

Lab 2.1 – Create a Simple Android App

Overview:

In this lab you will build a simple Android app which will retrieve data from an XML file and display it.

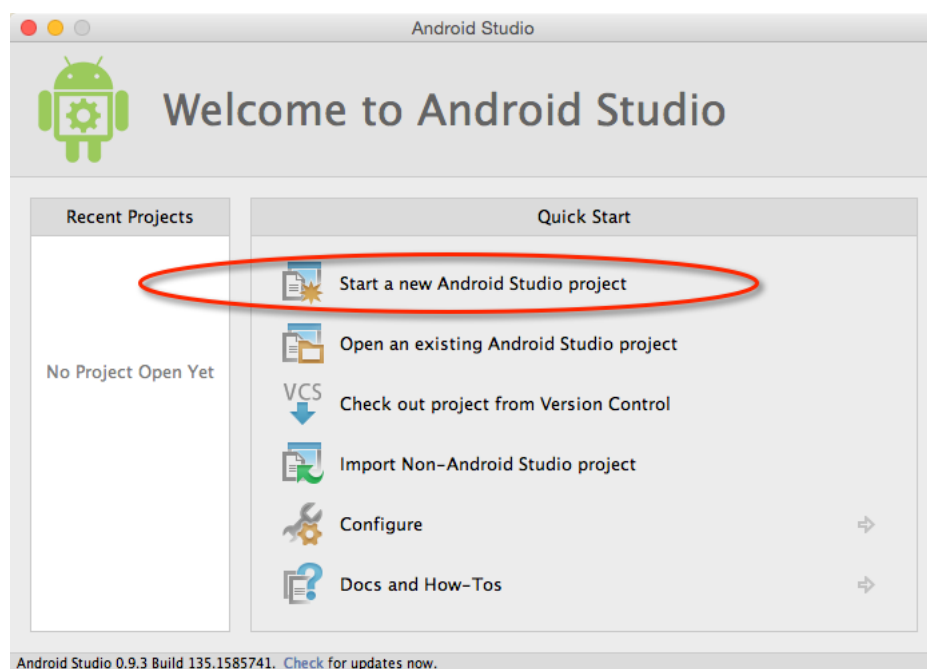
Setup:

Android Studio should already be installed. The SDK should be updated with the latest version of Android. Start Android Studio. On Windows machines, it may be necessary to run Android Studio in Administrator mode (right click and select "Run as Administrator")

Steps

1) Create a new Android Project in Android Studio

1.a) From the "Welcome to Android Studio" screen select "Start a New Android Studio Project"



Enter the following values in the "Create New Project" wizard:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Application Name | Garage Sale App |
| Company Domain | com |
| Project Location | <place this in a directory you have permission to modify> |

Select [Next](#)

1.b) On the "Select the form factors your app will run on" page of the wizard enter the following:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Phone and Tablet | check |
| Minimum SDK | API 19: Android 4.4 |

Select [Next](#)

1.c) On the "Add an activity to Mobile" select "Blank Activity"

1.d) On the "Chose options for your new file" enter the following:

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Activity Name | MainActivity |
|---------------|--------------|

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Layout Name | activity_main |
| Title | Garage Sales |
| Menu Resource Name | menu_main |

Click [Finish](#)

