Menus, Dialogs and Fragments

CE881: Mobile and Social Application Programming

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Theme: “Social apps”

- The social network (movie)

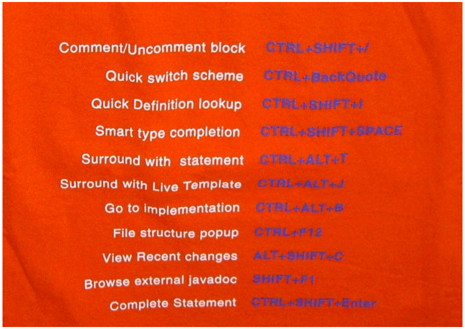
Apps

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Pinterest
- OkCupid
- Instagram

Where's the value?

IDE Tips

- Ctrl+Shift+A
- Ctrl+B
- Ctrl+U
- Ctrl+J



Comment/Uncomment block	CTRL+SHIFT+/
Quick switch scheme	CTRL+BackQuote
Quick Definition lookup	CTRL+SHIFT+I
Smart type completion	CTRL+SHIFT+SPACE
Surround with statement	CTRL+ALT+T
Surround with Live Template	CTRL+ALT+J
Go to implementation	CTRL+ALT+B
File structure popup	CTRL+F12
View Recent changes	ALT+SHIFT+C
Browse external javadoc	SHIFT+F1
Complete Statement	CTRL+SHIFT+Enter

http://stackoverflow.com/questions/294167/what-are-the-most-useful-intellij-idea-keyboard-shortcuts

Progress Test

- Next week
- Sample progress test online
- 20 Questions
- 30 Minutes

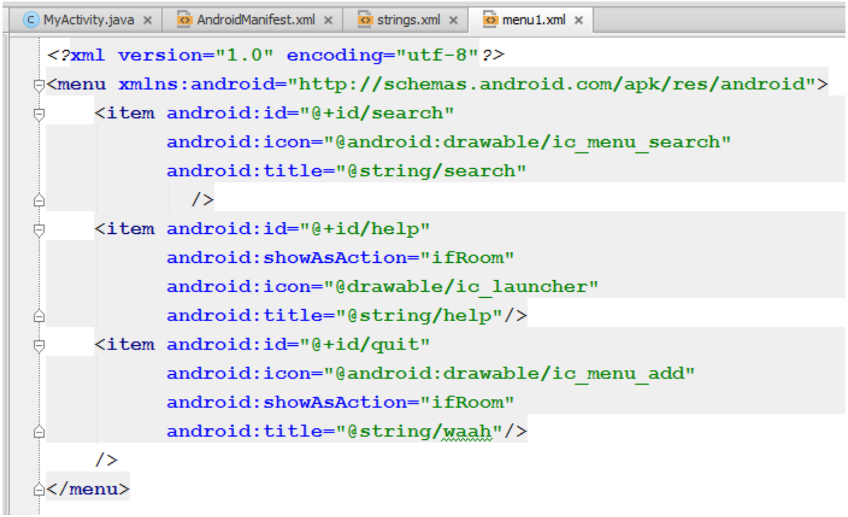
Types of Menu

- Options Menu
  - Will pop up when the menu “button” is pressed on an app
  - The location of the “button” will depend on the device: on modern nexus devices it appears as a column of dots in the ActionBar
- Popup Menu
  - Appears when an item within a view is clicked, where the item handles the relevant event
- Context Menu
  - Appears on items that handle a long-click event
  - Menus can be declared in XML or in Java

Menus: all about selection

- A menu presents one or more items for a user to select
- When the item is selected an action should be taken
- Menus are added to parent views
    - Write a method to handle the appropriate event
    - It is common for the same method to handle many menu item selections
    - Then use a switch statement to detect which item was selected

