



# Learning Unit 6

## Persistent Data

Files and Databases





# Objectives

1. Review the use of key-Value data.
2. Understand and use of Files.
3. Utilize Android Databases - SQLite.
4. Apply Android best practices with Persistent Data
5. Apply storing data in practical applications.



# Shared Preferences

Learning Unit 5



# Introduction to Persistent Data

- Android provides different data storage options available on Android:
  - **Shared preferences:** Store private primitive data in key-value pairs.
  - **Internal file storage:** Store app-private files on the device file system.
  - **External file storage:** Store files on the shared external file system. This is usually for shared user files, such as photos.
  - **Databases:** Store structured data in a private database.
  - **See Last unit slides**



# Files

Learning Unit 6

# Saving Files

- a file system that's similar to disk-based file systems on other platforms.
- A 'File' object is suited to reading or writing large amounts of data
  - good for images, network, audio
- two file storage areas: "internal" and "external" storage.



# Permissions

- Internal storage:
  - is always available
  - files saved here are accessible by only your app by default
  - When the user uninstalls your app, the system removes all your app's files from internal storage (and external if available).
- External storage:
  - To write to the external storage, you must request the `WRITE_EXTERNAL_STORAGE` permission in your manifest file:

```
<manifest ...>  
  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WRITE_EXTERNAL_STORAGE" />  
  ...  
</manifest>
```
  - Recommended to declare the `READ_EXTERNAL_STORAGE` permission

# Writing a File:

- Internal Storage:

- acquire the appropriate directory as a File by calling one of two methods:
  - `getFilesDir()`
    - Returns a File representing an internal directory for your app.
  - `getCacheDir()`
    - Returns a File representing an internal directory for your app's temporary cache files.

- External Storage:

- Availability and volume need check before use:
  - `getExternalStorageState()`  
If the returned state is equal to `MEDIA_MOUNTED`, then you can read and write your files.

```
private fun isExternalStorageWritable(): Boolean {  
  
    return Environment.getExternalStorageState() ==  
        Environment.MEDIA_MOUNTED  
}
```



# Writing a File:

```
private fun writeToInternalFile() {  
    val outputStream = openFileOutput("todofile", Context.MODE_PRIVATE)  
    val writer = PrintWriter(outputStream)  
  
    // Write each task on a separate line  
    writer.println("Study for Algebra exam")  
    writer.println("Wash the car")  
    writer.println("Volunteer at the hospital")  
  
    writer.close()  
}
```

# Reading a File

- In order to read from the file, call the `openFileInput()`
    - method with the name of the file.
- It returns an instance of `FileInputStream`.

```
private fun readFromInternalFile(): String {  
    val inputStream = openFileInput("todofile")  
    val reader = inputStream.bufferedReader()  
    val stringBuilder = StringBuilder()  
    val lineSeparator = System.getProperty("line.separator")  
  
    // Append each task to stringBuilder  
    reader.forEachLine { stringBuilder.append(it).append(lineSeparator) }  
  
    return stringBuilder.toString()  
}
```



# Delete a File

- You should always delete files that you no longer need. The most straightforward way to delete a file is to have the opened file reference call `delete()` on itself.

```
myFile.delete();
```

- If the file is saved on internal storage, you can also ask the Context to `myContext.deleteFile(fileName);` calling `deleteFile()`:

# Databases

## Learning Unit 6



# SQLite

- Embedded RDBMS
- ACID Compliant
- Size – about 257 Kbytes
- Not a client/server architecture
  - Accessed via function calls from the application
- Writing (insert, update, delete) locks the database, queries can be done in parallel



# SQLite

- Datastore – single, cross platform file (kinda like an MS Access DB)
  - Definitions
  - Tables
  - Indices
  - Data



# SQLite Data Types

- This is quite different than the normal SQL data types so please read:

<https://www.sqlite.org/docs.html>

# Storage classes

- **NULL** – null value
- **INTEGER** - signed integer, stored in 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, or 8 bytes depending on the magnitude of the value
- **REAL** - a floating point value, 8-byte IEEE floating point number.
- **TEXT** - text string, stored using the database encoding (UTF-8, UTF-16BE or UTF-16LE).
- **BLOB**. The value is a blob of data, stored exactly as it was input.

# **android.database.sqlite**

- Contains the SQLite database management classes that an application would use to manage its own private database.



# android.database.sqlite - Classes

- SQLiteCloseable - An object created from a SQLiteDatabase that can be closed.
- SQLiteCursor - A Cursor implementation that exposes results from a query on a SQLiteDatabase.
- SQLiteDatabase - Exposes methods to manage a SQLite database.
- SQLiteOpenHelper - A helper class to manage database creation and version management.
- SQLiteProgram - A base class for compiled SQLite programs.
- SQLiteQuery - A SQLite program that represents a query that reads the resulting rows into a CursorWindow.
- SQLiteQueryBuilder - a convenience class that helps build SQL queries to be sent to SQLiteDatabase objects.
- SQLiteStatement - A pre-compiled statement against a SQLiteDatabase that can be reused.

