

Laboratorio di Applicazioni Mobili Bachelor in Computer Science & Computer Science for Management

University of Bologna

Overview & Setup

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Table of Contents

- Mobile Applications
 - \circ Native
 - Hybrid
 - Web apps
- Android Studio



Mobile Apps

"A mobile application, also referred to as a mobile app or simply an app, is a computer program or software application designed to run on a mobile device such as a phone, tablet, or watch"

Wikipedia



Mobile Apps: Native

- A native mobile app is intimately tied to the platform on which it is running.
- It has the ability to fully integrate with the capabilities of both the hardware and the OS on which it resides.
- It is completely analogous to most PC applications, which are downloaded to a desktop or laptop hard drive and completely executed within that machine.
- In order to accomplish this tight integration, the mobile app developer utilizes an SDK from the hardware manufacturer directly or via the mobile device's OS vendor.
- Combined with an IDE, a developer is able to code the mobile application logic and take advantage of any hardware or OS functionality that is available via the exposed APIs



Mobile Apps: Hybrid

- A hybrid mobile application is developed using both native libraries and web technologies in an attempt to get the best of both worlds.
- The interface between the separate components is an on-platform, embedded HTML rendering engine, which is either developed in-house or by acquiring one from a 3rd-party.
- The native portion of the app can be written as a top to bottom native app, which communicates to a web-based server backend. This has the same porting issues as a purely native app.
- 3rd-party cross-platform development tools exist that use native library containers to achieve near-native performance. Such tools bring the benefits of cross-platform development in both the native and web-based portions of a hybrid mobile app



Mobile Apps: Web apps

- Web-based mobile apps and **Progressive Web Apps** (PWA) are developed with the same tools used for mobile website development through the use of HTML, CSS style sheets and JavaScript.
- HTML5 provides the ability to create rich UI experiences with support for rich media, UI components, geolocation, and offline execution.
- Third-party suppliers of JavaScript toolkits can supply UI components that allow web-based apps to mimic native look and feel on the mobile device, such as Dojo or jQuery. However, their ability to provide precise native look and feel varies across toolkits.



Hybrid

- Web technologies (HTML, CSS, Javascript)
- Run in a browser Web View
- Access device capabilities via plugins
- Wrapped in a native app shell
- Native app

PWA

It is just a regular website that runs in a browser with some enhancements and gives app-like experience to users by using modern web capabilities.

- Installation on a mobile home screen
- Offline usage
- Camera, push notifications
- Background synchronization













Owned by Ionic

- Basically Web code running into a WebView
- Capacitor is an evolution of Cordova/PhoneGap
- Works very well for the Web too
- Good if you want to reuse code from your Web Application (Angular, React, Vue, ...)



Owned by Facebook

- You need to code in React
- Renders elements in native elements
- EXPO
- Few basic components, (too) many plugins
- Good if you want to reuse (some) React code but be closer to the native render



Owned by Google

- Code in Dart, render in native
- Declarative UI (similar to Swift/Components)
- A lot of widgets OOTB
- Not very good for the web, it renders everything into a canvas.
- Good if you want to start from scratch.



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Hybrid-Native: Native UI, Shared Code

JavaScript code runs and orchestrates native UI controls under the hood, so that your app UI is running (almost but not completely) natively. It means that the underlying native UI component that you would like to use or customize must be supported by the framework in order to use that component or change it.

Hybrid-Web: Web UI, Shared Components

The UI is built with HTML/CSS/JS, with native functionality being accessed through portable APIs (or "plugins") that abstract the underlying platform dependencies.Instead of your entire UI depending on the native platform, only certain native device features, like the Camera, are platform-dependent.



Native, Hybrid or PWA?



Native, Hybrid or PWA?

Of course, it depends...



