**Address Book Assignment**

Instructions on how to run this project on a Windows 8 PC:

1. Download Visual Studio 2013 Community version.
2. Download the Address Book project from Github using the link: (clone <https://github.com/wonderlabs/Address-Book.git> to a directory on your PC)
3. Open the Address Book.sln file located in the Address Book folder.
4. At the top, you should see a green arrow and in the dropdown menu you should be able to select Local Machine, Simulator, or Remote Machine. To run on your PC select Local Machine and then click Local Machine button to run the program. You can also use the Simulator, but if you wish to launch on a device, you will need to use the Remote Machine.

Instructions on how to run this project on a Mac:

1. Download the Windows 8 Virtual Machine and ensure you can launch a Windows 8 OS on your mac.
2. In the VM, follow the instructions above for how to run this project on a Windows 8 PC.

I am sorry, but I could not find a faster way to run the program on a simulator on a mac. Unfortunately, Microsoft requires that you have Visual Studio to run the project.

The requirement of this assignment was to create a mobile application which was capable of pulling random user data from [Random User](http://randomuser.me/documentation) and displaying it as a list of contacts on the mobile device.

My overall approach to solving this was to simply pull the data from the url using a web request, then to parse the data and save it to a model (in cache). Once saved, I would bind the user interface objects (on the screen) to the model, ensuring each individual element is represented appropriately according to the name of the elements in the received data. Initially I would display a list of contacts, then if the user selects a contact, a second screen would appear and display the selected contact’s information.

I chose to use Windows 8 to develop the application simply because it was my most recently used platform and I am most comfortable with it. Personally, I think the Windows 8 OS has a fancy way of displaying data which is more appealing than that of its competitors.

The features completed are as follows:

1. Pull user data from [Random User](http://randomuser.me/documentation) and store the results locally in the device’s cache.
2. On the UI, display all the contacts’ first and last names in a list.
3. When a contact’s name is clicked, show a second screen which displays the selected contact’s details.
4. Add a feature allowing the user to go back to the previous screen which displays the initial list of contacts.

Given more time, I would like to have configured the UI to follow the principles and guidelines of the Windows 8 App development UI expectations that Microsoft has published. Also, there are several features I would like to have added including a button on the initial screen allowing the user to reload the list of contacts, which would fetch a new fresh list of contacts. These two features would have taken approximately 8 hours of work all together.

To make the program more robust, in the back-end, I would add more code to indicate cases where the device does not have an internet connection, or when the url link is down with an error message to the user instead of allowing the application to exit automatically without warning. I would also add a check to make sure the user data never overflows the cache for example if we attempt to pull an infinite number of users. In the front-end I would had a few variables such as one to hold the font size of small characters such as address and city, instead of leaving the *FontSize=”16”* everywhere.