Android Services Tutorial

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Android Programming Tutorials

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1- The types of services on Android

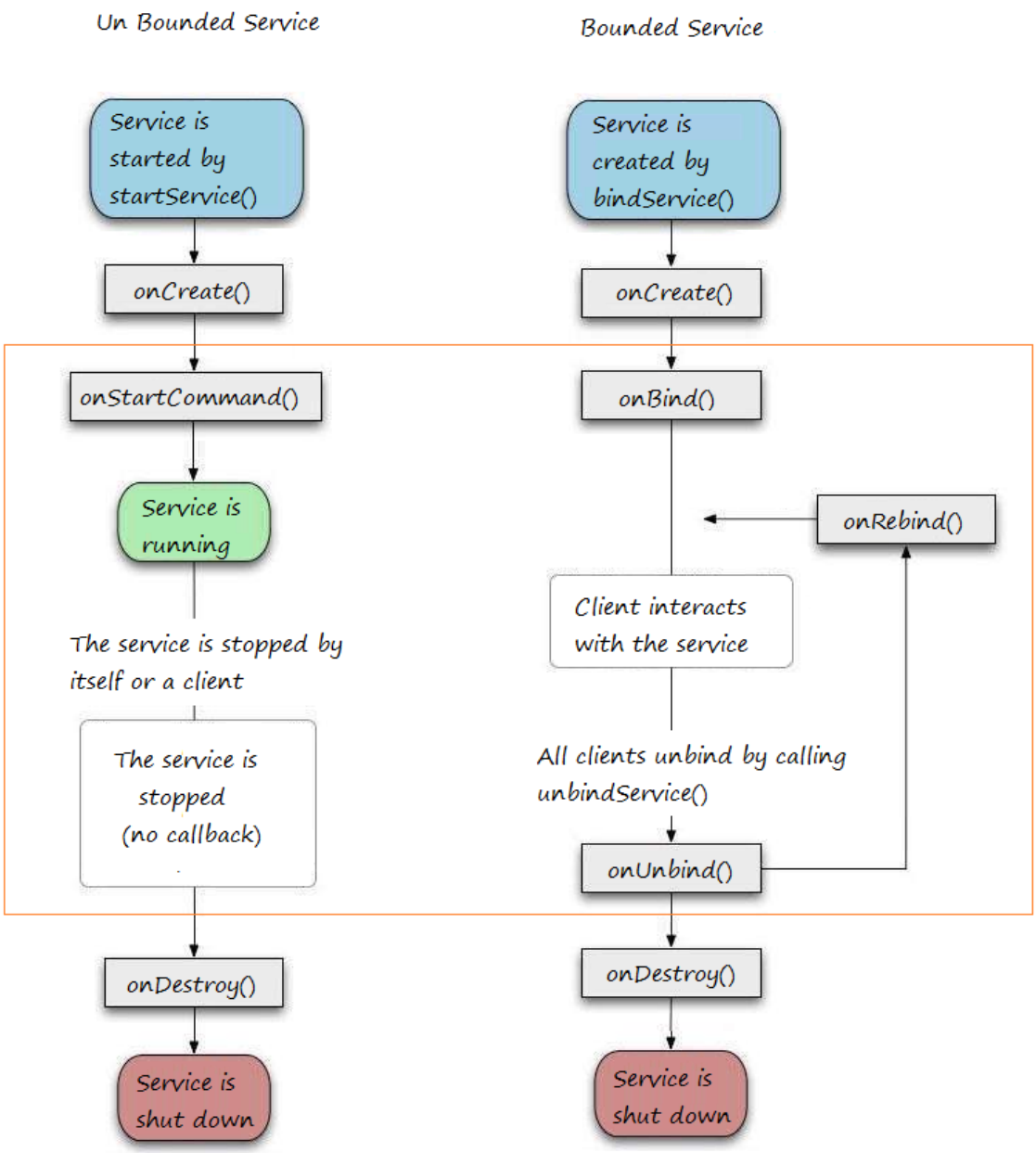
What is service?

A **service** is a component that runs in the background to perform long-running operations without needing to interact with the user and it works even if application is destroyed. A service can essentially take two states

State	Description
Started	A service is **started** when an application component, such as an activity, starts it by calling startService(). Once started, a service can run in the background indefinitely, even if the component that started it is destroyed. This service is also known as **Un Bounded Service**.
Bound	A service is **bound** when an application component binds to it by calling bindService(). A bound service offers a client-server interface that allows components to interact with the service, send requests, get results, and even do so across processes with interprocess communication (IPC).

> “
>
> *In computer science, **inter-process communication (IPC)** is the activity of sharing data across multiple and commonly specialized processes using communication protocols. Typically, applications using IPC are categorized as clients and servers, where the client requests data and the server responds to client requests.*

A service has life cycle callback methods that you can implement to monitor changes in the service's state and you can perform work at the appropriate stage. The following diagram on the left shows the life cycle when the service is created with ***startService()*** and the diagram on the right shows the life cycle when the service is created with ***bindService()***



To create an service, you create a Java class that extends the **Service** base class or one of its existing subclasses. The Service base class defines various callback methods and the most important are given below. You don't need to implement all the callbacks methods. However, it's important that you understand each one and implement those that ensure your app behaves the way users expect.

Also, there are another service called **IntentService**. **Intent Service** is used to perform one time task i.e when the task completes the service destroys itself.

Comparison of services:

Unbound Service	**Bound Service**	**Intent Service**
Unbounded Service is used to perform long repetitive task	**Bounded Service** is used to perform background task in bound with another component	**Intent Service** is used to perform one time task i.e when the task completes the service destroys itself.
Unbound Service gets starts by calling ***startService()***.	**Bounded Service** gets starts by calling ***bindService()***.	**Intent Service** gets starts by calling ***startService()***.
Unbound Service is stopped or destroyed explicitly by calling ***stopService()***.	**Bounded Service** is unbind or destroyed by calling ***unbindService()***.	**IntentService** Implicitly calls ***stopself()*** to destroy
Unbound Service is independent of the component in which it is started.	**Bound Service** dependents on the component in which it is started.	**Intent Service** is independent of the component in which it is started.

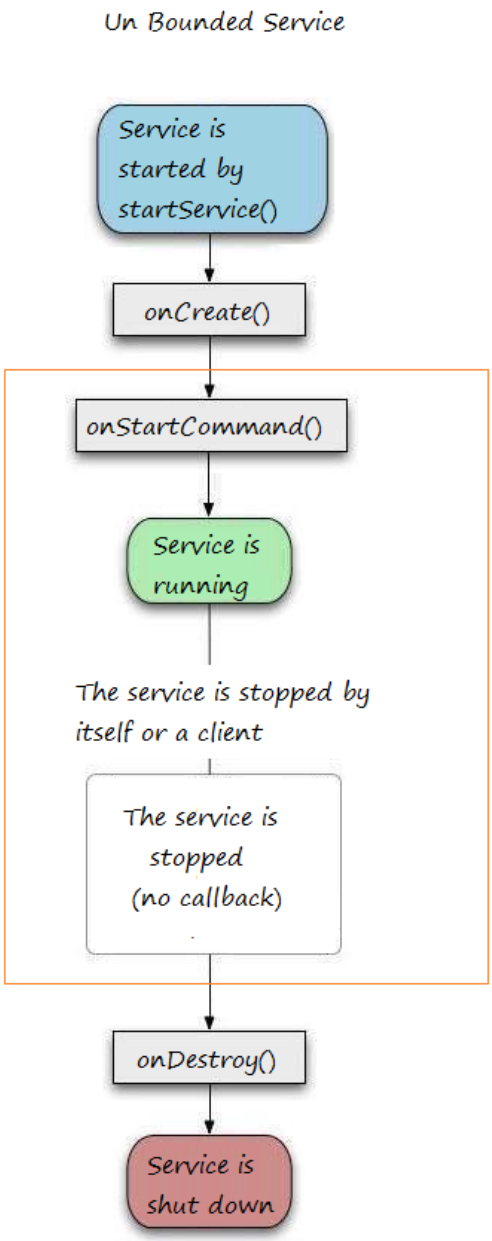
The callback methods and description:

Callback	Description
onStartCommand()	The system calls this method when another component, such as an activity, requests that the service be started, by calling ***startService()***. If you implement this method, it is your responsibility to stop the service when its work is done, by calling ***stopSelf()*** or ***stopService()*** methods.
onBind()	The system calls this method when another component wants to bind with the service by calling ***bindService()***. If you implement this

	method, you must provide an interface that clients use to communicate with the service, by returning an ***IBinder*** object. You must always implement this method, but if you don't want to allow binding, then you should return null.
onUnbind()	The system calls this method when all clients have disconnected from a particular interface published by the service.
onRebind()	The system calls this method when new clients have connected to the service, after it had previously been notified that all had disconnected in its ***onUnbind(Intent)***.
onCreate()	The system calls this method when the service is first created using ***onStartCommand()*** or ***onBind()***. This call is required to perform one-time set-up.
onDestroy()	The system calls this method when the service is no longer used and is being destroyed. Your service should implement this to clean up any resources such as threads, registered listeners, receivers, etc.

2- Unbounded Service

Unbound Service (or Started Service): In this case, an application component starts the service by calling ***startService()*** , and it would continue to run in the background, even if the original component that initiated it is destroyed. For instance, when started, a service would continue to play music in the background indefinitely.



onStartCommand() method has integer return type value which can be any of the following:

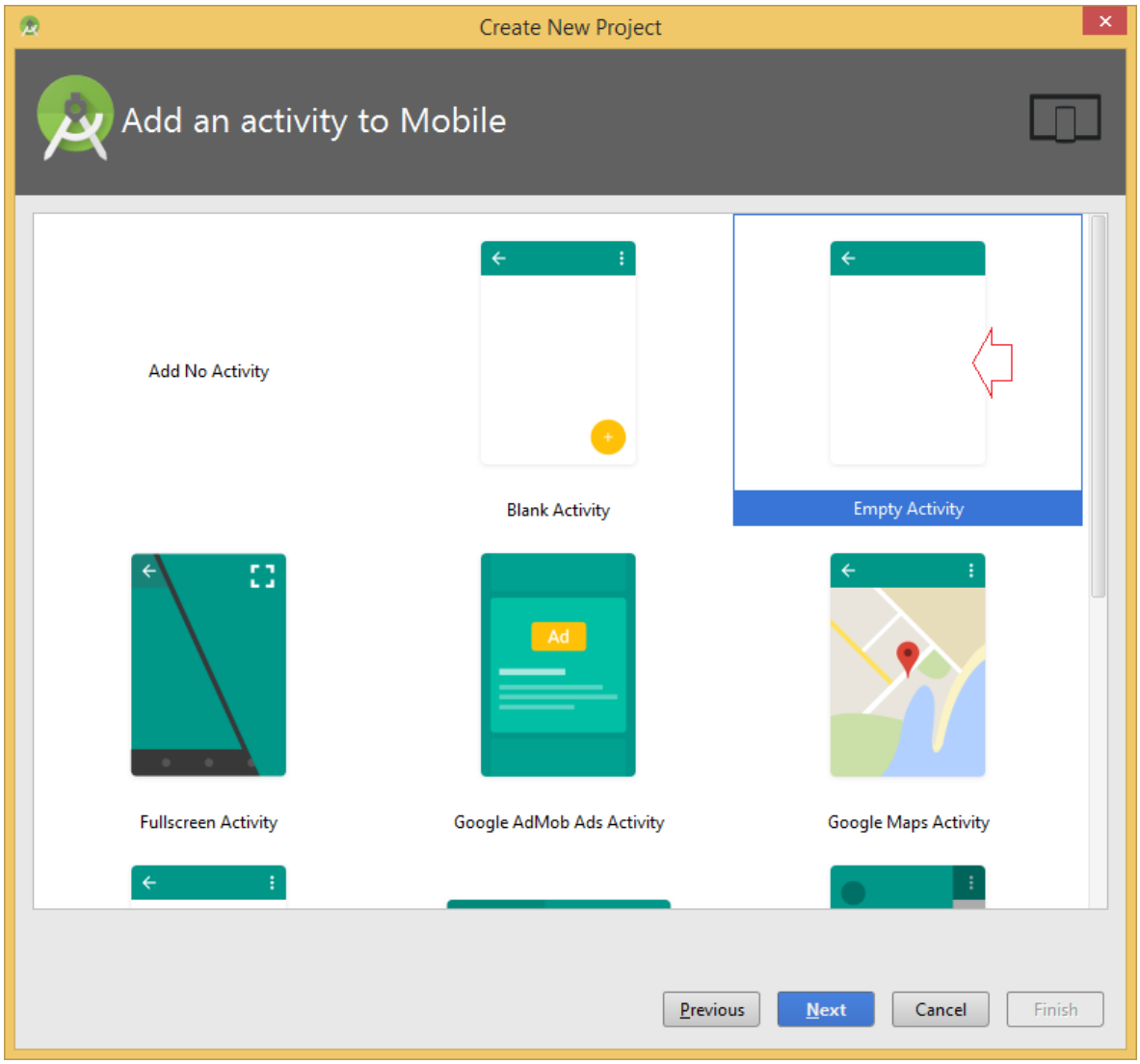
- START_STICKY

- START_NOT_STICKY
- TART_REDELIVER_INTENT

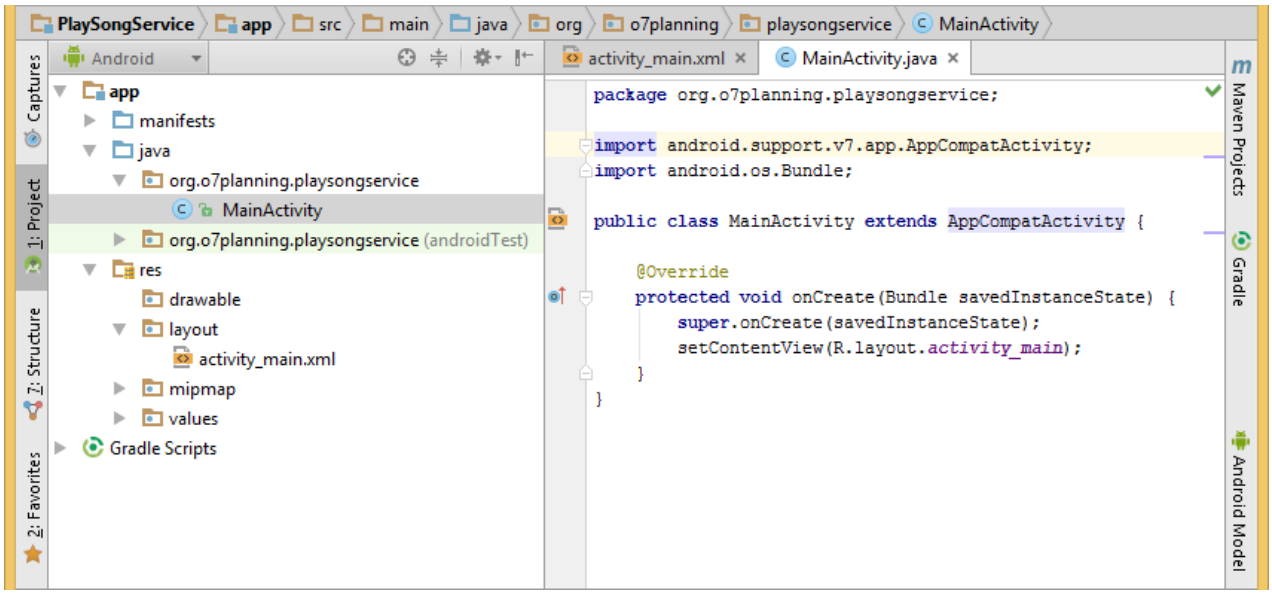
> ‘
>
> *START_STICKY & START_NOT_STICKY*
>
> - *Both values are only relevant when the phone runs out of memory and kills the service before it finishes executing.*
> - ***START_STICKY** tells the OS to recreate the service after it has enough memory and call **onStartCommand()** again with a null intent.*
> - ***START_NOT_STICKY** tells the OS to not bother recreating the service again.*
>
> *There is also a third code **START_REDELIVER_INTENT** that tells the OS to recreate the service AND redelivery the same intent to **onStartCommand()**.*

