Android Intents

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Notes are based on:

Android Developers http://developer.android.com/index.html





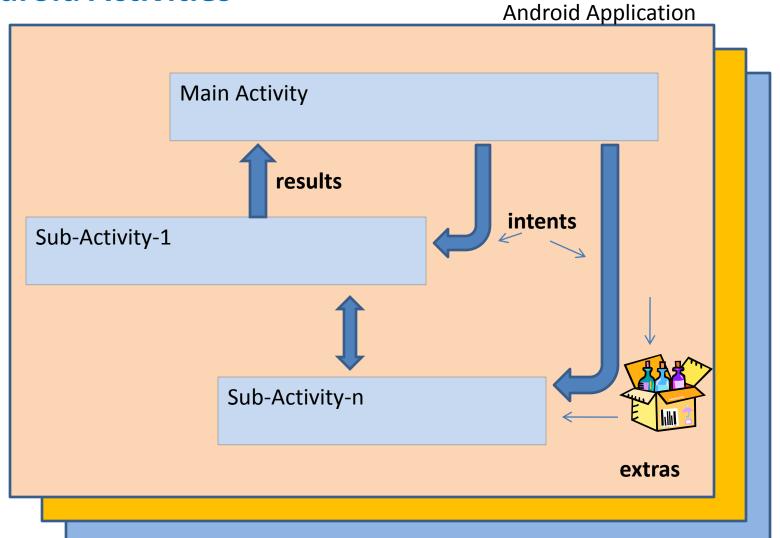
Android Activities

An Android application could include any number of activities.

- An activity uses the setContentView(...) method to expose (usually) a single UI from which a number of actions could be performed.
- Activities are independent of each other; however they usually cooperate exchanging data and actions.
- Typically, one of the activities is designated as the first one (main) that should be presented to the user when the application is launched.
- Moving from one activity to another is accomplished by asking the current activity to execute an *intent*.
- Activities interact with each other in an asynchronous mode.



Android Activities





Taken from: http://code.google.com/android/reference/android/content/Intent.html

Intents are invoked using the following options

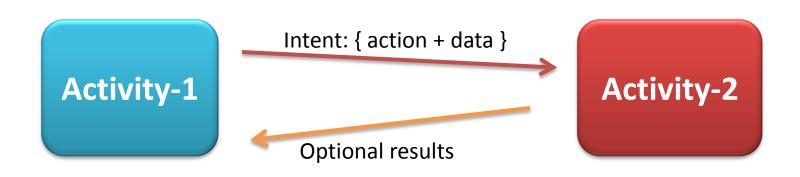
startActivity (intent)	launches an <i>Activity</i>
sendBroadcast (intent)	sends an intent to any interested BroadcastReceiver components
<pre>startService(intent) or bindService(intent,)</pre>	communicate with a background Service.



Taken from: http://code.google.com/android/reference/android/content/Intent.html

The main arguments of an Intent are:

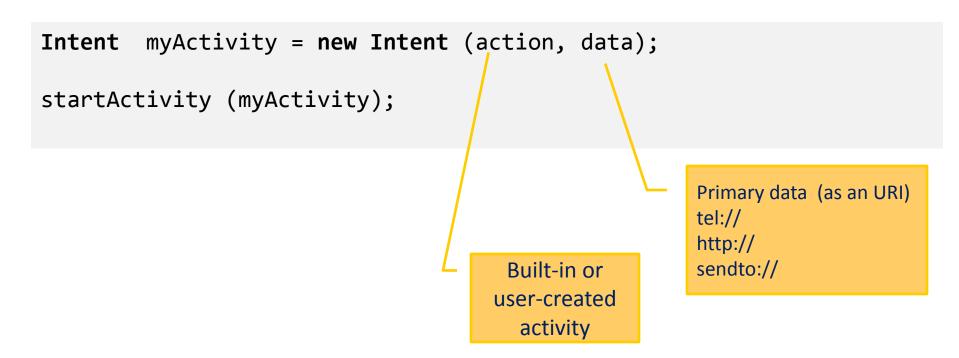
- 1. Action The built-in action to be performed, such as ACTION_VIEW, ACTION_EDIT, ACTION_MAIN, ... or user-created-activity
- 2. Data The primary data to operate on, such as a phone number to be called (expressed as a Uri).





