

# UI UX Advanced

# Unity UI for Happy People

Yvens Serpa

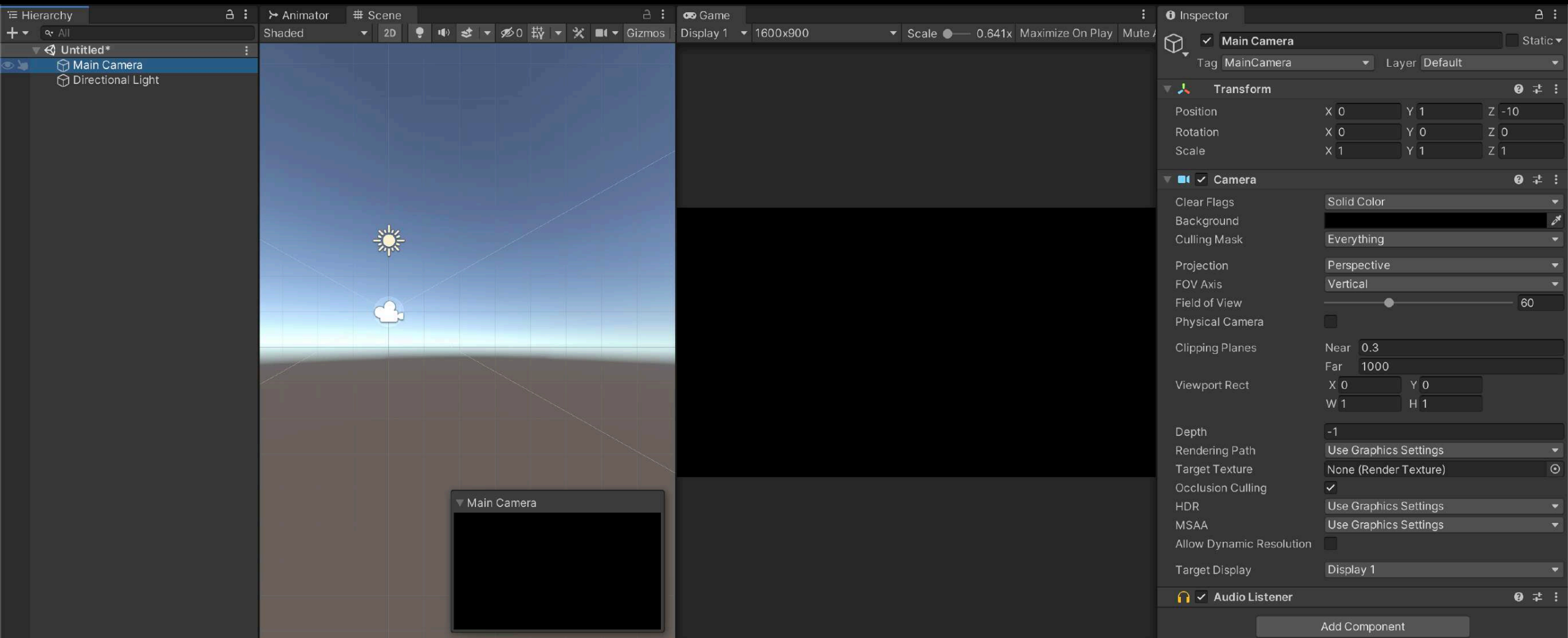
# Introduction

- Yvens Rebouças Serpa
- [y.reboucasserpa@saxion.nl](mailto:y.reboucasserpa@saxion.nl)
  - or YRE03
- From Fortaleza, Ceará - Brazil ☺
- Background in Computer Sciences, especially Computer Graphics (OpenGL with C++)
  - Scientific Research on Games and CG techniques



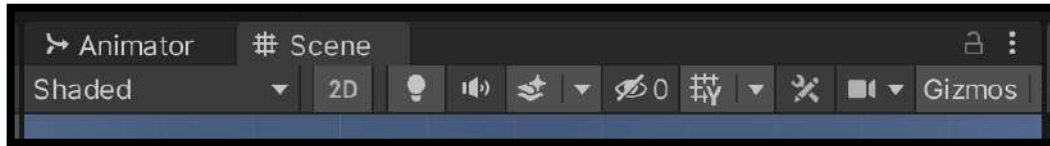
# Unity UI

- Based on Canvas Objects
- Easier to organize using **panels**
- Focus on anchors to properly set elements for different aspects and resolutions
- Goals:
  - Use the Editor/Inspector as much as possible
  - Few scripts to generalize behavior
  - Animations for the magic
- Examples using Unity 2020.1

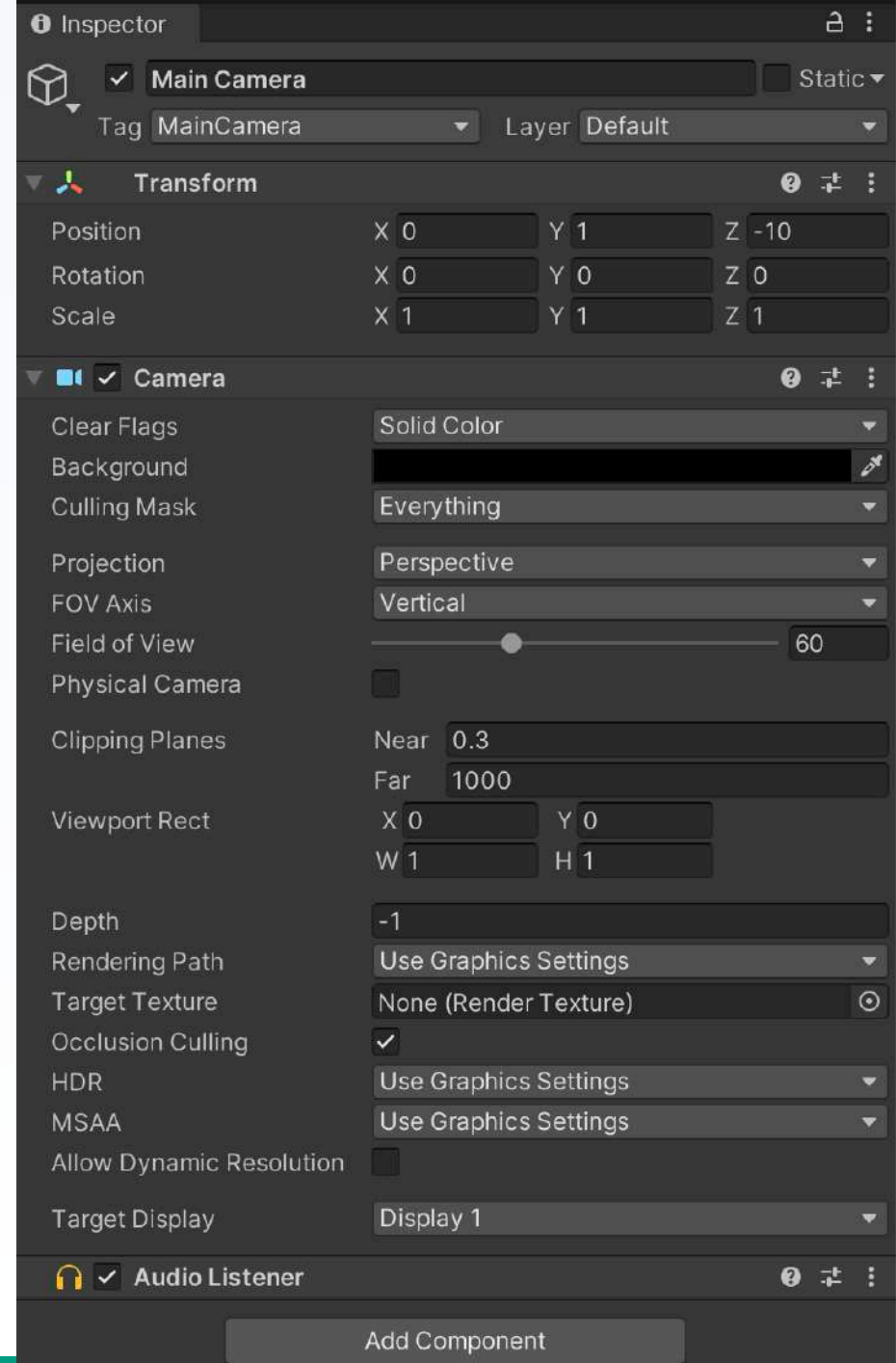


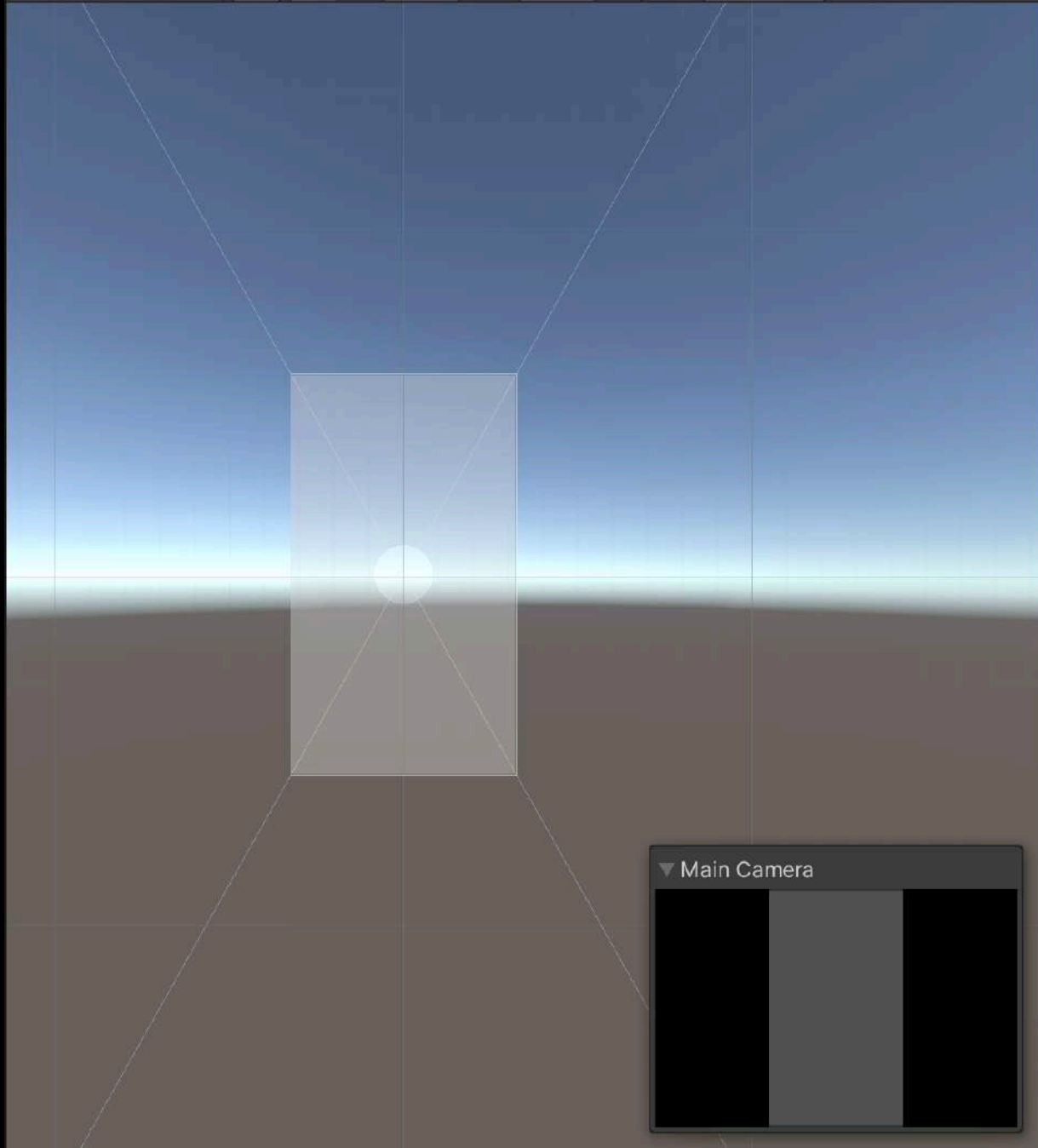
# Setting up the Camera

- Change the Camera Settings to have a solid color background
  - Not necessarily black
- Mark Unity to use the 2D view



- Camera changes are only applied to the Game Window





☒ Low Resolution Aspect Ratios

☐ VSync (Game view only)

Free Aspect

5:4

4:3

3:2

16:10

16:9

Standalone (1024x768)

800x600

ipadPro (2732x2048)

800x450

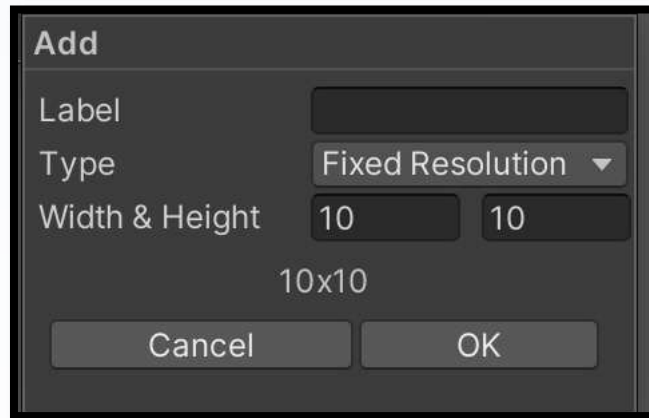
1600x900

☒ iPhone 8 (375:667)

