



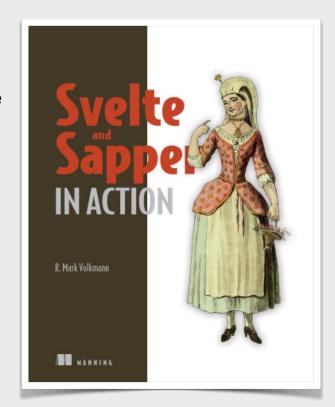
Getting Started With SwiftUI

R. Mark Volkmann
Object Computing, Inc.
https://objectcomputing.com
mark@objectcomputing.com
@mark_volkmann



About Me

- Partner and Distinguished Software Engineer at Object Computing, Inc. in St. Louis, Missouri USA
- 43 years of professional software development experience
- Writer and teacher
- Blog at https://mvolkmann.github.io/blog/
- Author of Manning book "Svelte and Sapper in Action"
- Heavily into SwiftUI development since late 2021



SwiftUI Overview

- A Swift framework for building apps that target many Apple platforms including iOS, iPadOS, watchOS, macOS, and tvOS
 - some features are only available on specific platforms
- Alternative to predecessor UIKit
 - many SwiftUI views are built on UIKit components



https://developer.apple.com/xcode/swiftui/

Comparison to UlKit

- Unlike UIKit, SwiftUI ...
 - declarative in nature than imperative
 - emphasizes use of structs over classes
 - requires far less code to do the same things
 - has somewhat better performance
 - requires iOS 13 or above
 - currently missing some features of UIKit
 - doesn't use Storyboard to build views



Xcode

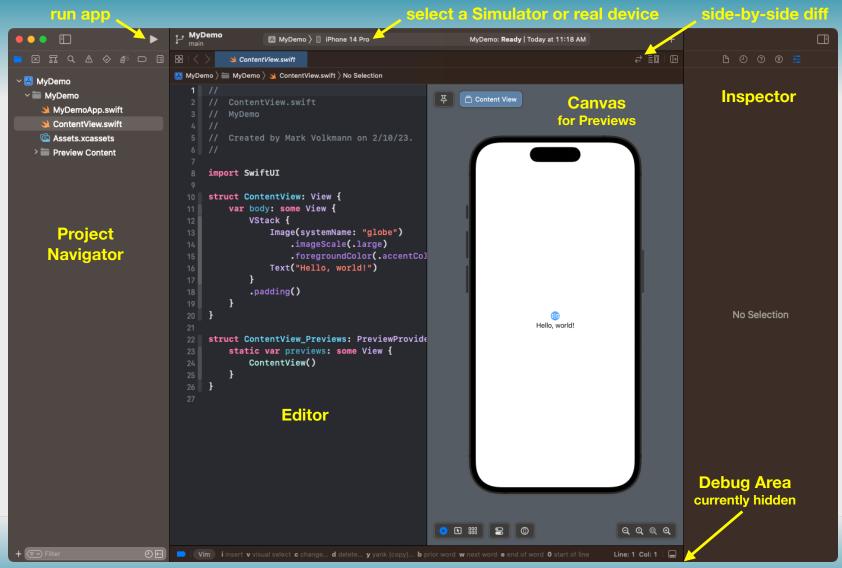
- Preferred IDE for Apple platform development
- Download from https://developer.apple.com/xcode/
 - · very large so takes a while
 - initially only includes SDKs for iOS and macOS
 - the app is 23GB after installing watchOS SDK
- Has excellent Git integration
- My notes on Xcode are at https://mvolkmann.github.io/blog/topics/#/blog/swift/Xcode/