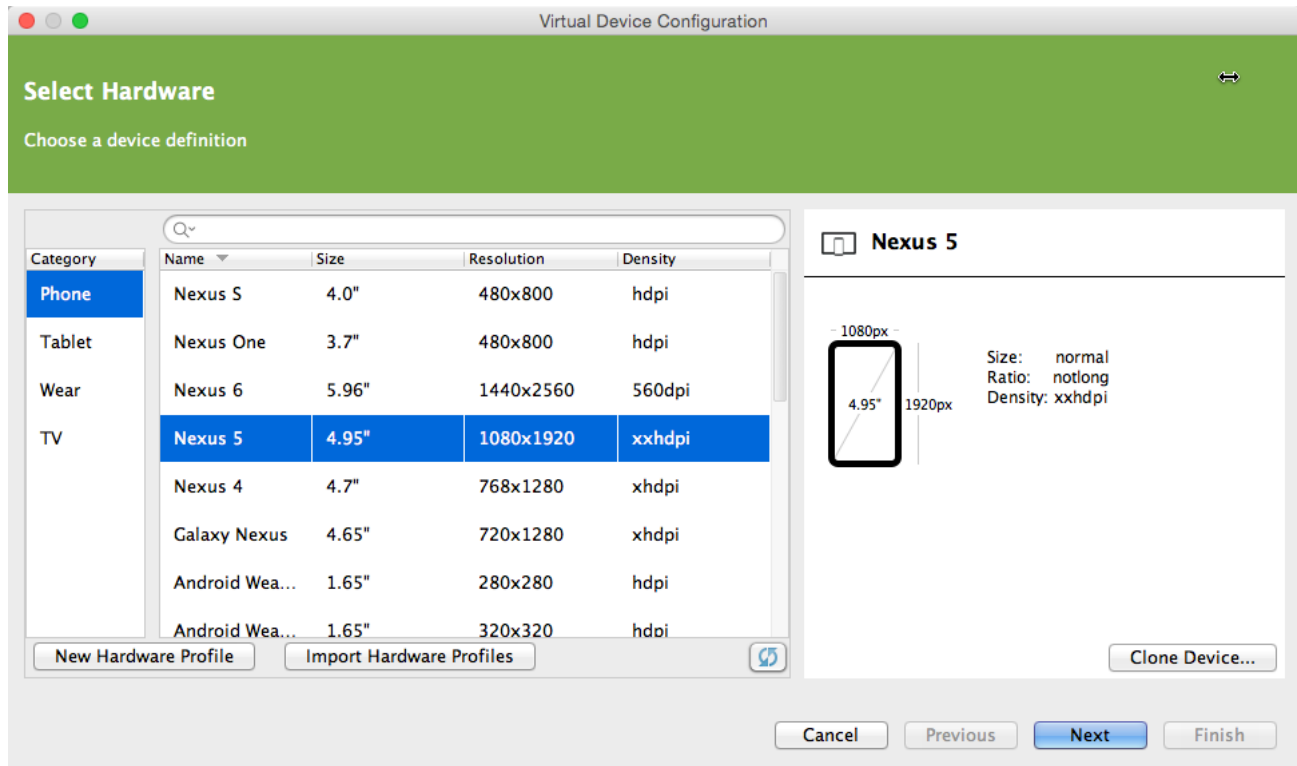
You should now have created a new project in your workspace.

2.) Configure an emulator and start it

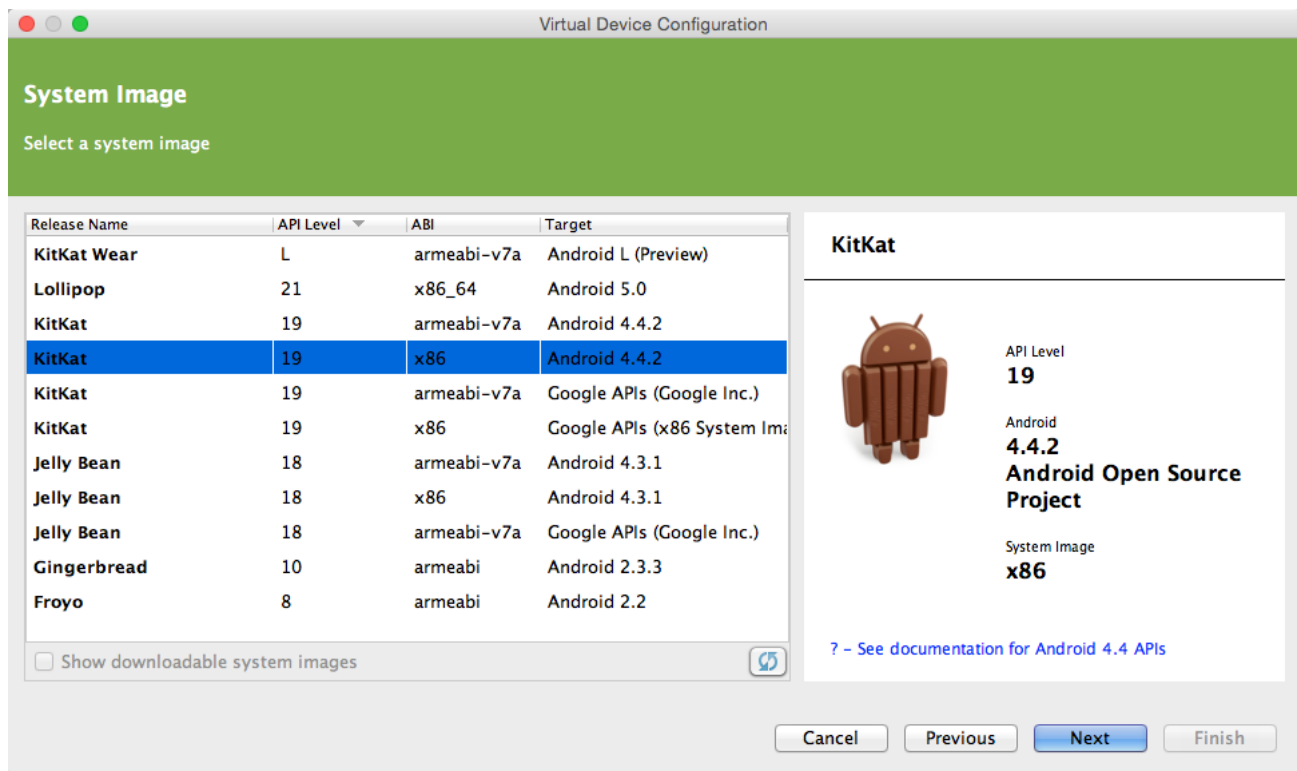
2.a) From the menu, select: Tools → Android → AVD Manager

