

Chapter 3. Life Cycle of Android Application

TS. Nguyễn Hồng Quang
Viện Công nghệ thông tin và Truyền thông
Trường Đại học Bách Khoa Hà Nội



Tài liệu tham khảo

Mobile Application Development –
Android OS, Victor Matos, Cleveland
State University



Activity Class

- An Activity object is similar to a WindowsForm. It usually presents a single graphical visual interface (GUI) which in addition to the displaying/collecting of data, provides some kind of 'code-behind' functionality.
- A typical Android application contains one or more Activity objects.
- Applications must designate one activity as their **main** task or entry point. That activity is the first to be executed when the app is launched.
- An activity may transfer control and data to another activity through an interprocess communication protocol called **intents**.
- For example, a login activity may show a screen to enter user name and password. After clicking a button some authentication process is applied on the data, and before the login activity ends some other activity is called.

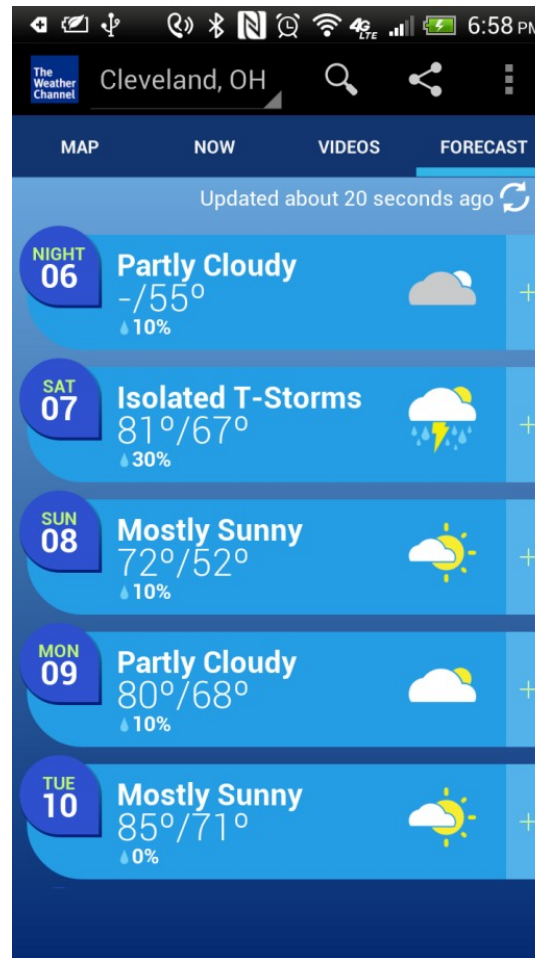
Ví dụ một ứng dụng bao gồm nhiều Activity

