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Data Persistence Options in IOS

In IOS, we can persist data to:

- User Defaults
- Core Data
- Cloud based storage (example: Firebase)

1/ User Defaults

- This is key-value storage
- Offline storage (saved data is local to the device and cannot be accessed outside the device)
- Data is stored as key-value pairs
- Best for saving simple data, like numbers, strings, simple arrays, etc
- Similar to localStorage in web programming

2/ Core Data

- Interface for saving data to an relational database (SQLite)
- Offline storage (saved data is local to the device and cannot be accessed outside the device)
- Used for modelling data as tables; and, describing relationships between data

3/ Cloud based service (Firebase)

- Advantages: Data is saved to the cloud, so it can be accessed anywhere and on any device.
- There are many service providers of cloud based data, including Parse, Realm, CloudKit, and Firebase
- Firebase is a no-sql database that is accessible cross platform (mobile and web)

What is User Defaults?

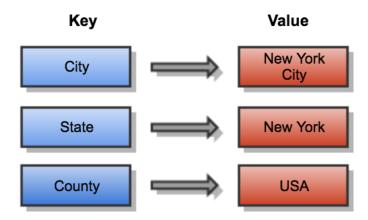
- User Defaults is a key-value storage provided by the IOS framework.
- Used to persist *simple* data to the app: strings, numbers, the **Date** object.
- "Persisting data" means that the data is remembered even after the app closes.
- Can store dictionaries and arrays, but only if the dictionary/array contains "simple data"
- Structs can be stored if they conform to the Codable protocol and converted to JSON format

If you come from a web-programming background, UserDefaults is similar to localStorage.

What is key-value storage?

In a key-value data store, information is stored as key-value pairs.

- The "key" is a unique identifier
- The "value" is the data you want to store



• Data is retrieved using the key

Initializing User Defaults, Saving and Retrieving Items

Creating an instance of UserDefaults:

```
var defaults:UserDefaults!
self.defaults = UserDefaults.standard
```

Adding an item to UserDefaults:

Sets the value of the specified default key to the specified URL.

```
self.defaults.set("Peter", forKey: "name") // string
self.defaults.set(77, forKey: "age") // integer
self.defaults.set(true, forKey: "hasPet") // boolean
```

Retrieving an item from User Defaults

```
let x = self.defaults.string(forKey: "name") // gets a string out of the userdefaults
let y = self.defaults.integer(forKey: "age") // get a int out of user defaults
let z = self.defaults.bool(forKey: "hasPet") // get a boolean out of user defaults
```

Code Example: Saving and Retrieving Data from User Defaults

Test:

- Save data
- Retrieve data
- Close the app & reopen it, and press the RETRIEVE button, your app remembers the data it saved.

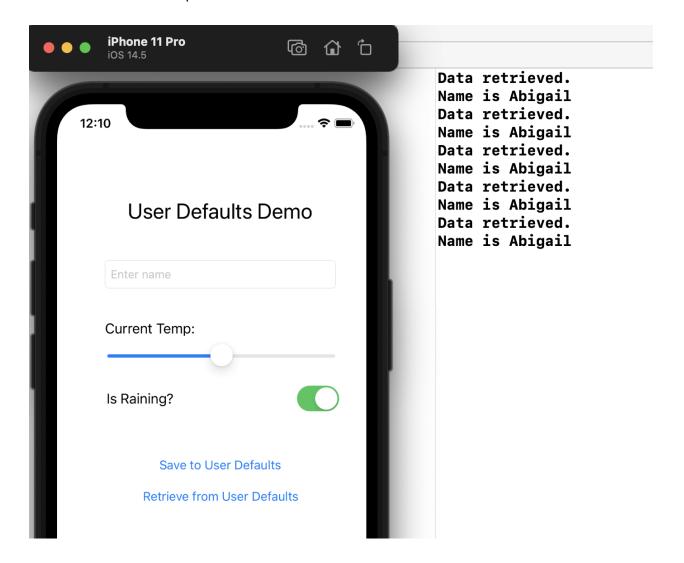
import UIKit

```
class ViewController: UIViewController {
  // OUTLETS:
  @IBOutlet weak var txtName: UITextField!
  @IBOutlet weak var lblCurrTemp: UILabel!
  @IBOutlet weak var sliderTemp: UISlider!
  @IBOutlet weak var switchIsRaining: UISwitch!
  // MARK: USER DEFAULTS
  var defaults:UserDefaults = UserDefaults.standard
  override func viewDidLoad() {
     super.viewDidLoad()
  }
  @IBAction func saveButtonPressed( sender: Any) {
    // 1. get person person name
     let name:String = txtName.text!
     print("Saving \(name\) to user defaults")
     self.defaults.set(name, forKey:"KEY_NAME") // string
     print(" Save finished.")
     // 2. Clear the UI and prepare for new input
     txtName.text = ""
  }
  @IBAction func retrieveButtonPressed( sender: Any) {
      let result = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY ABC") // nil
//
      let result2 = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY NAME") // whatever the person typed in the
//
textbox
     // nil coealscing to deal with the possible nil case
    let nameFromUserDefaults:String = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY_NAME") ?? "N/A"
     print("Data retrieved.")
     print("Name is \(nameFromUserDefaults)")
  }
```

