

E-Course Maker iOS Starter Kit

v.2



Description

E-Course Maker is the perfect starter kit to create full-featured iPad learning apps without writing a single line of code.

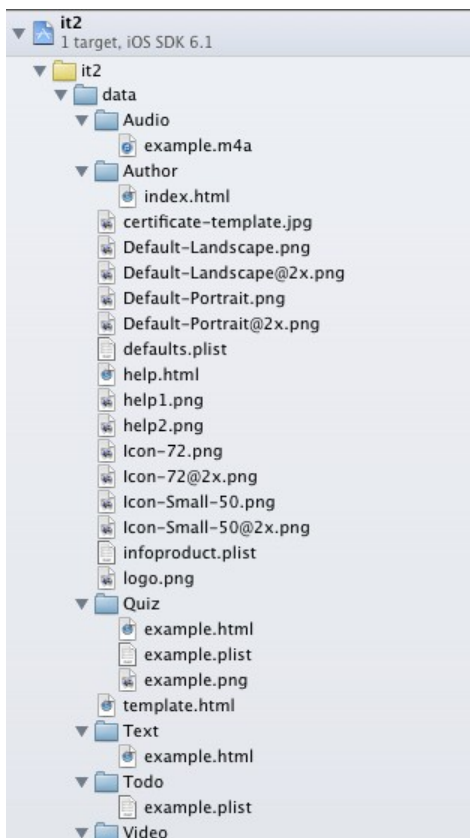
The E-Course Maker project has the following features:

- **Zero-code needed:** designed so you won't have to write a single Objective C line. Just edit the configuration files, bring in your audio, video and html files and you are done.
- Supports iOS 5.0 to 6.1 devices: iPad 2, 3, 4, iPad mini, iPhone 4, 5, iPod touch 4, 5.
- **Universal App**, iPad and iPhone support in one application.
- E-course content defined in plain xml .plist files, easy to edit visually with XCode's built-in editor.
- **Ad support.** Monetize your application with AdMob account.
- **In app purchase support.** You can provide part of your course for free and other chapters only after purchasing.
- **5 types of learning content:** video, audio, text (with decoration and images support), quiz and todo list
- **Dynamic:** any number of chapters and any number of files in each chapter
- **Video player:** App remembers the current position for every video file
- **Audio player** with ability to play 2x faster and 2x slower
- **Text files** (HTML format with text coloring and images) App remembers the current position for every file
- **Quiz** supports unlimited number of questions
- **ToDo list** supports unlimited number of tasks
- **Make very small application.** All you video/audio content can be hosted on your server. User can download content of course for offline usage.
- **Beautiful:** select one of 9 color schemes, or easily make you own scheme
- **Ready for localization.** There are English and Russian localizations.
- **Cross promotion** page for other your applications.



How to make an e-course

All e-course data contained in the 'data' folder of XCode project. You can see demo project files in the picture.



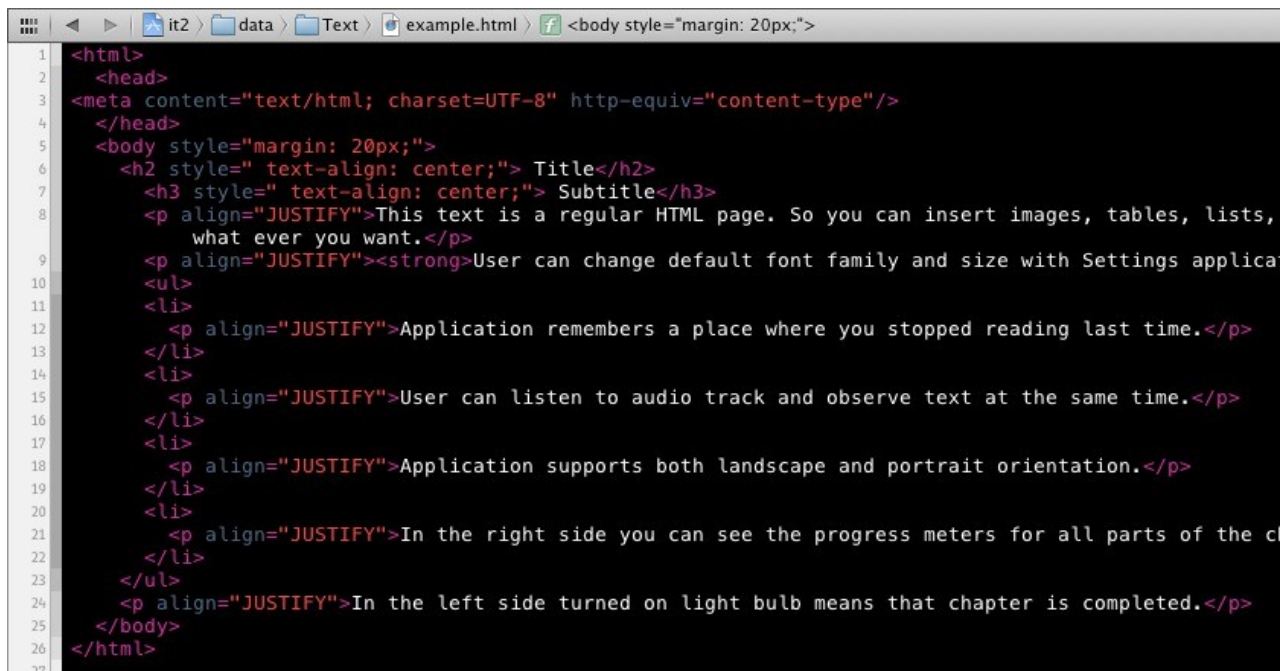
Firstly you should replace app icons and splash screens with your own files. Demo project contains these files from one of the real e-courses.

