

Xamarin University

Android 101 //


Intro to Android with Xamarin Studio

- ▶ Lecture will begin shortly
- ▶ Download class materials from university.xamarin.com

Xamarin University

Objectives

1. Create a Xamarin.Android application in Xamarin Studio
2. Use the Xamarin.Android Designer to add controls to a UI
3. Implement app behavior in C# code-behind
4. Code two screens and navigate between them
5. Use Resources to incorporate custom labels and icons

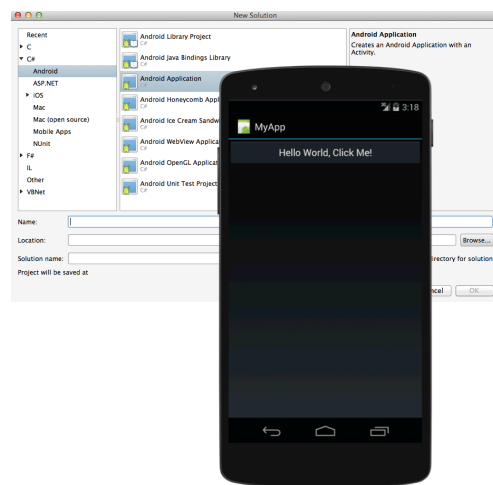


Objective 1

Create a Xamarin.Android application in Xamarin Studio

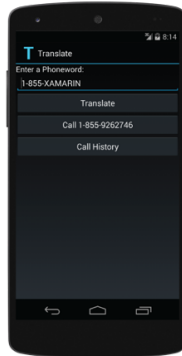
Learning Goals

- ❖ Understand Application Structure
- ❖ Discuss the concept and implementation of Activities
- ❖ Introduce Xamarin Studio
- ❖ Use the Emulator



Application Structure

- ❖ An Android app is a collection of collaborating Activities



Main Activity



Call history Activity

Activities

- ❖ An Activity defines the UI and behavior for a single task

MyUI.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout ... >
  <TextView ... >
  <EditText ... >
  <Button ... >
</LinearLayout>
```

↑
UI typically defined in XML,
but can also be done in code

MyActivity.cs

```
[Activity]
public class MyActivity : Activity
{
  ...
}
```

↑
C# code-behind class must
inherit from Activity and
include ActivityAttribute

Main Activity

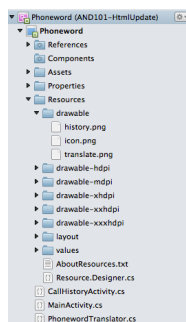
- ❖ Apps designate an Activity as an app entry point


Use the Activity attribute to designate the main activity

