

CM6

Android: Architecture & First App

- Android ecosystem — OS, SDK, emulator
- Project structure — Manifest, R class, resources
- Activity lifecycle — onCreate, onPause, onResume...
- First layout in XML — TextView, Button
- Handling a click — android:onClick & Toast

Module Overview

Part 1 — Java Fundamentals

CM1 From Python to Java

CM2 Collections, Exceptions & I/O

CM3 Inheritance, Interfaces

Part 2 — GUI with Swing

CM4 Swing: Components & Layouts

CM5 Graphics 2D & Events

Part 3 — Android

CM6 Android Architecture

CM7 Layouts, Navigation & Intents

CM8 Persistence & Threads

Projects: ★ Spider Game (Part 2) ★ Calculator / Currency Converter (Part 3)

Exam 50% + BEs 50%

01 Android ecosystem & constraints

02 App architecture — components

03 Project structure in Android Studio

04 Activity & lifecycle

05 First XML layout — widgets

06 Handling clicks — Toast

Android — Ecosystem & Constraints

Key facts

Open source	Apache licence — free to use and modify
Linux kernel	All Android devices run a Linux kernel underneath
Java/Kotlin SDK	Apps written in Java or Kotlin; compiled to DEX bytecode
ART runtime	Android Runtime executes DEX bytecode (replaces Dalvik since API 21)
API levels	Each Android version = one API level. API 33 = Android 13 (2022)
Market share	~72% of smartphones worldwide (2024)

Constraints vs desktop



Touch interface — no mouse, no hover



Battery & memory limited — avoid expensive loops



Connectivity not guaranteed — handle offline



Screen diversity — many sizes and densities



App can be interrupted anytime (call, notification)

Event-driven — same model as Swing

Android is event-driven: the app displays an interface and waits for the user to act. No sequential `main()` — instead, the system calls your Activity methods when it needs to.

App Architecture — Components & Intents

The 4 component types

Activity

One screen with a UI — the main building block

★ used in this course

Service

Background task without UI (music player, download...)

not covered

BroadcastReceiver

Listens for system events (battery low, SMS...)

