ALIEN TECHNOLOGY®

ALR-H450 Developer Guide

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ALR-H450 Developer Guide

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1 Introduction

The Alien ALR-H450 Software Developer Kit (SDK) provides libraries and sample code for programmatically controlling Alien ALR-H450 handheld readers, which are running on an Android operating system. Alien provides class libraries and sample applications to help you get up-and-running developing your custom applications to run directly on the device.

1.1   Audience

We assume that the readers of this guide:

- are proficient Android developers,
- have minimal previous knowledge of RFID, and other relevant technologies.

1.2   Type Conventions

- Regular text appears in a plain, sans-serif font.
- External files and documents appear in *italic text*.
- Class names appear in a `fixed-width serif font`.
- Things you type in, and sample code appear:
              `indented, in a fixed-width serif font.`

- Longer blocks of sample code appear like below:

```
// Obtain RFIDReader instance

RFIDReader reader = RFID.open();

// Release RFIDReader instance

reader.close();
```

1.3   Overview

This document focuses on controlling the ALR-H450 handheld readers using the Alien Android API. The Android Library provided in the SDK, **alienapi.aar**, supports controlling both the RFID Reader and 1D/2D Barcode Scanner.

Library	Hardware Module	ALR-H450 (Android)
alienapi.aar	RFID Reader	✓
	1D/2D Barcode Scanner	✓ 1D & 2D

1.4   Documentation and Sample Code

This Guide provides complete documentation of all API elements. Additional usage tips can be gleaned by examining and modifying the source code samples provided by Alien. The sample applications, developed for Android Kitkat 4.4.2, demonstrate most of the major features of each hardware module.

1.5   System Requirements

You will need Android Studio 1.4 (or newer) to develop applications for the Alien handhelds.

2 RFID Reader

2.1 Introduction

The Alien `alienapi.aar` API library contains classes to provide interface with the RFID module in your Alien handheld reader. After initializing the `RFIDReader` class object, use its methods to communication with the RFID module.

You have control over most aspects of the Gen2 protocol, including access operations like write, lock, and kill, using tag masks, as well as reading tags' EPC IDs and Return Signal Strength Indication (RSSI).

To take full advantage of the RFID module and the Gen2 protocol, you are encouraged to read and understand the relevant portions of the EPCglobal Gen2 specification. One thing you must be aware of when accessing individual portions of memory in the tag is the layout of tag memory. As shown in the diagram below, all Gen 2 tags have four banks of memory (RESERVER, EPC, TID, USER) and each of those banks can be broken down into fields (Kill Password and Access Password within the RESERVED bank).

When reading and writing tag memory, all data operations are performed in one-word (2 bytes, 16 bits) increments, and only on word boundaries within a single bank. Some masking operations allow addressing memory down to the nibble (1/2 byte, 4 bits) or bit level.
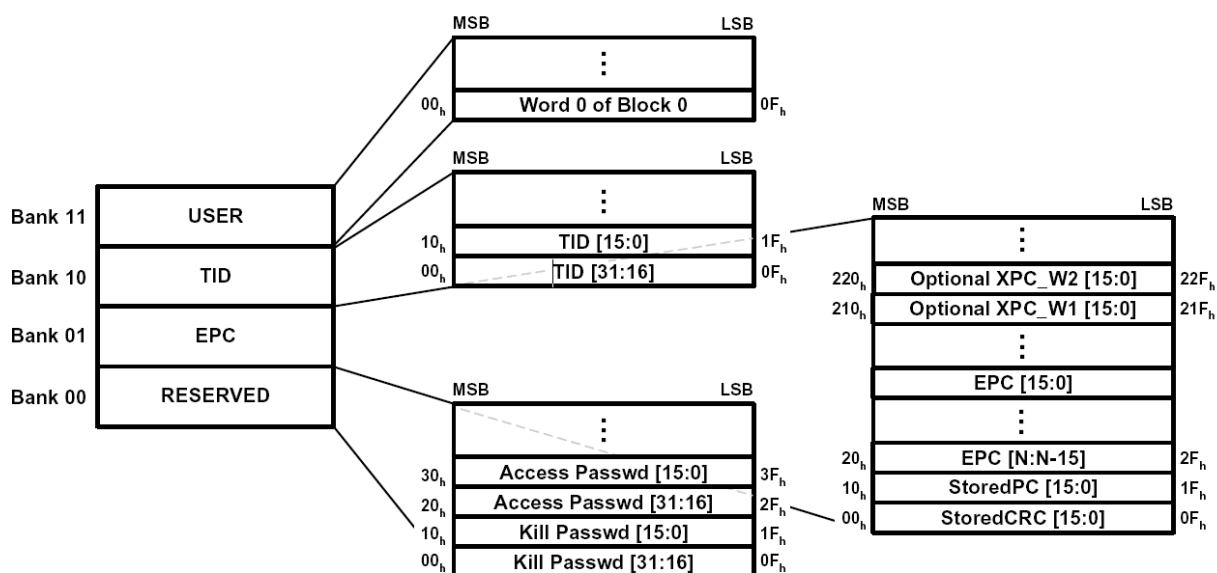
2.2 Enumerations

2.2.1 Bank

The Bank enumeration is used to specify a particular memory bank, for locking, reading, and writing.
See the Gen2 memory diagram at the start of this chapter for details of each bank.

```
public enum Bank{
  RESERVED,
  EPC,
  TID,
  USER
}
```

2.2.2 Target

Controls which Gen2 protocol A/B target is used when performing tag inventories.

```
public enum Target {
  A,
  B
}
```

2.2.3 Session

Controls which Gen2 protocol session is used when performing tag inventories.

```
public enum Session {
  S0,
  S1,
  S2,
  S3
}
```

2.2.4 LockType

Controls the lock type to use for lock/unlock operations.

```
public enum LockType {
  LOCK,
  UNLOCK,
  PERMALOCK,
  PERMAUNLOCK
}
```

2.2.5 RFIDInfo

Defines the available RFID subsystem information.

```
public enum RFIDInfo {
  FIRMWARE_VER,
  HARDWARE_VER,
  MODULE_ID,
  REGION,
}
```

2.3   Connecting to RFID Module

The Alien API's `RFIDReader` class allows controlling the RFID module. Using the `RFIDReader` instance, an application can adjust radio parameters, and execute tag operations (inventory, read, write, kill, lock) according to the ISO 18000 EPC Class 1 Generation 2 (Gen2) tag protocol.

Obtaining `RFIDReader` instance:

```
// Obtain RFIDReader instance

RFIDReader reader = RFID.open();
```

The `RFID.open()` method returns a **global** instance of `RFIDReader` which will be used by all `RFIDReader` methods to control the RFID module.

When finished using the `RFIDReader`, you should call the `close()` method to release the `RFIDReader` resources.

```
// Release RFIDReader instance and resources

reader.close();
```

2.4   Tag Operations

2.4.1 Mask

The Alien API provides the `Mask` class to give an application the ability to filter which tags participate in RFID operations, such as inventory, read, write, kill, and lock.

Constructor:

```
public Mask(Bank bank, int bitOffset, int bitLength, String data)
```

> **Parameters:**
> bank   which bank for masking
> bitOffset   the bit offset where mask data start
> bitLength   the bit length of the mask data
> pattern   the data in hex string to filter

Example:
To mask on a tag which has the EPC bank value of "11AA" (16 bits) at the bit offset of 32, set the mask as follows:

```
Mask mask = new Mask(Bank.EPC, 32, 16, "11AA");
```

No filtering:
The `Mask` class has the static `NONE` instance which disables masking for tag operations.

