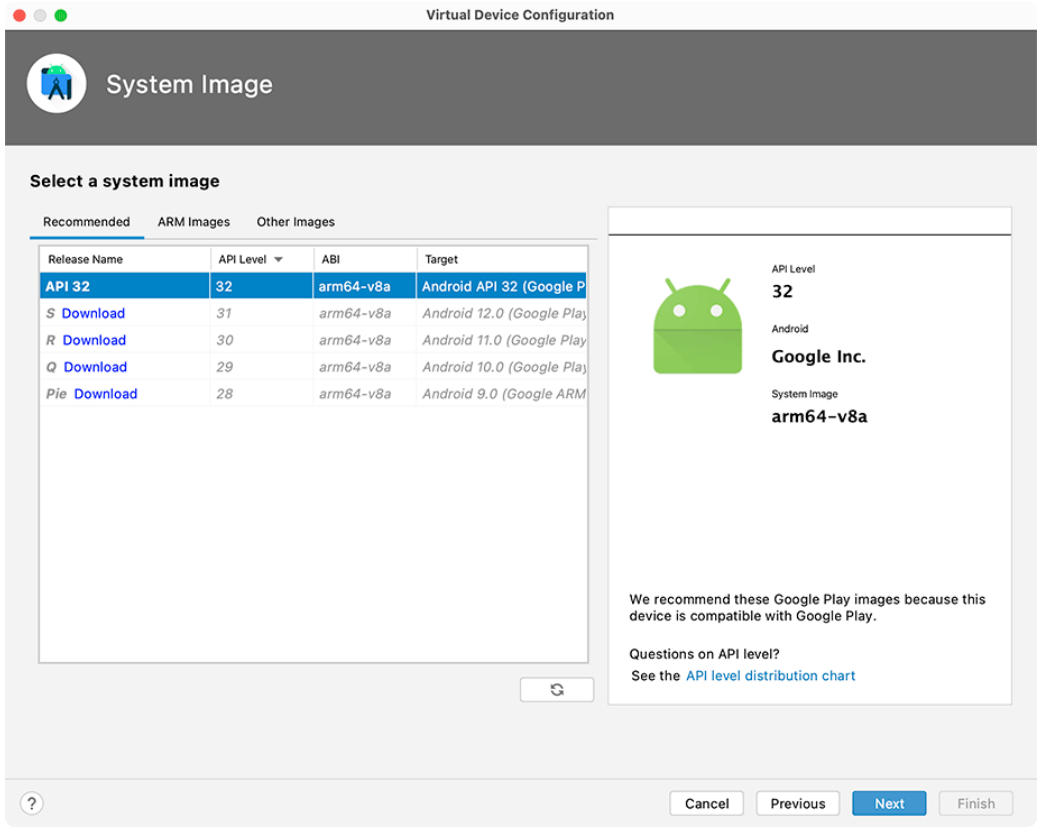
MainActivity.kt: Complete Listing

Create Android Virtual Device to Run Code

- In Android Studio, select Tools -> AVD Manager, click +Create Virtual Device