Creating a Menu in XML



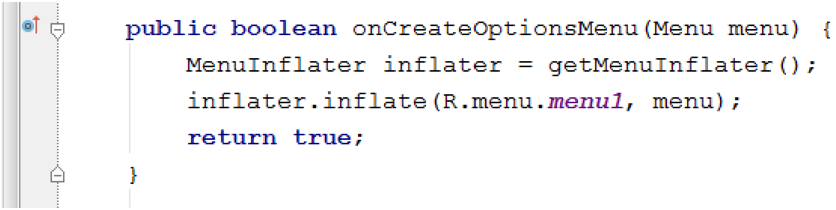
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<menu xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android">
    <item android:id="@+id/search"
          android:icon="@android:drawable/ic_menu_search"
          android:title="@string/search"
            />
    <item android:id="@+id/help"
          android:showAsAction="ifRoom"
          android:icon="@drawable/ic_launcher"
          android:title="@string/help"/>
    <item android:id="@+id/quit"
          android:icon="@android:drawable/ic_menu_add"
          android:showAsAction="ifRoom"
          android:title="@string/waah"/>
    />
</menu>
```

Questions

android:id="@id/help" vs android:id="@+id/help"

Then loading it in Java

- Override the onCreateOptionsMenu method
- Use a MenuInflater to build the menu
- Note: menu1 matches
  the name of the xml file (menu1.xml) in the folder res/menu/



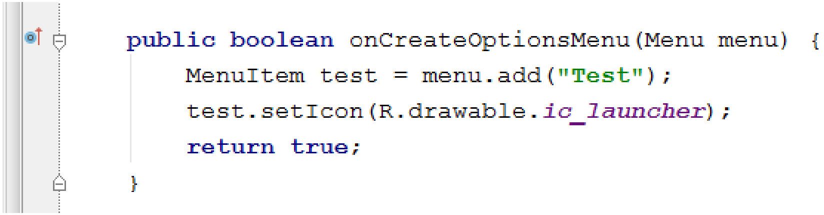
```
public boolean onCreateOptionsMenu(Menu menu) {
    MenuInflater inflater = getMenuInflater();
    inflater.inflate(R.menu.menu1, menu);
    return true;
}
```

Creating a Menu in Java

- Override the **onCreateOptionsMenu** method
- Add the menu item and assign the return value to a reference variable of type MenuItem
- Call methods of the MenuItem object to modify its appearance or where it appears

Java Code

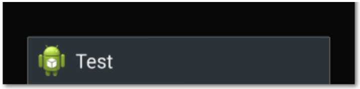
- In addition to
  adding a menu item labelled "Test" we also add an Icon to it

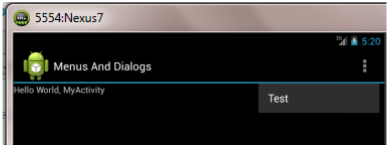