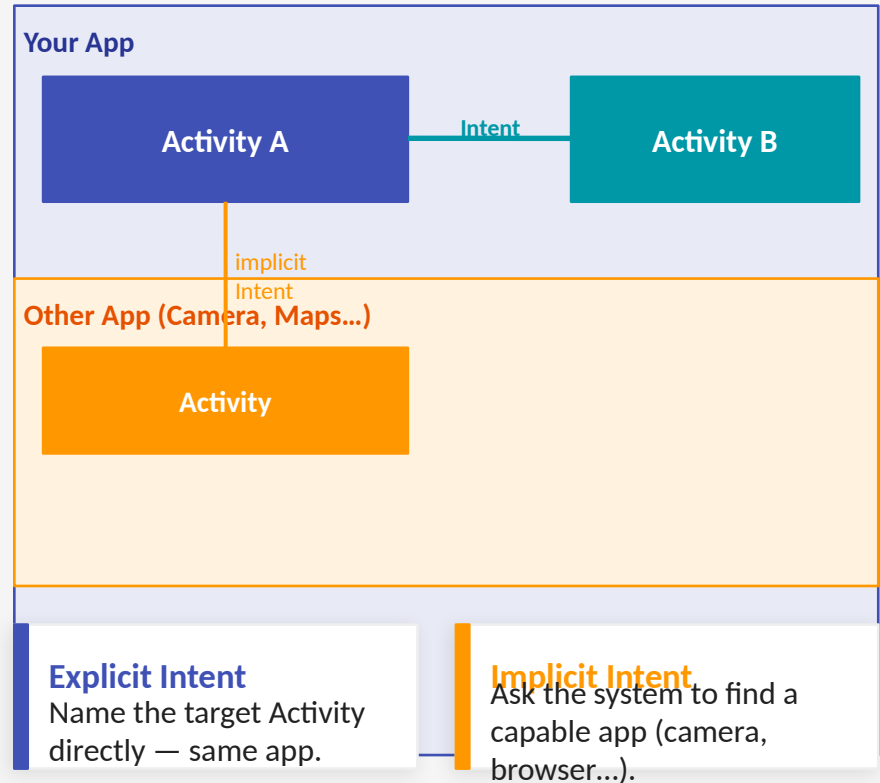
not covered

ContentProvider

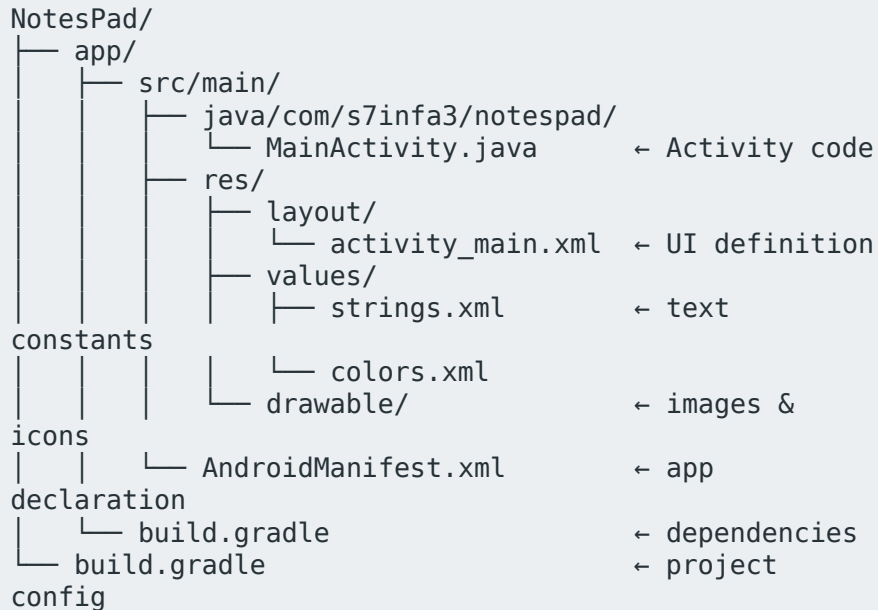
Shared data store for inter-app access

not covered

Components communicate via Intents



Project Structure in Android Studio



The 3 files you touch every day

AndroidManifest.xml

Declares every Activity, the app name, icon, min SDK, and permissions. Generated by Android Studio — you edit it to add new Activities.

```
<activity  
    android:name=".MainActivity"  
    android:exported="true">  
    <intent-filter>  
        <action android:name=  
            "android.intent.action.MAIN"/>  
    </intent-filter>  
</activity>
```

strings.xml — never hardcode text

android:text="@string/add_note" — always use resource references for multi-language support.

The R Class & Resource References

R — auto-generated bridge between XML and Java

```
// In Java – access resources via R.type.name
Button btn = findViewById(R.id.addButton);
String title = getString(R.string.app_name);
int color = getColor(R.color.colorPrimary);
setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);

// Common R sub-classes:
// R.id      – widget IDs defined in XML
// R.layout  – XML layout files
// R.string  – strings from strings.xml
// R.drawable – images from res/drawable/
// R.color   – colors from colors.xml
```