Click “Create Virtual Device”

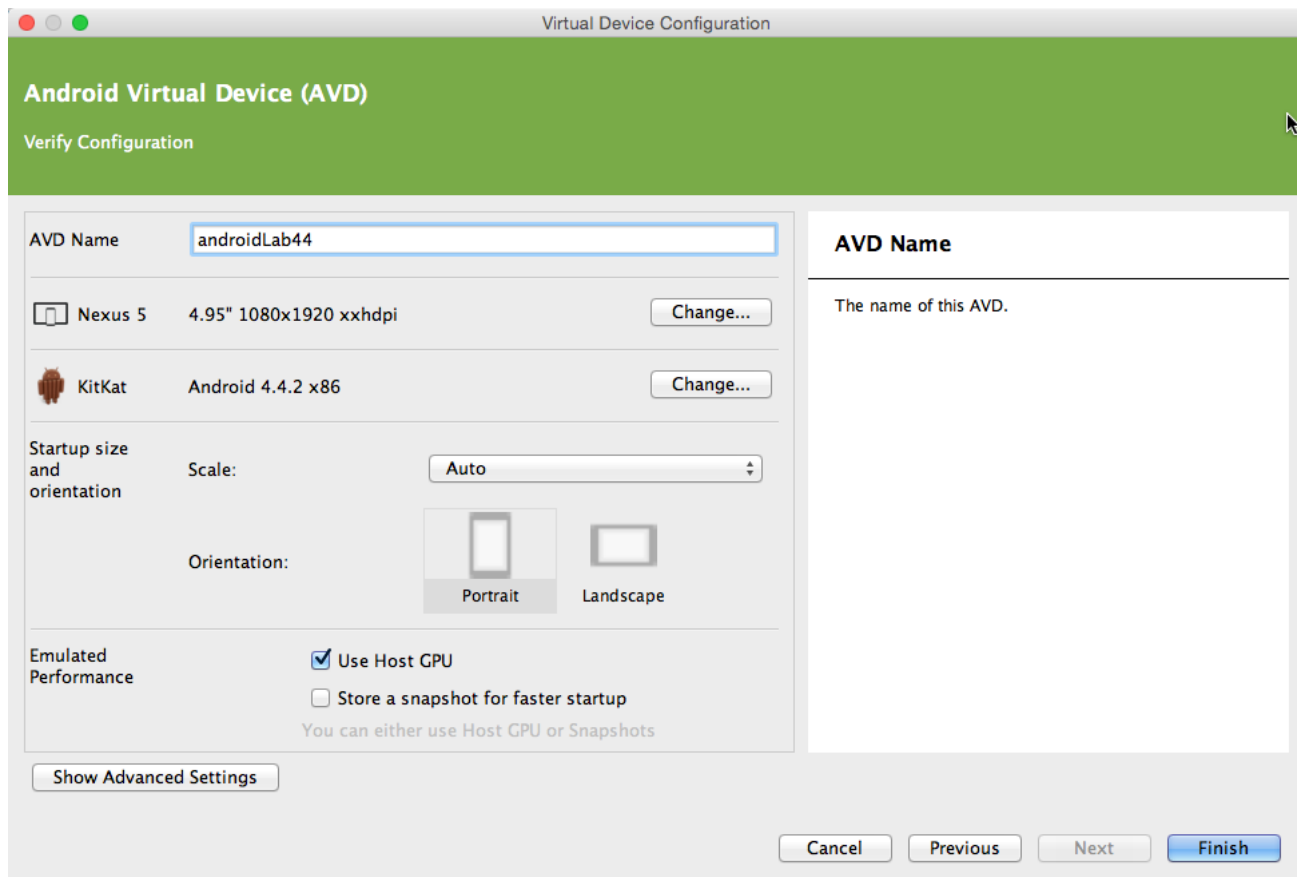
Select [Phone](#) and [Nexus 5](#) and click [Next](#)