Example:

```
Mask mask = Mask.NONE;
```

Mask on the EPC starting with a pattern:
For more convenience, the Mask class has a static maskEPC() method to create masks that would match tags that have EPC start with a certain data string.

```
public static Mask maskEPC(String data)
```

Parameters:
data the data the tag's EPC starts with

Returns:
Mask object that contains mask information

Example:
To mask on tags that have an EPC starting with "11AA".

```
Mask mask = Mask.maskEPC("11AA");
```

2.4.2 Reading a single tag

The RFIDReader class has the read method to perform an inventory that would read a single tag.

```
public RFIDResult read(Mask mask [optional]) throws ReaderException
```

Parameters:
mask   the mask to use when reading tags

Returns:
RFIDResult   object that contains Tag object.
                    Calling RFIDResult.getData() will return a Tag object that contains EPC and RSSI
                    information

Exceptions:
ReaderException is raised if the operation fails.

Example:
To read one tag with no filtering

```
RFIDReader reader = RFID.open();

RFIDResult result = reader.read();

if (result.isSuccess()) {

    Tag tag = (Tag)result.getData();

    String epc = tag.getEPC();

    double rssi = tag.getRSSI();

}
```

2.4.3 Continuous Inventory

The `RFIDReader` class provides the `inventory` method to initiate a continuous inventory and `stop` method to stop it.

The `RFIDCallback` **interface** is used to retrieve Tag information from the continuous inventory operation, via the `onTagRead` method callback. The caller needs to implement this method to receive tag information.

The `RFIDReader` class provides the `isRunning` method to check if continuous inventory is running.

```
public void inventory(RFIDCallback callback, Mask mask [optional])
    throws ReaderException
```

> **Parameters:**
> `callback`   the callback to receive tag information.
> `mask`   the mask object for filtering
>
> **Returns:**
> `Tag`   object that contains EPC and RSSI information. For convenience, the `Tag` object has its own methods to execute operations for that specific tag.
>
> **Exceptions:**
> `ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

NOTE:
- Continuous inventories run **asynchronously**.
- The reader cannot respond to other commands during continuous inventories. It is necessary to stop the continuous inventory before executing other commands. An `RFIDBusyException` will be raised if you attempt to execute other commands while the continuous inventory is running.

```
public interface RFIDCallback {
  void onTagRead(Tag tag);
}
```

> **Parameters:**
> `Tag` – The Tag object that contains tag information.
>
> **NOTE**:   Only EPC and RSSI information can be obtained from the tag object while inside the callback or while continuous inventory is running. To perform other operations on the tag object you must stop the continuous inventory.

```
public void stop() throws ReaderException
```

> **Exceptions:**
> `ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

```
public boolean isRunning()
```

> **Returns:**
> `boolean` true if a continuous inventory is running.

Example:

To perform a continuous inventory for tags which EPCs start with "1122"

```
RFIDReader reader = RFID.open();
reader.inventory(new RFIDCallback() {
        @Override
        public void onTagRead(Tag tag) {
            String epc  = tag.getEPC();
            double rssi = tag.getRSSI();
        }
    },
    Mask.maskEPC("1122")
);
```

To stop continuous inventory:

```
reader.stop();
```

To check if continuous inventory is running:

```
boolean isRunning = reader.isRunning();
```

2.4.4 Reading and Writing tag's memory

The `RFIDReader` class provides `read` and `write` methods to read and write data from and to specific locations of tag's memory.

```
public RFIDResult read(Bank bank, int wordPointer, int wordCount,
   Mask mask [optional], String accessPassword [optional]) throws ReaderException
```

Parameters:

bank	the memory bank to read data from
wordPointer	the offset within the bank where to read the data from (in word units)
wordCount	the number of words to read
mask	the mask for filtering
accessPassword	the access password used when accessing protected memory. If not using password, pass this parameter as an empty string (″″)

Returns:

RFIDResult	the results of the operation.
	Call `isSuccess()` on the `RFIDResult` object to check if the operation succeed.
	Call `getData()` on the `RFIDResult` object to get data read from the tag.

Exceptions:

`ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

```
public RFIDResult write(Bank bank, int wordOffset, String data,
    Mask mask [optional], String accessPassword [optional]) throws ReaderException
```

Parameters:

bank	the memory bank to write data to
wordOffset	the offset within the bank where to write data to (in word units)
data	the data as a hex string to write
mask	the mask for filtering
accessPassword	the access password used when accessing protected memory. If not using password, passing this parameter as empty string ("").

Returns:

RFIDResult	the results of the operation. Call isSuccess() on the RFIDResult object to check if the operation succeeded.

Exceptions:

ReaderException is raised if there is an error.

Example: To write and read a word from the USER bank

```
RFIDReader reader = RFID.open();
// Write "AABB" to the beginning of the USER memory bank of the tag which
// EPC starts with "1122"
RFIDResult writeResult = reader.write(Bank.USER,0,"AABB",Mask.maskEPC("1122"));
if (writeResult.isSuccess()) {
    // Write operation succeeded.
}


// Read 1 word from the beginning of the USER memory bank of the tag which
// EPC starts with "1122"
RFIDResult readResult = reader.read(Bank.USER,0,1,Mask.maskEPC("1122"));
if (readResult.isSuccess()) {
    // Read operation succeeded.
    String data = readResult.getData(); // data returned as a hex string
}
```

2.4.5 Lock Fields

The Alien API provides the `LockFields` class to be used as a parameter for tag lock/unlock operations.
A `LockFields` object specifies which tag's memory fields will be affected when executing lock operations.

The `LockFields` class defines the following fields: `ACCESS_PWD`, `KILL_PWD`, `EPC` and `USER`

Descriptions:

`ACCESS_PWD` Access Password is used to protect tag memory from access. The Access Password is stored within the RESERVED memory bank.

`KILL_PWD` Kill Password is used when kill a tag. The Kill Password is stored within RESERVED memory bank.

`EPC` EPC field, same as EPC bank.

`USER` USER field, same as USER bank

Constructor:

`public LockFields(int fields)`

Parameters:
`fields`   a bitmap of fields to be locked

Example:
Create a `LockFields` bitmap specifying EPC and USER lock fields:

```
LockFields fields = new LockFields(

    LockFields.EPC | LockFields.USER

);
```

2.4.6 Locking and Unlocking Tag Memory

The `RFIDReader` class provides `lock` method to lock, unlock, permlock or permaunlock tag memory fields.

`public RFIDResult lock(LockFields fieldBitmap, LockType lockType,`
`   Mask mask [optional], String accessPassword [optional]) throws ReaderException`

Parameters:
`fieldBitmap`   a bitmap of fields to be locked
`lockType`   lock type (lock, unlock, permalock, permaunlock)
`mask`   the mask object for filtering
`accessPassword` the access password used when accessing protected memory

Returns:
`RFIDResult`   the results of the operation.
                Call `isSuccess()` on the `RFIDResult` object to check if the operation succeeded.