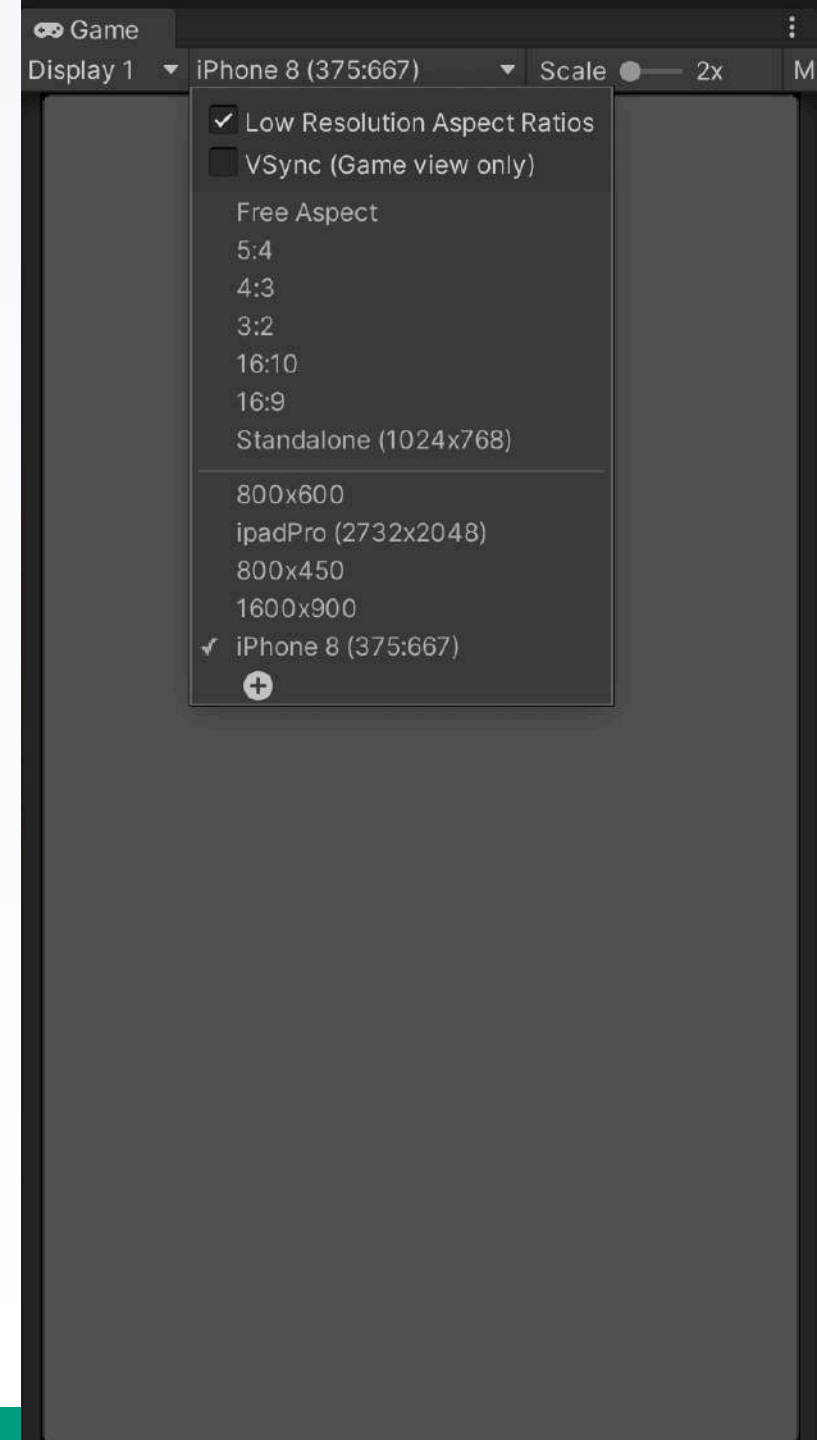
+

# Setting up the Game Window

- Setup the game window to match your end device's aspect ratio
  - Can use either aspect ratio or fixed resolution

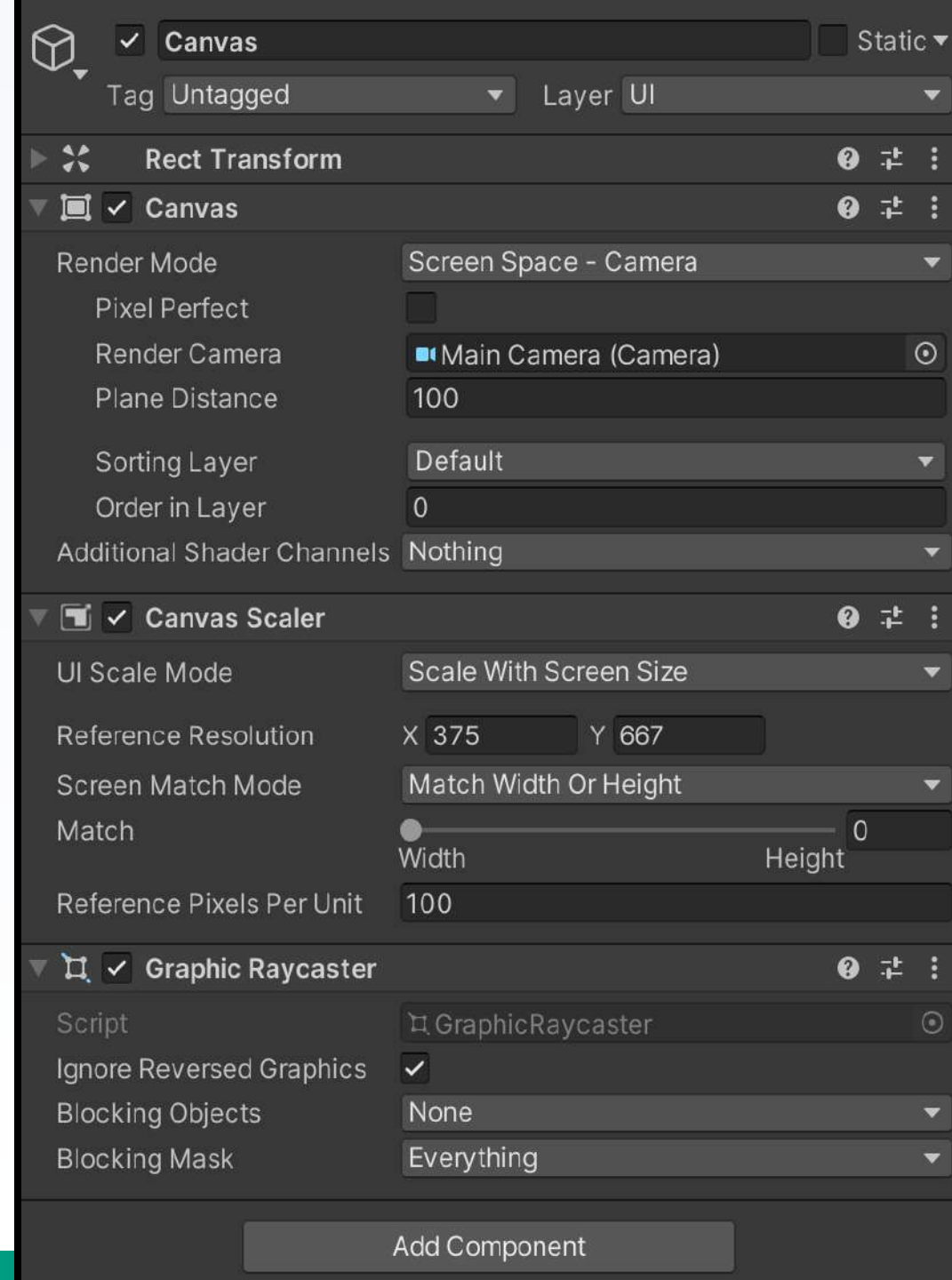


- This step is the basis for the UI configurations



# Canvas

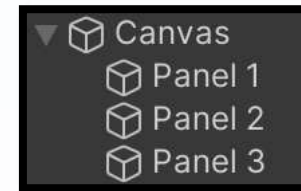
- The Canvas is the game object in which the UI is rendered and displayed
  - UI elements are children of the Canvas object
- Practical Notes:
  - Set the canvas to Screen Space – Camera
    - Select the main camera
  - Canvas Scaler for Scale With Screen Size
    - Set the reference resolution based on your screen resolution or aspect ration



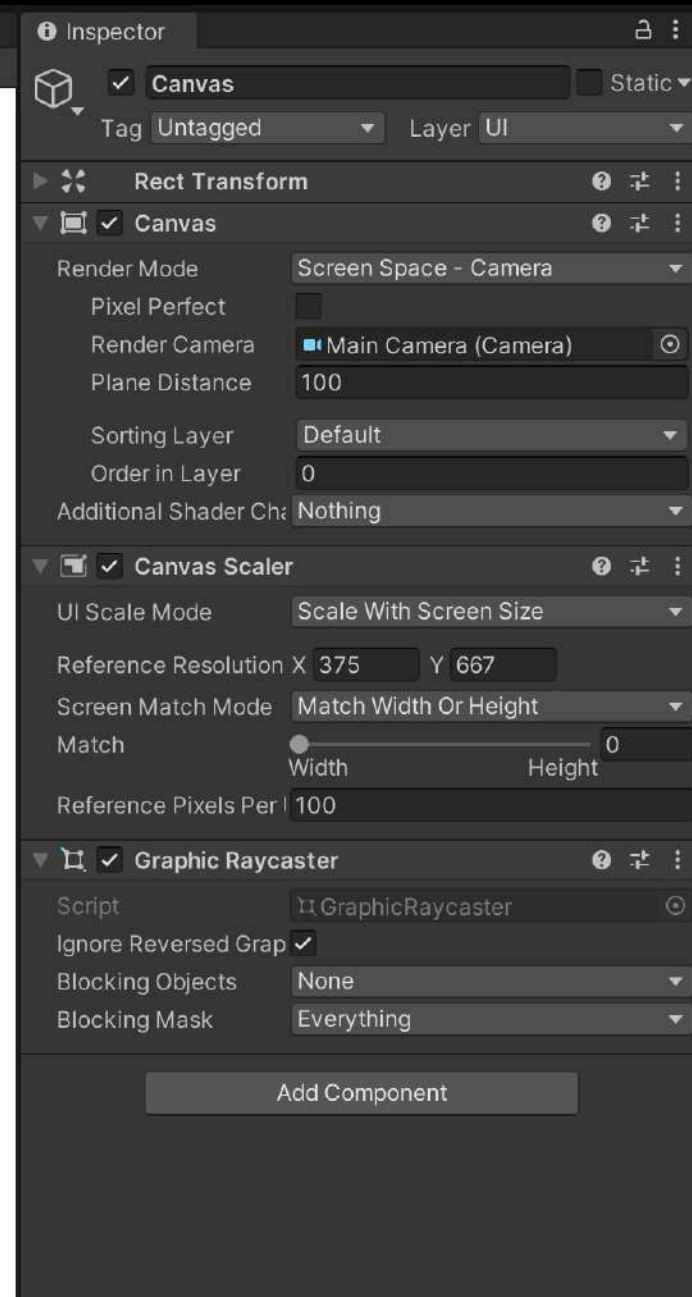
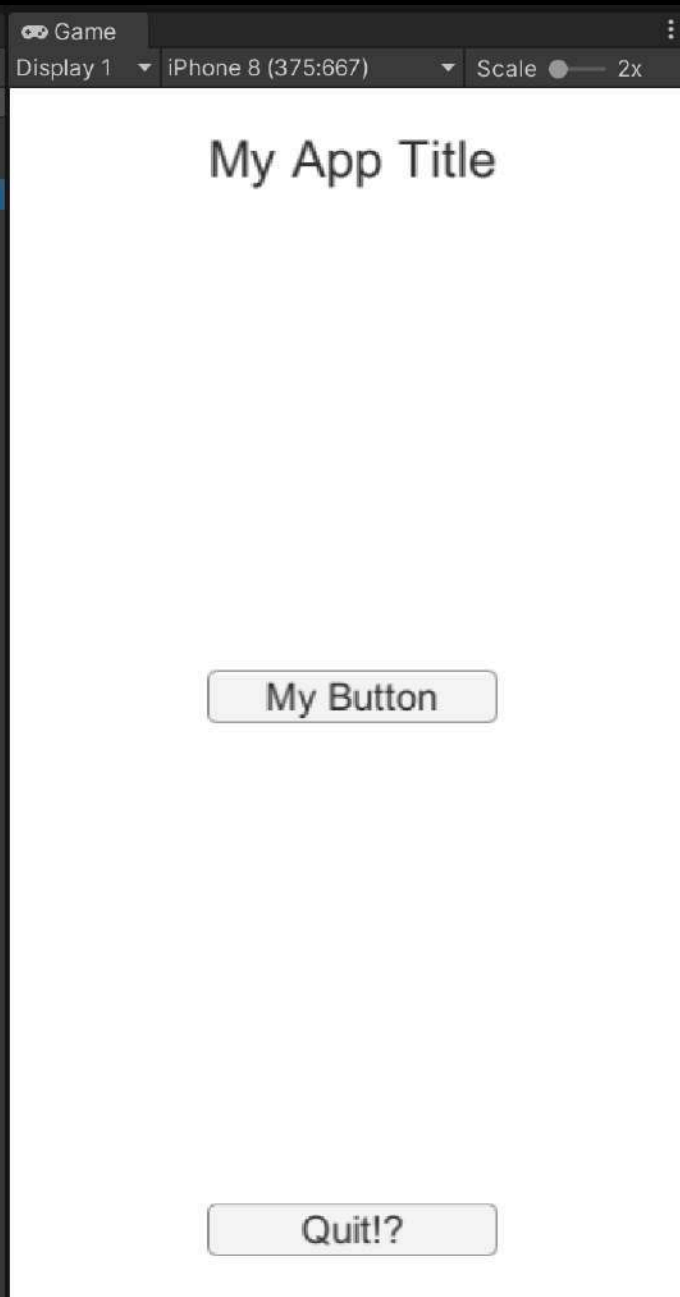
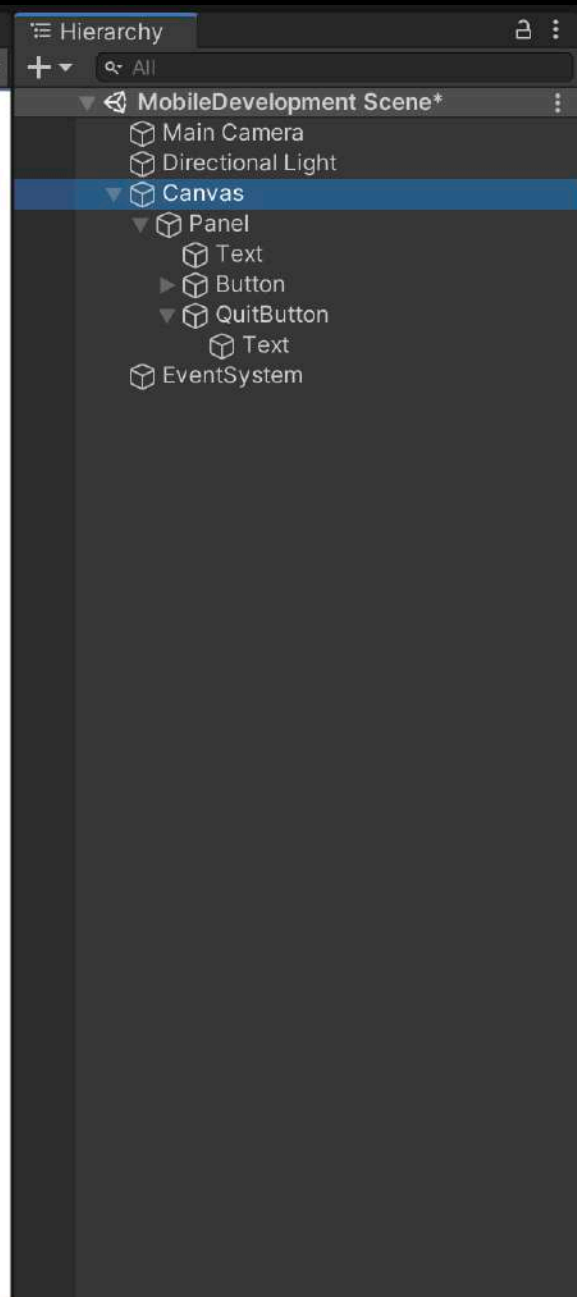
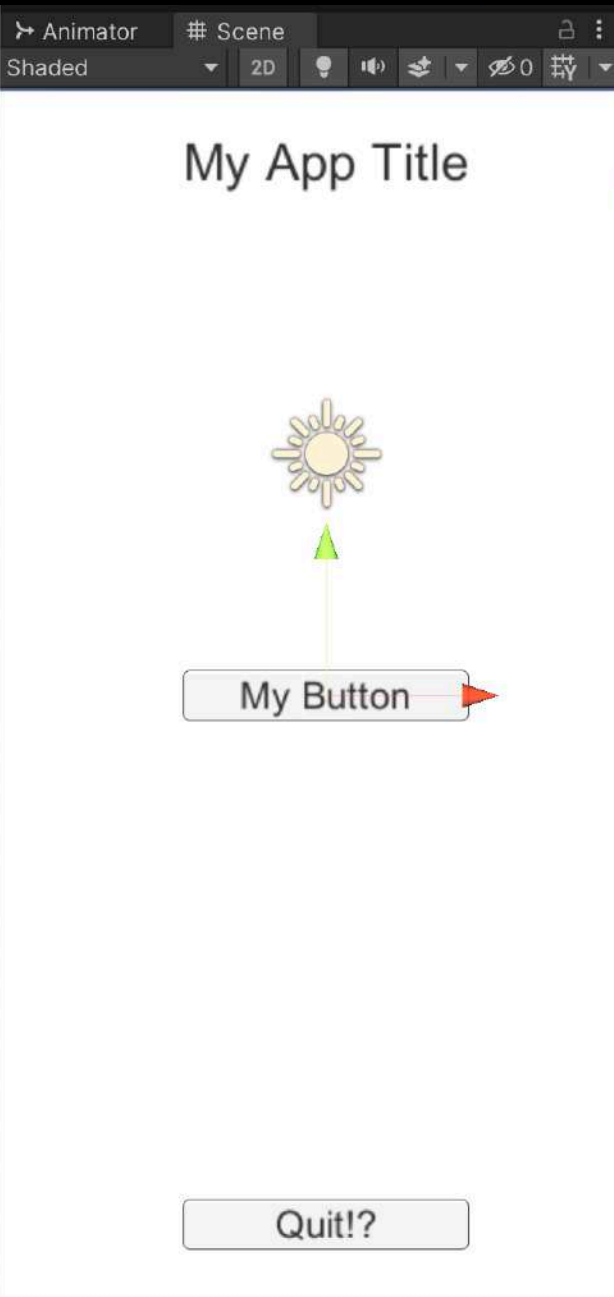