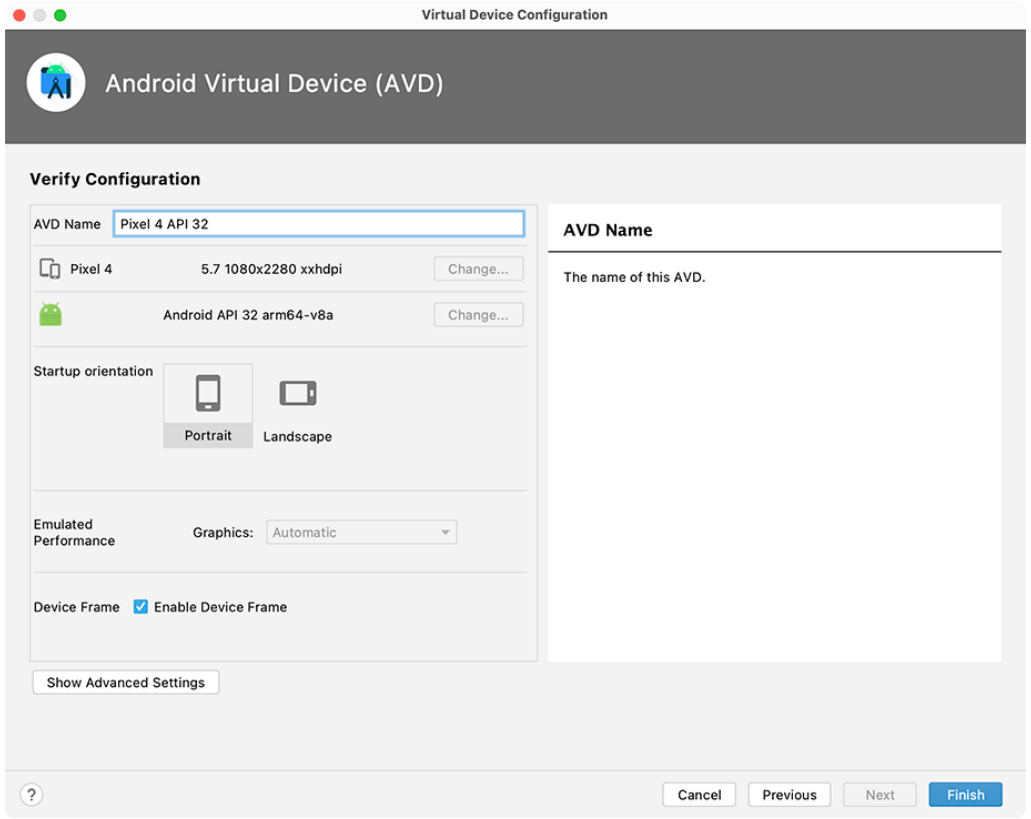


Select Phone Hardware

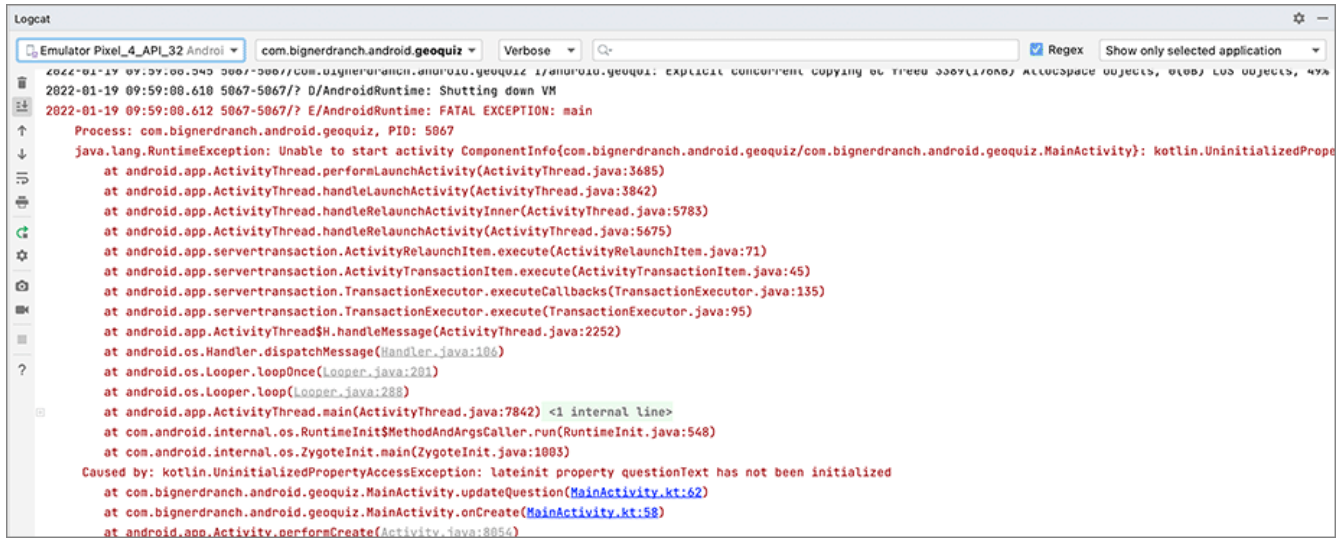


Select System Image

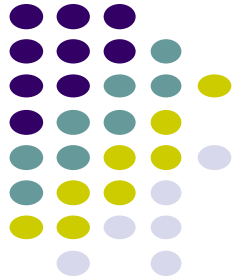
Create Android Virtual Device to Run Code