Creating a New Project

In Xcode

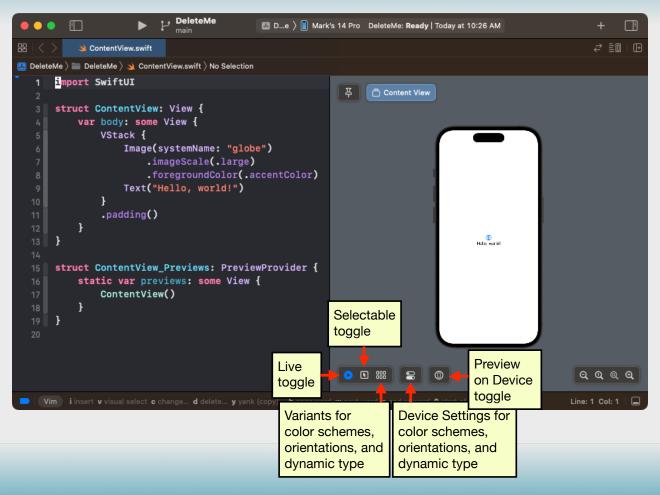
- select File ... New ... Project...
- select "App" template
- enter "Product Name"
- keep default Interface of "SwiftUI" and default Language of "Swift"
- · select directory where it will be created
- optionally select Editor ... Vim Mode
- optionally configure use of SwiftFormat to format on save
 - https://mvolkmann.github.io/blog/topics/#/blog/swift/SwiftFormat/



Xcode Previews ...

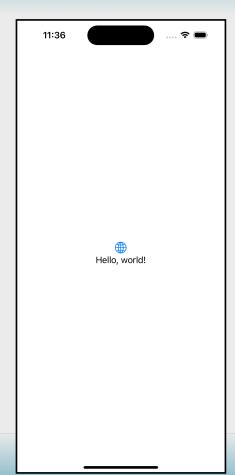
- Typically defined at bottom of View subtype source files
 - · can define any number of previews, but typically only one
- Render a single view inside Xcode
- Update automatically after code changes are saved
- Speeds up development
 - compared to rebuilding entire app and running in Simulator
- Some functionality doesn't work in previews
- Keyboard shortcuts
 - toggle display with cmd-option-return
 - restart with cmd-option-p

... Xcode Previews



Running App

- In Simulator app
 - select a Simulator for a specific device type from dropdown at top after app name,
- On real device
 - attach iPhone or iPad to Mac using USB cable
 - · can also run wirelessly, but slower
 - select device from dropdown at top after app name
- Click right-pointing triangle in upper-left or press cmd-r



Initial Code

MyDemoApp.swift

```
import SwiftUI

@main
struct MyDemoApp: App {
    var body: some Scene {
        WindowGroup {
            ContentView()
        }
    }
}
```

ContentView.swift

```
import SwiftUI
       struct ContentView: View {
           var body: some View {
              VStack {
                    Image (systemName: "globe")
computed property
                         .imageScale(.large)
required by
                         .foregroundColor(.accentColor)
View protocol
                    Text("Hello, world!")
                .padding()
       }
       struct ContentView Previews: PreviewProvider {
           static var previews: some View {
               ContentView()
```

Debug Area



- To open
 - select View ... Debug Area ... Show Debug Area (cmd-shift-y) or drag up from bottom
- Two sides
 - left side displays variable names and values
 - can also hover over variables in source code to see their values
 - right side displays print function output
- To run app with debugger default scheme "Run" settings have "Build Configuration" that defaults to "Debug"

- set one or more breakpoints by clicking on source file line numbers
- run app
- click debugger buttons





Swift Programming Language

- Compiled OO and functional programming language
- Strongly typed with type inference
- Introduced by Apple in 2014
- Open source since December 2015
- Goals are to be safe, fast, and expressive
- Built on Low Level Virtual Machine (LLVM)
- Interoperates with Objective-C
- Used for UI development and

server-side development with frameworks like Vapor



From Wikipedia, "LLVM is a set of compiler and toolchain technologies that can be used to develop a front end for any programming language and a back end for any instruction set architecture."

Proficiency in using SwiftUI requires proficiency in Swift. The next several slides provide a Swift overview.

Swift Types

- Primitives
 - Bool, Int, Float, Double, String, and Character
- Non-primitives
 - func, struct, class, enum, and protocol

similar to an interface in other languages, but instead of "implementing an interface" you "conform to a protocol"

- Collections (all generic)
 - Array, Set, Dictionary, Range, tuple, and more

Syntax Basics

- Variables are declared with let and var keywords
 - let for immutable, var for mutable
- Statements
 - do not need to be terminated with a semicolon
- Control flow statements
 - condition does not need to be surrounded with parentheses
 - code does need to be surrounded by curly braces

Control Flow Syntax

```
if condition {
    ...
}

if condition {
    ...
} else {
    ...
}
```

```
switch expression {
case value1:
...
case value2:
default:
break only required if
no other statements
}
```

```
for item in collection {
    ...
}

range

for number in 1...10 {
    ...
}
```

```
while condition {
    ...
}
repeat {
    ...
} while condition
```

Functions ...