Never edit R.java

R.java is regenerated every time you build. Any manual change is overwritten. If you see 'cannot find symbol R', it means the build failed — check your XML for errors.

```
<!-- In XML – reference other resources with @
-->

<!-- Reference a string resource -->
<TextView
    android:text="@string/app_name" />

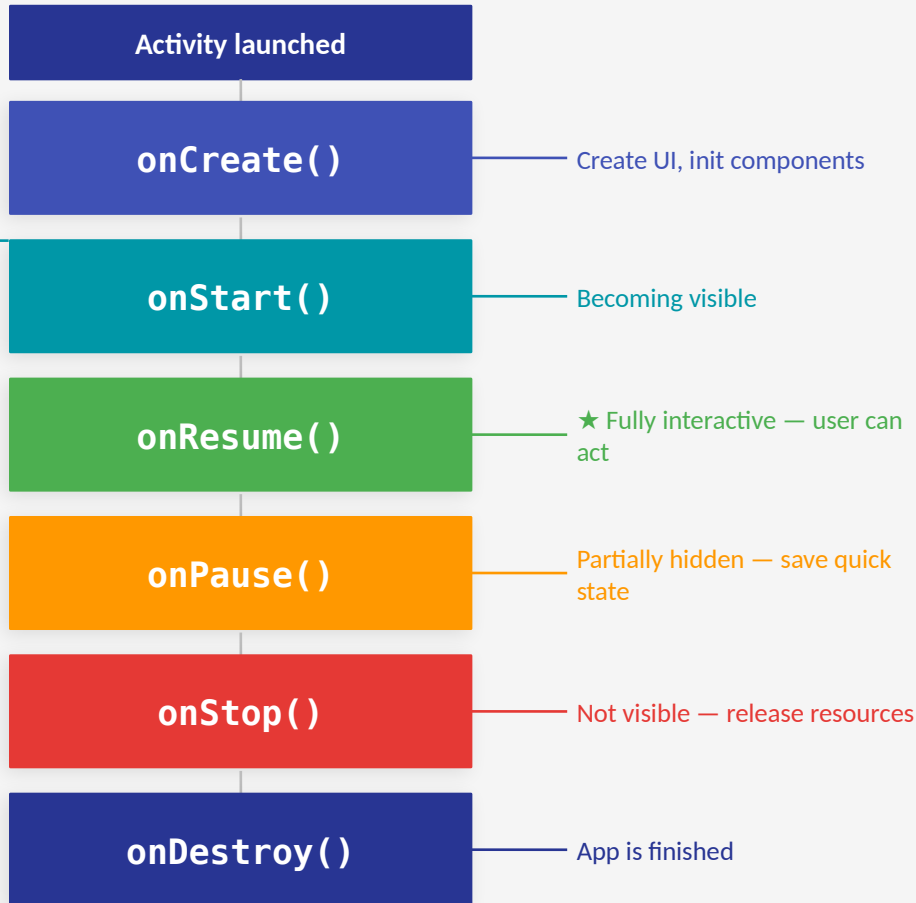
<!-- Reference a color -->
<Button
    android:backgroundTint="@color/indigo" />

<!-- Give a widget an ID (used by R.id) -->
<Button
    android:id="@+id/addButton"
    android:text="@string/add_note" />
```

findViewById<T>() in Java

```
Button btn = findViewById(R.id.addButton);
Cast is automatic since API 26. Always call after setContentView()
in onCreate().
```

Activity Lifecycle



What to put where

onCreate()

setContentView() • findViewById() • init logic

onResume()

restart animations • re-register listeners

onPause()

save unsaved data • pause animations

onStop()

release heavy resources

```
@Override  
protected void onCreate(  
    Bundle savedInstanceState) {
```

First XML Layout — activity_main.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout
    xmlns:android=
        "http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent"
    android:orientation="vertical"
    android:padding="16dp">

    <!-- Title -->
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/titleView"
        android:layout_width="match_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:text="@string/app_name"
        android:textSize="24sp"
        android:textStyle="bold"
        android:layout_marginBottom="16dp"/>

    <!-- Input field -->
    <EditText
        android:id="@+id/noteInput"
        android:layout_width="match_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:hint="@string/hint_note"
        android:inputType="text"/>

    <!-- Add button -->
```

Android dimension units

dp

Density-independent pixels

All sizes and margins — scales with screen density

sp

Scale-independent pixels

Text sizes — also scales with user font preference

px

Raw pixels

AVOID — not density-independent

**wrap_
content**

Shrinks to content

Width/height: use when you want the view just big enough

**match_
parent**

Fills parent

Width/height: expand to fill available space

Common Widgets — Android vs Swing

Android widget	XML tag	Key attributes	Swing equiv.
Text display	<TextView>	text textSize textStyle textColor	JLabel
Text input	<EditText>	hint inputType maxLines	JTextField
Button	<Button>	text onClick enabled drawableLeft	JButton
Image	<ImageView>	src scaleType contentDescription	JLabel (icon)
Checkbox	<CheckBox>	checked text onCheckedChangeListener	JCheckBox
Dropdown	<Spinner>	entries prompt onItemSelectedListener	JComboBox
Scrollable list	<RecyclerView>	layoutManager adapter	JList+scroll

inputType — always set it on EditText

android:inputType="number" → numeric keypad "textPassword" → hidden "text" → standard keyboard "phone" → phone pad. Omitting it shows a generic keyboard — always specify

Handling Clicks — android:onClick vs Listener

Option 1 — android:onClick in XML (simple, quick)

```
<!-- In activity_main.xml -->
<Button
    android:id="@+id/addButton"
    android:text="@string/btn_add"
    android:onClick="onAddClicked" />
```