Select the "KitKat x86" System Image and click [Next](#)



Change the "AVD Name" to "androidLab44" and click [Finish](#)

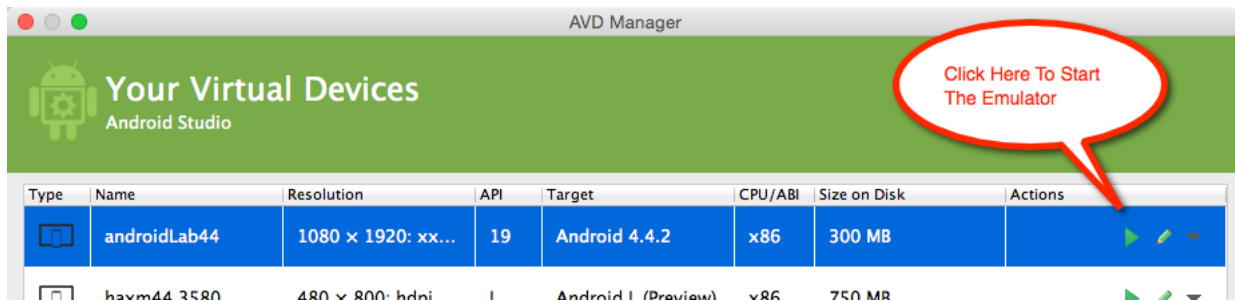


The emulator is now configured but not yet running.

2.b) Start the emulator.

From the "Android Virtual Device (AVD)" screen select "android44".

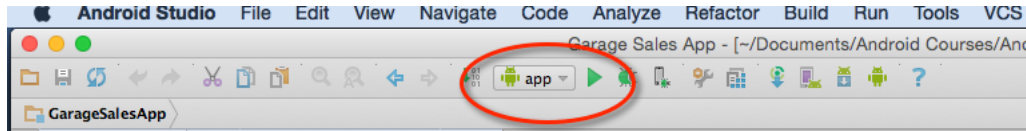
Start the emulator by clicking the green play button.



Note: The emulator may take as long as 3 to 5 minutes to fully start. Wait for the home page on the emulator to confirm that it has started (not as the "ANDROID" splash screen).

2.c) Run the application on the emulator

Click the green play button to the right of the run configuration list.

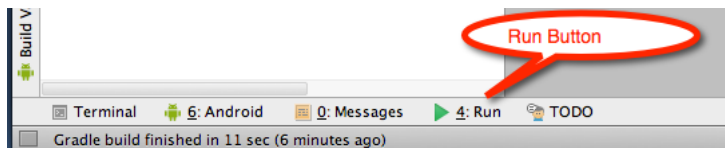


Review the console output. You should see output similar to the following:

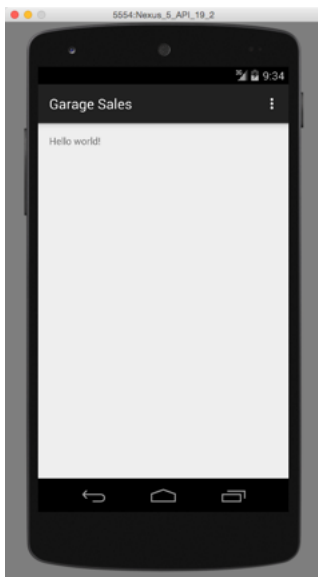
```
Waiting for device.
Target device: Nexus_5_API_19_2 [emulator-5554]
Uploading file
    local path: /Users/jamesharmon/Documents/Android Courses/Android Intro with Garagze/GarageSalesApp/ap
    remote path: /data/local/tmp/com.garagesalesapp
Installing com.garagesalesapp
DEVICE SHELL COMMAND: pm install -r "/data/local/tmp/com.garagesalesapp"
WARNING: linker: libdvm.so has text relocations. This is wasting memory and is a security risk. Please fix.
pkg: /data/local/tmp/com.garagesalesapp
Success

Launching application: com.garagesalesapp/com.garagesalesapp.MainActivity.
DEVICE SHELL COMMAND: am start -n "com.garagesalesapp/com.garagesalesapp.MainActivity" -a android.intent.acti
WARNING: linker: libdvm.so has text relocations. This is wasting memory and is a security risk. Please fix.
Starting: Intent { act=android.intent.action.MAIN cat=[android.intent.category.LAUNCHER] cmp=com.garagesalesa
```

Note: To view the console output, select the "Run" at the bottom left of the screen.



The following should be visible in the emulator:



2.d) Review the following files with the instructor.

app/src/main/AndroidManifest.xml ... application manifest

app/src/main/res/layout/activity_main.xml ... layout for main activity

app/src/main/java/com.garagesalesapp/MainActivity.java ... implementation of main activity

build/generated/source/r/debug/com/garagesalesapp/R.java ... generated code

3) Import the library into the project

3.1) Select "Files → Import Module"

From the lab files directory select "garagze-library" as the "Source directory"

A new module will be created called "garagze-library"

The library contains the following code.

| Package | Class File | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| com.garagze.domain | Event.java | POJO object containing properties for garage sale events. The events location, description, identity and other properties are contained in it. |
| com.garagze.feed | EventXMLProcessor | Interface for XML parser |
| com.garagze.feed | EventXMLProcessorAndroidSAX | XML parser |
| com.garagze.service | EventService.java | Service layer for event data access. |

The library also contains sample data. The directory "res/raw" contains a file called "naper_events.xml" which defines the garage sale events in XML format.

4) Call the library service method in your code.

4a) Change the "MainActivity" to look up events, calculate a count and display the count.

4b) Place an identifier on the TextView element in the layout

Edit the file "res/layout/activity_main.xml"

Add the following attribute to the "TextView" element

```
android:id="@+id/textView"
```

This provides a unique identifier to the view element so that we can reference it from Java code. View "R.java" and notice the change to the "id" class. If you don't see "textField" then clean the project and a new "R.java" file should be generated. The "R.java" file will allow us to access elements by a logical name rather than the integer value (i.e. use "textField" instead of "0x7f090000").

4c) Modify the activity to display the number of events. Edit "MainActivity.java" and add the following code to the end of the "onCreate" method which was generated by the Android project wizard.

```
// Retrieve items from server and get count
int eventCount = getEventCount();

// Build display string
String displayText = "Number of events: " + eventCount;
```

```
// Reference view element and set display text
TextView textField = (TextView) findViewById(R.id.textView);
textField.setText(displayText);
```

Be sure to import the necessary Java classes. You will still get an error due to the reference to a method, “getEventCount”, which hasn’t been created yet. The “getEventCount” method will be created in the next step.

4d) Modify the activity to display the number of events.

Create a new method called “getEventCount” which will return the number of events. Start out by hard coding the number of events.

```
private int getEventCount() {
    return 100;
}
```

4e) Run the application and verify that it is working.

You should see the following results in your emulator:



Note: The number of events was hardcoded. In your code it should be 100.

4f) Now modify the “getEventCount” method to call the service layer to return lookup the events from the server.

```
private int getEventCount(this) {
    return EventService.getAllEvents(this).size();
}
```

Run the application again. The number of events should now be "15" which is how many events are in the "naper_events.xml" file.

Note: If the app is not working review the output in the LogCat view to see if a stack trace has been logged.

LAB 2.1

© Copyright, Object Training Group, Inc.

Last updated 2014-11-18 08:44:04 CST