Getting Started

The purpose of this document is help you quickly get setup to create Notes for your app.

Notes utilizes XML and a XAML-like syntax, so a familiarity with XML/XAML will allow a user to quickly begin creating notes.

Useful Links:

XML: <http://www.w3schools.com/xml/xml_whatis.asp>

XAML: <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms752059(v=vs.110).aspx>

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## Overview

Notes is a general term to describe the area of the app where a user can follow along with a message using a “digital” version of a paper note they might receive in a bulletin.

It is specifically comprised of two components. The **Note Database** and **Messages**.

## Note Database

The note database is simply an XML document that organizes messages into series. It provides all of the “metadata” that describes names, dates and locations for artwork.

## Messages

The messages are the heart of Notes. It is an XML document that defines how to layout the message that the user will see and interact with. The app parses the XML and renders the UI based on that.

You can think of it very much like an HTML document being used by a web browser to display a webpage.

While messages must be written in XML, we named the collection of elements and attributes you will use to author notes “NoteScript”. This makes it simpler when explaining how to set everything up.

## Contents

This document is only part of the package that will help you get started with Notes. In the package are the following helpful documents:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Getting Started | This document. |
| Note Database Documentation | Read this to understand how to create the “Note Database” referred to above. |
| NoteScript Documentation | When you’re ready to begin writing your own messages, refer to this document. It explains how to author them, and what options are available to you. |
| Sample Setup | This folder contains an example setup you might use for publishing your notes. If desired, you can use this layout as a template to get going. |
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## To Begin

If you’re ready to jump right in, you only need to do the following.

1. Decide where you will host the notes.
2. In the app’s config.cs, under GeneralConfig, edit **NoteBaseUrl** to point to your hosting site.
3. The app will expect a file called “note\_db.xml” at **NoteBaseUrl.** For example, if your hosting site is [www.example.com](http://www.example.com), then the app will expect [www.example.com/note\_db.xml](http://www.example.com/note_db.xml) to exist.
   1. To get started quickly, you can copy and paste the contents of “Sample Setup” onto your hosting site.

At this point, you should be able to run the app and see the series under the “Messages” section. Feel free to begin experimenting with “note\_db.xml” as well as the actual messages.

## Developing Notes

The first thing to do when developing notes is to **enable note developer features** in the app. When you do this, two things are enabled:

1. **Note Refresh –** When viewing a note in the app, you will see a “Refresh” button / link at the top. Tapping this forces the app to re-download the note, allowing you to make on-the-fly edits and view them in the app as any user will see them.
2. **View Private Series and Messages –** When developing a series or message that isn’t ready for the public, you should add the attribute Private=”true” to it. This prevents it from being displayed to users. However, with note developer features enabled, the app will display it to you.

**To enable note developer features:**

Open the app and go to the “Prayer” section.

Tap the “Add Prayer” button in the bottom toolbar.

Leave, or clear out, all fields (First Name, Last Name, Request).

In the request field, type “note developer” (case doesn’t matter).

Tap “Submit”.

You will see a dialog appear confirming that developer features are on.

You can repeat this process to turn developer features off.

**These settings will be saved.** You don’t need to do this every time you run the app.

## Adding a Series

When you’re ready to add a new series, you will open “note\_db.xml” and add a Series element. They display in order, where the app assumes the first series is the newest.

For detailed instructions on how to author a series, see the [Note Database Documentation](Notes%20-%20Database.docx).

## Adding a Message

In any series within “note\_db.xml”, you can add a Message element. Like Series, they display in order, where the app assumes the first message is the newest.

For detailed instructions on how to author a message, see the [Note Database Documentation](Notes%20-%20Database.docx).

## Authoring the Message

You now need to author the actual message that the Series and Message above point to.

With developer features turned on, you can begin editing your message XML.

For detailed instructions on how to write a message, see the [NoteScript Documentation](Notes%20-%20NoteScript.docx).

## Examples

We’ve included quite a few example messages for you in the Sample Setup folder.

They use a variety of NoteScript features, so if you get stuck and are unsure how to accomplish something, take a look at the various files.

Additionally, there is a particular sample titled “full\_sample\_note.xml” that uses nearly every feature NoteScript offers. This can be a great source for just how advanced you can make your messages!