Exceptions:
`ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

NOTE:
- If a field is locked, a correct access password must be supplied in order to write to the memory
- If the EPC or USER fields are locked, they are **read-only** without knowing the access password. To write, you are required to pass the correct access password.
- If the ACCESS_PWD or KILL_PWD fields are locked, they are not accessible at all (**cannot read or write**) without knowing the access password.
- To unlock, it is necessary to know the correct access password.
- Use caution when using `lockType` `PERMALOCK` or `PERMAUNLOCK` – the results are **permanent**! If a field is permanently locked, it cannot be unlocked. If a field is permanently unlocked, it cannot be locked.

```
RFIDReader reader = RFID.open();

// Lock EPC and USER fields for the tags which EPC start with "1122"

LockFields fields = new LockFields(LockFields.EPC | LockFields.USER);

RFIDResult lockResult = reader.lock(fields, LockType.LOCK, Mask.maskEPC("1122"));

if (lockResult.isSuccess()) {

    // Lock operation succeed.

}


// Unlock EPC and USER fields for the tags which EPC start with "1122"

RFIDResult unlockResult = reader.lock(fields, LockType.UNLOCK,
        Mask.maskEPC("1122"), accessPassword);

if (unlockResult.isSuccess()) {

    // Unlock operation succeed.

}
```

2.4.7 Kill tags

The `RFIDReader` class provides the `kill` method to kill RFID tags. This prevents the tags from communicating further with an RFID reader. Once a tag is killed, that tag can't be recovered.

```
public RFIDResult kill(String killPassword, Mask mask [optional])
                throws ReaderException
```

Parameters:
`killPassword`   non-zero kill password
`mask`   mask object for filtering

Returns:
`RFIDResult`   the result of the operation.
                 Call `isSuccess()` on the `RFIDResult` object to check if the operation succeeded.

Exceptions:
`ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

2.4.8 Tag class

The Alien API library provides the `Tag` class to provide more convenience for the developer to run operations for a specific tag.

A `Tag` object is returned by reading a single tag, or via a callback from a continuous inventory. The data returned inside the `RFIDResult` is a `Tag` object.

```
RFIDReader reader = RFID.open();

RFIDResult result = reader.read(Mask.NONE);

Tag tag = (Tag)result.getData();

String epc = tag.getEPC();

double rssi = tag.getRSSI();
```

The `Tag` class provides wrapper methods, below, which allow you to run all operations for the tag directly on the tag itself. You don't need to supply a mask for that tag as it's going to automatically mask on the tag's EPC when calling an RFIDReader method.

- ***Obtaining Data From The Tag Object (without issuing RFID commands):***

```
public String getEPC();  // tag's EPC
public double getRSSI(); // tag's Returned Signal Strength
```

- ***Executing Rfid Operations On The Tag Object:***

Write EPC:
```
public RFIDResult writeEPC(String epc) throws ReaderException;
```

Read/Write ACCESS_PWD:
```
public RFIDResult readAccessPwd() throws ReaderException
public RFIDResult writeAccessPwd() throws ReaderException
```

Read/Write KILL_PWD:
```
public RFIDResult readKillPwd() throws ReaderException
public RFIDResult writeKillPwd() throws ReaderException
```

Read TID memory bank:
```
public RFIDResult getTID() throws ReaderException
```

Read/Write USER memory bank:
```
public RFIDResult readUser() throws ReaderException
public RFIDResult writeUser() throws ReaderException
```

Read/Write tags's memory:
```
public RFIDResult read(Bank bank, int wordOffset, int wordCount,
        String accessPassword [optional])
public RFIDResult write(Bank bank, int wordOffset, String data,
        String accessPassword [optional]) throws ReaderException
```

Lock/Unlock tag's memory:
```
public RFIDResult lock(LockFields fields, LockType lockType,
        String accessPassword [optional]) throws ReaderException
```

Kill tag:
```
public RFIDResult kill(String killPassword) throws ReaderException
```

2.5 Setting RFID Parameters

The `RFIDReader` class includes methods to configure RFID related parameters, as well as to obtain information about the device.

2.5.1 Transmit Power

The `RFIDReader` class provides `getPower` and `setPower` methods to manage the RFID module's transmit power.

public int getPower() throws ReaderException

> **Parameters:**
> *None*
>
> **Returns:**
> int   the RFID module's power attenuation in dBm
>
> **Exceptions:**
> `ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

public void setPower(int power) throws ReaderException

> **Parameters:**
> power   the RFID module's transmit power in dBm (1-30)
>
> **Exceptions:**
> `ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.
> `InvalidParamException` is raised if the parameter value is not valid

2.5.2 Q Parameter

The `RFIDReader` class provides `getQ` and `setQ` methods to configure the starting Q parameter value that is used in the Gen2 protocol to read tags. It indicates approximately how many tags to expect (2^Q).

public int getQ() throws ReaderException

> **Parameters:**
> *None*
>
> **Returns:**
> int   the starting Q parameter value
>
> **Exceptions:**
> `ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

public void setQ(int QValue) throws ReaderException

> **Parameters:**
> QValue   starting Q parameter value. Valid Q values are from 0 to 15.
>
> **Exceptions:**
> `ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.
> `InvalidParamException` is raised if the parameter value is not valid

2.5.3 Session Parameter

The `RFIDReader` class provides `getSession` and `setSession` methods to configure the session parameter of the Gen2 protocol to keep track of inventoried tags. Please refer to the Gen2 protocol specification for information on the Session value.

public Session getSession() throws ReaderException

    Parameters:
     None

    Returns:
     `Session`   the Gen2 protocol Session parameter

    Exceptions:
     `ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

public void setSession(Session session) throws ReaderException

    Parameters:
     `Session` the Gen2 protocol Session parameter

    Exceptions:
     `ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

2.5.4 Inventory Target

The `RFIDReader` class provides `getTarget` and `setTarget` methods to configure the Inventory target parameter used in the Gen2 protocol.

public Target getTarget() throws ReaderException

    Parameters:
     None

    Returns:
     `Target`   the Gen2 protocol inventory target parameter

    Exceptions:
     `ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

public void setTarget(Target target) throws ReaderException

    Parameters:
     `target` the Gen2 protocol inventory target parameter

    Exceptions:
     `ReaderException` is raised if there is an error.

2.5.5 RFID Subsystem Information

The `RFIDReader` class provides `getInfo` methods to obtain the device information, such as hardware version, firmware version, and model number.

public String getInfo(DeviceInfo type)

    Parameters:
      `type` the information type to obtain

    Return:
      `String` device information returned as a string, or null if the information is not available

public Map<DeviceInfo, String> getInfo()

    Parameters:
      None

    Return:
      `Map`   a Map object containing all available device information

Example

```
RFIDReader reader = RFID.open();

String rfidHardwareVersion = reader.getInfo(DeviceInfo.RFID_HARDWARE_VER);

String rfidFirmwareVersion = reader.getInfo(DeviceInfo.RFID_FIRMWARE_VER);

String rfidModuleId = reader.getInfo(DeviceInfo.RFID_ID);
```

2.5.6 Device Information

The `DeviceInfo` class provides several methods to obtain the device information, such as the device model and the device ID.

public String getDeviceID()

    Return:
      `String` device ID returned as a string.

public String getModel()

    Return:
      `String` device model returned as a string.

Example

```
DeviceInfo dev = new DeviceInfo(context);

String id    = dev.getDeviceID();

String model = dev.getModel();
```

3 Barcode Reader

3.1 Introduction

The Alien API library includes classes to control and communicate with the Barcode Scanner module.
Use `BarcodeReader` instance's methods to communicate with the Barcode Scanner.

3.2 Controlling Barcode Reader

The `BarcodeReader` allows scanning 1D and 2D barcodes.

public BarcodeReader(Context context)

Parameters:
`context` the Android context where the `BarcodeReader` instance is used

Example:

```
// Create BarcodeReader instance
BarcodeReader barcodeReader = new BarcodeReader(androidContext);
```

3.2.1 Scan 1D and 2D barcode

The `start` and `stop` methods control the Barcode Reader module to start and stop barcode scanning.
NOTE: The scanning will automatically stop after a barcode has been successfully scanned.

The `BarcodeCallback` **interface** is used to retrieve barcode information from the scanning operation, via
the `onBarcodeRead` method callback. The caller needs to implement this method in order to receive barcode
information.

