June 2025 iOS Interview Preparation Blueprint — Essential Topics You Can't Miss

Can you explain your experience with iOS APIs and frameworks and how you have used them in your projects?

Answer:

I have extensive experience working with various iOS APIs and frameworks, including UIKit, Foundation, Core Data, Core Animation, and newer frameworks like SwiftUI and Combine. These form the backbone of iOS app development.

For example, in one project, I used UIKit for designing the UI elements like buttons, table views, and collection views. For data persistence, I integrated Core Data, which allowed efficient local storage and querying. I also leveraged Grand Central Dispatch (GCD) to handle asynchronous tasks smoothly, ensuring a responsive UI.

In another project, I adopted SwiftUI along with Combine to build a reactive UI, which simplified state management and data binding. This helped in rapid prototyping and delivering a smooth user experience. I also integrated Apple's HealthKit API to fetch and display health-related data securely.

Using these frameworks effectively requires understanding their life cycle, threading, and memory management. For example, improper use of UIKit elements on background threads can cause crashes, so I always ensure UI updates happen on the main thread.

How do you manage dependencies in your iOS projects? Can you compare CocoaPods and Swift Package Manager?

Answer:

Managing dependencies is crucial for maintaining scalable and maintainable iOS projects. I have used both CocoaPods and Swift Package Manager (SPM) extensively.

CocoaPods is a third-party dependency manager that uses a centralized repository of pods. It offers great flexibility and is mature with a vast number of libraries available. For example, I used CocoaPods to integrate popular libraries like Alamofire for networking and SDWebImage for image caching. The Podfile manages all dependencies and simplifies updates.

Swift Package Manager, on the other hand, is Apple's native tool integrated directly into Xcode. It handles package resolution and versioning and simplifies dependency management without

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needing an external tool. Recently, I migrated one project from CocoaPods to SPM to reduce complexity and improve build times. SPM supports binary frameworks, and its integration with Xcode means no additional setup is needed for collaborators.

The choice depends on project requirements. For legacy projects with many pods, CocoaPods remains stable. For newer projects, especially with SwiftUI, SPM is more streamlined and recommended by Apple.

Explain MVVM, MVP, and MVC design patterns. Which one do you prefer and why?

Answer:

These are common architectural design patterns used in iOS development to separate concerns and improve code maintainability.

MVC (Model-View-Controller):

This is the traditional iOS pattern where the ViewController acts as the mediator between the Model (data) and View (UI). While simple, it often leads to "Massive ViewControllers" because they handle both UI logic and business logic, making code hard to maintain.

- MVP (Model-View-Presenter):
 - In MVP, the Presenter handles all UI logic and communicates between the Model and the View. The View is passive and only displays what the Presenter tells it. This pattern decouples UI logic from the View and helps in unit testing.
- MVVM (Model-View-ViewModel):

MVVM introduces the ViewModel which exposes data and commands that the View binds to, often using reactive frameworks like Combine or RxSwift. The ViewModel handles the business logic and state, keeping the View simple. This pattern enhances testability and modularity.

Preference:

I prefer MVVM, especially for SwiftUI projects, because the data binding and reactive paradigms fit naturally with SwiftUI's declarative UI approach. For instance, in a recent app, I used Combine in the ViewModel to fetch and process API data asynchronously. The View updated automatically as the ViewModel published new states, which led to clean, maintainable, and testable code.

How do you handle offline storage and data synchronization in iOS apps?

Answer:

Offline storage is essential for providing a seamless user experience when network connectivity

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is poor or unavailable. I commonly use **Core Data** or **Realm** for local storage due to their performance and ability to handle complex data models.

For example, in one app, user data entered offline was saved in Core Data. Once the device was back online, a background sync process sent the changes to the server using RESTful APIs. To ensure consistency, I implemented conflict resolution strategies on the client side, such as last-write-wins or prompting the user to resolve conflicts.

For synchronization, I use background tasks with URLSession to upload changes without blocking the UI. I also monitor network status using NWPathMonitor to trigger sync operations only when appropriate.

This approach ensures data integrity, reduces data loss, and improves app reliability.

Describe your experience with third-party libraries and how you ensure their security and performance in your apps.