# A Few Comments on the Canvas

- You are **not** limited to one canvas per scene
  - Use as many as necessary
- Canvas update all its elements every time one change happens
  - Separate elements in different canvas if they have different update routines/cycles
  - A menu or background effect, *e.g.*
- Screen Space Camera allows elements to have a Z position
  - Closer/Further from the camera
- Elements are drawn in the same order as displayed in the hierarchy



- Panel 3 is drawn on top of Panel 2
- Panel 2 is drawn on top of Panel 1

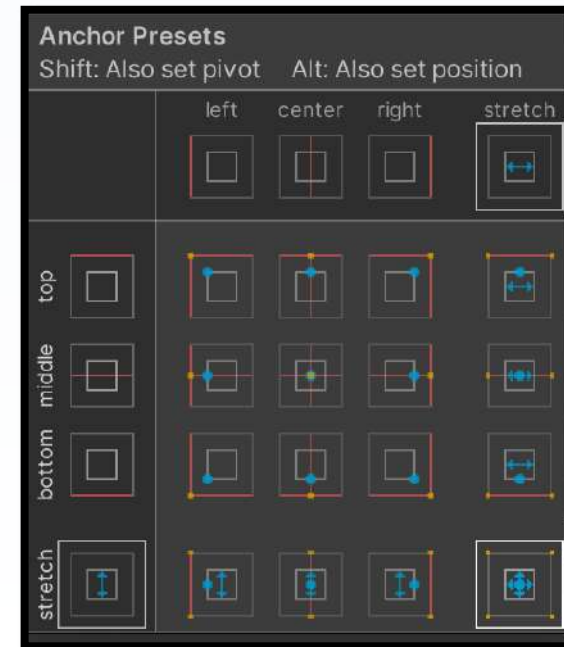
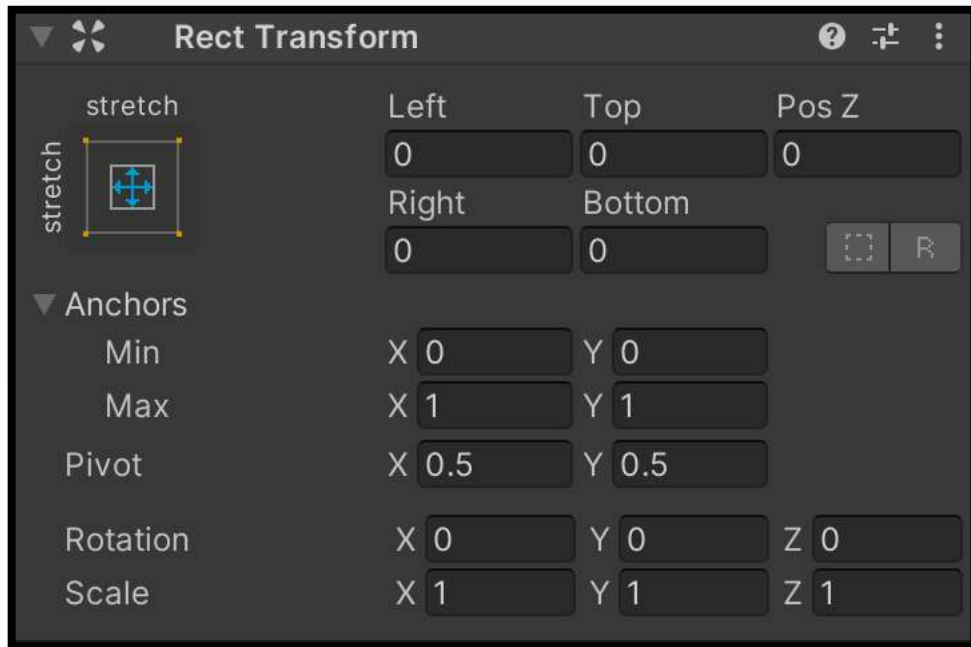


# Panels, Buttons, and Texts

- UI applications will be built using mostly Panels, Buttons and Texts
  - Panels: Contain content
  - Texts: Contain a text
  - Buttons: Are interactable
    - Also have a Text
- These elements are all Game Objects and can be treated as such
  - Scripts, Components, etc.
- The main difference from these components to regular Game Objects from a 3D application is that they have a **RectTransform** instead of a regular **Transform**
- RectTransform is the 2D equivalent of a Transform and represents a rectangle that can contain an UI Element

# RectTransforms and Anchor Points

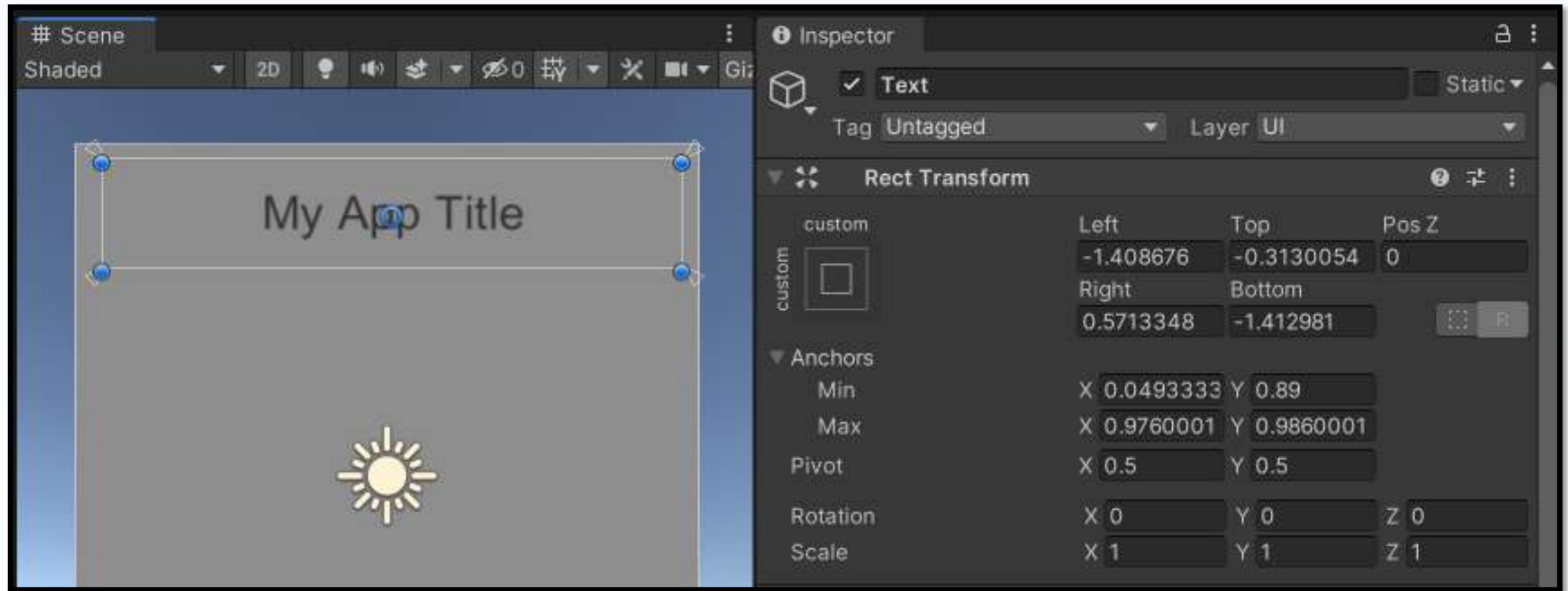
- RectTransforms can be placed on the Canvas to position elements
  - This is bound to how the anchor points are established in the scene
- Anchor Points control how the element will be anchored in the UI, relative to its Parent



# We Most Use Only 2 of Them

- Most commonly, to ensure that the UI elements stay in their correct place, we tend to use only two of the anchors presets
    - **Stretch x Stretch**: that completely expands the child object to span over the parent object
    - **Custom**: in which we manually place the anchors on the screen
  - Custom allows for better control
  - Two approaches for setting custom anchors:
    - Use the **T shortcut** (Rect Tool) and adjust the UI element first, then move the anchor points to their correct place\*
    - Move the anchor points directly holding SHIFT to apply the changes directly to the object
- \* Using the T approach might require a RectTransform clean up

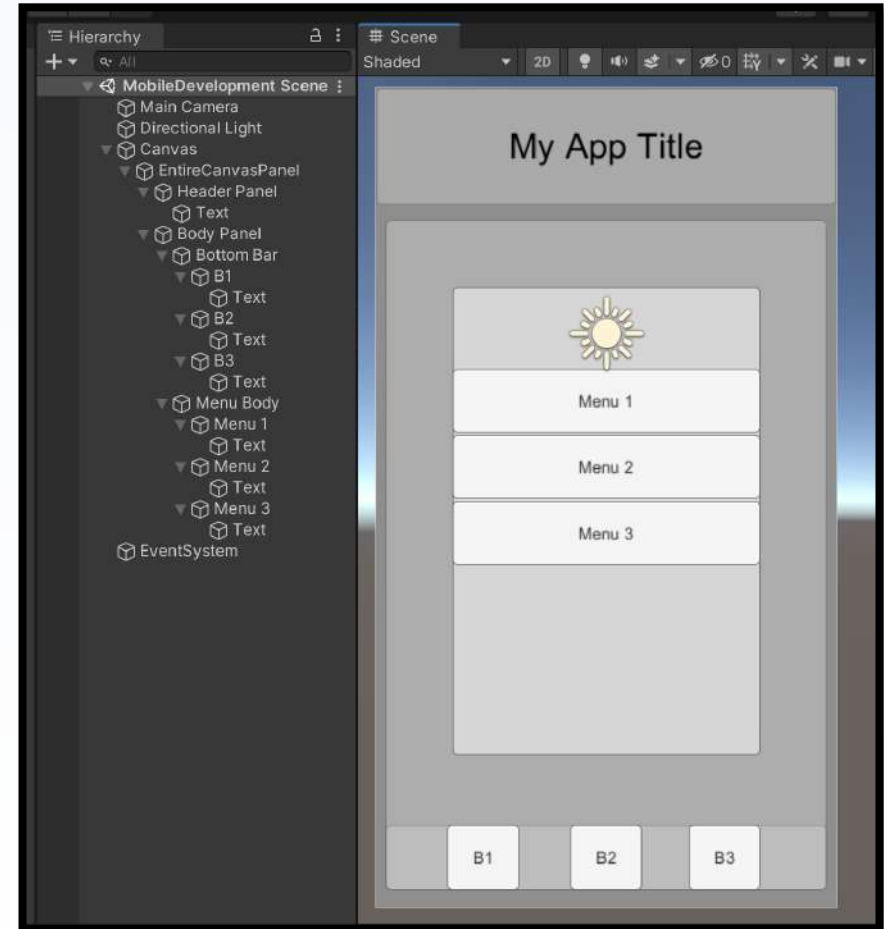
# Using the Rect Tool for Placement



- Anchors' range from 0 to 1 (0% to 100%), and are relative to the Parent

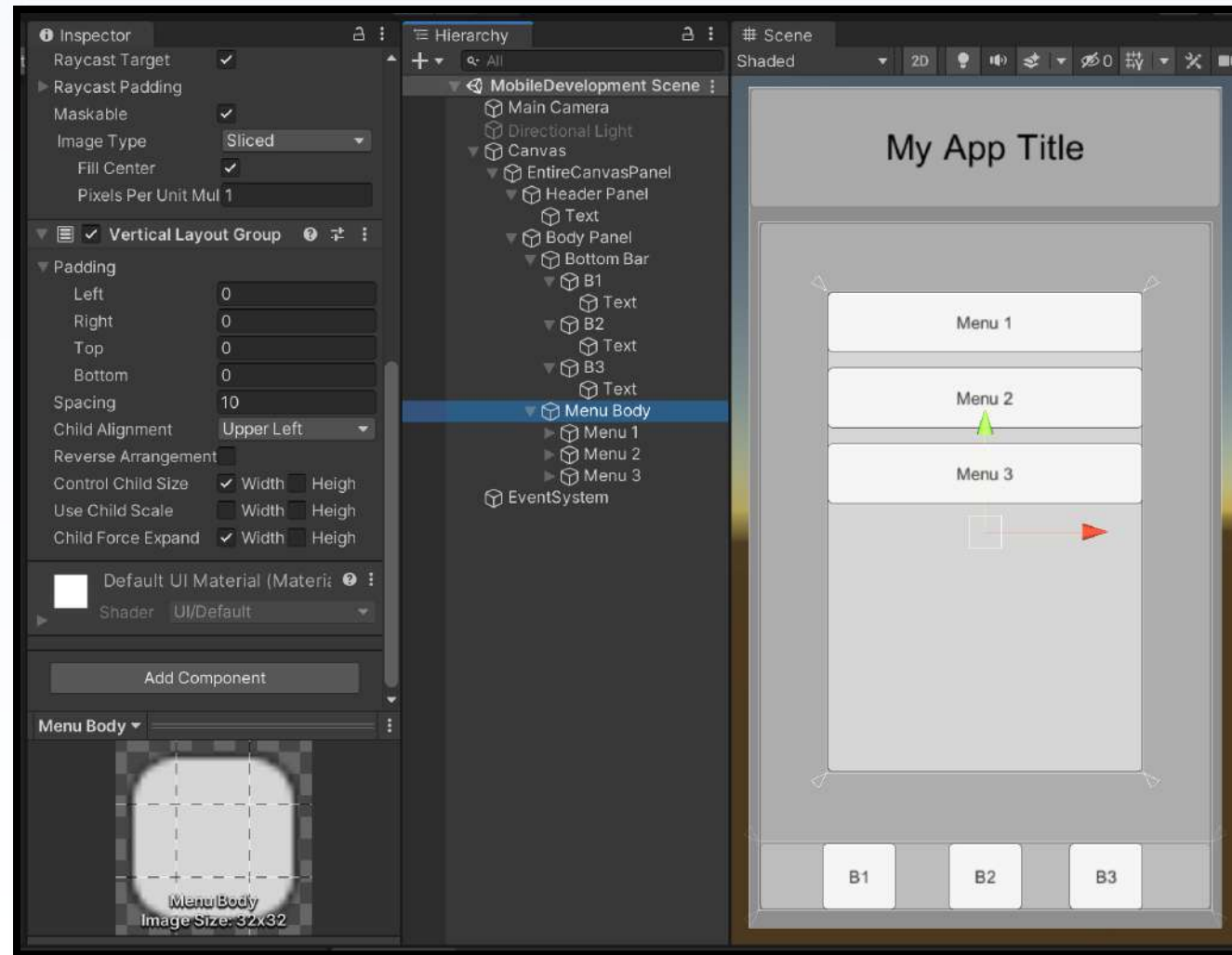
# Setting Up The Layout

- Organize your components to create the desired layout
  - Nest components to form a hierarchy
  - Anchors are relative to the parent objects
- Focus on layout first
  - Fix the positions and details after the major elements are in place