Then you should copy your video and audio files into appropriate subfolders. If your e-course doesn't have any audio or video files then leave these folders empty. Any way you

can make an e-course without audio and video.

Tip: you can host your video/audio file on your own server. Files have to be in format supported by Quick Time. YouTube, Vimeo and other video hostings aren't supported.

Next step: you should add text files if you have any. Text files are regular HTML, so you can add images, tables, text decorations and what ever you want.

A screenshot of an XCode editor window. The title bar shows the file path: 'it2 > data > Text > example.html'. The code is written in HTML and includes various styling attributes like 'text-align: center;' and 'align="JUSTIFY"'. The code is as follows:

```
1 <html>
2 <head>
3 <meta content="text/html; charset=UTF-8" http-equiv="content-type"/>
4 </head>
5 <body style="margin: 20px;">
6 <h2 style=" text-align: center;"> Title</h2>
7 <h3 style=" text-align: center;"> Subtitle</h3>
8 <p align="JUSTIFY">This text is a regular HTML page. So you can insert images, tables, lists,
  what ever you want.</p>
9 <p align="JUSTIFY"><strong>User can change default font family and size with Settings applica
10 <ul>
11 <li>
12 <p align="JUSTIFY">Application remembers a place where you stopped reading last time.</p>
13 </li>
14 <li>
15 <p align="JUSTIFY">User can listen to audio track and observe text at the same time.</p>
16 </li>
17 <li>
18 <p align="JUSTIFY">Application supports both landscape and portrait orientation.</p>
19 </li>
20 <li>
21 <p align="JUSTIFY">In the right side you can see the progress meters for all parts of the c
22 </li>
23 </ul>
24 <p align="JUSTIFY">In the left side turned on light bulb means that chapter is completed.</p>
25 </body>
26 </html>
```

In the image you can see an example text file opened in XCode. Use any HTML editor to make your text files and copy them into the 'Text' subfolder.

Text files also can be placed on your own server.

Note: e-course help also is a regular HTML file. But it is in the 'data' folder, not in any subfolder. So make your help file and any graphics for it and copy files into 'data'.

About page: is a page about you and your e-course. It is in 'Author' subfolder and have to be 'index.html'

E-course help and about page can't be placed on any server.

Next step: making quizzes.

In the picture you see an example quiz. Quiz is an array with questions and answers. Each array item contains a string 'question', one string 'answer' (it's the right answer) and one to three wrong answers (strings 'a1' to 'a3').

Key	Type	Value
▼ Root	Array	(3 items)
▼ Item 0	Dictionary	(5 items)
question	String	Why should you start an online store right now?
answer	String	Because it's cool!
a1	String	Because I can earn a lot of money in two weeks!
a2	String	Because I hate my current job
a3	String	Because it's not harder than to open a can of cola
▼ Item 1	Dictionary	(5 items)
question	String	example.png
answer	String	Oh, it's an image instead a question text!
a1	String	I think it should be a picture not an image...
a2	String	No, it's a painting, I'm sure!
a3	String	Ok, guys. It's a visual representation of information.
▼ Item 2	Dictionary	(5 items)
question	String	example.html
answer	String	Yes, it's a nice HTML page!
a1	String	No, this is just a text box
a2	String	I think, it's an UILabel
a3	String	Oh, I don't know what is it

The right answer and the wrong answers will be placed in random positions each time when user have started the quiz.