Taken from: http://code.google.com/android/reference/android/content/Intent.html

Typically an intent is called as follows:





Taken from: http://code.google.com/android/reference/android/content/Intent.html

Examples of **action/data** pairs are:

ACTION DIAL tel:123

Display the phone dialer with the given number filled in.

ACTION_VIEW http://www.google.com

Show Google page in a browser view. Note how the VIEW action does what is considered the most reasonable thing for a particular URI.

ACTION_EDIT content://contacts/people/2

Edit information about the person whose identifier is "2".

ACTION_VIEW content://contacts/people/2

Used to start an activity to display 2-nd person.

ACTION_VIEW content://contacts/ people/

Display a list of people, which the user can browse through. Selecting a particular person to view would result in a new intent



Built-in Standard Actions

List of standard actions that Intents can use for launching activities (usually through *startActivity(Intent)*.

ACTION_MAIN

ACTION VIEW

ACTION_ATTACH_DATA

ACTION_EDIT

ACTION PICK

ACTION_CHOOSER

ACTION GET CONTENT

ACTION DIAL

ACTION_CALL

ACTION_SEND

ACTION_SENDTO

ACTION ANSWER

ACTION INSERT

ACTION_DELETE

ACTION RUN

ACTION SYNC

ACTION_PICK_ACTIVITY

ACTION SEARCH

ACTION_WEB_SEARCH

ACTION_FACTORY_TEST



Taken from: http://code.google.com/android/reference/android/content/Intent.html

Example

Display the phone dialer with the given number filled in.



Taken from: http://code.google.com/android/reference/android/content/Intent.html

Intents - Secondary Attributes

In addition to the primary action/data attributes, there are a number of **secondary attributes** that you can also include with an intent, such as:

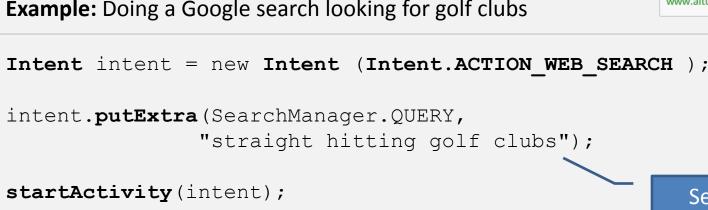
1. Category

2. Components

3. Type

4. Fxtras

Example: Doing a Google search looking for golf clubs



🔛 📶 💶 12:09 AM www.google.com: straight hitting gol... Google Web Images Local more • straight hitting golf club Q How to **Hit** a **Golf** Ball | eHow.com Pull the club straight back from the golf ball to

the top of the backswing. The club should be parallel to the ground. ...

www.ehow.com > ... > Sports > Golf - Options ▼

Fix a Slice and **Hit** a **Golf** Ball **Straight** Every Time

In this article, you will learn how to fix a slice and so be able to hit a golf ball straight down the middle of the fairway. ...

www.buzzle.com/articles/fix-a-s... - Options ▼

Windy Trails Golf Course - Hitting it straight down the fairway

Golfers will find that the 18-hole golf course and driving range provide excellent year-round play. Clubs and equipment may be ...

www.altusservices.com/../golf.htm - Options ▼

Secondary data



Taken from: http://code.google.com/android/reference/android/content/Intent.html

Intents - Secondary Attributes

Example: Sending a text message (using extra attributes)

```
remember to buy bread
and milk
```

555-1234

555-1234

📆 📶 🛂 12:40 AM

```
intent.putExtra("address", "555-1234");
intent.putExtra("sms_body", "remember to buy bread and milk");
startActivity(intent);
```



Taken from: http://code.google.com/android/reference/android/content/Intent.html

Intents - Secondary Attributes

Example: Showing Pictures (using extra attributes)

```
Intent myIntent = new Intent();

myIntent.setType("image/pictures/*");
myIntent.setAction(Intent.ACTION_GET_CONTENT);

startActivity(myIntent);
```