# Layout Groups

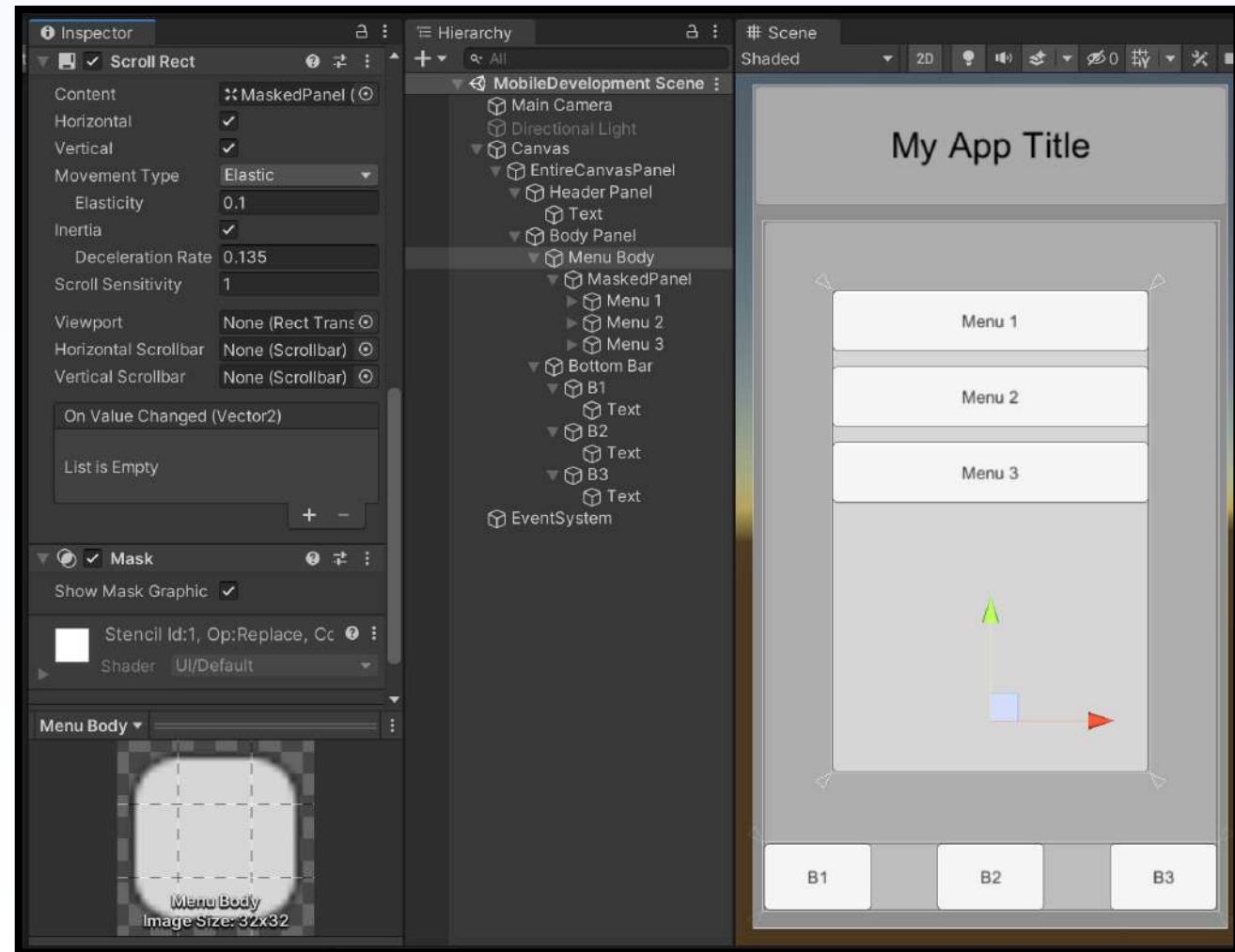
- Instead of fixing the position for all elements, you can use Layout Groups:
  - Vertical and Horizontal layout
- Control:
  - Padding
  - Spacing
  - Alignment
  - Size (Width and Height)
  - Order





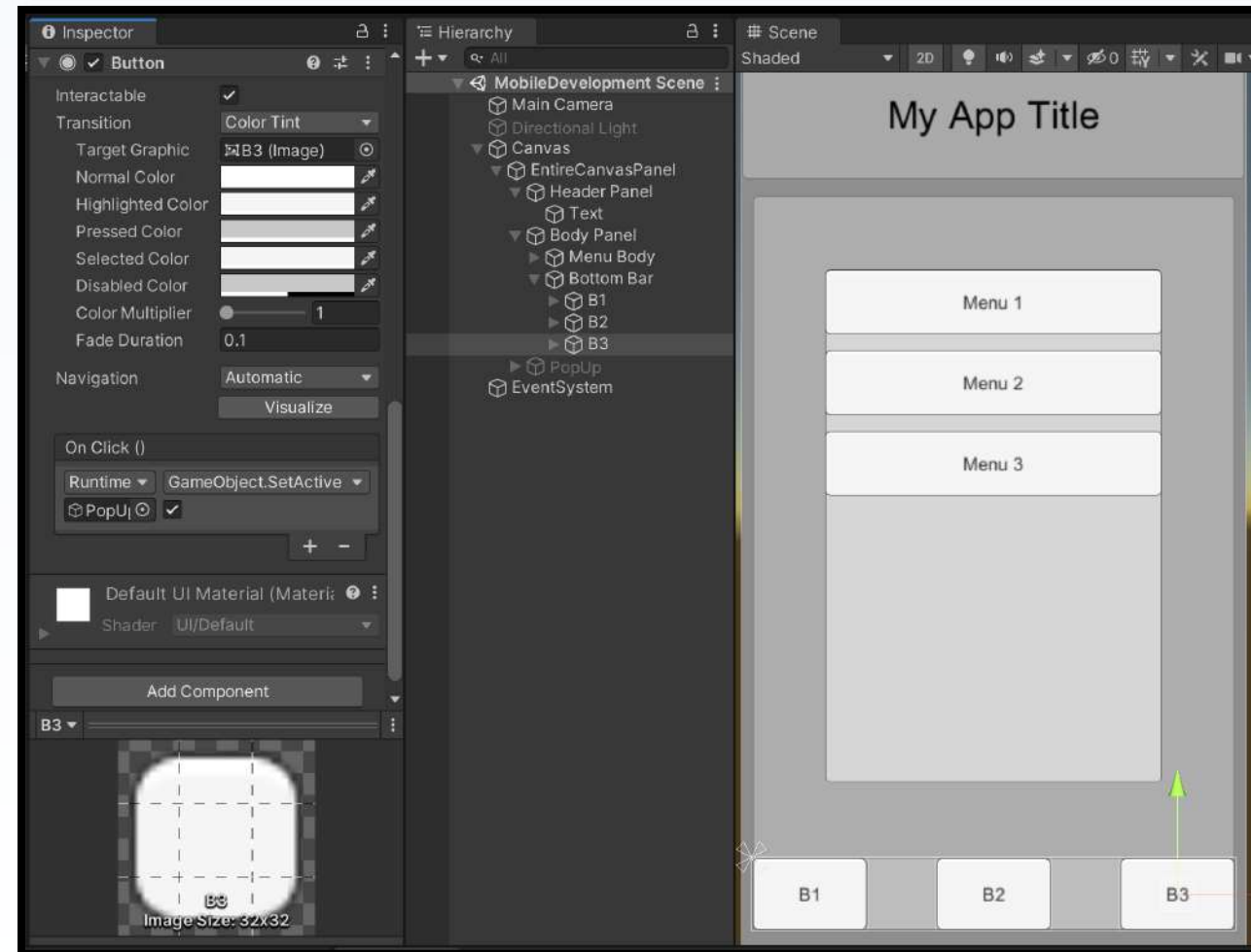
# Scroll and Mask

- Sometimes we do not know how many elements will be listed, but our screen is still limited
  - We can use a Scroll Rect component to allow a Rect Transform to be scrollable
- We need to change the hierarchy
  - Scrollable needs to be nested
  - Scrollable needs to be bigger
  - Scrollable needs to be masked



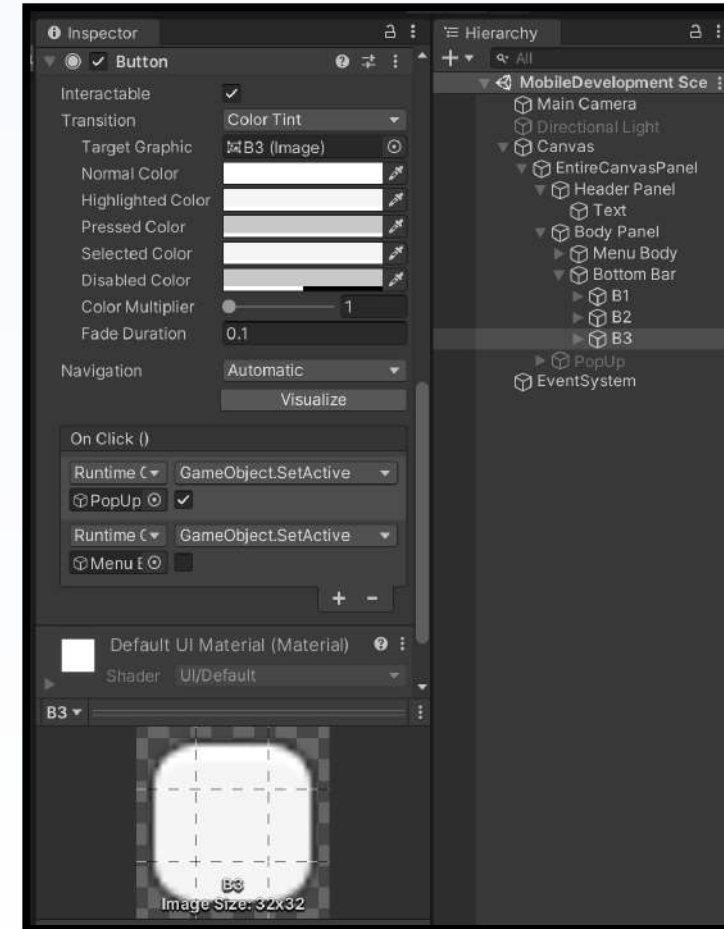
# Use Buttons to Activate/Deactivate

- Buttons have a OnClick event that will be executed when the button is clicked
- You can use this functionality to activate/deactivate game objects
  - `GameObject.SetActive`
- Simplest alternative to make the navigation for your app



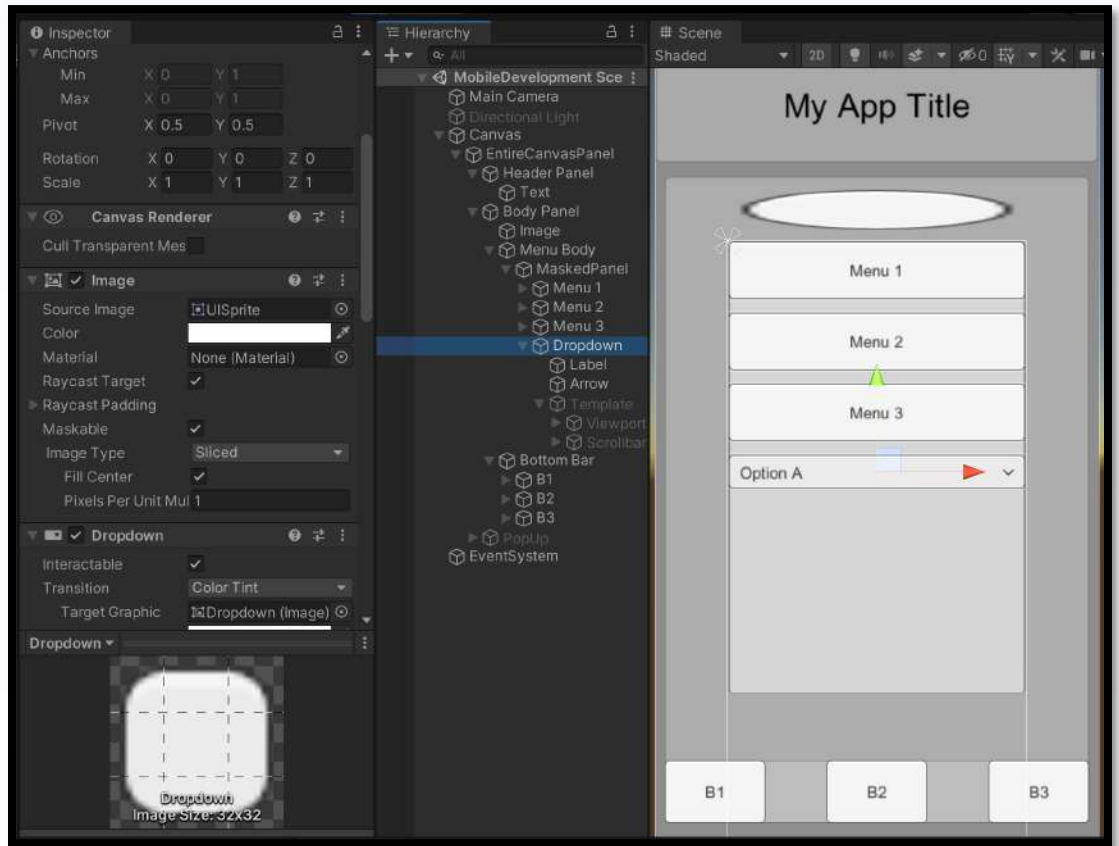
# Use Buttons for Multiple Actions

- The OnClick function is not limited to just one event
  - You can use multiple
- It is very common to resort to this for more complex behavior:
  - Activate/Deactive objects
  - Play a sound
  - Activate an animation
  - Play a timeline event