<u>Native</u>

- Direct access to all the mobile device's features
- Highest performance possible
- Direct access to UI components of specific platforms

<u>Hybrid</u>

- Easy access to mobile device's features
- UX is nearly identical to native apps
- High performances
- Single codebase, and lower development costs

<u>Web</u>

- No fee nor approval procedures to publish the application
- No installation required
- Lowest development costs
- Single codebase



<u>Native</u>

- Highest
 Development &
 Maintenance costs
- Multiple codebases
- High Development Time
- Limited customization

<u>Hybrid</u>

- High Development & Maintenance costs
- The efficiency and the quality of the application strongly depends on the technology used
- Worse performances

<u>Web</u>

- Limited set of functionalities
- Worse UX
- The efficiency and the quality of the application strongly depends on the technology used
- Worst performances



The official development platform for Android Apps is **Android Studio** by JetBrains.

Historically Android development was in Eclipse with and android plugin.

- Eclipse SDK has been DEPRECATED since the end of 2015, which means newer versions of Android are no longer supported.
 - <u>https://android-developers.googleblog.com/2015/06/an-update-on</u>
 <u>-eclipse-android-developer.html</u>





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- Go to https://developer.android.com/studio
- Download Android Studio and the SDK
- Install it and you're done!
 - \circ $\,$ Version Hedgehog at the time of writing





How to develop Android applications?

- Linux / Mac OS / Windows? Doesn't matter
- A real device is not mandatory although suggested...
- Code your application in the IDE
 - Test it with the emulator
 - Deploy it on a real device (if you can)



Small Glossary...

SDK (Software development kit)

- A set of tools that help you in creating software
 - Compiler, tester, debugger, libraries

IDE (Integrated Development Environment)

• Graphical environment in which all the tools are accessible.

API (Application Program Interface)

- A set of calls that the underlying world exposes to the developer for interaction.
 - It does not correspond to "libraries".



SDK Setup

Tools > SDK Manager

Android tool Used to get APIs and add-ons

You can also start it from Android Studio

It'll affect the compileSdkVersion (details later)

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	Android 8.1 (Oreo)	27	3	Not installed
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Path Variables	Android 7.1.1 (Nougat)	25	3	Not installed
	Android 7.0 (Nougat)	24	2	Not installed
eymap	Android 6.0 (Marshmallow)	23	3	Not installed
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1013	Android 4.2 (Jelly Bean)	17	3	Not installed
lvanced Settings	Android 4.1 (Jelly Bean)	16	5	Not installed
	Android 4.0.3 (IceCreamSandwich)	15	5	Not installed
	Android 4.0 (IceCreamSandwich)	14	4	Not installed
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SDK Setup

Tools > SDK Manager

Android tool Used to get APIs and add-ons

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It'll affect the compileSdkVersion (details later)

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SDK Setup

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Android tool Used to get APIs and add-ons

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It'll affect the compileSdkVersion (details later)

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Android SDK	~	Android Repository v2	https://dl.google.com/a	android/repository/reposito
Memory Settings	~	Android System Images	https://dl.google.com/a	android/repository/sys-img/
Notifications	1	Android TV System Images	https://dl.google.com/a	android/repository/sys-img/
Quick Lists	\checkmark	Android Wear System Images	https://dl.google.com/a	android/repository/sys-img/
Path Variables	\checkmark	Android Wear for China System Images	https://dl.google.com/a	android/repository/sys-img/
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> Editor	\checkmark	Automated Test Device System Images With Googl	https://dl.google.com/a	android/repository/sys-img/
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	~	Google TV System Images	https://dl.google.com/a	android/repository/sys-img/
	\checkmark	Intel HAXM	https://dl.google.com/a	android/repository/extras/i

Force https://... sources to be fetched using http://... Disable SDK diff patching





Go to File > New Project

Newest version of Android Studio makes you choose first which kind of activity you want to start with.





Go to File > New Project

Your activity will be named MainActivity by default (Java class).

Of course you can refactor it ...

	New Project			8
Empty Views Activity				
Creates a new empty activity				
Name	HelloWorld			
Package name	com.example.helloworld			
Save location	/home/stradivarius/AndroidStudioProjects/HelloWorld			
Language	Kotlin			
Minimum SDK	API 24 ("Nougat"; Android 7.0)			
	Your app will run on approximately 96.3% of devices. Help me choose			
Build configuration language ⑦	Kotlin DSL (build.gradle.kts) [Recommended]			
		Previous	Cancel	Finish



Go to File > New Project

Choose carefully which API version to use.