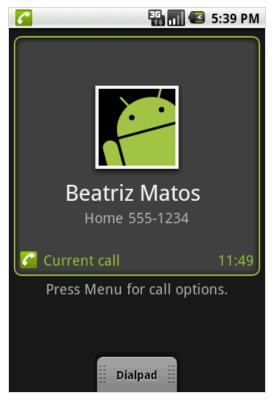
```
₩ 4:27 AM
```

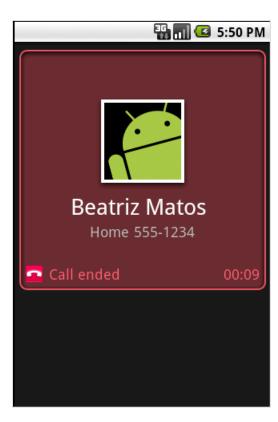


```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"</pre>
    android:orientation="vertical"
    android:layout width="fill parent"
                                                                                   📆 📶 🔼 5:38 PM
    android:layout height="fill parent" >
                                                                  IntentDemo1
<TextView
      android:id="@+id/label1"
                                                                  This is Activity1
     android:layout width="fill parent"
                                                                   tel:555-1234
     android:layout height="wrap content"
     android:background="#ff0000cc"
     android:text="This is Activity1"
                                                                    Make Phone Call
     android:textStyle="bold"
     android:textSize="20sp"
<EditText
      android:id="@+id/text1"
     android:layout width="fill parent"
     android:layout height="54px"
     android:text="tel:555-1234"
     android:textSize="18sp" />
<Button
     android:id="@+id/btnCallActivity2"
     android:layout width="149px"
     android:layout height="wrap content"
     android:text="Make Phone Call"
     android:textStyle="bold" />
</LinearLayout>
```











```
//IntentDemo1 Intent: making a phone call
package cis493.intents;
import android.app.Activity;
import android.content.Intent;
import android.net.Uri;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.View;
import android.view.View.OnClickListener;
import android.widget.*;
public class IntentDemo1 extends Activity {
    TextView label1;
    EditText text1;
    Button btnCallActivity2;
```



```
@Override
    public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
    try {
       setContentView(R.layout.main);
       label1 = (TextView) findViewById(R.id.label1);
       text1 = (EditText) findViewById(R.id.text1);
      btnCallActivity2 = (Button) findViewById(R.id.btnCallActivity2);
       btnCallActivity2.setOnClickListener(new ClickHandler());
   catch (Exception e) {
       Toast.makeText(getBaseContext(), e.getMessage(),
                      Toast.LENGTH LONG).show();
  }//onCreate
```



```
private class ClickHandler implements OnClickListener {
        @Override
        public void onClick(View v) {
         try {
             // myActivity2 places a phone call
             // for ACTION CALL or ACTION DIAL
             // use 'tel:' formatted data: "tel:555-1234"
             // for ACTION VIEW use data: "http://www.youtube.com"
             // (you also need INTERNET permission - see Manifest)
             String myData = text1.getText().toString();
             Intent myActivity2 = new Intent(Intent.ACTION DIAL,
                                              Uri.parse(myData));
             startActivity(myActivity2);
         catch (Exception e) {
             Toast.makeText(getBaseContext(), e.getMessage(),
             Toast.LENGTH LONG).show();
        }//onClick
    }//ClickHandler
}//IntentDemo1
```



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<manifest xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"</pre>
      package="cis493.intents"
      android:versionCode="1"
      android:versionName="1.0">
<application android:icon="@drawable/icon"</pre>
             android:label="@string/app name">
 <activity android:name=".IntentDemo1"</pre>
             android:label="@string/app name">
   <intent-filter>
      <action android:name="android.intent.action.MAIN" />
      <category android:name="android.intent.category.LAUNCHER" />
   </intent-filter>
 _</activity>
  </application>
    <uses-sdk android:minSdkVersion="3" />
</manifest>
```



Built-in Standard Broadcast Actions

List of standard actions that Intents can use for receiving broadcasts (usually through registerReceiver(BroadcastReceiver, IntentFilter) or a <receiver> tag in a manifest).

ACTION_TIME_TICK
ACTION_TIME_CHANGED
ACTION_TIMEZONE_CHANGED
ACTION_BOOT_COMPLETED
ACTION_PACKAGE_ADDED
ACTION_PACKAGE_CHANGED
ACTION_PACKAGE_REMOVED
ACTION_UID_REMOVED
ACTION_BATTERY_CHANGED



More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Call Immediately

Modify the *complete* example1 replacing the method 'ClickHandler' with the following code