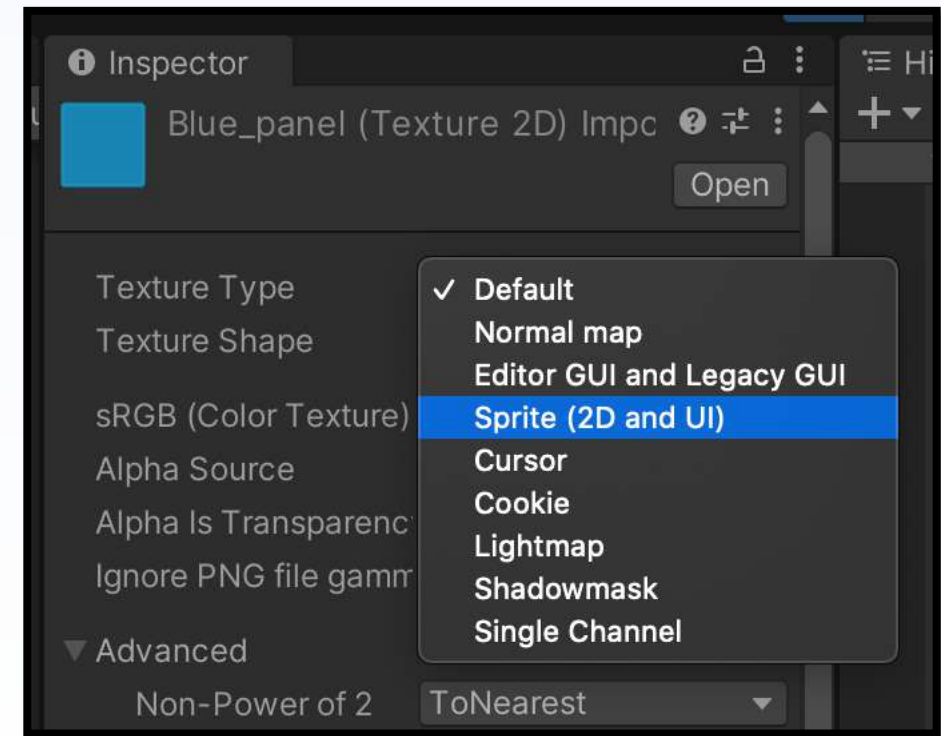
# Other Elements with Rect Transforms

- There are other elements with Rect Transforms, but they are more situationals
- Worth mentioning:
  - Image: To display an image (sprite)
  - Dropdown: To display options
  - Input Field: To input text



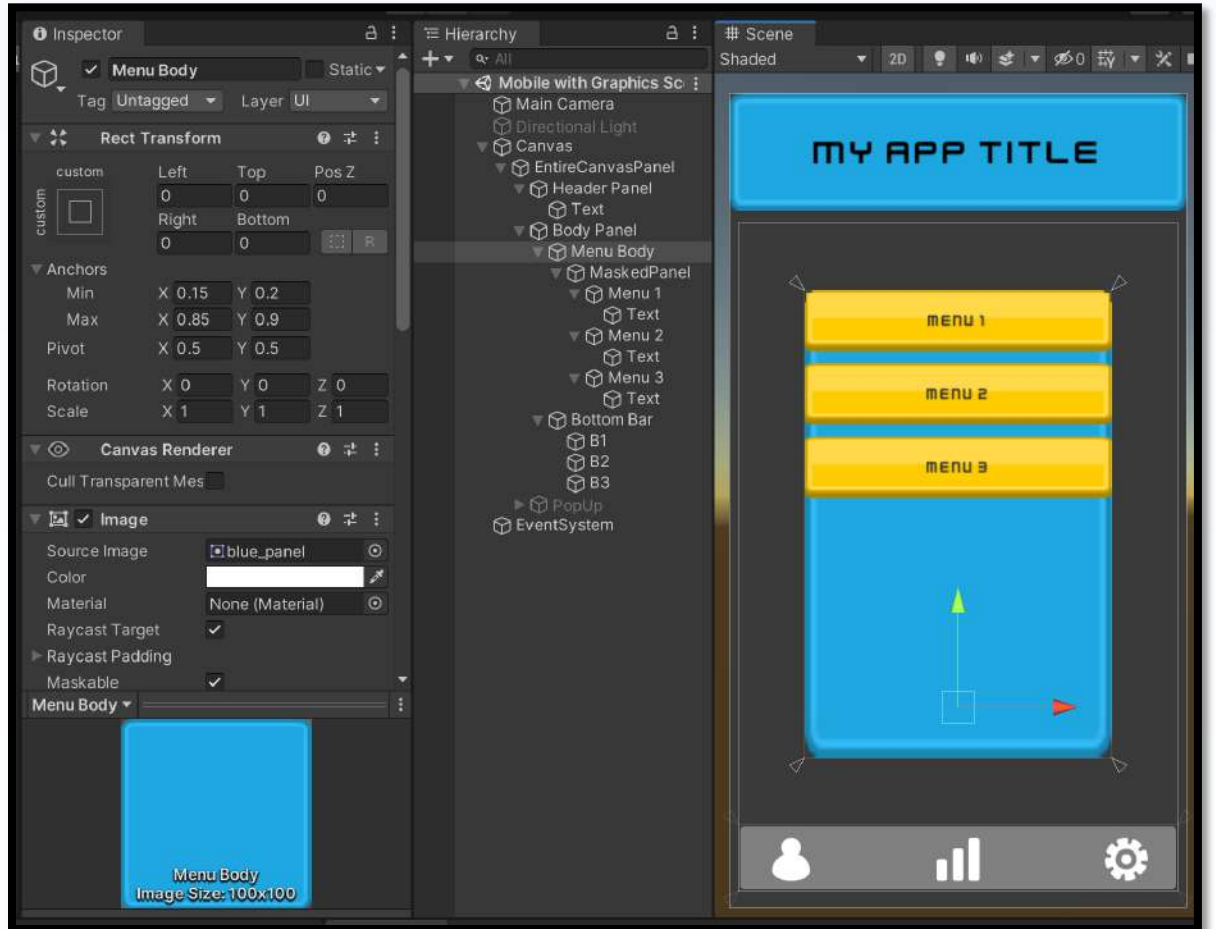
# Importing Images and Making them Sprites

- Importing images to Unity will mark them as Default type
- Unity UI elements need Sprites instead of Default images
- Select the image you want to use, change the type to Sprite and click Apply



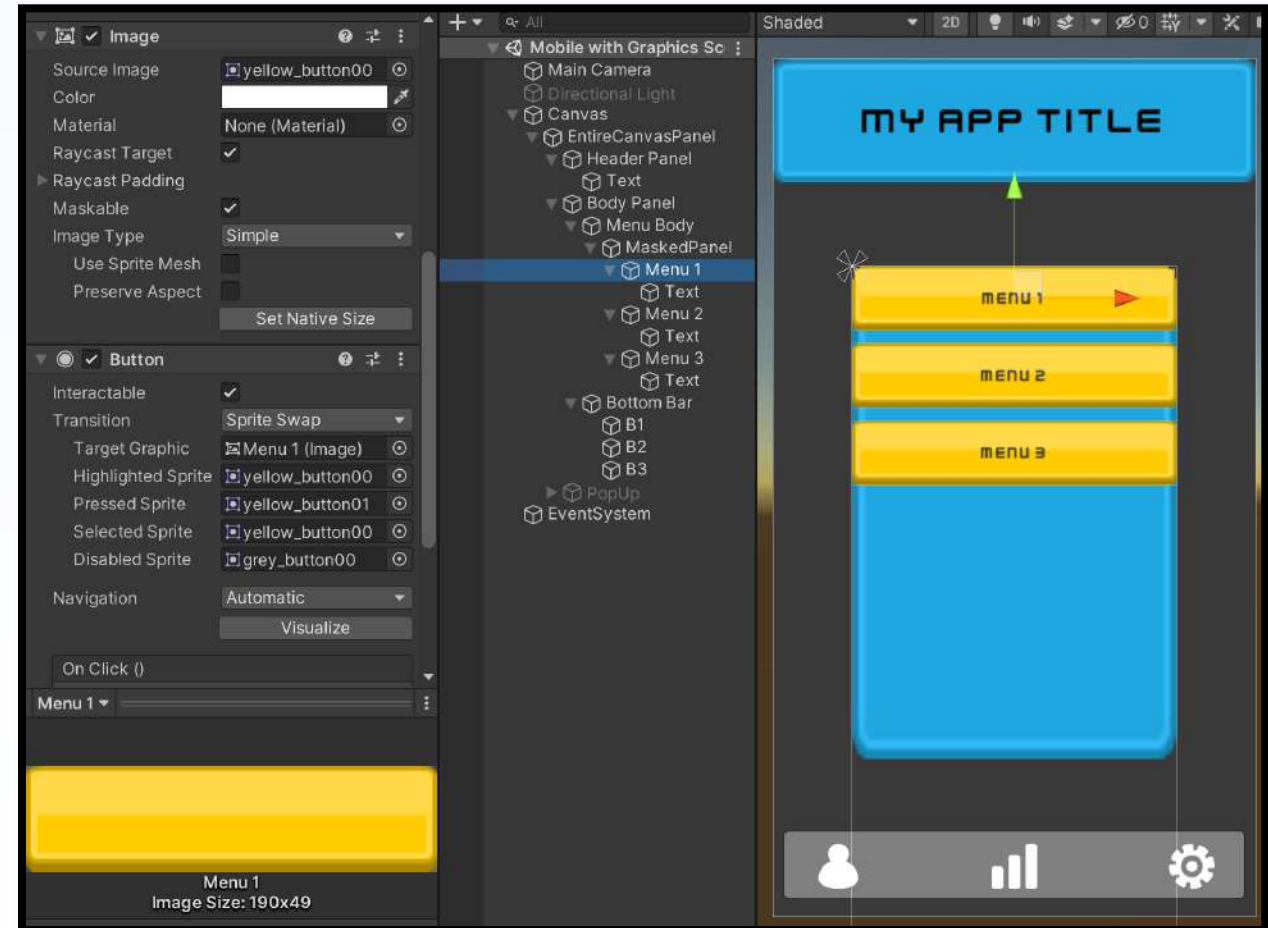
# Panels, Buttons, and Images

- Panels and Buttons have an Image component attached to them
  - You can change how they look
- In fact, you can add an image component to Rect Transforms, as well as use Image objects to act as Buttons and Panels
  - For Buttons, you need to add a Button Component



# Buttons with Images have States

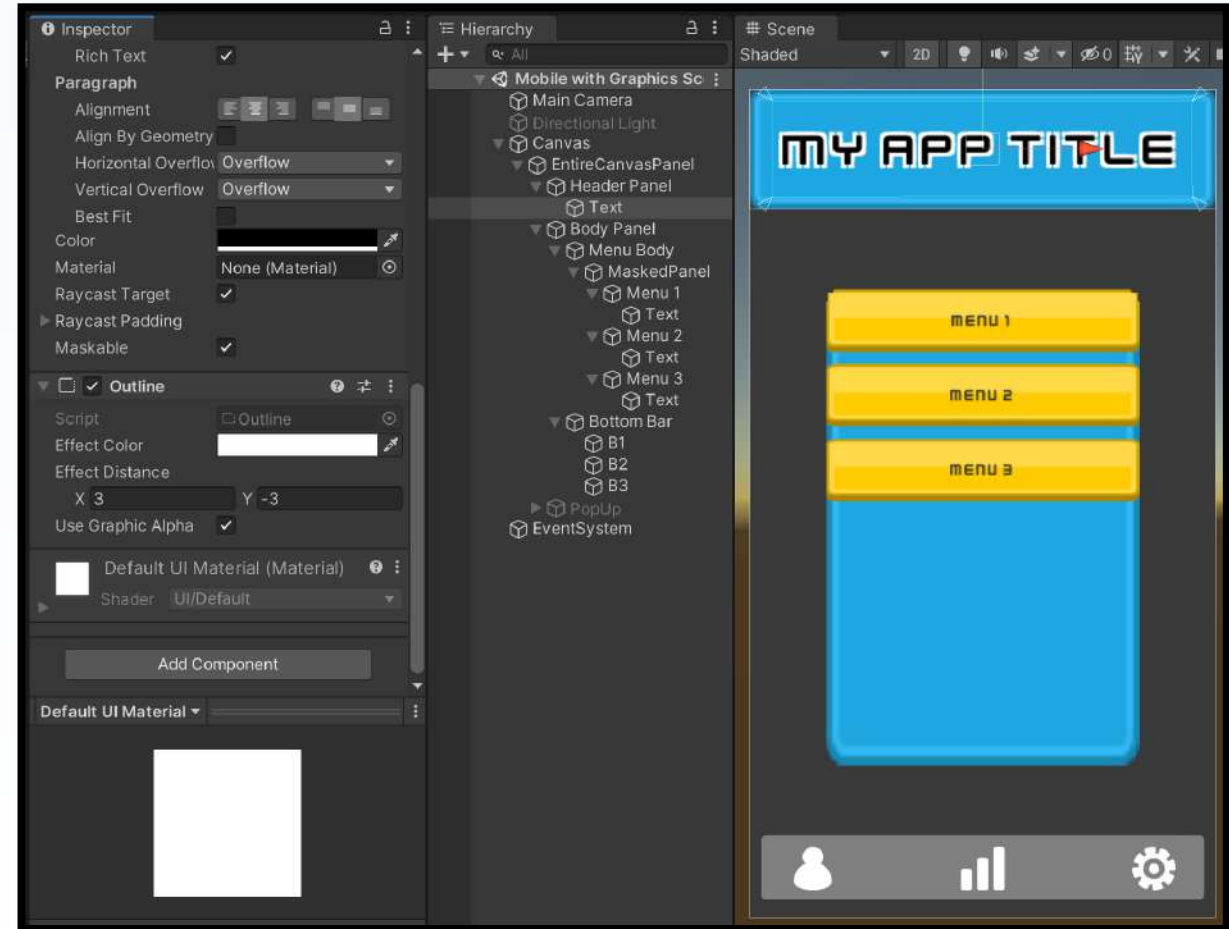
- You can make buttons change their sprite given its state transitions: Sprite Swap
  - Highlighted
  - Pressed
  - Selected
  - Disabled
- And you can also just use the regular Color Tint option





# Outline

- There are other components that can help adding visuals to your prototype
- The most simple one (but also not that reliable) is the Outline
- Outlines the element with a given color and width (not robust)