The
Weather
Channel

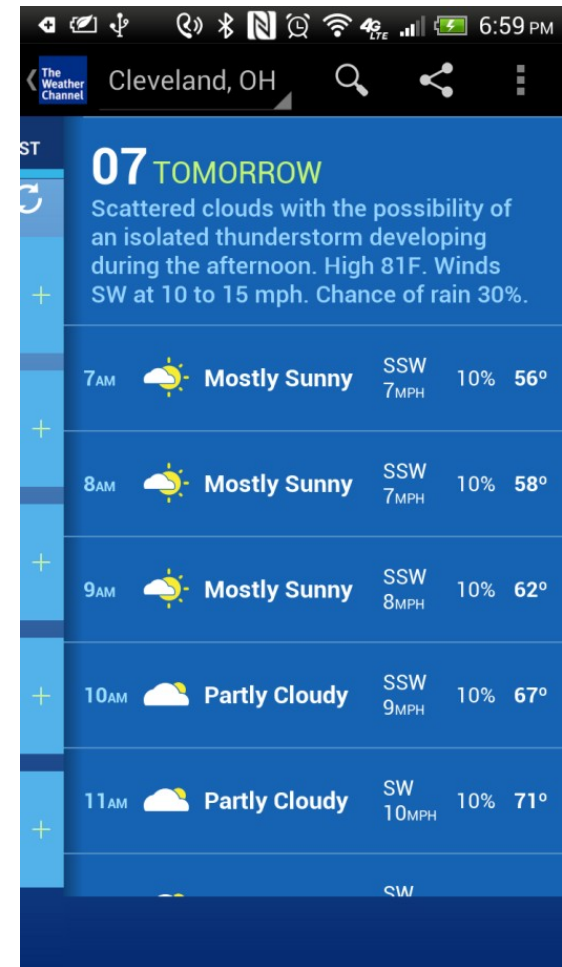
Weather Channel app
GUI-1- Activity 1



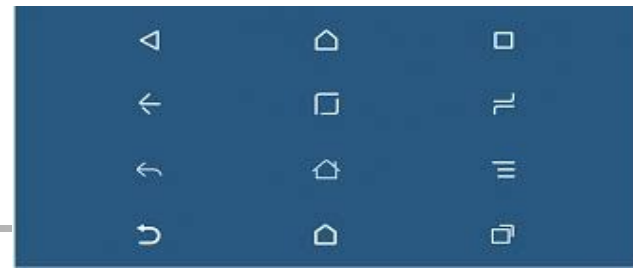
Weather Channel app
GUI-2- Activity 2





Weather Channel app
GUI-3- Activity 3

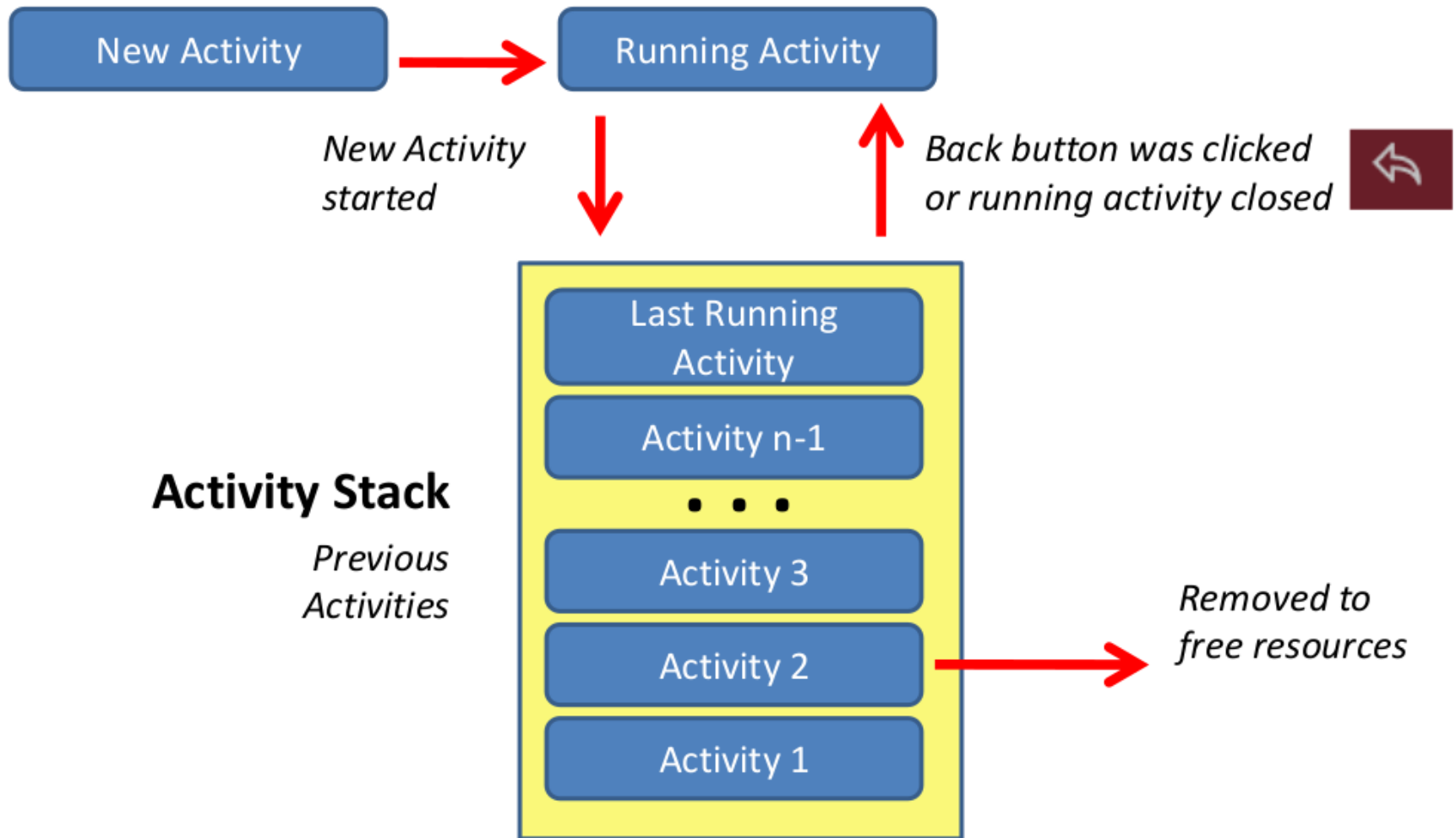


The Activity Stack



- Activities in the system are scheduled using an activity stack.
- When a new activity is ***started***, it is placed on top of the stack to become the running activity
- The previous activity is pushed-down one level in the stack, and may come back to the foreground once the new activity finishes. 
- If the user presses the **Back Button** the current activity is terminated and the previous activity on the stack moves up to become active. 
- Android 4.0 introduced the '**Recent app**' button to arbitrarily pick as 'next' any entry currently in the stack

The Activity Stack





Sự tồn tại của một tiến trình trong ứng dụng Android

Occasionally hardware resources may become critically low and the OS could order early termination of any process.

The decision considers factors such as:

1. Number and age of the application's components currently running,
2. Relative importance of those components to the user, and
3. How much free memory is available in the system.



Android Activity's Life Cycle

1. A **beginning** - responding to a request to instantiate them
2. An **end** - when the instances are destroyed.
3. A sequence of **in-between** states - components sometimes are **active** or **inactive**, or in the case of activities - **visible** or **invisible**.



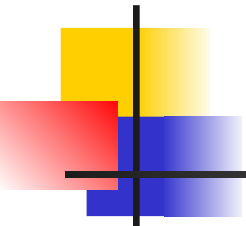


Life Cycle Callbacks

When progressing from one state to the other, the OS notifies the application of the changes by issuing calls to the following protected transition methods:

- `void onCreate()`
- `void onStart()`
- `void onRestart()`
- `void onResume()`

- `void onPause()`
- `void onStop()`
- `void onDestroy()`



```
public class ExampleActivity extends Activity {
```

```
    @Override
```

```
    public void onCreate (Bundle savedInstanceState) {
```

```
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
```

```
        // The activity is being created.
```

```
    }
```

**Most of your code
goes here**

```
    @Override
```

```
    protected void onPause() {
```

```
        super.onPause();
```

```
        // Another activity is taking focus
```

```
        // (this activity is about to be "paused").
```

```
    }
```

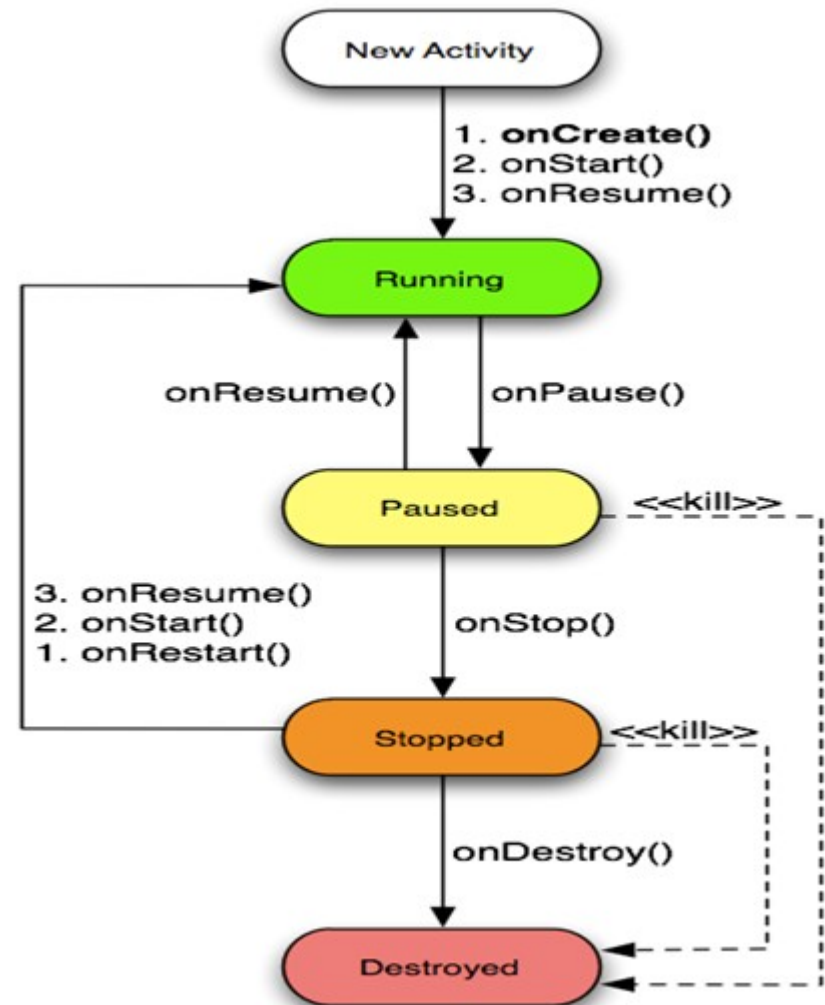
**Save your important
data here**

Life Cycle: Activity States and Callback Methods

An activity has essentially three phases:

1. It is **active** or **running**
2. It is **paused** or
3. It is **stopped**

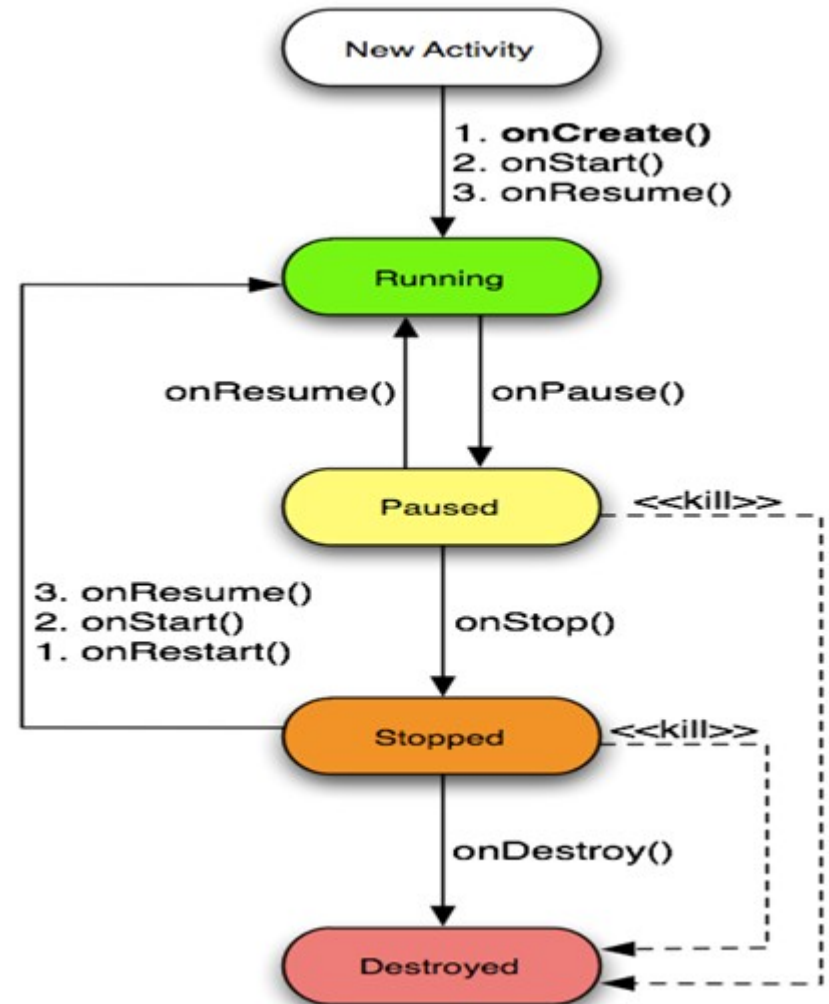
Moving from one state to the other is accomplished by means of the callback methods listed on the edges of the diagram.



Activity State: RUNNING

1. Your activity is active or running when it is in the foreground of the screen (seating on top of the activity stack).

This is the activity that has “focus” and its graphical interface is responsive to the user’s interactions.



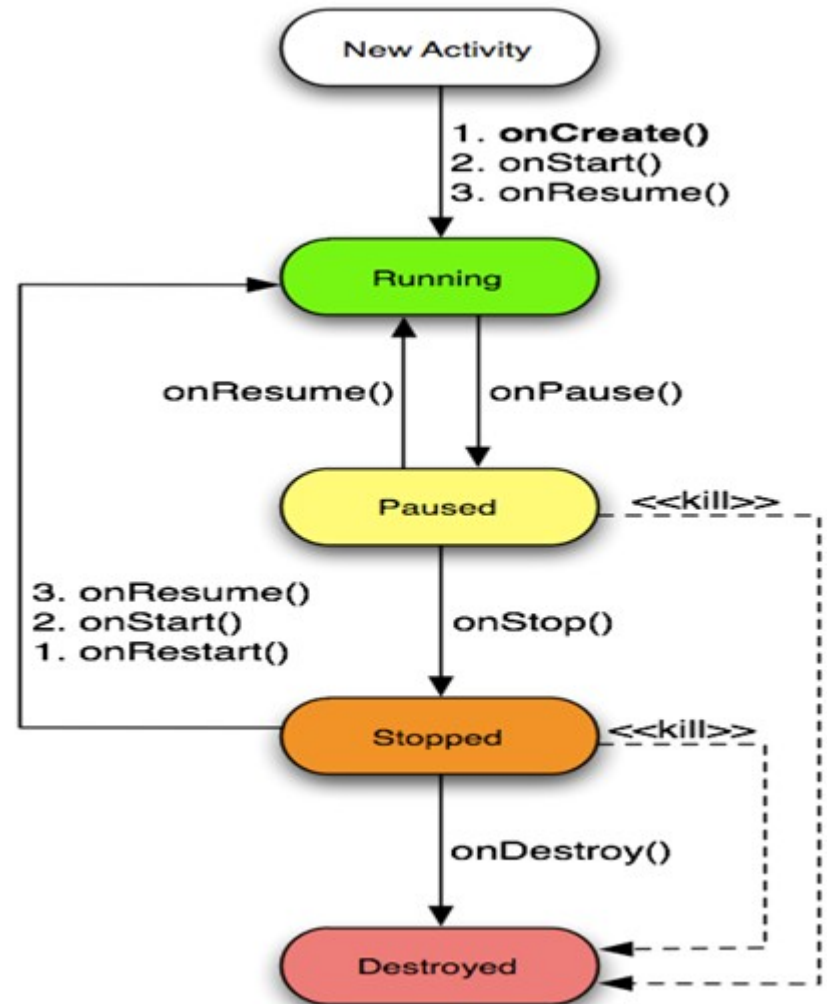
Activity State: PAUSED

2. Your Activity is paused if it has lost focus but is still visible to the user.

That is, another activity seats on top of it and that new activity either is transparent or doesn't cover the full screen.

A paused activity is alive (maintaining its state information and attachment to the window manager).

Paused activities can be killed by the system when available memory becomes extremely low.