Configure emulator



Run Code, output in LogCat window



Data-Driven Layouts

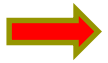
Data-Driven Layouts

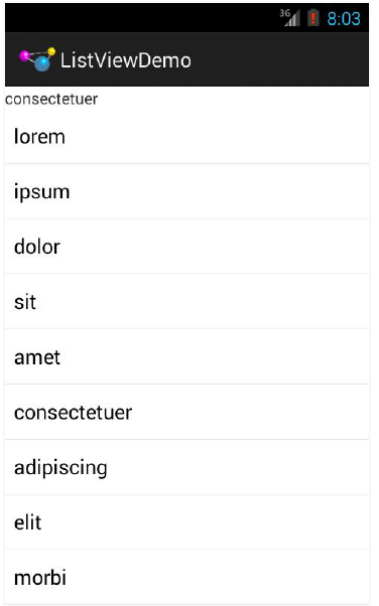
- LinearLayout, RelativeLayout, TableLayout, GridLayout useful for positioning UI elements
  - UI data is **hard coded**

- Other layouts dynamically composed from data (e.g. database)
  - ListView, GridView, GalleryView
  - Tabs with TabHost, TabControl

Generate widgets from data source

lorem
ipsum
dolor
amet
consectetuer
adipiscing
elit
morbi



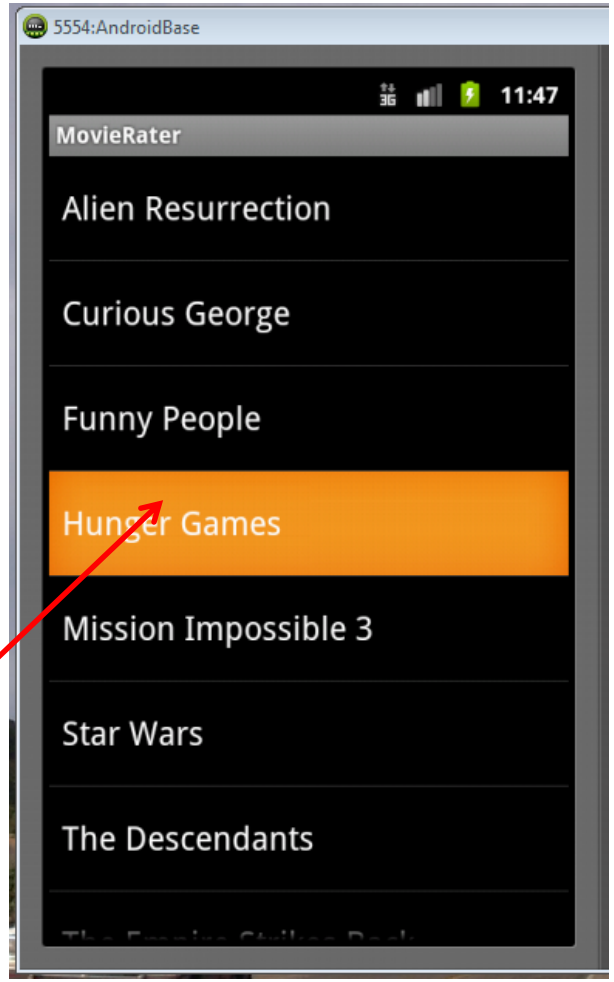


Data Driven Layouts

- May want to populate views from a data source (XML file or database)

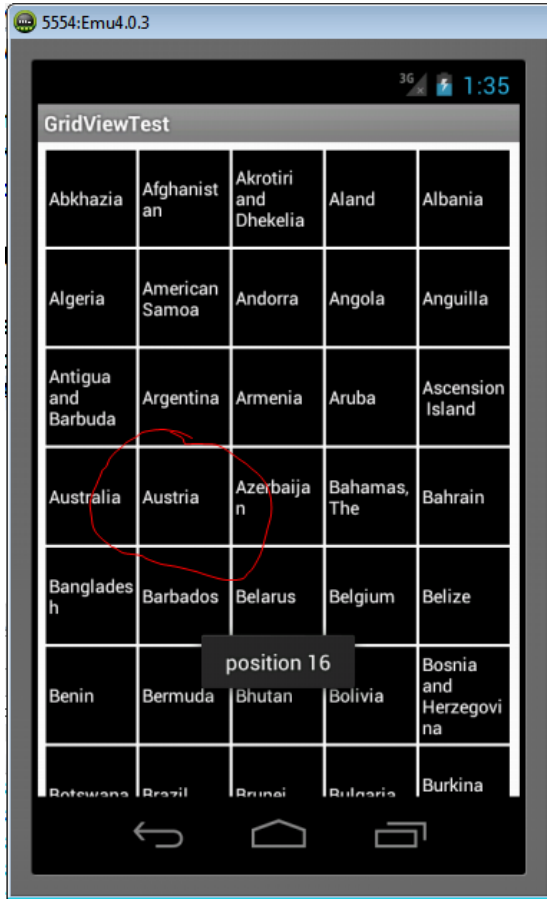
- Layouts that display repetitive child widgets from data source
  - ListView
  - GridView
  - GalleryView

