

Developing Applications for iOS



Lab 5: Nearby Deals (1 of 6)

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Nearby Deals

Description:

We are going to build a new application that will show deals from nearby restaurants and bars. The application will display the deals in two modes: a list view (using a `UITableViewController`) and a map view (using a `MKMapView`). We will request the deals from a server (www.geoadsplus.com to be more precise). We will use XML to communicate with this server. Note that XML and JSON are standard ways of communicating with a server.

We have to pass the device location (latitude, longitude) to the server so that it gives us nearby deals. Thus, we will need to use Location Services to determine the device location.

We will offer details about our deals. We are going to use a navigation controller to navigate between the list View and the details View.

The following screenshots are just a mock-up of the application that we are going to start building today. We will continue this app during the next 5 labs.

Nearby Deals



Task 1

Task: Create a new application in Xcode called “NearbyDeals”.

1. Launch Xcode and select the “Create a new Xcode project” option. If you don't see the splash window, you should go to “File > New > New Project...” in Xcode menu.
2. Select the Single View Application template and click Next.

We are actually going to build a Tabbed Application (using a `UITabBarController`) as you can see on the previous slide, but we are going to do it from scratch so that you can learn how to create complex Storyboards yourself.

3. Type in “NearbyDeals” for the Product Name.
4. Enter “com.FMI.FirstName.LastName” for the Company Identifier. Notice how Bundle Identifier changes as you type. You should obtain something like “com.FMI.Radu.Ionescu.Calculator” as your bundle identifier.
5. Enter “NearbyDeals” as the Class Prefix for the classes this template is going to generate for us.

Task 1

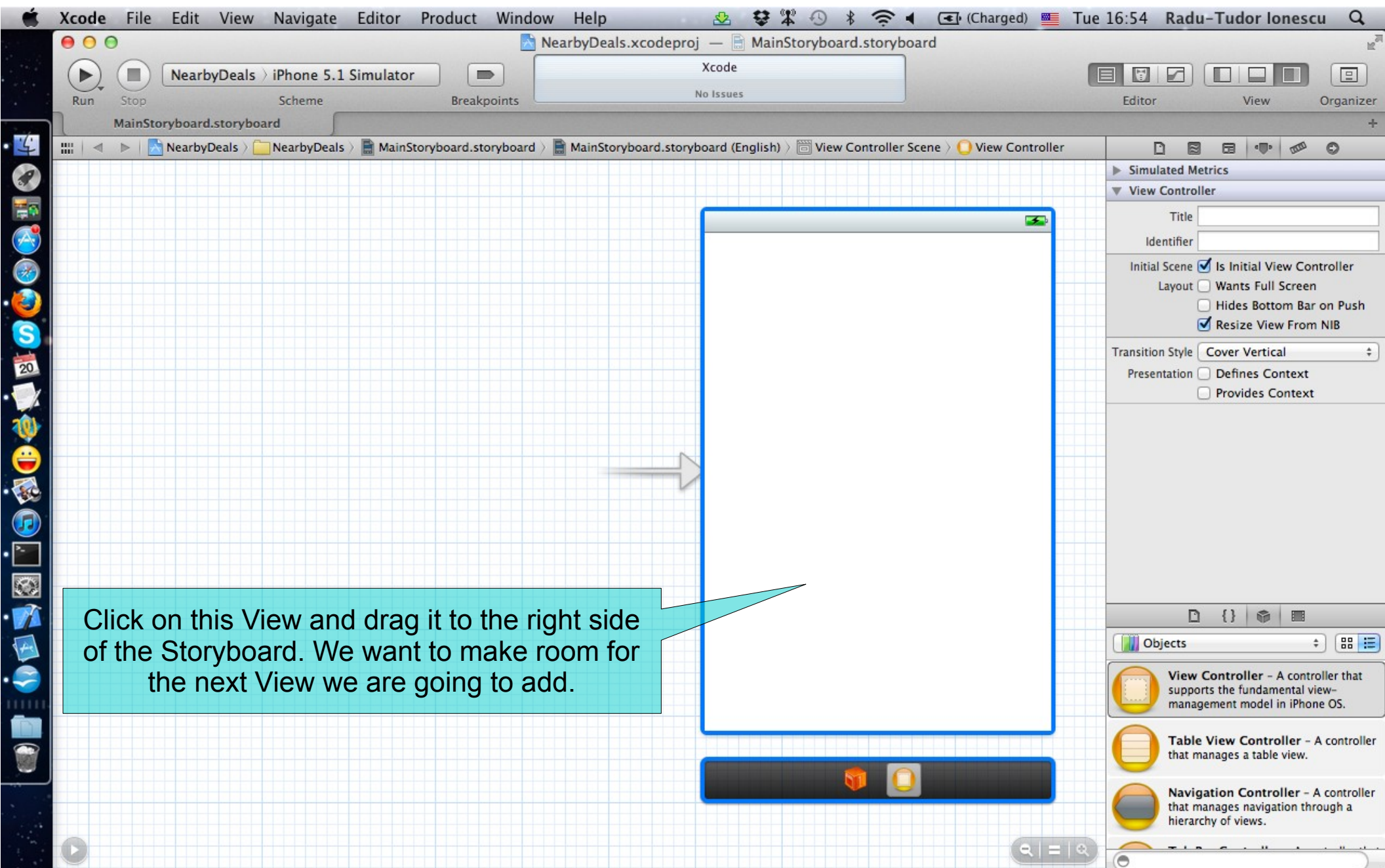
Task: Create a new application in Xcode called “NearbyDeals”.

6. Select “iPhone” for Device Family.
7. Check “Use Storyboard”. We definitely want to use Storyboards for this app that will contain more Views. We will segue from one View to another using Storyboards.
8. Check “Use Automatic Reference Counting”.
9. We won't be creating Unit Tests for this application so we are going to leave the “Include Unit Tests” option unchecked.
10. Click Next.
11. Navigate to “~/Developer/Apps/” folder inside the home directory. If you want to keep your project for later use, please save it in a directory with your name like this: “~/Developer/Apps/<YourName>”.
12. Click Create to create your project directory inside the “~/Developer/Apps” folder.

Task 2

Task: Start building the app by creating its Storyboard.

1. Open up our MVC's View by clicking on MainStoryboard.storyboard in Project Navigator.
2. Hide the Document Outline if it's not already hidden.
3. We don't need the Project Navigator at the far left either, so let's hide it by using the "Hide or show the Navigator" button available on the Toolbar.
4. Bring up the Utilities area by clicking on the "Hide or show the Utilities" button that is also available on the Toolbar.
5. In Utilities area, click on the Object Library (it might already be selected). Some objects (those appropriate to dragging into your View) should appear in the Object Library.
6. Your Xcode project should be set up as in the next screenshot. We are now ready to create the Storyboard.

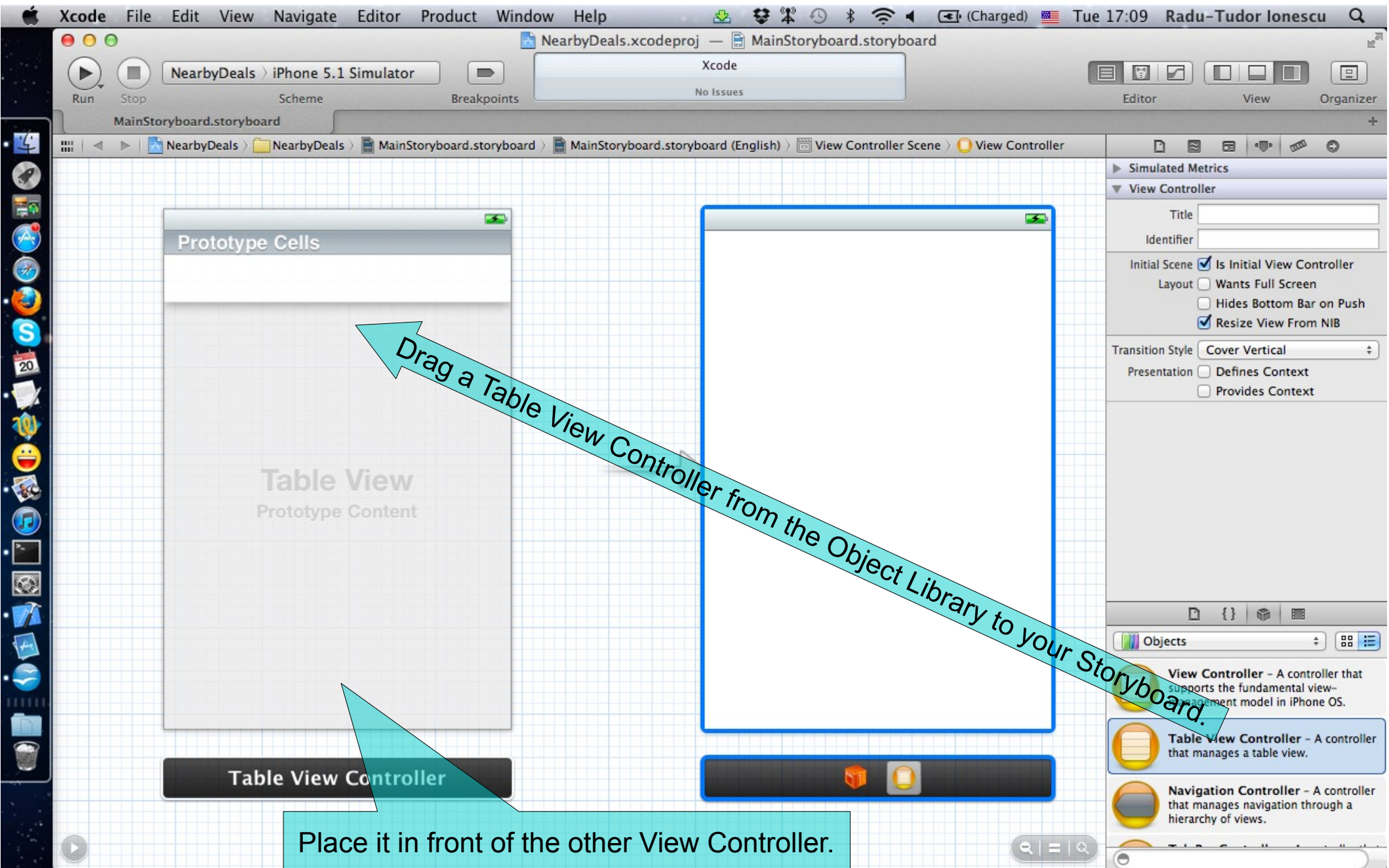


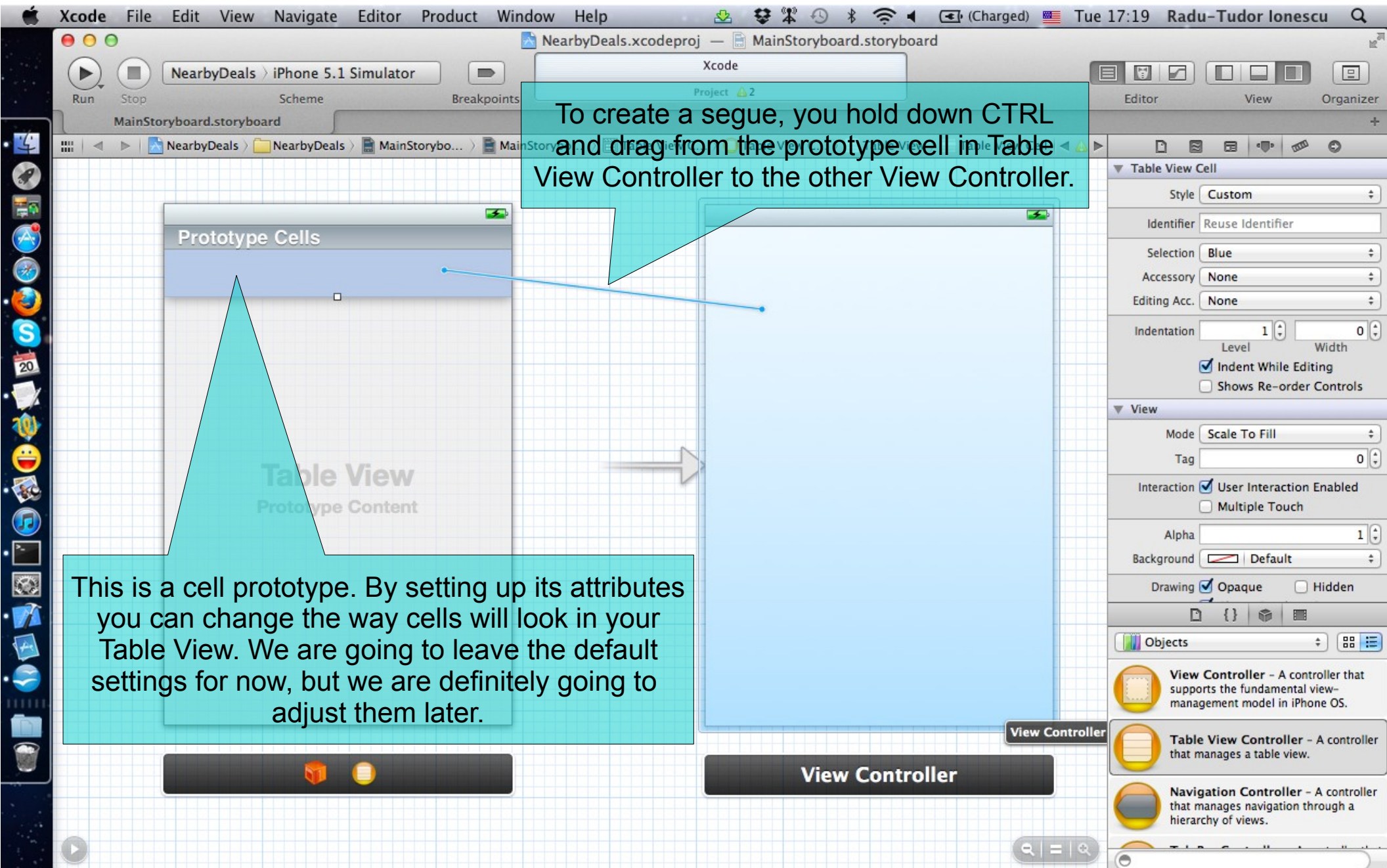
Task 2

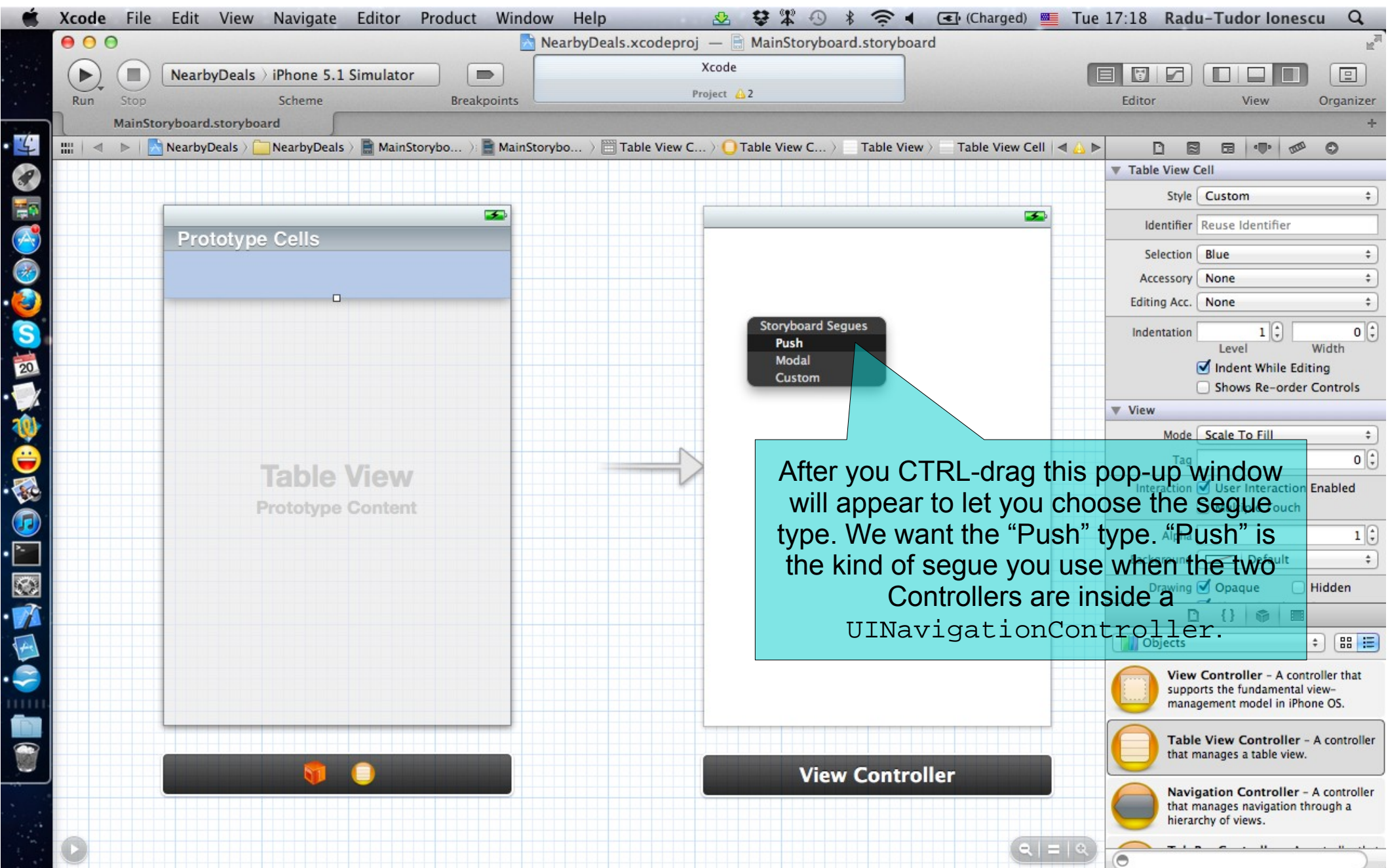
Task: Start building the app by creating its Storyboard.