Playing music service example (Run in background)

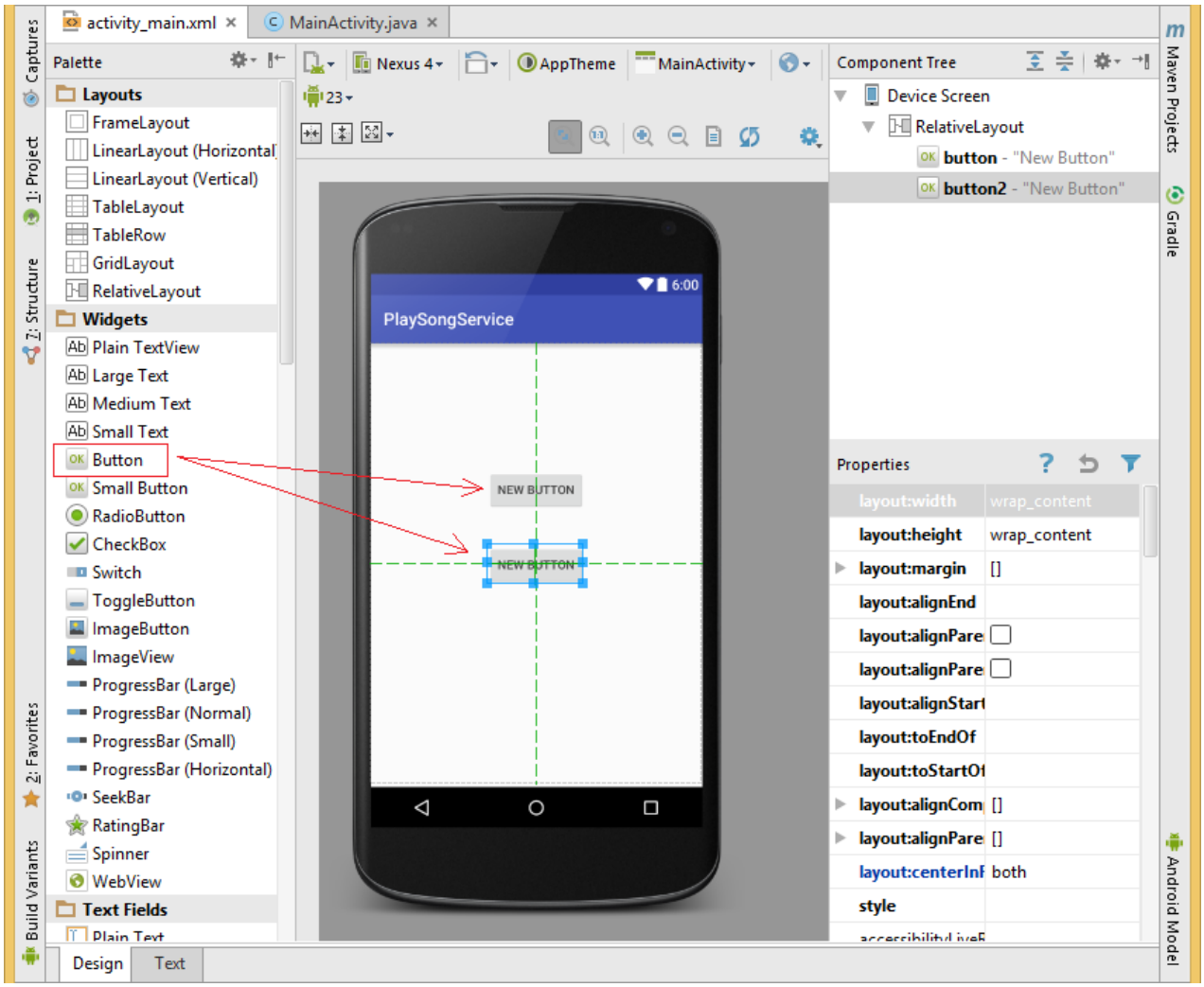
Create **"Empty Activity"** project with name **PlaySongService**



Project created.



Drag and drop 2 buttons to the screen.



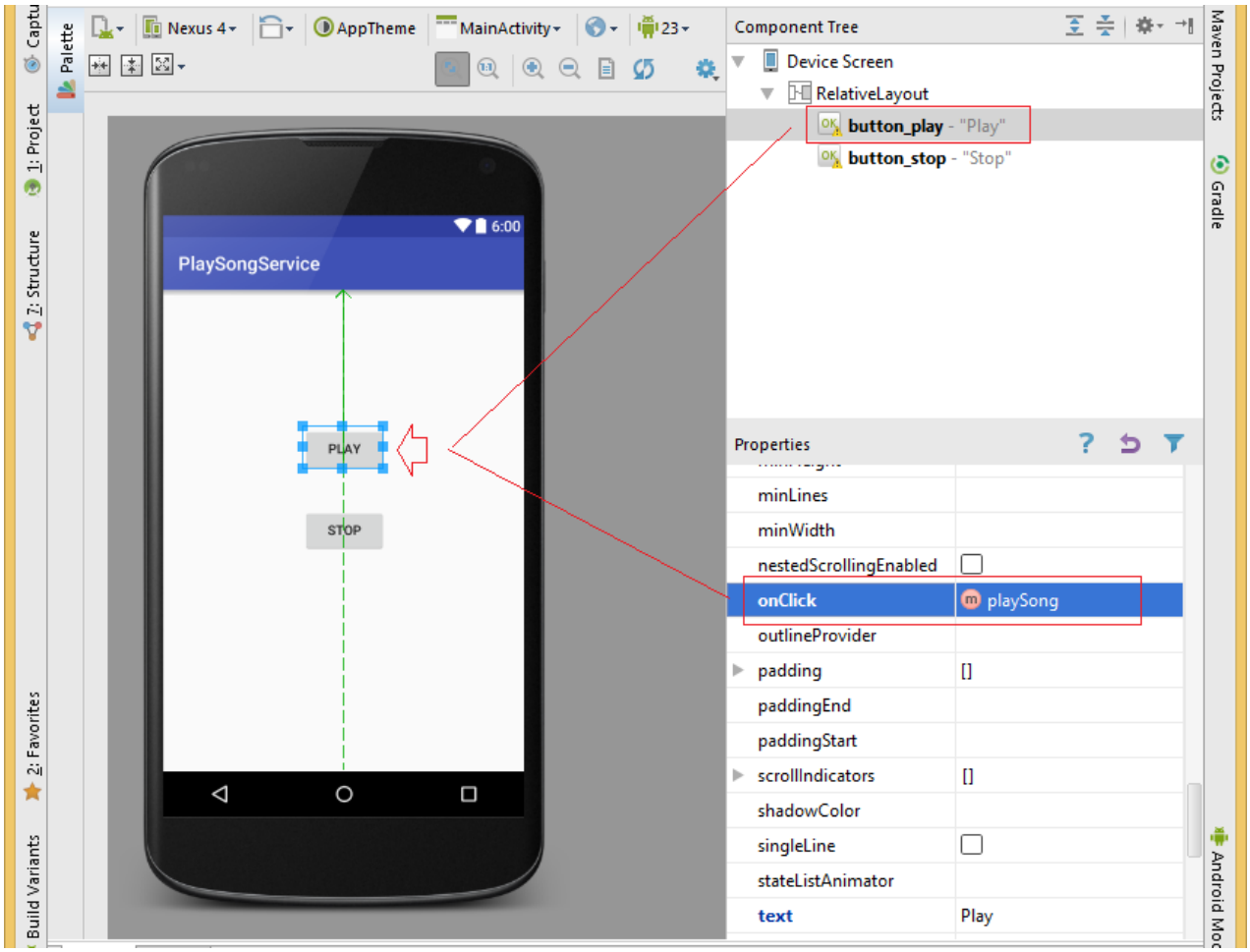
Double-click the buttons to change ID and text for buttons.

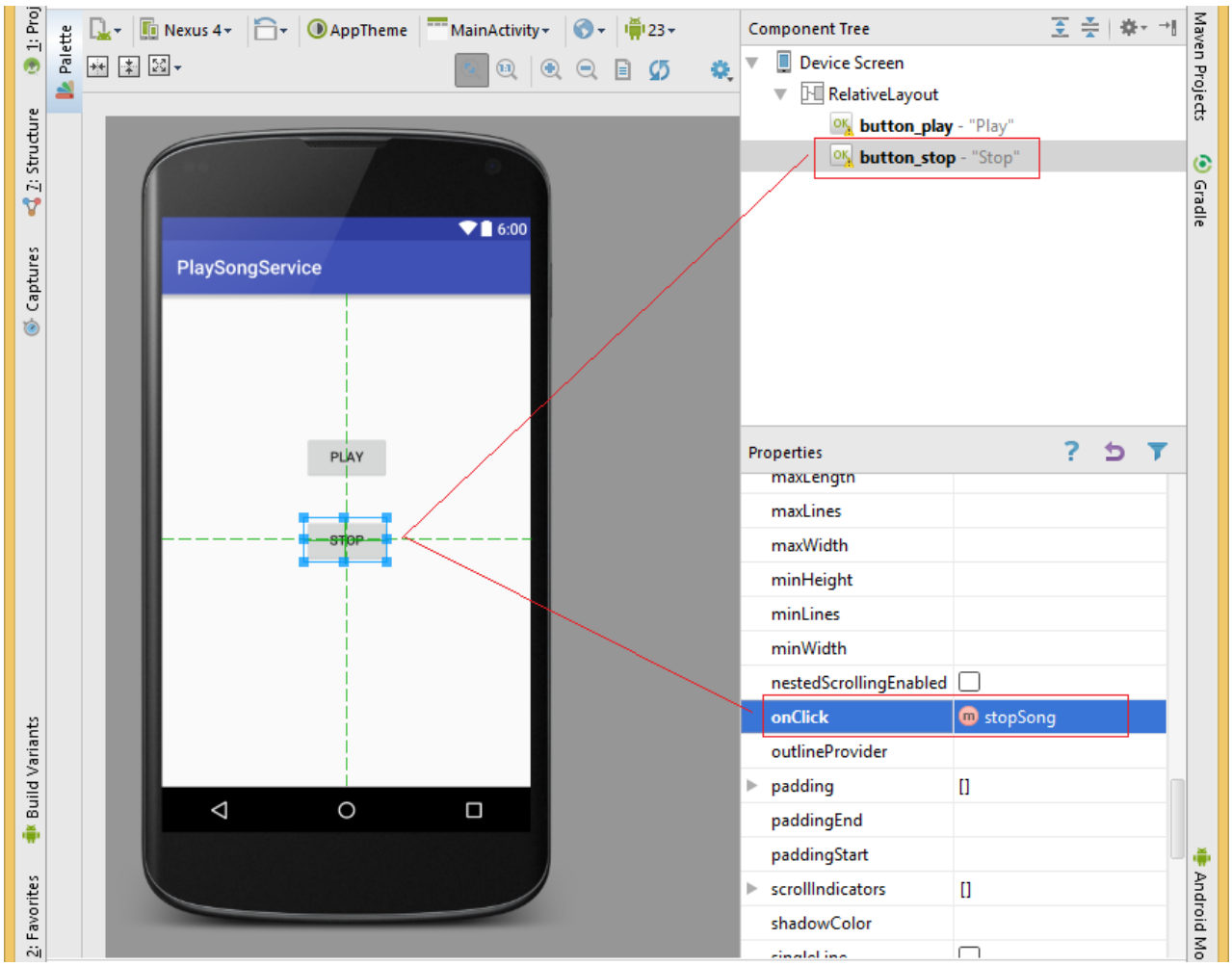
Button 1:

- **ID:** button_play
- **Text:** Play
- **Properties**
  - **onClick:** playSong

Button 2:

- **ID:** button_stop
- **Text:** Stop
- **Properties**
  - **onClick:** stopSong





activity_main.xml

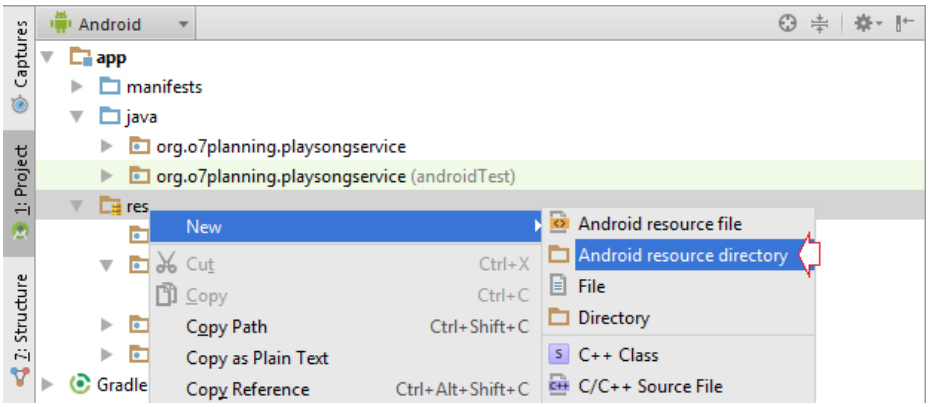
```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
2 <RelativeLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
```

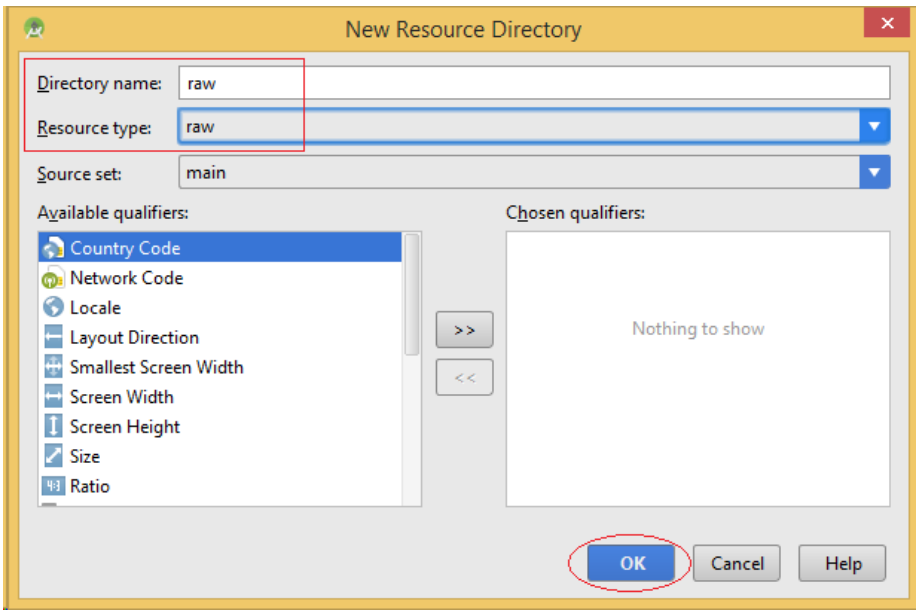
```
    xmlns:tools="http://schemas.android.com/tools" android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent" android:paddingLeft="@dimen/activity_horizontal_margin"
    android:paddingRight="@dimen/activity_horizontal_margin"
    android:paddingTop="@dimen/activity_vertical_margin"
    android:paddingBottom="@dimen/activity_vertical_margin" tools:context=".MainActivity">

    <Button
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:text="Play"
        android:id="@+id/button_play"
        android:layout_alignParentTop="true"
        android:layout_centerHorizontal="true"
        android:layout_marginTop="129dp"
        android:onClick="playSong" />

    <Button
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:text="Stop"
        android:id="@+id/button_stop"
        android:layout_centerVertical="true"
        android:layout_centerHorizontal="true"
        android:onClick="stopSong" />
</RelativeLayout>
```

Prepare mp3 file:

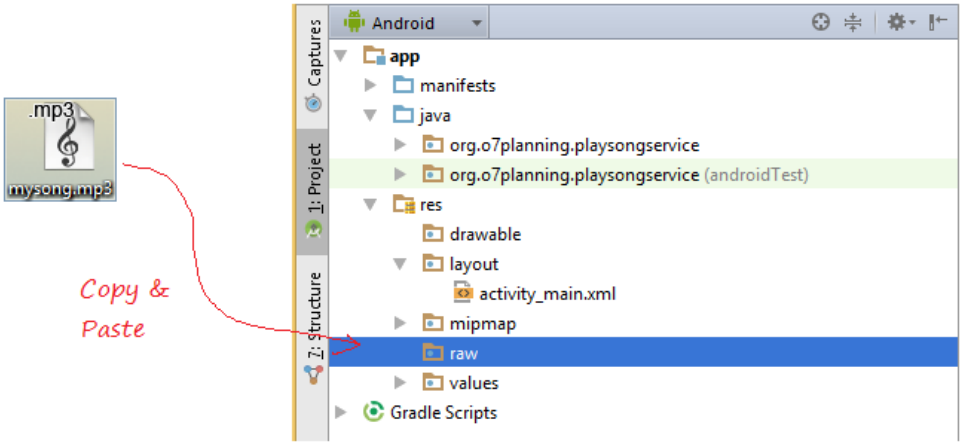
Right-click on the **'res'** folder, and select:

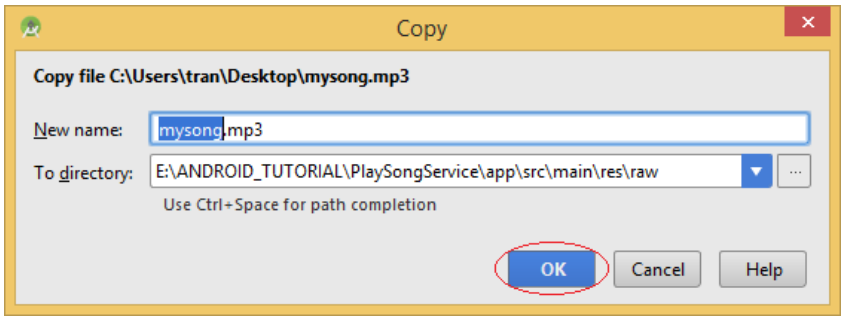
- **New/Android resource directory**

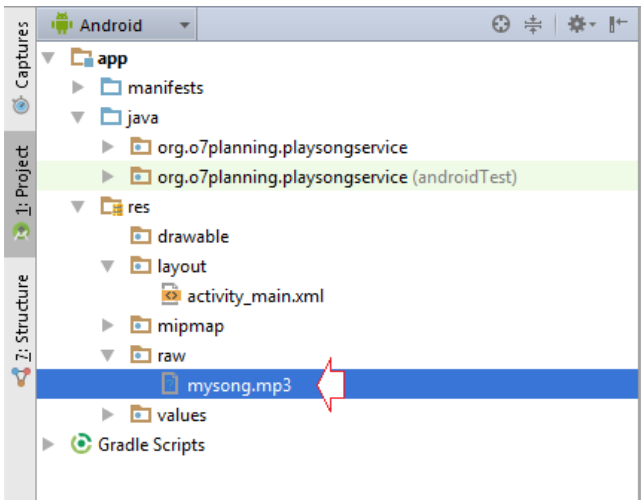




Copy and Paste a mp3 file to **'raw'** folder that you just have been created



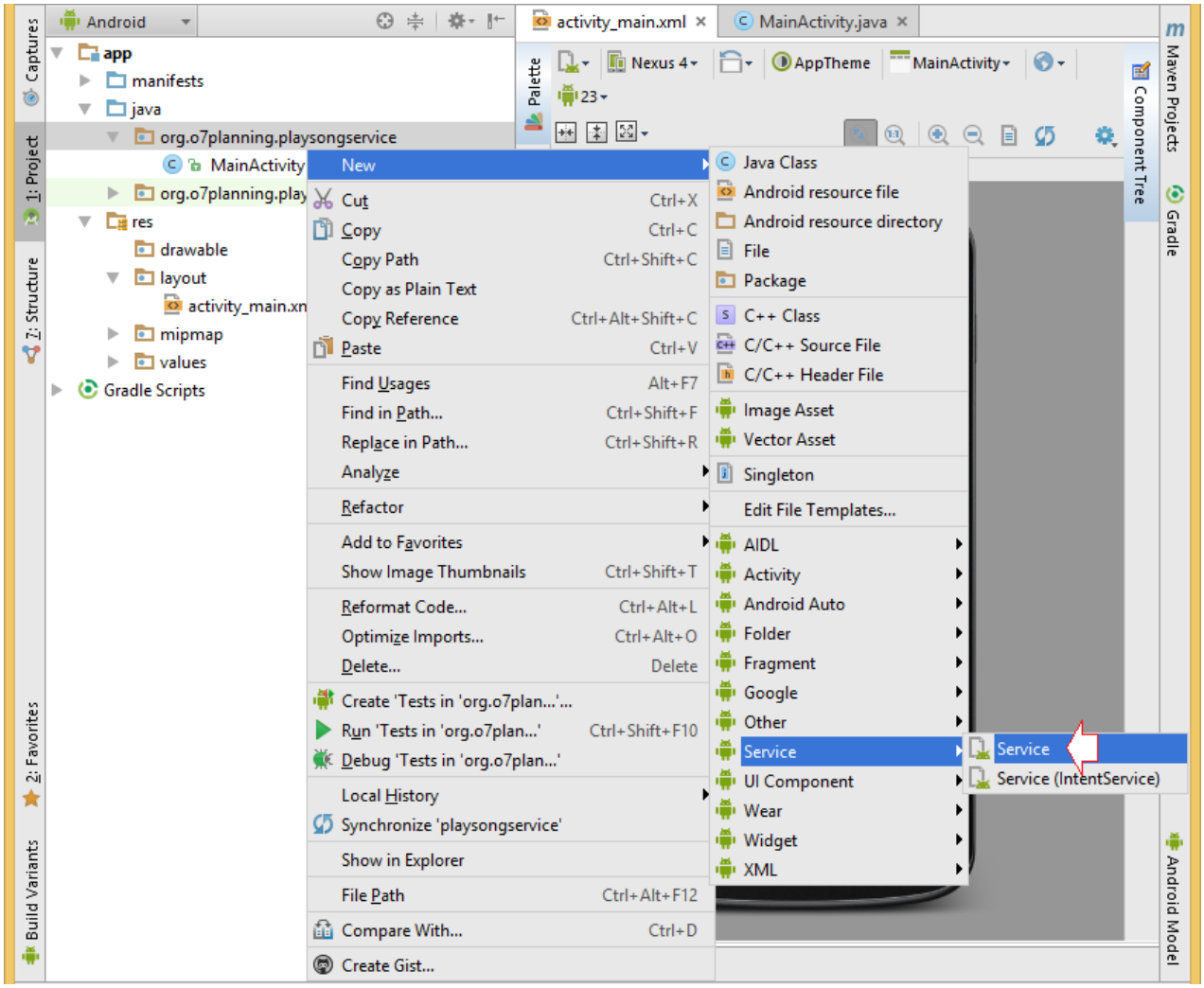




Create Service class

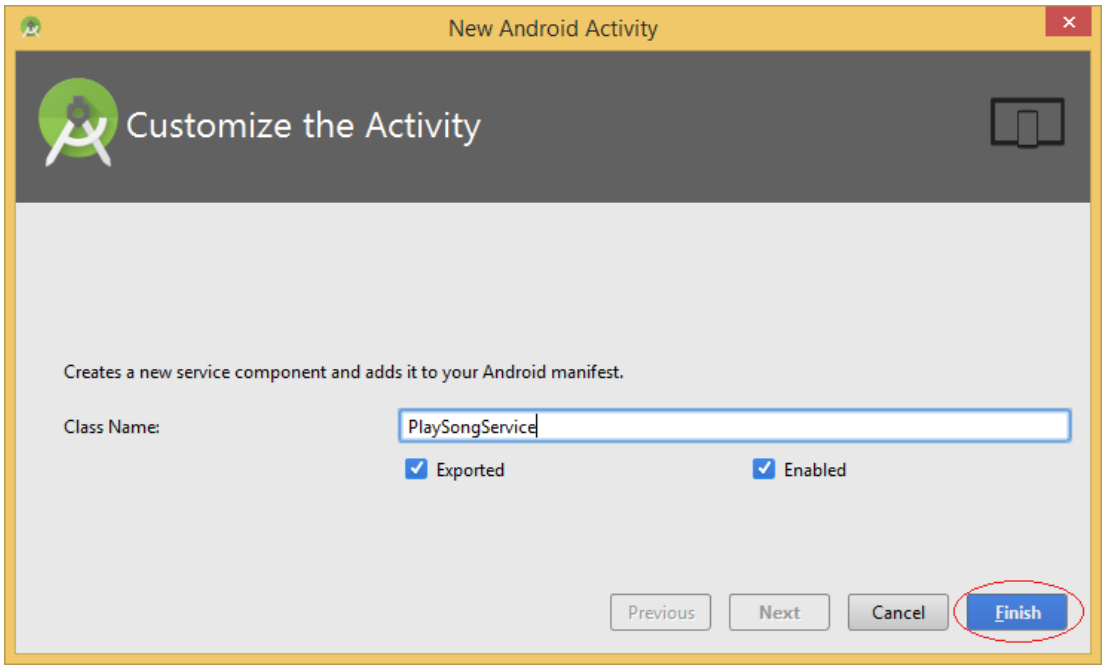
Right-click a Java package, select:

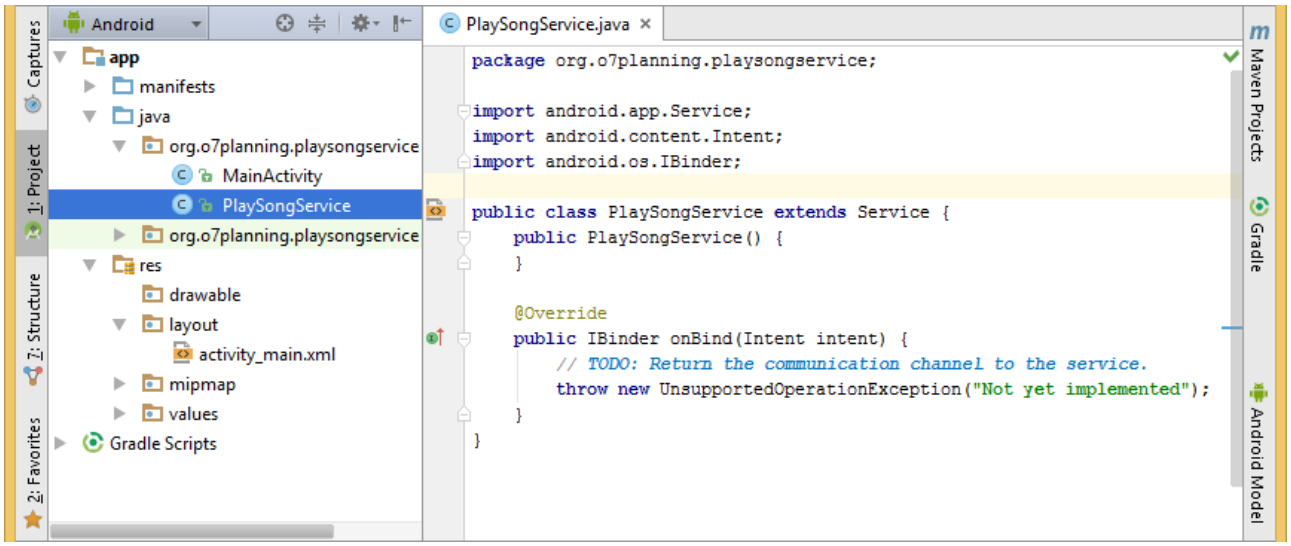
- New/Service/Service



Enter class name:

- PlaySongService





PlaySongService.java

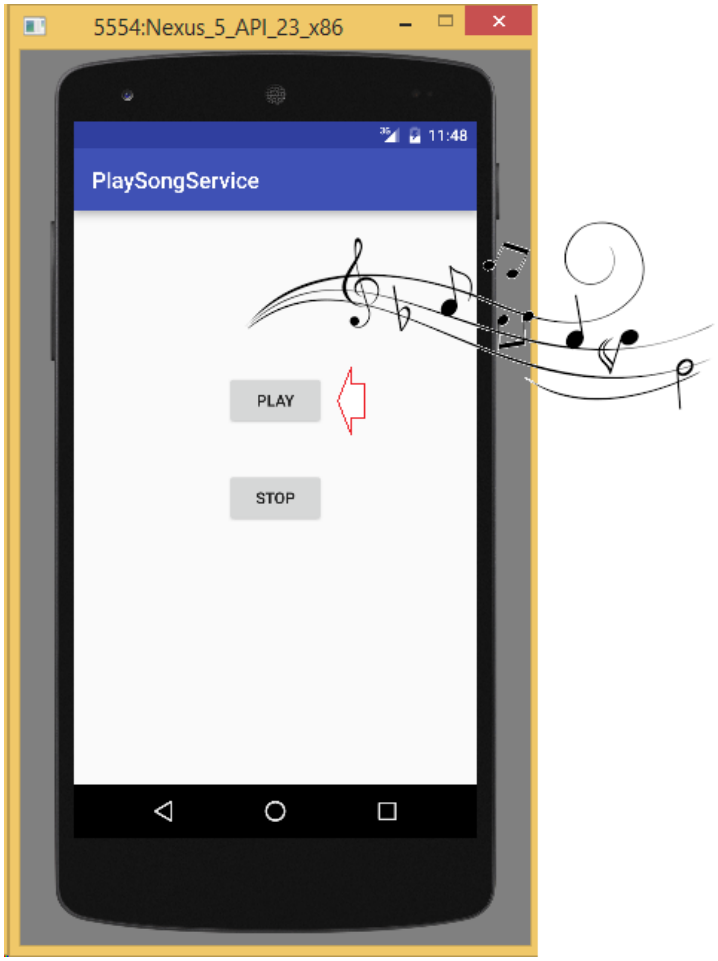
```
package org.o7planning.playsongservice;

import android.app.Service;
import android.content.Intent;
import android.media.MediaPlayer;
import android.os.IBinder;

public class PlaySongService extends Service {

   private MediaPlayer mediaPlayer;

   public PlaySongService() {
   }


   @Override
   public IBinder onBind(Intent intent){
      // This service is unbounded
      // So this method is never called.
      return null;
   }


   @Override
   public void onCreate(){
      super.onCreate();
      // Create MediaPlayer object, to play your song.
      mediaPlayer = MediaPlayer.create(getApplicationContext(), R.raw.mysong);
   }

   @Override
   public int onStartCommand(Intent intent, int flags, int startId){
      // Play song.
      mediaPlayer.start();

      return START_STICKY;
   }

   // Destroy
   @Override
   public void onDestroy() {
      // Release the resources
      mediaPlayer.release();
      super.onDestroy();
   }
}
```

MainActivity.java

```
package org.o7planning.playsongservice;

import android.content.Intent;
import android.support.v7.app.AppCompatActivity;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.View;

public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {

   @Override
   protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
      super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
      setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
   }

   // This method is called when users click on the Start button.
   public void playSong(View view)  {
      // Create Intent object for PlaySongService.
      Intent myIntent = new Intent(MainActivity.this, PlaySongService.class);

      // Call startService with Intent parameter.
      this.startService(myIntent);
   }

   // This method is called when users click on the Stop button.
   public void stopSong(View view)  {

      // Create Intent object
      Intent myIntent = new Intent(MainActivity.this, PlaySongService.class);
      this.stopService(myIntent);
   }
```

```
32
33
34
35  }
```