Answer:

I regularly integrate third-party libraries to speed up development, such as Alamofire for networking, Firebase for crash analytics, and Kingfisher for image downloading and caching. However, I am very conscious of security and performance risks.

To ensure security, I:

- Review the library's source and community feedback.
- Use static code analysis tools and vulnerability scanners like Veracode and Checkmarx to detect security flaws.
- Avoid deprecated or poorly maintained libraries.
- Apply encryption for sensitive data before using third-party SDKs.

For performance:

- I profile apps with Xcode Instruments, particularly Time Profiler and Allocations instruments, to detect bottlenecks.
- Optimize network calls by caching responses when possible.
- Use lazy loading for heavy resources like images.

For example, after integrating Firebase Crashlytics, I monitored app stability and found memory leaks. I then updated to the latest SDK version and reconfigured initialization code, which improved app responsiveness.

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How do you use Git and manage source control in a team environment?

Answer:

I use Git extensively for version control and collaboration. In team environments, we follow branching strategies such as Git Flow or feature branching:

- **Feature branches:** Developers create branches from develop to work on individual features.
- Pull Requests: Once a feature is complete, a PR is created for code review.
- Code Reviews: We review code for quality, style, and potential bugs.
- Merging: After approval, branches are merged into develop and eventually into main or release.

I use Git commands for branching, committing, rebasing, and resolving conflicts efficiently. For example, during a sprint, I managed multiple branches simultaneously — fixing bugs on a hotfix branch while working on new features.

Tools like GitLab and GitHub provide CI/CD pipelines which we use to automate builds and tests, ensuring quality before merging.

Explain how you optimize iOS app performance and what tools you use.

Answer:

Performance optimization is crucial for user experience. I focus on:

- Reducing app launch time: By lazy loading resources and minimizing heavy initialization.
- **Memory management:** Avoid retain cycles by using weak references and profiling with Instruments.
- Efficient UI rendering: Minimizing overdraw, reusing views, and using lightweight views in SwiftUI.
- Network optimization: Using caching, compressing payloads, and batching requests.

Tools I use:

- Xcode Instruments: To profile CPU usage, memory leaks, and network activity.
- Time Profiler: To find slow functions.
- Allocations: To track memory usage and leaks.
- Google Firebase Performance Monitoring: For real-world crash and performance analytics.

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In one app, using Instruments helped me find an inefficient loop in JSON parsing that caused frame drops. Refactoring it improved smoothness noticeably.

Can you discuss your approach to collaborating with cross-functional teams in an Agile environment?

Answer:

In Agile, collaboration is key to delivering quality software quickly. I actively participate in:

- **Daily Stand-ups:** To report progress, blockers, and plan next steps.
- Sprint Planning: Helping estimate tasks and define user stories.
- Sprint Reviews/Demos: Presenting features and gathering feedback.
- Retrospectives: Discussing improvements in processes.

I work closely with Product Owners to understand requirements and designers to implement UI/UX guidelines. Coordinating with QA ensures that test cases cover edge cases and bugs are promptly fixed.

For example, during a sprint, when QA found a UI bug, I quickly fixed it, updated test cases, and communicated the changes in the next stand-up to keep the team aligned.

Have you published iOS apps on the App Store? What was your experience with that process?

Answer:

Yes, I have published several iOS apps. The process includes:

- App development: Ensuring code quality, testing on multiple devices.
- App Store Connect setup: Creating app records, uploading screenshots, writing descriptions.
- Provisioning and signing: Managing certificates and profiles.
- Beta testing: Using TestFlight to distribute builds to testers.
- App submission: Following Apple's guidelines for metadata and content.
- App review: Handling review feedback and addressing issues.

In one app, the review process flagged some privacy concerns regarding data collection. I promptly updated the privacy policy and implemented permission prompts, which was accepted on re-submission.

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Publishing taught me the importance of attention to detail and compliance with Apple's guidelines for a smooth release.

How do you approach problem-solving when optimizing complex algorithms or data structures in iOS? Can you give an example?

Answer:

Problem-solving in algorithm optimization begins with understanding the problem constraints and requirements. I analyze time and space complexity and aim for the most efficient solution.

For example, suppose an app feature required searching through a large list of products to filter those matching a user query. Initially, the implementation used a linear search through an array, which had O(n) time complexity.

