

Coursework Report

Sam Bedlow

40285245@napier.ac.uk

Edinburgh Napier University - Mobile App Development (SET08144)

1 Introduction

For this coursework I wanted to create an app that was different, something that could benefit me, something that I had a passion for and would use regularly. I visit the cinema as often as possible and the one thing I find a pain is actually deciding on what film to watch, so 'MovieDiary' popped into my head and I started brainstorming ways this app could work given the time limit I had. I researched app stores for similar ideas, however I could not find anything that was simple and gave me the information I need which gave me the motivation to create this app. MovieDiary gives you the release date of the film, the year the film was made and the title of the film all on one page, giving the user a very easy and simple way for gathering the information they need when using the app.

2 Software Design

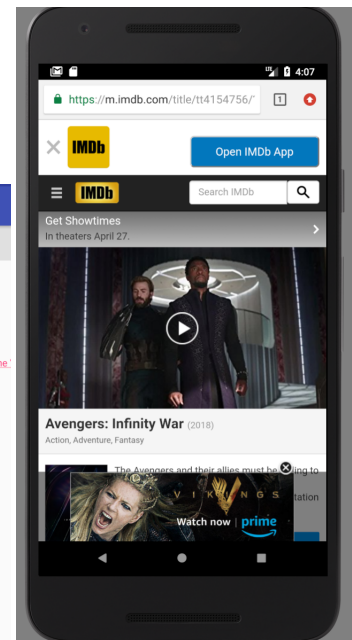
For my app to be successful I needed to gather information from a data source, so I found a calendar page on IMDB which showed upcoming releases by country and decided to take the information from there. For the prototype, I decided to implement for UK releases first with plans to expand to releases for other countries. The way I approached this was by capturing the data in a JSON file so that it could be easily accessed from local storage of my app. Further research led to me placing this in the assets folder of my app. I then researched on the Android developer site <https://developer.android.com/index.html> on how to implement a JSON file reader and parser which I was successful with, which then led me to designing a MovieRelease object to be used in populating an ArrayList of these from the elements of the JSON file. This was done in the onCreate method of the MainActivity class. The list elements held Release Date, Year Made, Film Title and a link to the IMDB website for that film.

I set up a Table Layout within a vertical Scroll View layout to hold these list elements as TextView controls within each Table Row. I adapted the text in the 'title' TextView to hold the hyperlink to the movie information on IMDB. I then made the 'title' TextView Clickable and assigned a listener which created an Intent for the hyperlink, which could then be used to start an Activity to launch a web browser. Testing this showed that the user was prompted for their browser of choice from those available on the device.

3 Implementation

When thinking about the implementation of the app, I wanted it to be very simple and easy to locate around for the user. I felt the main purpose of MovieDiary was to get information about the upcoming films as easy as possible. The page layout has a white background and black, clear font so the information is easy to read. I created a bold, red title for each column so it was clear to tell the difference between the release date, year made and film title.

| MovieDiary | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|
| Release Date | Year Made | Film Title |
| 14-Mar-18 | 2018 | Tomb Raider |
| 16-Mar-18 | 2018 | Peter Rabbit |
| 16-Mar-18 | 2018 | The Square |
| 16-Mar-18 | 2018 | Mary Magdalene |
| 23-Mar-18 | 2018 | A Wrinkle in Time |
| 23-Mar-18 | 2018 | Pacific Rim Uprising |
| 23-Mar-18 | 2018 | Ursula |
| 23-Mar-18 | 2017 | Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down the |
| 23-Mar-18 | 2018 | Proud Mary |
| 28-Mar-18 | 2018 | Ready Player One |
| 30-Mar-18 | 2018 | Isle of Dogs |
| 30-Mar-18 | 2018 | Blockers |
| 30-Mar-18 | 2018 | Midnight Sun |
| 30-Mar-18 | 2018 | Paul, Apostle of Christ |
| 30-Mar-18 | 2017 | The Blacholers |
| 01-Apr-18 | 2017 | Woody Woodpecker |
| 06-Apr-18 | 2018 | Death Wish |
| 06-Apr-18 | 2017 | Thoroughbreds |
| 06-Apr-18 | 2017 | I Kill Giants |
| 06-Apr-18 | 2018 | Love, Simon |
| 06-Apr-18 | 2018 | The Hurricane Heist |
| 06-Apr-18 | 2017 | Wonderstruck |
| 06-Apr-18 | 2017 | BPM |
| 06-Apr-18 | 2017 | Ghost Stories |
| 11-Apr-18 | 2018 | Rampage |
| 12-Apr-18 | 2017 | You, Me and Him |
| 13-Apr-18 | 2018 | The Titan |
| 13-Apr-18 | 2018 | Truth or Dare |



Here is an image of what the main page of my app looks like. I have used the color red to make the titles stand out and have underlined all of the links that are clickable. These links take you to the IMDB website which give you more information on the specific film, including a trailer.

4 Critical Evaluation

When I first set my end goal making this app, it was exactly how I described it to be in my introduction; a simple and easy to use app to help people with the issues I have when wanting to know what films are coming out. I stuck to this goal and worked at it and finally got there with an app that I believe other people will find useful as well as myself. Comparing the end product to what I set out to create was pretty much exactly what I wanted to create, however I did have the idea of creating a search capability where people can search for their favourite upcoming film and find out information about

it. I believe this would be more beneficial for the users as it would filter out a lot of the films they are not interested in.

If I was to compare my app to another application/website that gives the same service I would compare it to IMDB. IMDB are a website who give a lot of information about films and for my app to improve I would take some ideas that IMDB have had and use them in my app I have created. For example including information on Actors/Celebrities, TV Shows Photo Galleries etc. One of the features that inspires me to improve my app that IMDB has is gathering information on film releases in other countries so the app is useful for people outside of the UK.

References

IMDB- <https://www.imdb.com>

IMDB Latest Releases- <http://www.imdb.com/calendar/?region=gb>

5 Further Enhancements

A future enhancement I would like to make on the app I have created is to capture the country for the releases along with the release schedule. This would be very beneficial to a larger audience and would attract more people to use this app. Expanding on this, I think it would be a great idea if the app could check the country code available on the mobile device indicating where the user is or ask the user to select the country from a drop-down in the app.

A further enhancement I would like to add a search capability for the film name. This way the users will be able search for the exact film they are looking for, meaning that the app would be easier to use and also quicker for the user to get the information they are looking for.

Another future enhancement would be to add a link to where the film is showing local to the user. This would be useful for future planning as people who are looking for the film will most likely want to see it, therefore creating a 'local showing' option would be very popular amongst the people using the app. I would also like the app to work in landscape mode when the phone is rotated which would also include having more information about the film. E.g Genre and Lead Actors.

6 Personal Evaluation

Overall I am very happy with the app I have created. Going into this module I had no experience using android studio so having the challenge of learning and locating my way around the software was something that I enjoyed doing. Learning all the tags and using them in my coursework is a challenge that I had to overcome. I believe I did a good job in doing this by creating a fully functional app which is useful.

All in all I really enjoyed this module and learning how to create an app from scratch. It has opened a new window and direction for me to take after I finish my studies and I am looking forward to learning more about it.