}

Expected result:

- Enter a name and press save to user defaults
- Restart application and press Retrieve from User defaults
- Result will be output to console



Full Example #2 -

• Demonstrates how to save and retrieve and integer & boolean

```
import UIKit
class ViewController: UIViewController {
  // OUTLETS:
  @IBOutlet weak var txtName: UITextField!
  @IBOutlet weak var IblCurrTemp: UILabel!
  @IBOutlet weak var sliderTemp: UISlider!
  @IBOutlet weak var switchIsRaining: UISwitch!
  @IBOutlet weak var tvResults: UITextView!
  // MARK: USER DEFAULTS
  var defaults:UserDefaults = UserDefaults.standard
  override func viewDidLoad() {
     super.viewDidLoad()
     // initialze user defaults
    //self.defaults = UserDefaults.standard
  }
  @IBAction func saveButtonPressed(_ sender: Any) {
    // 1. get person person name
     let name:String = txtName.text!
     print("Saving \(name\) to user defaults")
    // 2. Save the data
     self.defaults.set(name, forKey:"KEY NAME") // string
     self.defaults.set(45, forKey:"KEY AGE") // integer
     self.defaults.set(false, forKey:"KEY HAS PET") //boolean
     print(" Save finished.")
    // 2. Clear the UI and prepare for new input
     txtName.text = ""
  }
  @IBAction func retrieveButtonPressed( sender: Any) {
//
      let result = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY ABC") // nil
      let result2 = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY NAME") // whatever the person typed in the
//
textbox
     // nil coealscing to deal with the possible nil case
     let nameFromUserDefaults:String = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY NAME") ?? "N/A"
     let ageFromUserDefaults = self.defaults.integer(forKey: "KEY AGE") // default to 0
     let hasPetFromUserDefaults = self.defaults.bool(forKey: "KEY HAS PET")
```

```
print("Data retrieved.")
    print("Name is \((nameFromUserDefaults)"))
    print("Age is \((ageFromUserDefaults)"))
    print("Has Pet? \((hasPetFromUserDefaults)"))

tvResults.text = "Name is \((nameFromUserDefaults) \) \(\name \) Age is \((ageFromUserDefaults) \) \(\name \) Has Pet? \((hasPetFromUserDefaults)")
}
```

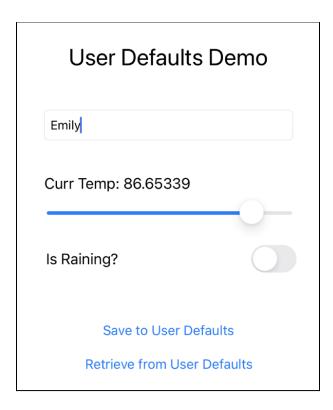
Repopulate the UI based on the values saved in User Defaults

import UIKit class ViewController: UIViewController { // OUTLETS: @IBOutlet weak var txtName: UITextField! @IBOutlet weak var lblCurrTemp: UILabel! @IBOutlet weak var sliderTemp: UISlider! @IBOutlet weak var switchIsRaining: UISwitch! @IBOutlet weak var tvResults: UITextView! // MARK: USER DEFAULTS var defaults:UserDefaults = UserDefaults.standard override func viewDidLoad() { super.viewDidLoad() } @IBAction func saveButtonPressed(sender: Any) { // 1. get person person name let name:String = txtName.text! print("Saving \((name)\) to user defaults") // 2. retrieve the value in the slider let temp:Float = sliderTemp.value * 100.0 // 3. retrieve the switch value let isRaining:Bool = switchIsRaining.isOn // 4. Save the data self.defaults.set(name, forKey:"KEY_NAME") // string self.defaults.set(45, forKey:"KEY_AGE") // integer self.defaults.set(false, forKey:"KEY HAS PET") //boolean self.defaults.set(temp, forKey: "KEY TEMP") //double (float) self.defaults.set(isRaining, forKey:"KEY_IS_RAINING") print(" Save finished.") // 5. Clear the UI and prepare for new input txtName.text = ""