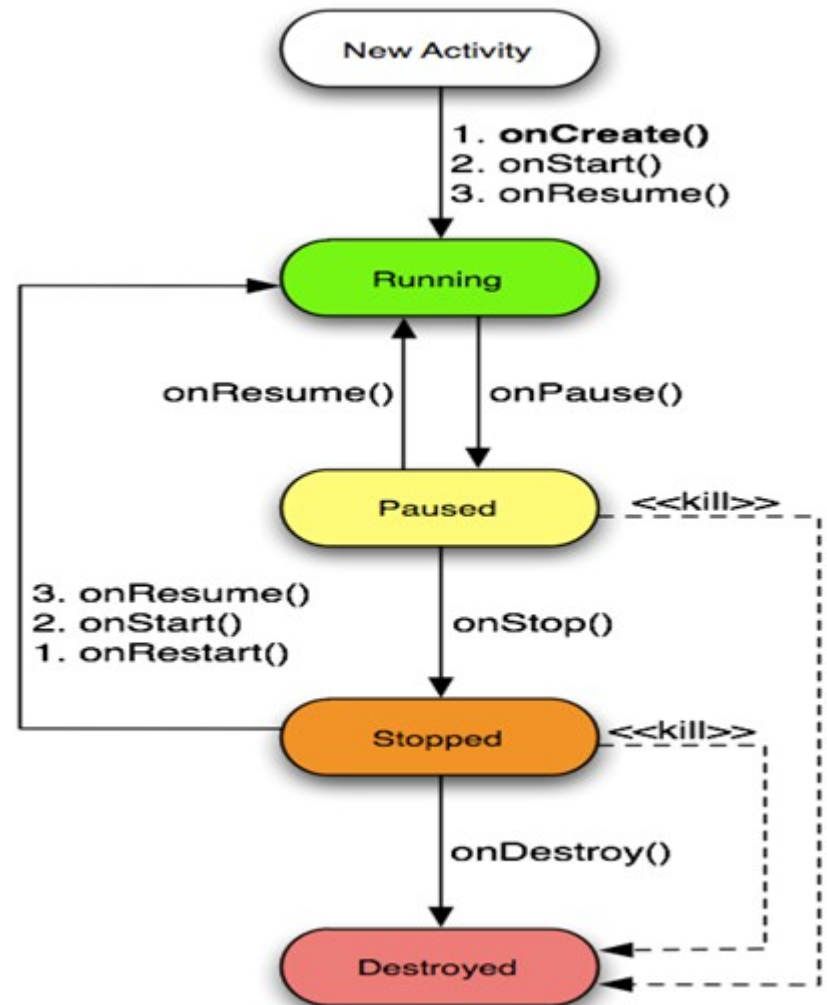


Activity State: STOPPED

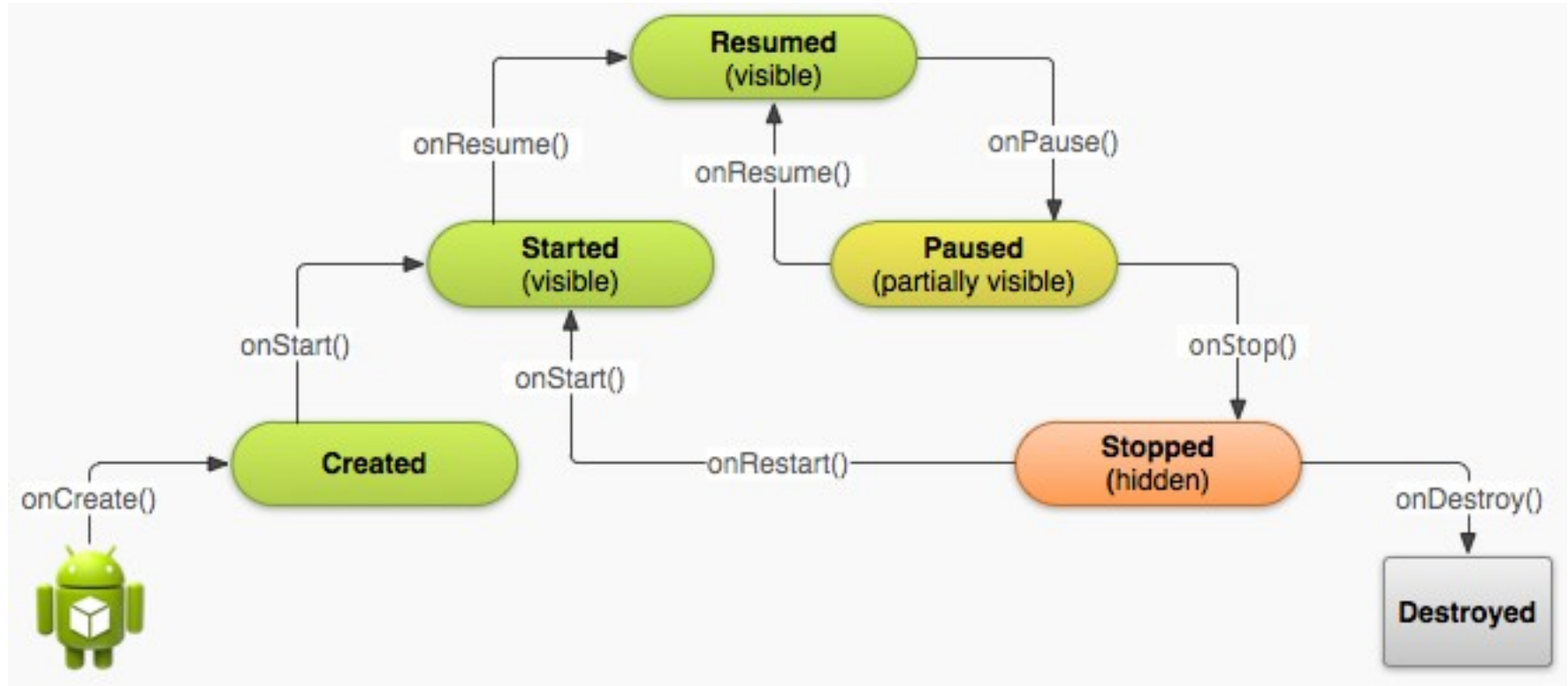
3. Your Activity is stopped if it is completely obscured by another activity.

Although stopped, it continues to retain all its state information.

It is no longer visible to the user (its window is hidden and its life cycle could be terminated at any point by the system if the resources that it holds are needed elsewhere).

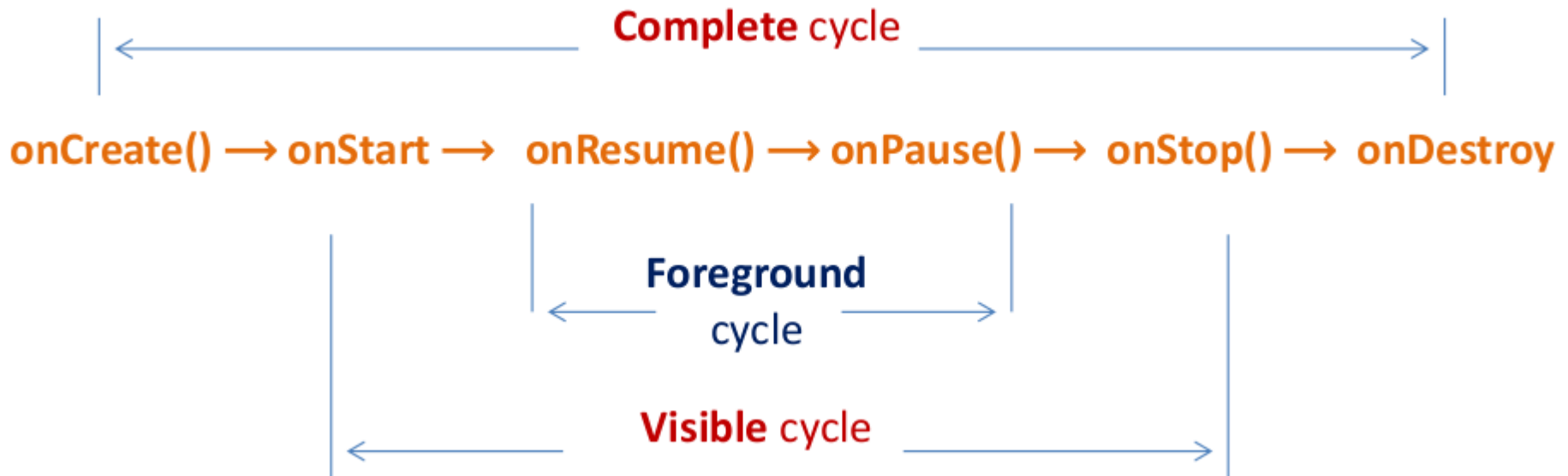


Activity Life Cycle



Foreground Lifetime

- An activity begins its lifecycle when it enters the onCreate() state.
- If it is not interrupted or dismissed, the activity performs its job and finally terminates and releases resources when reaching the onDestroy() event.





Associating Lifecycle Events with Application's Code

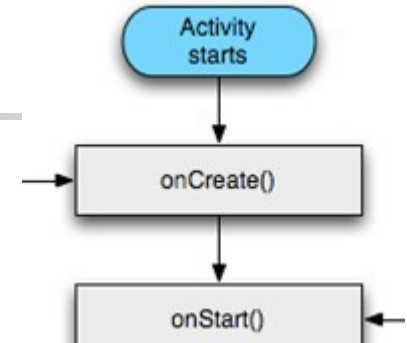
Applications do not need to implement each of the transition methods, however there are mandatory and recommended states to consider
(Mandatory)

onCreate() must be implemented by each activity to do its initial setup. The method is executed only once on the activity's lifetime.