# Questions?

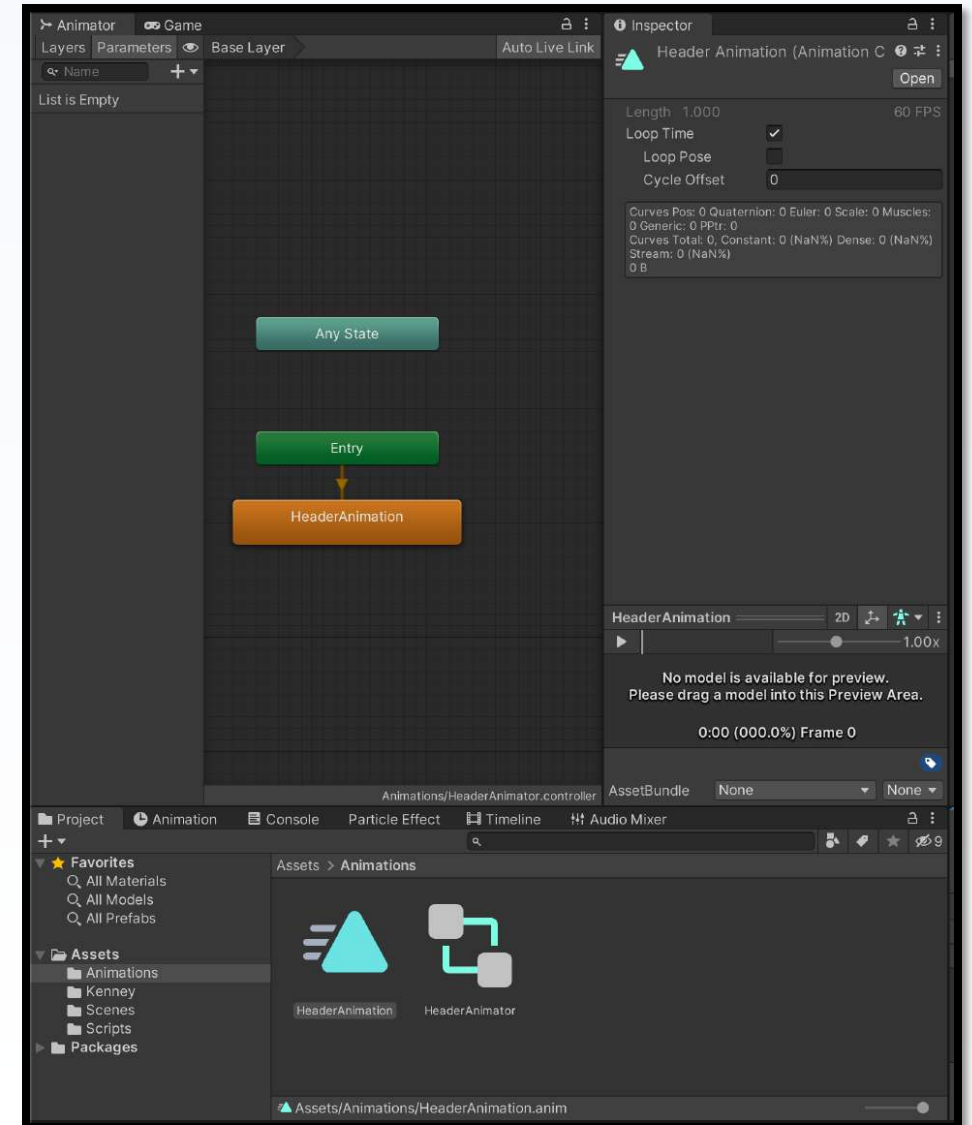
Any questions so far?

Should I repeat anything?

What about code!?

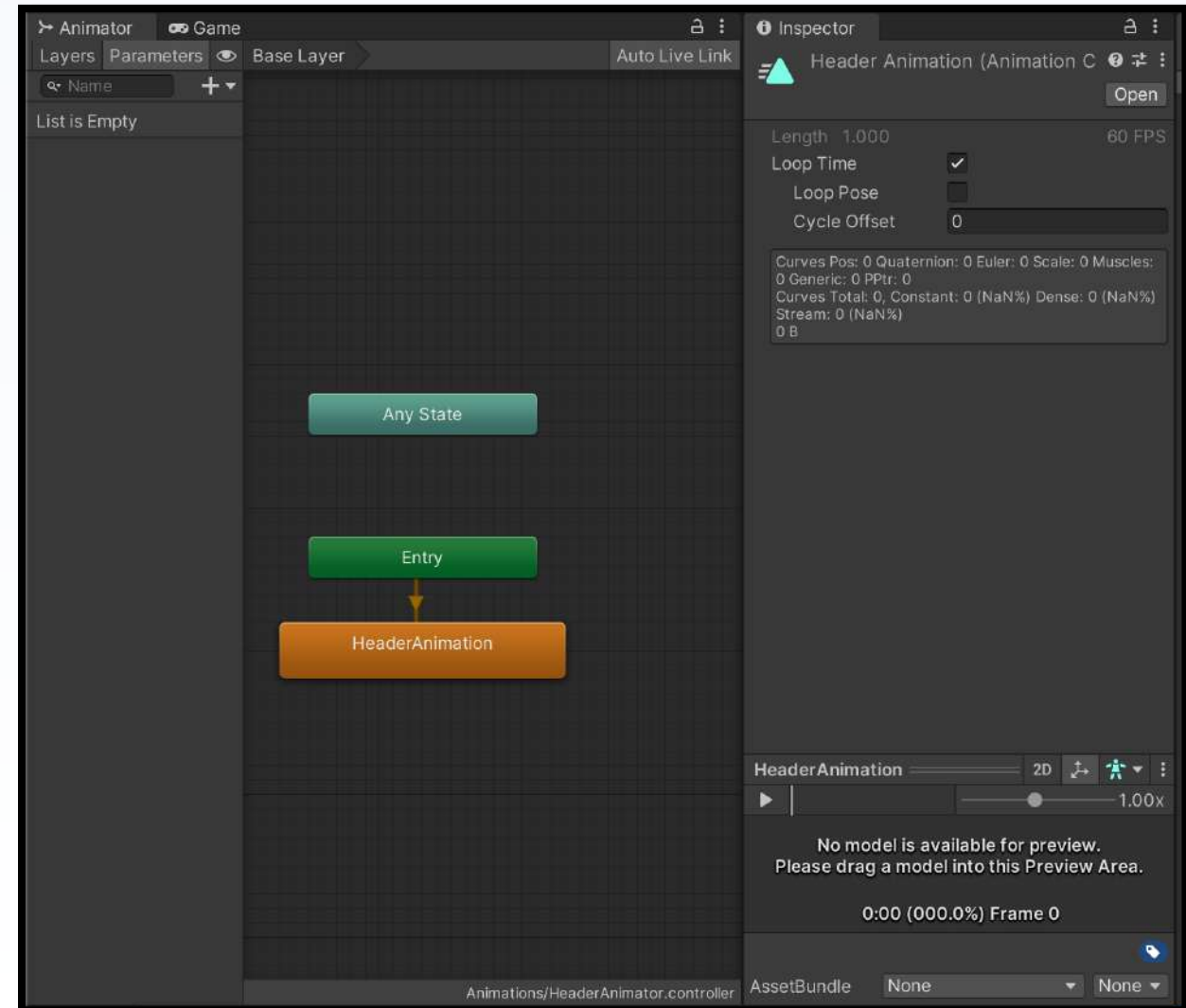
# Adding life with Animations

- Unity allows the creation of animations within the engine
- We can use it to add life to the UI interface and also to control it
- To animate objects we need:
  - An Animator
  - Animations



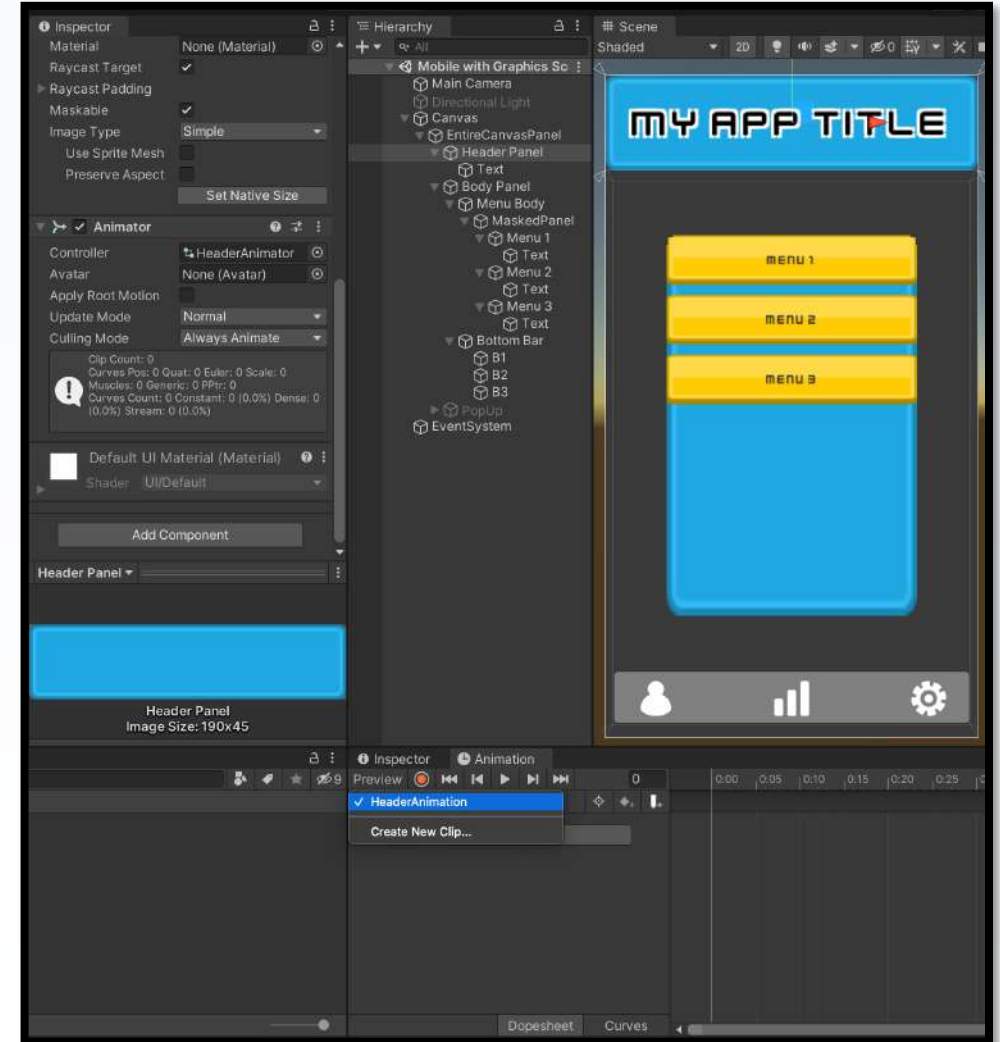
# Looping Animations and Animator Graph

- Animations have properties
  - Such as if it Loops or not
- The animator is a web of animations connected
  - Technically, a Graph
- Animations transition to others and from states
  - Any State, Entry, Exit



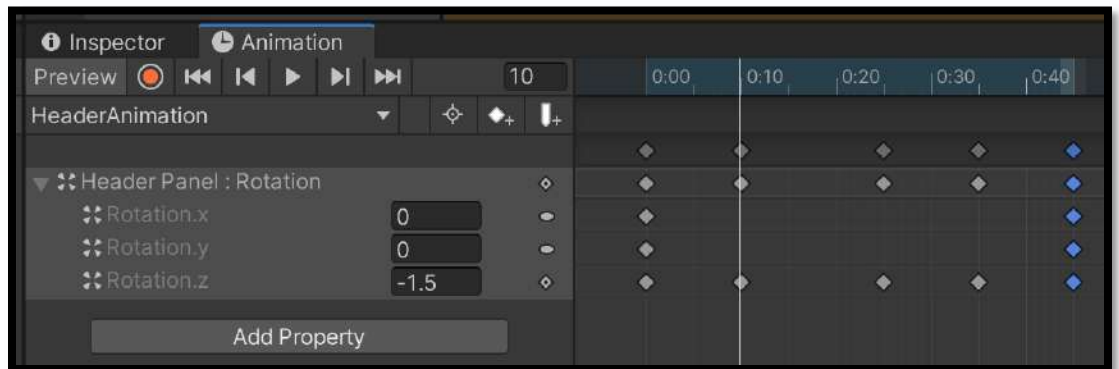
# Adding the Animator Component

- You need to add an Animator Component to the object that will be animated
  - All children objects are also subject to be animated by it
- The Animation Window allows the creation of animations
  - It already display all animations added to the Animator



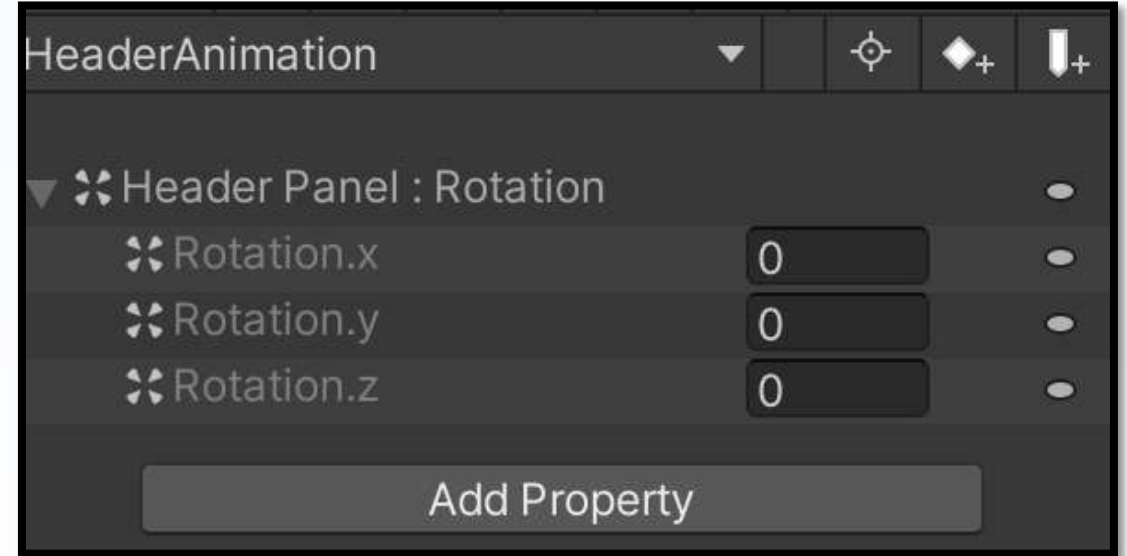
# Making Animations

- Animations in Unity work as most of other animation software
  - Create keyframes
  - Keyframes are interpolated
- Access to the curve editor for how values are being interpolated
- Add properties to be animated
- Unity also has the record button:
  - Starts to record to the selected key frame all changes made to the object
  - It also detects changes in the children objects



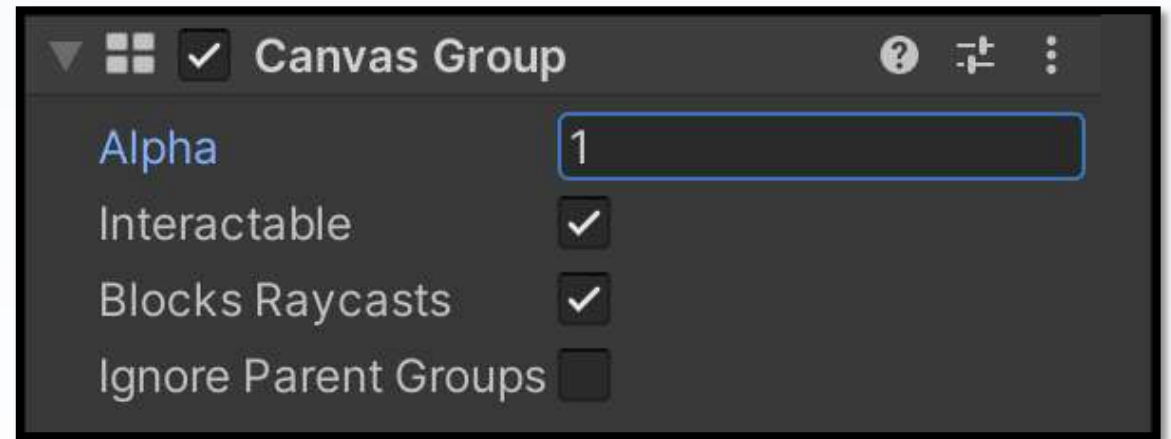
# Beware Renaming and Reordering!

