



Android Studio Favorites

Jean

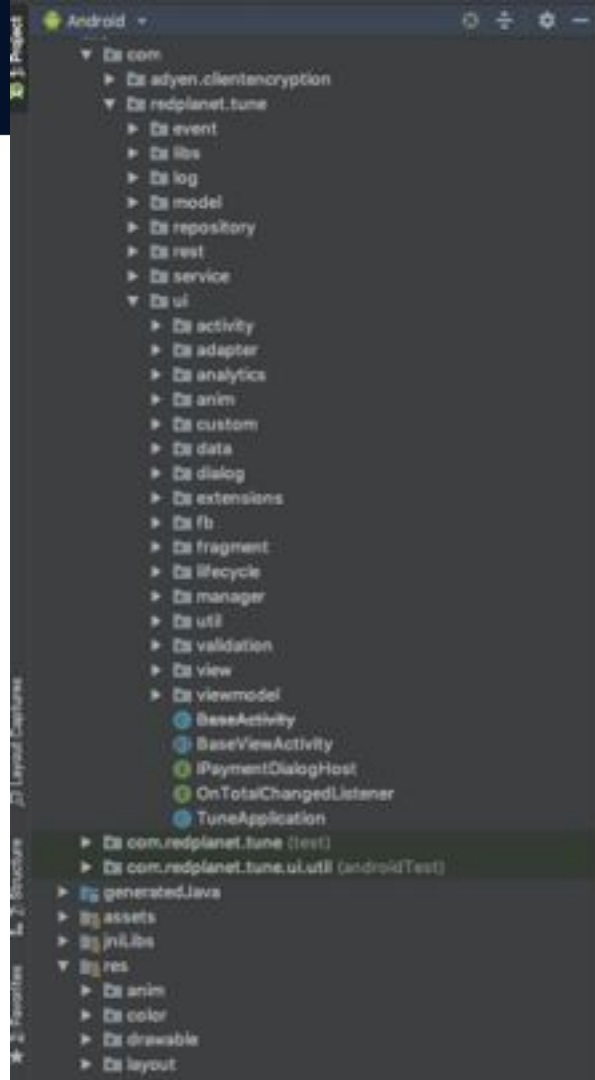
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Challenges of working on a big codebase

- Many subsystems, each made up of multiple files
- Despite being organised, the process of finding a specific app component (and what it connects to) can be a daunting process
- Currently make heavy use of 'Go to Definition', 'Find Usages', and 'Find'
- This works better and better the deeper you know the codebase

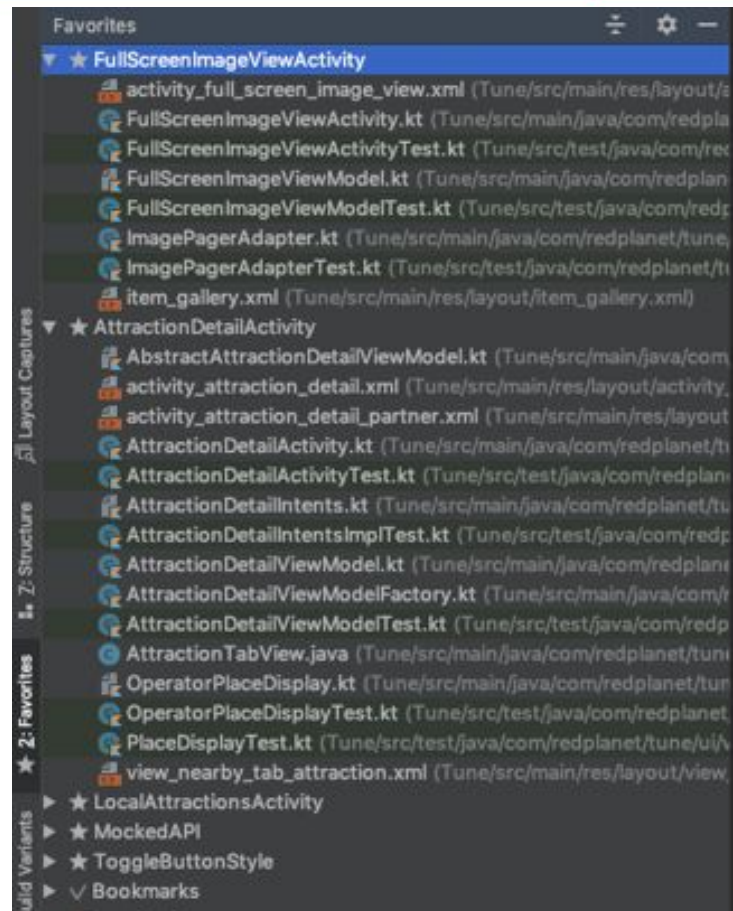
Red Planet as an example

- Files organised by components is the most logical way to organise classes
 - Reusable components quickly identified, etc.
 - Snapshot of the 'Big Picture'
- When new subsystems encountered, e.g. while fixing a bug, or making a change to a feature, you need to understand the impact of your changes
 - 'Focused' snapshot



Android's Favorites

- A way to create 'focused' snapshots of subsystems
- Is stored, amongst other things, in .idea folder, in workspace.xml
- .idea is added to .gitignore
- workspace.xml also contains other personal settings like breakpoints, bookmarks, etc.