To optimize, I changed the data structure to a **Trie** (prefix tree), which allows searching prefixes efficiently in O(m) time, where m is the length of the search term. This significantly improved search speed, especially for autocomplete features.

Additionally, I used memoization to cache frequent queries, reducing repeated computation. Profiling before and after optimization with Instruments showed a 40% reduction in CPU usage during search.

I also prioritize clarity and maintainability, avoiding premature optimization unless performance profiling indicates a bottleneck.

Describe how you implement and handle concurrency and threading in iOS apps.

Answer:

Concurrency is key for responsive apps, especially when handling network calls, database operations, or heavy computations.

In iOS, I primarily use Grand Central Dispatch (GCD) and OperationQueue:

- GCD: Provides dispatch queues for executing tasks asynchronously or synchronously.
 For example, I use DispatchQueue.global().async for background work and DispatchQueue.main.async for UI updates.
- **OperationQueue:** Offers more control with dependencies, priorities, and cancellation. I use it when managing complex operations with interdependencies.

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For example, in an app that downloads images from multiple URLs, I used OperationQueue with a max concurrent operation count to avoid overloading the network and to control the order of downloads.

I also ensure thread safety when accessing shared resources by using synchronization mechanisms like serial queues or locks.

With Swift Concurrency (async/await), I've started refactoring code for cleaner and more readable asynchronous code, which simplifies error handling and reduces callback hell.

What is your experience with RESTful APIs? How do you integrate and handle network calls in your iOS apps?

Answer:

I have hands-on experience integrating RESTful APIs using **URLSession** and libraries like Alamofire.

I follow these best practices:

- Asynchronous calls: Using URLSession's data tasks or Alamofire's request methods to avoid blocking the main thread.
- Error handling: Handling HTTP errors, network failures, and JSON parsing errors gracefully.
- Parsing JSON: Using Codable protocol for automatic JSON decoding/encoding.
- Caching: Implementing URLCache or custom caching strategies to reduce network load.
- Authentication: Supporting token-based authentication like OAuth or JWT with automatic token refresh.

Example: In a shopping app, I used URLSession with Combine publishers to fetch product data. The ViewModel subscribed to these publishers and updated the UI accordingly. Errors were shown as alerts, and retry mechanisms allowed smooth user experience.

I also implement retries with exponential backoff to handle transient network failures.

Explain your experience with offline-first apps and data synchronization strategies.

Answer:

Offline-first design ensures apps function seamlessly without network connectivity.

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I typically use Core Data or Realm for local storage. The app reads and writes data locally and synchronizes changes with the server when connectivity is available.

For synchronization:

- Two-way syncing: Changes on client and server are merged using timestamps or versioning.
- **Conflict resolution:** Strategies like client-wins, server-wins, or manual user conflict resolution.
- **Background sync:** Using BackgroundTasks framework to upload/download data without user intervention.
- Network monitoring: Using NWPathMonitor to detect connectivity changes.

In a healthcare app, patient data was stored locally during visits. Once connected, the app synced records securely to a HIPAA-compliant backend, ensuring no data loss.

How do you secure iOS apps, especially when dealing with sensitive data?

Answer:

Security is paramount. I follow Apple's security guidelines and industry best practices:

- **Keychain:** Storing sensitive info like tokens and passwords securely.
- **Data encryption:** Encrypting sensitive data before storage or transmission.
- App Transport Security (ATS): Enforcing HTTPS connections.
- Certificate pinning: To prevent man-in-the-middle attacks.
- Static and dynamic analysis: Running Veracode or Checkmarx scans to find vulnerabilities.
- Obfuscation: Minimizing exposure of app internals.
- Secure coding: Avoiding hardcoded credentials and validating input to prevent injection attacks.

Example: For an enterprise banking app, I used Keychain to store OAuth tokens and implemented biometric authentication (FaceID/TouchID) to enhance security. I also audited dependencies to ensure none introduced vulnerabilities.

Can you describe your experience with Swift Package Manager and creating private packages?

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Answer:

I use Swift Package Manager (SPM) for dependency management and modularizing code into reusable packages.

For private packages, I set up a private Git repository (e.g., on GitLab or GitHub Enterprise) and configure SPM to fetch packages via SSH or HTTPS with authentication.

