Android Development Tutorial

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Outline

- Setting up the Android Development Environment (Windows)
- Starters Android "Hello World" empty project
- Android project components
- Example: Tabbed application project
- Accessing Sensors on an Android Device: GPS, accelerometers and the Google API
- Database connections Local SQLite and remote access

Android Development EnvironmentDownload the latest JDK (Java distribution)

 Download the Eclipse IDE (e.g. Galileo) from: www.eclipse.org/downloads/

 Install the Android SDK starter package from: http://developer.android.com/sdk/index.html

 In Eclipse, install the ADT (Android Developer Tools) plugin: http://developer.android.com/sdk/eclipse-adt.html

 Instructions on setting up the SDK and development Environment can be found on: http://developer.android.com/sdk/installing.html

The Android SDK starter package

 Not the full development environment, includes the core SDK tools

 Keep track of where you have downloaded this it is required for the ADT plugin setup, e.g.
 C:\Program Files\android-sdk-windows\platformtools>

Useful for "adb" commands



The ADT plugin

 Gives access to Android development tools from within the Eclipse IDE

 Automates the process of building a new Android project by setting up all the basic files needed for development

Allows code signing of your app so it can be distributed

Installing the ADT plugin

(Link: http://developer.android.com/sdk/eclipse-adt.html#installing)

To simplify ADT setup, it is recommend installing the Android SDK prior to installing ADT

.Eclipse 3.5 (Galileo) and 3.6 (Helios)

1.Start Eclipse, then select Help>Install New Software....

2.Click Add, in the top-right corner.

3.In the Add Repository dialog that appears, enter "ADT Plugin" for the Name and the following URL for the Location:

https://dl-ssl.google.com/android/eclipse/

Note: If you have troubles try using "http" instead of "https"Click OK.

4.In the *Available Software* dialog, select the checkbox next to *Developer Tools* and click Next.

5.In the next window, you'll see a list of the tools to be downloaded. Click Next. 6.Read and accept the license agreements, then click Finish.

7. When the installation completes, restart Eclipse.

Configuring the ADT plugin

1.Select Window>Preferences...to open the Preferences panel (Mac OS X:Eclipse>Preferences).

2.Select Android from the left panel.

3.For the SDK Location in the main panel, click **Browse...**and locate your downloaded SDK directory (e.g. C:\Program Files\android-sdk-windows\)

4.Click **Apply**, then **OK**

Android SDK and AVD manager

Add your virtual development devices using this
AVD is a target device simulator: no sensors

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Android SDK and AVD Manager

Used for updating Android SDK tools etc.



Pointers

Update the system's PATH variable to recognize two folders inside your **android-sdk-winwows**. The first is: **tools** and the second is **platform-tools**.

 Windows > Start > Control Panel > System > Advanced > Environment Variables > System Variables > PATH > Edit
 Add references to the sub-folders mentioned above. In this example: c:\android-sdk-windows\tools;C:\android-sdk-windows\platform-tools;
 OK

Make sure Java and Eclipse Environments and path variables are setup correctly:

Some interesting tutorials on Android projects can be found on:

http://www.hometutorials.com/google-android.html

Starters: "Hello World"

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Standard Android platform 2.3.3

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Android Project Components

Once you complete the New Project Wizard, ADT creates the following folders and files in your new project:

•src/ Includes your stub Activity Java file. All other Java files for your application go here.

•<Android Version>I (e.g., Android 1.5/) Includes the android.jar file that your application will build against.

•gen/ This contains the Java files generated by ADT, such as your R.java file and interfaces created from AIDL files.

•assets/This is empty. You can use it to store raw asset files.

•**res**/A folder for your application resources, such as *drawable* files, *layout* files, *string* values, etc.

•AndroidManifest.xml The Android Manifest for your project.

 default.properties This file contains project settings, such as the build target.



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2 Hello World

A Tabbed application

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Accessing Sensors

There are various sensors on the Android phones, e.g. GPS, camera, accelerometer

Cannot be tested on Simulator

 Tutorial and sample source code to use GPS and accelerometer sensors available soon

Using the Wi-Fi and Bluetooth Interfaces instructions on:

http://www.tutorialforandroid.com/2009/10/turn-off-turn-on-wifi-in-android-using.html http://developer.android.com/guide/topics/wireless/bluetooth.html

GPS Sensor Access

• To use GPS functionality in your Android application, you'll need to add the ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION permission to the AndroidManifest.xml file.

<uses-permission
android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION" />

 In Android, location-based services are provided by the LocationManager class located in the android.location package.

 Using the LocationManager class, your application can obtain periodic updates of the device's geographical locations as well as fire an intent when it enters the proximity of a certain location.

Accelerometer and Access to other Sensors

• An instance of the SensorManager is required in order to retrieve informations about the supported sensors.

 No permission is required to access the sensor service. It is then possible to retrieve the list of available sensors of a certain type.

• For an accelerometer sensor, the type to use is given by the Sensor.TYPE_ACCELEROMETER constant.

 If at least one Sensor exists, it is possible to register a SensorEventListener for a Sensor of the list.

 It is possible to specify the delivering rate for sensor events. Specified rate must be one of : SensorManager.SENSOR_DELAY_FASTEST : as fast as possible

SensorManager.SENSOR_DELAY_GAME : rate suitable for game

SensorManager.SENSOR_DELAY_NORMAL : normal rate SensorManager.SENSOR_DELAY_UI : rate suitable for UI Thread

Android and Databases

 Access to remote database e.g. MySQL can occur using a PHP script hosted on the server performing the query and JSON formatting for data exchange for reference check out the example at:

http://www.helloandroid.com/tutorials/connectingmysql-database

Local light weight database system.

http://developer.android.com/reference/android/d atabase/sqlite/SQLiteDatabase.html

http://developer.android.com/index.html