Sharing 'focused' snapshots

- The idea is to be able to share those favourite lists amongst developers.
- Much in the same way that we share code when working as a team.
- And also allow individual developers to:
 - Add their own lists without affecting the master list
 - Make changes to the master list as needed
- A git repository sounds like a good candidate

Git Submodule

- Git submodules allow you to clone a git module within another one, e.g.

A screenshot of a macOS terminal window. The title bar shows the window name 'rphl-android-app', the user 'jean@Jeans-MacBook-Pro', the current directory '..l-android-app', and the shell '-zsh' with dimensions '149x32'. The terminal text shows a prompt '→ rphl-android-app' followed by 'git:(feature/an-1662-toggle-buttons) X git submodule add -f git@github.com:jean-t86/favourites.git .idea'.

```
→ rphl-android-app git:(feature/an-1662-toggle-buttons) X git submodule add -f git@github.com:jean-t86/favourites.git .idea
```

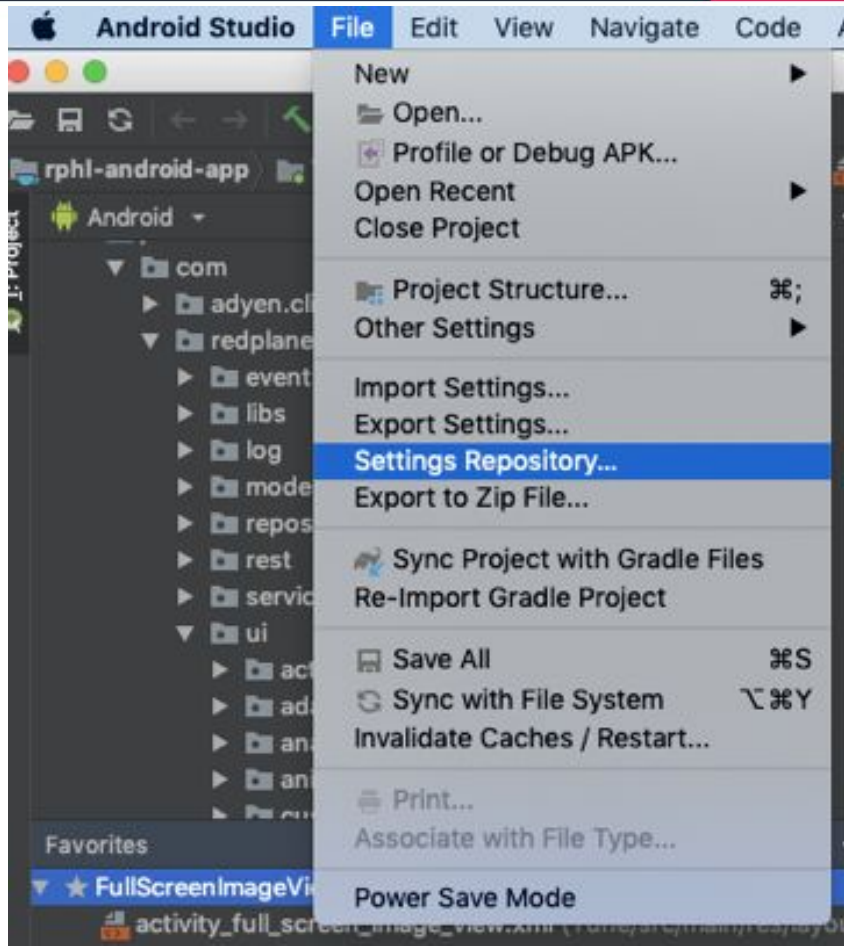
- Simply get the workspace.xml file from the repo and place it in the .idea folder
- `git submodule add <git repo>`

But a few issues with this approach:

- Have to delete the .idea folder first
- Will cause Android Studio to re-index files
- No way to keep developer's own favourites across devices
- Merging is a problem


Android Studio's Settings Repository

- Allows for teams to share settings such as line spacing, etc.
- Expects a git repository as input, and then uses repo as read-only source to make sure settings are enforced.
- A similar mechanism for **Favourites** is what we need.
- Takes the form of a plugin.




Android Studio's plugin architecture (IntelliJ IDE)

- Lots of documentation on developing plugins
- Widely used due to JetBrains' products popularity
- IntelliJ Community Edition used to develop Android Studio plugins
- Familiar development environment



Favourite Lists = “Focused” snapshots =
smaller more manageable sub-systems



The use of a plugin will abstract the complexity away from sharing those “focused” snapshots

Thanks!

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