```
[Activity(MainLauncher = true)]  
public class MyActivity : Activity  
{  
    ...  
}
```

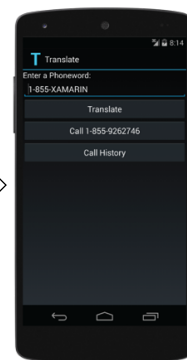
Packaging

- ❖ The build process bundles the entire app into a single file for deployment



⇒  Phoneword.Phoneword.apk ⇒

Deployment file is called the *application package* and has an .apk extension



Class Worksheet



- ❖ Development machine setup
- ❖ Activity basics
- ❖ Launchable Activities
- ❖ Executing your code

Group Exercise

Create a Xamarin.Android application in Xamarin Studio

Flash Quiz

- ① An app entry point is designated by which ActivityAttribute property?
- a) Main
 - b) EntryPoint
 - c) MainLauncher
 - d) Application

Flash Quiz

- ① An app entry point is designated by which ActivityAttribute property?
- a) Main
 - b) EntryPoint
 - c) MainLauncher
 - d) Application

Flash Quiz

- ② How are the UI and code-behind for an Activity matched at runtime?
- a) The files must have the same name
 - b) Code-behind must explicitly load its UI programmatically
 - c) ActivityAttribute stores the name of the UI file

Flash Quiz

- ② How are the UI and code-behind for an Activity matched at runtime?
- a) The files must have the same name
 - b) Code-behind must explicitly load its UI programmatically**
 - c) ActivityAttribute stores the name of the UI file

Flash Quiz

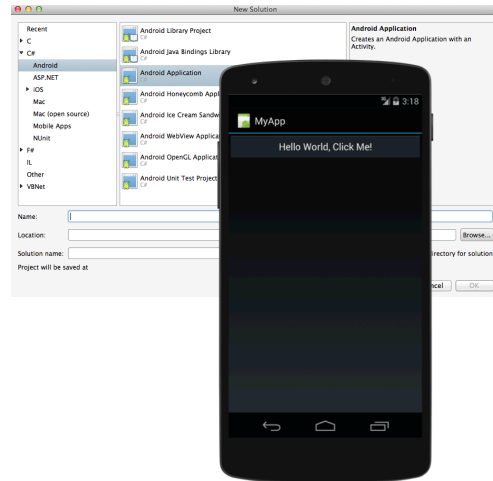
- ③ The Application Package uses the ____ file extension?
- a) .apk
 - b) .zip
 - c) .appx
 - d) .xml

Flash Quiz

- ③ The Application Package uses the ____ file extension?
- a) .apk
 - b) .zip
 - c) .appx
 - d) .xml

Summary

- ❖ Understand Application Structure
- ❖ Introduce Xamarin Studio
- ❖ Use the Emulator



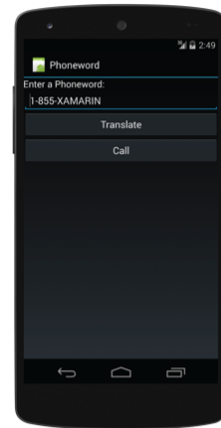
QUESTIONS?

Objective 2

Use the Xamarin.Android Designer to add controls to a UI

Learning Goals

- ❖ Use the Xamarin.Android Designer to add controls to a layout
- ❖ Set control properties using the Properties grid



Class Worksheet



- ❖ Using the Designer
- ❖ Input controls

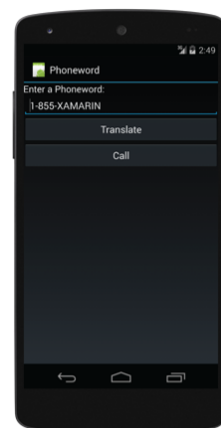
Individual Exercise

Use the Xamarin.Android Designer to add controls to a UI

Summary

- ❖ Use the Xamarin.Android Designer to add controls to a layout
- ❖ Set control properties using the Properties grid

QUESTIONS?

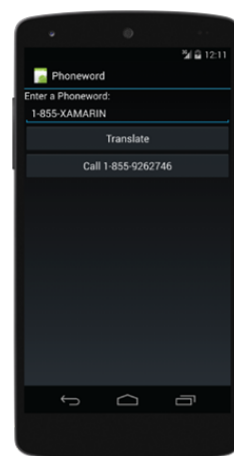


Objective 3

Implement app behavior in C# code-behind

Learning Goals

- ❖ Access controls from code-behind
- ❖ Display an alert
- ❖ Make a phone call
- ❖ Add a permission to the app Manifest



Control Access

- ❖ Controls that have an id are accessible from code-behind

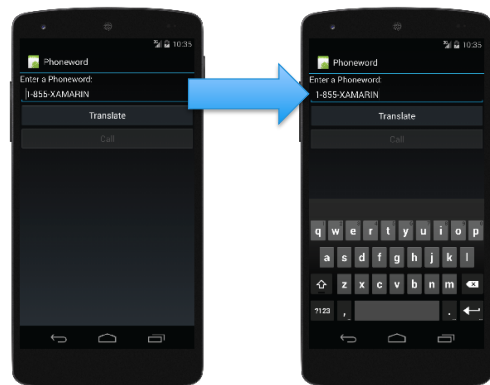
Set an id in the XML → **MyActivity.xml**
`<EditText android:id="@+id/myId" ... />`

Build tool generates a field → **Resource.Designer.cs**
`public const int myId = 2131034113;`

Use the field for lookup → **MyActivity.cs**
`var et = FindViewById<EditText>(Resource.Id.myId);`

Keyboard Input

- ❖ Some controls, such as text fields, support keyboard input
- ❖ Android automatically activates the on-screen keyboard when you tap on the control (if the device does not have a physical keyboard)



Keyboard Dismissal

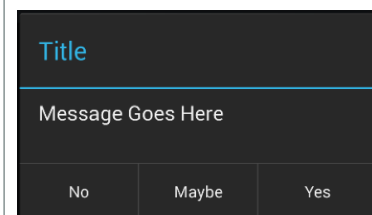
- ❖ Controls do not automatically dismiss the on-screen keyboard, an app can hide it programmatically as needed