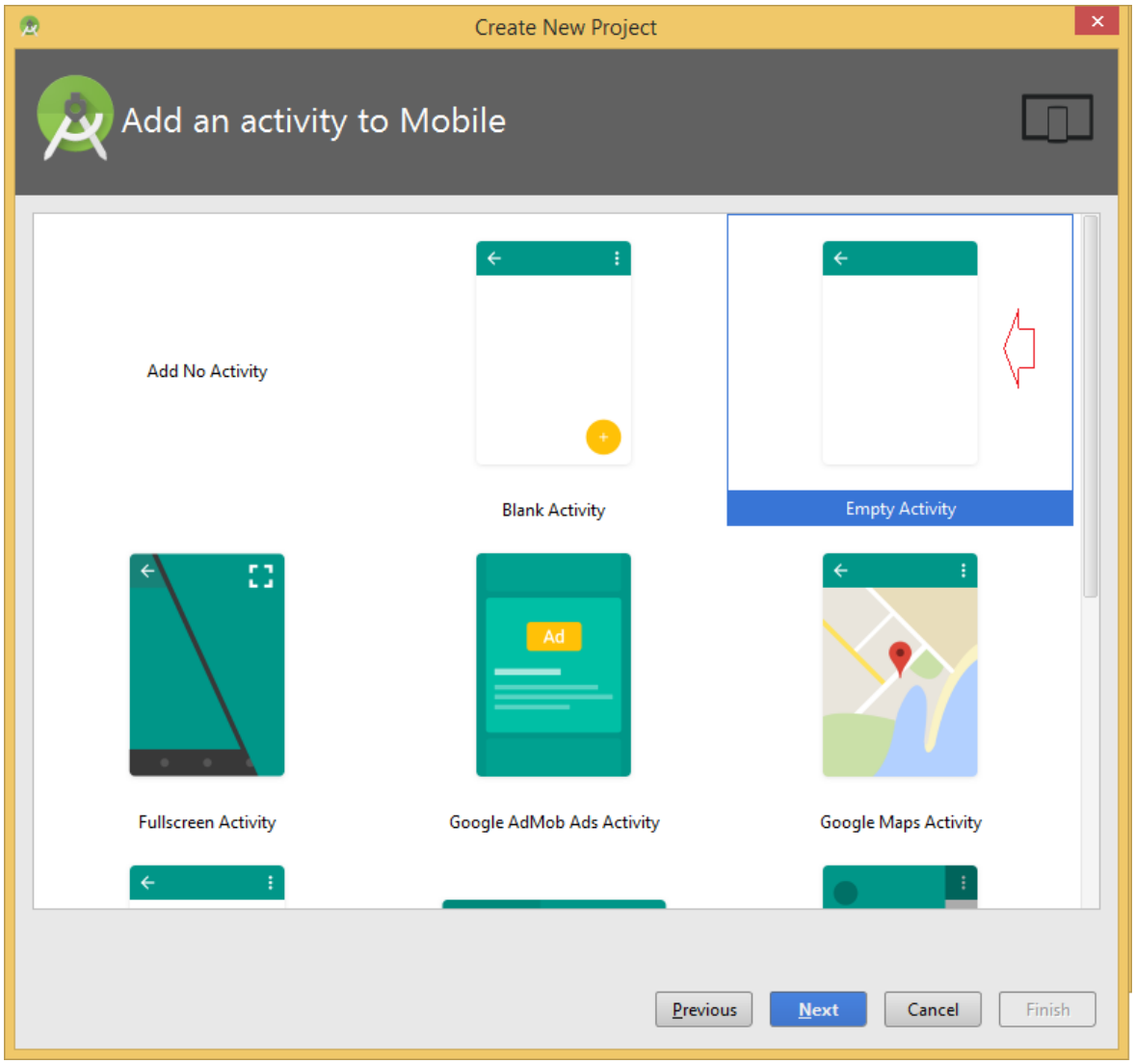
That's OK, you can run your application and enjoy the song.

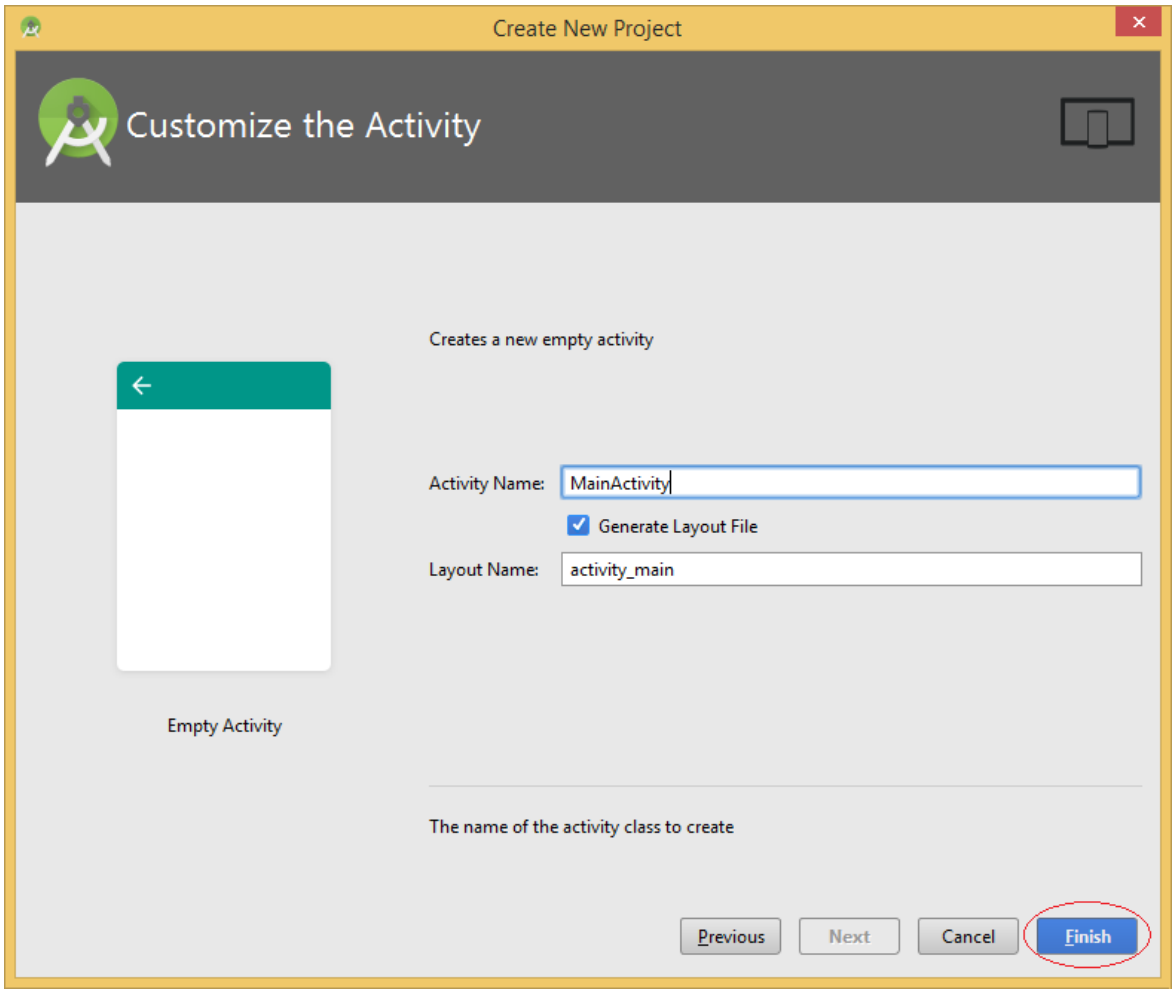


3- Bouned Service

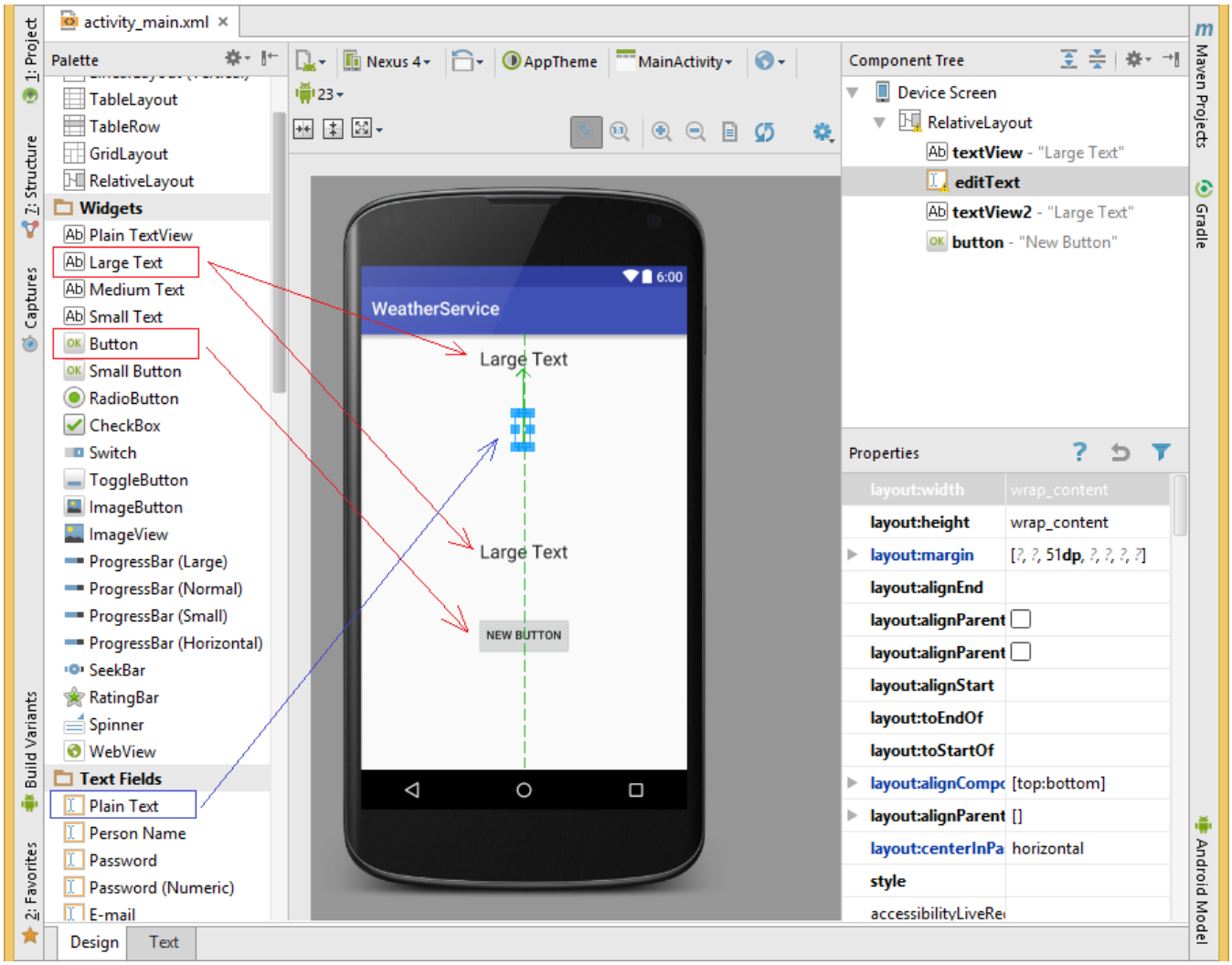
Hereinafter, I simulate a serivce that provides weather information current day, with the input is geographical location (Hanoi, Chicago, ...), the result returned is rainy, sunny, ...

Create project named **WeatherService**.


Create New Project
Add an activity to Mobile
Add No Activity
Blank Activity
Empty Activity
Fullscreen Activity
Ad
Google AdMob Ads Activity
Google Maps Activity
Previous
Next
Cancel
Finish



Drag and drop some widgets to the screen.



By double-clicking on the widget, you can set **text** and **ID** for it:

TextView 1:

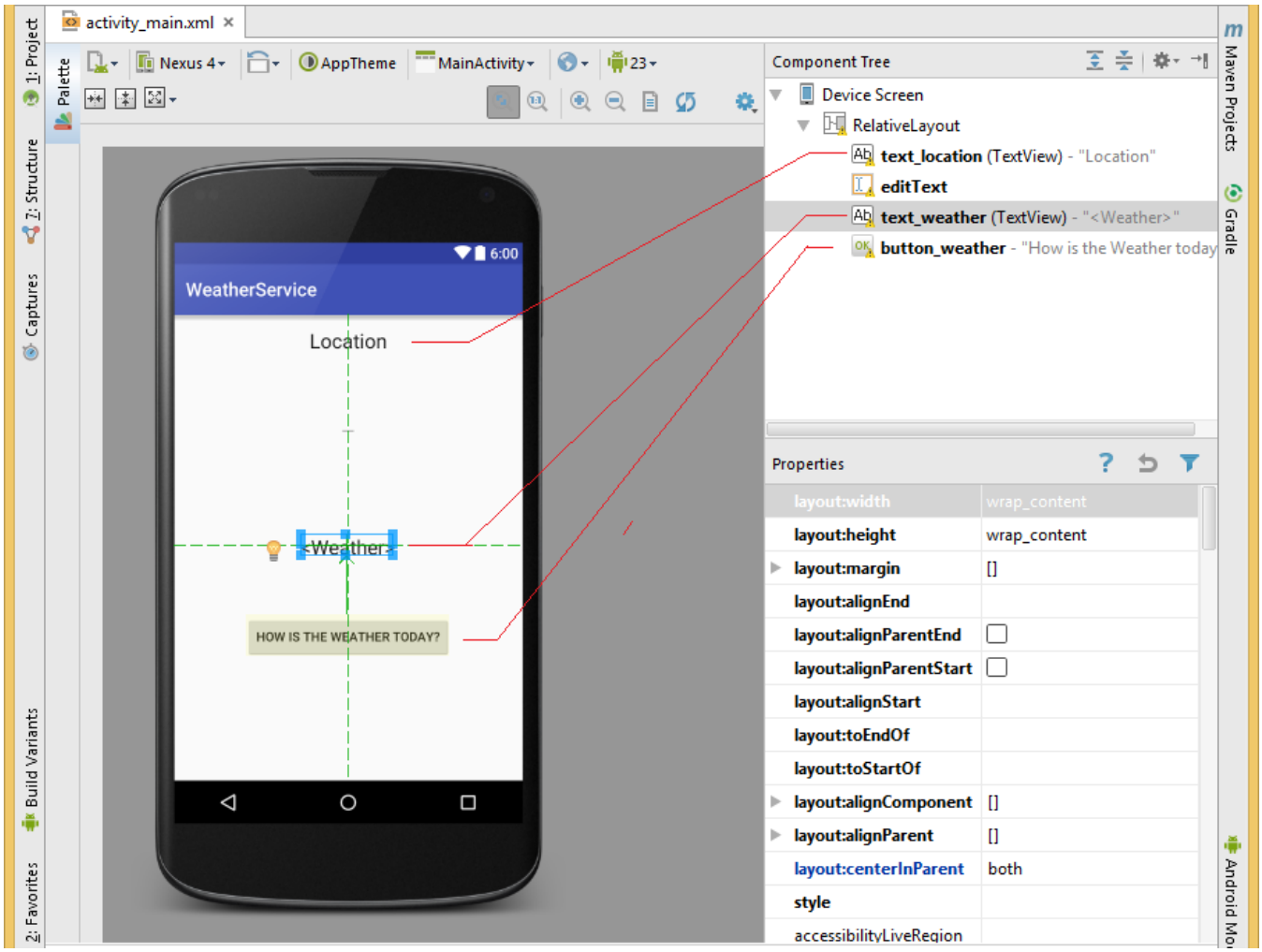
- **ID:** text_location
- **Text:** Location

TextView 2:

- **ID:** text_weather
- **Text:** <Weather>

Button:

- **ID:** button_weather
- **Text:** How is the Weather today?