```
Beatriz Matos
                     Home 555-1234
   Beatr
     Home
                Press Menu for call options.
Current call
Press Menu
                         Dialpad
          Dialpad
```

Needs Permission:

<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.CALL_PHONE" />

📆 📶 💶 6:54 AM

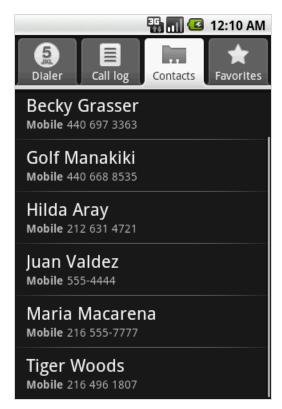
Dialing



More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Show all your Contacts

Modify the *complete* example1 replacing the method 'ClickHandler' with the following code

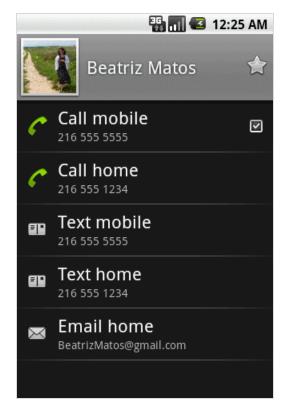




More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Show a Particular Contact (ID = 2)

Modify the *complete* example1 replacing the method 'ClickHandler' with the following code

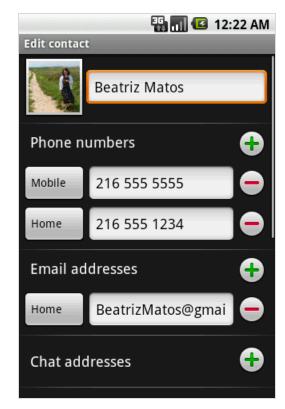




More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Edit a Particular Contact (ID = 2)

Modify the *complete* example1 replacing the method 'ClickHandler' with the following code





More Examples: Using Standard Actions

View a Webpage

Modify the *complete* example1 replacing the method 'ClickHandler' with the following code

```
₩ m € 6:32 AM
m.youtube.com: YouTube Mobile
                                 My Account
    Home
                   Browse
Spotlight Videos
                                     See more »
               Hot Beach Hair & Make-Up
                68.419 views
               Summertime Smokies
                25.782 views
                Pin Up Hair Style tutorial
Rising Videos
                                     See more »
               SLQH: Patricia Conde vuelve a Sé ...
                47,906 views
                The Rabbi and the Pooch
```

Caution. Add to the Manifest a request to use the Internet:

<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INTERNET" />



More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Geo Mapping an Address

Provide a geoCode expression holding a street address (or place, such as 'golden gate ca')
Replace spaces with '+'.

```
📆 📶 💶 2:45 AM
       1860 E 18th St
322
   Keith Bldg
                     20 Euclid Ave
```

Modify the Manifest adding the following requests:

```
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION" />
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INTERNET" />
```



More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Geo Mapping Coordinates (latitude, longitude)

Provide a geoCode holding latitude and longitude (also an addittional zoom '?z=xx' with xx in range 1..23)

```
1862 E 18 St
 leveland, OH 44114
Affairs Bldg
```

Modify the Manifest adding the following requests:

```
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION" />
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INTERNET" />
```



More Examples: Using Standard Actions

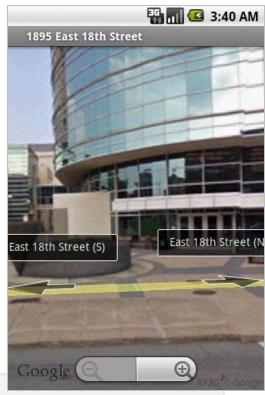
Geo Mapping - Google StreetView

geoCode Uri structure:
google.streetview:cbll=lat,lng&cbp=1,
yaw,,pitch,zoom&mz=mapZoom

Reference: http://developer.android.com/guide/appendix/g-app-intents.html

Modify the Manifest adding the following requests:

```
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION" />
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INTERNET" />
```

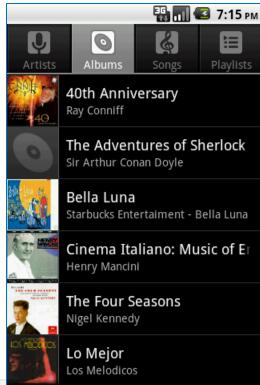




More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Launching the Music Player

Reference: http://developer.android.com/guide/appendix/g-app-intents.html





More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Playing a song stored in the SD card

Reference: http://developer.android.com/guide/appendix/g-app-intents.html



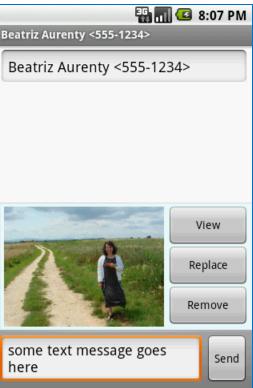


More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Sending MMS

Add picture #1 from SD to MMS

Reference: http://developer.android.com/guide/appendix/g-app-intents.html



```
//send mms attach picture #1 to it

Uri uri = Uri.parse("content://media/external/images/media/1");

myActivity2 = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_SEND);

myActivity2.putExtra("address", "555-1234");
myActivity2.putExtra("sms_body", "some text message goes here");
myActivity2.putExtra(Intent.EXTRA_STREAM, uri);
myActivity2.setType("image/png");

startActivity(myActivity2);
```



More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Sending Email

Reference: http://developer.android.com/guide/appendix/g-app-intents.html

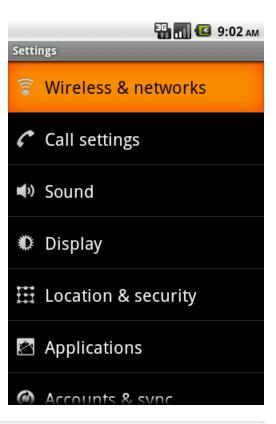
```
Compose
<v.matos@csuohio.edu>,
subject goes here
The email's body goes here
Victor
   Send
           Save as draft
                       Discard
```



More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Setting System

Reference: http://developer.android.com/reference/android/provider/Settings.html





More Examples: Using Standard Actions

Setting System Locale: Language & Keyboard

Reference: http://developer.android.com/reference/android/provider/Settings.html