Example: I created a private package for common UI components and utilities shared across multiple projects. This modularization allowed rapid development and consistent UI behavior.

In Xcode, I add the package via File > Add Packages and specify the repository URL. Versioning is managed through tags to ensure stability.

Using SPM improves build times, simplifies version control, and reduces binary size compared to CocoaPods.

How do you debug and profile an iOS app to improve stability and performance?

Answer:

I use Xcode's debugging and profiling tools extensively:

- Debugger: Setting breakpoints, inspecting variables, and stepping through code to fix logic errors.
- **Instruments:** Profiling with Time Profiler, Allocations, Leaks, Network, and Core Animation tools to detect performance issues.
- Console logs: Using os_log for better performance and log categorization.
- Crash reporting: Integrating Firebase Crashlytics to get detailed crash reports from users.
- Unit tests: Writing tests to catch regressions early.

Example: I identified a memory leak caused by a retain cycle in a closure capturing self strongly. Instruments showed continuously increasing memory usage. Refactoring to use [weak self] fixed the issue, improving app stability.

Describe your experience with hybrid mobile app development for iOS.

Answer:

I have worked on hybrid apps using frameworks like **React Native** and **Cordova** that allow cross-platform development with a single codebase.

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My role involved:

- Integrating native modules to handle iOS-specific functionality.
- Optimizing performance by offloading heavy processing to native code.
- Debugging hybrid bridges and ensuring smooth communication between JavaScript and native layers.
- Handling app lifecycle events and push notifications in hybrid apps.

Example: In one project, I implemented a native module in Swift for biometrics authentication, which was then exposed to the React Native layer, enhancing security features.

Hybrid apps enable faster development cycles but sometimes require native optimization for best user experience.

How do you handle app versioning and releasing multiple versions across iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch?

Answer:

I manage versioning using semantic versioning (e.g., 1.2.3) in Xcode build settings and App Store Connect.

For universal apps supporting iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch:

- I use Universal Targets in Xcode to share code and assets.
- Device-specific UI is implemented with adaptive layouts (Auto Layout and SwiftUI).
- WatchKit extensions handle Apple Watch features, communicating with the main app via Watch Connectivity.
- I test on multiple devices and simulators to ensure consistency.

When releasing updates, I coordinate with QA for regression testing across all devices and submit builds separately if necessary.

For example, a fitness app included a Watch app to display workout stats synced from iPhone, ensuring seamless user experience across devices.

Write a Swift function to reverse a given string.

Answer:

Reversing a string in Swift can be done using the built-in reversed() method, which returns a reversed sequence of characters. Then, you can convert it back to a String.

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```
func reverseString(_ s: String) -> String {
    return String(s.reversed())
}
```

Explanation:

reversed() has O(n) complexity where n is the length of the string. It's efficient and concise. For learning purposes, you could also manually reverse the string using a loop or recursion.

Given an array of integers, find the integer that appears most frequently.

Answer:

```
func mostFrequentElement(_ nums: [Int]) -> Int? {
   var frequency: [Int: Int] = [:]

  for num in nums {
      frequency[num, default: 0] += 1
   }

  return frequency.max(by: { $0.value < $1.value })?.key
}</pre>
```

Explanation:

The dictionary frequency stores counts of each integer. Finding the max value gives the most frequent element. Time complexity is O(n).

Given a linked list, determine if it has a cycle.

Answer:

Using Floyd's Tortoise and Hare algorithm:

```
class ListNode {
   var val: Int
   var next: ListNode?
```

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```
init(_ val: Int) {
        self.val = val
        self.next = nil
    }
}
func hasCycle(_ head: ListNode?) -> Bool {
    var slow = head
    var fast = head
    while fast != nil && fast?.next != nil {
        slow = slow?.next
        fast = fast?.next?.next
        if slow === fast {
            return true
        }
    return false
}
```

Explanation:

The fast pointer moves twice as fast as the slow pointer. If they meet, a cycle exists.

Implement an in-memory cache that stores key-value pairs and expires entries after a specified time interval.