(Highly Recommended)

onPause() should be implemented whenever the application has some important data to be committed so it could be reused.

Associating Lifecycle Events with Application's Code

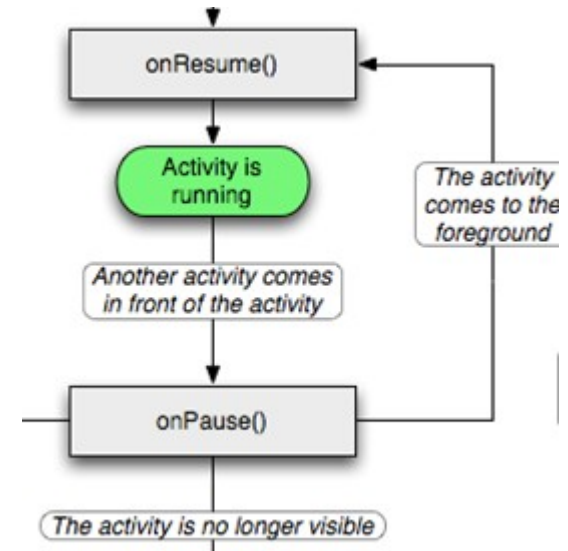


onCreate()

- This is the first callback method to be executed when an activity is created.
- Most of your application's code is written here.
- Typically used to initialize the application's data structures, wire-up UI view elements (buttons, text boxes, lists) with local Java controls, define listeners' behavior, etc.
- It may receive a data Bundle object containing the activity's previous state (if any).
- Followed by onStart() → onResume()

onPause()

1. Called when the system is about to transfer control to another activity. It should be used to safely write uncommitted data and stop any work in progress.
2. The next activity waits until completion of this state.
3. Followed either by `onResume()` if the activity returns back to the foreground, or by `onStop()` if it becomes invisible to the user.
4. A paused activity could be killed by the system.





Killable States

- Android OS may terminate a killable app whenever the resources needed to run other operation of higher importance are critically low.
- When an activity reaches the methods: ***onPause()***, ***onStop()***, and ***onDestroy()***, it becomes killable.
- ***onPause()*** is the only state that is guaranteed to be given a chance to complete before the process is terminated.
- You should use ***onPause()*** to write any pending persistent data.



Data Persistence using Android SharedPreferences Class

- SharedPreferences is a simple Android persistence mechanism used to store and retrieve <key,value> pairs, where key is a string and value is a primitive data type (int, float, string...).
- This container class reproduces the structure and behavior of a Java HashMap, however; unlike HashMaps it is persistent.
- Appropriate for storing small amounts of state data across sessions.

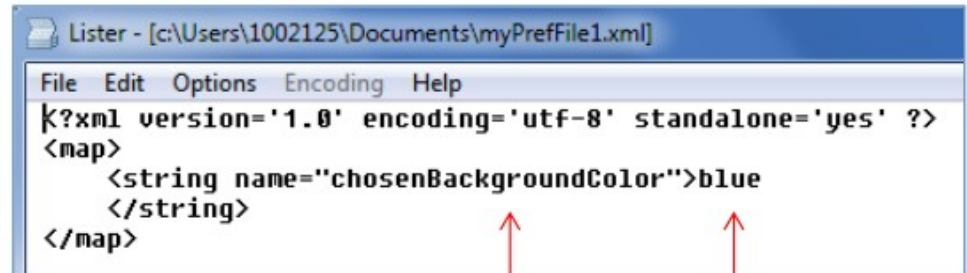
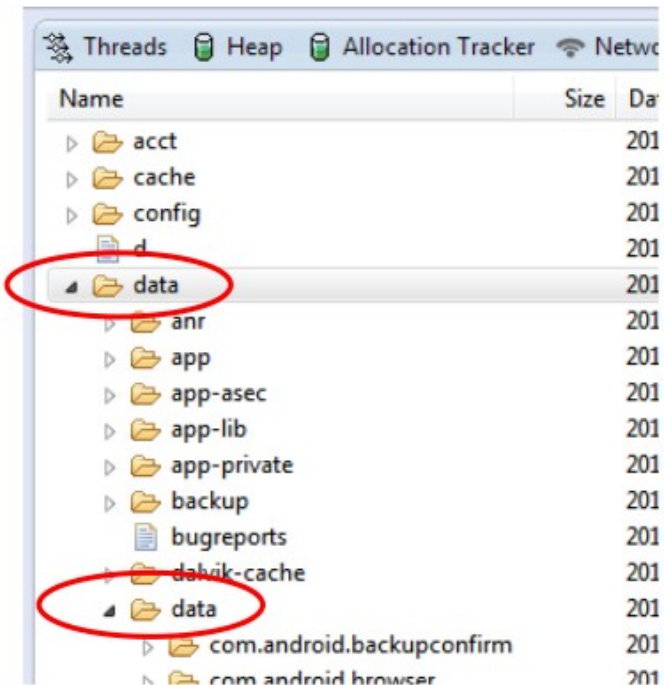
```
SharedPreferences myPrefSettings =  
    getSharedPreferences(MyPreferenceFile, actMode);
```

Persistence is an important concept in Android, and it is discussed in more detail latter.

Data Persistence using Android SharedPreferences Class

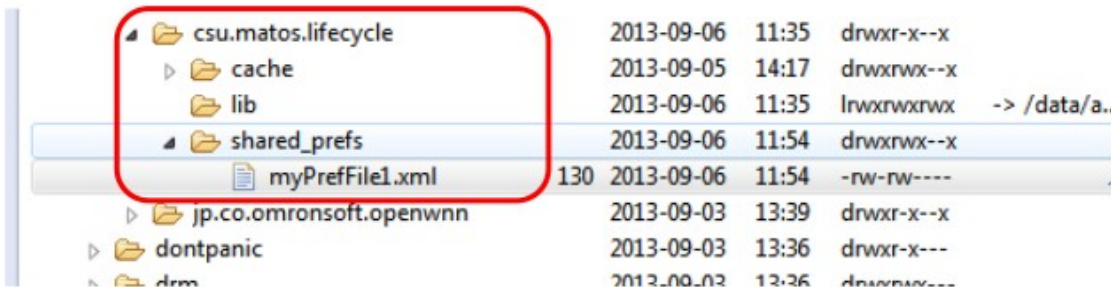
SharedPreferences files are permanently stored in the application's process space.