The `isRunning` method is used to determine if barcode scanning is currently in progress.

public void start(BarcodeCallback callback)

Parameters:
`callback`   the callback to receive barcode information

Returns:
None

public void stop()

Parameters:
None

Returns:
None

```
public boolean isRunning()
```

Parameters:
  None

Returns:
  `true`   if the barcode scanning is currently in progress

Example:

```java
// Start barcode scan
barcodeReader.start(new BarcodeCallback() {

        @Override
        public void onBarcodeRead(String barcode) {

            String detectedBarcode = barcode;

            // Scan will automatically stop after successfully scanning a barcode

        }

    }
);
```

Stop barcode scan:

```java
// Stop scan barcode
barcodeReader.stop();
```

4 Key Codes

The physical keys on the handheld each generate a unique Key Code, and when you handle key events in your application you look at the reported key code to determine which button was pressed.

The Alien API library provides the `KeyCode` class that defines codes for special physical keys on the handheld.

4.1 ALR-H450 (Android 4.4.2)

The `KeyCode.ALR_H450` class defines the following key codes for the ALR-H450 handheld:
  `SCAN, SIDE_LEFT, SIDE_RIGHT.`

Descriptions:

`SCAN`   Key code of the Scan button.

`SIDE_LEFT`   Key code of the button on the Left Side of the unit.

`SIDE_RIGHT`   Key code of the button on the Right Side of the unit, below the Power button.

5 Developing applications with Android Studio

5.1 Install Android Studio

In order to develop RFID applications running on the Alien ALR-H450 handheld, you need to install Android Studio 1.4 (or newer) on your computer.

Download Android Studio from http://developer.android.com/sdk/index.html

Run the installer and use all the default settings. The installer will automatically download and install the required components, including Android Support Repository and Android SDK Tools.

5.2 Install Google USB Driver

Open Android Studio. On the "Welcome to Android Studio" screen select Configure:
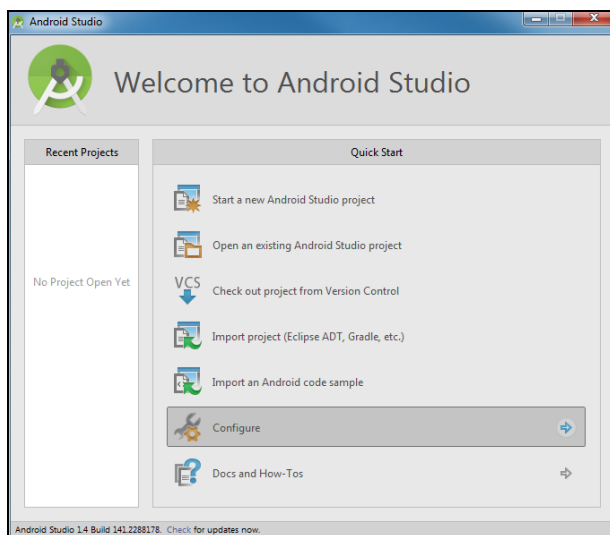
Select "SDK Manager":
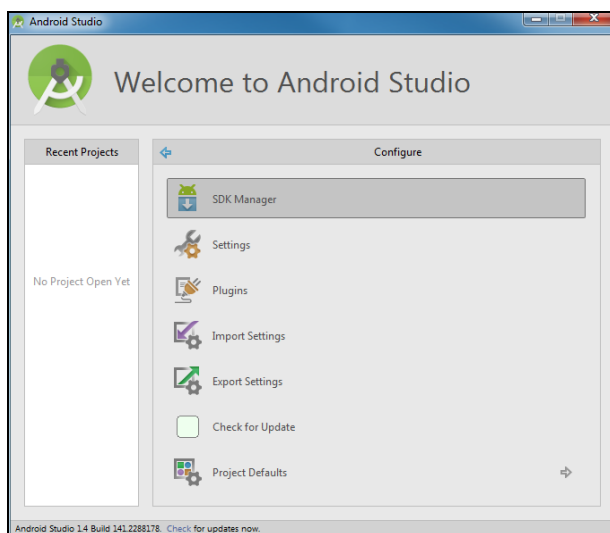
Select "SDK Manager", then "Android SDK", then "SDK Tools" tab, and check the "Google USB Driver".
Click OK:
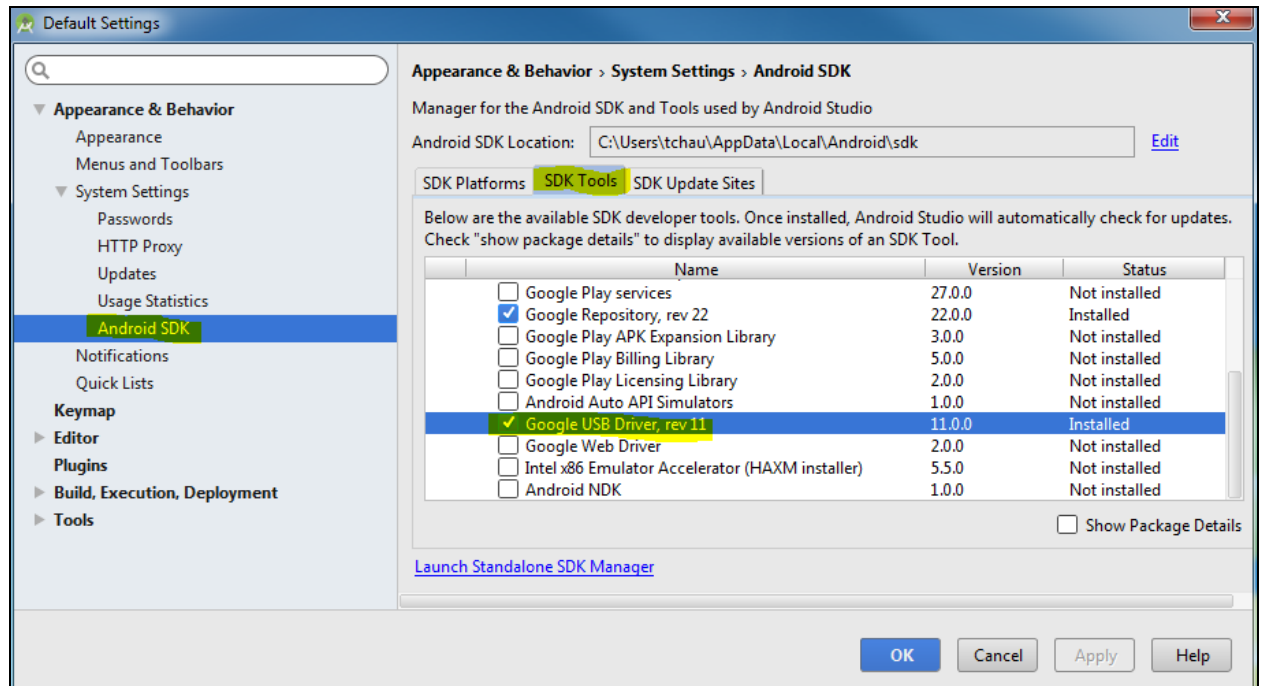
Make sure your PC is connected to the Internet.
Configure Windows to automatically download device drivers:
- Go to Control Panel > Devices and Printers
- Right click on the Computer icon and select "Device installation Settings"
- Select "Yes" to automatically download device drivers