Answer (simplified):

```
import Foundation

class Cache<Key: Hashable, Value> {
    private var storage: [Key: (value: Value, expiry: Date)] = [:]
    private let expiryInterval: TimeInterval

init(expiryInterval: TimeInterval) {
```

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```
self.expiryInterval = expiryInterval
}

func set(_ key: Key, value: Value) {
    storage[key] = (value,
Date().addingTimeInterval(expiryInterval))
}

func get(_ key: Key) -> Value? {
    guard let entry = storage[key] else { return nil }

    if Date() < entry.expiry {
        return entry.value
    } else {
        storage.removeValue(forKey: key)
        return nil
    }
}</pre>
```

Explanation:

Each cache entry has an expiry date. On retrieval, if expired, the entry is removed.

Describe a time you faced a major challenge on a project and how you handled it.

Answer:

"In a recent project, we encountered a severe performance issue with image loading that caused the app to lag significantly. I profiled the app with Xcode Instruments and identified that images were being loaded synchronously on the main thread. To resolve this, I refactored the code to use asynchronous loading with caching using the Kingfisher library. I also optimized image sizes to reduce memory footprint. These changes resulted in smoother scrolling and improved user experience. I communicated this fix in the team's daily standup and documented the best practices for future reference."

How do you prioritize your tasks when working on multiple features simultaneously?

Answer:

"I use Agile methodologies to prioritize tasks based on business impact, dependencies, and deadlines. I break down features into smaller tasks and estimate effort. I communicate regularly with the Product Owner and Scrum Master to align on priorities. I use tools like Jira to track progress and ensure I focus on high-priority items first. If unexpected urgent bugs arise, I adjust my schedule but maintain transparency with the team. This approach helps me deliver multiple features efficiently without compromising quality."

How do you keep yourself updated with the latest iOS development trends?

Answer:

"I follow Apple's WWDC sessions every year, which provide deep insights into new frameworks and best practices. I regularly read blogs like RayWenderlich, Hacking with Swift, and the Swift Forums. I also participate in iOS developer communities on GitHub and Stack Overflow. Whenever possible, I contribute to open-source projects to deepen my understanding. Finally, I experiment with new tools and APIs through side projects to stay hands-on."

Can you give an example of how you handled a conflict in your team?

Answer:

"In one project, there was a disagreement between developers and QA regarding the severity of a bug. I facilitated a meeting where both sides presented their perspectives. We reviewed the bug's impact on user experience and business goals. I encouraged open communication and empathy. Together, we reprioritized the bug to be fixed in the current sprint while adjusting other tasks. This collaborative approach improved team trust and ensured timely delivery."

Describe your approach to learning a new technology or framework.

Answer:

"When I need to learn something new, I start by understanding the basics through official documentation and tutorials. Then, I build small proof-of-concept projects to apply what I've learned. I analyze sample code and explore best practices. I also seek advice from colleagues or community forums. For example, when SwiftUI was introduced, I quickly went through

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Apple's tutorials and built a simple app to grasp its declarative style. I gradually integrated it into production apps once comfortable."

What is the difference between MVC, MVP, and MVVM in iOS? Which pattern do you prefer and why?

Answer:

- MVC (Model-View-Controller):
 - Model holds data, View displays UI, Controller mediates between them. Common but often leads to "Massive ViewControllers" as Controllers handle too much logic.
- MVP (Model-View-Presenter):
 - View is passive and communicates with Presenter, which contains UI logic and interacts with Model. Improves testability by separating UI logic.
- MVVM (Model-View-ViewModel):
 - ViewModel exposes data and commands for the View via data binding (using Combine, RxSwift). View is declarative and observes ViewModel changes. Great for reactive programming and SwiftUI.

Preference:

I prefer **MVVM** for better separation of concerns and reactive UI updates, especially with SwiftUI and Combine, which simplify state management and testing.

How do you manage third-party dependencies in iOS? Compare CocoaPods and Swift Package Manager.

Answer:

- **CocoaPods:** Mature, uses a centralized Podfile. Great for many libraries but can slow down build times and adds an external dependency manager.
- **Swift Package Manager (SPM):** Apple's native solution integrated with Xcode. Simpler setup, faster, and better support for Swift and SwiftUI projects.

I prefer SPM for new projects due to its native support and integration, but use CocoaPods for legacy projects requiring mature libraries unavailable on SPM.

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Explain how you implement asynchronous network calls in Swift.

Answer:

I use URLSession or Alamofire for RESTful calls. Typically, network calls are asynchronous to avoid blocking the UI:

```
URLSession.shared.dataTask(with: url) { data, response, error in
   if let data = data {
        // parse JSON using Codable
   }
}.resume()
With Swift Concurrency (async/await), it becomes cleaner:
func fetchData() async throws -> Data {
   let (data, _) = try await URLSession.shared.data(from: url)
   return data
}
```

This improves readability and error handling.

What techniques do you use to optimize iOS app performance?

Answer:

- Use Instruments to profile CPU, memory, and network usage.
- Avoid blocking main thread; do heavy tasks in background.
- Use lazy loading and caching for images and data.
- Optimize UI rendering: reuse cells, avoid unnecessary redraws.
- Minimize memory leaks using weak references to avoid retain cycles.
- Compress network payloads and batch requests.

Example: Refactoring synchronous image loading to asynchronous with caching improved scrolling smoothness drastically.

How do you handle offline data persistence in iOS apps?

Answer:

I use **Core Data** or **Realm** to store data locally. Changes are saved locally first. Then, when the device is online, I sync with backend APIs using background tasks.

Conflict resolution strategies (e.g., timestamps) ensure data consistency.

For example, in a news app, articles are cached locally for offline reading, and updates sync automatically when online.

Describe your approach to unit testing in iOS.

Answer:

I write unit tests using XCTest to verify ViewModels and business logic. I mock dependencies (e.g., repositories or network layers) to isolate tests.

Example: For a ViewModel that fetches products, I mock the API service to return predefined data and verify the ViewModel updates UI state accordingly.

This ensures regressions are caught early and improves code reliability.

What is a retain cycle? How do you prevent it in Swift?

Answer:

A retain cycle occurs when two objects hold strong references to each other, preventing deallocation and causing memory leaks.

Prevent it by using [weak self] or [unowned self] in closures to avoid strong capture of self.

Example:

someAsyncCall { [weak self] result in

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```
self?.handle(result)
}
```

How do you secure sensitive data in iOS apps?

Answer:

- Use **Keychain** for storing passwords, tokens securely.
- Enforce HTTPS with App Transport Security.
- Encrypt sensitive data before storage or transmission.
- Implement biometric authentication for extra security.
- Regularly scan code and dependencies with tools like Veracode.

Example: Storing OAuth tokens securely in Keychain and requiring Face ID to access sensitive screens.

What is Combine and how have you used it in your projects?

Answer:

Combine is Apple's reactive framework for handling asynchronous events via publishers and subscribers.

I've used Combine in MVVM to bind network response data to UI updates. For example, a ViewModel publishes product data updates that SwiftUI views subscribe to, allowing automatic UI refresh without manual callbacks.

Explain how you handle multiple environments (dev, staging, production) in iOS projects.

Answer:

I use different build configurations and schemes in Xcode. Each configuration has its own .xcconfig file or Info.plist entries to set environment-specific API URLs and keys.

At runtime, the app picks the correct environment config, enabling seamless testing and deployment.

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What is the difference between value types and reference types in Swift? Give examples.

Answer:

In Swift, **value types** are copied when assigned or passed around, while **reference types** share a single instance.

• Value types: Structs, enums, tuples Example:

```
struct Point {
    var x: Int
    var y: Int
}

var p1 = Point(x: 1, y: 2)

var p2 = p1  // p2 is a copy

p2.x = 3

// p1.x is still 1, p2.x is 3
```

• Reference types: Classes Example:

```
class Person {
    var name: String
    init(name: String) { self.name = name }
}
var person1 = Person(name: "Alice")
```

```
var person2 = person1 // Both refer to the same instance
person2.name = "Bob"

// person1.name is now "Bob"
```

Value types promote immutability and thread safety; reference types allow shared mutable state but need careful memory management.

How do you implement dependency injection in iOS apps? Why is it important?

Answer:

Dependency Injection (DI) means supplying objects with their dependencies rather than creating them internally, improving modularity and testability.

Common ways in Swift:

- Constructor Injection: Pass dependencies through init parameters.
- Property Injection: Set dependencies via properties.
- **Protocol-based Injection:** Inject conforming protocol implementations.