- Unity's Animation system uses the game objects' name to control them
- If you rename or reorder them, the animation might break and lose the references
- Either avoid renaming or reordering, or fix the animations manually



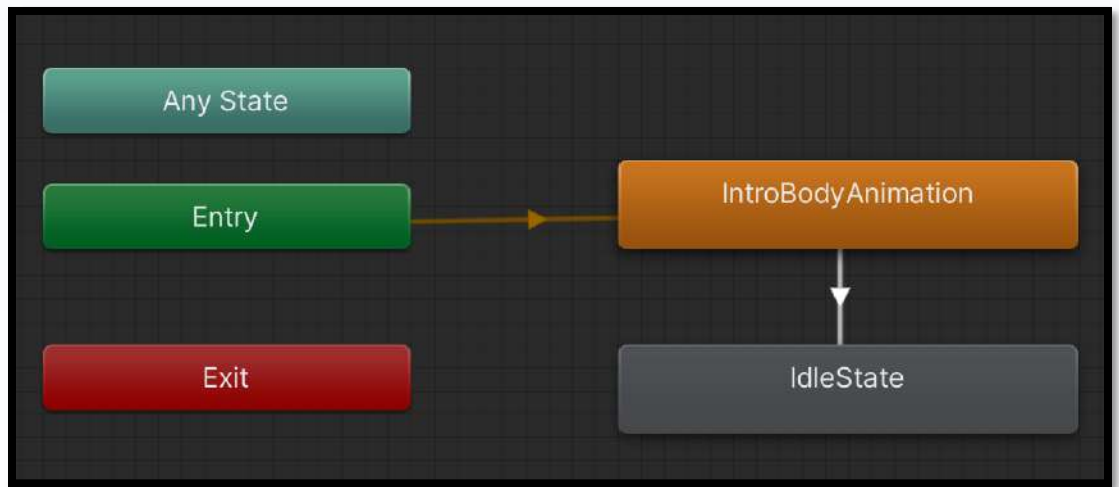
# Canvas Group

- Canvas Group is another useful component for the UI
- It allows controlling the entire hierarchy from one single component
- Can use it to animate the alpha of all elements at once



# Animator Transitions and Empty States

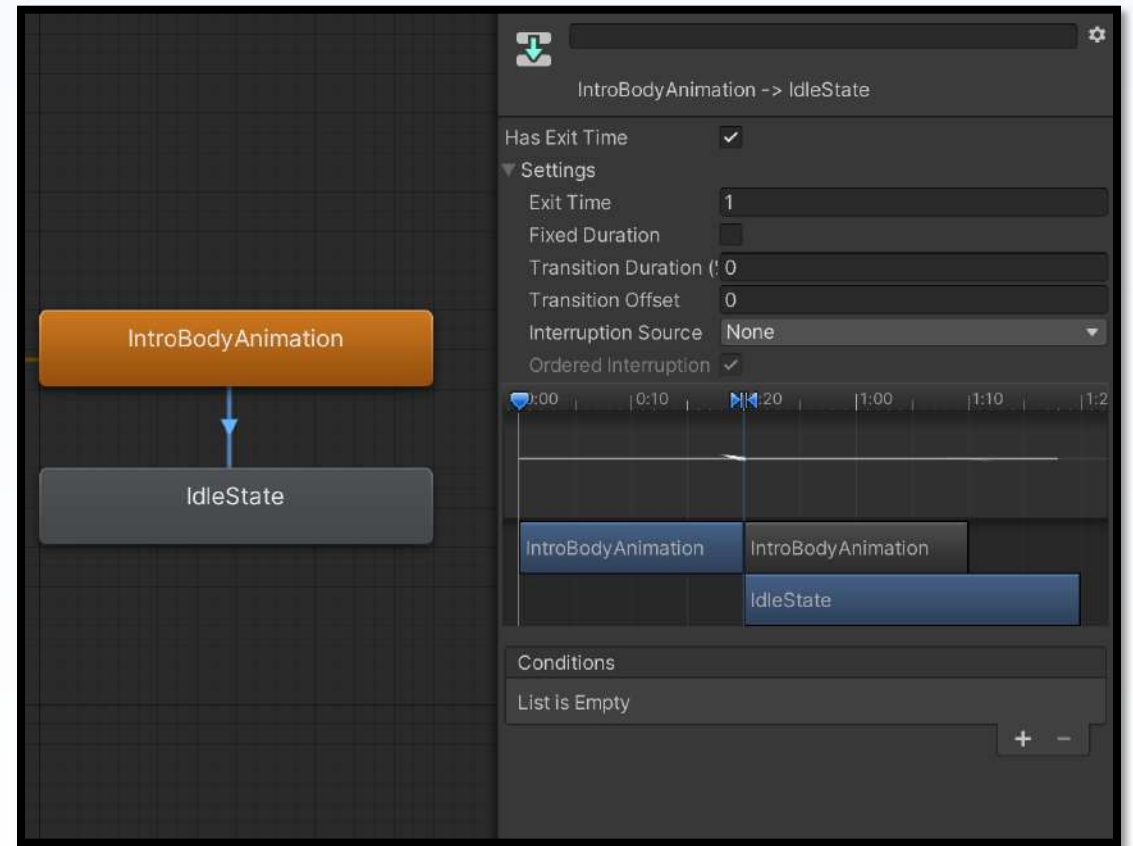
- The animator also allows for empty states
  - States without an animation
- This is particularly useful for idle states or inbetween states in which no animation or logic should be performed
- Transitions themselves control the conditions to be executed





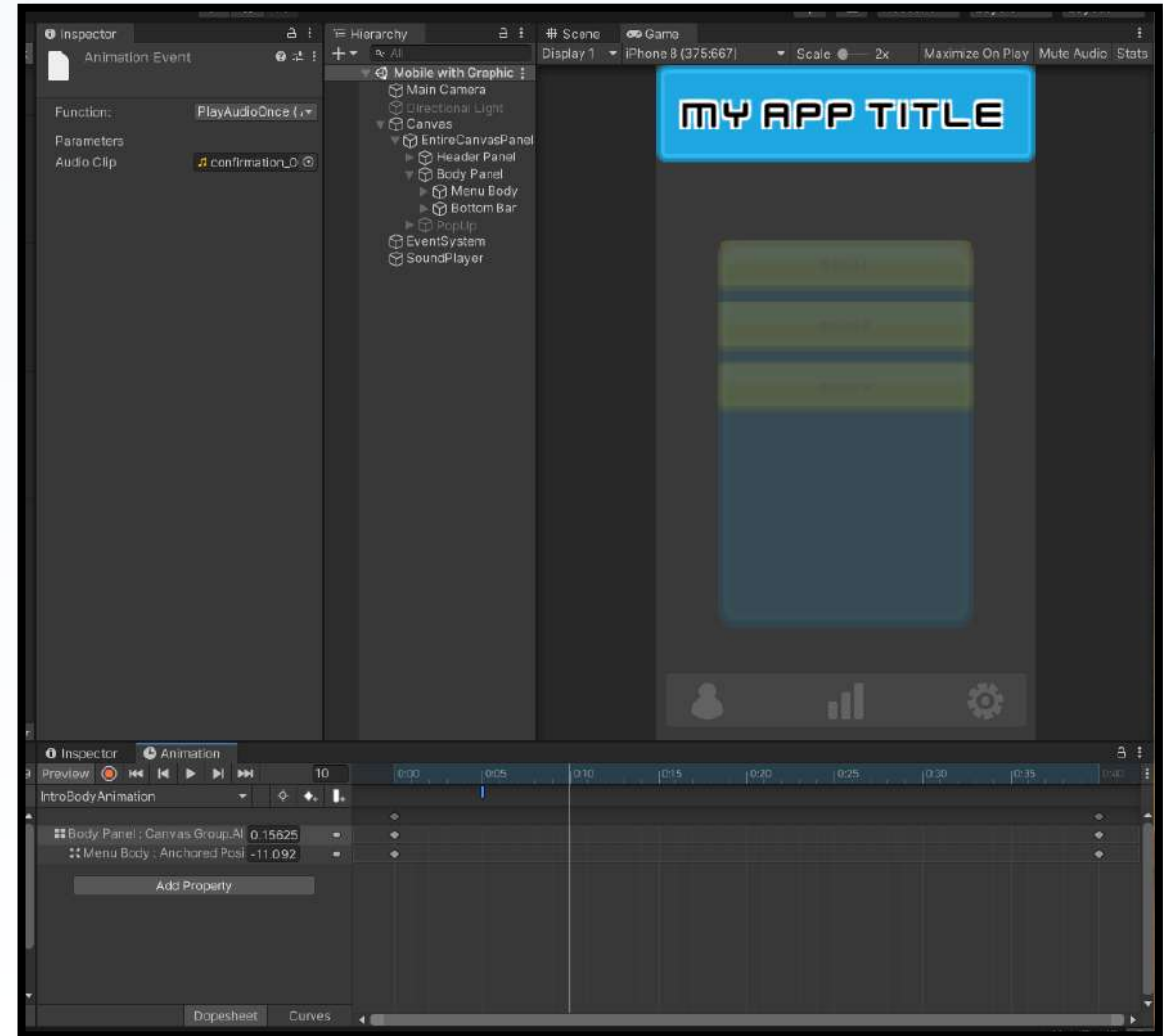
# Transitions

- Transition can be activated via conditions
  - Based on the Animator Parameters
  - Needs an ExitTime if there is no condition attached to it
- Can take over another animation
  - HasExitTime: take time before transitioning
  - Exit Time: normalized (1 = 100%)
  - Timeline can be used to manually adjust the transition



# Animations can Invoke Functions

- Animations can also trigger functions in Scripts
  - Scripts need to be attached to the Game Object holding the animator
- Interface is very simple
  - Only accepts functions with ONE parameter
- Cannot access outside scripts, except ...



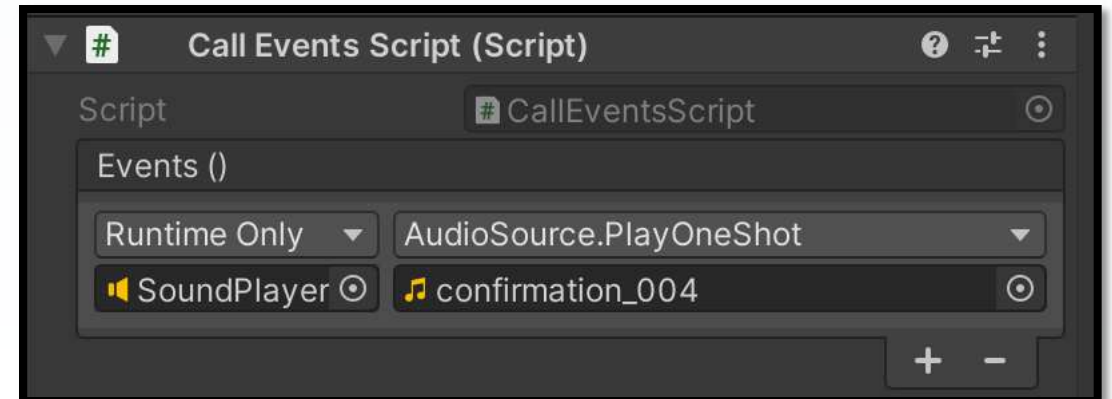
# Unity Events

- Unity Events can mimic the interface from Unity Buttons
- Can hold references to other objects in the screen
- Can be invoked with a simple function call

```
using UnityEngine;
using UnityEngine.Events;

No asset usages
public class CallEventsScript : MonoBehaviour
{
    public UnityEvent events;  No Serializable

    private void InvokeEvents()
    {
        events.Invoke();
    }
}
```



# Questions?

Any questions so far?

Should I repeat anything?

What about code [2]!?