```
public boolean onCreateOptionsMenu(Menu menu) {
    MenuItem test = menu.add("Test");
    test.setIcon(R.drawable.ic_launcher);
    return true;
}
```

Frustrating Differences

- The exact appearance of a menu differs with version of Android OS (or variations in UI added by manufacturer)
- E.g. the above Java code
  running on S4 (above) versus on a Nexus 7 emulator (below)





Adding Custom Menu Icons

- Normal practice is to either:
    - Use Android Platform Icons
    - Add your own in the drawable folder
        - Ideally there should be separate versions for each resolution
        - The IDE may do this for you
- Somehow you need to do it automatically for your sanity
- But it's also possible to draw your own at Runtime. . .

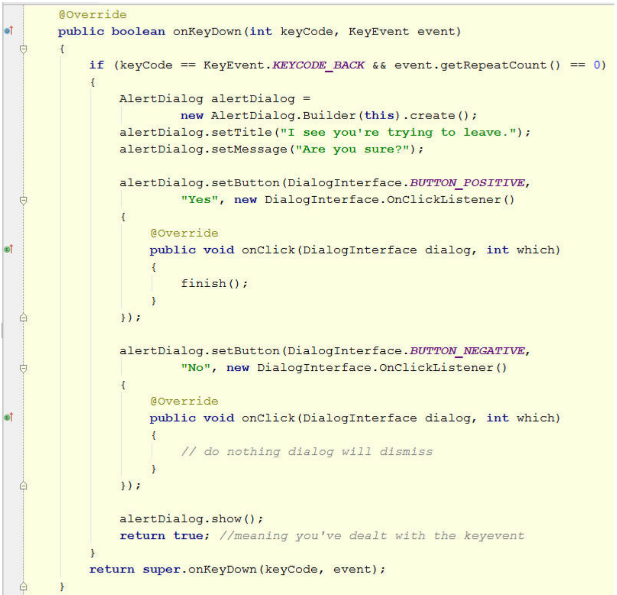
Dynamic Menu Icon Creation

- When setting up the menu icon:
- setIcon() can take a Drawable (Drawable is an Abstract Class)
- So do this:
  - **class MyIcon extends Drawable**
  - Then implement the draw(Canvas c) method
  - Doing this felt a bit “off” - it might be useful - and was an interesting exercise, but use with some caution

Dialogs (1)

- Dialogs can be built very easily using the AlertDialog builder.
- The following code assumes this is being called from a method of an Activity
    - (note the “this” object being passed to the AlertDialog.Builder(this) constructor)
- The rest of the code:
- Sets the title and message strings
- Sets handlers for the onClick events for each button
- Shows the Dialog

Dialogs (2)



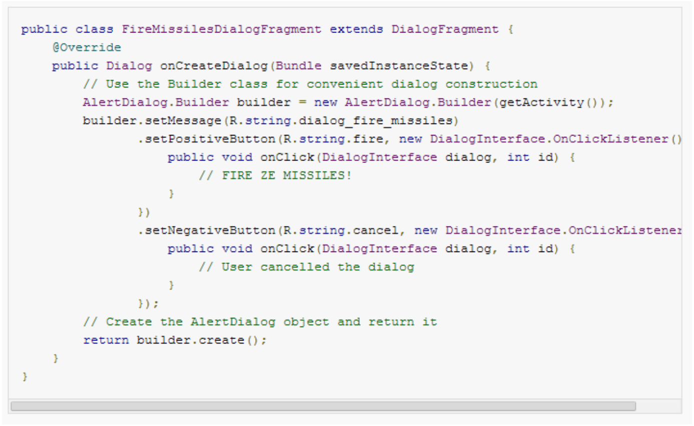
```
@Override
public boolean onKeyDown(int keyCode, KeyEvent event)
{
    if (keyCode == KeyEvent.KEYCODE_BACK && event.getRepeatCount() == 0)
    {
        AlertDialog alertDialog =
                new AlertDialog.Builder(this).create();
        alertDialog.setTitle("I see you're trying to leave.");
        alertDialog.setMessage("Are you sure?");

        alertDialog.setButton(DialogInterface.BUTTON_POSITIVE,
                "Yes", new DialogInterface.OnClickListener()
        {
            @Override
            public void onClick(DialogInterface dialog, int which)
            {
                finish();
            }
        });

        alertDialog.setButton(DialogInterface.BUTTON_NEGATIVE,
                "No", new DialogInterface.OnClickListener()
        {
            @Override
            public void onClick(DialogInterface dialog, int which)
            {
                // do nothing dialog will dismiss
            }
        });

        alertDialog.show();
        return true; //meaning you've dealt with the keyevent
    }
    return super.onKeyDown(keyCode, event);
}
```

Custom Dialogs

- Main idea:
  - Your custom Dialog class will extend DialogFragment
  - Use the AlertDialog.Builder as before
  - Override the *onCreateDialog* method within the subclass
  - Then create a new instance of your class and call its show method to show it

Example

see: http://developer.android.com/guide/topics/ui/dialogs.html



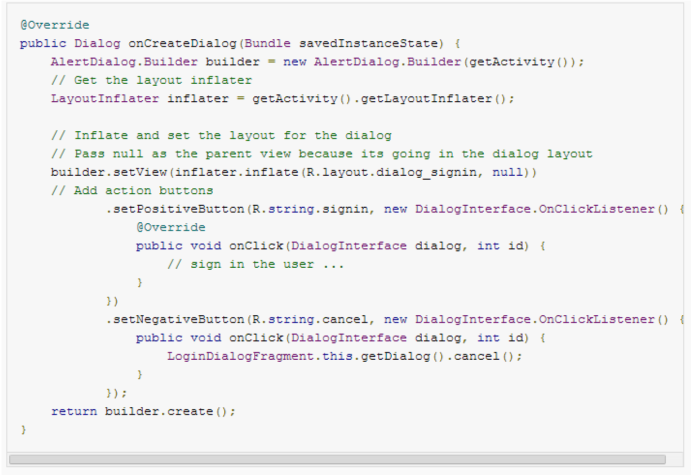
```
public class FireMissilesDialogFragment extends DialogFragment {
    @Override
    public Dialog onCreateDialog(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        // Use the Builder class for convenient dialog construction
        AlertDialog.Builder builder = new AlertDialog.Builder(getActivity());
        builder.setMessage(R.string.dialog_fire_missiles)
               .setPositiveButton(R.string.fire, new DialogInterface.OnClickListener()
                   public void onClick(DialogInterface dialog, int id) {
                       // FIRE ZE MISSILES!
                   }
               })
               .setNegativeButton(R.string.cancel, new DialogInterface.OnClickListener
                   public void onClick(DialogInterface dialog, int id) {
                       // User cancelled the dialog
                   }
               });
        // Create the AlertDialog object and return it
        return builder.create();
    }
}
```

Specifying a Custom Layout

- Within the builder we can call setView to set a custom view
- Can use Views specified in XML or created dynamically in Java
- This is equivalent to the setContentView we've used in the onCreate method of an Activity
- The relevant line on the next slide (copied from the Android developer guide) is below
- Note that the code looks more complex than necessary due to method call chaining