```
var et = FindViewById<EditText>(Resource.Id.myId);  
  
var imm = (InputMethodManager)GetSystemService(Context.InputMethodService);  
  
imm.HideSoftInputFromWindow(et.WindowToken, 0);
```

Showing Alerts

- ❖ Can display a modal alert message with `AlertDialog`

```
var dialog = new AlertDialog.Builder(this);  
  
dialog.SetTitle ("Title");  
dialog.SetMessage("Message Goes Here");  
  
dialog.SetNegativeButton("No", delegate { ... });  
dialog.SetNeutralButton ("Maybe", delegate { ... });  
dialog.SetPositiveButton("Yes", delegate { ... });  
  
dialog.Show();
```



Working with Built-in Activities

- ❖ Use an Intent to start another Activity, Android uses the Action and Data to decide which Activity to launch for you

Tell Android you need an Activity that can make a call

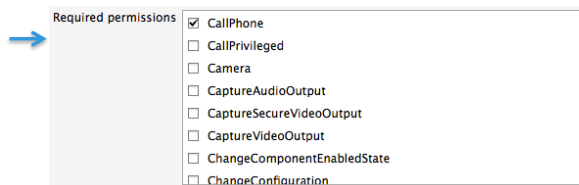
```
var callIntent = new Intent(Intent.ActionCall);  
callIntent.SetData(Android.Net.Uri.Parse("tel:" + translatedNumber));  
StartActivity(callIntent);
```

Provide the number to call

Phone Call Permission

- ❖ To access many of the Android system resources, apps must add a declaration to their manifest

Use XS Project Options
to declare that your app
needs to make calls



Class Worksheet



- ❖ Adding code-behind logic
- ❖ Accessing controls
- ❖ Subscribing to events
- ❖ Text input
- ❖ Displaying an alert
- ❖ Dialing a phone number in Xamarin.Android
- ❖ Adding a manifest permission
- ❖ Hiding the Android soft keyboard

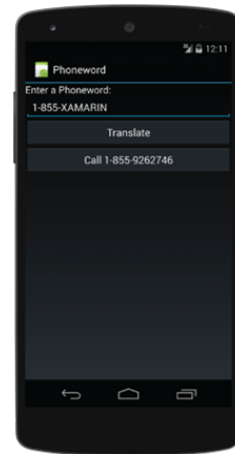
Individual Exercise

Implement app behavior in C# code-behind

Summary

- ❖ Access controls from code-behind
- ❖ Display an alert
- ❖ Make a phone call
- ❖ Add a permission to the app Manifest

QUESTIONS?



Objective 4

Code two screens and navigate between them

Learning Goals

- ❖ Start an Activity in the same app
- ❖ Pass data to an Activity
- ❖ Display a collection



Start an Activity in the Same App

- ❖ Specify the Type when you know exactly which Activity you want to launch

Pass the Type object

```
var intent = new Intent(this, typeof(CallHistoryActivity));  
StartActivity(intent);
```

Loading Intent Extras

- ❖ Source Activity uses the Intent Extras to pass arguments to the target

Many Put methods are available to support various data types



```
var intent = new Intent(this, typeof(CallHistoryActivity));  
intent.PutStringArrayListExtra("phone_numbers", _phoneNumbers);  
StartActivity(intent);
```

Key

Value

Retrieving Intent Extras

- ❖ Android passes the Intent to the target Activity, this allows the Target to retrieve the Extras