Use DDMS file explorer to locate the entry:
`data/data/your-package-name/shared-prefs`

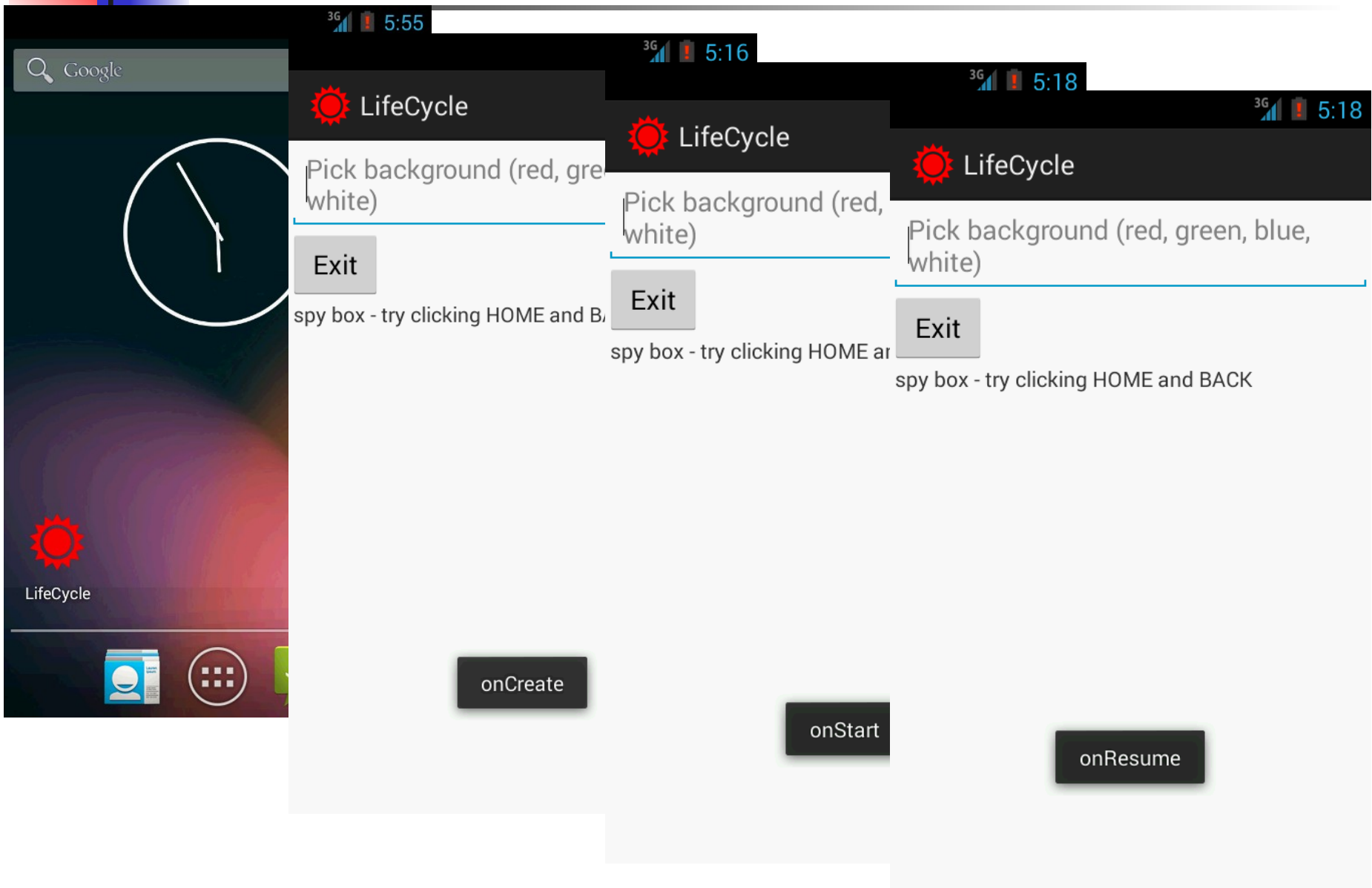


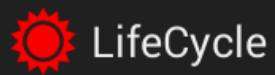
Key

Value



A complete Example: The LifeCycle App





LifeCycle

Pick background (red, green, white)