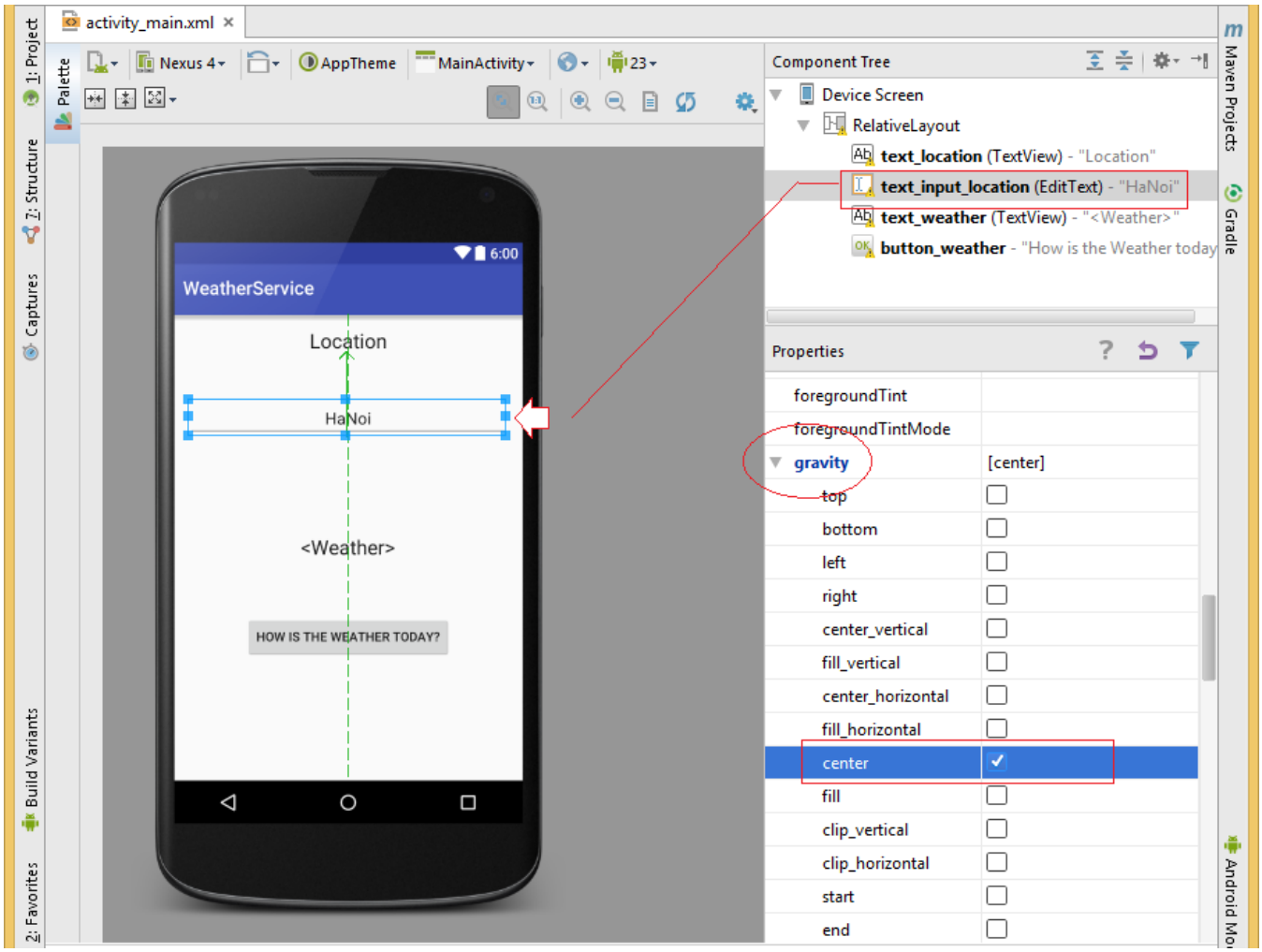
Set ID and text for **EditText** object:

EditText

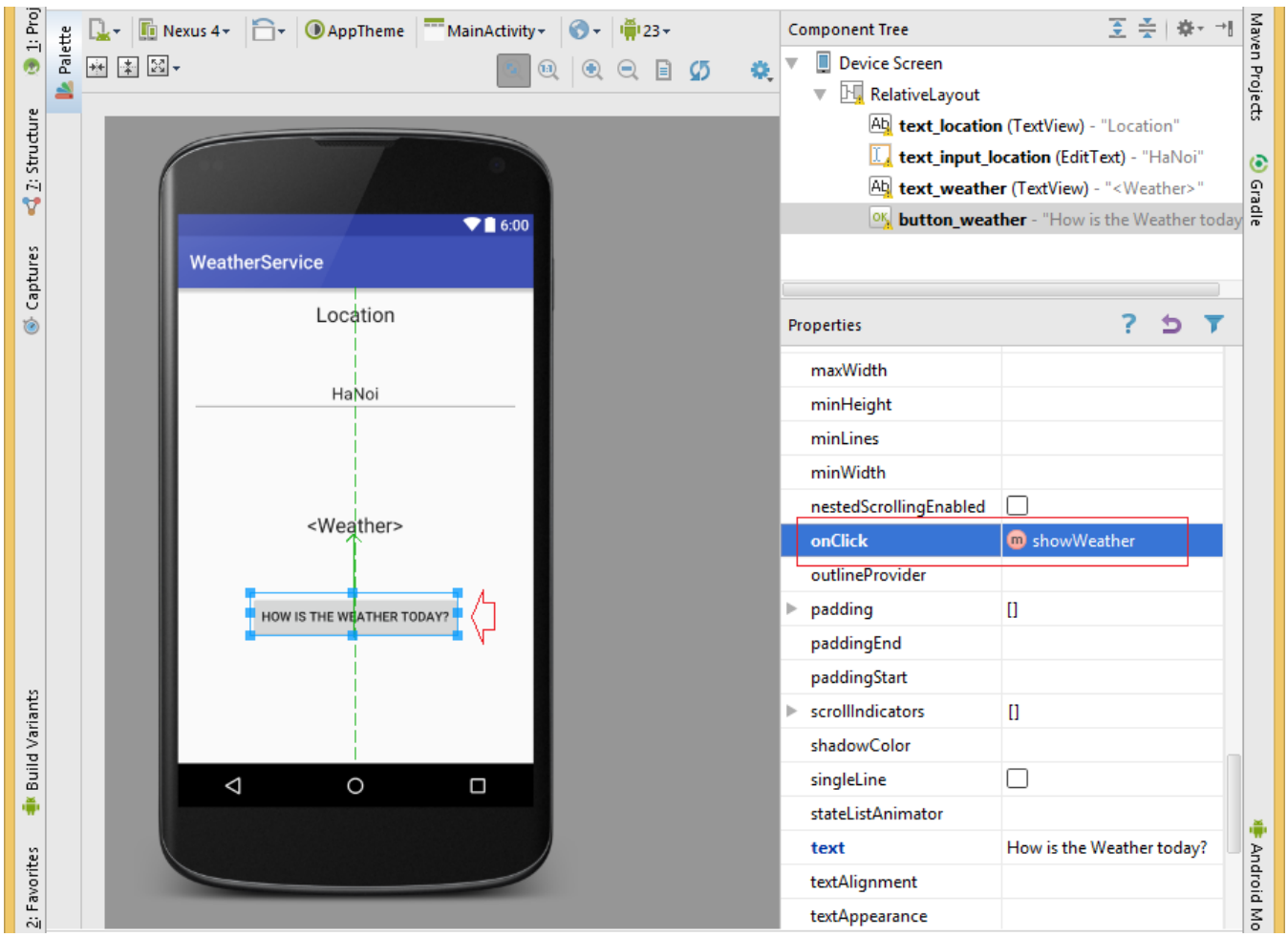
- **ID:** text_input_location
- **Text:** Hanoi

Properties

- **layout:width:** fill_parent
- **gravity**
  - **center:** checked



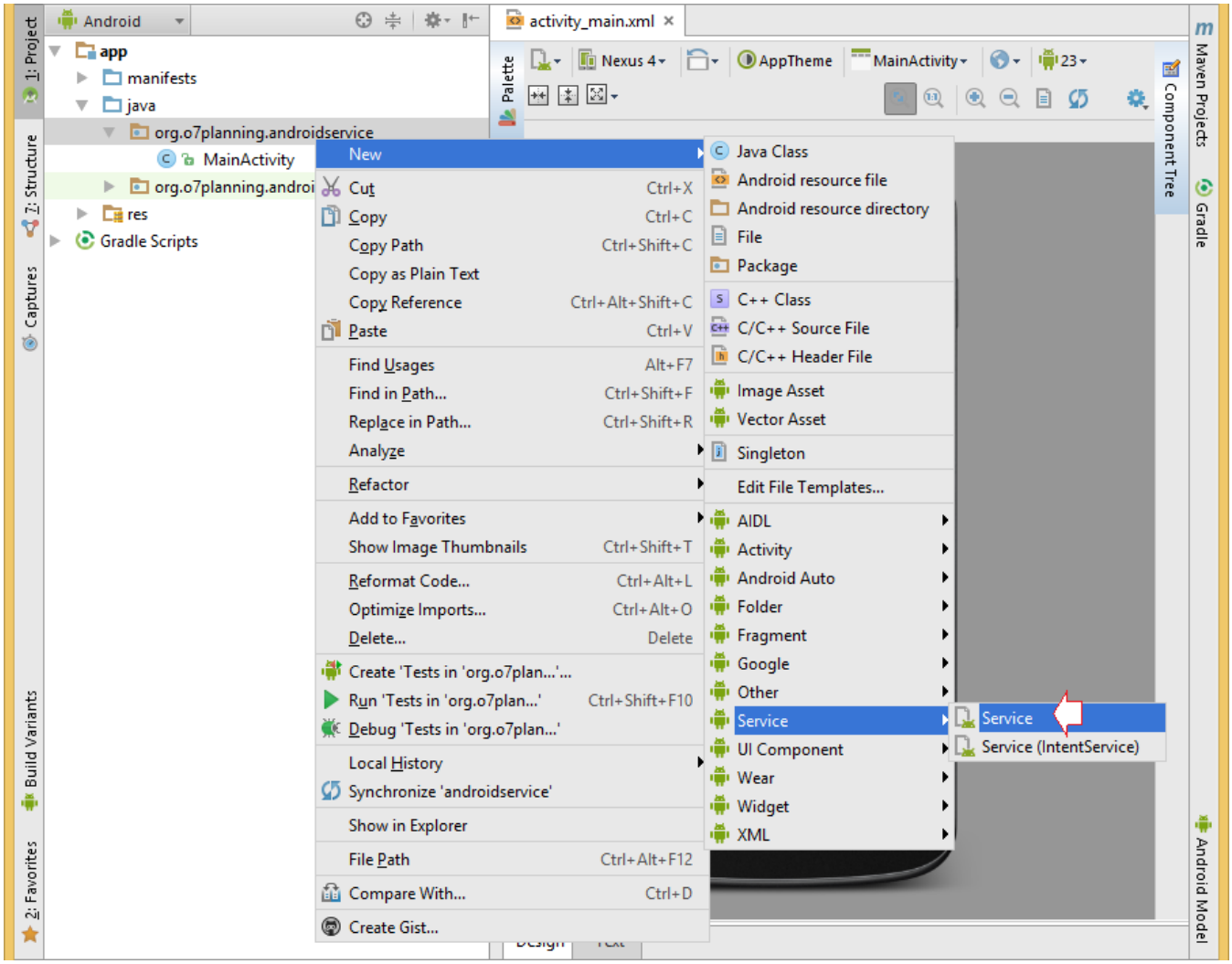
Set **onClick** attribute for button is ***showWeather*** which means that when clicking button, the ***showWeather*** method will be called. We will write this method thereinafter.



Create Service:

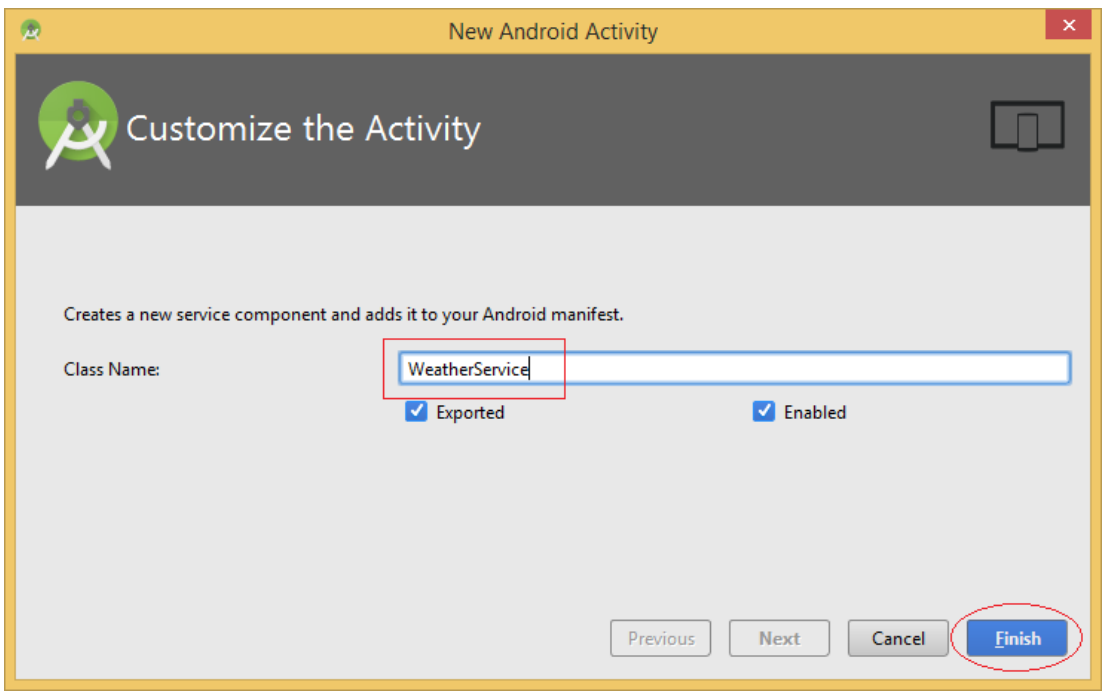
Right-click a **Java package**, select:

- **New/Service/Service**

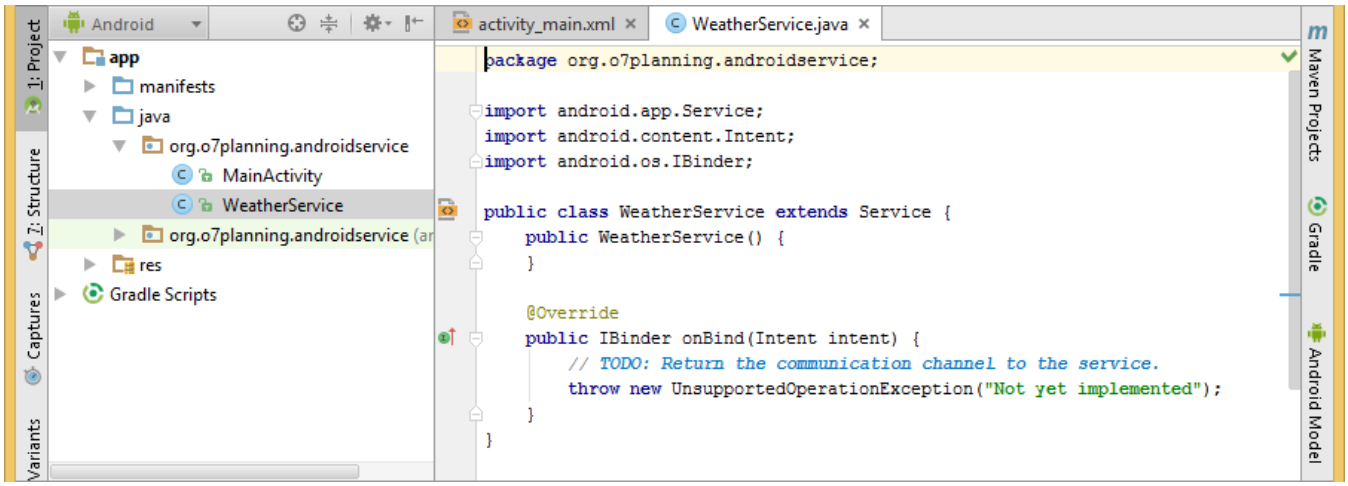


Enter:

- **Class name:** WeatherService



WeatherService class which is extended from **android.app.Service** class.has been created.