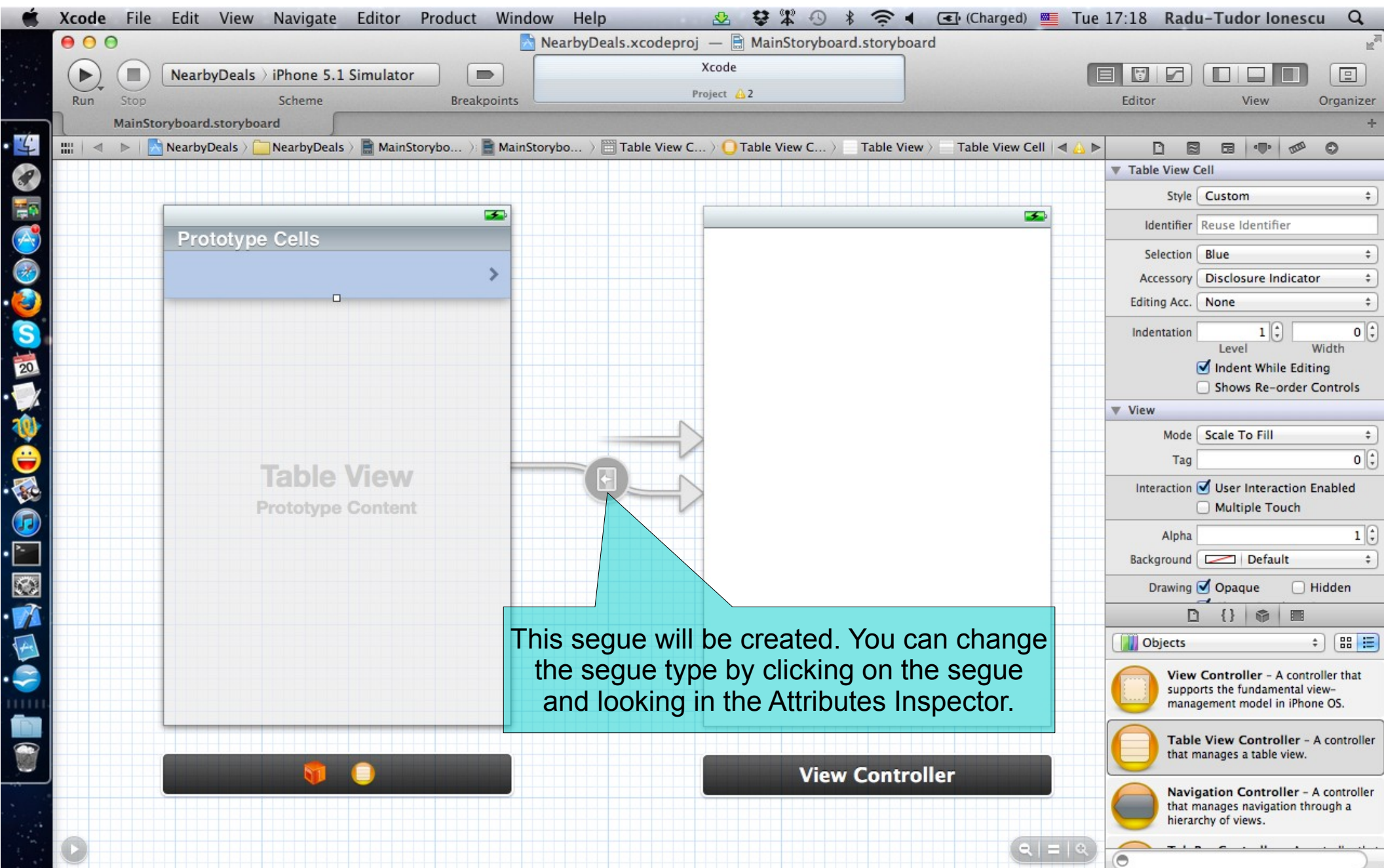
7. We are going to add a Table View Controller to our Storyboard that will contain the list of nearby deals. The current View Controller will be used to present deal details. We are going to create a segue from the Table View Controller to this View Controller.

Follow the instructions from the next slides to learn how to do this.

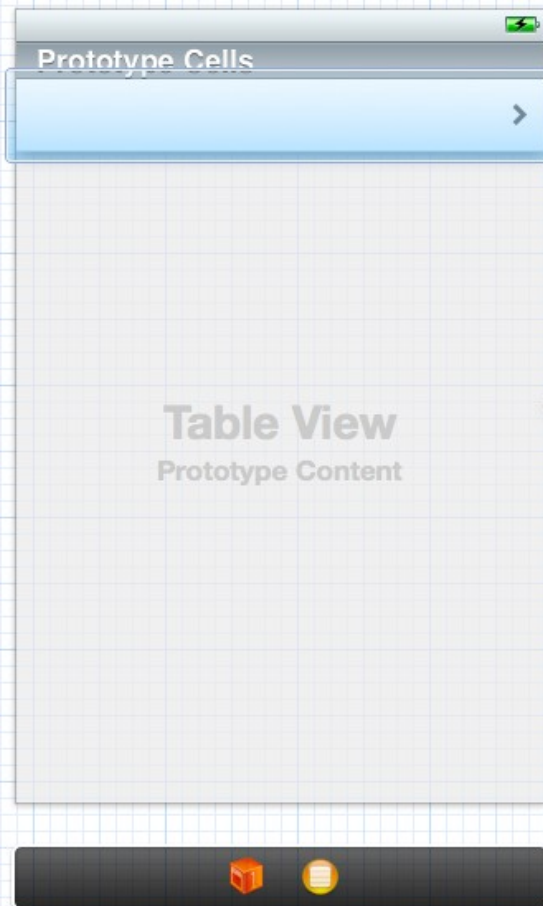




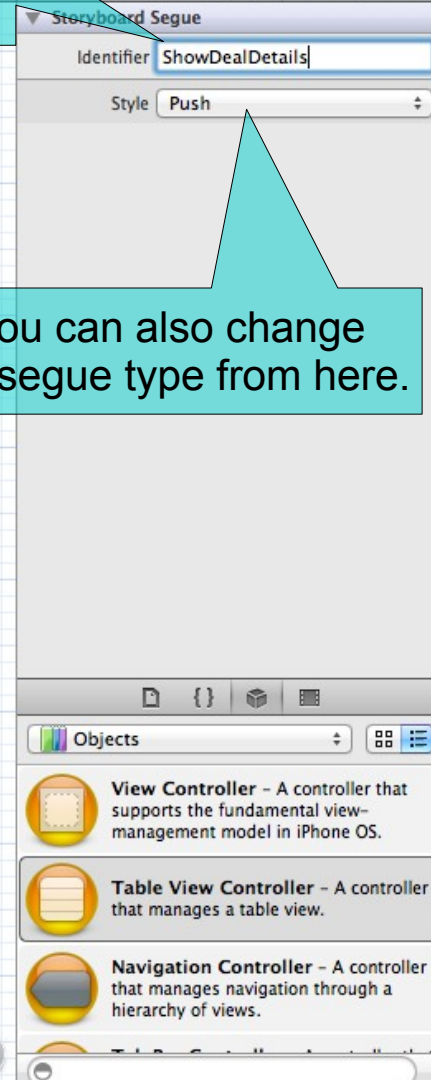


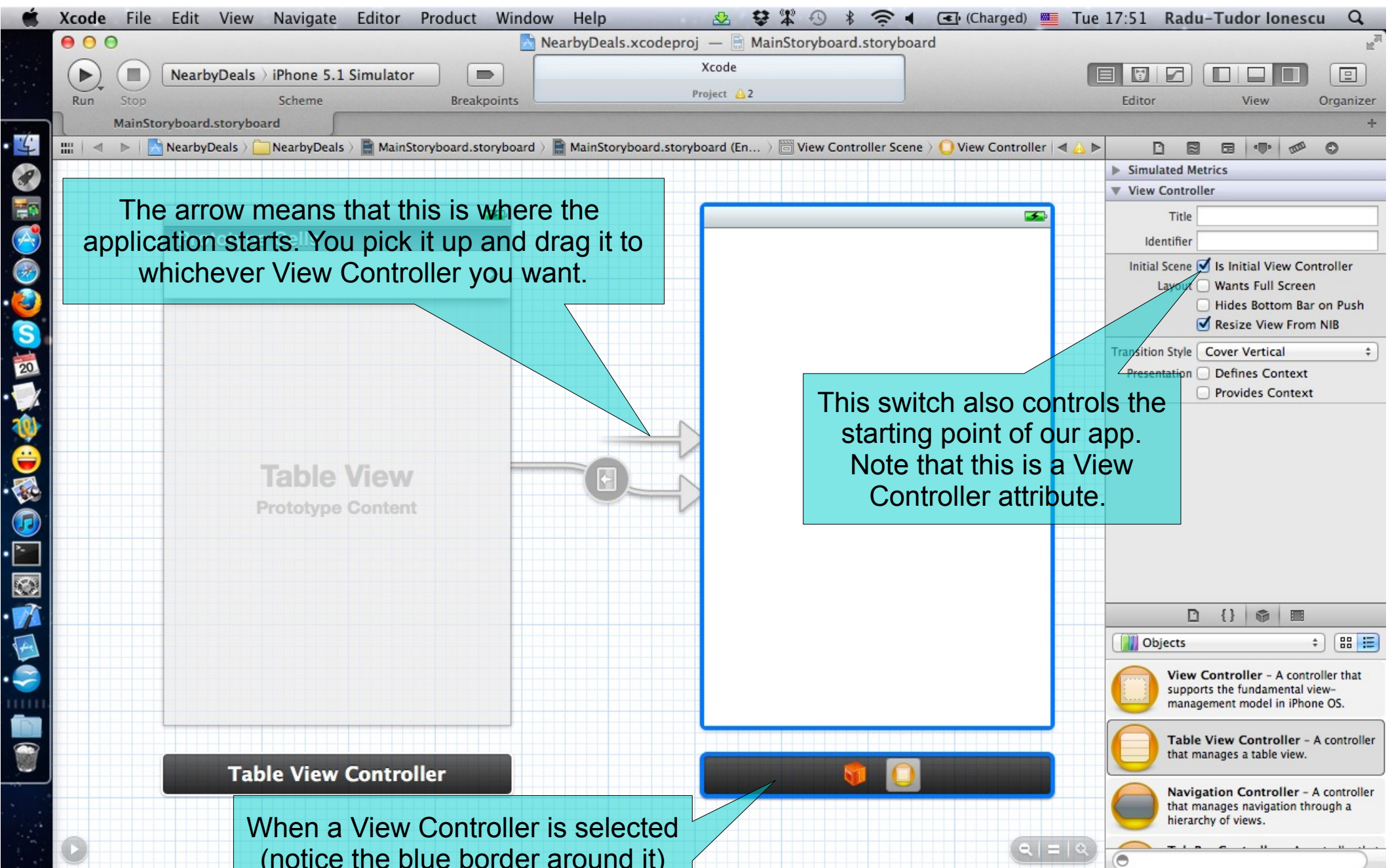


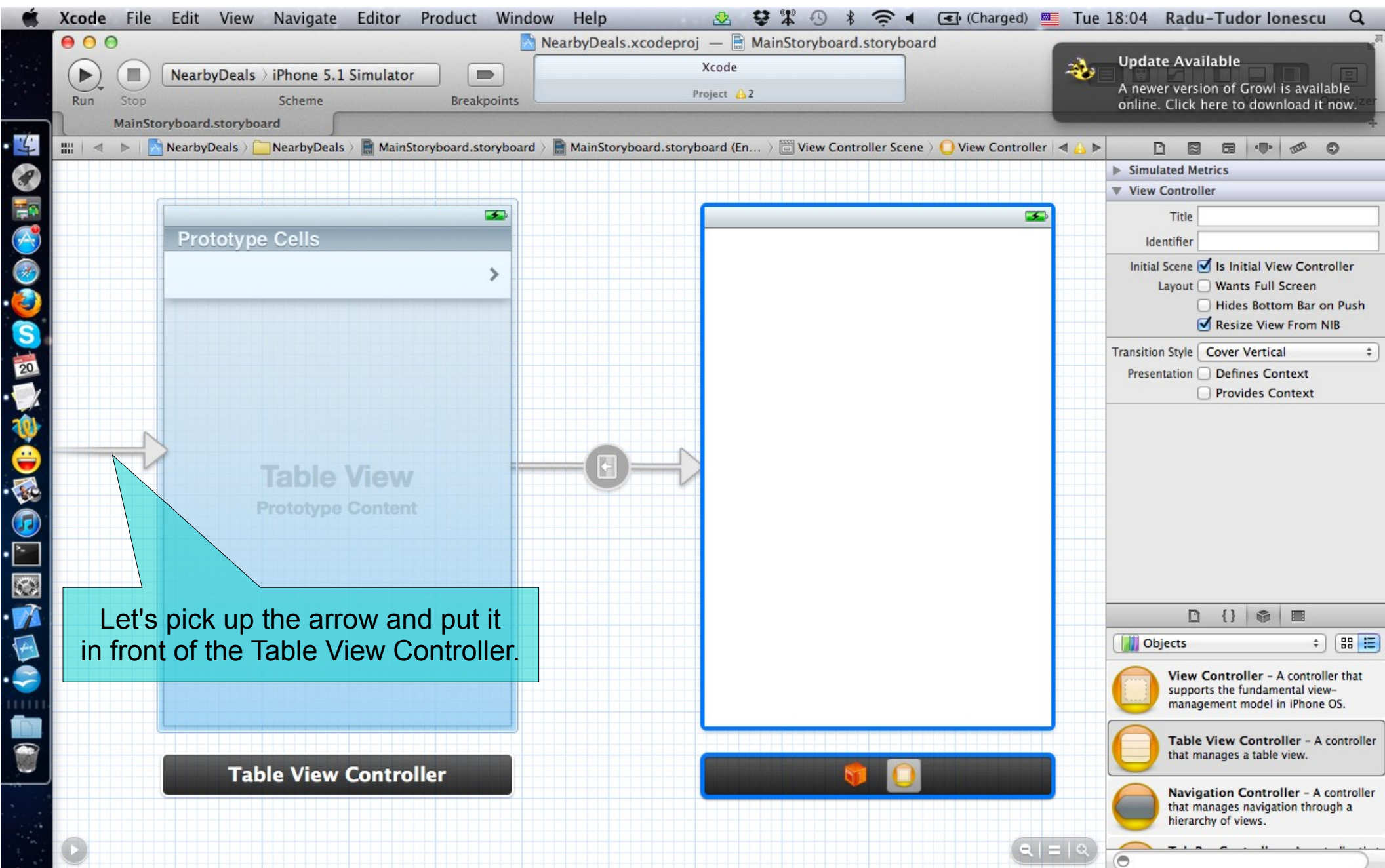
This is the identifier for this segue. You use it in `prepareForSegue:sender:` to figure out which segue is happening. Or you can use it to programmatically force a segue with `performSegueWithIdentifier:sender:`.
Type in "ShowDealDetails" for this segue identifier.



You can also change the segue type from here.