```
public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState)
{
    builder.setView(inflater.inflate(
    R.layout.dialog_signin, null)
}
```

Code



```
@Override
public Dialog onCreateDialog(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    AlertDialog.Builder builder = new AlertDialog.Builder(getActivity());
    // Get the layout inflater
    LayoutInflater inflater = getActivity().getLayoutInflater();

    // Inflate and set the layout for the dialog
    // Pass null as the parent view because its going in the dialog layout
    builder.setView(inflater.inflate(R.layout.dialog_signin, null))
    // Add action buttons
           .setPositiveButton(R.string.signin, new DialogInterface.OnClickListener() {
               @Override
               public void onClick(DialogInterface dialog, int id) {
                   // sign in the user ...
               }
           })
           .setNegativeButton(R.string.cancel, new DialogInterface.OnClickListener() {
               public void onClick(DialogInterface dialog, int id) {
                   LoginDialogFragment.this.getDialog().cancel();
               }
           });
    return builder.create();
}
```

Fragments

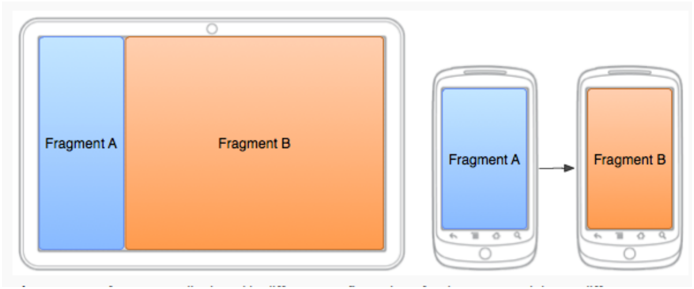
- Fragments offer a powerful way to compose Apps in a highly modular way
- Choice of Layout can easily depend on screen size
- Each Fragment has it's own lifecycle, tied to its parent activity's cycle
    - Composing an Activity from several fragments offers flexibility
    - The overhead is additional coding
    - These notes summarise the main points:
- See examples and lab exercise for more detail

Fragments and Android API Versions

- Fragments have native support from API 11 (Honeycomb, 3.0) onwards
    - If compatibility with earlier versions is required then the Android Support Library must be used
    - This also leads to some differences in the code
    - Fragments always belong to an Activity
- i.e. an Activity hosts a Fragment
    - From API 11 onwards, any Activity can host a Fragment
    - With earlier APIs and the Support Library, a FragmentActivity is needed (or a sub-class of this)

Example

http://developer.android.com/training/basics/fragments/fragment-ui.html

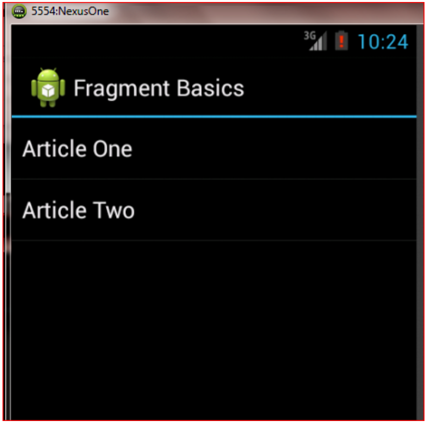


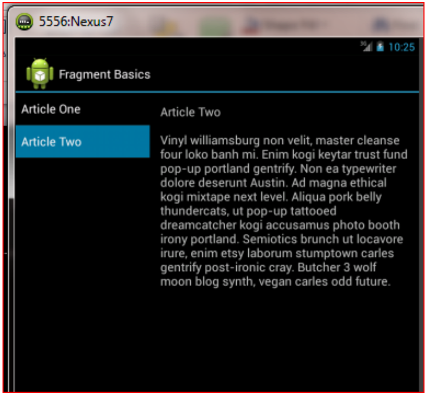
Defining Fragment GUIs

- Like other layouts, can be done in XML or in Java code
- XML trick:
  - Define two layouts, one for small screen, one for tablet (large screen)
  - The one for the tablet must be in a directory with the "large" qualifier e.g. two layouts could be:
    - res/layout/news_articles.xml
    - res/layout-large/news_articles.xml
  - When the layout is inflated the correct one will be chosen
- Following shows FragmentBasics example on Nexus One and Nexus 7 emulators

FragmentBasics Example

Note the different layouts





Article Two

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Fragments in Java Code

- When Fragments are added to XML layouts they cannot be removed in code
- Alternative: Fragments can be added or removed with the appropriate Java
    - This enables dynamic construction of GUIs
    - BUT NOTE: all additions and removals of Fragments MUST be done within a Fragment Transaction
    - Discussion: why is this so?

Implementing Fragments

- Similar to defining an Activity
- Except main override for Activity is onCreate()
- For Fragment use:

```
onCreateView()
   // check the savedInstanceState
   // inflate the layout
 onStart()
   // can now update view components
   // since layout is ready for use
   // perform any initialisation
   // and restoration of state
```

Managing Fragments

- The host activity is responsible for:
- Creating, adding and removing fragments
- Note:
  - To be visible each Fragment must be added to a View
  - Within the Fragment code, Save any state by overriding onPause() or onSavedInstanceState()

Programming with Fragments

- Note: communication between sibling fragments is not allowed
- Instead communicate via parent activity
- Also, see examples here:
    - http://developer.android.com/training/basics/fragments/fragment-ui.html
    - http://developer.android.com/training/animation/cardflip.html
- Discussion question: there is nothing to stop you trying this, but why do you think it is “not allowed”
- Do you need more than one activities in your app? Why not just stick to fragments?

XML Fragments - loading

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:orientation="horizontal"
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent">
    <fragment android:name="com.example.news.ArticleListFragment"
            android:id="@+id/list"
            android:layout_weight="1"
            android:layout_width="0dp"
            android:layout_height="match_parent" />
    <fragment android:name="com.example.news.ArticleReaderFragment"
            android:id="@+id/viewer"
            android:layout_weight="2"
            android:layout_width="0dp"
            android:layout_height="match_parent" />
</LinearLayout>
```

XML Fragments - loading

```
public static class ExampleFragment extends Fragment {
    @Override
    public View onCreateView(LayoutInflater inflater, ViewGroup container,
                             Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        // Inflate the layout for this fragment
        return inflater.inflate(R.layout.example_fragment, container, false);
    }
}
```

Programmatically

```
FragmentManager fragmentManager = getFragmentManager()
FragmentTransaction fragmentTransaction = fragmentManager.beginTransaction();
ExampleFragment fragment = new ExampleFragment();
fragmentTransaction.add(R.id.fragment_container, fragment);
fragmentTransaction.commit();
```

Fragment Transactions

- Why transactions?

Summary

- With these Menus and Dialogs you can build sophisticated custom-designed User Interfaces for your apps
- Practice these ideas in the lab
- Use fragments
- Fragments are recommended for building apps in a scalable and flexible way
- Especially good for coping with different screen sizes
- They are reusable modules that always belong to a parent (host) Activity
- But are responsible for managing some lifecycle callbacks to initialise, save, and restore their state