Quiz can contain unlimited number of questions. Questions are shown in random order.

Instead of text question you can use a picture or HTML file. Just place a file in 'Quiz' subfolder and write its name as value of 'question'.

Tip: You can place that picture or HTML file on your server. In that case just write full URL of the file in 'question' field. Quiz's plist file also can be on your server.

Next step: making ToDo lists.

Key	Type	Value
▼ Root	➕ Array	⬆ (3 items)
Item 0	String	Rate E-Course Maker iOS Starter Kit for 5 stars!
Item 1	String	Write a positive comment to E-Course Maker iOS Starter Kit
Item 2	String	Write an e-mail to Vasiliy Makarov: drmoriarty.0@gmail.com

In the picture you see an example of todo list. The list can contain unlimited number of tasks. Each task is a string with description - what user should to do after studying this chapter.

ToDo lists are very useful if your e-course contains practical steps to achieve a goal. You can combine all practical things into the one list, so user won't forget about them.

User can mark each task with one of 4 states: new task, the task have been started, the task was complete, I have had a trouble with this task.

Tip: Todo's plist file can be placed on your server.



In-App purchase.

In order to use in-app purchase you should configure a purchase for your application and put it name into e-course settings. (See 'Assembling them together' part)

In-app purchasing feature is optional.

Ad support.

In order to use ads in you application you should register at <http://admob.com> and configure your advertizing.

Your AdMob identifier you should put into e-course settings. (See 'Assembling them together' part)

Ad support feature is optional.

Parse account.

Parse account is necessary for e-couse maker. You should register (for free) at <http://parse.com> and make an application. You should put your Application Id and Client Key into e-course settings. (See 'Assembling them together' part)

For your new application you should make several tables. Go to data browser and add additional columns in **User** table as shown in the picture:

test

Analytics

Data Browser

Cloud Code

Push Notifications

Settings

Classes

+ Row

- Row

+ Col

More

Role	<div><div></div><div>0</div></div>	authData	authData	emailVerified	Boolean	additional	String	certificate	File	email	String	fullname	String
User	<div><div></div><div>1</div></div>	(undefined)		(undefined)		Vasily Makarov		certificate.png		dmoriarty.0@gmail.com		Vasily Makarov	
moreApps	<div><div></div><div>1</div></div>												
result	<div><div></div><div>16</div></div>												

moreApps table is a list of your application for cross promotion feature.

