

# Workshop: Building the "Hero Card" App

**Class 3: Thinking in Compose Time:** 60 Minutes

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## Part 0: What is Jetpack Compose?

Before we code, you need to understand the shift in mindset.

The Old Way (Imperative/XML):

You build a UI like a construction worker. You find a specific wall (View) by its ID, then you paint it red. Later, if you want it blue, you find it again and paint over it.

- Example: `findViewById(R.id.textView).setText("Hello")`

The New Way (Declarative/Compose):

You build a UI like an architect. You hand a blueprint to the system that says, "If the user is logged in, the screen looks like this. If not, it looks like that." You don't manually update views; you just redraw the blueprint.

- Example: `if (loggedIn) Text("Hello")`

The `@Composable` Annotation:

This is a magic sticker you put on a function. It tells the compiler: "This function doesn't return data (like an Int or String). This function draws UI on the screen."

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## Part 1: Images & Resources (Theory)

Before we start coding the header, we need a custom image. In Android, you don't just dump files anywhere; there is a system.

### 1. Raster vs. Vector:

- **Raster (PNG, JPG, WebP):** Made of pixels. Great for photos (like our hero's face). If you stretch them too much, they get blurry.
- **Vector (XML / SVG):** Made of math instructions. Great for icons and logos. You can stretch them infinitely, and they stay sharp.

### 2. The `res` (Resources) Folder:

Look at the project structure on the left `app > res`.

- **drawable:** This is your workhorse. Put your hero photos, background images, and icon vectors here.
- **mipmap:** **STOP!** Do not put UI images here. This folder is *strictly* for the App Launcher Icon (the icon the user clicks on their home screen).

### 3. The Golden Rule of Naming:

Android resource filenames must be:

- **Lowercase only (a-z)**
  - **No spaces** (use underscores \_)
  - **No starting numbers**
  - *Bad:* My\_Hero.jpg, 123image.png
  - *Good:* hero\_profile.jpg, background\_red.png
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## Step 1: Import Your Custom Image

1. **Find an Image:** Go to Google Images or Unsplash and download a cool "Robot" or "Superhero" image (JPG or PNG).
  2. **Rename It:** Rename the file on your computer to **hero\_avatar.jpg** (or .png).  
*Remember: All lowercase!*
  3. **Import:**
    - In Android Studio, locate the **res > drawable** folder on the left.
    - Drag and drop your file from your computer into the **drawable** folder.
    - A dialog will appear. Click **Refactor/OK**.
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## Step 2: Project Setup & The Container

(Same setup as before)

Add this function to **MainActivity.kt**:

```
@Composable
fun HeroProfile() {
    Column(
        modifier = Modifier
            .fillMaxSize()
            .background(Color(0xFFF0F0F0)) // Light Gray
            .padding(16.dp)

    ) {
        // Content goes here...
    }
}
```

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## Step 3: The Header (Box & Custom Image)

**Concept: contentScale** When an image size doesn't match the `Image` container size, we have to decide how to resize it.

- `ContentScale.Fit`: Shows the whole image (might leave empty space).
- `ContentScale.Crop`: Fills the whole container (might cut off edges of the image). Usually best for headers.

**Task:** Add this inside your `Column` block. Notice we are now using `R.drawable.hero_avatar`.

```
// 1. The Wrapper Box
Box(
    modifier = Modifier
        .fillMaxWidth()
        .height(200.dp) // Fixed height
        .clip(RoundedCornerShape(16.dp)) // Round the corners of the Box
        .background(Color.Gray)
) {
    // LAYER 1: The Custom Image (Bottom)
    Image(
        // R.drawable points to the folder where we dropped the file
        painter = painterResource(id = R.drawable.hero_avatar),
        contentDescription = "Hero Image",
        contentScale = ContentScale.Crop, // Zoom image to fill the bounds
        modifier = Modifier.fillMaxSize()
    )

    // LAYER 2: The Badge (Top)
    Text(
        text = "Active",
        color = Color.White,
        modifier = Modifier
            .align(Alignment.TopEnd) // Gravity: Top-Right
            .padding(12.dp)
            .background(Color.Green, RoundedCornerShape(8.dp))
            .padding(8.dp)
    )
}
```

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## Step 4: Content & Spacing (Text)

(*Standard Text Components*)

Add this inside [Column](#), after the [Box](#):

```
Spacer(modifier = Modifier.height(16.dp))
Text(
    text = "Pixel Droid",
    fontSize = 30.sp,
    fontWeight = FontWeight.Bold,
    color = Color.Black
)
Text(
    text = "A high-tech android capable of hacking any mainframe in seconds.",
    fontSize = 16.sp,
    color = Color.DarkGray
)
Spacer(modifier = Modifier.height(24.dp))
```

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## Step 5: Horizontal Layouts (Row)

(*Introduction to creating helper functions*)

**Task A:** Create the helper function at the **very bottom** of your file (outside [HeroProfile](#)):

```
@Composable
fun StatBadge(label: String, value: String) {
    Column(horizontalAlignment = Alignment.CenterHorizontally) {
        Text(text = value, fontSize = 22.sp, fontWeight = FontWeight.Bold)
        Text(text = label, fontSize = 12.sp, color = Color.Gray)
    }
}
```

**Task B:** Use it inside your main [HeroProfile](#) Column:

```
Row(
    modifier = Modifier.fillMaxWidth(),
    horizontalArrangement = Arrangement.SpaceBetween
) {
    StatBadge("Strength", "95")
    StatBadge("Intellect", "120")
```

```
        StatBadge("Speed", "300")
    }
Spacer(modifier = Modifier.height(24.dp))
```

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## Step 6: Interaction (Button)

*(Clickables and lambda functions)*

Add to **Column**:

```
Button(
    onClick = { /* Logic later */ },
    modifier = Modifier.fillMaxWidth(),
    colors = ButtonDefaults.buttonColors(containerColor = Color.Blue)
) {
    Text(text = "Hire Hero")
}
```

 Homework: The Villain Card

Download a new image of a "Villain" or "Monster".

Import it into res/drawable (Name it villain\_avatar.jpg).

Create VillainProfile() and use this new image.

Extra Challenge: Add a 2dp Border around the Villain's image using the border modifier on the Box.

Hint: Modifier.border(2.dp, Color.Red, RoundedCornerShape(16.dp))

Delivery at: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/6aUklmHMHi6e5O6QqXxI>