- Defined with func keyword
- Each parameter has a name and an optional "argument label"
 - argument labels are used by callers
 - parameter names are used in function body
- Parameters can be
 - named with no argument label defaults to name
 - named with an argument label so calls read better
 - positional indicated by underscore for argument label
 - not usually used, but when they are typically only the first is positional and its meaning is clear from the function name

... Functions

- Argument labels in function calls
 - must appear in the order in which the parameters were defined
 - can improve readability
- Examples

Struct vs. Class ...

What they have in common

- define a named group of properties and methods
 that can be per-instance (default) or per-type (with static keyword)
- can conform to any number of protocols
- can define any number of initializers (init)
- define properties with let (immutable) or var (mutable) keyword
- · can define computed properties
- define methods with func keyword
- instances are created by calling the type name like a function without a new keyword

... Struct vs. Class

How they differ

- structs cannot inherit from another struct or class, but classes can inherit from a single class
- if no initializer is defined, structs are given a memberwise-initializer, but classes are not
- structs are value types and classes are reference types
 - multiple variables can refer to the same instance of a class
- structs are immutable and classes are mutable
 - assigning a struct instance to another variable creates a copy-on-write copy
 - mutating a struct instance property creates a copy of the struct instance

Struct and Class Examples

```
struct Point {
    // Stored properties
    var x: Double
    var y: Double
    // Computed property
    var distanceFromOrigin: Double {
        (x * x + y * y).squareRoot()
    // Instance method
    func log() {
                                string
        print("(\(x), \(y))")
                                interpolation
    // Mutating instance method
    mutating func translate(dx: Double, dy: Double) {
                 mutating keyword is
        y += dy
                 only needed in structs
}
                                       uses free
var pt = Point(x: 3, y: 4)
                                       memberwise
print(pt.distanceFromOrigin) // 5.0
                                       initializer
pt.translate(dx: 2, dy: 3)
                                 creates a copy
pt.log() // (5.0, 7.0)
```

```
class Point {
    var x: Double
    var y: Double
    init(x: Double, y: Double) {
                                   must supply
        self.x = x
                                   an initializer
        self.v = v
    var distanceFromOrigin: Double {
        (x * x + y * y).squareRoot()
    func log() {
        print("(\(x), \(y))")
    func translate(dx: Double, dy: Double) {
        x += dx
        y += dy
var pt = Point(x: 3, y: 4)
print(pt.distanceFromOrigin) // 5.0
pt.translate(dx: 2, dy: 3)
                                 does not create a copy
pt.log() // (5.0, 7.0)
```

Extensions



 Provided and custom types can be extended with new computed properties and methods

```
let d = Date.now
// This was run on February 10, 2023 at 1:44 PM
// in the CST time zone which is six hours behind GMT.
print(d) // 2023-02-10 19:44:46 +0000 (GMT)
print(d.dayOfWeek) // Fri
print(d.daySAfter(3)) // 2023-02-13 19:44:46 +0000 (GMT)
print(d.md) // 2/10 (February 10)
```

```
adds computed properties and
import Foundation
                   a method to the Date struct
extension Date {
    // Returns an abbreviated day of the week (ex. Sun).
   var dayOfWeek: String {
        let dateFormatter = DateFormatter()
        dateFormatter.dateFormat = "EEE"
        return dateFormatter.string(from: self)
    // Returns a new Date that is a given number of days later.
    func daysAfter( days: Int) -> Date {
        Calendar.current.date(
            byAdding: .day,
            value: days,
            to: self
        )!
    // Returns the month number and day of the month.
   var md: String {
        let dateFormatter = DateFormatter()
        dateFormatter.dateFormat = "M/d"
        return dateFormatter.string(from: self)
```