test

Analytics

Data Browser

Cloud Code

Push Notifications

Settings

Classes

+ Row

- Row

+ Col

More

Role

0

User

1

moreApps

1

result

16

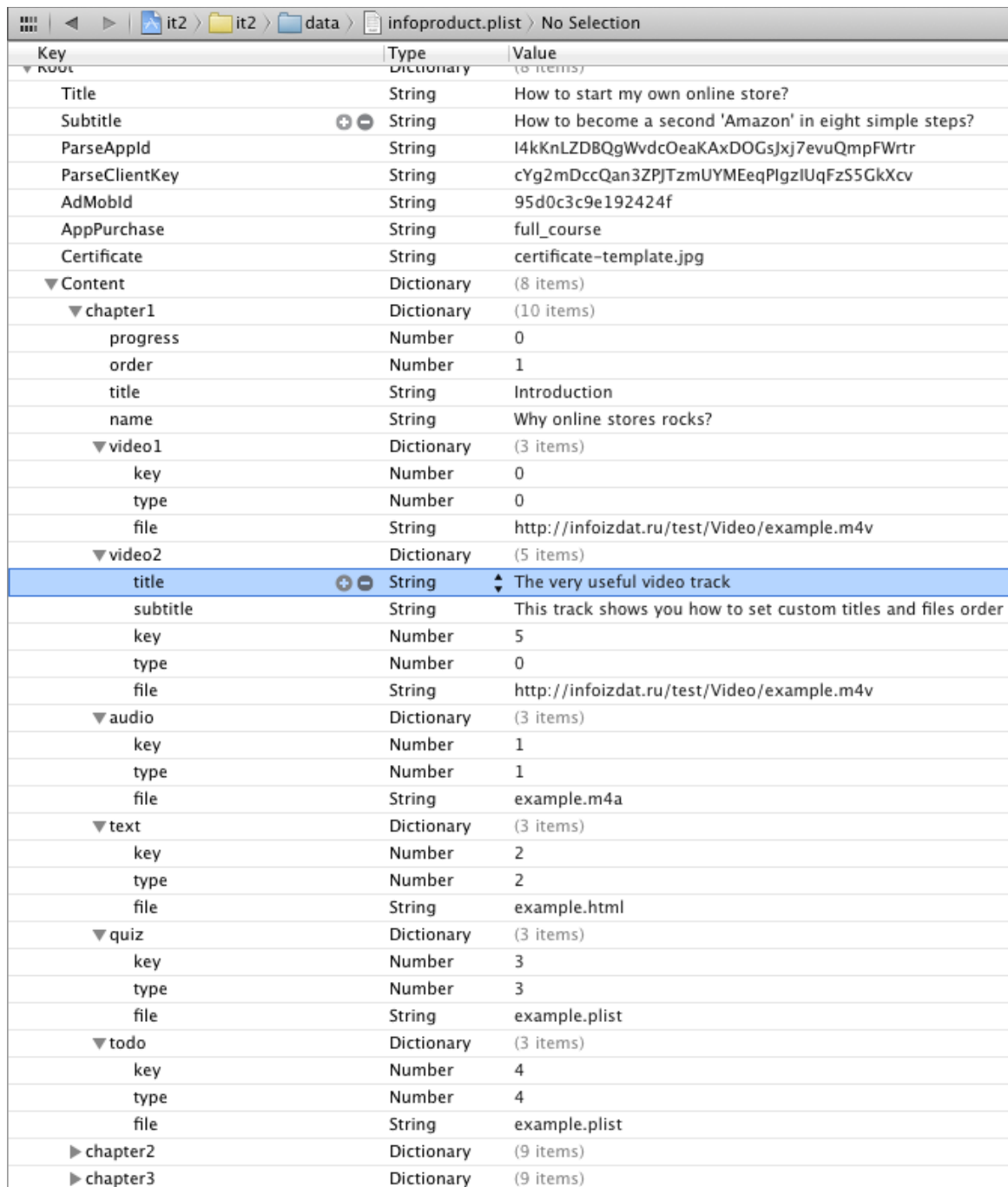
action	String	appType	String	comment	String	image	File	title	String	url	String
Free!		Business		How to start your own...		icon-72.png		Start e-shop!		itms-apps://itunes.app...	

result is a place for your students results.

test		Analytics	Data Browser	Cloud Code	Push Notifications	Settings
Classes		+ Row - Row + Col More				
Role	0	<input type="checkbox"/> objectId Stri...	chapter String	contentType String	progress Number	user Pointer<_User>
User	1	<input type="checkbox"/> KEziNcRQIX	Chapter six	Todo	100	mpAL7XfFp9
moreApps	1	<input type="checkbox"/> 3kxiHqGnCd	Chapter six	Quiz	100	mpAL7XfFp9
result	16	<input type="checkbox"/> VjOUaVoVku	Chapter five	Todo	100	mpAL7XfFp9
		<input type="checkbox"/> 3ENPBHIZSe	Chapter five	Quiz	100	mpAL7XfFp9
		<input type="checkbox"/> oTtIUc0Ba	Chapter four	Todo	66	mpAL7XfFp9
		<input type="checkbox"/> SKaLzWsoTv	Chapter four	Quiz	100	mpAL7XfFp9
		<input type="checkbox"/> AfjHbZFy1B	Second part of chapte...	Todo	100	mpAL7XfFp9
		<input type="checkbox"/> a2nAHRkOuw	Second part of chapte...	Quiz	100	mpAL7XfFp9

The last step. Assembling them together.

Now you are ready to the last step - combining all content into the e-course.