- ListView
  - Rows of entries, pick item, vertical scroll

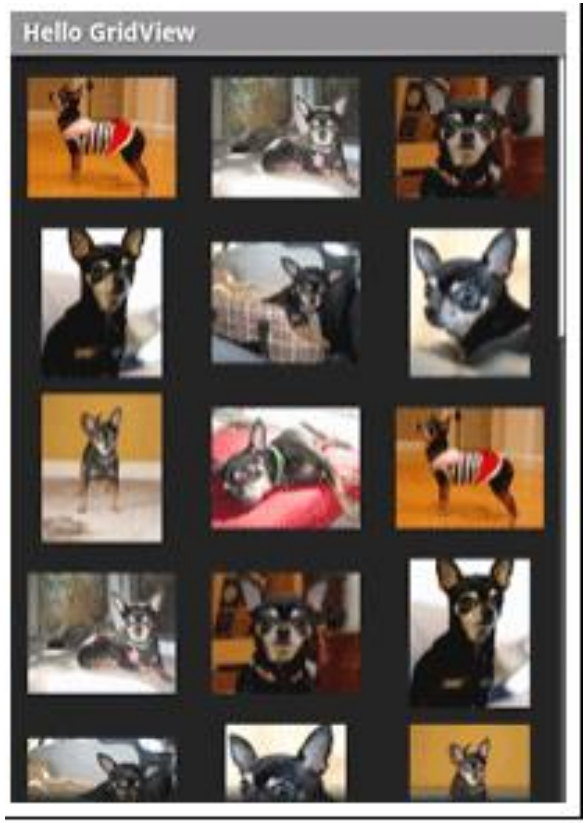


Data Driven Containers

- GridView
  - List of items arranged in rows and columns

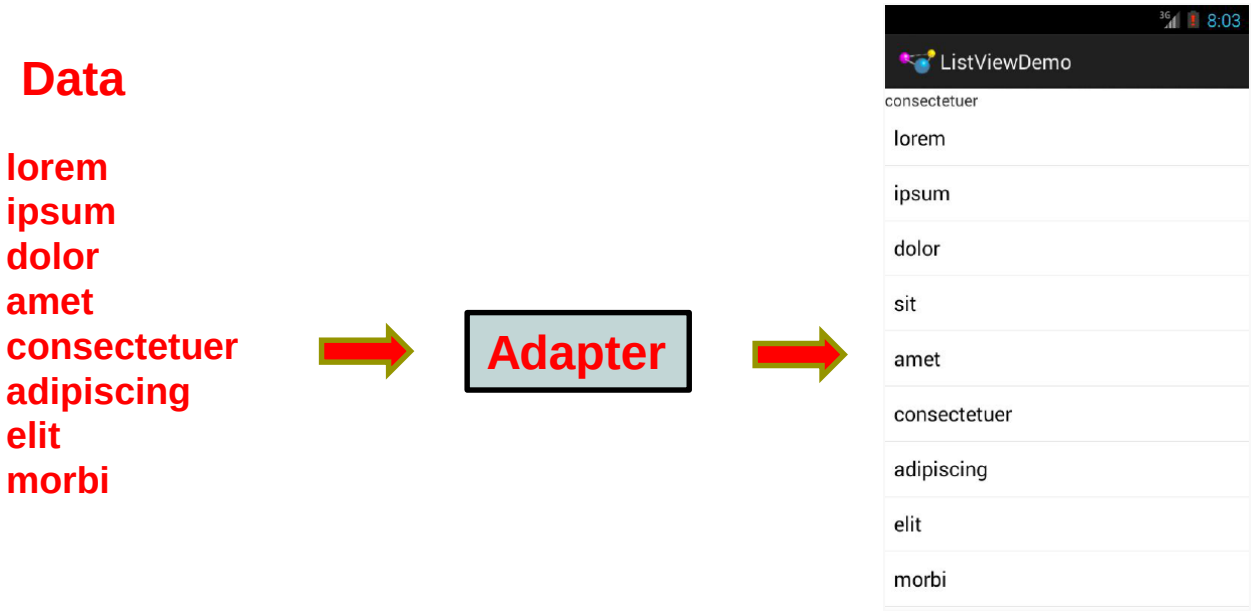


- GalleryView
  - List with horizontal scrolling, typically images



AdapterView

- ListView, GridView, and GalleryView are sub classes of AdapterView (variants)
- **Adapter:** generates widgets from a data source, populates layout
  - E.g., Data is adapted into cells of ListView