Type Inference

Basic examples

```
let b = true // inferred type is Bool
let s = "test" // inferred type is String
let i = 19 // inferred type is Int
let d = 3.14 // inferred type is Double
let a = [1, 2, 3] // inferred type is [Int] (same as Array<Int>)
let scores = ["Mark": 19, "Tami": 21] // inferred type is [String: Int]
```

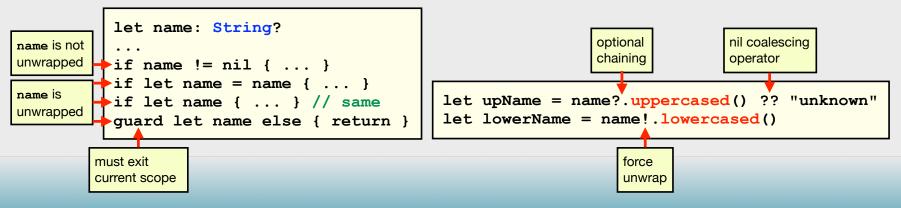
Enum cases

- in example below, border is a SwiftUI view modifier method that takes a Color enum where red is one of the cases
- can pass Color.red or just .red to take advantage of type inference

```
Text("Hello, World!").border(.red)
```

Optional Types

- Swift uses nil to represent not having a value
- By default variables cannot be set to nil
- To enable, declare an optional type with ? suffix; ex. String?
- When variables have an optional type,
 the Swift compiler requires checking for nil
- Unwrapping using if let or guard let is one way to check



Closures

- Anonymous functions
- Often used to pass a function to a function
- Syntax

Trailing Closures

- Can pass a function as an argument to another function
 - supply a function name or a closure
- Trailing closures provide an alternate syntax
 - only when last parameter expects a function
 - for example, consider the Array reduce method

```
let prices = [1.23, 2.34, 3.45]
// Passing a closure as the last argument
let total = prices.reduce(0, { result, price in
    result + price
})
// Using a trailing closure
let total = prices.reduce(0) { result, price in
    result + price
}
// Using shorthand argument names
let total = prices.reduce(0, { $0 + $1 })
```

KeyPaths



- Provide a path to a property in objects
 - can be data or a function
- Used to retrieve a property value from an object
- Can be passed to a function
 - ex. passing to Array methods like map and filter instead of a closure

```
struct Employee {
    let name: String
    let isDeveloper: Bool
}
let employees = [
    Employee (name: "Ann Able", isDeveloper: true),
    Employee (name: "Bob Barker", isDeveloper: false),
    Employee (name: "Charlie Chaplin", isDeveloper: true),
    Employee (name: "Darla Denny", isDeveloper: false)
1
// Using closures with explicit argument names
let names = employees
    .filter { employee in employee.isDeveloper }
    .map { employee in employee.name }
// Using closures with shorthand argument names
let names = employees.filter { $0.isDeveloper }.map { $0.name }
// Using KeyPaths
let names = employees.filter(\.isDeveloper).map(\.name)
```

Error Handling ...

Calling

 call functions that can throw in a do block using try keyword or from a function that also throws

· Catching

 catch errors in catch blocks that can catch a specific kind of error or any error

Throwing

- can throw a value of any type that inherits from Error
- there are a small number of provided Error subtypes
- new Error subtypes are typically enums
- can enable throwing String values

```
do {
    let v1 = nonThrowingFunction()
    let v2 = try throwingFunction()
    let v3 = try await throwingAsyncFunction()
} catch {
    print("error:", error)
}
```

```
enum IntError: Error {
    case negative(_ n: Int)
    case tooHigh(_ n: Int, max: Int)
    case zero
}

case zero
cases can have
"associated data"
```

```
extension String: LocalizedError {
   public var errorDescription: String? { self }
}
throw "the jig is up"
```

... Error Handling

- do ... catch has no finally like in many other languages
 - but can use a defer statement before do

• defer

- specifies a block of code to run when current scope exits
- example uses include
 - hiding a progress indicator
 - · closing a resource

async/await

- Asynchronous functions
 - defined with async keyword
 - called in a task with await keyword

```
func getCurrentCity() async throws -> String {
    let coordinates = await getCurrentCoordinates()
    let address = await getAddress(of: coordinates)
    return address.city
}

Task {
    can use .task { ... }
    view modifier on SwiftUI views
    do {
        let city = try await getCurrentCity()
    } catch {
        print("error:", error)
    }
}
```