```
public class CallHistoryActivity : Activity  
{  
    protected override void OnCreate(Bundle bundle)  
    {  
        ...  
        IList<string> pn = Intent.GetStringArrayListExtra("phone_numbers");  
        ...  
    }  
}
```

Value

Key

Collection Views

- ❖ ListView and GridView present data collections
- ❖ Both rely on an Adapter to prepare each element for display

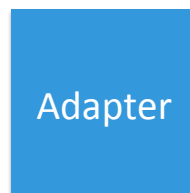


Lists and grids are used all over Android to present info

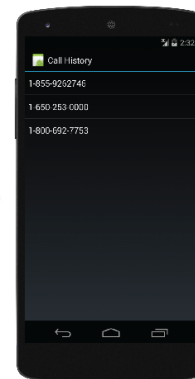
What is an Adapter?

- ❖ An Adapter creates and populates the UI for a row in a ListView

```
var pn = new List<string>();  
pn.Add("1-855-9262746");  
pn.Add("1-650-253-0000");  
pn.Add("1-800-692-7753");
```



The adapter could create a TextView for each number



How to Use ArrayAdapter with ListView

- ❖ The standard type ArrayAdapter creates a row to display a string

```
var data = new List<string>();  
...  
var adapter = new ArrayAdapter<string>(this, layoutFileId, data);  
var list = FindViewById<ListView>(Resource.Id.myList);  
list.Adapter = adapter;
```

Id of the layout file
to use for each row

The collection
to display

Class Worksheet



- ❖ Passing data to an activity
- ❖ Creating multiple screens

Individual Exercise

Code two screens and navigate between them

Flash Quiz

- ① To pass arguments to an Activity, load them into the Intent _____
- a) Action
 - b) Data
 - c) Extras

Flash Quiz

- ① To pass arguments to an Activity, load them into the Intent _____
- a) Action
 - b) Data
 - c) Extras

Flash Quiz

- ② ListView uses _____ to prepare its rows for display
- a) Renderer
 - b) Adapter
 - c) ListBuilder
 - d) RowFactory

Flash Quiz

- ② ListView uses _____ to prepare its rows for display
- a) Renderer
 - b) Adapter**
 - c) ListBuilder
 - d) RowFactory

Flash Quiz

- ③ ArrayAdapter is convenient, but it can only display a _____ in the row
- a) string
 - b) icon
 - c) URI
 - d) button

Flash Quiz

- ③ ArrayAdapter is convenient, but it can only display a _____ in the row
- a) string
 - b) icon
 - c) URI
 - d) button

Summary

- ❖ Start an Activity in the same app
- ❖ Pass data to an Activity
- ❖ Display a collection



QUESTIONS?

Objective 5

Use Resources to incorporate custom labels and icons

Learning Goals

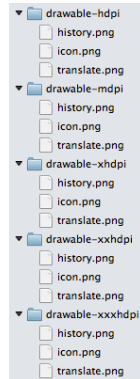
- ❖ Set the application Icon and Label
- ❖ Set the Activity Icon and Label



Icon Images and Screen Density

- ❖ You should supply icons in several sizes to ensure they look good on all screens

Icons in multiple sizes,
file names are all the
same, the folder naming
convention identifies size

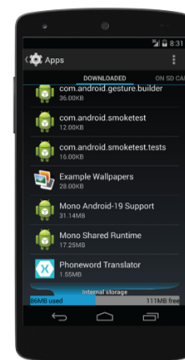


Application Icon and Label

- ❖ An Application can have an Icon and Label

Application name	<input type="text" value="@string/ApplicationName"/>
Package name	<input type="text" value="Phoneword.Phoneword"/>
Application icon	<input type="text" value="@drawable/icon"/>

Set the application values
in the Project Options



Android displays them on
the Settings → Apps screen

Activity Icon and Label

- ❖ An Activity can have an Icon and Label, they default to the app values if not set

```
[Activity(Label = "Translate",  
        Icon = "@drawable/translate",  
        MainLauncher = true)]  
public class MainActivity : Activity  
{ ...  
}
```

Set in code



Android displays them on the Activity and Launch screens

Class Worksheet



- ❖ Verify the default icons and labels
- ❖ Adding supplied icons
- ❖ Setting the application Icon and Label
- ❖ Setting the activity Icons and Labels

Group Exercise

Use Resources to incorporate custom labels and icons

Summary

- ❖ Set the application Icon and Label
- ❖ Set the Activity Icon and Label



QUESTIONS?

Xamarin University

Android 101 – Intro to Android with Xamarin Studio

Thank You

Please complete the class survey in your profile:
university.xamarin.com/profile