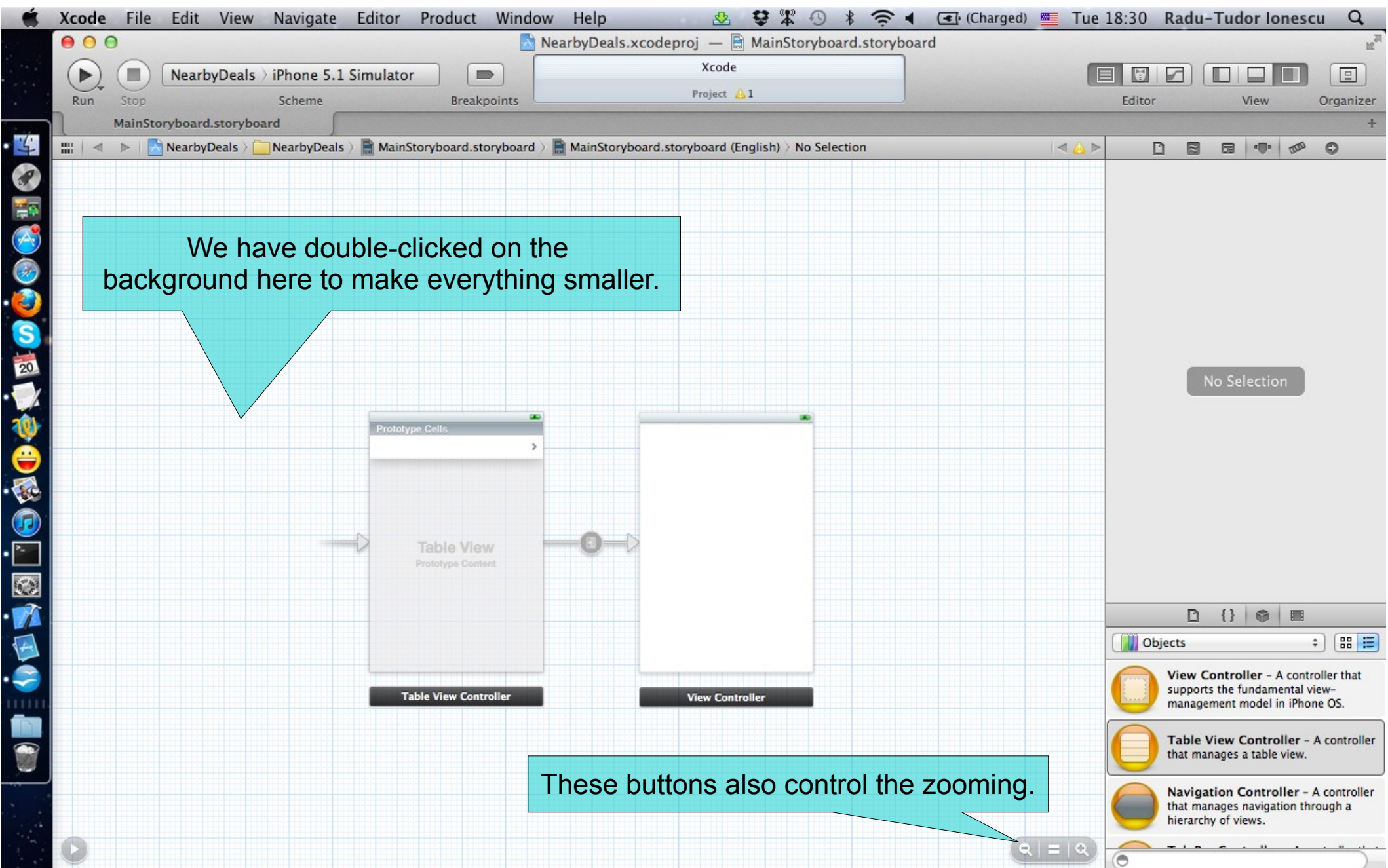


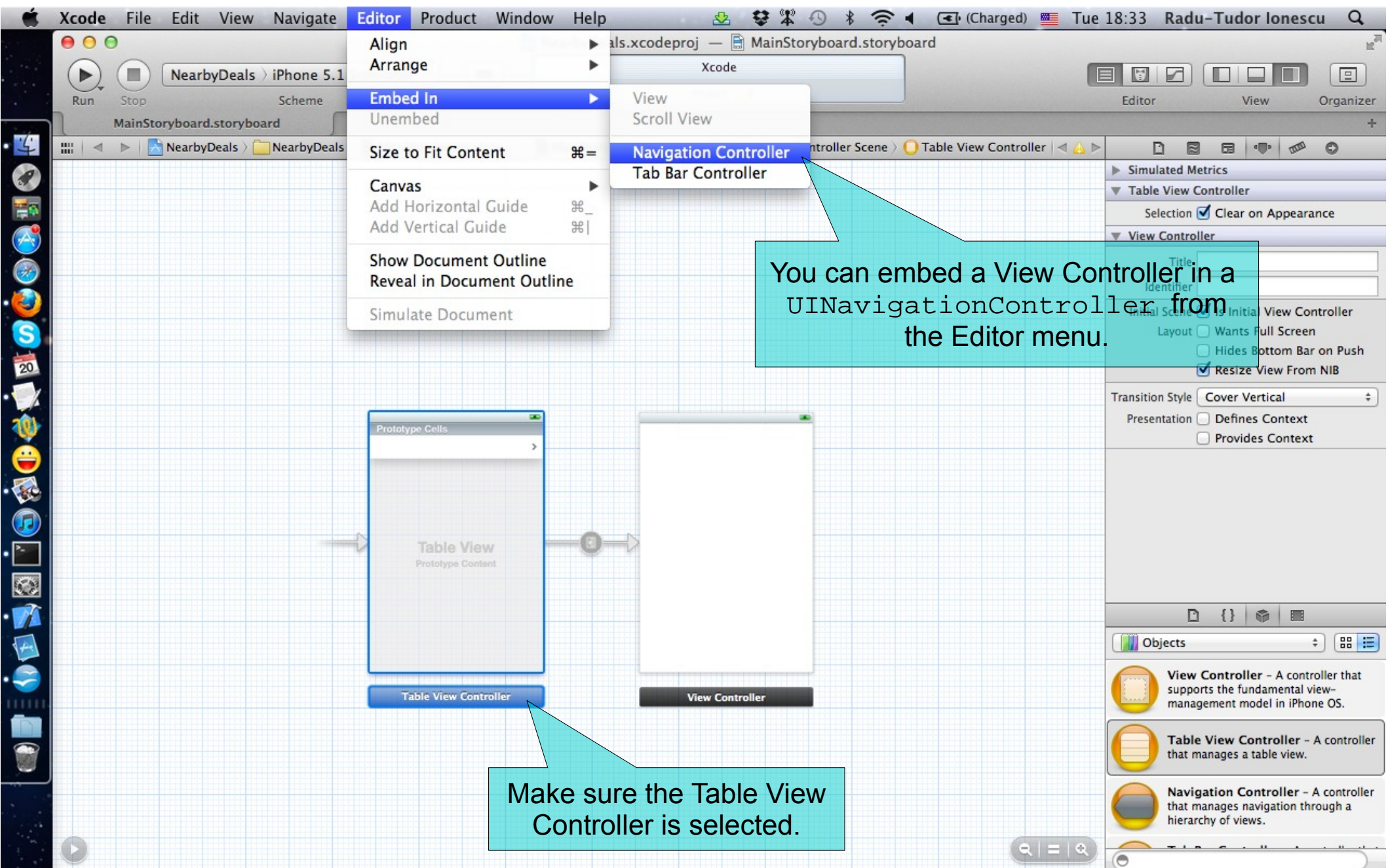
Task 2

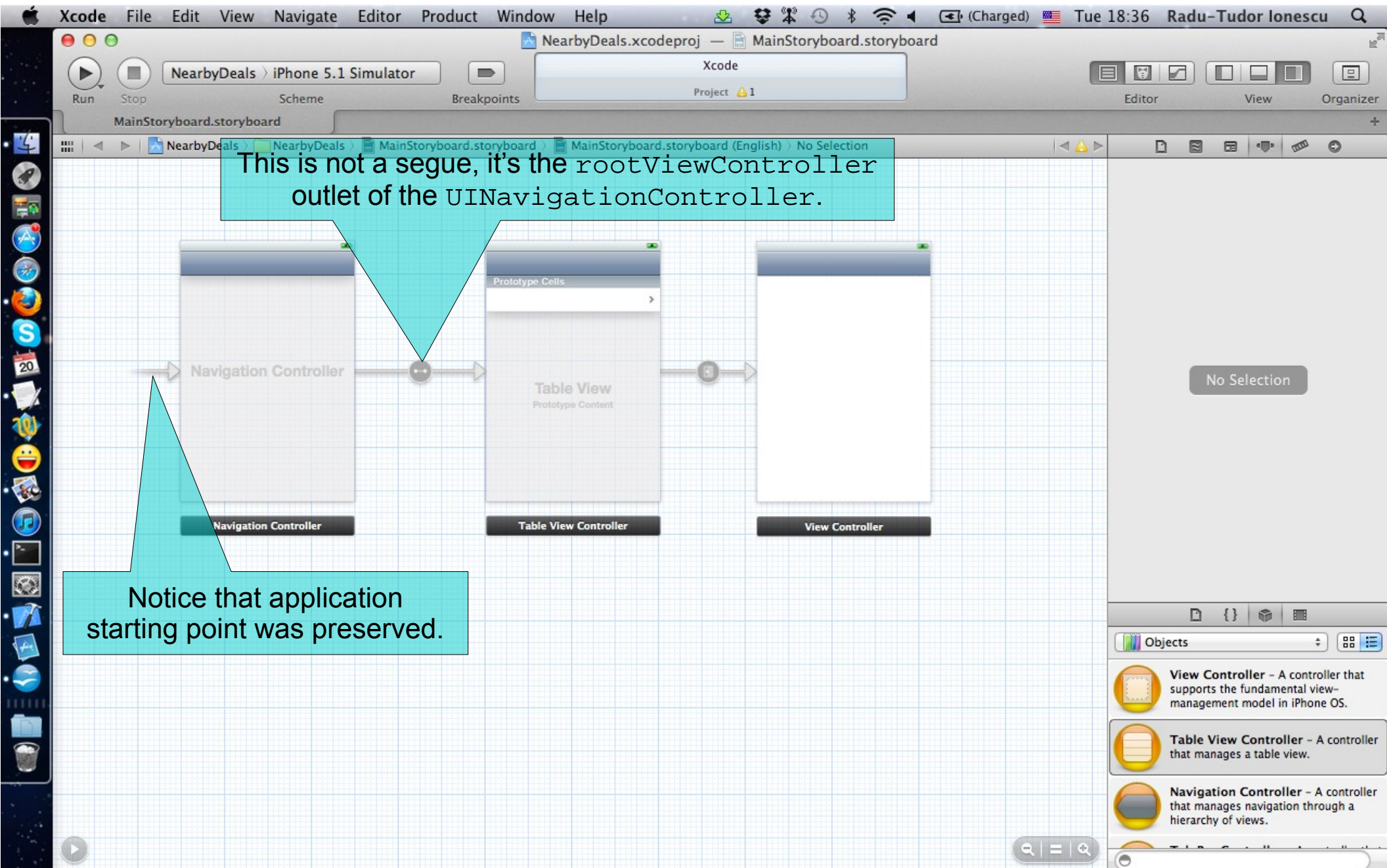
Task: Start building the app by creating its Storyboard.

8. We have created our first segue but there is a problem here. These View Controllers are not inside a UINavigationController. Push will do nothing in this case.

We have to embed our View Controllers inside a Navigation Controller. Follow the instructions from the next slides to learn how to do this step.





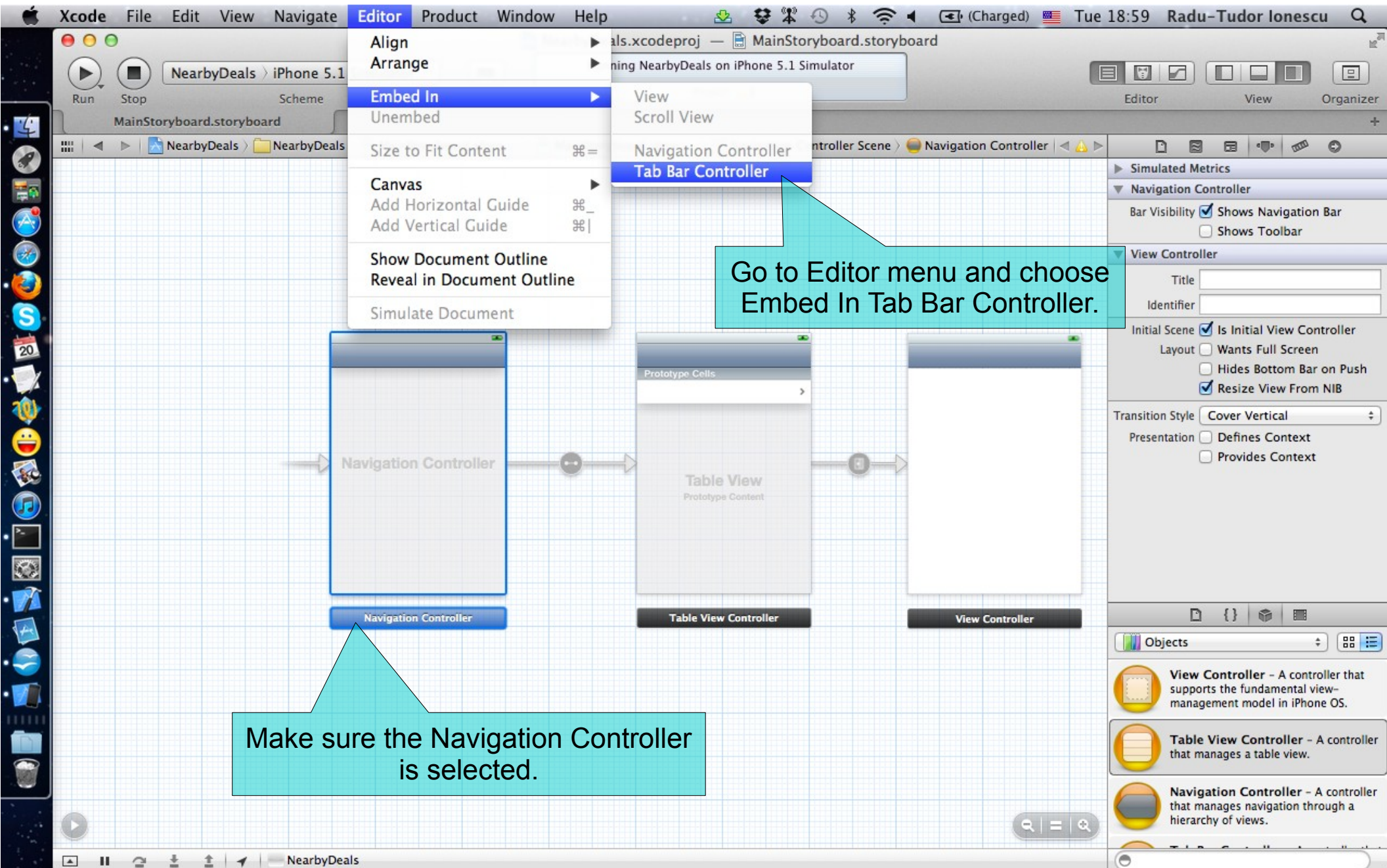


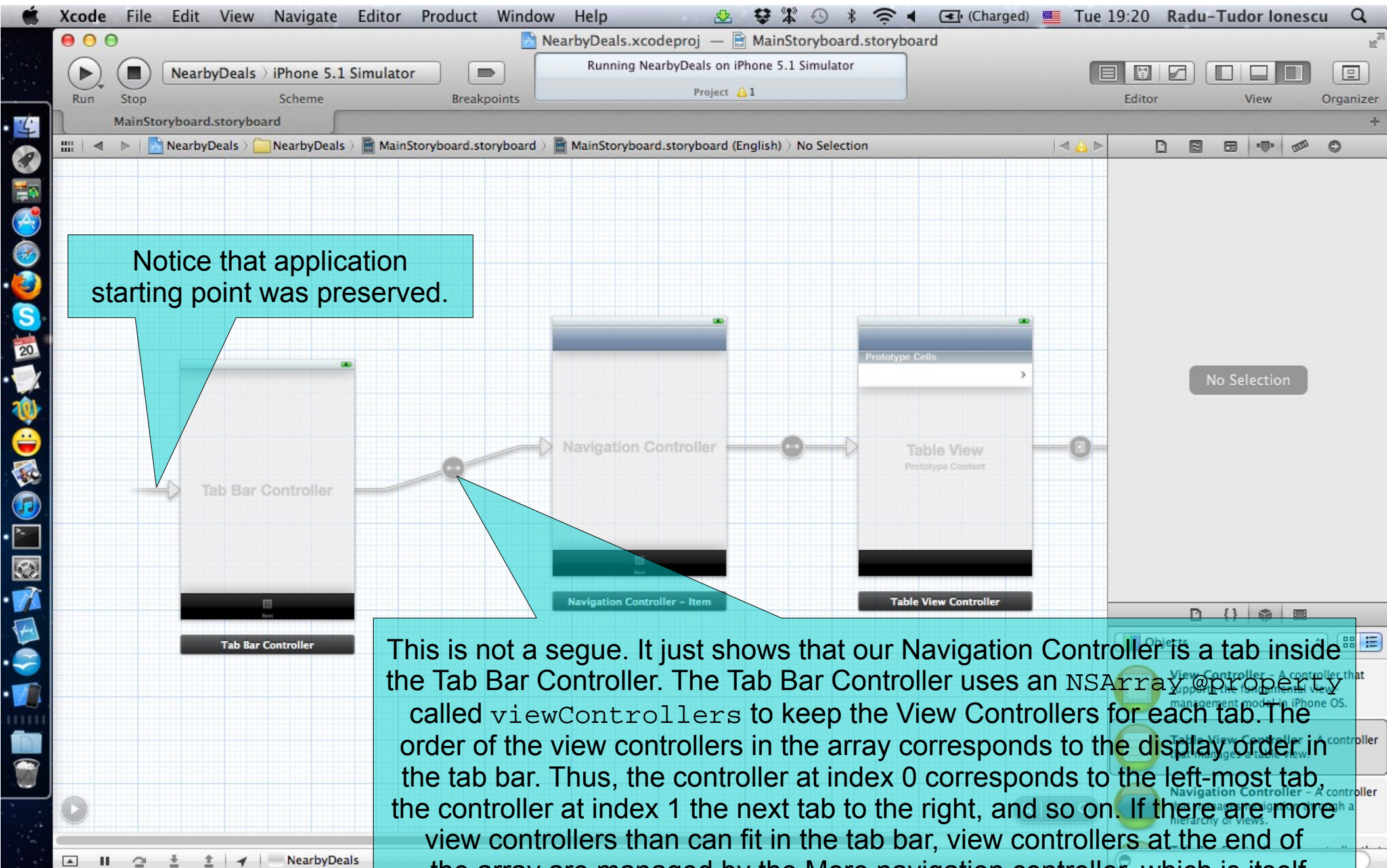
Task 2

Task: Start building the app by creating its Storyboard.

