

Android

Lesson 2 by Callum Taylor

Lesson 2 – <https://github.com/scruffyfox/AndroidCourse/tree/Lesson-2>

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Introduction

- All code and presentation slides can be found over at <https://github.com/scruffyfox/AndroidCourse>
- Twitter/app.net/github: @scruffyfox
- [http://\(blog.\)callumtaylor.net](http://(blog.)callumtaylor.net)

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Introduction

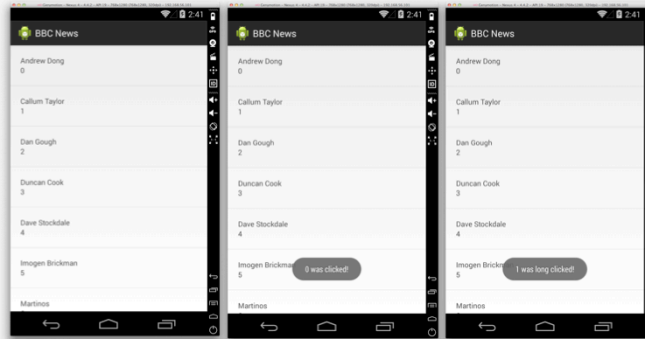


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What we're going to make



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This is what we're going to make today

What we're going to make

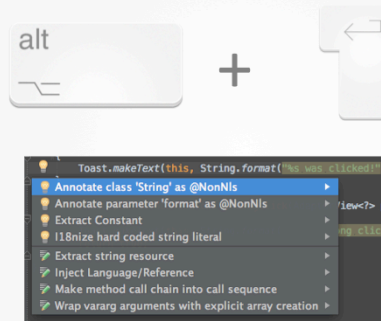
- ListView
- ArrayAdapter/BaseAdapter
- findViewById
- View Holder paradigm

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This is what we're going to make today

IDE Tips



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Pressing `alt` and `enter` will open up the quick fix menu which will give you some useful functions such as refracting a string or reversing an if statement



Pressing control and enter will bring up the generate menu which is useful when overriding methods from the super class you don't know the name of

IDE Tips



```
55 @NotNull Context context, CharSequence text, @MagicConstant int duration  
56 @NotNull Context context, @ResourceInt int resid, @MagicConstant int duration  
57 Toast.makeText(this, |  
58 return true;
```

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Pressing control and p will bring up the parameters for a method as you're typing.

How Adapters work

- getCount()
- getItem(int position)
- getItemId(int position)
- getView(int position, View convertView, ViewGroup parent)

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Adapters are very clever in its design of serving a large data set to the UI of an app. The pattern consists of a few core methods.

How Adapters work

- `getCount()`

Exactly what it says – returns the number of items in the current data set

How Adapters work

- `getItem(int position)`

Returns the item from the data set at the specific position

How Adapters work

- `getItemId(int position)`

Returns the item's id at the position. Can just return 0, but return a reliable int ID/representation of the item to increase performance of the list view

How Adapters work

- `getView(int position, View convertView, ViewGroup parent)`


Returns the view in the list. This is where we do all of our data inflating into the screen which the user sees.

Position is the position of the item in the dataset

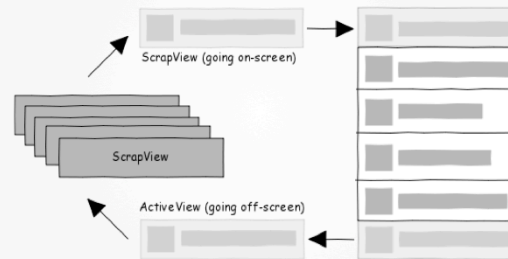
convertView is the view that will be shown

Parent is the parent view of the view being shown (usually the list view)



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How List Views work



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List views are very clever with how they show the views on the screen. If you have a data set of say 10,000 items, obviously to have 10,000 views on the screen would cause the phone to firstly crash, but also to be **EXTREMELY** slow. The way a list view works to solve this is called **view recycling**.


When you scroll up or down, the view at the top or bottom drops off the screen, when it is no longer visible, it will get put into a scrap view heap, and when a new view is shown on the screen, that view is recycled from the stack, back on to the screen. This is why when we only set the views when convertView is null, it will jump around as you scroll.

How List Views work

- `getView(int position, View convertView, ViewGroup parent)`

```
@Override public View getView(int position, View convertView, ViewGroup parent)
{
    if (convertView == null)
    {
        convertView = LayoutInflater.from(context).inflate(R.layout.list_item, parent, false);
    }
    ((TextView)convertView.findViewById(R.id.name)).setText(getItem(position));
    return convertView;
}
```

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In our adapter, this is where `convertView` comes in handy.

When a new view is being created, `convertView` will be null. Here it will be safe to create our view and return it. But when `convertView` is **not** null, that is the view being recycled, so we don't have to create another view, we can just reuse the same view but change the contents to reflect the data.