WeatherService.java

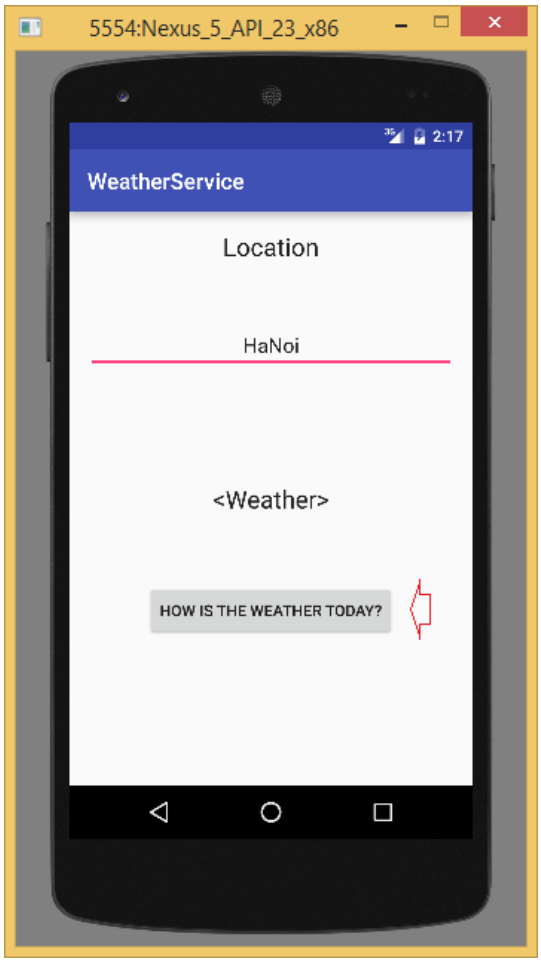
```
package org.o7planning.weatherservice;

import android.app.Service;
import android.content.Intent;
import android.os.Binder;
import android.os.IBinder;
import android.util.Log;


import java.text.DateFormat;
import java.text.SimpleDateFormat;
import java.util.Calendar;
import java.util.Date;
import java.util.HashMap;
import java.util.Map;
import java.util.Random;


public class WeatherService extends Service {

   private static String LOG_TAG = "WeatherService";

   // Store the weather data.
   private static final Map<String, String> weatherData = new HashMap<String,String>();

   private final IBinder binder = new LocalWeatherBinder();

   public class LocalWeatherBinder extends Binder {

      public WeatherService getService()  {
         return WeatherService.this;
      }
   }

   public WeatherService() {
   }

   @Override
   public IBinder onBind(Intent intent) {
      Log.i(LOG_TAG,"onBind");
      return this.binder;
   }

   @Override
   public void onRebind(Intent intent) {
      Log.i(LOG_TAG, "onRebind");
      super.onRebind(intent);
   }

   @Override
   public boolean onUnbind(Intent intent) {
      Log.i(LOG_TAG, "onUnbind");
      return true;
   }

   @Override
   public void onDestroy() {
      super.onDestroy();
      Log.i(LOG_TAG, "onDestroy");
   }

   // Returns the weather information corresponding to the location of the current date.
   public String getWeatherToday(String location) {
      Date now= new Date();
      DateFormat df= new SimpleDateFormat("dd-MM-yyyy");

      String dayString = df.format(now);
      String keyLocAndDay = location + "$"+ dayString;

      String weather=  weatherData.get(keyLocAndDay);
      //
      if(weather != null)  {
         return weather;
      }

      //
      String[] weathers = new String[]{"Rainy", "Hot", "Cool", "Warm" ,"Snowy"};

      // Random value from 0 to 4
      int i= new Random().nextInt(5);

      weather =weathers[i];
      weatherData.put(keyLocAndDay, weather);
```

```
        //
        return weather;
    }


}
```

MainActivity.java

```
package org.o7planning.weatherservice;

import android.content.ComponentName;
import android.content.Context;
import android.content.Intent;
import android.content.ServiceConnection;
import android.os.IBinder;
import android.support.v7.app.AppCompatActivity;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.View;
import android.widget.EditText;
import android.widget.TextView;

public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {


    private boolean binded=false;
    private WeatherService weatherService;

    private TextView weatherText;
    private EditText locationText;

    ServiceConnection weatherServiceConnection = new ServiceConnection() {

        @Override
        public void onServiceConnected(ComponentName name, IBinder service) {
            WeatherService.LocalWeatherBinder binder = (WeatherService.LocalWeatherBinder) service;
            weatherService = binder.getService();
            binded = true;
        }

        @Override
        public void onServiceDisconnected(ComponentName name) {
            binded = false;
        }
    };

    // When the Activity creating its interface.
    @Override
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);


        weatherText = (TextView) this.findViewById(R.id.text_weather);
        locationText = (EditText)this.findViewById(R.id.text_input_location);
    }

    // When Activity starting.
    @Override
    protected void onStart() {
        super.onStart();

        // Create Intent object for WeatherService.
        Intent intent = new Intent(this, WeatherService.class);

        // Call bindService(..) method to bind service with UI.
        this.bindService(intent, weatherServiceConnection, Context.BIND_AUTO_CREATE);
    }

    // Activity stop
    @Override
    protected void onStop() {
        super.onStop();
        if (binded) {
            // Unbind Service
            this.unbindService(weatherServiceConnection);
            binded = false;
        }
    }

    // When user click on 'see weather' button.
    public void showWeather(View view)  {
        String location = locationText.getText().toString();

        String weather= this.weatherService.getWeatherToday(location);

        weatherText.setText(weather);
    }

}
```

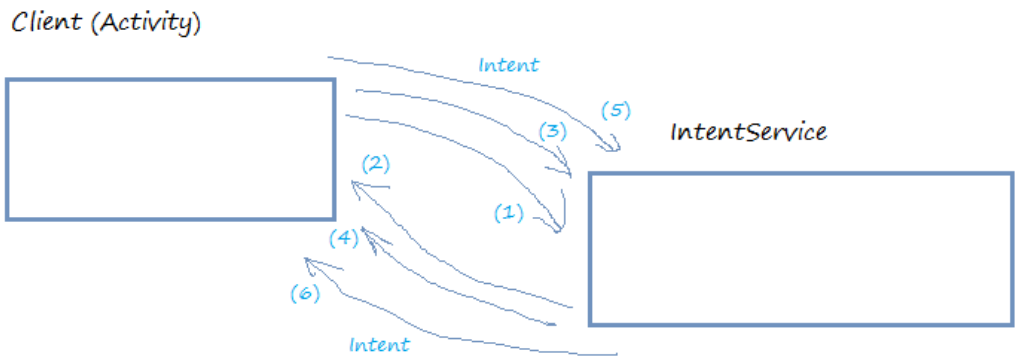
OK, now you can run the application.



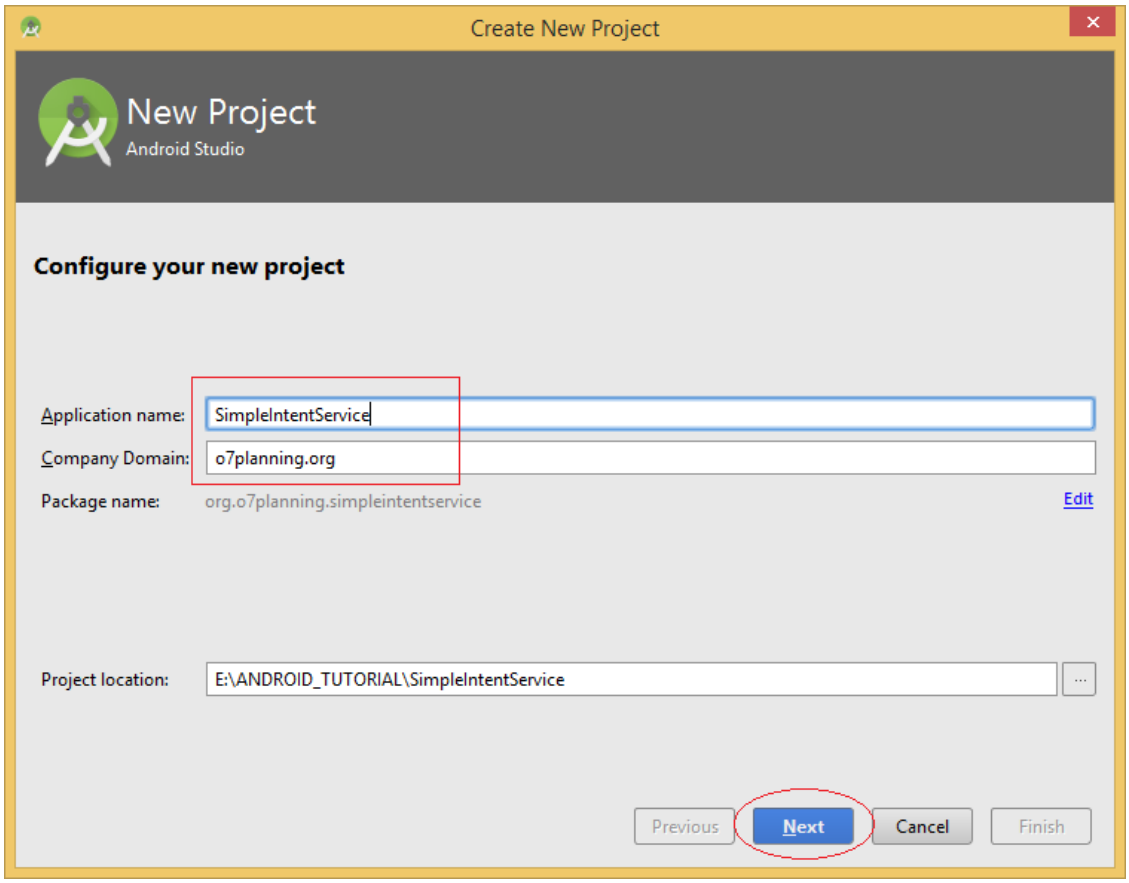
4- IntentService service

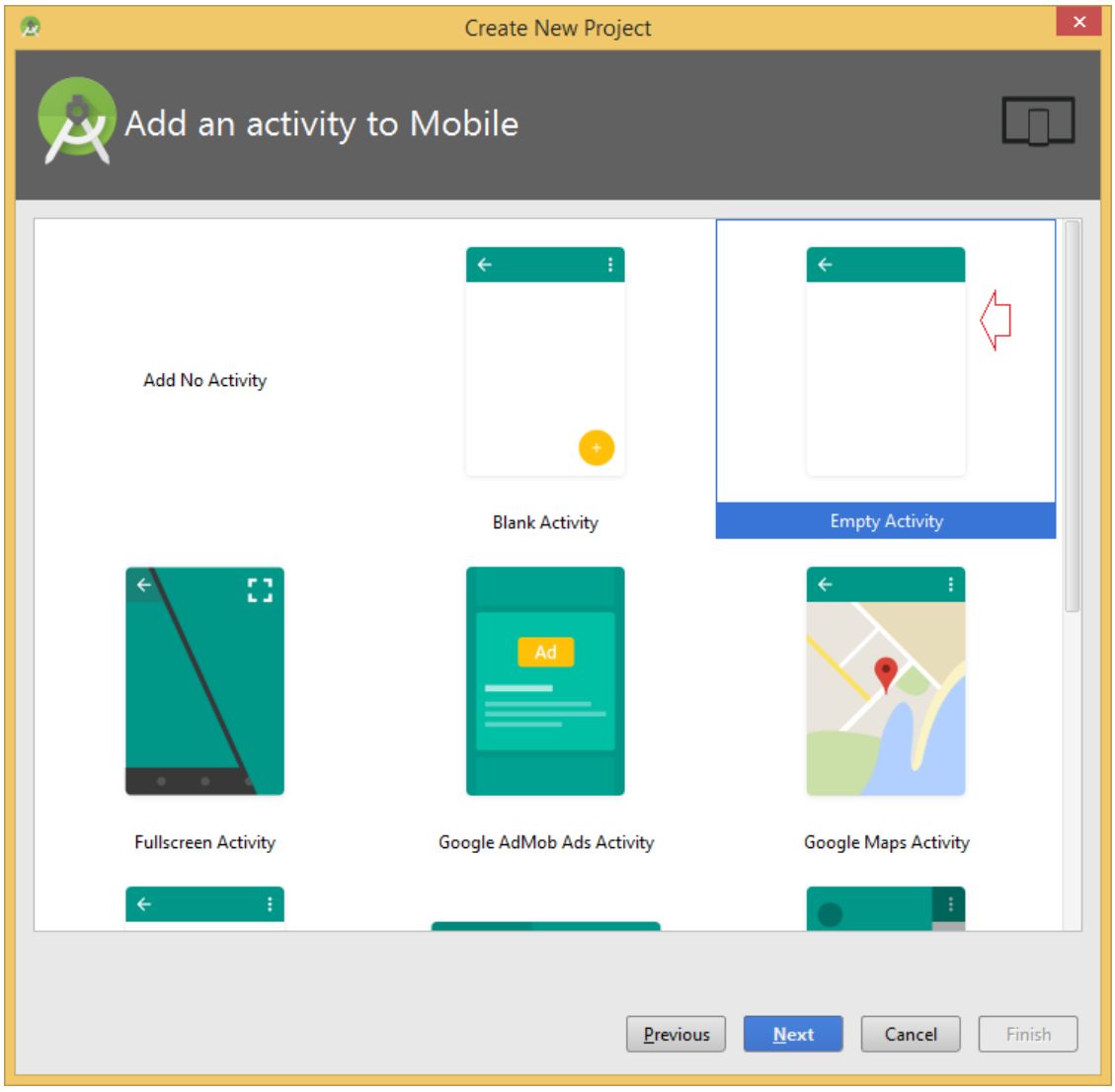
IntentService example:

The below imagine illustrates the communication between Client (**Activity**) and **IntentService**, Client start the service, it sends request through an **Intent** object, the service is run and do their duties, at the same time, it can send information relating to its working situation, for example, how many percentage does it work. At client, you can use **ProgressBar** to display the percentage of work.

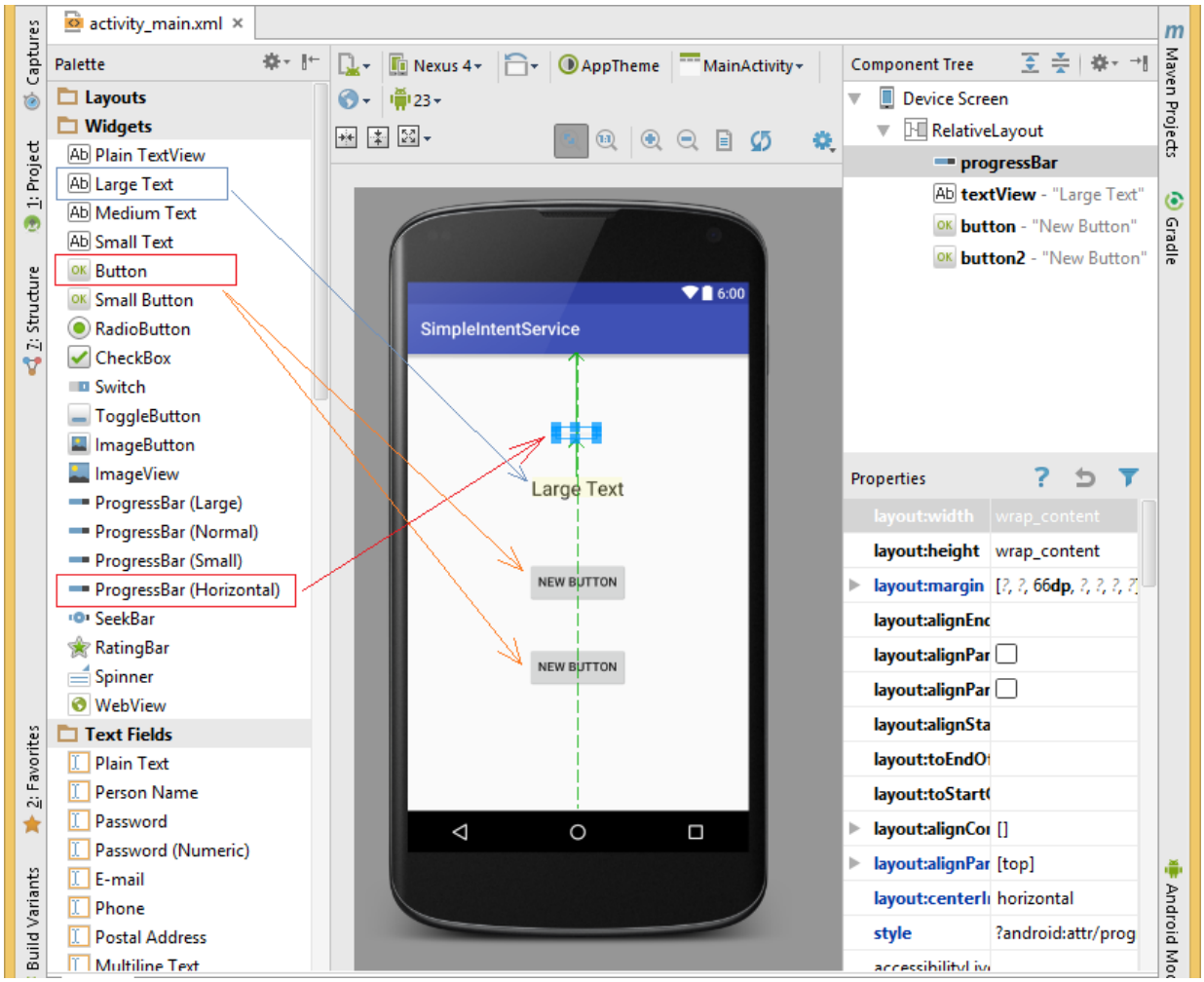


Create **SimpleIntentService** project.