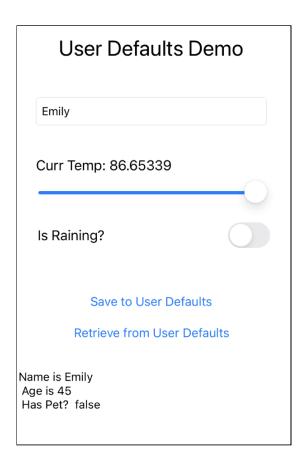
```
sliderTemp.value = 0.5
     switchIsRaining.isOn = true
    lblCurrTemp.text = "Curr Temp: "
  }
  @IBAction func retrieveButtonPressed( sender: Any) {
//
      let result = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY ABC") // nil
//
      let result2 = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY NAME") // whatever the person typed in the
textbox
//
     // nil coealscing to deal with the possible nil case
     let nameFromUserDefaults:String = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY_NAME") ?? "N/A"
     let ageFromUserDefaults = self.defaults.integer(forKey: "KEY AGE")
                                                                               // default to 0
     let hasPetFromUserDefaults = self.defaults.bool(forKey: "KEY HAS PET")
     print("Data retrieved.")
     print("Name is \((nameFromUserDefaults)"))
     print("Age is \(ageFromUserDefaults)")
     print("Has Pet? \((hasPetFromUserDefaults)"))
     // repopulate the UI with the values from user defaults
     txtName.text = nameFromUserDefaults
     switchIsRaining.isOn = self.defaults.bool(forKey: "KEY_IS_RAINING")
     sliderTemp.value = self.defaults.float(forKey:"KEY TEMP")
     lblCurrTemp.text = "Curr Temp: \(self.defaults.float(forKey:"KEY_TEMP"))"
     tvResults.text = "Name is \(nameFromUserDefaults) \n Age is \((ageFromUserDefaults) \n
Has Pet? \(hasPetFromUserDefaults)"
  }
  @IBAction func sliderChanged( sender: Any) {
     lblCurrTemp.text = "Curr Temp: \(sliderTemp.value * 100)"
  }
}
```

Expected Result

Saved data:



Retrieved Data



Save An Array

• You save an array of strings, array of numbers, array of booleans

Save:

```
// save an array
let friendsList = ["Emily", "Abigail", "Alex"]
defaults.set(friendsList, forKey:"KEY_FRIENDS_LIST")

// save an array of numbers
let testScores = [100, 50, 75, 90]
defaults.set(testScores, forKey:"KEY_TEST_SCORES_LIST")
```

Retrieval:

Full Example:

```
import UIKit
class ViewController: UIViewController {
  // OUTLETS:
  @IBOutlet weak var txtName: UITextField!
  @IBOutlet weak var IblCurrTemp: UILabel!
  @IBOutlet weak var sliderTemp: UISlider!
  @IBOutlet weak var switchIsRaining: UISwitch!
  @IBOutlet weak var tvResults: UITextView!
  // MARK: USER DEFAULTS
  var defaults:UserDefaults = UserDefaults.standard
  override func viewDidLoad() {
     super.viewDidLoad()
    // initialze user defaults
    //self.defaults = UserDefaults.standard
  }
  @IBAction func saveButtonPressed(_ sender: Any) {
    // 1. get person person name
     let name:String = txtName.text!
     print("Saving \((name\)) to user defaults")
     // 2. retrieve the value in the slider
     let temp:Float = sliderTemp.value * 100.0
    // 3. retrieve the switch value
    let isRaining:Bool = switchIsRaining.isOn
    // 4. Save the data
     self.defaults.set(name, forKey:"KEY_NAME") // string
     self.defaults.set(45, forKey:"KEY AGE") // integer
     self.defaults.set(false, forKey:"KEY HAS PET") //boolean
     self.defaults.set(temp, forKey: "KEY TEMP") //double (float)
     self.defaults.set(isRaining, forKey:"KEY_IS RAINING")
     // 4b. save an array of data
     let friendsList = ["Emily", "Abigail", "Alex"]
 defaults.set(friendsList, forKey:"KEY_FRIENDS_LIST")
    let testScores = [100, 50, 75, 90]
    defaults.set(testScores, forKey:"KEY TEST SCORES LIST")
     print(" Save finished.")
    // 5. Clear the UI and prepare for new input
```

```
txtName.text = ""
     sliderTemp.value = 0.5
     switchIsRaining.isOn = true
     lblCurrTemp.text = "Curr Temp: "
  }
  @IBAction func retrieveButtonPressed( sender: Any) {
      let result = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY ABC") // nil
//
      let result2 = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY_NAME") // whatever the person typed in the textbox
//
     // nil coealscing to deal with the possible nil case
     let nameFromUserDefaults:String = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY NAME") ?? "N/A"
     let ageFromUserDefaults = self.defaults.integer(forKey: "KEY AGE")
                                                                              // default to 0
     let hasPetFromUserDefaults = self.defaults.bool(forKey: "KEY HAS PET")
     print("Data retrieved.")
     print("Name is \(nameFromUserDefaults)")
     print("Age is \(ageFromUserDefaults)")
     print("Has Pet? \(hasPetFromUserDefaults)")
     // repopulate the UI with the values from user defaults
     txtName.text = nameFromUserDefaults
     switchIsRaining.isOn = self.defaults.bool(forKey: "KEY IS RAINING")
     sliderTemp.value = self.defaults.float(forKey:"KEY TEMP")
     lblCurrTemp text = "Curr Temp: \(self.defaults.float(forKey:"KEY TEMP"))"
     // retrieve the array value
    let friendsFromUserDefaults:[String] =
       defaults.object(forKey: "KEY_FRIENDS_LIST") as? [String] ?? []
    let testScoresFromUserDefaults:[Int] =
       defaults.object(forKey: "KEY TEST SCORES LIST") as? [Int] ?? []
     tvResults.text = "Name is \((nameFromUserDefaults) \() Age is \((ageFromUserDefaults) \() Has Pet?\)
\(hasPetFromUserDefaults)\n"
    tvResults.text = tvResults.text + "Friends: \((friendsFromUserDefaults)\\nTest
Scores:\(testScoresFromUserDefaults)"
     print(friendsFromUserDefaults)
     print(friendsFromUserDefaults[0]) // Emily
     print(testScoresFromUserDefaults)
     print(testScoresFromUserDefaults[0] + 20) // 120
  @IBAction func sliderChanged(_ sender: Any) {
     lblCurrTemp.text = "Curr Temp: \(sliderTemp.value * 100)"
  }
}
```

Expected Result:

- Arrays are retrieved
- Individual data from the array can be accessed and manipulated

```
Data retrieved.
Name is
Age is 45
Has Pet? false
["Emily", "Abigail", "Alex"]
Emily
[100, 50, 75, 90]
120
```

Save A Dictionary

```
Save:
// save a dictionary -> airports
let airports:[String:String]
       = ["YYZ":"Toronto International Airport", "ORD": "Chicago O'Hare",
"LHR":"London Heathrow"]
defaults.set(airports, forKey: "KEY AIRPORTS DICT")
Retrieve:
// get the dictionary
// option 1
     let airportsFromUserDefaults:[String:String] = defaults.dictionary(forKey:
"KEY_AIRPORTS_DICT")
       as? [String:String] ?? [:]
    // option 2
    let airportsFromUserDefaults2:[String:String] = defaults.object(forKey:
"KEY AIRPORTS DICT")
       as? [String:String] ?? [:]
```

Save a Struct to the UserDefaults

UserDefaults can save a struct, provided that the struct conforms to the Codable protocol.

- 0/ Define the struct
- 1/ Make the struct conform to the Codable protocol
- 2/ Using JSONEncoder, convert the struct to a JSON object
- 3/ Retrieve the struct using .object(forKey:), then convert it to a struct using JSONDecoder

Examples:

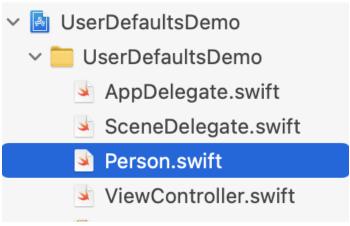
https://www.hackingwithswift.com/example-code/system/how-to-load-and-save-a-struct-in-userd efaults-using-codable