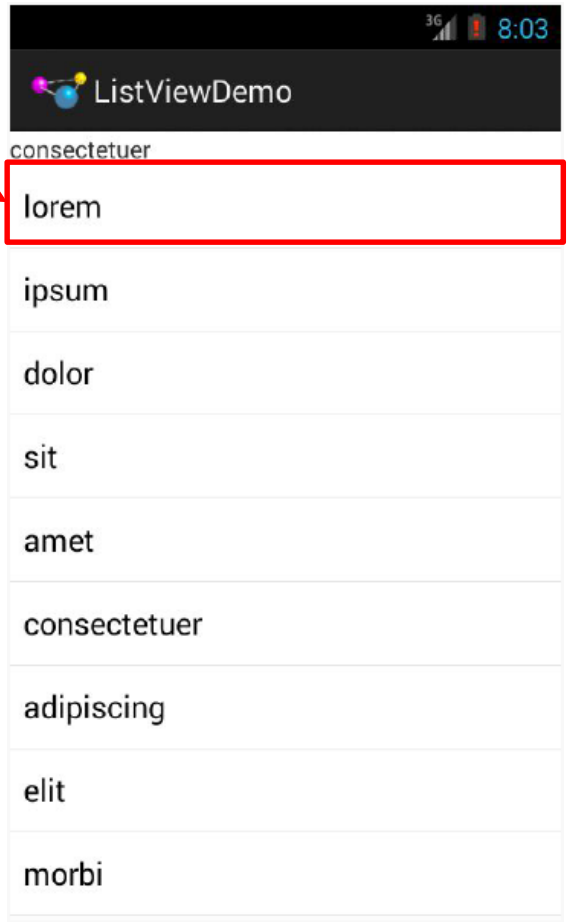
- Most common Adapter types:
  - **CursorAdapter:** read from database
  - **ArrayAdapter:** read from resource (e.g., XML file)

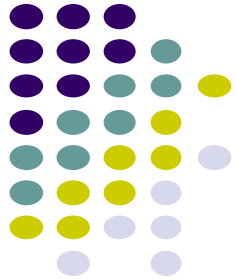
Adapters

- When using Adapter, a layout (XML format) is defined for each child element (View)

- The adapter
  - Reads in data (list of items)
  - Creates Views (widgets) using layout for each element in data source
  - Fills the containing layout (List, Grid, Gallery) with the created Views

- Child widgets can be as simple as a TextView or more complex layouts / controls
  - simple views can be declared in a layout XML file
    (e.g. android.R.layout)