Swift Standard Library



- Open source
- Implemented in Swift
- Available by default no need to import
- Defines fundamental types, protocols, and global functions
 - types like Bool, Int, Float, Double, String, Regex, KeyPath, and Optional
 - collections like Array, Set, Dictionary, and Range
 - protocols like Comparable, Equatable, Hashable, CaseIterable, and Codable
 - global functions like abs, max, min, print, dump, readLine, and assert

Foundation Framework



- Not open source
- Mostly implemented in Objective-C
 - but currently being rewritten in Swift and will be open source
- Not available by default must import
 - unless importing another framework that imports Foundation which is typical
- Defines many types including
 - AttributedString, Bundle, Calendar, CGFloat, Data, Date, DateFormatter, DateInterval, Decimal, Dimension, Error, FileManager, HTTPURLResponse, InputStream, Locale, Measurement, NumberFormatter, NumberFormatter, ObservableObject, OutputStream, Pipe, Port, Process, ProcessInfo, Published, RunLoop, Stream, Thread, TimeInterval, Timer, TimeZone, Unit, URL, URLRequest, URLResponse, URLSession, UserDefaults, UUID, and many more

SwiftUI

- Everything that renders on the screen is a kind of View
- Provides many prebuilt views
 - Button, Color, Image, Picker, Slider, Stepper,
 Text, TextEditor, TextField, Toggle, and many more
- Provides many container views
 - HStack (horizontal), VStack (vertical), and ZStack (overlapping)
 - DisclosureGroup, Form, List, Section, ScrollView, TabView, and many more
- Can define custom views that combine provided views



SF Symbols

- A macOS app from Apple that provides over 4,000 icons
- Rendered using Image view with systemName argument
- Some symbols support multiple rendering modes that enable using different colors for parts of the icon
- ex. Image (systemName: "heart.filled")



View Modifiers

- Methods invoked on a view that return another view
- Can chain multiple view modifier calls
- Order matters
 - ex. adding padding and then a border is not the same as adding a border and then padding
- See many examples ahead two slides

Managing State w/ @State

- SwiftUI views are defined by structs which are immutable
- But often these need mutable state
- For state only used by a single view,
 declare as a property using the @State property wrapper
 - creates a constant reference to non-constant data held in the property wrapper
- See many examples on next slide

Custom SwiftUI Views

preceding a @State property name with \$ gets a binding

```
import SwiftUI
struct ContentView: View {
    @State private var color: Color = .red
    @State private var filled = false
    @State private var name = ""
    @State private var showHeart = false
    let colors: [Color] = [.red, .green, .blue]
    var body: some View {
        VStack {
            // insert code here
            Spacer()
        .padding()
                     Name World
}
                            Hello, World!
                     Show Heart
                         Red
                                            Blue
```

```
LabeledContent("Name") {
    TextField("Name", text: $name)
        .textFieldStyle(.roundedBorder)
if !name.isEmpty {
    Text("Hello, \(name)!")
       .font(.largeTitle)
Toggle("Show Heart", isOn: $showHeart)
if showHeart {
    Image (systemName:
        filled ? "heart.fill" : "heart")
       .resizable()
       .scaledToFit()
       .foregroundColor(color)
       .frame (width: 100)
    Button("Toggle Fill") {
        filled.toggle()
    .buttonStyle(.bordered)
    Picker("Color", selection: $color) {
        Text("Red").tag(Color.red)
        Text("Green").tag(Color.green)
        Text("Blue").tag(Color.blue)
    .pickerStyle(.segmented)
```

State With View Models ...