```
₩ m 🛂 8:52 AM
Locale
English (Singapore)
English (United Kingdom)
English (United States)
Español
Français (Belgique)
Français (Canada)
```



Starting Activities and Getting Results

The **startActivity(Intent)** method is used to start a new activity, which will be placed at the top of the activity stack.

Sometimes you want to get a result back from the called sub-activity when it ends.



For example, you may start an activity that let the user pick a person from a list of contacts; when it ends, it returns the person that was selected.



Starting Activities and Getting Results

In order to get results back from the called activity we use the method

startActivityForResult (Intent, requestCodeID)



Where the second (requestCodeID) parameter identifies the call.

The result sent by the sub-activity could be picked up through the asynchronous method

onActivityResult (requestCodeID, resultCode, Intent)



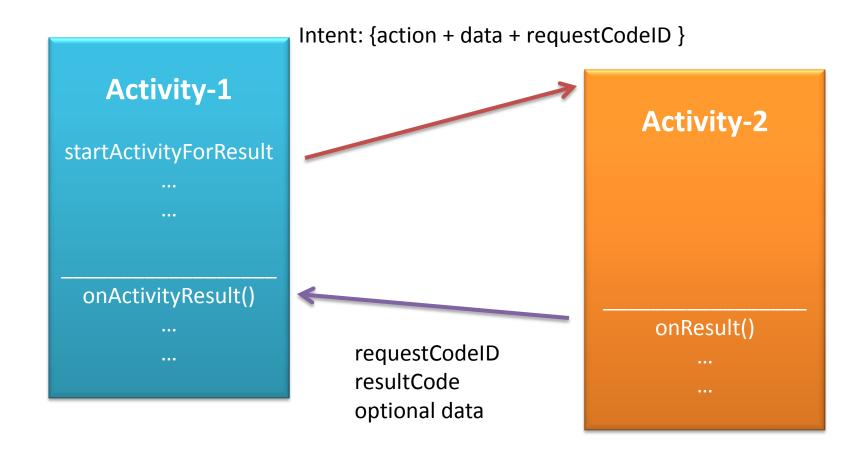


Starting Activities and Getting Results

- Before an activity exits, it can call setResult (resultCode)
 to return a termination signal back to its parent.
- Always supply a result code, which can be the standard results
 Activity.RESULT_CANCELED, Activity.RESULT_OK,
 or any custom values.
- All of this information can be capture back on the parent's
 onActivityResult (int requestCodeID, int resultCode, Intent data)
 along with the integer identifier it originally supplied.
- If a child activity fails for any reason (such as crashing), the parent activity will receive a result with the code RESULT_CANCELED.



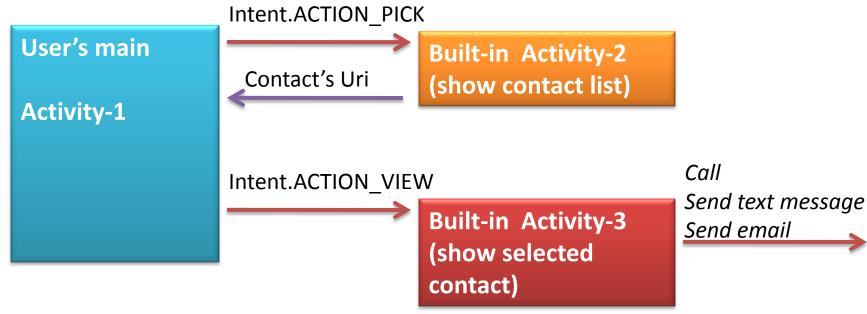
Starting Activities and Getting Results





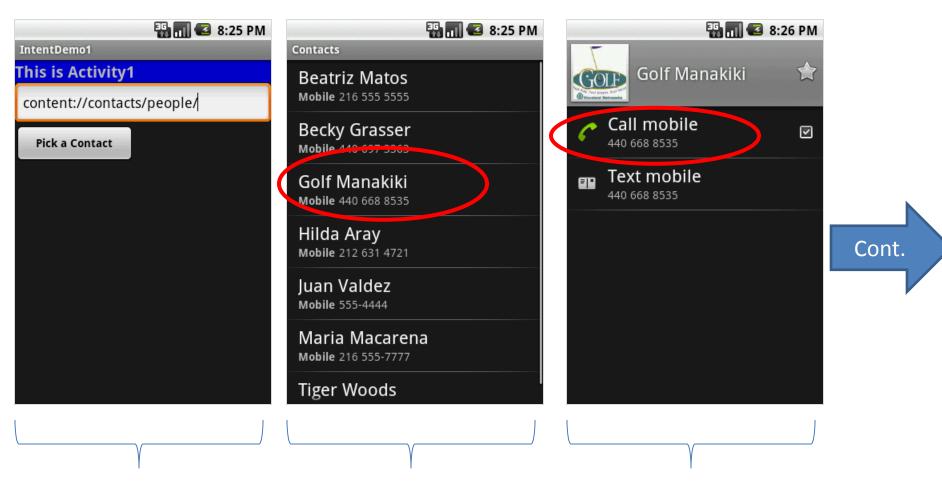
Example2. Let's play golf - Call for a tee-time.

- 1. Show all contacts and pick a particular one (Intent.ACTION_PICK).
- 2. For a successful interaction the main-activity accepts the returned URI identifying the person we want to call (content://contacts/people/n).
- 3. 'Nicely' show the selected contact's entry allowing calling, texting, emailing actions (Intent.ACTION_VIEW).



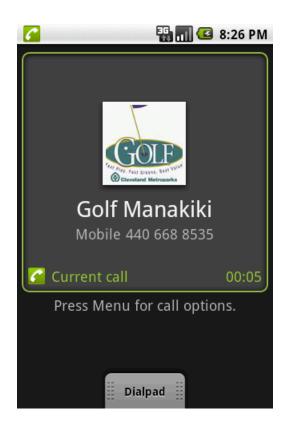


Example2. Let's play golf - *Call for a tee-time*.

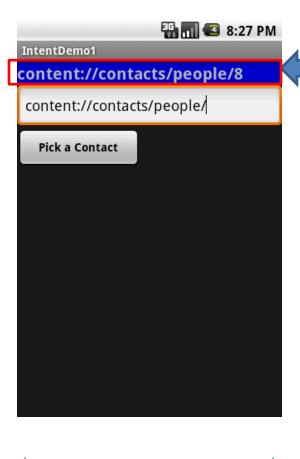




Example2 (cont.) Let's play golf - *Call for a tee-time*







Place the call

Terminate the call

Selected contact's URI