5.3 Enable Developer Mode for your handheld

Go to the "Settings" app on the handheld, tap on "About Phone". Then tap the "Build Number" 7 times. This will
enable Developer Mode for your handheld.
Go back to the "Settings" and you will see a new "Developer options" menu item right above the "About
Phone".:
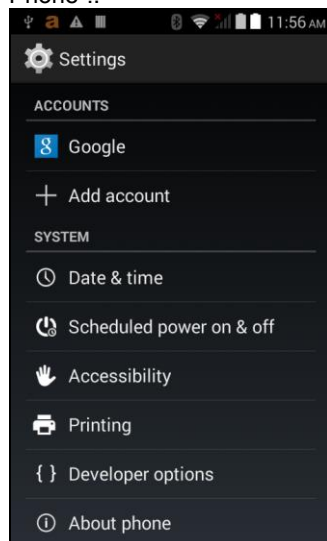
Tap on "Developer options", check "USB Debugging" and click OK to enable USB debugging:
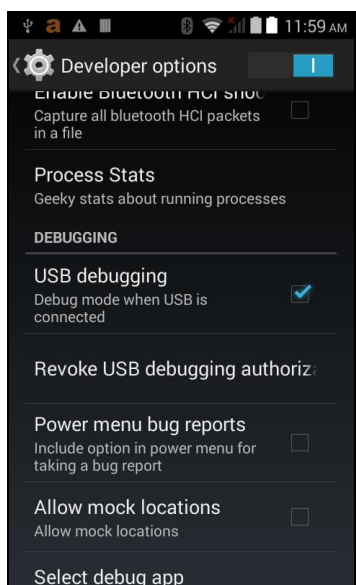
Verify your device is properly detected by your PC:
- Connect the cradle to the PC with a USB cable and insert the handheld into the cradle.
- Open the Device Manager to verify that the device has been identified under "Android USB Devices"

Now you are ready to develop applications for the handheld.
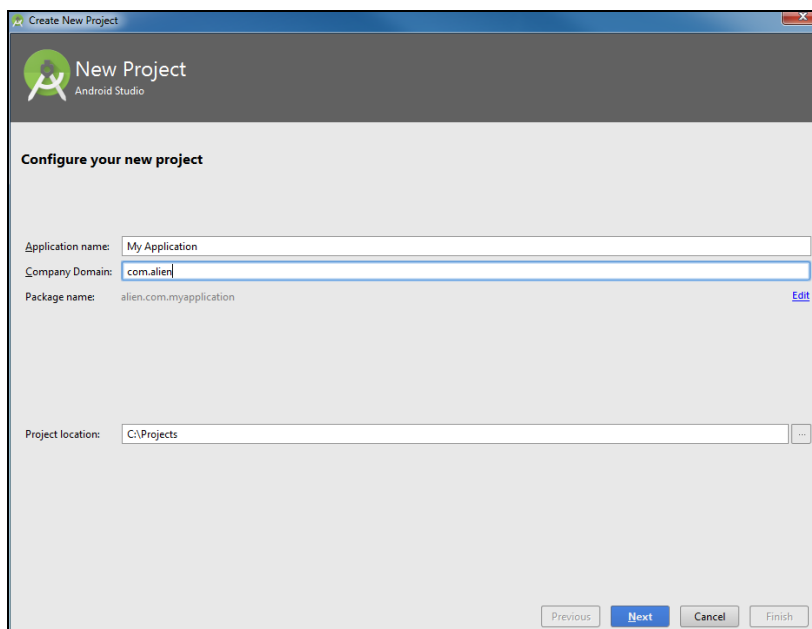
5.4   Developing your first RFID application

5.4.1 Create Android Project

To create a new project, open Android Studio and click "Start new Android Studio project":
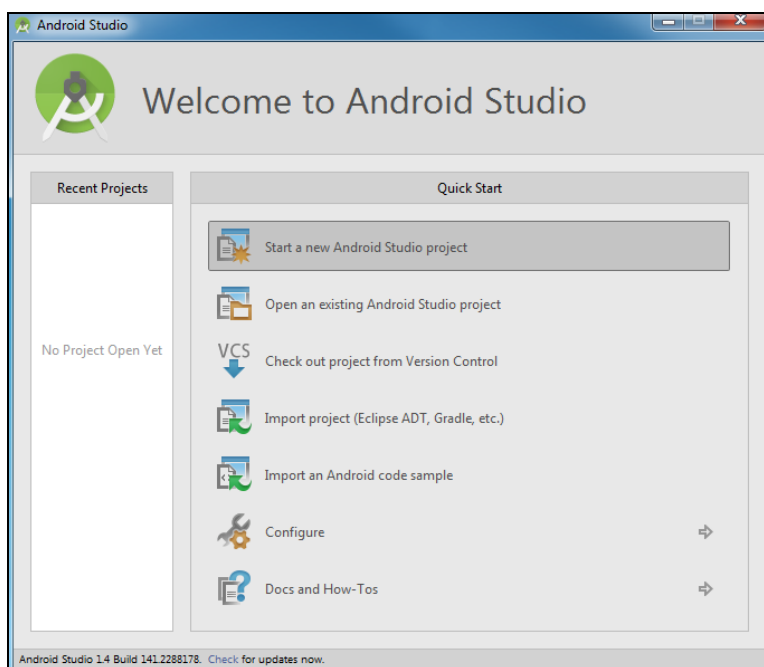
In the "New Project" dialog, use the default settings or enter new names for Application Name, Domain and Project location for your project. Click "Next":
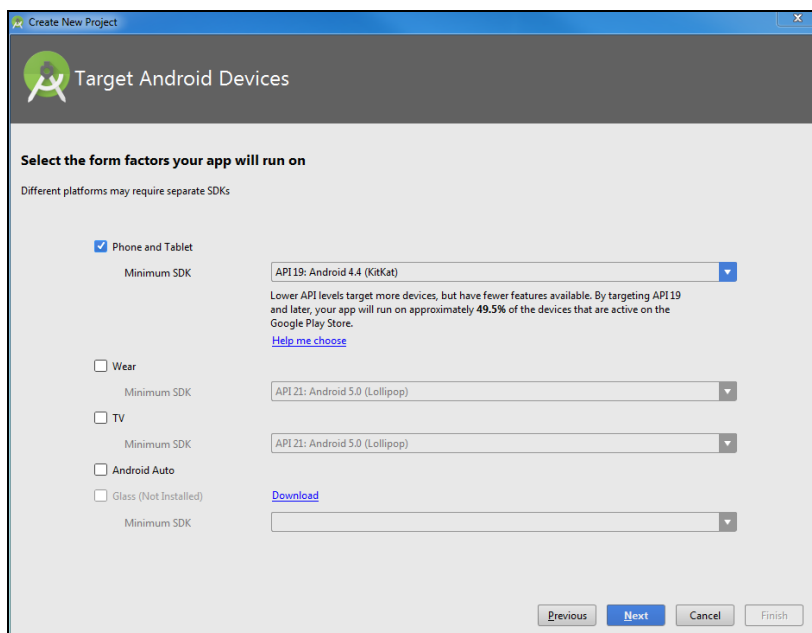
In the "Target Android Devices" dialog, check the "Phone and Tablet" checkbox and select "API19: Android 4.4 (KitKat)" as the Minimum SDK. Click "Next":