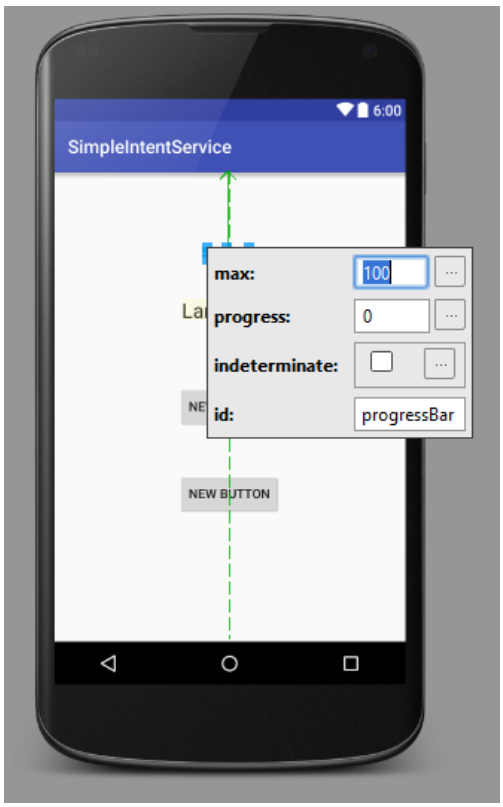




Drag and drop some of the components to UI:



Double-click on **ProgressBar** to change ID and its values.



Set ID and text for components on interfaces.

ProgressBar:

- **ID:** progressBar
- Properties:
  - **layout:width:** fill_parent

TextView

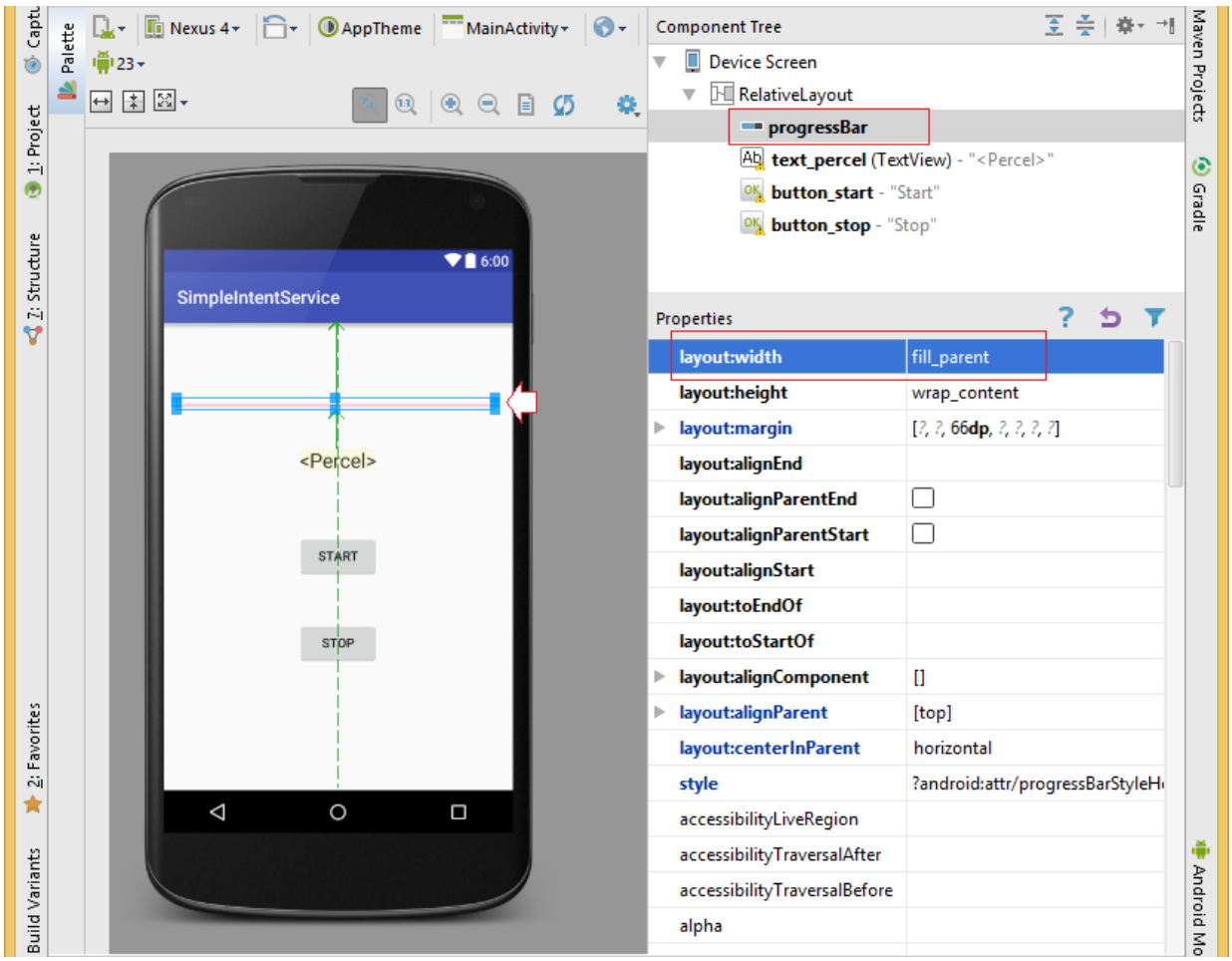
- **ID:** text_percel
- **Text:** <Percel>

Button 1

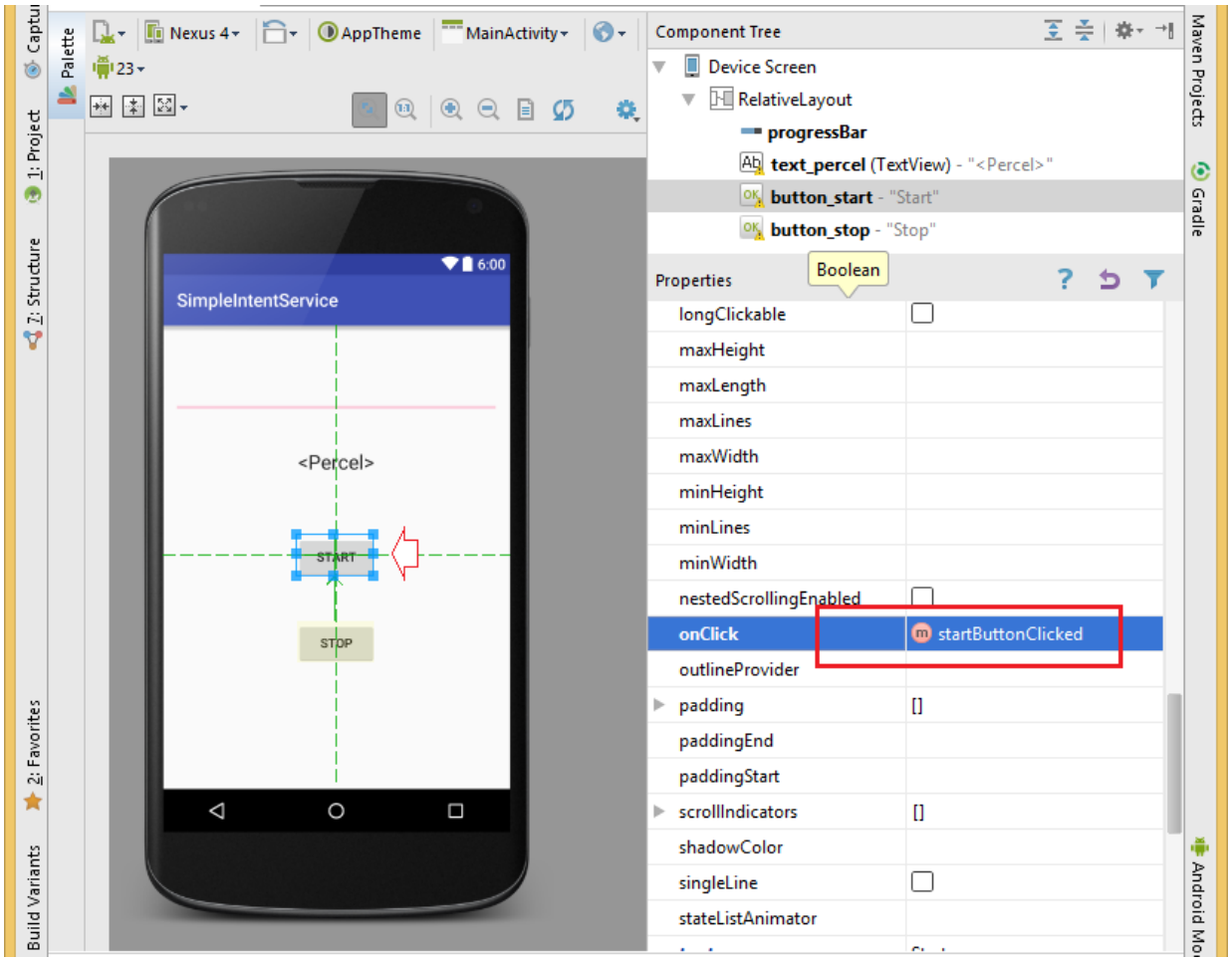
- **ID:** button_start
- **Text:** Start
- **Properties**
  - **onClick:** startButtonClicked

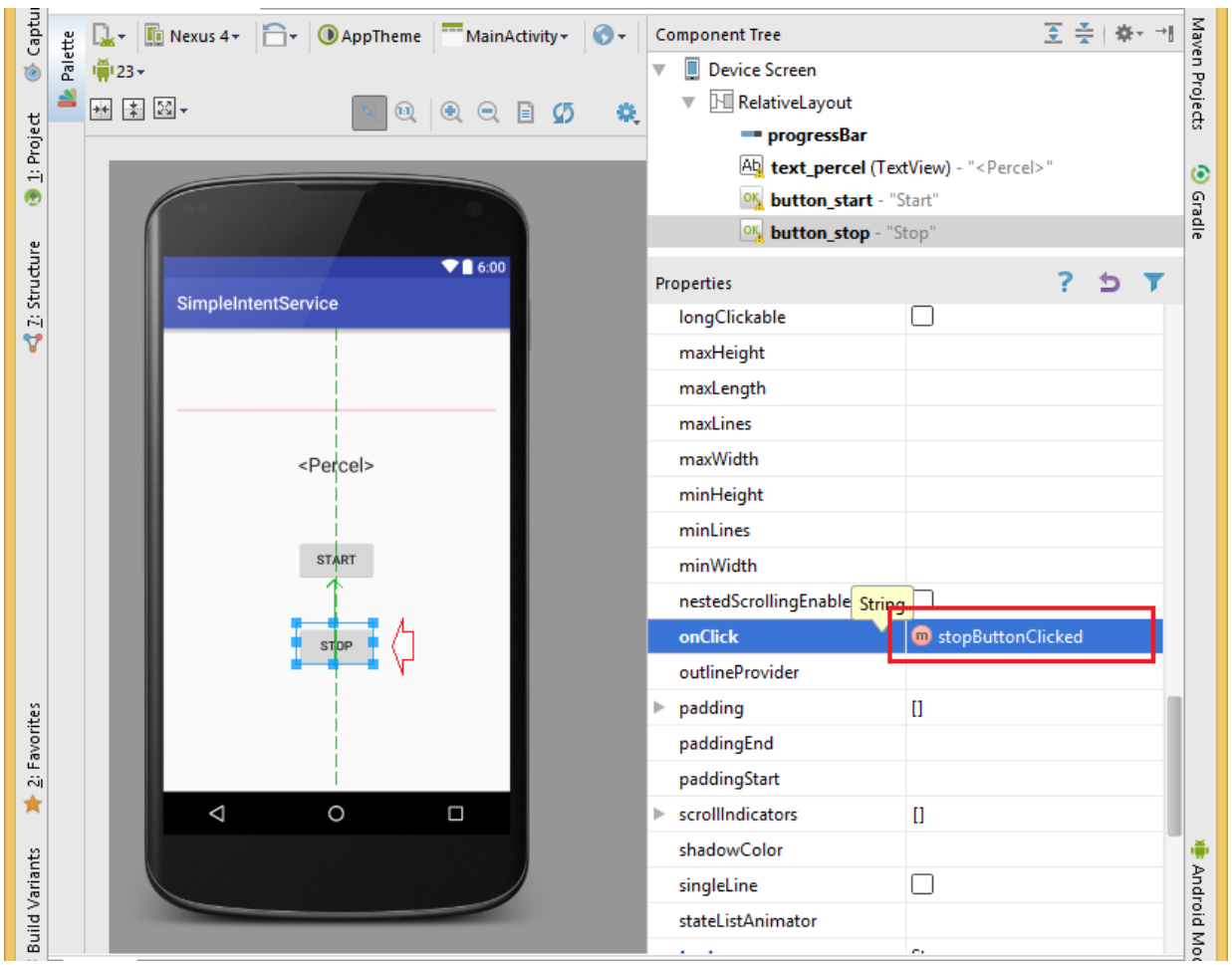
Button 2

- **ID:** button_stop
- **Text:** Stop
- **Properties**
  - **onClick:** stopButtonClicked



