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Homework 6

One issue I had to overcome was a ClassCastException when attempting to fetch the port from the settings UI. To fix this, I had the default values all be strings, and parse out an integer from it instead of using the SharedPreferences' getInt() method.

Another issue I ran into was creating instances of the manager from the service class. This caused an issue because, at some point down the stack, the context was cast to Activity, which ChatService does not extend. I was able to fix this by allowing the SimpleQueryBuilder calls to accept a Context object instead of an Activity, and calling Looper.prepare() when the receiver thread was started. However, this then didn't work. My callbacks on the background thread weren't executing. After discussing with the professor, I switched from async to synchronus queries when executing on the background thread.

I also made the constants in SendHandler private, since nothing outside of the outer class needs access to the data.

Lastly, I had to slightly modify the view_peer view in order for it to display properly.

I'm glad we finally got to the point where we moved network operations to a background thread. This is an important part of Android programming, and I'm glad we've learned it.

As always, this assignment was a fair amount of work, and I learned a lot while doing so.

I was able to accomplish everything outlined in the assignment description and rubric.