Key	Type	Value
Root	Dictionary	(8 items)
Title	String	How to start my own online store?
Subtitle	String	How to become a second 'Amazon' in eight simple steps?
ParseAppId	String	I4kKnLZDBQgWvdcOeaKAXDOGsJxj7evuQmpFWrtr
ParseClientKey	String	cYg2mDccQan3ZPJTzmUYMEeqPlgzIUqFzS5GkXcv
AdMobId	String	95d0c3c9e192424f
AppPurchase	String	full_course
Certificate	String	certificate-template.jpg
Content	Dictionary	(8 items)
chapter1	Dictionary	(10 items)
progress	Number	0
order	Number	1
title	String	Introduction
name	String	Why online stores rocks?
video1	Dictionary	(3 items)
key	Number	0
type	Number	0
file	String	http://infoizdat.ru/test/Video/example.m4v
video2	Dictionary	(5 items)
title	String	The very useful video track
subtitle	String	This track shows you how to set custom titles and files order
key	Number	5
type	Number	0
file	String	http://infoizdat.ru/test/Video/example.m4v
audio	Dictionary	(3 items)
key	Number	1
type	Number	1
file	String	example.m4a
text	Dictionary	(3 items)
key	Number	2
type	Number	2
file	String	example.html
quiz	Dictionary	(3 items)
key	Number	3
type	Number	3
file	String	example.plist
todo	Dictionary	(3 items)
key	Number	4
type	Number	4
file	String	example.plist
chapter2	Dictionary	(9 items)
chapter3	Dictionary	(9 items)

As you can see, all information about your files contained in the 'infoproduct.plist' file.

Important application settings are:

- Your course title and subtitle.
- ParseAppId and ParseClientKey are required keys. You should register at

<http://parse.com> in order to get them.

- AdMobId is an optional key. If you want to monetize your e-course you should register at <http://admob.com> and fill in your advertizing ID into e-course settings.
- AppPurchase is an optional key. If you want to provide part of your course for free and another part for money you should make in-app purchase in your iTunes Connect account. Then fill in in-app purchase ID into e-couse settings.
Note: you can use both ads and in-app purchasing in one application. By default ads will be disabled when in-app purchase would completed.
- Certificate is a name of file for making certificates for your students. This key is optional. If you want to make certificates you should place a certificate template in 'data' folder and write name of this file into e-couse settings.
- SaveVideoToCameraRoll flag allows to user save video files into the camera roll. If you don't want to let user save video files just set this parameter to NO.

First of all, you should write your e-course title and subtitle into the appropriate fields. In the 'Content' dictionary you can make unlimited number of chapters. Each chapter have 'title' and 'name' (which really means subtitle). You should make a number 'progress' with value 0 for available chapter and -1 for locked one. Locked chapters can be opened only after complete in-app purchasing. Field 'order' defines the order of chapters. Usually you should write order = 1 for chapter1, order = 2 for chapter2 and so on.

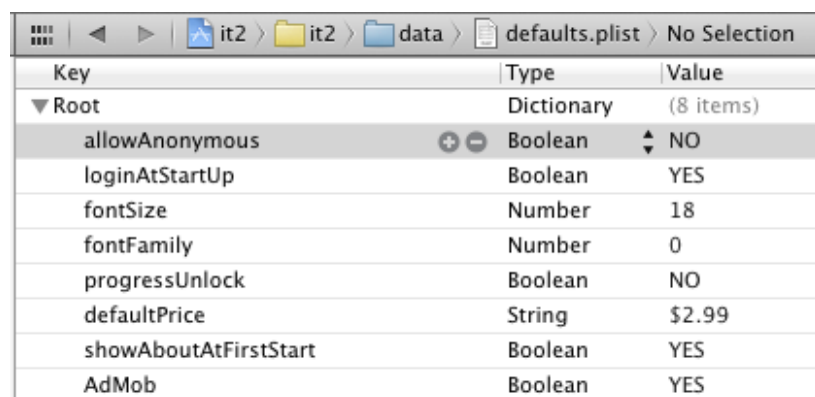
Also chapter contains the descriptions of e-course files. Each file block ('video', 'audio', 'text', 'quiz' and 'todo') have several values: type, file (which can be an URL), key and optional values – title and subtitle. Type value means: 0 for video files, 1 for audio files, 2 for text files, 3 for quiz and 4 for todo list. File name is a name of file without any path or it is a complete URL if this file is placed on your server. Key determines the block's order and identifies a block in the chapter. So key should be unique within the chapter.

If you don't set title and subtitle the default ones will be used.

After making 'infoproduct.plist' you can run your project.

Other application settings

Several application settings are in the defaults.plist file.