Set method that will be called when user clicks to **Start** button





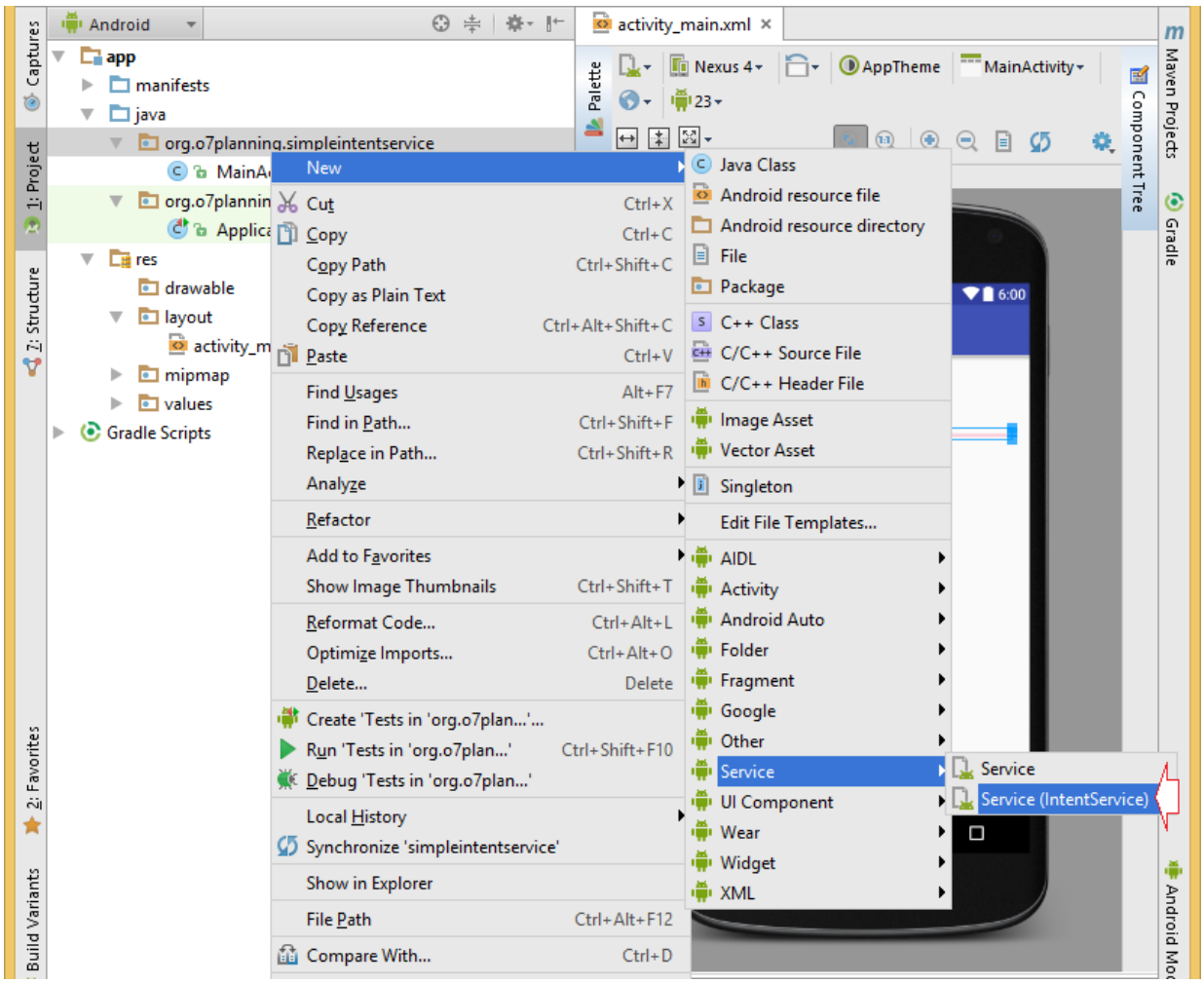
activity_main.xml

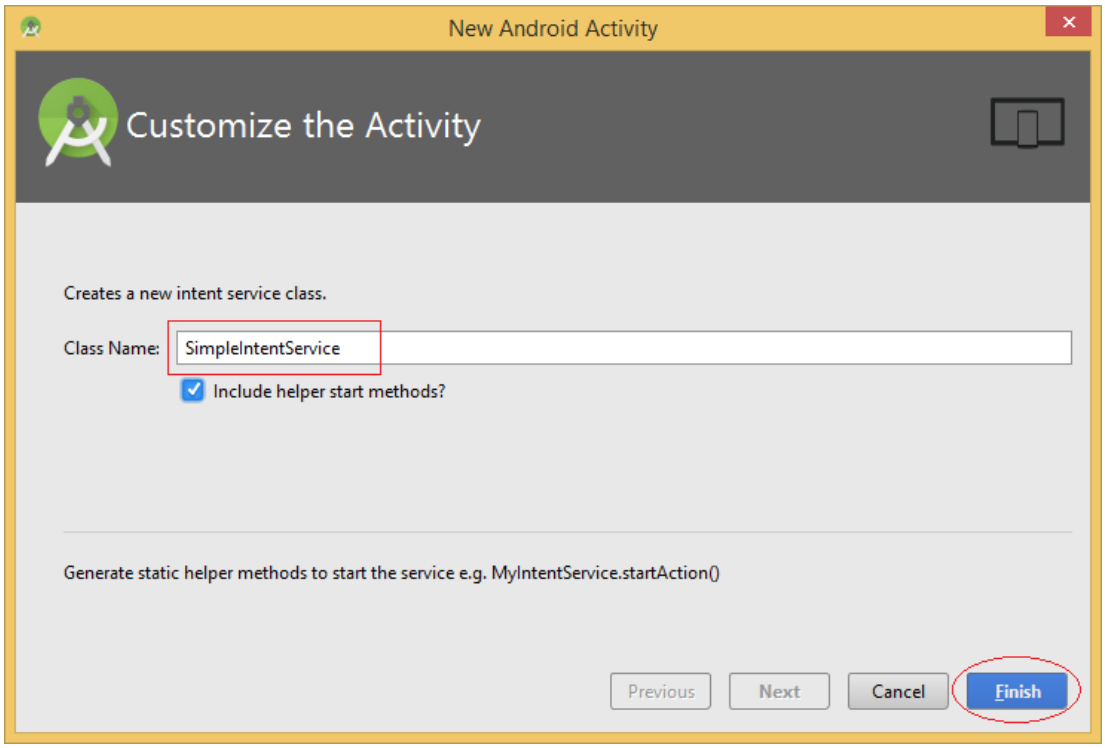
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<RelativeLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    xmlns:tools="http://schemas.android.com/tools" android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent" android:paddingLeft="@dimen/activity_horizontal_margin"
```

```
    android:paddingRight="@dimen/activity_horizontal_margin"
    android:paddingTop="@dimen/activity_vertical_margin"
    android:paddingBottom="@dimen/activity_vertical_margin" tools:context=".MainActivity">

    <ProgressBar
        style="?android:attr/progressBarStyleHorizontal"
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:id="@+id/progressBar"
        android:layout_alignParentTop="true"
        android:layout_centerHorizontal="true"
        android:layout_marginTop="66dp"
        android:indeterminate="false"
        android:max="100"
        android:progress="0" />

    <TextView
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:textAppearance="?android:attr/textAppearanceLarge"
        android:text="&lt;Percel>"
        android:id="@+id/text_percel"
        android:layout_below="@+id/progressBar"
        android:layout_centerHorizontal="true"
        android:layout_marginTop="40dp" />

    <Button
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:text="Start"
        android:id="@+id/button_start"
        android:layout_centerVertical="true"
        android:layout_centerHorizontal="true"
        android:onClick="startButtonClicked" />

    <Button
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:text="Stop"
        android:id="@+id/button_stop"
        android:layout_below="@+id/button_start"
        android:layout_centerHorizontal="true"
        android:layout_marginTop="47dp"
        android:onClick="stopButtonClicked" />

</RelativeLayout>
```

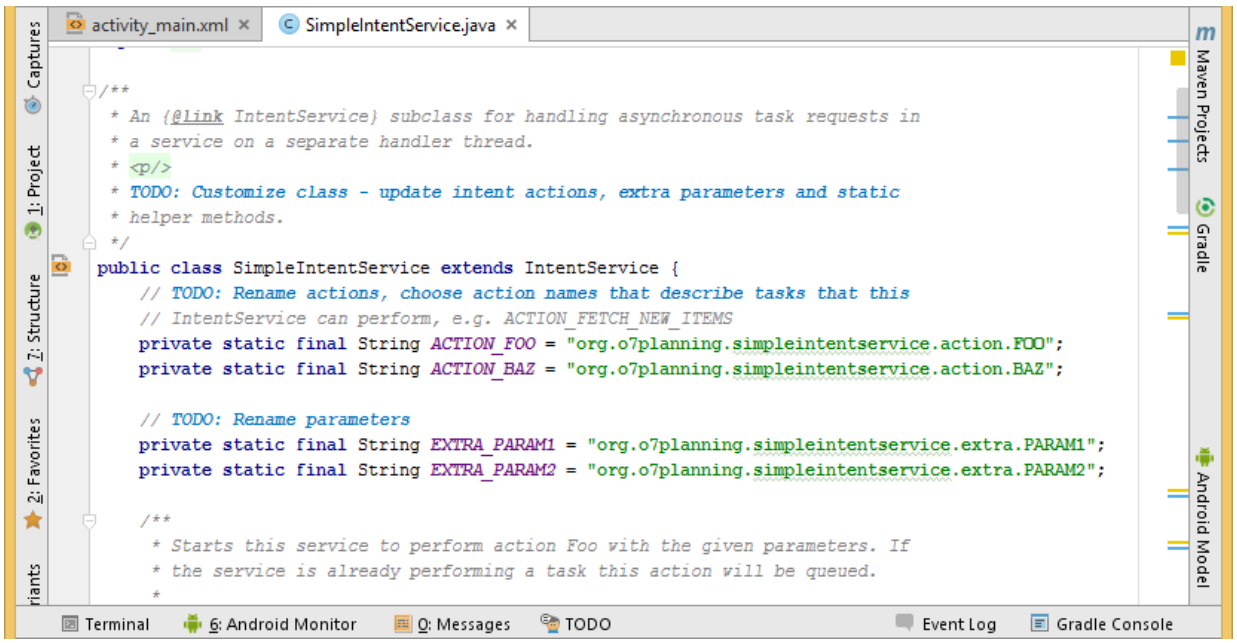
Create **IntentService** by right-clicking to a package, and select:

- New/Service/IntentService





SimpleIntentService has been created, it is also registered with **AndroidManifest.xml**, code generated is a suggestion for you to write a **IntentServic**e, you can erase the code generated.



SimpleIntentService.java

```
1  package org.o7planning.simpleintentservice;
2
3  import android.app.IntentService;
4  import android.content.Intent;
5  import android.os.SystemClock;
6
7
8  public class SimpleIntentService extends IntentService {
9
10   public static final String ACTION_1 ="MY_ACTION_1";
11
12   public SimpleIntentService() {
13      super("SimpleIntentService");
14   }
15
16   @Override
17   protected void onHandleIntent(Intent intent) {
18
19      // Create Intent object (to broadcast).
20      Intent broadcastIntent = new Intent();
21
22      // Set Action name for this Intent.
23      // A Intent can perform many different actions.
24      broadcastIntent.setAction(SimpleIntentService.ACTION_1);
25
26      // Loop 100 times broadcast of Intent.
27      for (int i = 0; i <= 100; i++) {
28
29         // Set data
30         // (Percent of work)
31         broadcastIntent.putExtra("percel", i);
```

```
32
33          // Send broadcast
34          sendBroadcast(broadcastIntent);
35
36          // Sleep 100 Milliseconds.
37          SystemClock.sleep(100);
38       }
39
40    }
41 }
```

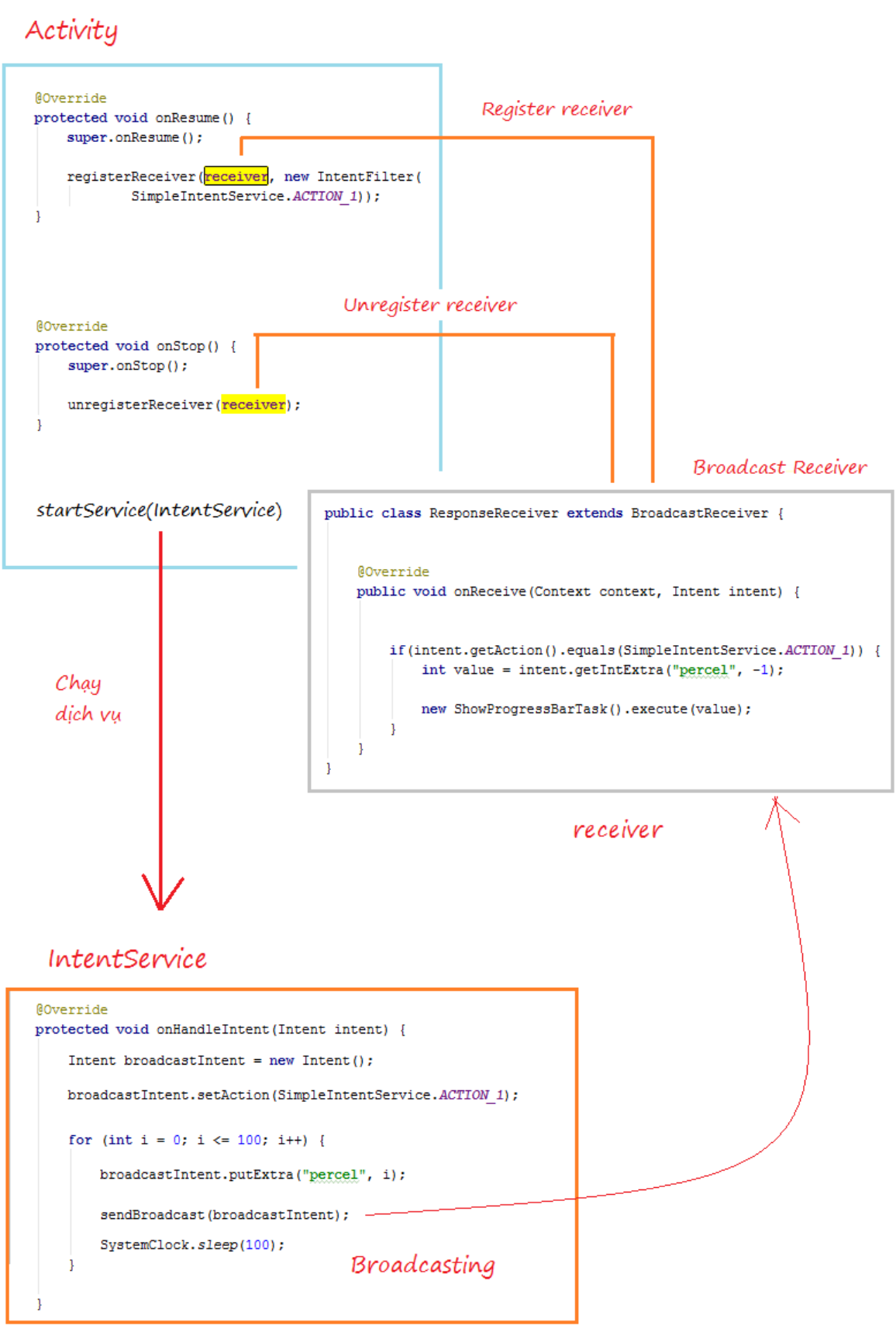
MainActivity.java

```
1  package org.o7planning.simpleintentservice;
2
3  import android.content.BroadcastReceiver;
4  import android.content.Context;
5  import android.content.Intent;
6  import android.content.IntentFilter;
7  import android.os.AsyncTask;
8  import android.support.v7.app.AppCompatActivity;
9  import android.os.Bundle;
10 import android.view.View;
11 import android.widget.Button;
12 import android.widget.ProgressBar;
13 import android.widget.TextView;
14
15 public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {
16
17    private Button startButton;
18    private Button stopButton;
19    private TextView percelText;
20
21    private ProgressBar progressBar;
22
23    private Intent serviceIntent;
24
25    private ResponseReceiver receiver = new ResponseReceiver();
26
27
28    // Broadcast component
29    public class ResponseReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver {
30
31       // on broadcast received
32       @Override
33       public void onReceive(Context context, Intent intent) {
34
35          // Check action name.
36          if(intent.getAction().equals(SimpleIntentService.ACTION_1)) {
37             int value = intent.getIntExtra("percel", -1);
38
39             new ShowProgressBarTask().execute(value);
40          }
41       }
42    }
43
44    // Display value for the ProgressBar.
45    class ShowProgressBarTask extends AsyncTask<Integer, Integer, Integer> {
46
47       @Override
48       protected Integer doInBackground(Integer... args) {
49
50          return args[0];
51       }
52
53       @Override
54       protected void onPostExecute(Integer result) {
55          super.onPostExecute(result);
56
57          progressBar.setProgress(result);
58
59          percelText.setText(result + " % Loaded");
60
61          if (result == 100) {
62             percelText.setText("Completed");
63             startButton.setEnabled(true);
64          }
65
66       }
67    }
68
69    @Override
70    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
71       super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
72       setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
73
74       this.startButton= (Button) this.findViewById(R.id.button_start);
75       this.stopButton = (Button)this.findViewById(R.id.button_stop);
76       this.percelText = (TextView) this.findViewById(R.id.text_percel);
77       this.progressBar = (ProgressBar) this.findViewById(R.id.progressBar);
78    }
79
80
81    @Override
82    protected void onResume() {
83       super.onResume();
84
85       // Register receiver with Activity.
86       registerReceiver(receiver, new IntentFilter(
87             SimpleIntentService.ACTION_1));
88    }
89
90    @Override
91    protected void onStop() {
92       super.onStop();
93
94       // Unregister receiver with Activity.
95       unregisterReceiver(receiver);
96    }
97
98    // Method is called when the user clicks on the Start button.
99    public void startButtonClicked(View view)  {
100      startButton.setEnabled(false);
101
```

```
102         serviceIntent = new Intent(this, SimpleIntentService.class);
103
104         startService(serviceIntent);
105     }
106
107
108     public void stopButtonClicked(View view)  {
109         if(serviceIntent!= null)  {
110             // serviceIntent.get
111         }
112     }
113
114 }
```

- Running the app (View slider):

And you can see the working principle of this example according to the illustration below:



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