Low version = high compatibility

Low version = less features

			Android Platfor
	ANDROID PLATFORM VERSION	API LEVEL	CUMULATIVE
4.4	KitKat	19	
5	Lollipop	21	99.69
5.1	Lollipop	22	99.45
6	Marshmallow	23	96.2
7	Nougat	24	96.3
7.1	Nougat	25	95.0
8	Oreo	26	93.7
8.1	Oreo	27	91.85
9	Pie	28	86.49
10	Q	29	75.99
11	R	30	59.89
12	S	31	38.29
13		33	22.49

Last updated: October 1, 2023

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	Nougat				
	User Interface	Android for Work			
	Multi-window Support Notifications Quick Settings Tile API Custom Pointer API	Work profile security challenge Turn off work Always on VPN Customized provisioning			
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	Profile-guided JIT/AOT Compilation	Vision Settings on the Welcome screen			
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		Platform support and optimizations for VR Mode			
	Data Saver	Printing Framework			
	Number Blocking Call Screening	Print service enhancements			
	Graphics				
	Vulkan APi				
	System				
	Direct Boot Multi-locale Support, More Languages ICU4J APIs in Android APK Signature Scheme v2 Scoped Directory Access Keyboard Shortcuts Helper Virtual Files				

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"Whatever you do in IntelliJ IDEA, you do that in the context of a project. A project is an organizational unit that represents a complete software solution.

Your finished product may be decomposed into a series of discrete, isolated modules, but it's a project definition that brings them together and ties them into a greater whole."

This means that in theory you can develop more that one app within the same project but you will hardly want to do so.





> manifests

The code of your application:

- The java folder contains... the java code!
 - \circ ... or Kotlin actually
- Inside res there are a lot of resources
 - Images
 - Layouts
 - Xml files
 - Strings
- AndroidManifest.xml

~	🖿 java
	> 🖿 com.example.helloworld
	> Com.example.helloworld (androidTest)
	> 🖿 com.example.helloworld (test)
	📭 res
	🗠 🖿 drawable
	ᡖ ic_launcher_background.xml
	💑 ic_launcher_foreground.xml
	🕆 🛅 layout
	👼 activity_main.xml
	🕆 🛅 mipmap
	> 🖿 ic_launcher (6)
	Image: Second (6)
	Y 🖿 values
	💑 colors.xml
	👼 strings.xml
	> 🗖 themes (2)
	Y 🖿 xml
	💑 backup_rules.xml
	💑 data_extraction_rules.xml
	res (generated)
~ <i>m</i>	Gradle Scripts
	Red build.gradle.kts (Project: HelloWorld)
	ne build.gradle.kts (Module :app)
	proguard-rules.pro (ProGuard Rules for ":app")
	🚮 gradle.properties (Project Properties)
	📊 gradle-wrapper.properties (Gradle Version)
	local.properties (SDK Location)
	- catting on and a lite (Declark Cattings)



Android Manifest

the only file exposed to the OS

Mandatory file for every application Contains:

- Application declaration
- Permissions
- Intent filters
- Targets

_	× 📭	app
		🖿 manifests
		🖿 java
		> 🖿 com.example.helloworld
		> 🖿 com.example.helloworld (androidTest)
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		🚮 gradle-wrapper.properties (Gradle Version)
		local.properties (SDK Location)
		Restings.gradle.kts (Project Settings)







	HelloWorld – MainActivity.kt [HelloWorld.app.main]	- * 8
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	9 setContentView(R.layout. <u>activity_main</u>)	
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cture		fications
Bookmarks		turning Devices
R build Variants		🗅 Device Explorer
🌵 Version Control 🛛 🖽 TODO 🔮 Problems 🛛 Terminal 🖤 App Quality	/ Insights 🔮 App Inspection 👳 Logast 🔿 Services 🔨 Build 🚓 Profiler	दि Layout Inspector
Gradle sync finished in 35 s 250 ms (a minute ago)		1:1 LF UTF-8 4 spaces 🎦 🖽