```
// In MainActivity.java
// Must be public void, takes View param
public void onAddClicked(View view) {
    EditText input = findViewById(
        R.id.noteInput);
    String note = input.getText()
        .toString();
    System.out.println("Adding: " + note);
}
```

android:onClick — limitation

The method must be in the Activity class. Doesn't work with fragments or if the button is in a different context. Use `setOnClickListener()` for anything non-trivial.

Option 2 — setOnClickListener in Java (recommended)

```
// In MainActivity.java onCreate()
Button addBtn = findViewById(R.id.addButton);
EditText input = findViewById(R.id.noteInput);

// Lambda — same as Swing ActionListener
addBtn.setOnClickListener(v -> {
    String note = input.getText()
        .toString().trim();
    if (!note.isEmpty()) {
        addNote(note);
        input.setText(""); // clear field
    }
});

// Long click
addBtn.setOnLongClickListener(v -> {
    showHelp();
    return true; // consumed
});
```

Same lambda pattern as Swing

`btn.setOnClickListener(v -> doSomething())` is exactly like `btn.addActionListener(e -> doSomething())`. Same concept, slightly different syntax.

Toast, Logcat & Debugging

```
// — Toast – brief popup message —————  
// Context, text, duration  
Toast.makeText(this,  
    "Note added!",  
    Toast.LENGTH_SHORT).show();  
  
// From a string resource  
Toast.makeText(this,  
    R.string.note_added,  
    Toast.LENGTH_LONG).show();  
  
// — Logcat – Android's console —————  
import android.util.Log;  
  
private static final String TAG = "NotesPad";  
  
// In any method:  
Log.d(TAG, "Adding note: " + note); // Debug  
Log.i(TAG, "App started");          // Info  
Log.w(TAG, "Note is empty!");       // Warning  
Log.e(TAG, "Error: " + e.getMessage()); // Error  
  
// System.out.println also appears in Logcat  
System.out.println("debug value: " + x);
```

Toast — use cases

Brief feedback: 'Note saved', 'Invalid input', 'Deleted'.
Toast disappears automatically — SHORT = 2s, LONG = 3.5s. Always call `.show()` — forgetting it is the #1 Toast bug.

Logcat in Android Studio

View → Tool Windows → Logcat. Filter by tag (e.g. 'NotesPad') to see only your messages. `Log.d()` is filtered out in release builds — use it freely during development.

Log levels

d = Debug (verbose, dev only) i = Info w = Warning e = Error (always visible)
Use TAG = class name to identify the source.

Rotation crash → check Logcat

If the app crashes on screen rotation, Logcat shows the stack trace immediately. Always read the red lines from top to bottom.

NotesPad v1 — Putting It Together

```
public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {  
  
    private List<String> notes = new ArrayList<>();  
  
    @Override  
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);  
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);  
  
        EditText input = findViewById(R.id.noteInput);  
        Button addBtn = findViewById(R.id.addButton);  
        TextView status = findViewById(R.id.statusView);  
  
        addBtn.setOnClickListener(v -> {  
            String note = input.getText()  
                .toString().trim();  
            if (note.isEmpty()) {  
                Toast.makeText(this,  
                    R.string.error_empty,  
                    Toast.LENGTH_SHORT).show();  
                return;  
            }  
            notes.add(note);  
            status.setText(  
                notes.size() + " note(s)");  
            input.setText(""); // clear field  
            Log.d("NotesPad",  
                "Added: " + note);  
        });  
    }  
}
```

NotesPad v1 — what we have

- ✓ LinearLayout with TextView + EditText + Button
- ✓ setContentView() in onCreate()
- ✓ setOnClickListener lambda
- ✓ getText().toString().trim()
- ✓ Toast for user feedback
- ✓ Log.d() for debugging
- Display the list of notes — CM7 (RecyclerView)
- Navigate to edit screen — CM7 (Intent)
- Save notes across sessions — CM8 (SharedPreferences)

CM6 — Key Takeaways

Activity

One screen = one Activity; extends AppCompatActivity; no main()

Lifecycle

onCreate() → onStart() → onResume() ↔ onPause() → onStop() → onDestroy()

setContentView

Load the XML layout in onCreate() — before any findViewById()

R class

Auto-generated; R.id.name in Java = @+id/name in XML — never edit it

Listener

setOnClickListener(v -> ...) — same lambda pattern as Swing

Toast & Log

Toast for user messages; Log.d(TAG, ...) for debugging in Logcat