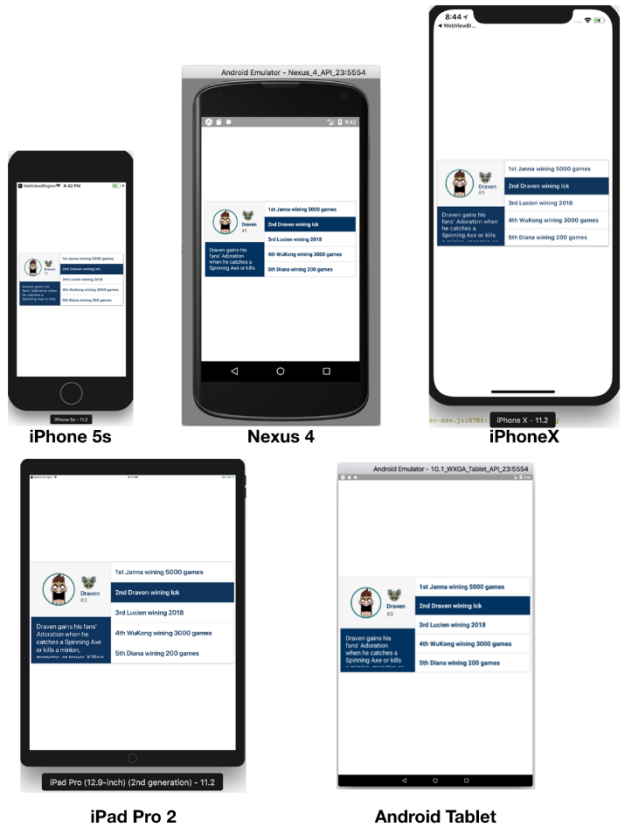




Mobile HCI

Mobile HCI

- Mobile HCI is important for an enjoyable user experience
- Excerpts from:
  - Bentley, F. and Barrett, E., 2012. *Building mobile experiences*. MIT Press.
- Can’t just reuse screens originally designed for desktops. Why?
  1. Mobile screen is small, need to manage space better
  2. Does your screen look good on wide variety of mobile screen sizes?
  3. Can users reach buttons with one hand on different resolutions?
  4. Mobile device will be carried into varied, adverse conditions. E.g.
     1. Do colors work well indoor vs outdoor, bright vs dim light
     2. Are buttons big enough for frozen hands during winter vs summer



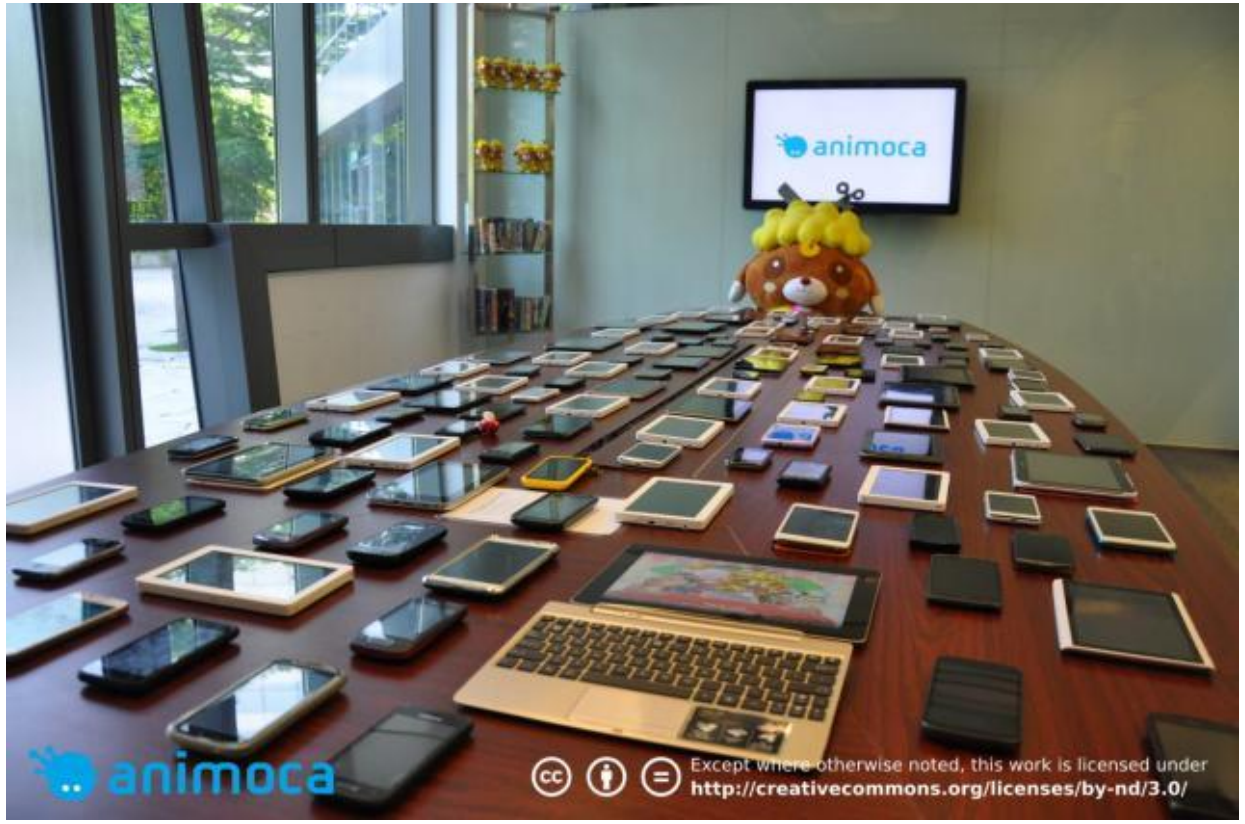
Mobile HCI: Plan out Interaction Flow on Paper

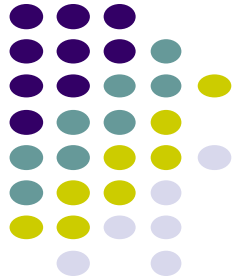
- Example interaction flow of ZoneTag app on paper
  - Ref: Bentley, F. and Barrett, E., 2012. *Building mobile experiences*. MIT Press.