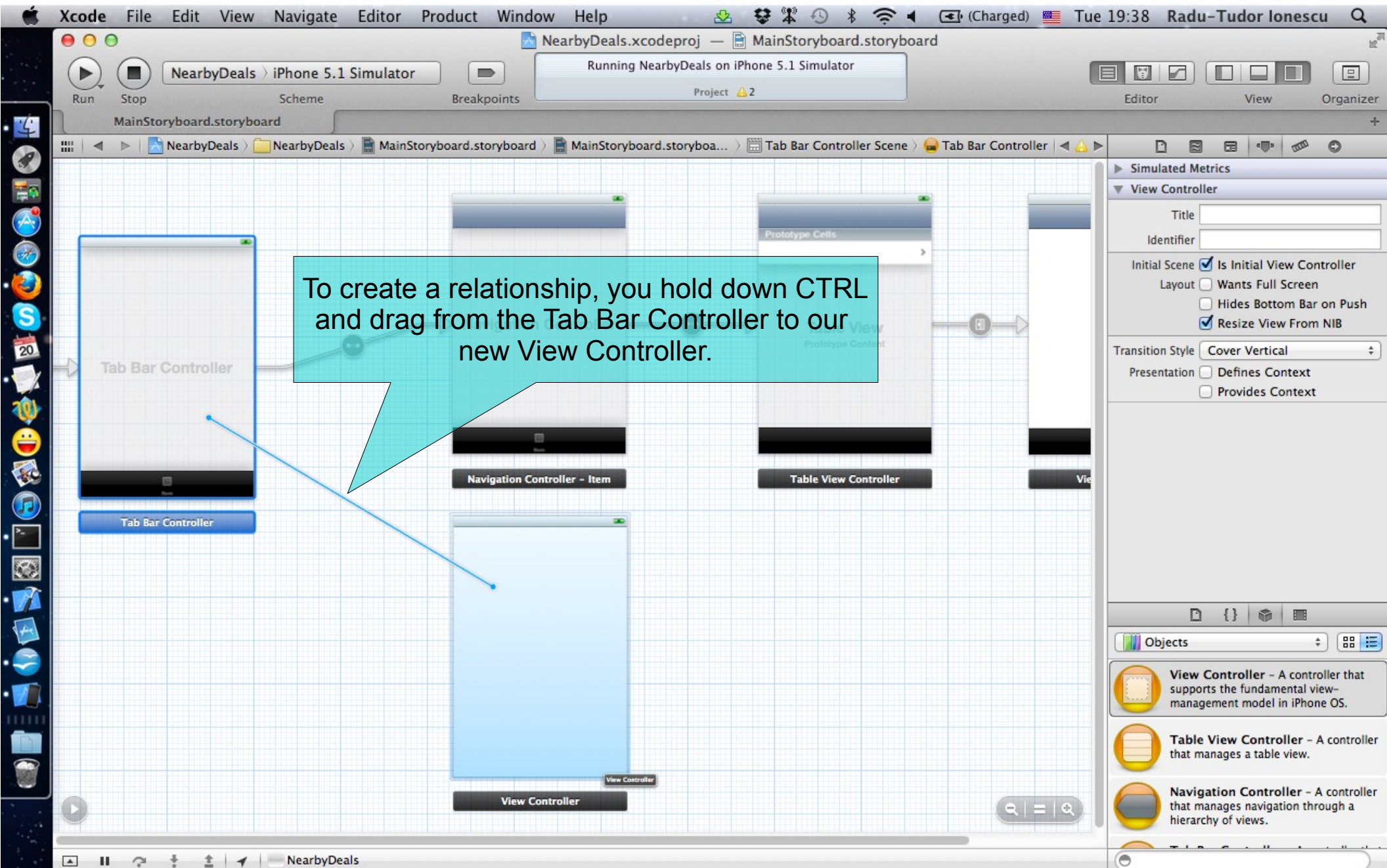
9. In a similar way, we will embed the Navigation Controller inside a Tab Bar Controller. Note that this is always the way to go (we never embed a Tab Bar Controller inside a Navigation Controller).
10. To complete the application Storyboard we will add another View Controller to the Tab Bar for the map view.

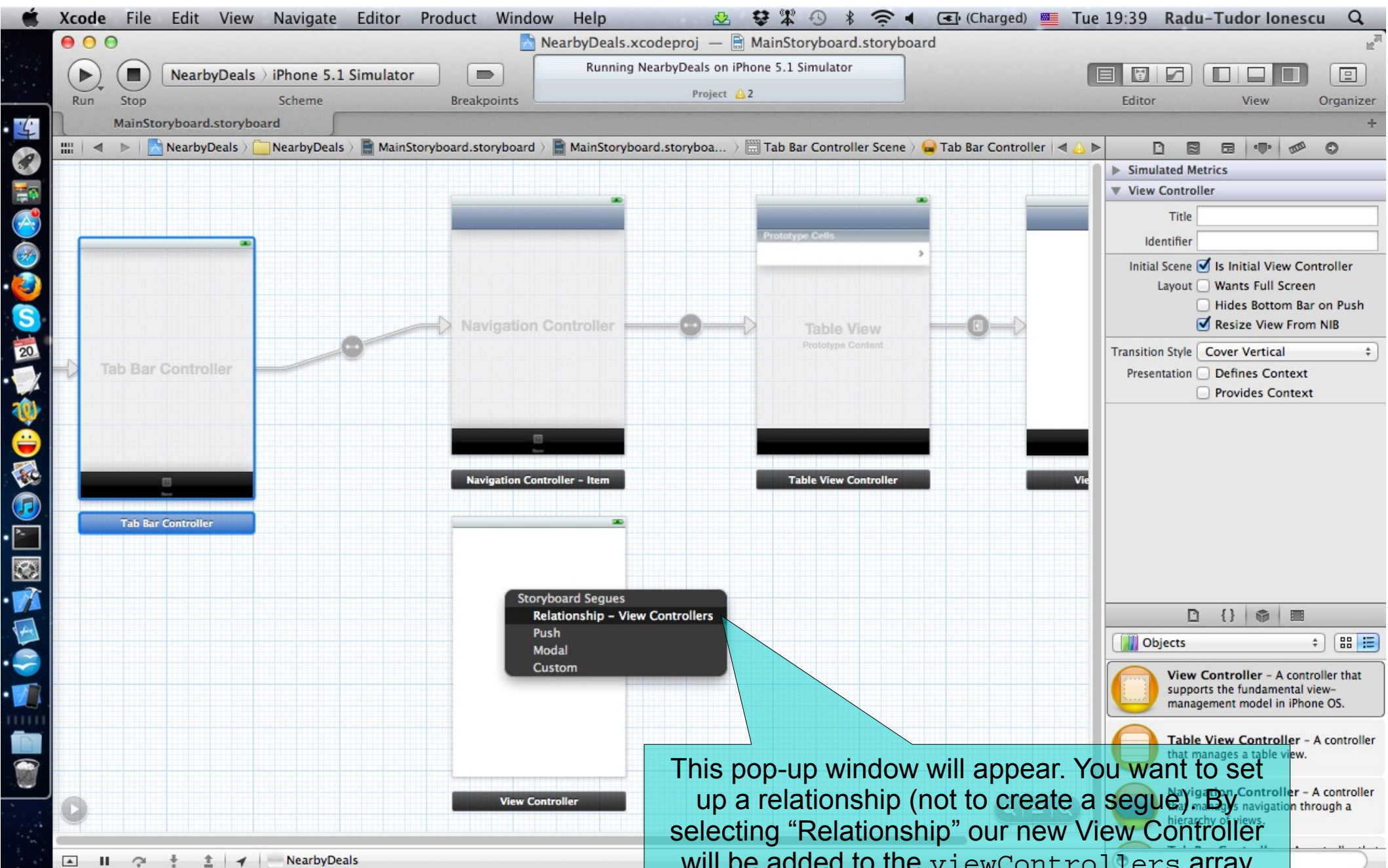
Follow the instructions from the next slides to learn how to do these steps.