Exit

spy box - try clicking HOME and BACK

onPause

3G 5:53

Google



LifeCycle

onStop



3G 5:57

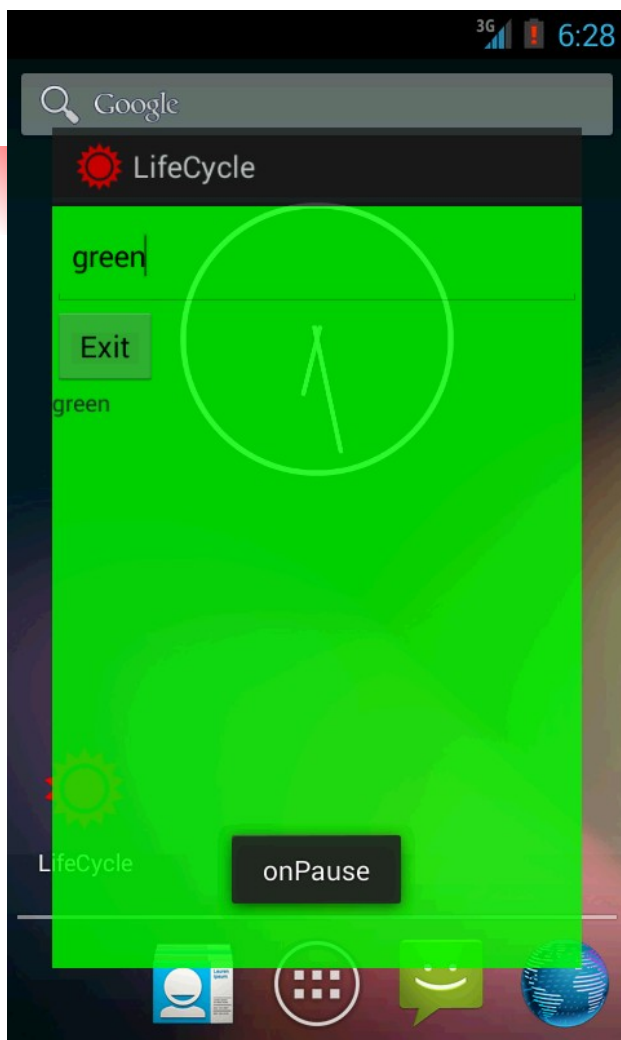
Google



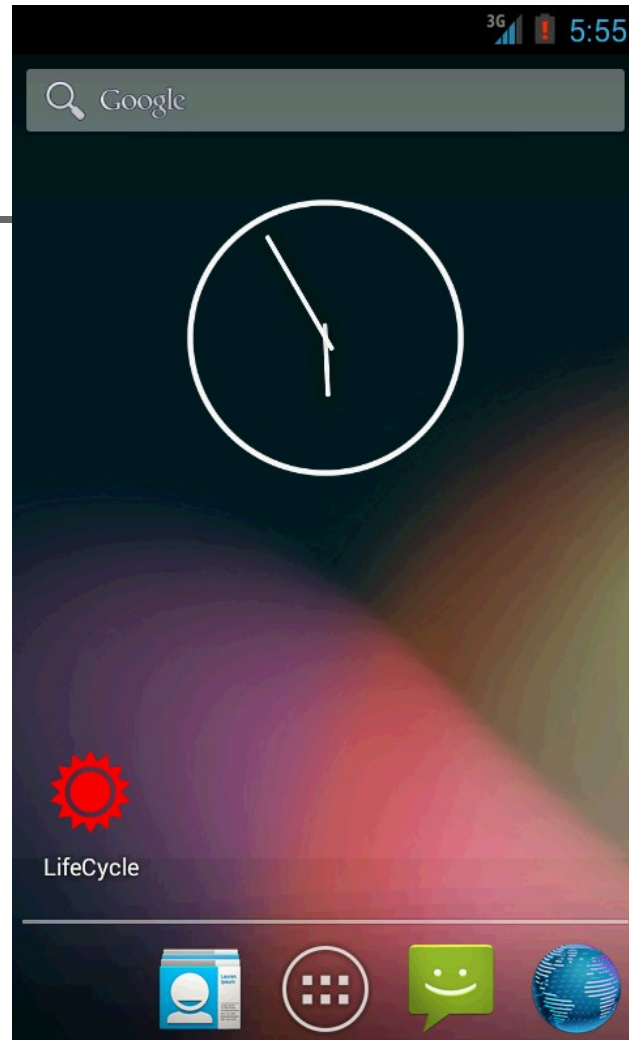
LifeCycle

onDestroy

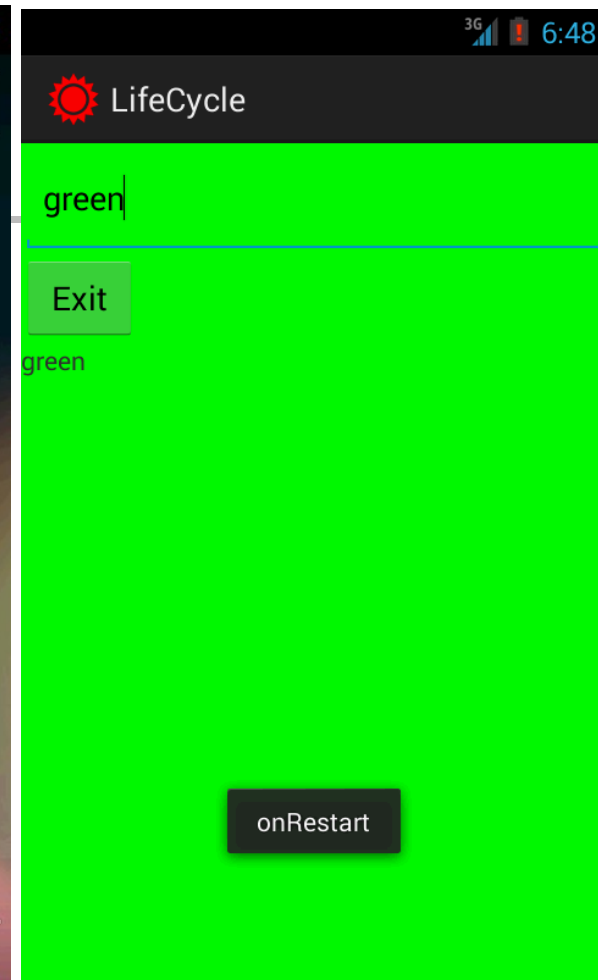




User selects a green background and clicks the HOME key. When the app is paused, the user's selection is saved, the app is still active but it is not visible.



The app is re-executed



The app is re-started and becomes visible again, showing all the state values previously set by the user (see the text boxes)



A complete Example: The LifeCycle App

The following application demonstrates the transitioning of a simple activity through the Android's sequence of Life-Cycle states.

1. A Toast-msg will be displayed showing the current event's name.
2. An EditText box is provided for the user to indicate a background color.
3. When the activity is paused the selected background color value is saved to a SharedPreferences container.
4. When the application is re-executed, the last choice of background color should be applied.
5. An EXIT button should be provide to terminate the app.
6. You are asked to observe the sequence of messages displayed when the application:
 1. Loads for the first time
 2. Is paused after clicking HOME button
 3. Is re-executed from launch-pad
 4. Is terminated by pressing BACK and its own EXIT button
 5. Re-executed after a background color is set

```

<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    xmlns:tools="http://schemas.android.com/tools"
    android:id="@+id/myScreen1"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent"
    android:orientation="vertical"
    tools:context=".MainActivity" >
    <EditText
        android:id="@+id/editText1"
        android:layout_width="match_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:hint="Pick background (red, green, blue, white)"
        android:ems="10" >
        <requestFocus />
    </EditText>
    <Button
        android:id="@+id/button1"
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:text="Exit" />
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/textView1"
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:text=" spy box - try clicking HOME and BACK" />
</LinearLayout>

```



LifeCycle

Pick background (red, green, blue, white)

Exit

spy box - try clicking HOME and BACK



MainActivity.java

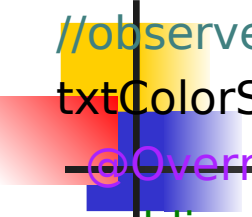
```
package csu.matos.lifecycle;
import java.util.Locale;
... // other libraries omitted for brevity
public class MainActivity extends Activity {
    // class variables
    private Context context;
    private int duration = Toast.LENGTH_SHORT;
    // PLUMBING: Pairing GUI controls with Java objects
    private Button btnExit;
    private EditText txtColorSelected;
    private TextView txtSpyBox;
    private LinearLayout myScreen;
    private String PREFNAME = "myPrefFile1";
```



MainActivity.java

@Override

```
protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
    super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);  
    // display the main screen  
    setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);  
    // wiring GUI controls and matching Java objects  
    txtColorSelected = (EditText) findViewById(R.id.editText1);  
    btnExit = (Button) findViewById(R.id.button1);  
    txtSpyBox = (TextView) findViewById(R.id.textView1);  
    myScreen = (LinearLayout) findViewById(R.id.myScreen1);  
    // set GUI listeners, watchers,...  
    btnExit.setOnClickListener(new OnClickListener() {  
        @Override  
        public void onClick(View v) {  
            finish();  
        }  
    });  
});
```



```
//observe (text) changes made to EditText box (color selection)
txtColorSelected.addTextChangedListener(new TextWatcher() {
    @Override
    public void onTextChanged(CharSequence s, int start, int before, int count) {
        // nothing TODO, needed by interface
    }
    @Override
    public void beforeTextChanged(CharSequence s, int start, int count,
        int after) {
        // nothing TODO, needed by interface
    }
    @Override
    public void afterTextChanged(Editable s) {
        // set background to selected color
        String chosenColor = s.toString().toLowerCase(Locale.US);
        txtSpyBox.setText(chosenColor);
        setBackgroundColor(chosenColor, myScreen);
    }
}); // end of TextWatcher
```

onCreate()

onCreate()

```
//show the current state's name
context = getApplicationContext();
Toast.makeText(context, "onCreate", duration).show();
} //onCreate

@Override
protected void onDestroy() {
    super.onDestroy();
    Toast.makeText(context, "onDestroy", duration).show();
}

@Override
protected void onPause() {
    super.onPause();
    // save state data (background color) for future use
    String chosenColor = txtSpyBox.getText().toString();
    saveStateData(chosenColor);
    Toast.makeText(context, "onPause", duration).show();
}

@Override
protected void onRestart() {
    super.onRestart();
    Toast.makeText(context, "onRestart", duration).show();
}
```



@Override

protected void onResume() {

super.onResume(),

Toast.makeText(context, "onResume", duration).show();

}

@Override

protected void onStart() {

super.onStart();

// if appropriate, change background color to chosen value

// updateMeUsingSavedStateData();

Toast.makeText(context, "onStart", duration).show();

}

@Override

protected void onStop() {

super.onStop();

Toast.makeText(context, "onStop", duration).show();

}



MainActivity.java

```
private void setBackgroundColor(String chosenColor, LinearLayout
    myScreen) {
    // hex color codes: 0xAARRGGBB AA:transp, RR red,
    // GG green, BB blue
    if (chosenColor.contains("red"))
        myScreen.setBackgroundColor(0xffff0000);
    if (chosenColor.contains("green"))
        myScreen.setBackgroundColor(0xff00ff00);
    if (chosenColor.contains("blue"))
        myScreen.setBackgroundColor(0xff0000ff);
    if (chosenColor.contains("white"))
        myScreen.setBackgroundColor(0xffffffff);
} // end of method setBackgroundColor
```