Mobile HCI: Evaluation

- App evaluation: iterative, user-centered
  - In lab (small) then in the field (large)
  - Test on on wide variety of devices
    - Most poor ratings on Google Play app store are “doesn’t work on my device”
- Example: Android mobile developer tests each game on over 400 different smartphones and tablets
  - Screens
  - Aspect ratios
  - Form factors
  - Controls
  - OS versions
  - CPU/GPU
  - OpenGL/DirectX

  versions……. etc



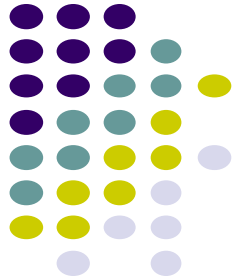


Android UI Youtube Tutorials

by Bucky Roberts theNewBoston

Gentle but a bit Old?

Tutorials from YouTube Android Development Tutorials 1-8 by Bucky Roberts (Completely Optional)



- **Tutorials 1 & 2 (Optional):** Installing Java, Android Studio on your own machine
  - **Tutorial 1:** Install Java (Android studio needs this at least ver. 1.8)
  - **Tutorial 2:** Install Android Studio

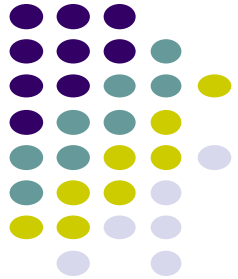
- **Tutorial 3:** Setting up your project
  - How to set up a new Android Project, add new Activity (App screen)

- **Tutorial 4:** Running a Simple App
  - How to select, run app on a virtual device (AVD)

- **Tutorial 5:** Tour of Android Studio Interface
  - Intro to Android Studio menus, toolbars and Drag-and-drop widget palette

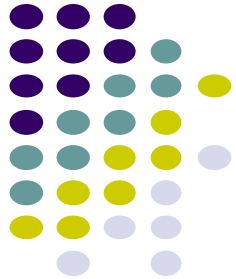
Review this tutorial only if you feel you need gentler intro
Note: It's in java, not Kotlin

YouTube Tutorial 11 & 12 by Bucky Roberts



- Tutorial 11: Designing the User Interface [6:19 mins]
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72mf0rmjNAA
  - Designing the UI
  - Adding activity (screen)
  - Dragging in widgets
  - Changing the text in widgets

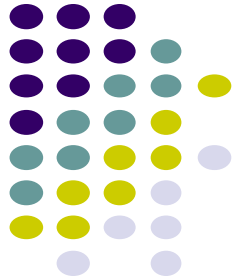
- Tutorial 12: More on User Interface [10:24 mins]
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72mf0rmjNAA
  - Changing text in widgets
  - Changing strings from hardcoded to string resources (variables)



EML: Cooperative Based Groups

EML: Cooperative Based Groups

- Japanese students visiting Boston for 2 week vacation
- Speak little English, need help to find
  - Attractions to visit, where to stay (cheap, central), meet Americans, getting around, eat (Japanese, some Boston food), weather info, events, ….. Anything
  - **New!:** One of them is worried they have COVID. What apps could help. E.g. minimize risk of infection? determine if positive? Find nearest hospital? Testing center? Buy masks/PPE?
- Your task: Search android market for helpful apps (6 mins)
  - **Location-aware:** 5 points
  - **Ubicomp (e.g. uses sensor) or smartwatch:** 10 points
- Also **IoT** devices they can buy that would help them (5 points)



References

- Android App Development for Beginners videos by Bucky Roberts (thenewboston)
- Head First Android, 2nd and 3rd edition
- Android Nerd Ranch, Fifth Edition
- Ask A Dev, Android Wear: What Developers Need to Know, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTS2NZpLyQg
- Ask A Dev, Mobile Minute: What to (Android) Wear, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5Yjzn3b_aQ