# Activate/Deactivate Script

- It is very common to have events or animations that also deactivate other (outside) objects
- This script holds a list of objects to be either activated/deactivate
- You cannot have more of these in the same object
  - Events will not recognize them

```
⌕ No asset usages
public class ActivateDeactivateScript : MonoBehaviour
{
    public List<GameObject> objects; ⌕ Serializable

    public void ActivateObjects()
    {
        objects.ForEach(obj :GameObject => obj.SetActive(true));
    }

    public void DeactivateObjects()
    {
        objects.ForEach(obj :GameObject => obj.SetActive(false));
    }
}
```

# Toggle Object

- Sometimes we do not know the status of a game object, but we need to turn it on/off using the same button
- The following code activate/deactive a game object based on its current status

```
using UnityEngine;

< 1 asset usage 1 usage
public class ToggleActive : MonoBehaviour
{
    < Event handler < 1 asset usage 1 usage
    public void ToggleActiveObject(GameObject gameObjectToToggle)
    {
        var status :bool = gameObjectToToggle.activeSelf;
        gameObjectToToggle.SetActive(!status);
    }
}
```

# Create & Attach

- Most Apps have a functionality to add elements to a list
  - We already saw how to make a list
- Use a button and Prefabs to add more items to the list
  - Just need to make them a child object of the list

```
1 asset usage 1 usage
public class CreateAttachObject : MonoBehaviour
{
    public GameObject objectToBeCreated; 1 Information
    public GameObject objectToBeAttached; 1 MaskedPanel

    1 Event handler 1 asset usage 1 usage
    public void CreateAttach()
    {
        if (objectToBeCreated != null && objectToBeAttached != null)
        {
            Instantiate(objectToBeCreated, objectToBeAttached.transform);
        }
    }
}
```

# What If I Want to Initialize the Values

- You need a specific Create & Attach script that expects a Game Object with a script that will initialize the values
- Suppose this:

```
1 asset usage 2 usages 1 exposing API
public class InformationData : MonoBehaviour
{
    public Text informationText; 1 Text

    1 usage
    public void Initialize(string text)
    {
        informationText.text = text;
    }
}
```

```
1 asset usage 1 usage
public class CreateAttachInformationData : MonoBehaviour
{
    public InformationData objectToBeCreated; 1 Information
    public GameObject objectToBeAttached; 1 MaskedPanel

    Event handler 1 asset usage 1 usage
    public void CreateAttachWithText(string text)
    {
        if (objectToBeCreated != null && objectToBeAttached != null)
        {
            var info :InformationData = Instantiate(objectToBeCreated,
                objectToBeAttached.transform);
            info.Initialize(text);
        }
    }
}
```



# Initialize the Values using Input Field

- You can edit the script to also read data from other sources, such as InputFields or Dropdown
- Suppose this:

```
1 asset usage 2 usages 1 exposing API
public class InformationData : MonoBehaviour
{
    public Text informationText; 1 Text

    1 usage
    public void Initialize(string text)
    {
        informationText.text = text;
    }
}
```

```
public InformationData objectToBeCreated; 1 Information
public GameObject objectToBeAttached; 1 MaskedPanel
public InputField inputField; 1 InputField

Event handler 1 asset usage 1 usage yvens *
public void CreateAttachWithText()
{
    if (objectToBeCreated != null && objectToBeAttached != null)
    {
        var info :InformationData = Instantiate(objectToBeCreated,
            objectToBeAttached.transform);
        var trimmedText :string = inputField.text.Trim();
        if (trimmedText.Length > 0)
        {
            info.Initialize(trimmedText);
        }
        inputField.text = "";
    }
}
```

# Destroying/Removing Objects

- For elements in a list, simply destroying them will be enough to remove them from the list
- Since they are already in order, you can use this without bothering about organizing the list or sorting it

```
⏏ No asset usages
public class DestroyObject : MonoBehaviour
{
    public void DestroyGameObject(GameObject obj)
    {
        Destroy(obj);
    }
}
```

# Questions?

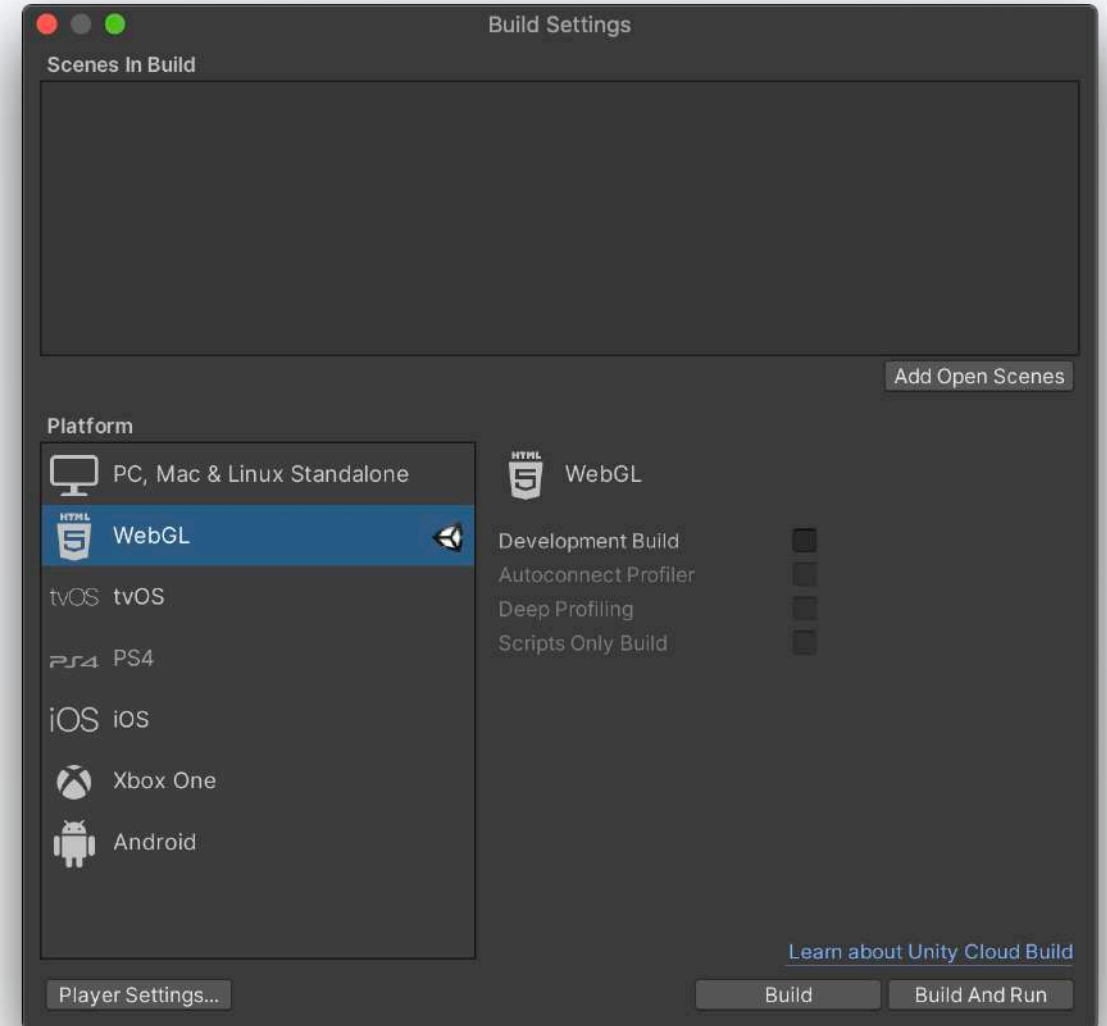
Questions?

This should cover most of the UI basic functionalities

What else do you want to know?

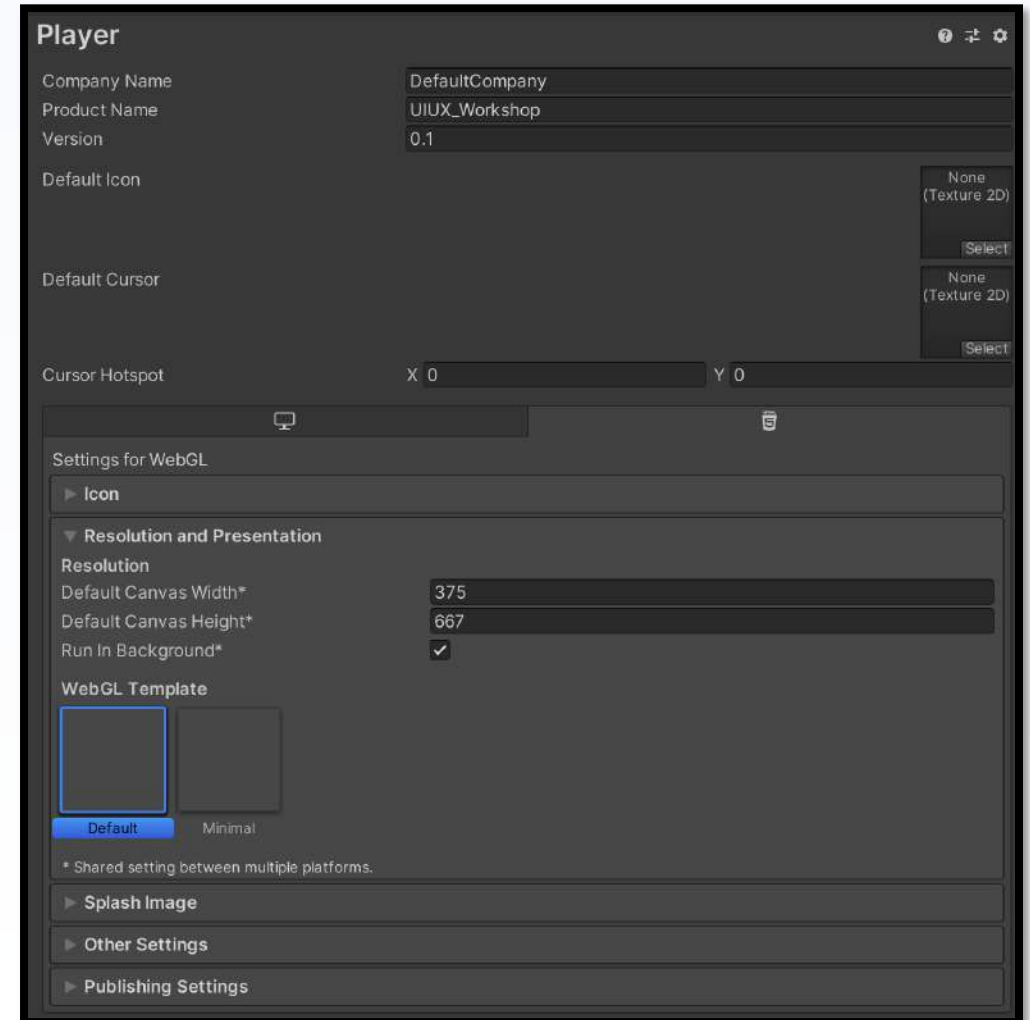
# Preparing the Web Build

- Change the build type to Web
- You must download the Web Package from the Unity Hub
- You can download the other types if you want to deploy for a device or another OS



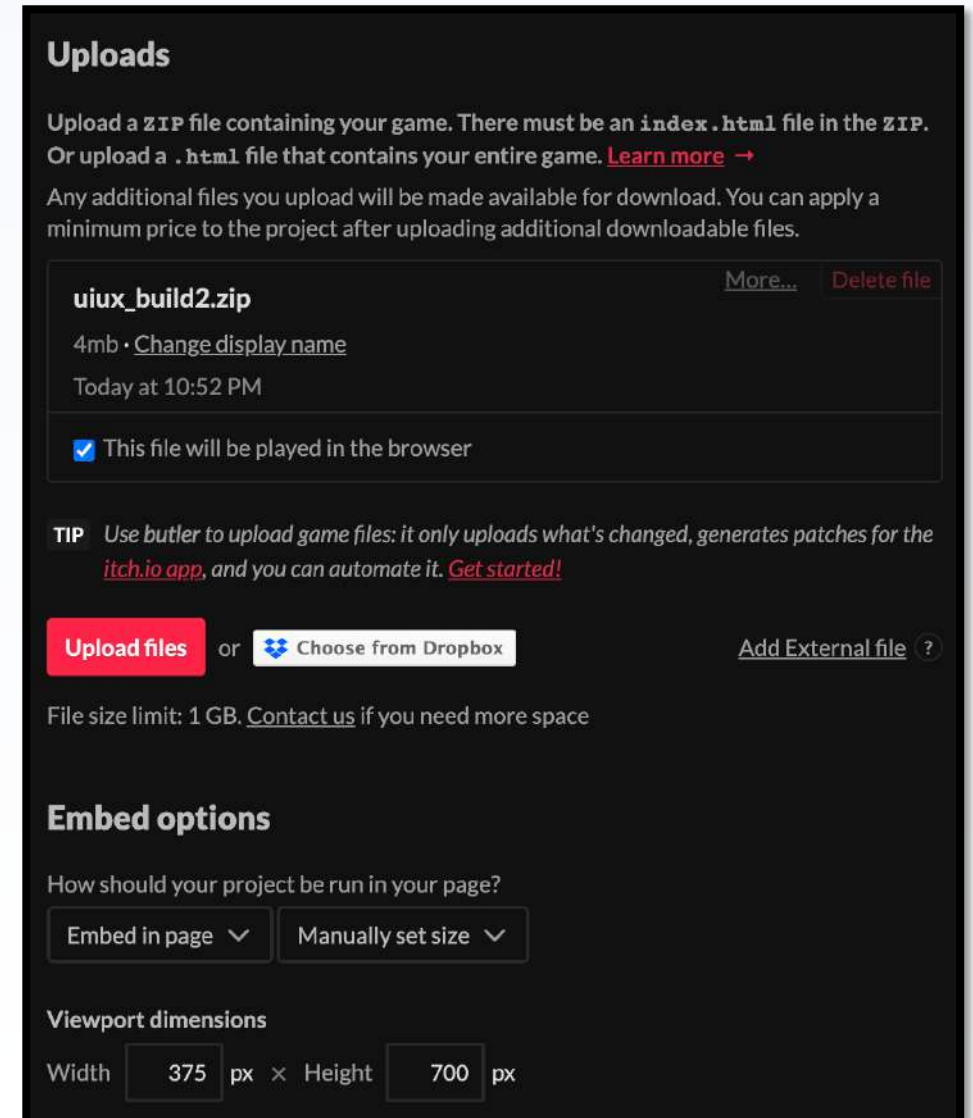
# Adjust the Resolution in the Player Settings

- Change the default canvas width and default canvas height
- Many host websites (and Unity build itself) will use these values



# Hosting on Itch.IO

- Free hosting and easy access
- Host and play the unity build directly (upload as a .zip file)
  - Simply zip the entire build folder
- Make sure to adjust the viewport dimensions
  - I had a few issues with it



**Uploads**

Upload a **ZIP** file containing your game. There must be an **index.html** file in the ZIP. Or upload a **.html** file that contains your entire game. [Learn more](#) →

Any additional files you upload will be made available for download. You can apply a minimum price to the project after uploading additional downloadable files.

**uiux\_build2.zip** [More...](#) [Delete file](#)

4mb · [Change display name](#)


Today at 10:52 PM

☒ This file will be played in the browser

**TIP** Use *butler* to upload game files: it only uploads what's changed, generates patches for the [itch.io app](#), and you can automate it. [Get started!](#)

Upload files

 or 

 Choose from Dropbox

[Add External file](#) ?

File size limit: 1 GB. [Contact us](#) if you need more space

**Embed options**

How should your project be run in your page?

Embed in page ▼









Manually set size ▼

**Viewport dimensions**

Width  px × Height  px

# Hosting on GitHub

- It is also possible to host your app directly from the repository folder:
- <https://github.com/YvensFaos/HostMeUpBaby>
- Tutorial:  
<https://medium.com/@aboutin/host-unity-games-on-github-pages-for-free-2ed6b4d9c324>

	.idea/.idea.HostMeUpBaby/.idea	Add project
	Assets	Add project
	Build	Add WebGL build
	ProjectSettings	Add WebGL build
	TemplateData	Add WebGL build
	.gitignore	Add .gitignore
	README.md	Create README.md
	index.html	Add WebGL build

# You can access this project:

Repository: <https://tinyurl.com/y4h7u4wq>

Direct Download: <https://tinyurl.com/y2rfy6en>



# More Tips on Unity

- Two texts I wrote about techniques for faster prototyping in Unity:
  - <https://tinyurl.com/yx8w6do5>
  - <https://tinyurl.com/y5839ac9>
- Scene Transition using Animations
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CE9VOZivb3I&ab\\_channel=Brackeys](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CE9VOZivb3I&ab_channel=Brackeys)
- Unity Timeline:
  - <https://docs.unity3d.com/Packages/com.unity.timeline@1.5/manual/index.html>
- Unity UI:
  - <https://docs.unity3d.com/2020.1/Documentation/Manual/UIHowTos.html>