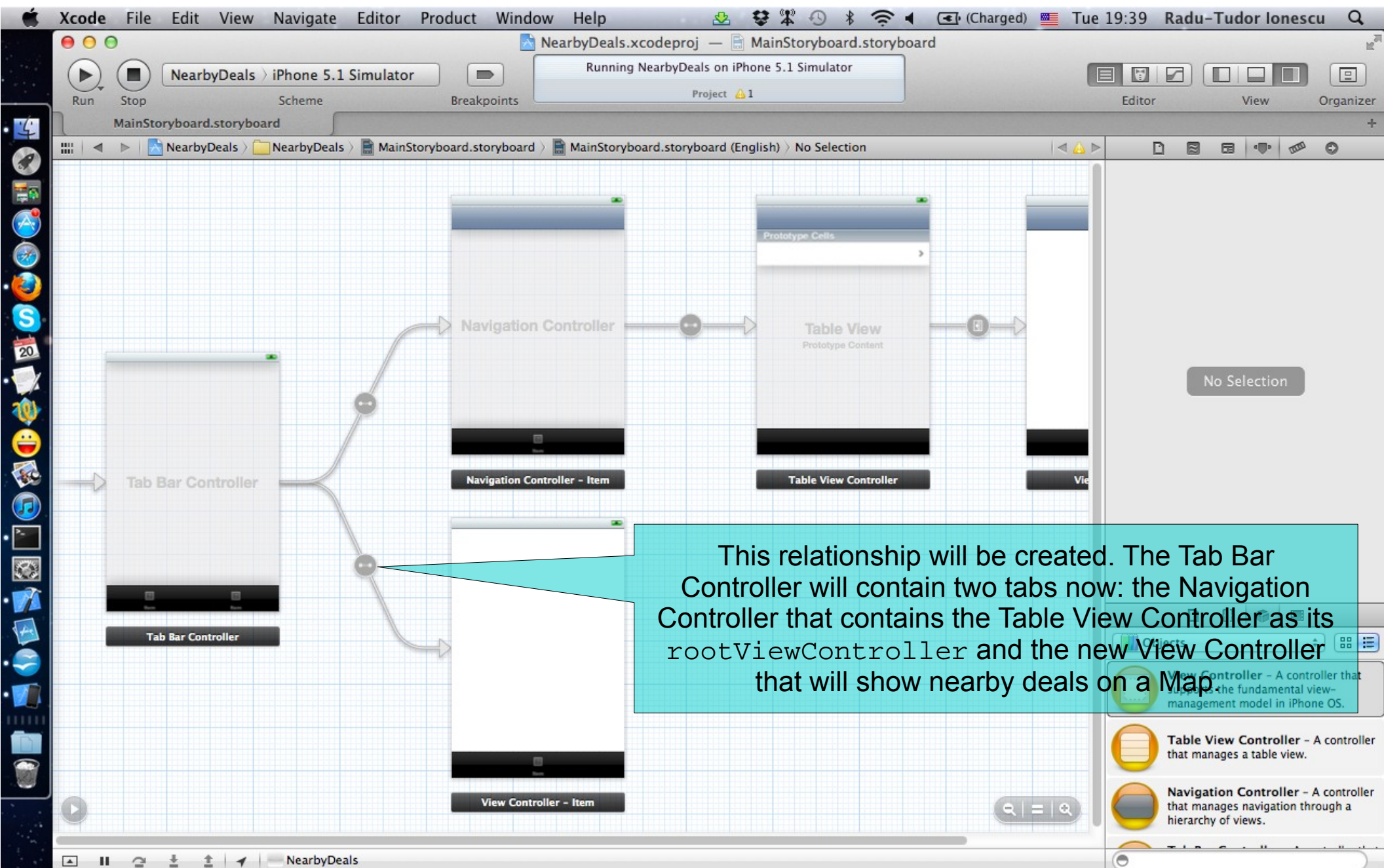










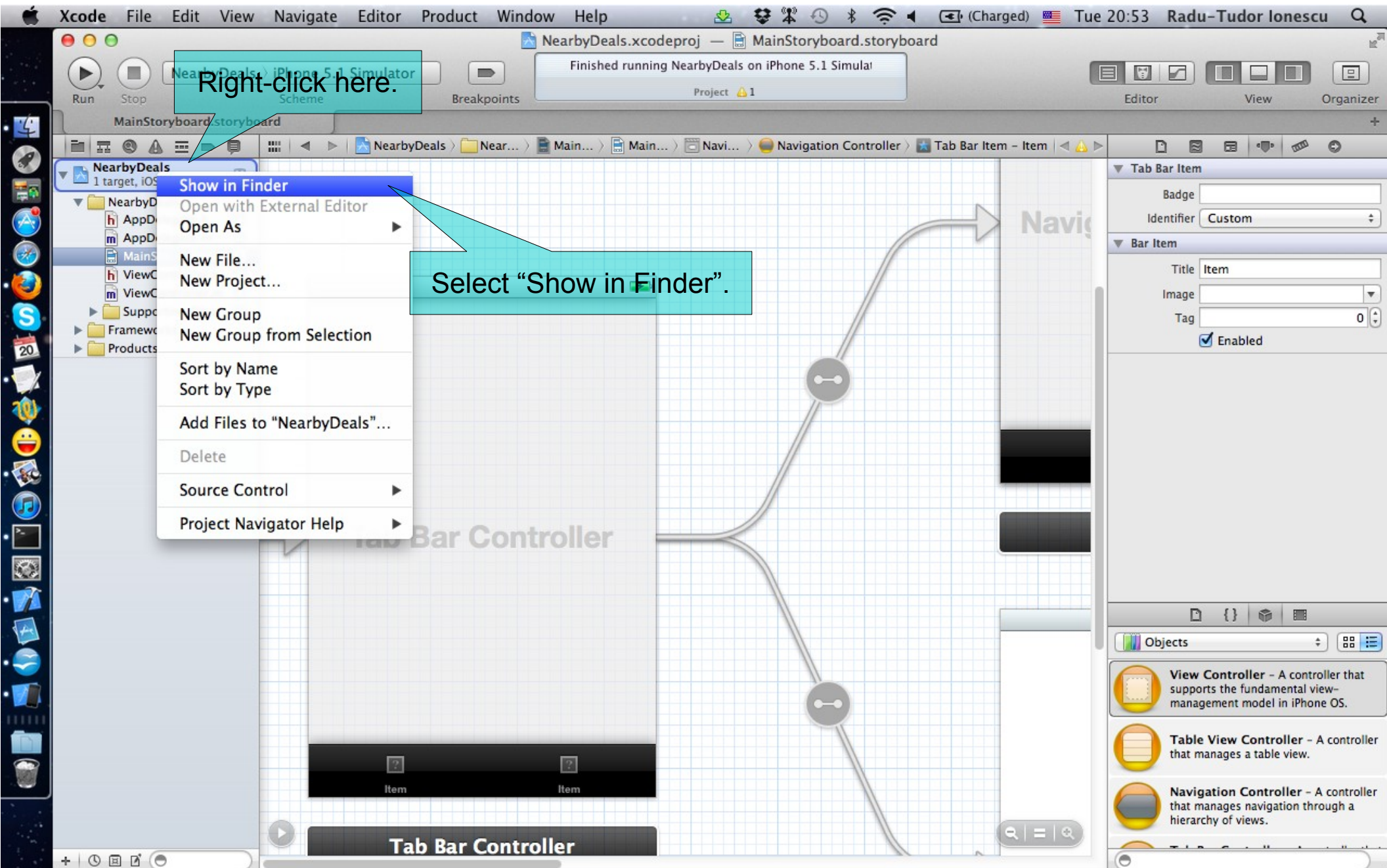


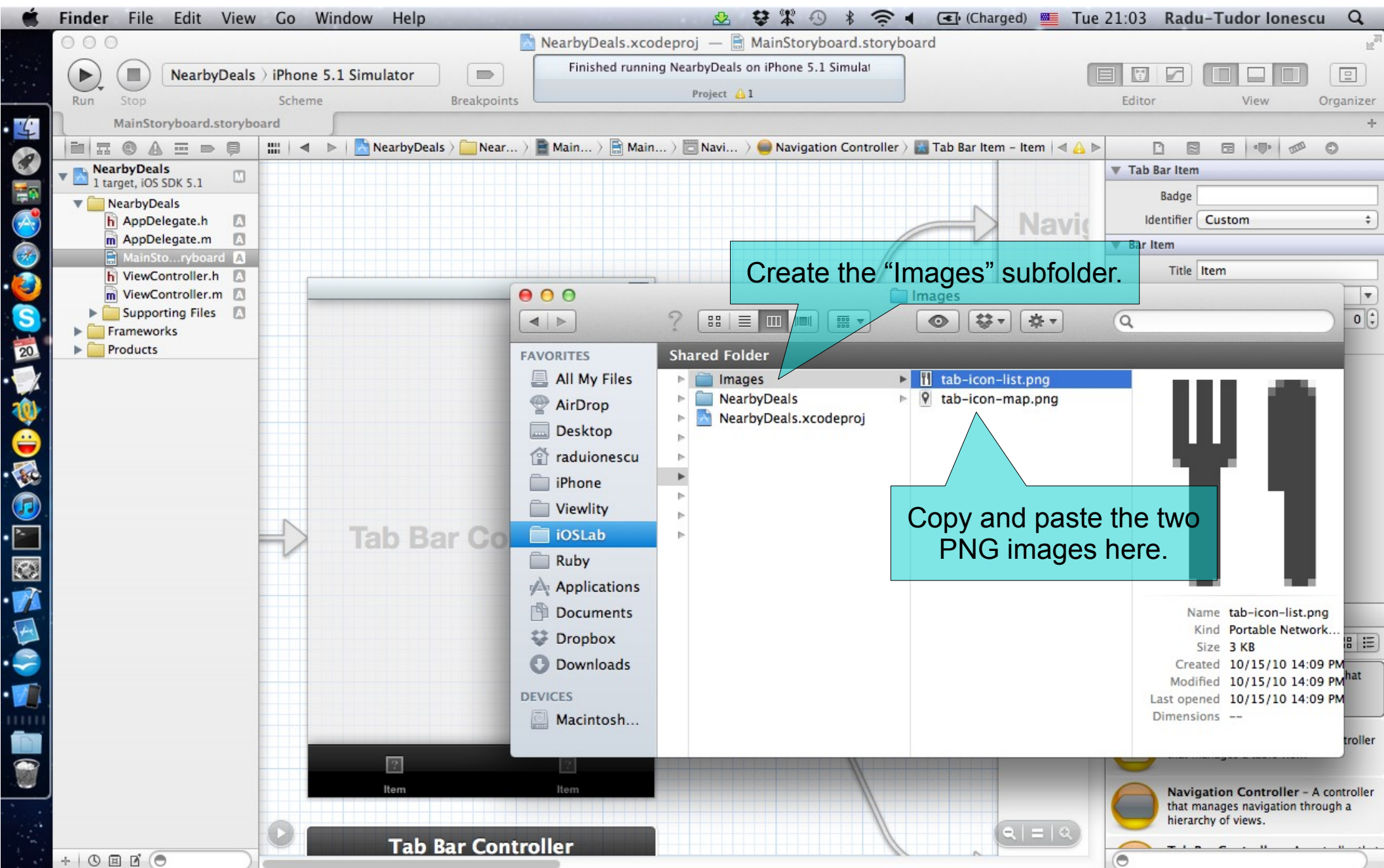
Task 3

Task: Add tab icons for the two tabs of the application.

1. Open Project Navigator and right-click on the NearbyDeals Project.
2. Select the “Show in Finder” option.
3. In Finder create a new folder and name it “Images”. We are going to use this folder to put images that we want to add to our Project. It is a good practice to keep a separate subfolder for this.
4. Copy and paste (using CMD + C and CMD + V, respectively) the “tab-icon-list.png” and “tab-icon-map.png” files to the “Images” subfolder. You might want to open another Finder window for this (use the CMD + N shortcut to do it).

See the next screenshots for extra help.





Task 3

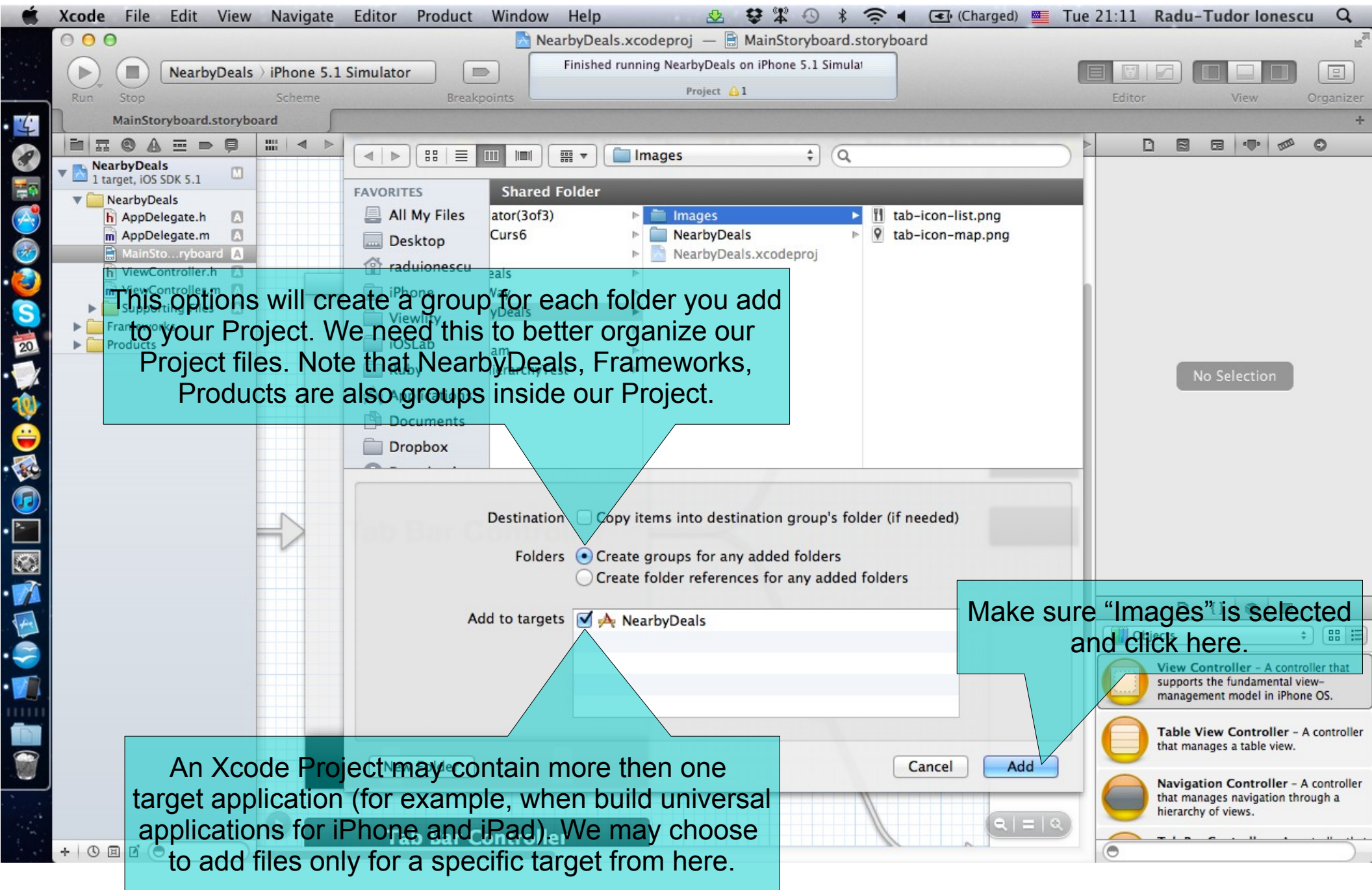
Task: Add tab icons for the two tabs of the application.

5. Close Finder and go back to Xcode. It's time to add the Images subfolder to our Project.

Right-click on the NearbyDeals Project and select the “Add Files to NearbyDeals ...” option.

6. Search for the “Images” folder you've just created.
7. Make sure “Create groups for any added folders” is selected.
8. Click “Add” to add the “Images” folder to your project.
9. Make sure the “Images” folder appears in Project Navigator before you continue.

See the next screenshot for extra help.



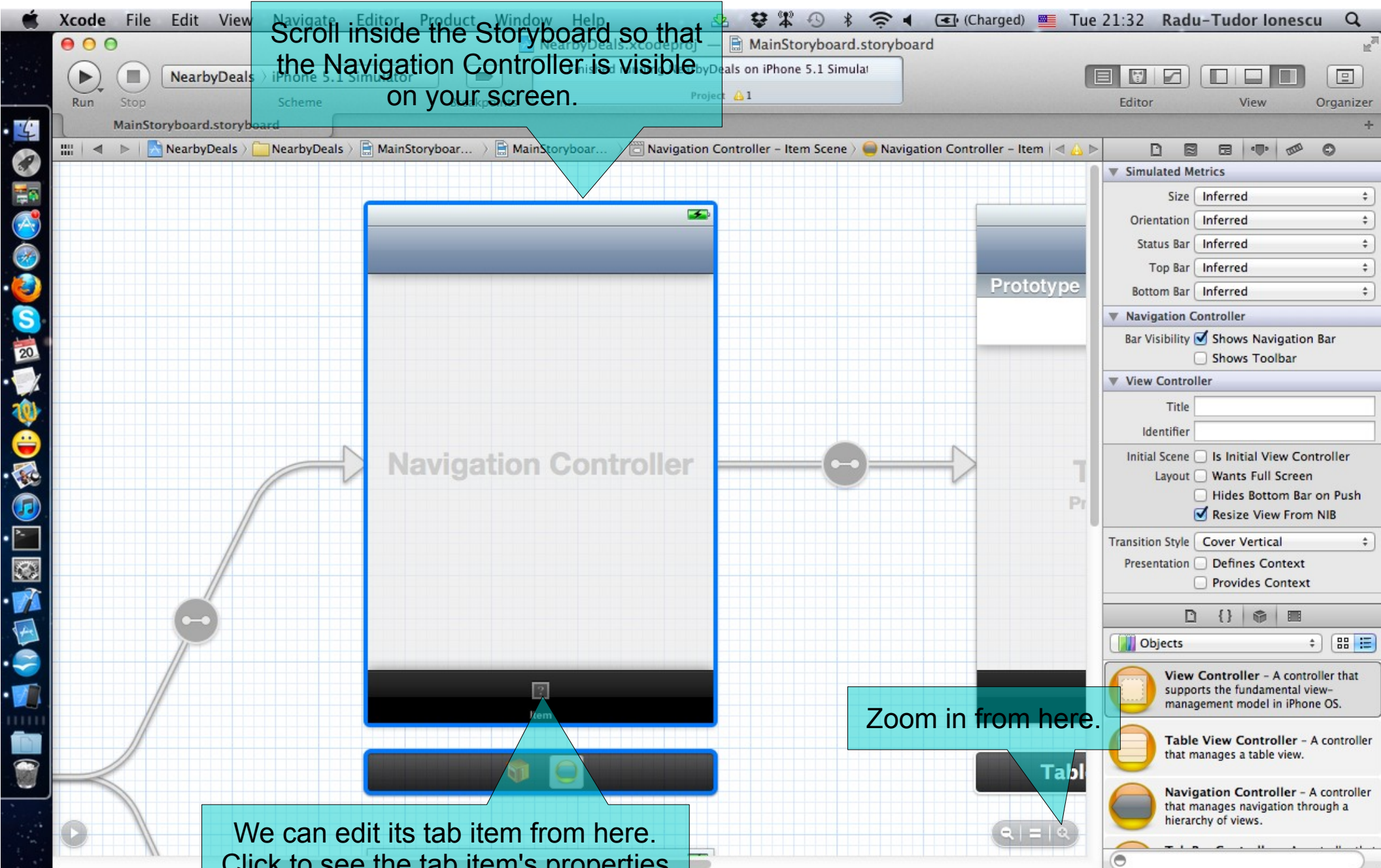
Task 3

Task: Add tab icons for the two tabs of the application.

10. Hide Project Navigator.

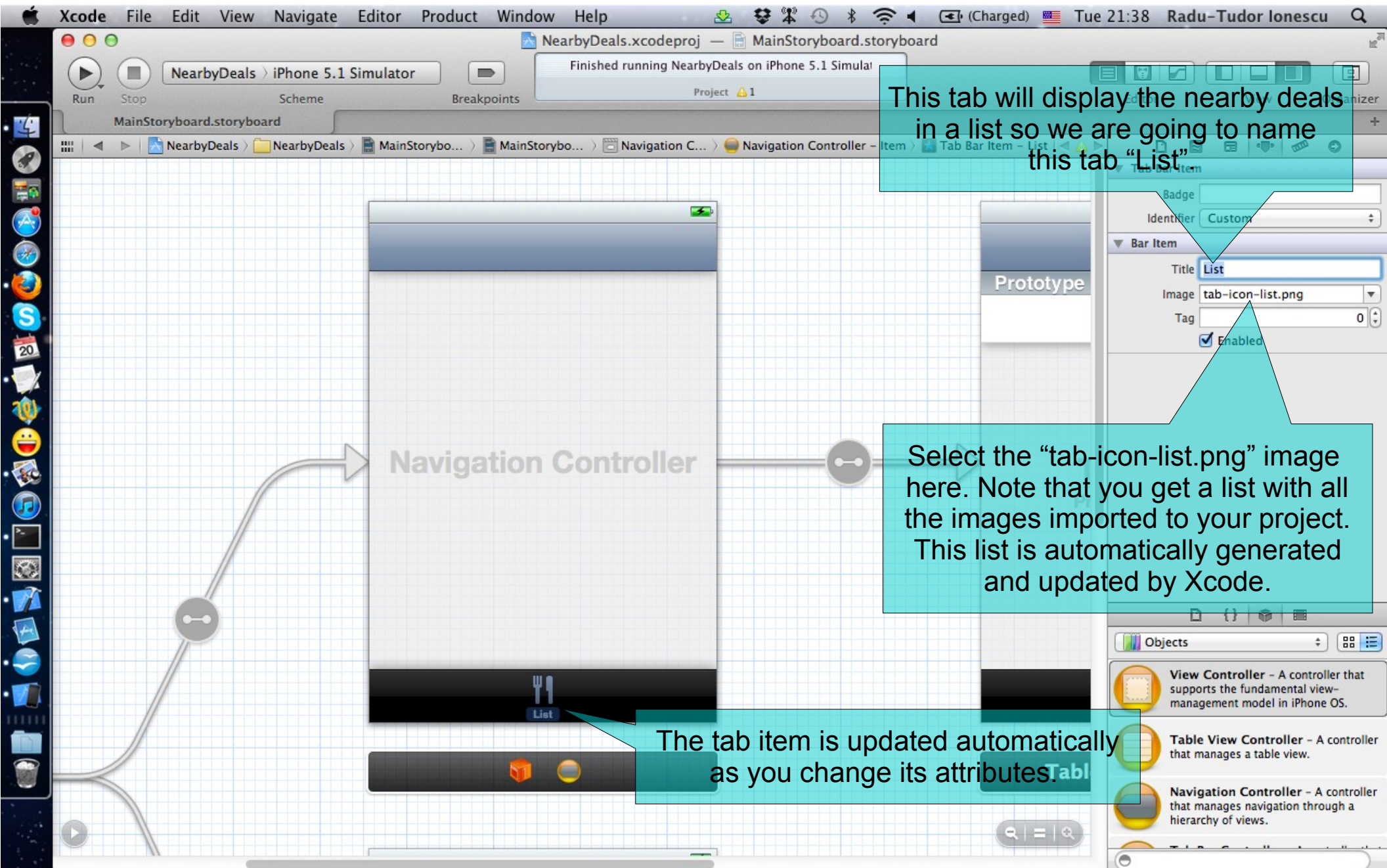
11. Continue with the steps from the following slides to add the tab icons and complete this task.

Scroll inside the Storyboard so that the Navigation Controller is visible on your screen.