- View models store and manage data that can be shared by multiple views
- Defined by classes that
 - inherit from ObservableObject
 - have @Published properties
- Three ways to share
 - inject into environment, use singleton pattern, or pass as argument
- Can inject into environment with .environmentObject view modifier
- Can access in descendant views with @EnvironmentObject properties

... State With View Models

```
Each of these files need
                                                                struct ContentView: View {
@main
                                                                                              import SwiftUI
struct BlackJackApp: App {
                                                                    var body: some View {
    var body: some Scene {
                                                                        VStack {
        WindowGroup {
                                                                            Form()
            ContentView().environmentObject(MyViewModel())
                                                                            Report()
                                                                        .padding()
           class MyViewModel: ObservableObject {
                @Published var score = 0
                can have any number of
                                                                   struct Form: View {
                 @Published properties
                                                                       @EnvironmentObject private var vm: MyViewModel
                                                                       var body: some View {
                                                                           Stepper("Score", value: $vm.score, in: 0 ... 30)
                                                                          struct Report: View {
                                                                              @EnvironmentObject private var vm: MyViewModel
                                                                              private var action: String {
                                                                                  let s = vm.score
 Score
                                                                                  return s < 18 ? "Hit" :
                                                                                      s > 21 ? "Bust" :
                                                                                      s == 21 ? "Blackjack" :
                         21 - Blackjack
                                                                                      "Stand"
                                                                              var body: some View {
                                                                                  Text("\(vm.score) - \(action)")
```

Change Detection



- Two approaches
- Property Observers
 - can define willSet and didSet methods on any property
 - supported by Swift
- onChange view modifier
 - supported by SwiftUI

```
var someProperty = 0 {
    willSet {
        print("old value = \((someProperty)"))
            print("new value = \((newValue)"))
        }
    didSet {
        print("old value = \((oldValue)"))
            print("new value = \((someProperty)"))
        }
}
```

```
SomeView() // if only new value is needed
    .onChange(of: someState) { newValue in
        print("new value = \((newValue))")
}

SomeView() // if both old and new values are needed
    .onChange(of: someState) { [someState] newValue in
        print("old value = \((someState))")
        print("new value = \((newValue))")
}
```

Navigation ...



```
import SwiftUI
struct ContentView: View {
    @State private var showingBanana = false
    private let fruits = ["Apple", "Banana", "Cherry"]
    var body: some View {
        NavigationStack {
            VStack {
                ForEach(fruits, id: \.self) { fruit in
                    NavigationLink(fruit, value: fruit)
                Button("Go Ape!") { showingBanana.toggle() }
                     .buttonStyle(.borderedProminent)
            .navigationTitle("Fruits")
            .navigationDestination(for: String.self) { item in
                switch item {
                case "Apple":
                                       can also use a custom
                  AppleView()
                                       enum type here
                case "Banana":
                    BananaView()
                case "Cherry":
                    CherryView()
                default:
                    Text("unsupported fruit")
            .navigationDestination(isPresented: $showingBanana) {
                BananaView()
                              second way to
                              render this view
```

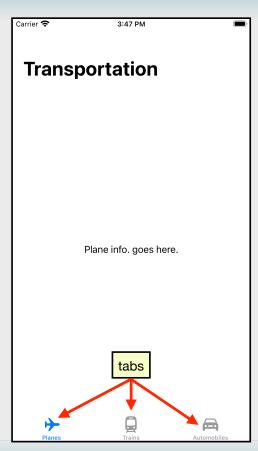
... Navigation



```
struct AppleView: View {
   private let name = "Apple"
                                              inherits from previous;
                            displays an image in
   var body: some View {
                                              defaults to .large in iOS
                            Assets.xcassets
        Image (name) 
            .navigationTitle(name)
            .navigationBarTitleDisplayMode(.automatic)
       struct BananaView: View {
           private let name = "Banana"
           var body: some View {
               Image (name) .navigationTitle (name)
                    .navigationBarTitleDisplayMode(.inline)
              struct CherryView: View {
                   private let name = "Cherry"
                   var body: some View {
                       Image (name) .navigationTitle (name)
                           .navigationBarTitleDisplayMode(.large)
```

TabView





```
import SwiftUI
struct ContentView: View {
    var body: some View {
        NavigationStack {
            TabView {
                Planes()
                    .tabItem {
                        Label("Planes", systemImage: "airplane")
                Trains()
                                                          SF Symbol name
                    tabItem {
                        Label("Trains", systemImage: "tram")
                Automobiles()
                    .tabItem {
                        Label("Automobiles", systemImage: "car.fill")
                    }
            .navigationTitle("Transportation")
            // for a smaller, centered title
            // .navigationBarTitleDisplayMode(.inline)
```