Code Along - Structs and User Defaults

0/ Define the struct

Create a file called Person.struct





Define the properties of the struct

```
struct Person {
  var name: String
  var age:Int
  var hasPet:Bool
  // struct provides a implicit initializer for all the properties
  // so therefore, we dont need to define an explicit initializer
}
1/ Make the struct conform to the Codable protocol
// Ensure struct conforms with Codable protocol
struct Person: Codable {
  var name: String
  var age:Int
  var hasPet:Bool
  // struct provides a implicit initializer for all the properties
  // so therefore, we dont need to define an explicit initializer
}
2/ Using JSONEncoder, convert the struct to a JSON object
   • To save, convert the struct to a JSON object
    // 4d. save a Person struct
     let personToSave = Person(name: "Zayne", age: 55, hasPet: true)
     // convert the struct to a JSON object
     let encoder = JSONEncoder()
     if let personAsJSONObj = try? encoder.encode(personToSave) {
       // save the JSON object to user defaults
       defaults.set(personAsJSONObj, forKey:"KEY PERSON")
     }
     else {
       print("Could not encode the person as a JSON object")
     }
```

3/ Retrieve the struct using .object(forKey:), then convert it to a struct using JSONDecoder

- To retrieve: get the JSON object out of the user defaults
- Convert (cast) that json object BACK to the struct

```
// retrieve the person object
     if let personFromUserDefaults = self.defaults.object(forKey: "KEY PERSON") as?
Data {
       // convert the data to a Person struct
       let decoder = JSONDecoder()
       if let person = try? decoder.decode(Person.self, from: personFromUserDefaults)
{
          print("Person conversion success")
          print("Person properties are: ")
          print(person.name)
          print(person.age)
          print(person.hasPet)
          person.sayHello()
       }
       else {
          print("Could not convert the data back to a Person struct")
       }
     }
     else {
       print("Retrieval failed or casting to type Data failed")
     }
```

Data retrieved.
Name is
Age is 45
Has Pet? false
Person conversion success
Person properties are:
Zayne
55
true
Zayne is 55 years old and says HELLO to you!

Code: Completed functions for saving structs

Person.swift:

```
// Ensure struct conforms with Codable protocol
struct Person:Codable {
   var name:String
   var age:Int
   var hasPet:Bool

// struct provides a implicit initializer for all the properties
   // so therefore, we dont need to define an explicit initializer

func sayHello() {
   print("\(name\)) is \(age\)) years old and says HELLO to you!")
   }
}
```

ViewController.swift:

// 4c. save a dictionary

"LHR":"London Heathrow"]

import UIKit class ViewController: UIViewController { // OUTLETS: @IBOutlet weak var txtName: UITextField! @IBOutlet weak var lblCurrTemp: UILabel! @IBOutlet weak var sliderTemp: UISlider! @IBOutlet weak var switchIsRaining: UISwitch! @IBOutlet weak var tvResults: UITextView! // MARK: USER DEFAULTS var defaults: User Defaults = User Defaults. standard override func viewDidLoad() { super.viewDidLoad() // initialze user defaults //self.defaults = UserDefaults.standard } @IBAction func saveButtonPressed(sender: Anv) { // 1. get person person name let name:String = txtName.text! print("Saving \((name)\) to user defaults") // 2. retrieve the value in the slider let temp:Float = sliderTemp.value * 100.0 // 3. retrieve the switch value let isRaining:Bool = switchIsRaining.isOn // 4. Save the data self.defaults.set(name, forKey:"KEY NAME") // string self.defaults.set(45, forKey:"KEY AGE") // integer self.defaults.set(false, forKey:"KEY HAS PET") //boolean self.defaults.set(temp, forKey: "KEY_TEMP") //double (float) self.defaults.set(isRaining, forKey:"KEY IS RAINING") // 4b. save an array of data let friendsList = ["Emily", "Abigail", "Alex"] defaults.set(friendsList, forKey:"KEY FRIENDS LIST") let testScores = [100, 50, 75, 90] defaults.set(testScores, forKey:"KEY TEST SCORES LIST")