## **android.database.sqlite.SQLiteDatabase**

- Contains the methods for: creating, opening, closing, inserting, updating, deleting and querying an SQLite database
- These methods are similar to JDBC but more method oriented than what we see with JDBC (remember there is not a RDBMS server running)

# Room Database

- The ***Room persistence library*** provides an abstraction layer over SQLite, allowing developers to write significantly simpler code to interact with a SQLite database.
- Room is an ORM library. An ***object-relational mapping (ORM) library*** is software that converts objects in an object-oriented programming language into tables and queries in a relational database.
- Some knowledge of relational databases and SQL is helpful when using Room.



# Room components

- Room defines three components:
  - 1.Entity** is a class annotated with `@Entity` that defines the columns and keys of a database table.
  - 2.DAO (*Data Access Object*)** is an interface annotated with `@Dao` that defines methods for selecting, updating, inserting, and deleting entities in a database.
  - 3.Database** is an abstract class annotated with `@Database` that inherits from the `RoomDatabase` class and provides DAOs for accessing the database.

# Room dependencies

Room dependencies for app module's build.gradle file.

```
plugins {  
    id 'com.android.application'  
    id 'kotlin-android'  
    id 'kotlin-kapt'  
}  
  
...  
  
dependencies {  
    ...  
    implementation 'androidx.room:room-runtime:2.4.0'  
    annotationProcessor 'androidx.room:room-compiler:2.4.0'  
    kapt 'androidx.room:room-compiler:2.4.0'  
    ...  
}
```

# Entities

- A SQLite table is created for each entity class, and the entity's fields define the table columns. The figure below defines the Subject entity. Several annotations are used:
- **@Entity** designates the entity class. The class name is used to name the table unless the optional tableName property specifies a different table name.
- **@PrimaryKey** designates which field is the table's primary key. An entity must have at least one field annotated with @PrimaryKey. Typically the primary key is an integer or long field. Setting the autoGenerate property to true makes SQLite automatically generate unique numbers for the primary key.
- **@NonNull** indicates the field should not be null. SQLite does not allow a primary key to be null.
- **@ColumnInfo** with the name property specifies a column name for a field. If @ColumnInfo is not present, the field's name is used to name the column.

```
import androidx.annotation.NonNull
import androidx.room.ColumnInfo
import androidx.room.Entity
import androidx.room.PrimaryKey

@Entity
data class Subject(
    @PrimaryKey(autoGenerate = true)
    var id: Long = 0,

    @NonNull
    var text: String,

    @ColumnInfo(name = "updated")
    var updateTime: Long = System.currentTimeMillis()) {
}
```



# Data Access Objects

- The **@Dao** annotation designates a DAO's public interface that defines methods to select, insert, update, and delete database entities.
  - Room implements the interface automatically, writing all the code necessary to interact with SQLite.
- **@Query** designates a database query, usually a SELECT statement, to be executed. The query can bind parameters from the abstract method.
  - Ex: The @Query for getSubject() has an :id parameter that matches the id parameter in getSubject().
- The return value for a @Query method matches the data returned by the SELECT statement.
  - Ex: getSubjects() returns List<Subject> as the SELECT statement selects multiple rows from the table.
- **@Insert** designates an insert query, which inserts a new entity into the database using an INSERT statement. The onConflict property indicates what the database should do if the entity being inserted already exists.
  - The return value for an @Insert method is a long when the INSERT statement inserts a row with an auto-incremented ID. The new ID is returned by the @Insert method.
- **@Update** designates an update query, which updates an existing entity in the database using an UPDATE statement.
- **@Delete** designates a delete query, which deletes an entity from the database using a DELETE statement.

```
import androidx.room.*
import com.zybooks.studyhelper.model.Subject

@Dao
interface SubjectDao {
    @Query("SELECT * FROM Subject WHERE id = :id")
    fun getSubject(id: Long): Subject?

    @Query("SELECT * FROM Subject ORDER BY text COLLATE NOCASE")
    fun getSubjects(): List<Subject>

    @Insert(onConflict = OnConflictStrategy.REPLACE)
    fun addSubject(subject: Subject): Long

    @Update
    fun updateSubject(subject: Subject)

    @Delete
    fun deleteSubject(subject: Subject)
}
```

# Room database

- The Room database class is an abstract class that inherits from **RoomDatabase**, the base class for all Room databases. The **@Database** annotation designates the Room database class and uses the property entities to name the database's entities and version to name the database version number.

```
import androidx.room.Database
import androidx.room.RoomDatabase
import com.zybooks.studyhelper.model.Question
import com.zybooks.studyhelper.model.Subject

@Database(entities = [Question::class, Subject::class], version = 1)
abstract class StudyDatabase : RoomDatabase() {
    abstract fun subjectDao(): SubjectDao
}
```



# Thank you

- In this learning unit we discussed:
  - Shared Preferences
  - Files
    - Internal
    - External
  - Databases