City Hunter The smart city rally app

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Introduction

The user can try to guess the answer of the mystery as often as he wants. However, the potential score that he can get decreases for each try he guesses wrong, starting at a maximum score of 500 and going down to a minimum score of 100.

Persistence

The persistence of our application is divided into persistent data and dynamic data. The persistent data is not modified by the user and can only be read which makes it easy to be later updated and fetched from a server. The dynamic data is frequently modified by the user and contains more user related information, such as his progress or his current total score.

2.1 Persistent data

The persistent data is stored as a JSON file inside the assets folder of our application. We decided to use JSON as data format because it's nowadays very popular, easy to read and has a short notation which minimizes the file size for transmission and storage. The JSON file is read at the launch of the application and parsed in order to create the objects needed for our application. In Figure 1 we can see the structure of our JSON file. It's a tree structure where the array cities is the root and contains several city objects. Each city object contains city related properties but also an array mysteries which contains several mystery objects. Finally, each mystery object contains mystery related properties but also an array challenges which contains several challenge objects.

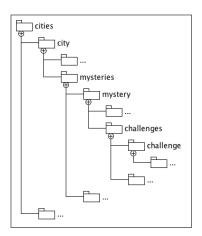


Figure 1: Diagram showing the structure of the persistent_data.json file.

Figure 2 shows the UML diagram of the different classes and relationships concerning the persistent data. The class Home contains 0 or more cities. The class City contains 0 or more mysteries. The class Mystery contains 0 or more challenges. The class Challenge is an abstract class where the classes QuestionChallenge and CompassChallenge inherit from. Finally, ChallengeType, ChallengeState and MysteryState are enumeration types used across our application.

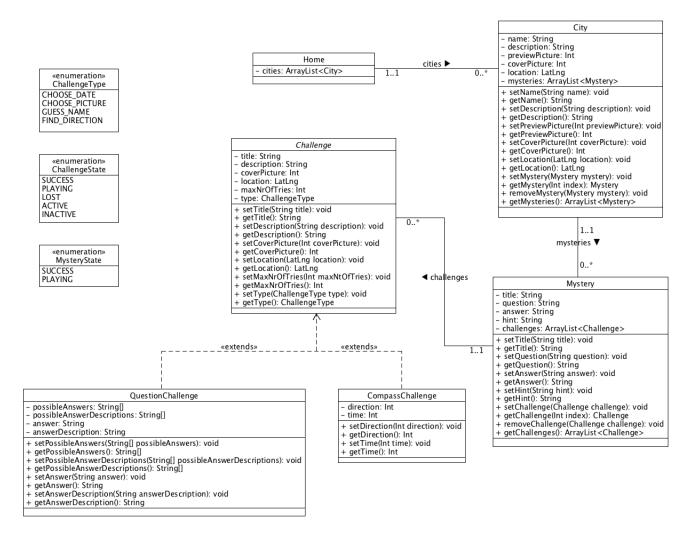


Figure 2: UML diagram showing the different class and relationships concerning the persistent data.

2.2 Dynamic data

The dynamic data is stored as shared preferences. Shared preferences provide an easy interface to retrieve and modify primitive type values. Android saves shared preferences internally as files and takes care of their management. They are the perfect choice for storing settings and user related information. Our application uses the following shared preferences:

- GELLE_FRA_PREFERENCES
- CATHEDRAL_PREFERENCES
- PALAIS_PREFERENCES
- PLACE_GUILLAUME_PREFERENCES
- PLACE_CLAIREFONTAINE_PREFERENCES
- MYSTERY_1_PREFERENCES
- SCORE_PREFERENCES

We store as shared preferences the progress of each challenge and mystery, but also the number of tries of each challenge and mystery. Depending on the challenge, we also store specific information about the current state of already selected buttons, pictures or words entered. The current total score of the user is also stored as a shared preference. The 'Settings' activity allows a user to delete all shared preferences and reset the state of the application.

Activities

In this chapter we describe the different activities that are used in our Android application. Figure 3 shows the life cycle of all our activities and provides a global view of the structure of our application. The 'Home' activity is our main activity. This is the first activity that is started when our application is launched. The user can then start further activities from this activity, such as the 'City' activity or the 'All Cities' activity. Notice that the 'City' activity can be started from the 'Home' activity but also from the 'All Cities' activity. Afterwards, the user can start from the 'City' activity the 'Mystery Tab' activity which includes the 'Mystery Map' activity and the 'Mystery Info' activity. The 'Mystery Map' activity allows the user to start different 'Challenge' activities, such as the 'Choose Date' activity, the 'Choose Picture' activity, the 'Guess Name' activity or the 'Find Direction' activity. Finally each activity, except of the individual challenge activities, has access to a menu which includes the 'Settings' activity, 'Help' activity and the 'About' activity.

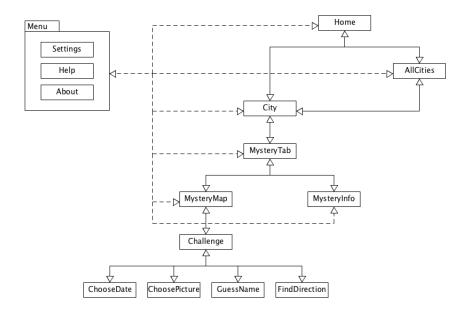


Figure 3: Life cycle of all activities.