```
//IntentDemo2_Intent: making a phone call
//receiving results from a sub-activity
package cis493.intents;
import android.app.Activity;
import android.content.Intent;
import android.net.Uri;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.View;
import android.view.View.OnClickListener;
import android.widget.*;

public class IntentDemo2 extends Activity {
    TextView label1;
    EditText text1;
    Button btnCallActivity2;
```



```
@Override
  public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
   super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
   try {
           setContentView(R.layout.main);
           label1 = (TextView) findViewById(R.id.label1);
           text1 = (EditText) findViewById(R.id.text1);
           btnCallActivity2 = (Button) findViewById(R.id.btnPickContact);
           btnCallActivity2.setOnClickListener(new ClickHandler());
   catch (Exception e) {
            Toast.makeText(getBaseContext(),
            e.getMessage(), Toast.LENGTH LONG).show();
 }//onCreate
```



```
private class ClickHandler implements OnClickListener {
   @Override
   public void onClick(View v) {
       try {
            // myData refer to: content://contacts/people/
             String myData = text1.getText().toString();
             //you may also try ACTION VIEW instead
             Intent myActivity2 = new Intent(Intent.ACTION PICK,
                                     Uri.parse(myData));
            // start myActivity2.
            // Tell it that our requestCodeID (or nickname) is 222
            startActivityForResult(myActivity2, 222);
            // Toast.makeText(getApplicationContext(),
                             "I can't wait for you", 1).show();
       catch (Exception e) {
            label1.setText(e.getMessage());
   }//onClick
  }//ClickHandler
```



```
@Override
protected void onActivityResult(int requestCode,
                                                          Listener
                                int resultCode,
                                Intent data) {
    super.onActivityResult(requestCode, resultCode, data);
    try {
         // use requestCode to find out who is talking back to us
        switch (requestCode) {
             case (222): {
                 // 222 is our friendly contact-picker activity
                 if (resultCode == Activity.RESULT OK) {
                      String selectedContact = data.getDataString();
                      // it will return an URI that looks like:
                      // content://contacts/people/n
                      // where n is the selected contacts' ID
                      label1.setText(selectedContact.toString());
                      //show a 'nice' screen with the selected contact
                      Intent myAct3 = new Intent (Intent.ACTION VIEW,
                                                Uri.parse(selectedContact));
                      startActivity(myAct3);
```



```
else {
                      //user pressed the BACK button
                      label1.setText("Selection CANCELLED "
                                     + requestCode + " " + resultCode);
                     break;
        }//switch
    catch (Exception e) {
        Toast.makeText(getBaseContext(), e.getMessage(),
                       Toast.LENGTH LONG).show();
 }// onActivityResult
}//IntentDemo2
```



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"</pre>
    android:orientation="vertical"
    android:layout width="fill parent"
                                                                                    ₩ 📶 🛂 8:25 PM
    android:layout height="fill parent" >
                                                                      IntentDemo1
     <TextView
                                                                     This is Activity1
          android:id="@+id/label1"
                                                                      content://contacts/people/
          android: layout width="fill parent"
          android: layout height="wrap content"
          android:background="#ff0000cc"
                                                                        Pick a Contact
          android:text="This is Activity1"
          android:textStyle="bold"
          android:textSize="20sp"/>
     <EditText
          android:id="@+id/text1"
          android:layout width="fill parent"
          android:layout height="54px"
          android:text="content://contacts/people/"
          android:textSize="18sp" />
     <Button
          android:id="@+id/btnPickContact"
          android:layout width="149px"
          android:layout height="wrap content"
          android:text="Pick a Contact"
          android:textStyle="bold" />
</LinearLayout>
```