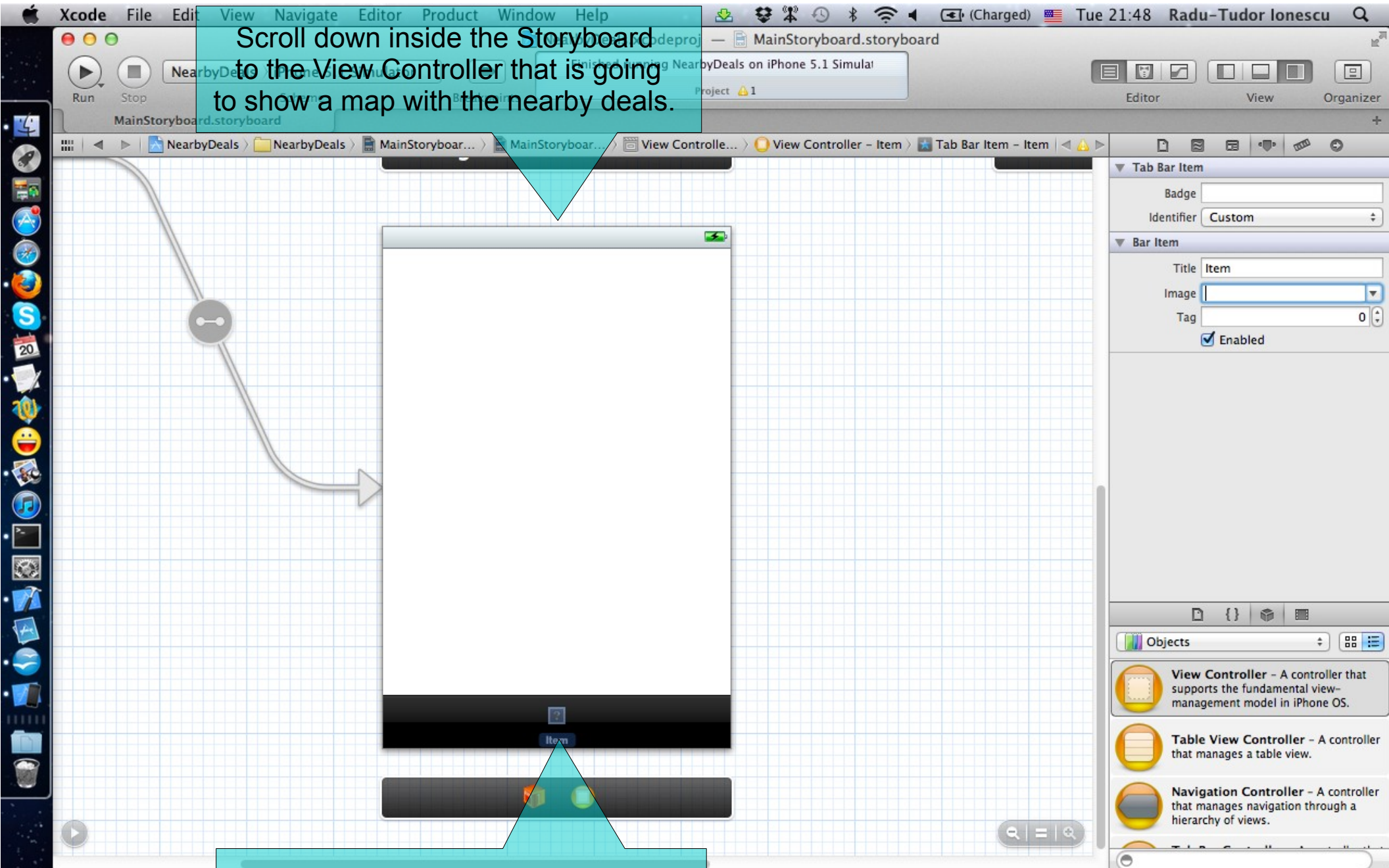
Zoom in from here.

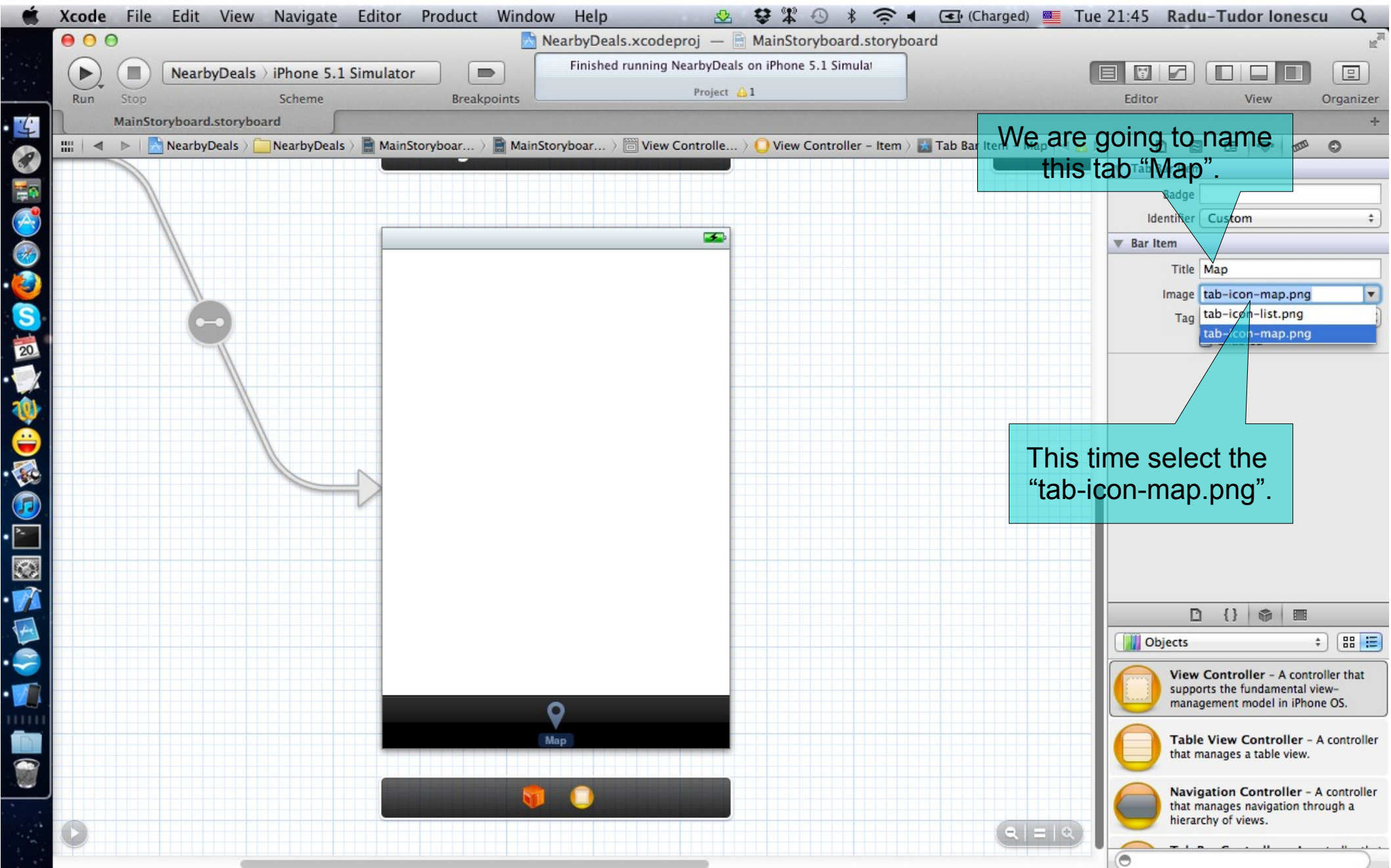
We can edit its tab item from here. Click to see the tab item's properties in Attributes Inspector.

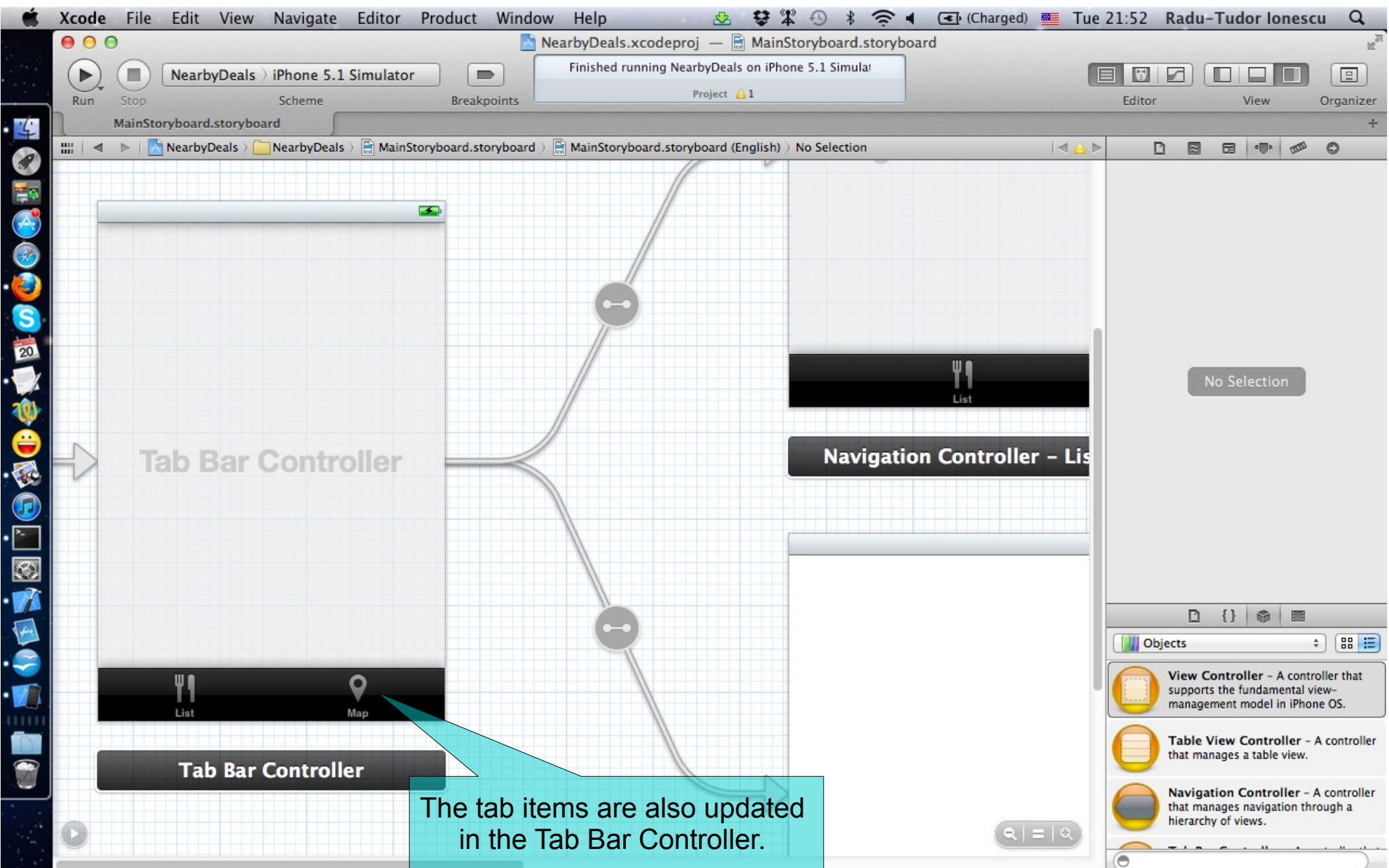


Scroll down inside the Storyboard to the View Controller that is going to show a map with the nearby deals.

Click to see the tab item's properties in Attributes Inspector.







Task 4

Task: Configure the Table View Controller to show some mock-up data inside its Table View.

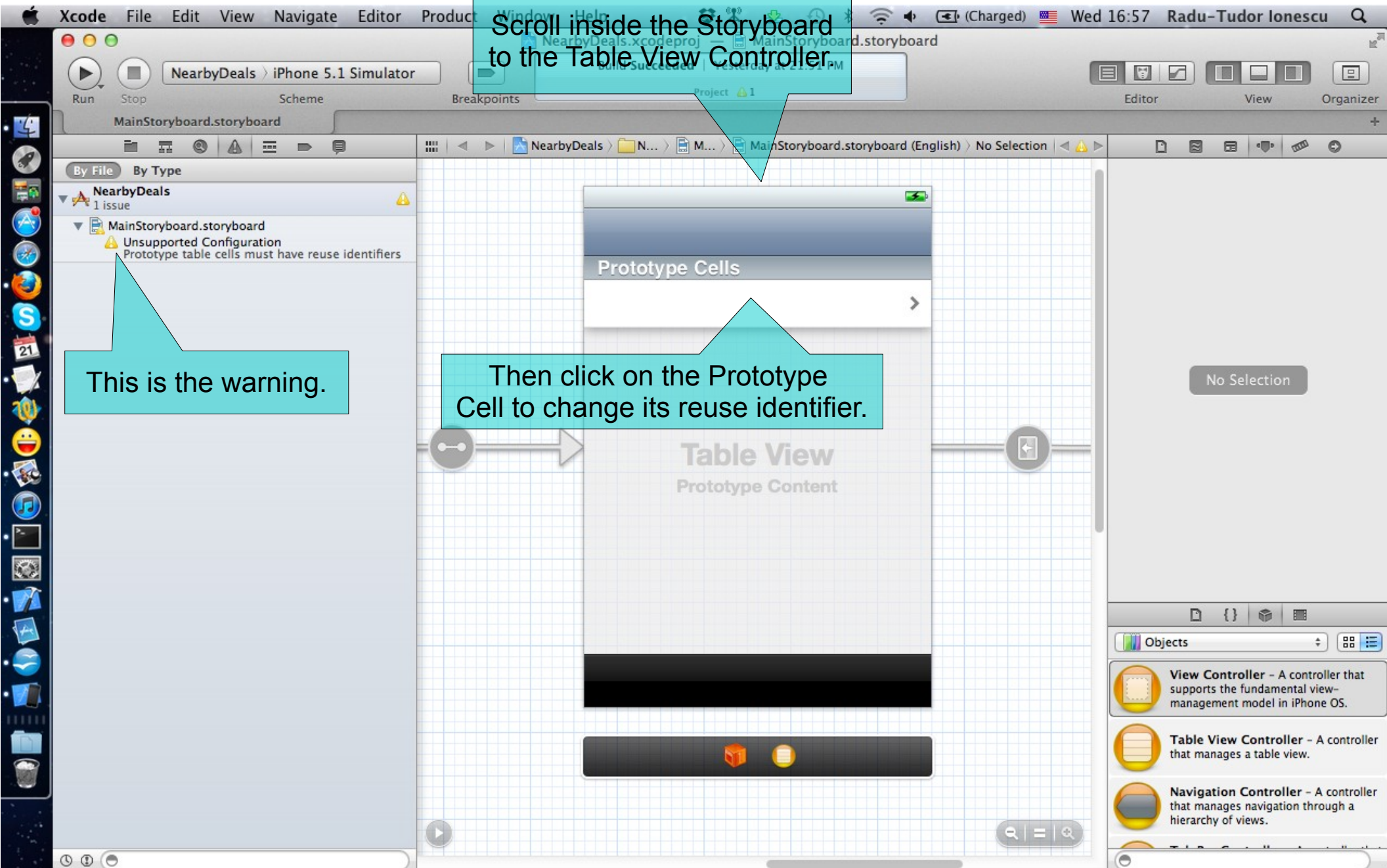
1. Note that there is a Xcode Warning that tells us that we need to set the reuse identifier of the Prototype Cell.

