

Tutorial 1

About this project

In this course, you will work in a group to create an android phone app using the [MIT App Inventor platform](#). The development of this App will simulate the kind of work flow you can expect in a real world development environment. You will need to propose a design, gain approval for the project based on the design, implement your project, and report on the performance of your application.

Disclaimer: In your life as a software engineer, it will be important to know how to use third party software platforms and their materials. As such, **many of the materials we recommend for this course will be third party**. This will differ from some of your other programming courses, where you will need to write most of the software yourself. It is important to develop both sets of skills, that is, using third party materials as well as knowing how to write your own programs.

Know your tools

Before anything else, it is important to become well acquainted with the tool you are using. This week, you should focus on completing some of the tutorials provided by the tool. A cheatSheet for the MIT App Inventor platform has been provided with this week's materials. You will want to keep this handy throughout the duration of this course.

Training

Complete the HelloPurr Tutorial

Everyone should complete the [first tutorial](#) to setup the HelloPurr App.

Do not feel compelled to use the kitty image and meow soundFile provided by MIT with the tutorial. Feel free to find your own files or check this week's material on blackboard for an alternate image/soundFile.

Now what???

If you've completed the first tutorial and you've got your development and testing environment setup, then congratulations! You've done great.

Any more work you complete this week is optional, but if you're keen to do more, then a small set of beginner's tutorials/videos are available [here](#). Feel free to have a go at app development with one or two of these, and get acquainted with making a couple of the beginner apps.

Still want more???

Next week, we will be jumping in the deep end and releasing more information on using the tool with various components which will be useful for the design of your app.

What about other tools???

To work efficiently as a group, you will need to decide on a few other tools which will assist you. The main tools you should consider are:

1. Collaborative Documentation: How will your group manage the documentation for this project? Will you use a tool such as google drive with google docs? What about dropbox for file sharing? How about

sharing a one note workbook? It will be up to you and your group members to discuss and decide on this component.

2. Communication: How will you and your group communicate with each other? Will you make use of your student email? What about other options?

- Facebook group chat?
- Facebook group page?
- Google Hangouts?
- Skype?
- Discord?

When choosing a tool, think about the pro's and cons of each, and the features you would like to use.

For example, will you want features such as screen sharing or is a simple chat client all you require?

Give it to me straight?

This week, there are a few tasks you should start on:

1. Familiarize yourself with MIT App Inventor: complete the HelloPurr tutorial and make sure you are comfortable using your development and test environments. If you like, feel free to complete a couple of beginner tutorials.
2. You and your group should decide on:
 - collaborative documentation tool
 - communication streams/tools