let airports:[String:String] = ["YYZ":"Toronto International Airport", "ORD": "Chicago O'Hare",

```
defaults.set(airports, forKey: "KEY AIRPORTS DICT")
    // 4d. save a Person struct
    let personToSave = Person(name: "Zayne", age: 55, hasPet: true)
    // convert the struct to a JSON object
    let encoder = JSONEncoder()
    if let personAsJSONObj = try? encoder.encode(personToSave) {
       // save the JSON object to user defaults
       defaults.set(personAsJSONObj, forKey:"KEY PERSON")
    else {
       print("Could not encode the person as a JSON object")
    print(" Save finished.")
     // 5. Clear the UI and prepare for new input
     txtName.text = ""
     sliderTemp.value = 0.5
     switchIsRaining.isOn = true
     lblCurrTemp.text = "Curr Temp: "
  }
  @IBAction func retrieveButtonPressed( sender: Any) {
//
      let result = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY ABC") // nil
      let result2 = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY NAME") // whatever the person typed in the textbox
//
     // nil coealscing to deal with the possible nil case
     let nameFromUserDefaults:String = self.defaults.string(forKey: "KEY NAME") ?? "N/A"
     let ageFromUserDefaults = self.defaults.integer(forKey: "KEY AGE")
                                                                              // default to 0
     let hasPetFromUserDefaults = self.defaults.bool(forKey: "KEY HAS PET")
     print("Data retrieved.")
     print("Name is \(nameFromUserDefaults)")
     print("Age is \(ageFromUserDefaults)")
     print("Has Pet? \((hasPetFromUserDefaults)")
     // repopulate the UI with the values from user defaults
     txtName.text = nameFromUserDefaults
     switchIsRaining.isOn = self.defaults.bool(forKey: "KEY IS RAINING")
     sliderTemp.value = self.defaults.float(forKey:"KEY TEMP")
     lblCurrTemp.text = "Curr Temp: \(self.defaults.float(forKey:"KEY TEMP"))"
     // retrieve the array value
     let friendsFromUserDefaults:[String] =
       defaults.object(forKey: "KEY_FRIENDS_LIST") as? [String] ?? []
     let testScoresFromUserDefaults:[Int] =
       defaults.object(forKey: "KEY TEST SCORES LIST") as? [Int] ?? []
     // retrieve the dictionray value
     // option 1
     let airportsFromUserDefaults:[String:String] = defaults.dictionary(forKey: "KEY AIRPORTS DICT")
```

```
as? [String:String] ?? [:]
     // option 2
     let airportsFromUserDefaults2:[String:String] = defaults.object(forKey: "KEY AIRPORTS DICT")
       as? [String:String] ?? [:]
     tvResults.text = "Name is \((nameFromUserDefaults) \\n Age is \((ageFromUserDefaults) \\n Has Pet?\)
\(hasPetFromUserDefaults)\n"
     tvResults.text = tvResults.text + "Friends: \((friendsFromUserDefaults)\\nTest\)
Scores:\(testScoresFromUserDefaults)"
     print(friendsFromUserDefaults)
     print(friendsFromUserDefaults[0])
                                             // Emily
     print(testScoresFromUserDefaults)
     print(testScoresFromUserDefaults[0] + 20) // 120
     // demoing option 1 & option 2
     print(airportsFromUserDefaults["LHR"])
     print(airportsFromUserDefaults2["LHR"])
     // retrieve the person object
     if let personFromUserDefaults = self.defaults.object(forKey: "KEY PERSON") as? Data {
       // convert the data to a Person struct
       let decoder = JSONDecoder()
       if let person = try? decoder.decode(Person.self, from: personFromUserDefaults) {
          print("Person conversion success")
          print("Person properties are: ")
          print(person.name)
          print(person.age)
          print(person.hasPet)
          person.sayHello()
       else {
          print("Could not convert the data back to a Person struct")
       print("Retrieval failed or casting to type Data failed")
  @IBAction func sliderChanged( sender: Any) {
     lblCurrTemp.text = "Curr Temp: \((sliderTemp.value * 100)")
}
```

User Defaults are Shared Between Screens

- 1/ Each screen creates its own instance of UserDefaults
- 2/ Use the screen's UserDefaults variable to store or retrieve values
- 3/ All screens store and retrieve from the same UserDefaults

Code Example: Sharing Data between Screens using UserDefaults

Screen2ViewController.swift

Screen1ViewController.swift

Return values for non-existent keys

From HackingWithSwift.com:

- integer(forKey:) returns an integer if the key existed, or 0 if not.
- bool(forKey:) returns a boolean if the key existed, or false if not.
- float(forKey:) returns a float if the key existed, or 0.0 if not.
- double(forKey:) returns a double if the key existed, or 0.0 if not.
- object(forKey:) returns Any? so you need to conditionally typecast it to your data type.

Examples:

Strings return nil

let a = self.defaults.string(forKey:"licensePlate")

Numbers return 0

let b = self.defaults.integer(forKey: "salary") // get a int out of user defaults

Booleans return false

let c = self.defaults.bool(forKey:"likesCoconut")