3.1 Home Activity

The 'Home' activity is our main activity. This is the first activity that the user sees and that is started at the launch of our application. It loads the JSON persistent data and creates the necessary data structure. It also displays the total score that the user has achieved so far. It provides an 'All Cities' button, which allows a user to start the 'All Cities' activity. However, based on the user's current location it also able to suggest to the user the closest city near by.

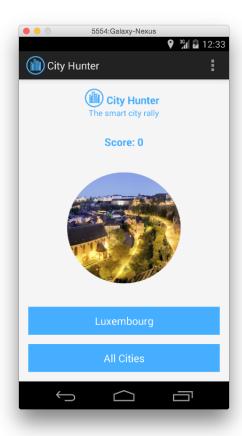


Figure 4: A snapshot of the Home Activity.

3.2 All Cities Activity

The 'All Cities' activity shows all available cities in a grid list. The user can select an individual city out of this list to start the 'City' activity which displays more details about the selected city.

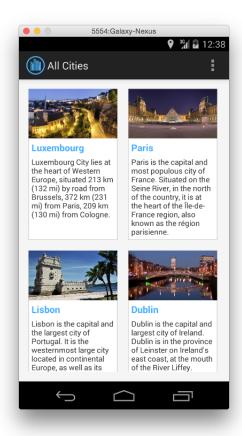


Figure 5: A snapshot of the All Cities Activity.

3.3 City Activity

The 'City' activity shows all available mysteries for a particular city in a grid list. The user can select an individual mystery out of this list to start the 'Mystery Tab' activity.



Figure 6: A snapshot of the City Activity.

3.4 Mystery Map Activity

The 'Mystery Map' activity is the first tab of the 'Mystery Tab' activity. It shows a map with all the available challenges. The map also contains a button to switch to fullscreen and a button to route the user from his current location to the closest challenge. Below the map is a list of all available challenges. Challenges are normally inactive and only become active if the user's current position is close to a challenge. Each inactive challenge has a button which when pressed shows the route from the user's current location to the particular challenge. Active challenges can be clicked on to start the particular 'Challenge' activity.



Figure 7: A snapshot of the Mystery Map Activity.

3.5 Mystery Info Activity

The 'Mystery Info' activity is the second tab of the 'Mystery Tab' activity. It shows the title and the question of the mystery that the user has to solve. If the user was able to successfully complete all the challenges, then also a hint is displayed to help the user solving the mystery. Finally, the activity also provides to the user a way to enter his answer for the mystery.

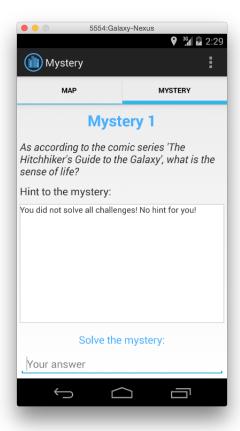


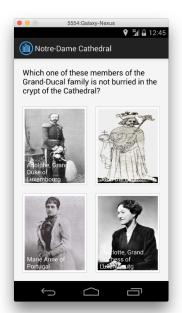
Figure 8: A snapshot of the Mystery Info Activity.

3.6 Challenge Activity

The 'Challenge' activity loads individual challenge activities relative to the selected type of challenge in the 'Mystery Map' activity. Possible challenge activities are:

- Choose Date Activity
- Choose Picture Activity
- Guess Name Activity
- Find Direction Activity

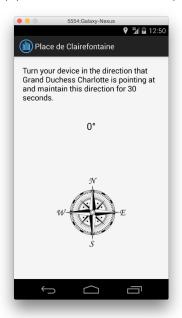




(a) Choose Date Activity

(b) Choose Picture Activity





(c) Guess Name Activity

(d) Find Direction Activity

Figure 9: Snapshots of the possible challenge activities.

3.7 Menu Activity

Each activity, except of the challenge activities, has access to a menu which provides a selection of the following three activities:

- Settings Activity
- Help Activity
- About Activity

The 'Settings' activity provides a button to reset all saved data, including the user's progress and his current score. The 'Help' activity provides a description of the application in order to help the user better understand how the application works. The 'About' activity includes a small description and information about the copyright and the authors of the application.

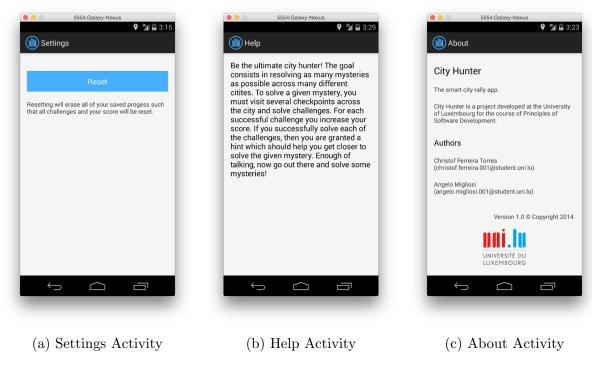


Figure 10: Snapshots of the three menu activities.

Chapter 4
Challenges

Conclusion