Example:

```
protocol APIService {
    func fetchData()
}

class ViewModel {
    let apiService: APIService
    init(apiService: APIService) {
        self.apiService = apiService
```

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```
}
```

DI allows easy mocking in unit tests and decouples components for better maintenance.

Explain how you handle memory management in iOS.

Answer:

iOS uses **Automatic Reference Counting (ARC)** to manage memory. ARC tracks strong references to objects and frees memory when reference count hits zero.

To prevent memory leaks:

- Avoid **retain cycles**, especially in closures capturing self.
- Use [weak self] or [unowned self] in closures.
- Break strong reference cycles between objects by declaring one side weak.
- Profile apps using Instruments to find leaks.

Proper memory management ensures app stability and performance.

What are Property Wrappers in Swift? Give an example use case.

Answer:

Property Wrappers allow you to add reusable logic around property access, like validation or persistence.

Example: A simple wrapper to clamp a value within a range:

```
@propertyWrapper
struct Clamped<Value: Comparable> {
   var value: Value
   let range: ClosedRange<Value>
```

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```
init(wrappedValue: Value, _ range: ClosedRange<Value>) {
        self.value = range.clamp(wrappedValue)
        self.range = range
    }
    var wrappedValue: Value {
        get { value }
        set { value = range.clamp(newValue) }
    }
}
extension ClosedRange {
    func clamp(_ value: Bound) -> Bound {
        return Swift.min(Swift.max(value, lowerBound), upperBound)
}
struct Settings {
    @Clamped(0...100) var volume: Int = 50
}
```

Usage of property wrappers makes code concise and modular.

How do you ensure thread safety in your iOS apps?

Answer:

To ensure thread safety:

- Use **serial DispatchQueues** to serialize access to shared resources.
- Use locks (NSLock) or synchronized blocks for critical sections.
- Prefer **immutable data** or **value types** to avoid mutable shared state.
- Use atomic operations or thread-safe collections if needed.
- Keep UI updates strictly on the main thread.

Example: When updating a shared cache dictionary, wrap writes inside a serial queue to avoid race conditions.

Explain how you use Instruments to diagnose app performance issues.

Answer:

Instruments is Xcode's profiling tool. I use it to:

- Time Profiler: Identify CPU hotspots.
- Allocations: Track memory usage and leaks.
- Leaks: Detect memory leaks.
- Core Animation: Analyze UI rendering and dropped frames.
- Network: Monitor API call durations.

Example: I once used Time Profiler to find a slow JSON parsing function causing lag. Refactoring that code improved app responsiveness significantly.

What is Codable in Swift? How do you use it?

Answer:

Codable is a protocol combining Encodable and Decodable to easily convert data models to/from JSON or other formats.

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Example:

```
struct Product: Codable {
    let id: Int
    let title: String
    let price: Double
}

let jsonData = ... // received from API

let decoder = JSONDecoder()

let product = try decoder.decode(Product.self, from: jsonData)
```

Using Codable simplifies serialization, reduces boilerplate, and increases type safety.

What are some best practices for designing REST APIs consumed by your iOS apps?

Answer:

- Use consistent and meaningful endpoint naming.
- Implement pagination for large data sets.
- Return proper HTTP status codes.
- Use JSON as response format with clear schemas.
- Support filtering, sorting, and searching via query parameters.
- Use authentication tokens securely.
- Provide error messages with helpful descriptions.

On the client side, implement graceful error handling and retries.

How do you handle app security during development?

Answer:

- Use HTTPS and enforce App Transport Security.
- Store sensitive data securely in Keychain.
- Validate all inputs to prevent injection attacks.
- Use biometric authentication when appropriate.
- Perform regular static/dynamic code analysis scans.
- Avoid hardcoding secrets; use environment variables or encrypted storage.

What are your strategies for dealing with app crashes and bugs in production?

Answer:

- Integrate crash reporting tools like Firebase Crashlytics.
- Set up user-friendly error reporting.
- Prioritize fixes based on crash frequency and impact.
- Write comprehensive unit and UI tests.
- Use feature flags to roll out changes gradually.
- Regularly monitor logs and analytics.

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