In the "Add an activity to Mobile" dialog, select "Blank Activity" and click "Next":
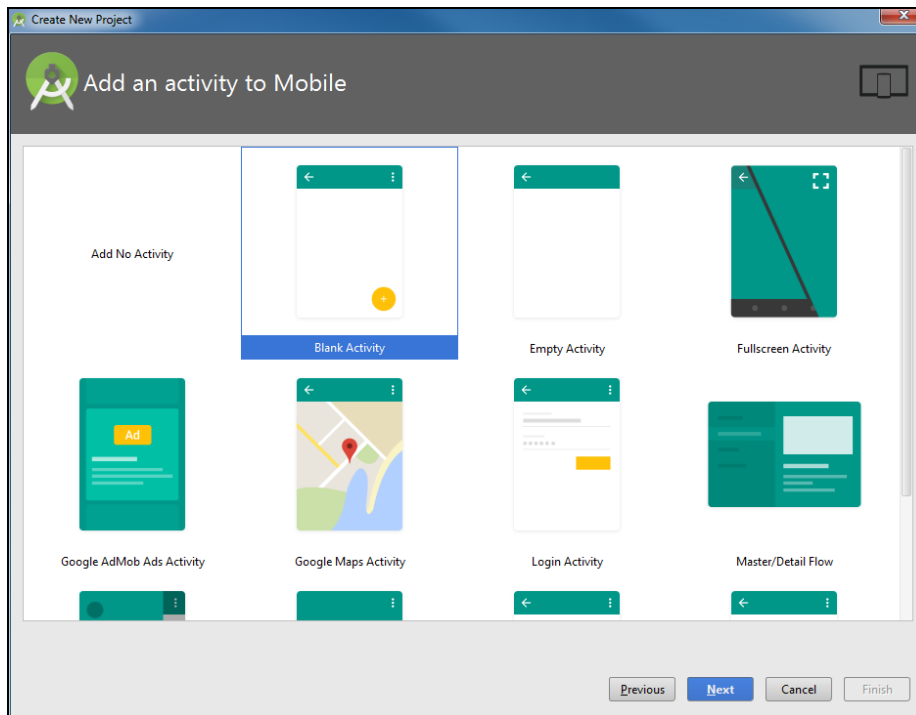
In the "Customize the Activity" dialog, use the default names or enter new names for Activity Name, Layout Name, Title and Menu Resource Name. Click "Finish":
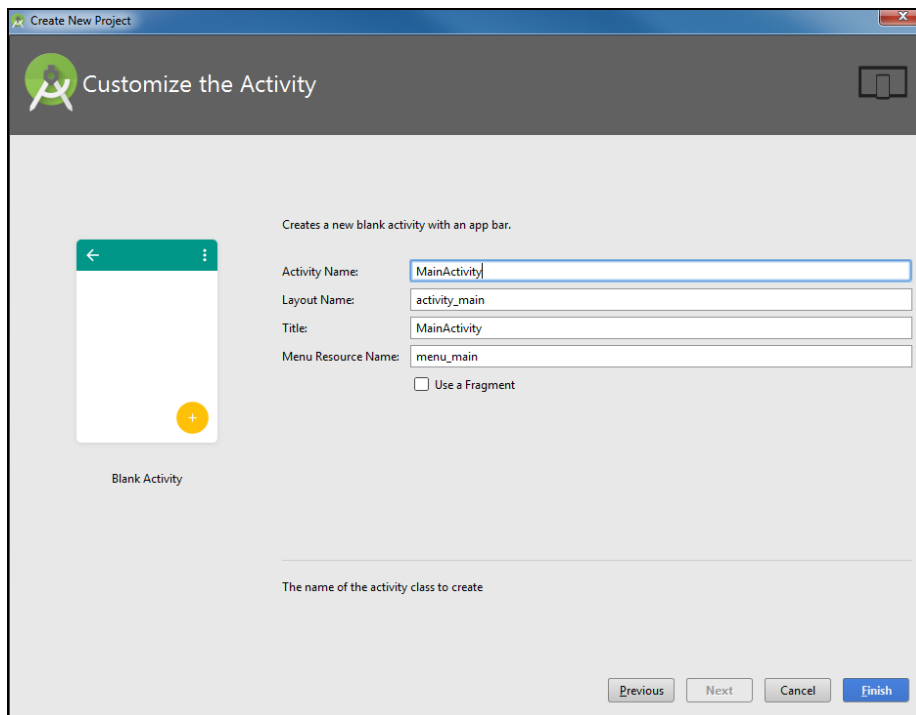
Connect the cradle to your PC, and insert the handheld into the cradle. You should see "Connected as USB storage" and "USB Debugging Enabled" notifications on the handheld screen.

In Android Studio, click "Android Monitor" at the bottom left. Then the "Allow USB debugging" will show up on your handheld's screen. Check "Always allow from this computer" and tap OK. This will allow Android Studio to deploy the application into your handheld as well as to get log info from the handheld. Logs from the handheld will display in the "logcat" tab:
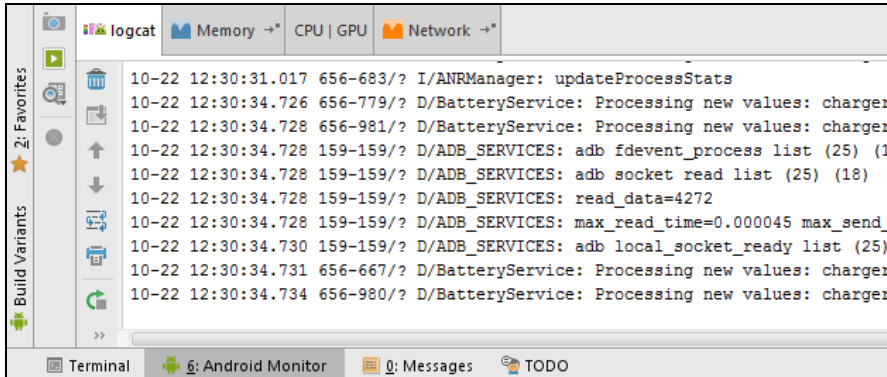
In Android Studio, click "Run app" toolbar button to run your application. The "Device Chooser" dialog will pop up. Select your device and click OK to run your "Hello World" application on the handheld:
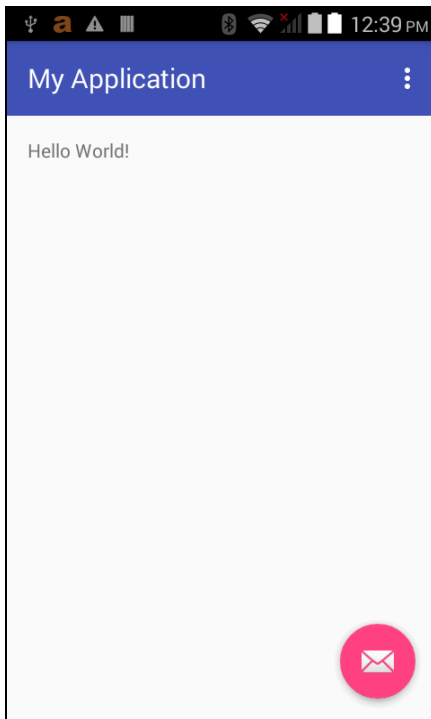
5.4.2 Use RFID functionality in your project