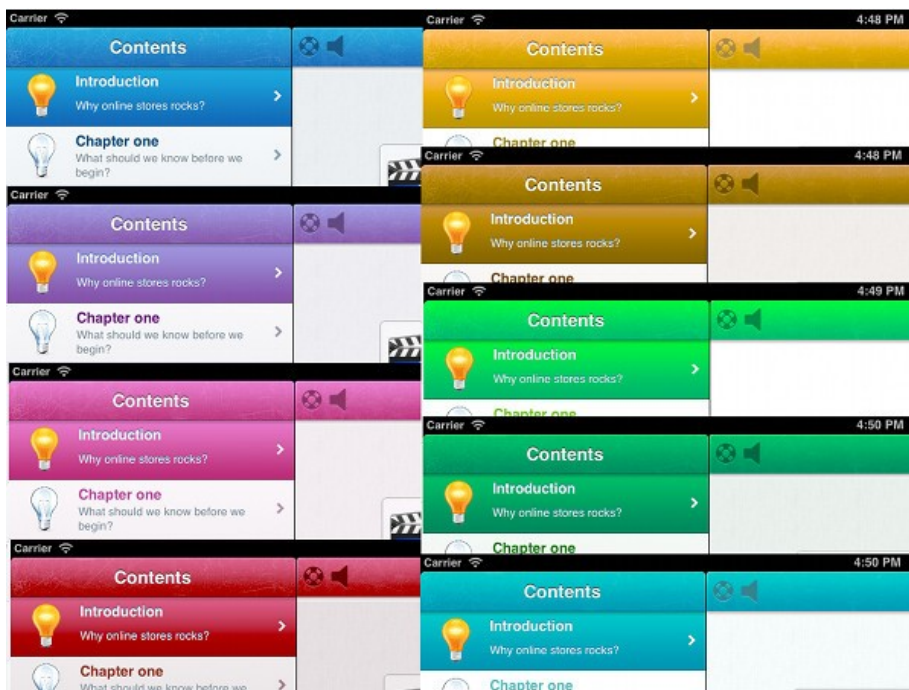


Key	Type	Value
▼ Root	Dictionary	(8 items)
allowAnonymous	Boolean	NO
loginAtStartup	Boolean	YES
fontSize	Number	18
fontFamily	Number	0
progressUnlock	Boolean	NO
defaultPrice	String	\$2.99
showAboutAtFirstStart	Boolean	YES
AdMob	Boolean	YES

- If allowAnonymous is YES user can dismiss login view. In this case user will be anonymous and you will not get any information about they progress.

- If `loginAtStartUp` is NO user will be anonymous by default. In order to login user should press Login button in application settings.
Note: user credentials are stored in the cache, so user doesn't have to write his password all time when they've started the application.
- `fontSize` and `fontFamily` is a default font settings for text files. User can change this values in application settings.
- If `progressUnlock` in YES one chapter will be unlocked all time when user have completed new quiz. So you can lock all chapters exclude the first one to make your student complete quiz in order to move to another chapter.
- `defaultPrice` is used in in-app purchasing screen. Usually application gets purchasing information from itunes and shows actual price. But if there is a connection problem the default price will be used.
- If `showAboutAtFirstStart` is YES then application will show 'About' window at first start.
- If `AdMob` is NO advertizing is disabled. This key automatically become NO when in-app purchasing have completed.

Finally, you can change color scheme for your e-course. In the picture you can see 9 prepared color schemes.



To change the color scheme just uncomment one line in the AppDelegate.m

```
//self.colorSwitcher = [[ColorSwitcher alloc]
initWithScheme:@"blue"];
//self.colorSwitcher = [[ColorSwitcher alloc]
initWithScheme:@"magenta"];
//self.colorSwitcher = [[ColorSwitcher alloc]
```

```
initWithScheme:@"pink"];  
//self.colorSwitcher = [[ColorSwitcher alloc]  
initWithScheme:@"red"];  
//self.colorSwitcher = [[ColorSwitcher alloc]  
initWithScheme:@"yellow"];  
//self.colorSwitcher = [[ColorSwitcher alloc]  
initWithScheme:@"brown"];  
//self.colorSwitcher = [[ColorSwitcher alloc]  
initWithScheme:@"acid"];  
self.colorSwitcher = [[ColorSwitcher alloc]  
initWithScheme:@"green"];  
//self.colorSwitcher = [[ColorSwitcher alloc]  
initWithScheme:@"aqua"];
```

Apps built with this project

[How to start your online store \(in Russian\)](#)