MainActivity.java

```
private void saveStateData(String chosenColor) {  
    // this is a little <key,value> table permanently kept in memory  
    SharedPreferences myPrefContainer =  
        getSharedPreferences(PREFNAME, Activity.MODE_PRIVATE);  
    // pair <key,value> to be stored represents our 'important' data  
    SharedPreferences.Editor myPrefEditor =  
        myPrefContainer.edit();  
    String key = "chosenBackgroundColor";  
    String value = txtSpyBox.getText().toString();  
    myPrefEditor.putString(key, value);  
    myPrefEditor.commit();  
} // end of saveStateData
```



MainActivity.java

```
private void updateMeUsingSavedStateData() {  
    // (in case it exists) use saved data telling backg color  
    SharedPreferences myPrefContainer =  
        getSharedPreferences(PREFNAME, Activity.MODE_PRIVATE);  
    String key = "chosenBackgroundColor";  
    String defaultValue = "white";  
    if (( myPrefContainer != null ) &&  
        myPrefContainer.contains(key)){  
        String color = myPrefContainer.getString(key, defaultValue);  
        setBackgroundColor(color, myScreen);  
    }  
} // updateMeUsingSavedStateData  
} // end of MainActivity class
```



Appendix A: Using Bundles to Save/Restore State Values

@Override

```
public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
    ...  
    if ( savedInstanceState != null )  
        String someStrValue = savedInstanceState.getString("STR_KEY",  
                                                            "Default");  
    ...  
}
```

@Override

```
public void onSaveInstanceState(Bundle outState) {  
    ...  
    myBundle.putString("STR_KEY", "blah blah blah");  
    onSaveInstanceState( myBundle );  
    ...  
}
```



Appendix A: Using Bundles to Save/Restore State Values

Note: This approach works well when Android kills the app (like in a device-rotation event), however; it will not create the state bundle when the user kills the app (eg. pressing BackButton).

Hint: It is a better practice to save state using SharedPreferences in the onPause() method.

Appendix B: Detecting Device Rotation





Appendix B: Detecting Device Rotation

The function below allows you to obtain the current ORIENTATION of the device as **NORTH**(0), **WEST**(1), **SOUTH**(2) and **EAST**(3).

```
private int getOrientation() {  
    // the TOP of the device points to  
    // [0:North, 1:West, 2:South, 3:East]  
    Display display = ((WindowManager) getApplication()  
        .getSystemService(Context.WINDOW_SERVICE))  
        .getDefaultDisplay();  
    display.getRotation();  
    return display.getRotation();  
}
```



Method

Use the onCreate method to initialize a control variable with the original device's orientation.

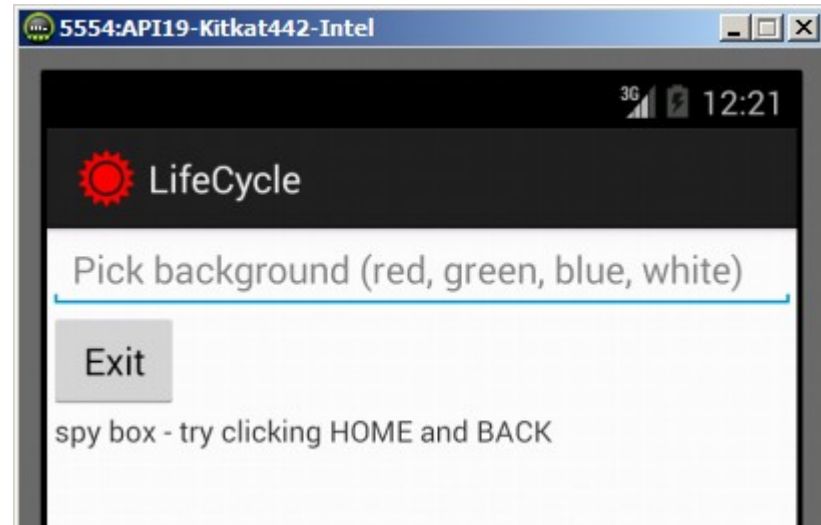
During onPause compare the current orientation with its original value; if they are not the same then the device was rotated.


```
int originalOrientation;
// used to detect orientation change
@Override
protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    ...
    setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
    originalOrientation = getOrientation();
    ...
}
@Override
protected void onPause() {
    super.onPause();
    If ( getOrientation() != originalOrientation ){
        // Orientation changed - phone was rotated
        // put a flag in outBundle, call onSaveInstanceState(...)
    } else {
        // no orientation change detected in the session
    }
}
```

Bài thực hành 1

Transitioning: One State at the Time

1. Create an Android app (LifeCycle) to show the different states traversed by an application.
2. The activity_main.xml layout should include an EditText box (txtMsg), a button (btnExit), and a TextView (txtSpy). Add to the EditText box the hint depicted in the figure on the right.





Bài thực hành 1 (tiếp)

3. Use the onCreate method to connect the button and textbox to the program. Add the following line of code:
`Toast.makeText(this, "onCreate",
 Toast.LENGTH_SHORT).show();`
4. The onClick method has only one command: finish(); called to terminate the application.
5. Add a Toast-command (as the one above) to each of the remaining six main events. Top menu: Source > Override/Implement Methods... (look for callback methods). On the Option-Window check mark each of the following events: onStart, onResume, onPause, onStop, onDestroy, onRestart (notice how many onEvent... methods are there!!!) .
6. Save your code.



Bài thực hành 1 (tiếp)

7. Compile and execute the application.
8. Write down the sequence of messages displayed using the Toast-commands.
9. Press the EXIT button. Observe the sequence of states displayed.
10. Re-execute the application
11. Press emulator's HOME button. What happens?
12. Click on launch pad, look for the app's icon and return to the app. What sequence of messages is displayed?
13. Click on the emulator's CALL (Green phone). Is the app paused or stopped?
14. Click on the BACK button to return to the application.
15. Long-tap on the emulator's HANG-UP button. What happens?



Lab Experience 2

Calling & Texting Emulator-to-Emulator

7. Run a second emulator.

- a. Make a voice-call to the first emulator that is still showing our app. What happens on this case? (real-time synchronous request)
- b. Send a text-message to first emulator (asynchronous attention request)

8. Write a phrase in the EditText box: “these are the best moments of my life....”.

9. Re-execute the app. What happened to the text?



Lab Experience 3

Provide data persistence .

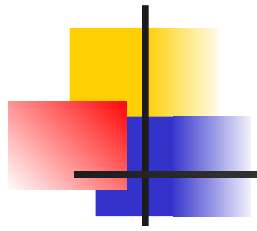
16. Use the **onPause** method to add the following fragment:

```
SharedPreferences myFile1 = getSharedPreferences("myFile1",  
    Activity.MODE_PRIVATE);  
SharedPreferences.Editor myEditor = myFile1.edit();  
String temp = txtMsg.getText().toString();  
myEditor.putString("mydata", temp);  
myEditor.commit();
```

17. Use the **onResume** method to add the following fragment:

```
SharedPreferences myFile = getSharedPreferences("myFile1",  
    Activity.MODE_PRIVATE);  
if ( (myFile != null) && (myFile.contains("mydata")) ) {  
    String temp = myFile.getString("mydata", "***");  
    txtMsg.setText(temp);  
}
```

18. What happens now with the data previously entered in the text box?



Next: Android-Lesson04-User-Interfaces