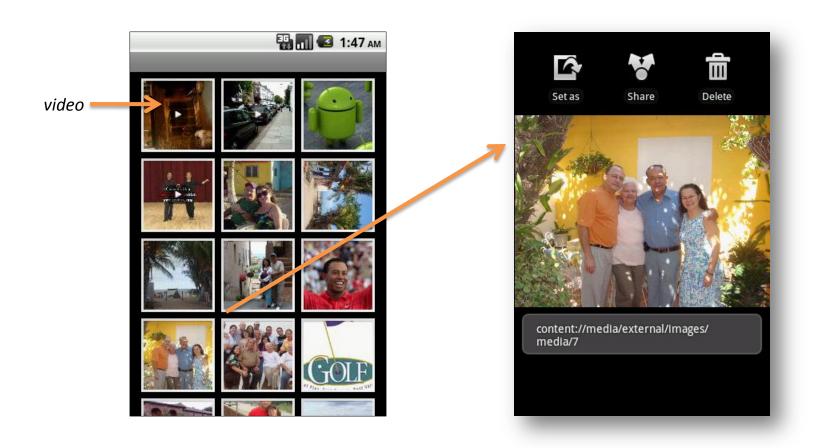


Example3. Showing Pictures and Video - Calling a sub-activity, receiving results.

```
private void showSoundTracks() {
                                                         All videos and all still images
  Intent myIntent = new Intent();
  myIntent.setType("video/*, images/*");
  myIntent.setAction(Intent.ACTION GET CONTENT);
  startActivityForResult(myIntent, 0);
}//showSoundTracks
@Override
protected void onActivityResult(int requestCode, int resultCode, Intent intent) {
  super.onActivityResult(requestCode, resultCode, intent);
  if ((requestCode == 0) && (resultCode == Activity.RESULT OK)) {
      String selectedImage = intent.getDataString();
      Toast.makeText(this, selectedImage, 1).show();
      // show a 'nice' screen with the selected image
      Intent myAct3 = new Intent(Intent.ACTION VIEW, Uri.parse(selectedImage));
      startActivity(myAct3);
}//onActivityResult
```



Example3. Showing Pictures and Video - Calling a sub-activity, receiving results.



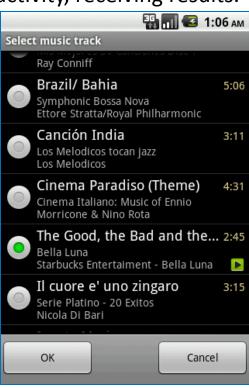


Example4. Showing/Playing Sound Tracks - Calling a sub-activity, receiving results.

```
private void showSoundTracks() {
   Intent myIntent = new Intent();
   myIntent.setType("audio/mp3");
   myIntent.setAction(Intent.ACTION_GET_CONTENT);
   startActivityForResult(myIntent, 0);
}//showSoundTracks
```

The returned string value is similar to the following "content://media/external/audio/media/14" ACTION_VIEW on that Uri would produce a result similar to the image on the right







Questions?



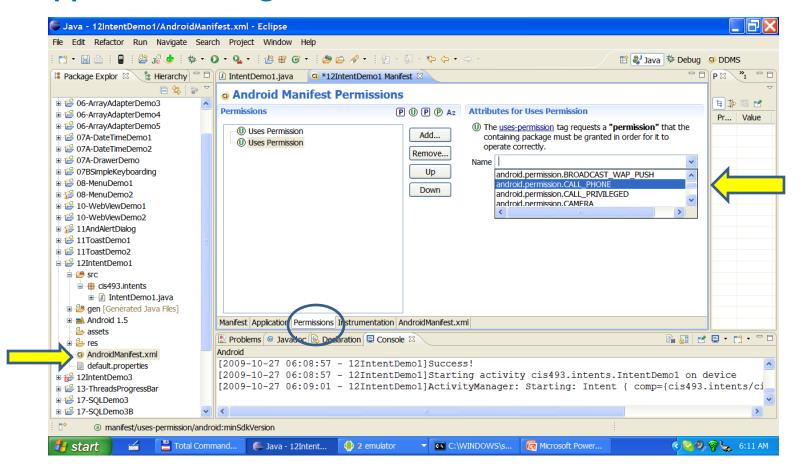
Built-in Standard Broadcast Actions

List of standard actions that Intents can use for receiving broadcasts (usually through registerReceiver(BroadcastReceiver, IntentFilter) or a <receiver> tag in a manifest).

ACTION_TIME_TICK
ACTION_TIME_CHANGED
ACTION_TIMEZONE_CHANGED
ACTION_BOOT_COMPLETED
ACTION_PACKAGE_ADDED
ACTION_PACKAGE_CHANGED
ACTION_PACKAGE_REMOVED
ACTION_UID_REMOVED
ACTION_BATTERY_CHANGED



Appendix: Getting Permissions



Becomes:

<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.CALL_PHONE"></uses-permission>