... TabView



```
struct Automobiles: View {
    var body: some View {
        Text("Automobiles info. goes here.")
    }

struct Planes: View {
        var body: some View {
            Text("Plane info. goes here.")
     }

struct Trains: View {
        var body: some View {
            Text("Trains info. goes here.")
      }
}
```

Alerts and Sheets



```
struct ContentView: View {
    @State private var isAlertPresented = false
    @State private var isSheetPresented = false
    var body: some View {
        VStack {
            Button("Toggle Alert") {
                 isAlertPresented.toggle()
            Button("Toggle Sheet") {
                 isSheetPresented.toggle()
                                                                             My Alert
                                                      Toggle Alert
                                                                            This is my alert.
                                                      Toggle Sheet
        .padding()
        .alert(
             "My Alert",
            isPresented: $isAlertPresented,
                                                                                                  This is my sheet.
            actions: {},
            message: {
                 Text("This is my alert.")
        )
        .sheet(isPresented: $isSheetPresented) {
            Text("This is my sheet.")
                 .presentationDetents([.medium])
                 .presentationDragIndicator(.visible)
```

Network Requests

```
private let apiURL = URL(
    string: "https://official-joke-api.appspot.com/random_joke"
)!

enum MyError: Error {
    case badResponseType, badStatus, noData
}

struct Joke: Decodable {
    let setup: String
    let punchline: String
}

// The data method returns a
// The type of response is U
// Cast it to HTTPURLResponse
```

This sends an HTTP GET request and parses the JSON response into a Swift object.

```
private func getJoke() async -> Joke? {
        // The data method returns a tuple.
        // The type of response is URLResponse.
        // Cast it to HTTPURLResponse to get information from it.
        let (data, response) =
            try await URLSession.shared.data(from: apiURL)
        quard let response = response as? HTTPURLResponse else {
            throw MyError.badResponseType
        guard response.statusCode == 200 else {
            throw MyError.badStatus
        let joke = try JSONDecoder().decode(
            Joke.self,
            from: data
        return joke
    } catch {
        print("getJoke error:", error)
```

Persistence Options



- @AppStorage property wrapper in SwiftUI
 - simplifies storing and retrieving small amounts of basic data in UserDefaults on each device
- Core Data from Apple
 - on-device object/graph persistence framework
 - uses SQLite
 - · can combine with CloudKit to store data in the cloud
- CloudKit from Apple
 - hosted cloud database
- Realm from MongoDB
 - alternative to SQLite that is similar to MongoDB
 - data can be stored on each device or in the cloud

Recommended Project Structure

- {AppName}App.swift
- Assets.xcassets
 - holds image sets, color sets, and more
- Extensions directory
 - holds extensions of existing types
- Models directory
 - holds custom structs that describe application data
- Views directory
 - holds custom SwiftUI view structs
- ViewModels directory
 - holds classes that inherit from ObservableObject and manage @Published properties

Deployment



- Once an app has been developed it can be made available to beta testers using TestFlight and then released to the App Store
 - both can be accomplished at https://appstoreconnect.apple.com/
 - requires Apple Developer Program account currently \$99/year for individuals
- Fastlane is a popular tool for simplifying the process
 - runs tests
 - generates screenshots
 - deploys to TestFlight and App Store
 - https://fastlane.tools/

Wrap Up

- We have covered the basics of the Swift programming language and the SwiftUI framework
- There is much more to learn
 - check out my blog described in the next slide
- For developing native Android apps, check out the Kotlin programming language and the JetPack Compose framework which is similar to SwiftUI

My Blog

- See the Swift category at https://mvolkmann.github.io/blog/
 - provides much more information about Swift, SwiftUI, and associated frameworks and tools
 - topics include App Reviews, AppInfo, ARKit, CloudKit, Concurrency, Core Data, DocC, Face ID, Gauges, Grid, HealthKit, Instruments, Launch Screens, Layout Protocol, Localization, Lottie, MapKit, Navigation, Notifications, PhotosPicker, Project Structure, Reality Composer, Shortcuts, Simulator, SpriteKit, StoreKit, Swift Charts, Swift Package Manager, SwiftFormat, SwiftLint, TestFlight, UIKit, Vapor, watchOS, WeatherKit, Widgets, Xcode, and XCTest