

Technical Scoring Justifications

User Interface and Design	Comet Reader was designed to provide a user-friendly and intuitive user interface. Posts are displayed in a main feed in chronological order. Two drop down spinners at the top of the screen allow the user to select which feeds to view, what post states to view, and gives the user the option to add new feeds. Each post contains a title, which is bold for unread posts, a preview of the post, an image pulled from the post's URL, and the source of that post. Posts are sorted in chronological order. The user can click on a post to view an extended preview of it, a larger image from the post, and options to favorite, share, and open the post in a web browser. Standard Android design practices and icons are used for the sharing and saving options. Comet Reader also takes advantage of the new Android Material Design standard which creates a simplistic, clean, user friendly interface.
Application makes use of one of the permitted platforms	Comet Reader is built from the ground up for Android and can be run on almost any Android device.
Code is clear, readable and well structured	The code for Comet Reader makes use of established software design principles. Each method is designed to perform a single task and separate classes are used for each type of object to make the code as clear as possible. Additional comments are provided before each class and method and within most methods to indicate the logic and function of each element and algorithm used.
Code demonstrates clear understanding of object-oriented programming and design patterns	Standard object-oriented design practices are used throughout the code. These include object classes for each type of element within the app such as posts, single function methods such as readPost() and saveFeed(), and inheritance and encapsulation to maximize code reuse and readability.
Code is utilized to access remote RSS 1.x, 2.x, and Atom syndication feeds and display their contents to the user.	Comet Reader uses code contained in the Feed class to parse html from RSS or Atom feeds. It also can parse the html of a web page to look for a link to an RSS feed. This allows the user to simply provide a link to a web page such as http://www.engadget.com/ or http://www.candyblog.net/ and Comet Reader will find a link to the RSS feed for you.
Code is well-documented	Comments are provided throughout the code itself and before each class and method explaining its function.

Application runs on and/or deploys to a smartphone device running the chosen permitted platform	Comet Reader has been tested on a number of different smartphones and tablets to ensure it will work on any Android device that runs at least Android 4.0 (Ice Cream Sandwich) regardless of screen size.
Application loads and accurately parses RSS 1.x, 2.x and Atom standard syndication formats	Comet Reader was tested on a number of different RSS and Atom feeds. It can access Feedburner feeds and will search a web page of any links for an RSS feed. This allows the user to simply provide a link to a web page such as http://www.engadget.com/ or http://www.candyblog.net/ and Comet Reader will find a link to the RSS feed for you.
Application retrieves RSS/Atom feeds from specified URLs, displays error is URL is not found or RSS/Atom is malformed	Comet Reader will use the URL provided and will attempt to parse the page. If an error occurs such as in invalid URL, a malformed feed, or if it can not access the internet an error message will be displayed.
Application maintains read/unread state of each retrieved link/content node	Comet Reader stores the read/unread state of each post even between runs of the app. The user is also given the option only to view read posts, only unread posts, only starred posts, or all posts.
Application contains additional functionality (social sharing, open in browser, user favorites, etc.)	Additional functionality within the app includes viewing only one feed or all feeds, the ability to view only read or unread posts, the ability to star posts and view only starred posts, the ability to preview an article and to open it in a web browser, the ability to share the post in a variety of different ways including social networks and email via share intents, and the ability to save feeds, starred posts, and the read/unread state of posts between runs of Comet Reader.
Project Plan	A project plan is provided in this submission which details the development process, timeline, and design specification of the app.