Hit Tools > Device Manager Previously AVD AVD = Android Virtual Device

You can select options for the emulator

You can create as many as you want

			Virt	ual Device Co	onfiguration				8
s À	elect Hardware								
Choose a de	vice definition								
						l G	Pixel 2		
Category	Name 🔻	Play Store		Resolution	Density				
Phone	Pixel 3a	⊳	5.6"	1080x2	440dpi				
Tablet	Pixel 3 XL		6.3"	1440x2	560dpi	ſ	7	Size: large	
Wear OS	Pixel 3	⊳	5.46"	1080x2	440dpi		5.0" 1920px	Density: 420dpi	
Desktop	Pixel 2 XL		5.99"	1440x2	560dpi		5.0 1920px		
TV	Pixel 2	⊳	5.0"	1080x1	420dpi	Ľ			
Automo	Pixel	⊳	5.0"	1080x1	420dpi				
	Nexus S		4.0"	480x800	hdpi				
	Nexus One		3.7"	480x800	hdpi				
New Hardwa	are Profile Import Har	dware Profile			S				Clone Device



Hit Tools > Device Manager Previously AVD AVD = Android Virtual Device

You obviously need to download the Android system image for the version you want.

Virtual Device Configuration						
Systen	n Image					
Select a system ima	age					
Recommended x86	Images Other I	mages		UpsideDownCa	ikePrivacySandbox	
Release Name	API Level 🔻	ABI	Target			
UpsideDownCa 🛓	UpsideDownCake	x86_64	Android API UpsideDov			
TiramisuPrivac 🛓	TiramisuPrivacySo		Android API TiramisuPı		UpsideDownCakePrivacySand	
API 34 🛓			Android API 34 (Google		Android	
Tiramisu	33	x86_64	Android 13.0 (Google		Google Inc.	
Sv2 🛓			Android 12L (Google Pi			
s	31	x86_64	Android 12.0 (Google		x86 64	
R <u>+</u>			Android 11.0 (Google P			
Q	29	x86	Android 10.0 (Google	We recommend these	Google Play images because this	
Pie 🛨			Android 9.0 (Google Pla	device is compatible v	with Google Play.	
Oreo 🛨			Android 8.1 (Google Pla	Questions on API lev	el?	
4 system image mus	t be selected to co	ntinue.	0	See the API level dist		



Hit the play button for testing!





If you run it, it will turn on and resemble pretty much a real device. It is legit a virtual machine.

YES you can use the internet (by default each AVD is individually NATted).

NO you can't call (lol)







Hit Run > Run 'app'

Test in on the emulator

You should see something similar to this



You can also test the app on a real device: there are two ways to do it:

- Via USB debugging (more for debugging)
 - Phone must have developer options and USB debugging enabled (<u>https://developer.android.com/studio/debug/dev-options.html#enable</u>)
 - PC's OS must have the correct driver/module

(<u>https://developer.android.com/studio/run/device#setting-up</u>)

- You can then run apps just by hitting the Run > Run 'app'
- You can use the newest WiFi pairing!
- Create an *apk* (more for releasing and sharing)
 - Must be signed



Here's the app running on my phone

Dev	vice Manager				۵	—
Vi	rtual Physical					
	Pair using Wi-Fi					
	Device 🔺	API	Туре	Actio	ons	
	Device Android 1.0				Î	
	Google Pixel 6a • Android API 34	34	4	⊳		
٥	Xiaomi Redmi Note 8 Pro Android 10.0	29			Î	







Hit "File > Project Structure > Modules" and you'll see two sections that'll help you deal with versioning.

Properties

versioning and other stuff at Compile time

• Mostly having to do with Gradle

Default Config

versioning and other stuff at Run Time





What is Gradle?

It's the official build automation tool for Android, coming with a lot of optimizations.

It has config files that can be modified through the Android Studio GUI.

It manages build configurations that no longer are assigned to the Android Developer.



Versioning

Gradle features

- Build types
 - Release, debug, etc...
- Product Flavors
 - Free and paid versions...
- Manifest Entries
 - Override values on the manifest files
- Dependencies
 - Reference to libraries to import (Maven style) that are not included by default in the Android build.
- Signing

. . .

- Configuration for signing your app during the build process...