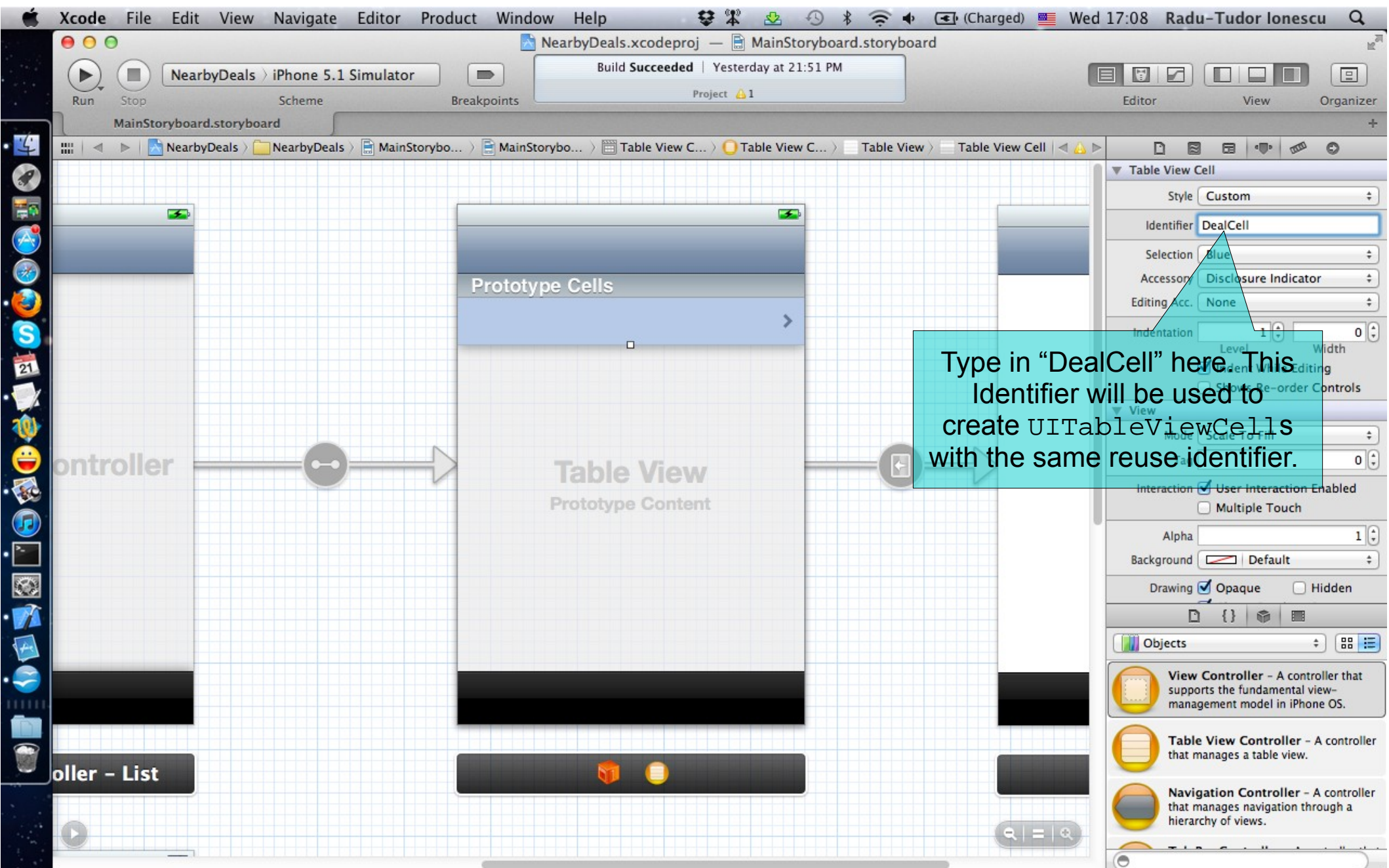
The reuse identifier is associated with a `UITableViewCell` object that the Table View's delegate creates with the intent to reuse it as the basis (for performance reasons) for multiple rows of a table view.

It is assigned to the cell object in the initializer method `initWithFrame:reuseIdentifier:` and cannot be changed thereafter. A `UITableView` object maintains a queue (or list) of the currently reusable cells, each with its own reuse identifier, and makes them available to the delegate.

The reuse identifier is just an `NSString` object that we can set up. It will be used to identify a type of cell.

Let's set the reuse identifier to "DealCell". See the next slides for help.





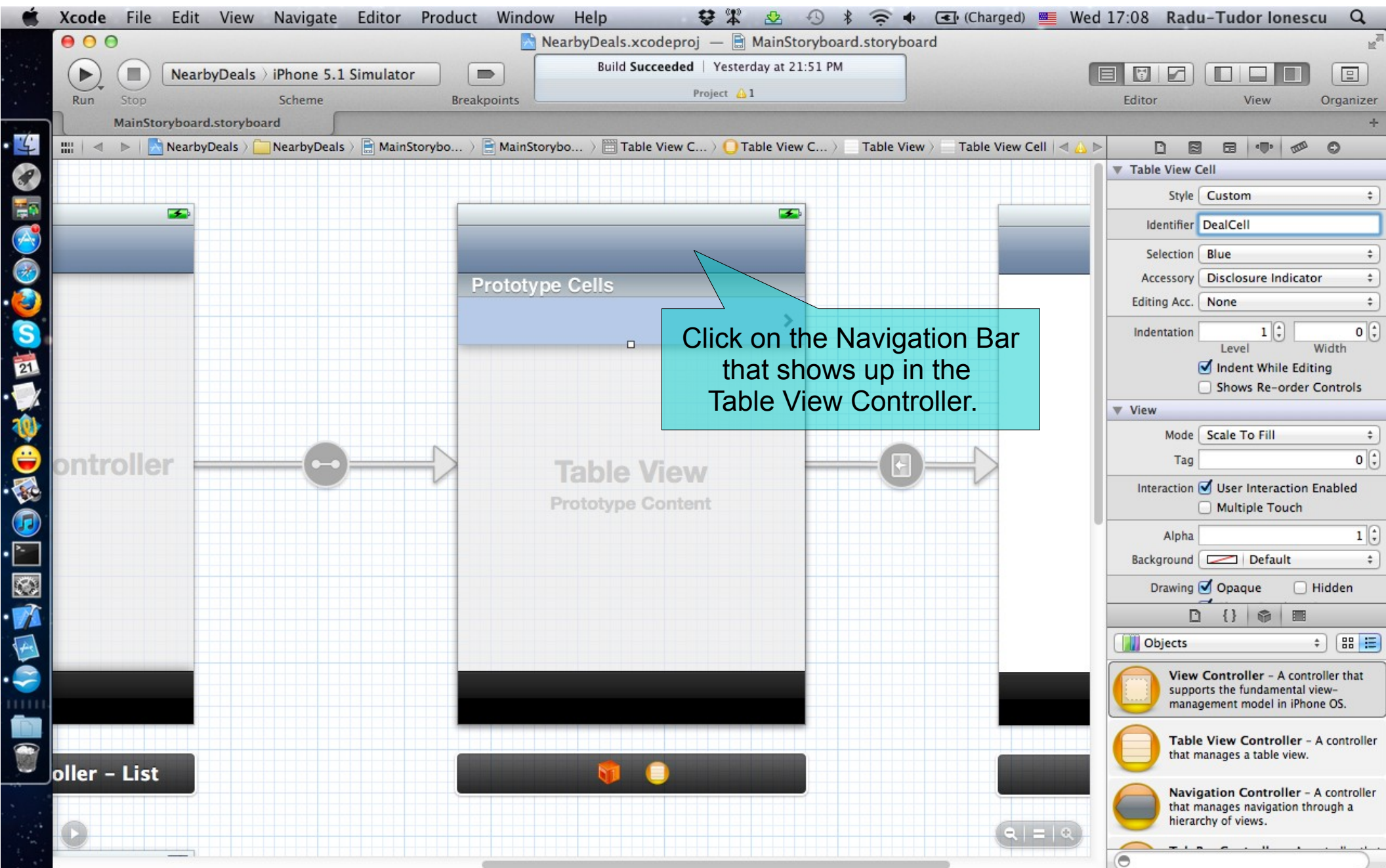
Type in "DealCell" here. This Identifier will be used to create UITableViewCells with the same reuse identifier.

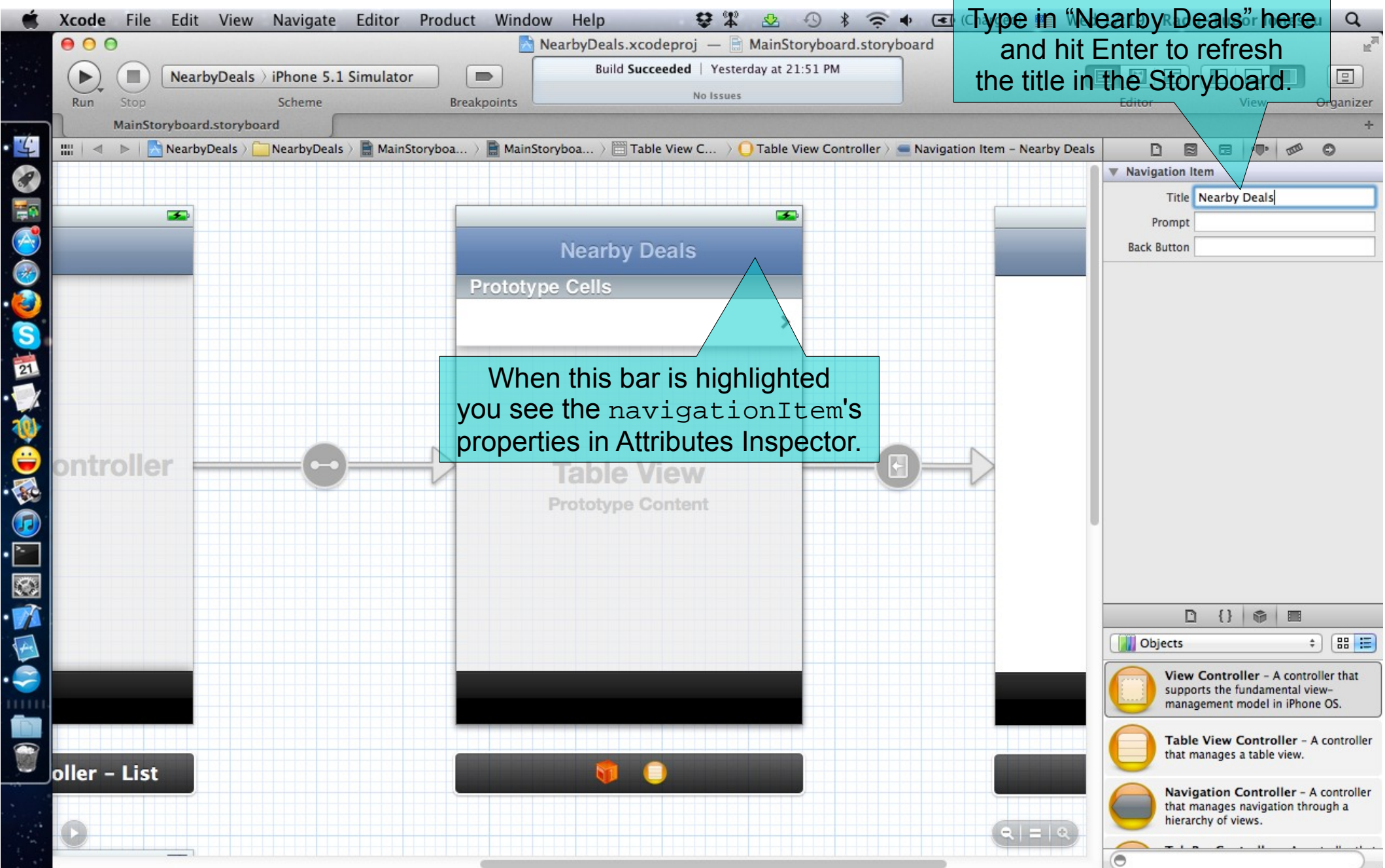
Task 4

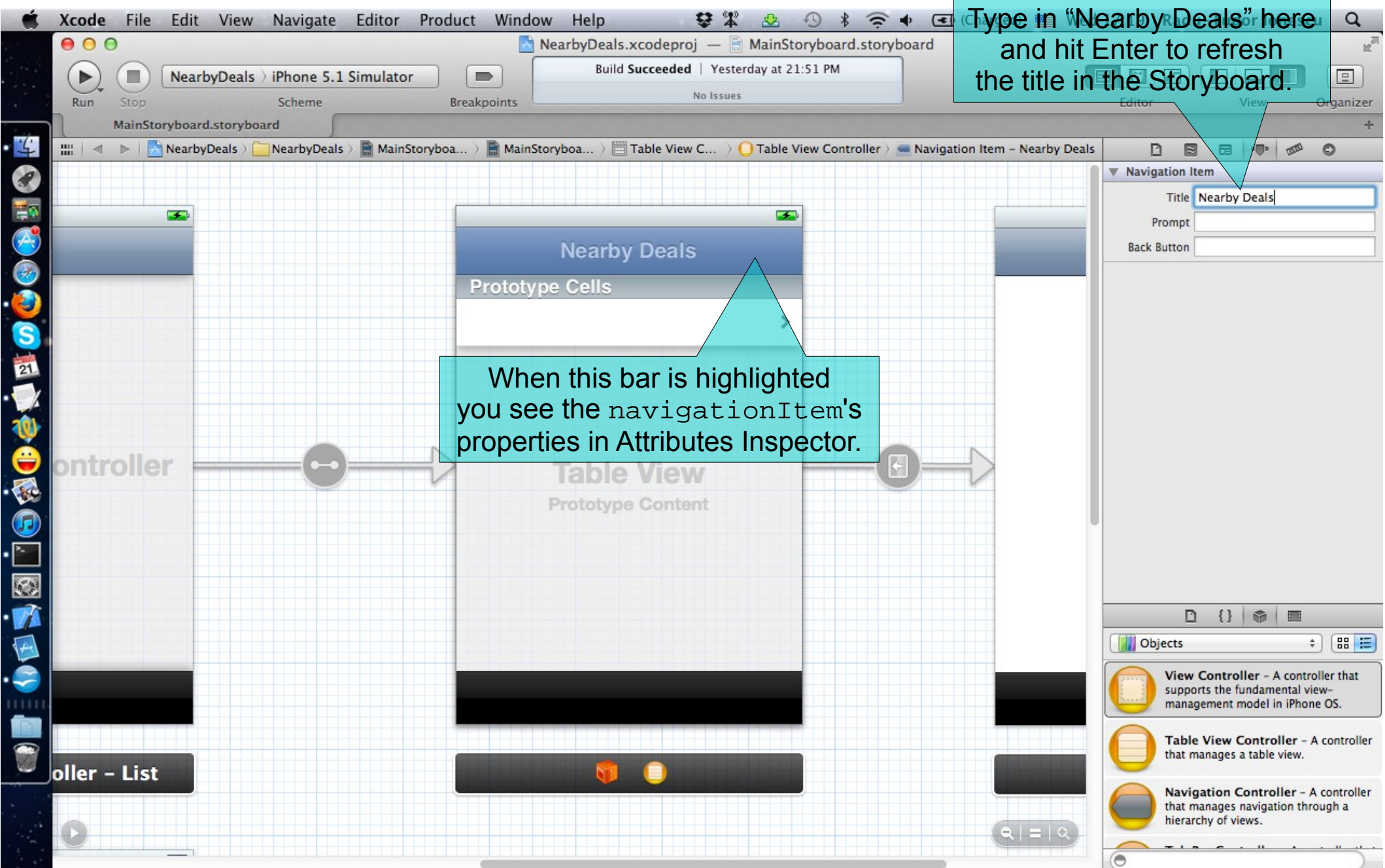
Task: Configure the Table View Controller to show some mock-up data inside its Table View.

2. We should set the Table View Controller title (that appears on the Navigation Bar). Note that each View Controller (including Table View Controllers) have a `navigationItem` that holds properties related to navigation.

We have to set the `navigationItem.title` property to “Nearby Deals”, but we are going to do this in Interface Builder. See the following slides to understand what needs to be done.





