

Working with Tabs

Working with tabs is a common pattern in apps following the Material Design guidelines. Flutter includes a convenient way to create tab layouts as part of the material library.

Directions

1. Create a `TabController`
2. Create the tabs
3. Create content for each tab

1. Create a `TabController`

In order for tabs to work, we'll need to keep the selected tab and content sections in sync. This is the job of the `TabController`.

We can either manually create a `TabController` or use the `DefaultTabController` Widget. Using the `DefaultTabController` is the simplest option, since it will create a `TabController` for us and make it available to all descendant Widgets.

```
new DefaultTabController(  
  // The number of tabs / content sections we need to display  
  length: 3,  
  child: // See the next step!  
);
```

2. Create the tabs

Now that we have a `TabController` to work with, we can create our tabs using the `TabBar` Widget. In this example, we'll create a `TabBar` with 3 `Tab` Widgets and place it within an `AppBar`.

```
new DefaultTabController(  
  length: 3,  
  child: new Scaffold(  
    appBar: new AppBar(  
      bottom: new TabBar(  
        tabs: [  
          new Tab(icon: new Icon(Icons.directions_car)),  
          new Tab(icon: new Icon(Icons.directions_transit)),  
          new Tab(icon: new Icon(Icons.directions_bike)),  
        ],  
      ),  
    ),  
  ),  
);
```

```
    ),
  ),
);
```

By default, the `TabBar` looks up the Widget tree for the nearest `DefaultTabController`. If you're manually creating a `TabController`, you'll need to pass it to the `TabBar`.

3. Create content for each tab

Now that we have tabs, we'll want to display content when a tab is selected. For this purpose, we'll employ the `TabBarView` Widget.

Note: Order is important and must correspond to the order of the tabs in the `TabBar` !

```
new TabBarView(
  children: [
    new Icon(Icons.directions_car),
    new Icon(Icons.directions_transit),
    new Icon(Icons.directions_bike),
  ],
);
```

Complete Example

```
import 'package:flutter/material.dart';

void main() {
  runApp(new TabBarDemo());
}

class TabBarDemo extends StatelessWidget {
  @override
  Widget build(BuildContext context) {
    return new MaterialApp(
      home: new DefaultTabController(
        length: 3,
        child: new Scaffold(
          appBar: new AppBar(
            bottom: new TabBar(
              tabs: [
                new Tab(icon: new Icon(Icons.directions_car)),
                new Tab(icon: new Icon(Icons.directions_transit)),
                new Tab(icon: new Icon(Icons.directions_bike)),
              ],
            ),
          ),
        ),
      ),
    );
  }
}
```

```
        title: new Text('Tabs Demo'),
      ),
      body: new TabBarView(
        children: [
          new Icon(Icons.directions_car),
          new Icon(Icons.directions_transit),
          new Icon(Icons.directions_bike),
        ],
      ),
    ),
  );
}
```