<u>compileSdkVersion</u>

- Used by Gradle to compile the project
- i.e. which set of classes and functions should I use?
- It's the newest possible SDK theoretically supported by your app (watch out, NOT the API).
- Suggested to use the latest available (unless you haven't learned it yet...)
- It's COMPILED, therefore retro-compatibility is structurally ensured.



Versioning

minSdkVersion

- Indicates which is the oldest release of the SDK (but also API) your app is compatible with...
- ... though it is compiled with another version.
- Obviously you cannot implement certain functionalities (e.g. channels).
- In practice if a customer has a phone that's too old, then the app is neither installable nor visible.





<u>targetSdkVersion</u>

- Indicates which is the newest release of the SDK (but also API) your app is compatible with...
- ... in practice it tells what is the expected version.
- It is ideally the same as the compileSdkVersion, however it can be older if newer versions had not been tested.

In short:

```
minSdkVersion <= targetSdkVersion <= compileSdkVersion</pre>
```

Even though it's better:

```
minSdkVersion <= targetSdkVersion == compileSdkVersion
```



Deploying

Android applications must be signed before installing them on a real device. Hit: Build >

Generate Signed Bundle / APK

You can generate a Bundle (ABB) alternatively:

a Bundle is Google Play's new app serving model, called Dynamic Delivery, then uses your app bundle to generate and serve optimized APKs for each user's device configuration, so they download only the code and resources they need to run your app. You no longer have to build, sign, and manage multiple APKs to support different devices, and users get smaller, more optimized downloads. It is a **publishing** format.

https://developer.android.com/guide/app-bundle

You need a key for this and you can generate one from the menu.

You can potentially use no key, but it will generate a debug version.



Deploying

Using here V2 Signature (faster, since Android 7.0)

https://developer.android.com/about/versions/nougat/android-7.0.html#apk_signature_v2

	New Key Store		×
<u>K</u> ey store path:	/home/stradivarius/Android/myKeystor	re/newKeystore.jks	
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City or <u>L</u> oca	ity:		
S <u>t</u> ate or Pro	vince:		
Country Coo	le (XX):		
country coo			
		OK Car	ncel

... transfer the .apk file to your phone and you're done.





To be published on the market, you have to pay 25 \$

- Lifetime fee, unlimited APPs
- Not required for the LAM class
- Upload the ABB, and in few hours/days the APP is on the play store
 - Since a few years the APK is not accepted anymore.
- Receive comments, improve, update
- Smartphone specific bugs? AVDs



https://play.google.com/console

Deploying

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	≡	Google Play Console	Q Cerca in Play Console	co 🕜 🖂 T9A HowToDie
•	<u>ل</u> ک ک	Produzione Test Test aperti	Test interni Crea e gestisci release di test interno per mettere a disposizione la tua app a un massimo di 100 tester interni. <u>Scopri di più</u>	☐ Telefoni, Tablet, Chrome OS
	·	Test chiusi Test interni Preregistrazione Report pre-lancio Panoramica Dettagli Impostazioni Copertura e dispositivi	 Il nome temporaneo della tua app è "it.stradivarius.t9ahowtodie (unreviewed)" Fino a quando la configurazione e la revisione dell'app non saranno completate, i tester interni che scaricheranno la tua app visualizzeranno un nome temporaneo. Scopri di più Ignora Riepilogo del canale Attivo - Ultima release: 2 (0.97 Beta) - Nome temporaneo dell'app "it.stradivarius.t9ahowtodie (unreviewed)" ⑦ 	Metti in pausa il canale
•	(▲) ③ ② Cres ≫	Explorer per app bundle Integrità dell'app Configurazione cita Presenza nello Store	Release 2 (0.97 Beta) ⊘ Disponibile per i tester interni · 1 codice versione · Pubblicazione della release: 20 feb 11:09 · Non esaminata Mostra riepilogo ∨ Promuovi release ▼	Visualizza i dettagli della release
		Scheda dello Store principale	Cronologia release	Mostra 🗸



Deploying

- Privacy Policy
- A lot of claims about what you are going to do with user data...
- Internal Tests
 - o a.k.a. distribute the apk with a handful of friends
- Closed Tests (Mandatory)
 - create a distribution list via the dashboard of at least 20 ppl
- Open Tests
 - every time you update you can pre-release the test version



Questions?

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