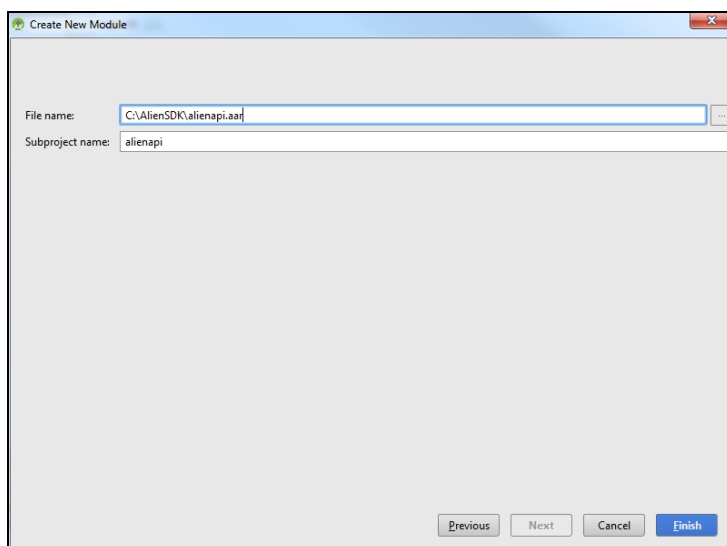In order to use RFID functionality, you have to add the Alien `alienapi.aar` library to your project.
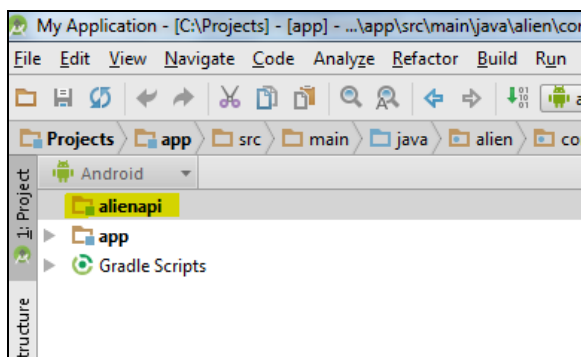
Select menu: File > New > New Module:
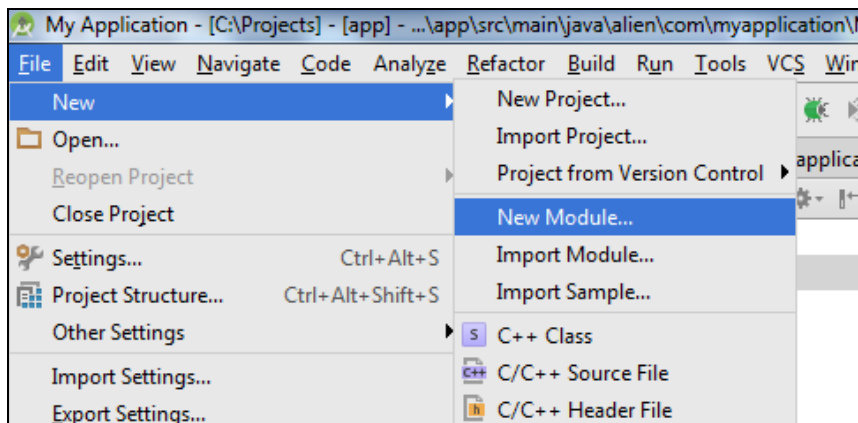
In the "New Module" dialog, select "Import .JAR/.AAR Package" and click "Next":
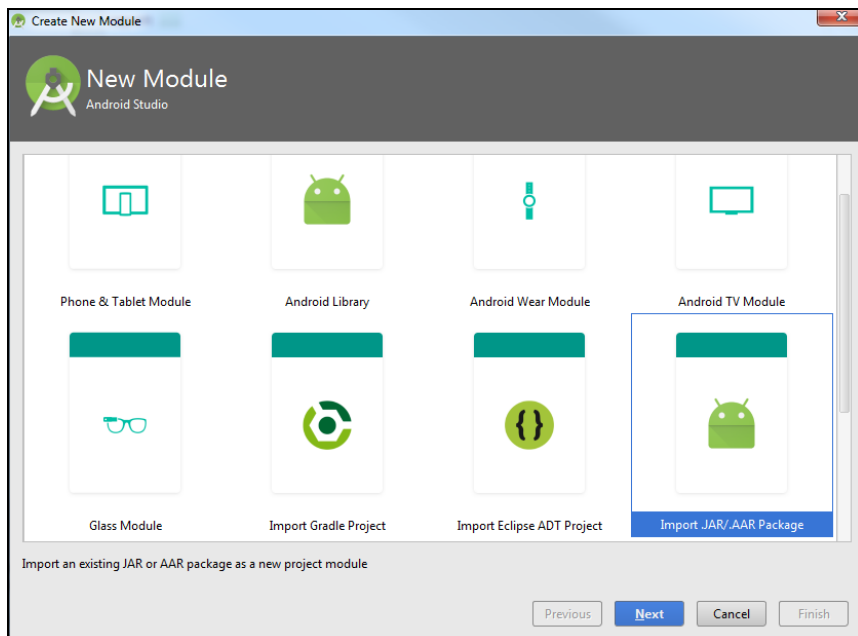
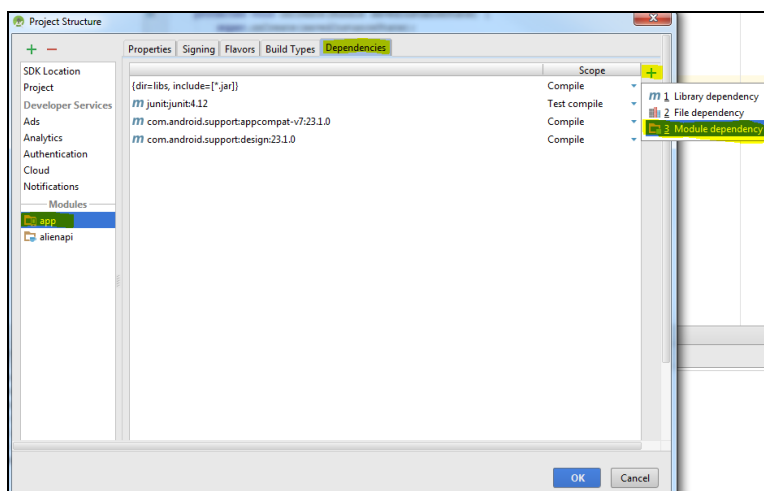Browse to select the `alienapi.aar` library file and click "Finish":

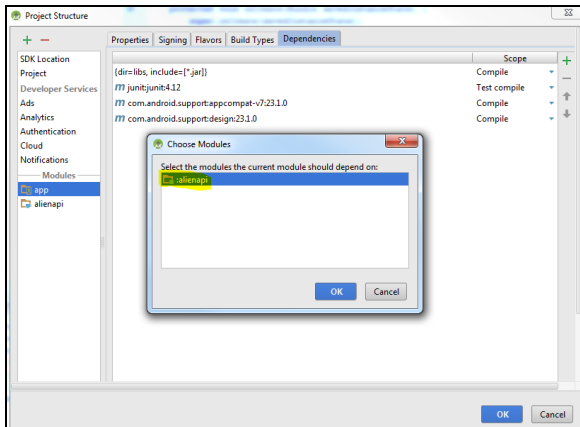Now, you should see the "**alienapi**" module added to your project:

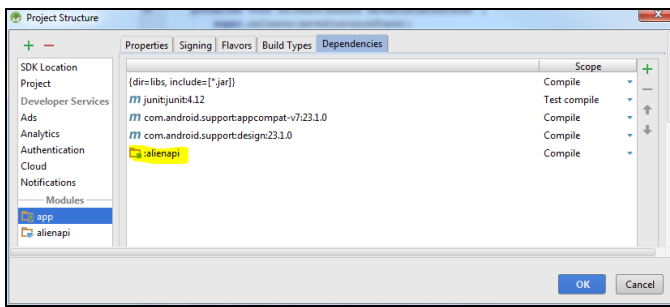Next, you need to configure the "app" module to use "alienapi" module. To do this:
-   Right click on the "app" module, and select "Open Module Settings".
-   Select the "app" module, select the "Dependencies" tab, click "+" button and select "Module dependencies".
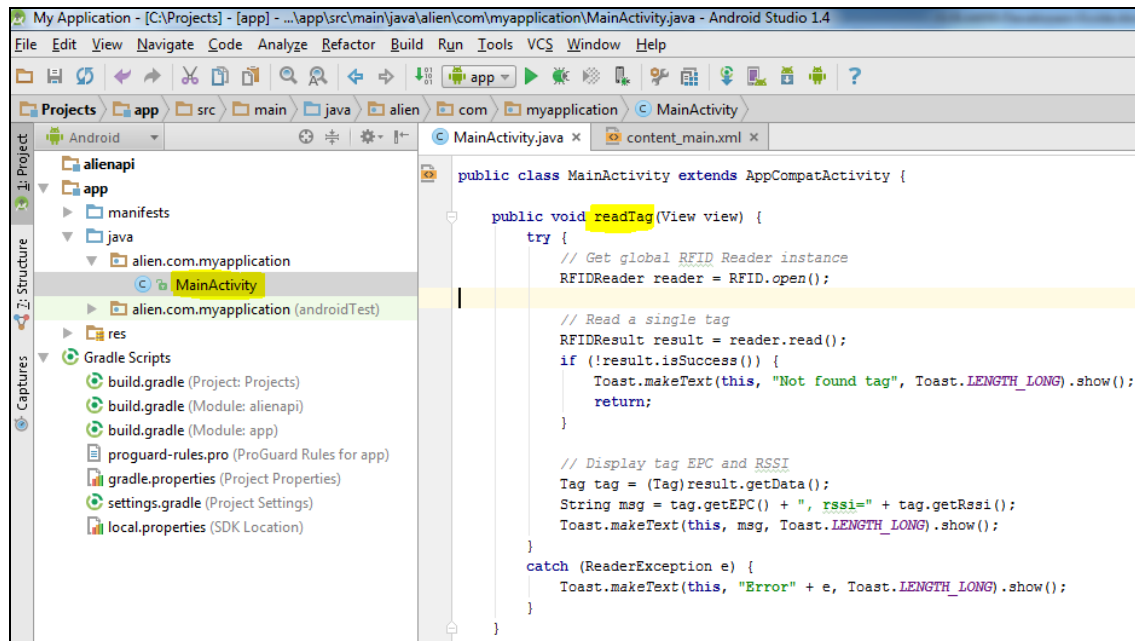
Select ":alienapi" and click OK:

Now you should see the ":alienapi" in the Dependencies list. Click "OK":

Add the `readTag()` method to your `MainActivity` class as below:

```
public void readTag(View view) {

    try {

        // Get global RFID Reader instance

        RFIDReader reader = RFID.open();

        // Read a single tag

        RFIDResult result = reader.read();

        if (!result.isSuccess()) {

            Toast.makeText(this, "No tags found ", Toast.LENGTH_LONG).show();

            return;

        }

        // Display tag EPC and RSSI

        Tag tag = (Tag)result.getData();

        String msg = tag.getEPC() + ", rssi=" + tag.getRSSI();

        Toast.makeText(this, msg, Toast.LENGTH_LONG).show();

    }

    catch (ReaderException e) {

        Toast.makeText(this, "Error: " + e, Toast.LENGTH_LONG).show();

    }

}
```
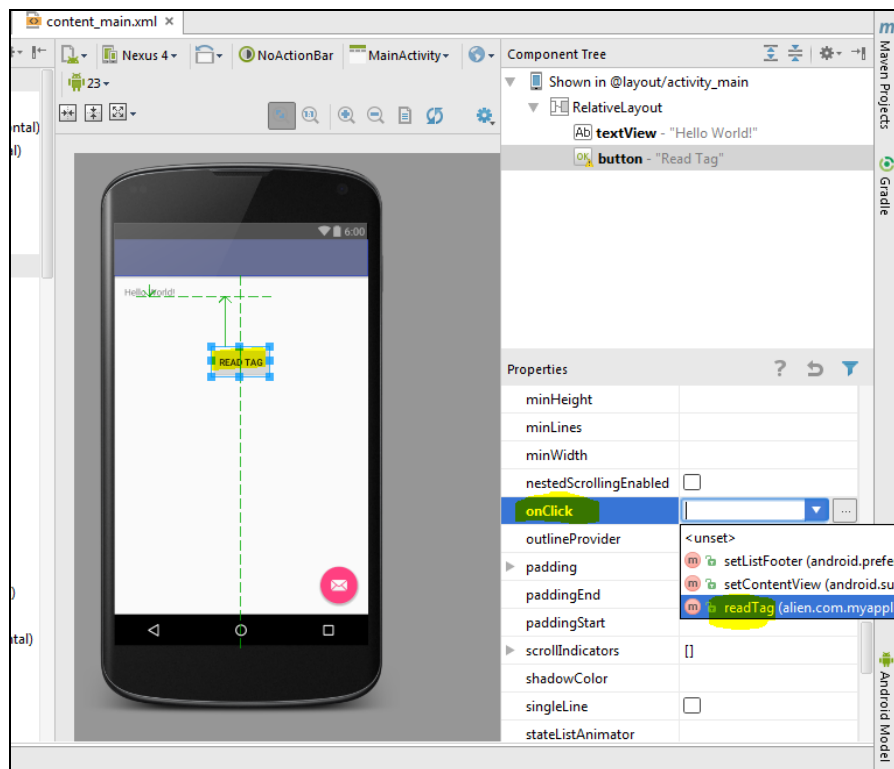
Next add a Button to call the readTag method that you just created:
- Double click on "content_main.xml".
- Select "Design" tab.
- Drag and Drop a "Button" widget into the view.
- Double click the button and change the name to "READ TAG".
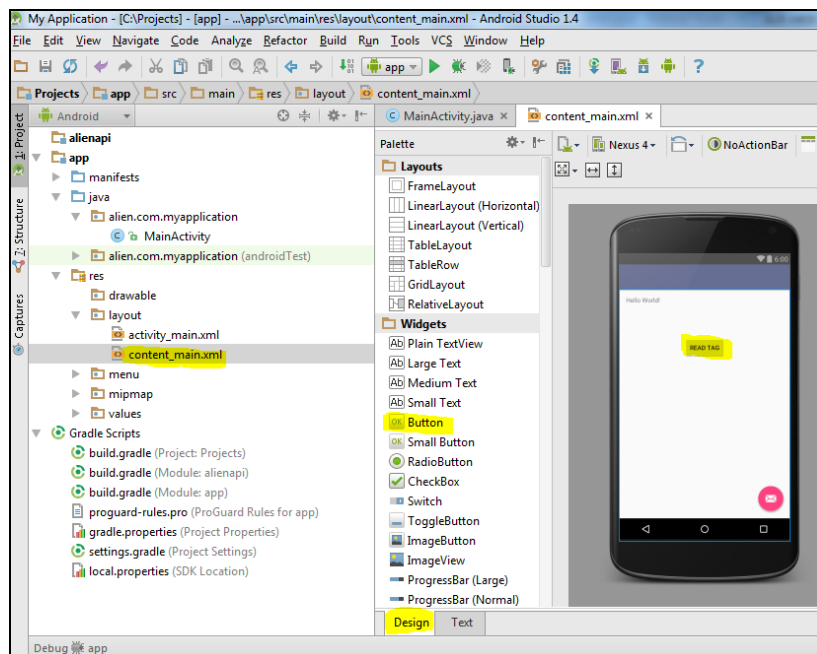
- Select the button, then select "onClick" in the "Properties" panel, and choose "readTag":

Now test the application:
- Click "Run App" toolbar button to start the application on your handheld.
- Place a RFID tag in front of your handheld.
- Tap the "READ TAG" button in the application window to read and display a tag as shown below