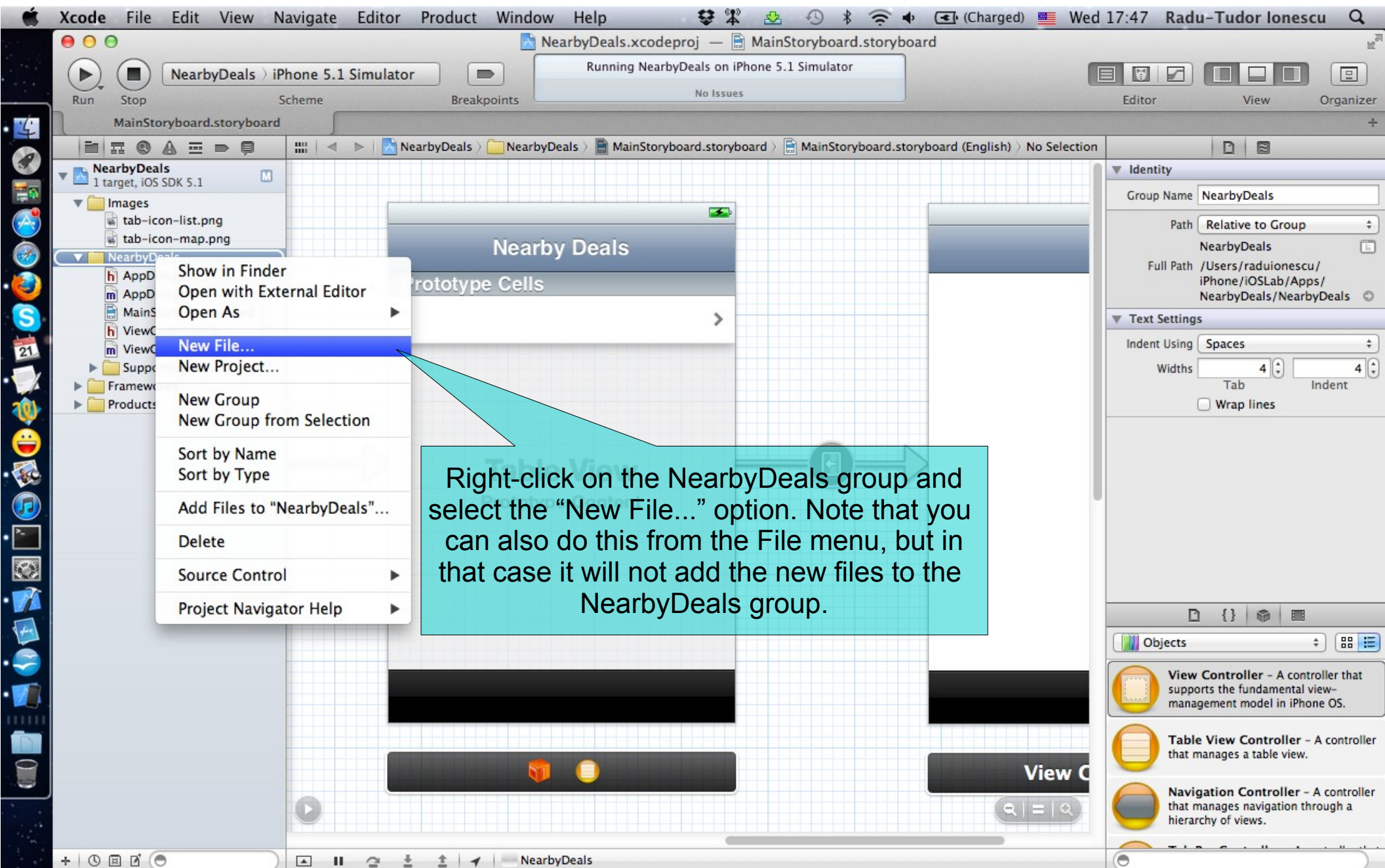


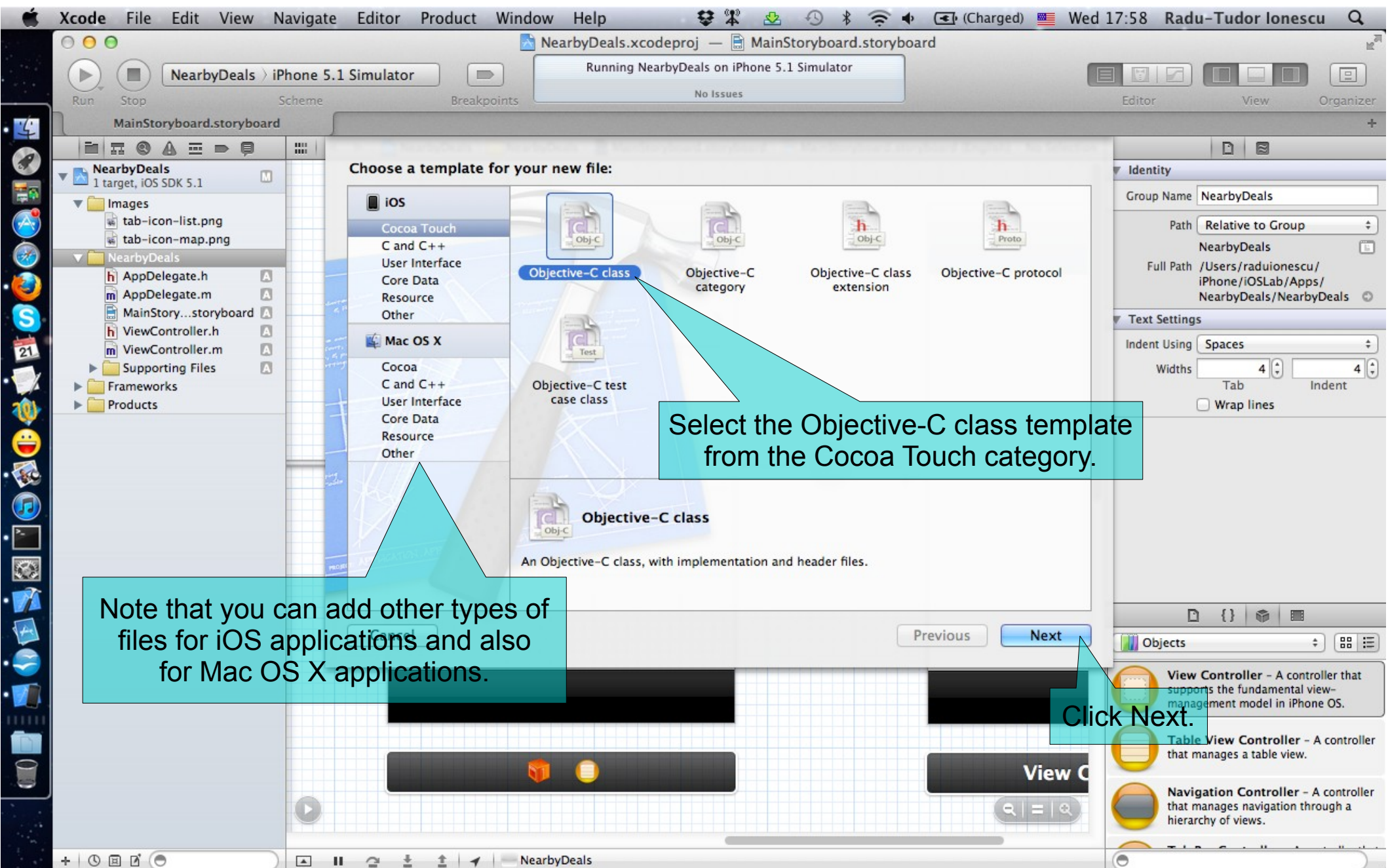
Task 4

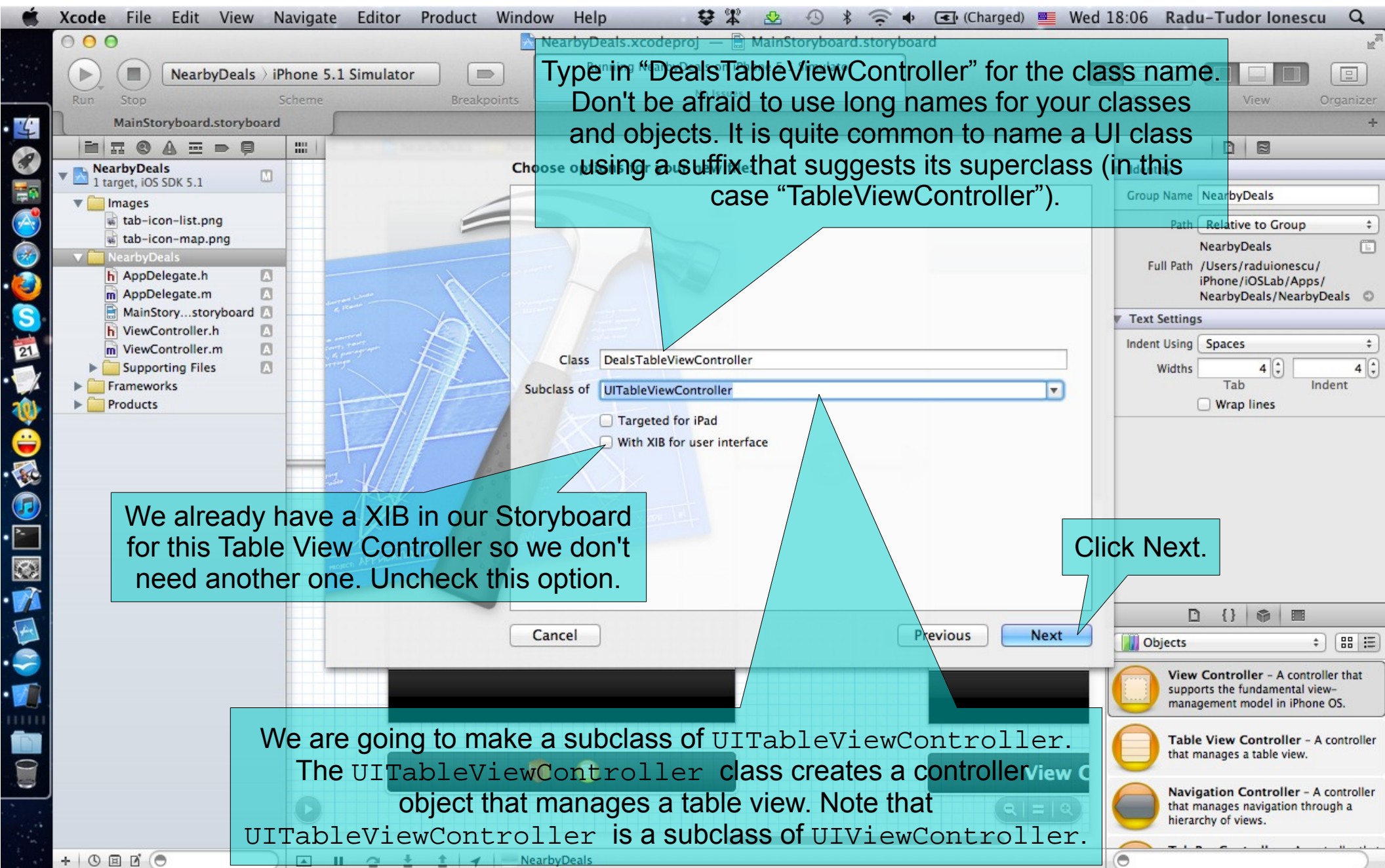
Task: Configure the Table View Controller to show some mock-up data inside its Table View.

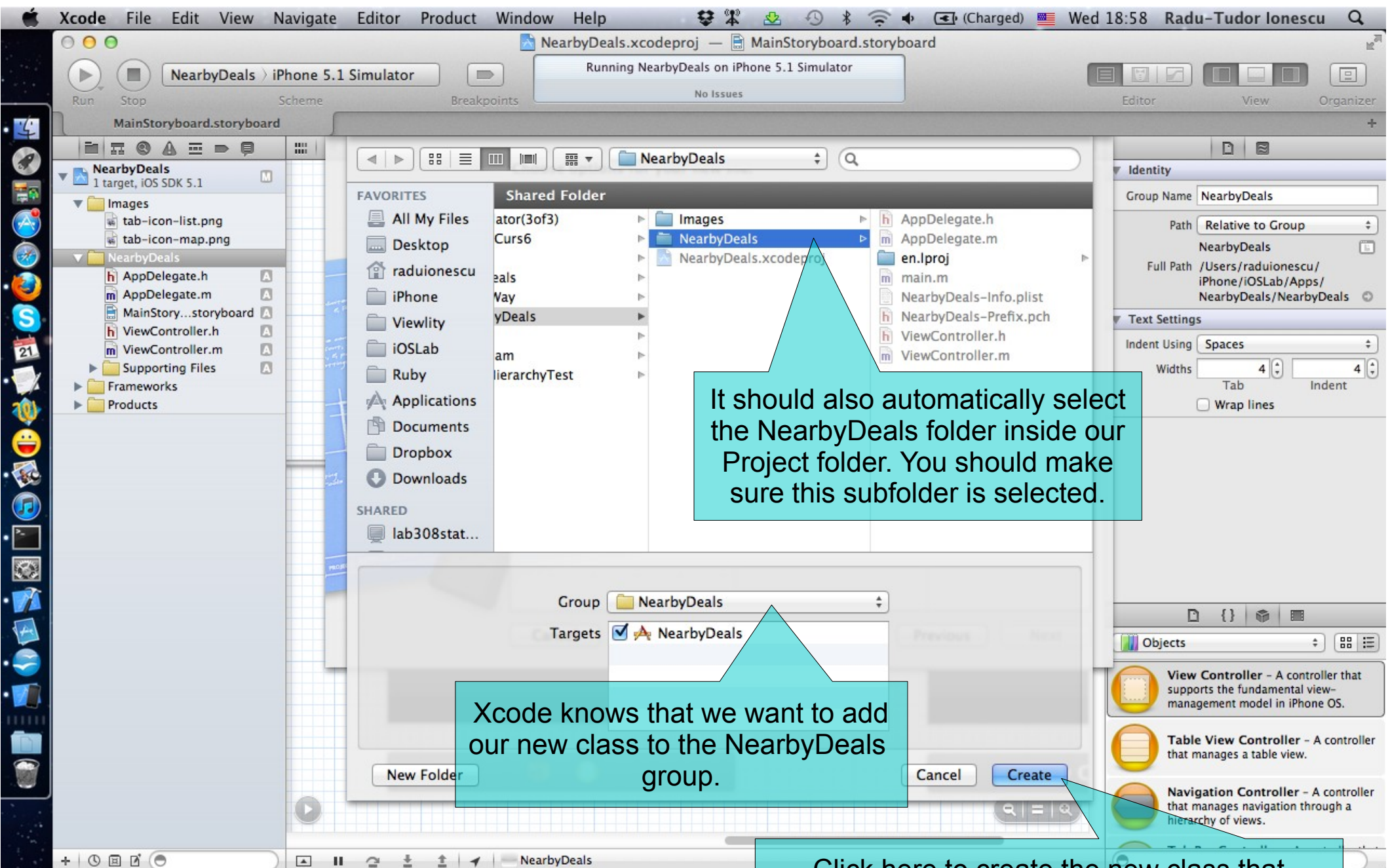
3. Let's run the application and see how it looks by now. Notice that it has two tabs: one that shows an empty list of deals and another one that shows a white screen.
4. Stop running the application.
5. This all we can do from Interface Builder. Next we are going to have to write some code to show some mock-up data inside the Table View Controller. For this we need add a subclass of `UITableViewController` to our project and create a relationship between this subclass and the Table View Controller inside our Storyboard.

Let's open Project Navigator and continue with the following screenshots that guide you through adding a subclass of `UITableViewController`.





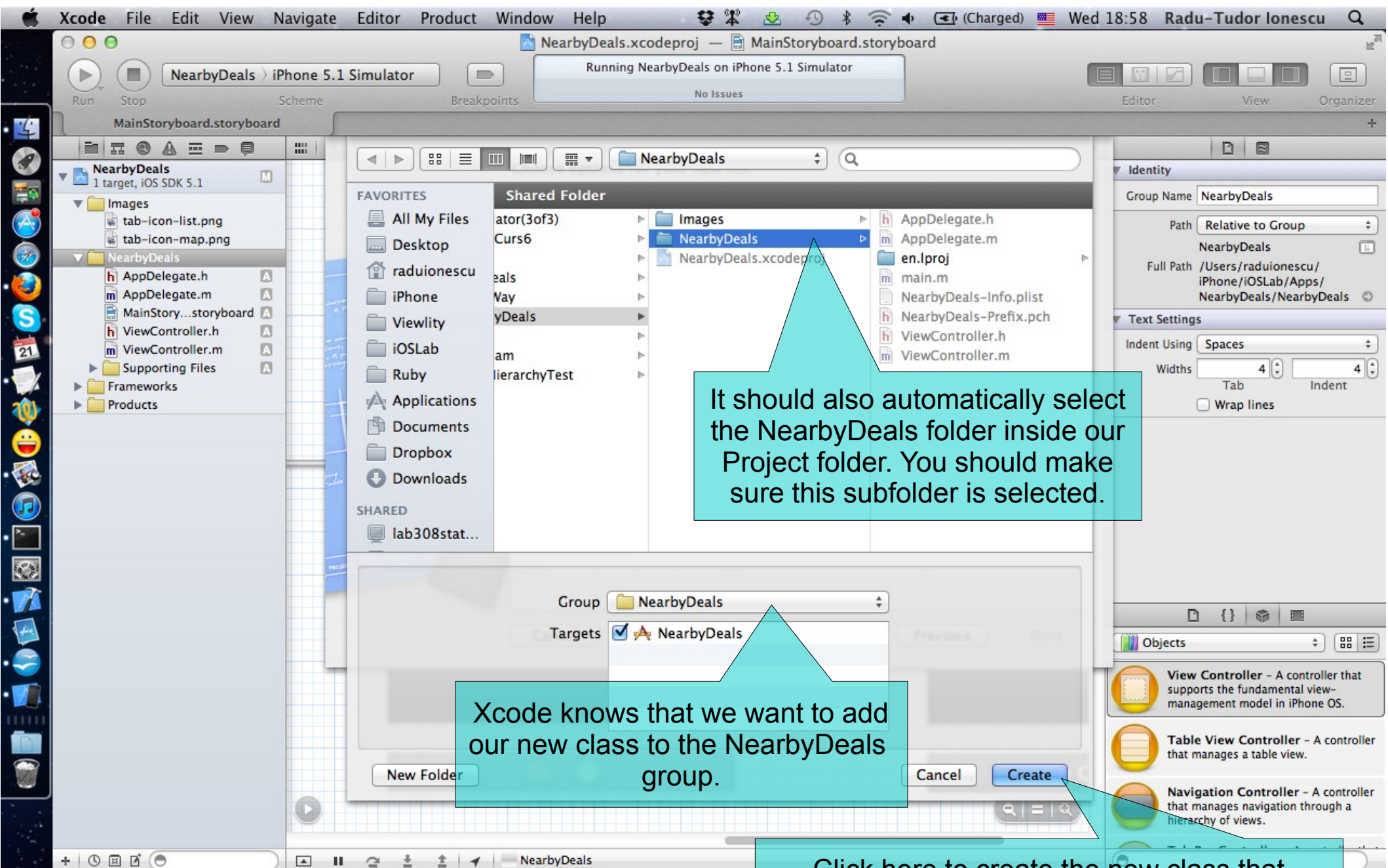




It should also automatically select the NearbyDeals folder inside our Project folder. You should make sure this subfolder is selected.

Xcode knows that we want to add our new class to the NearbyDeals group.

Click here to create the new class that is a subclass of UITableViewController.

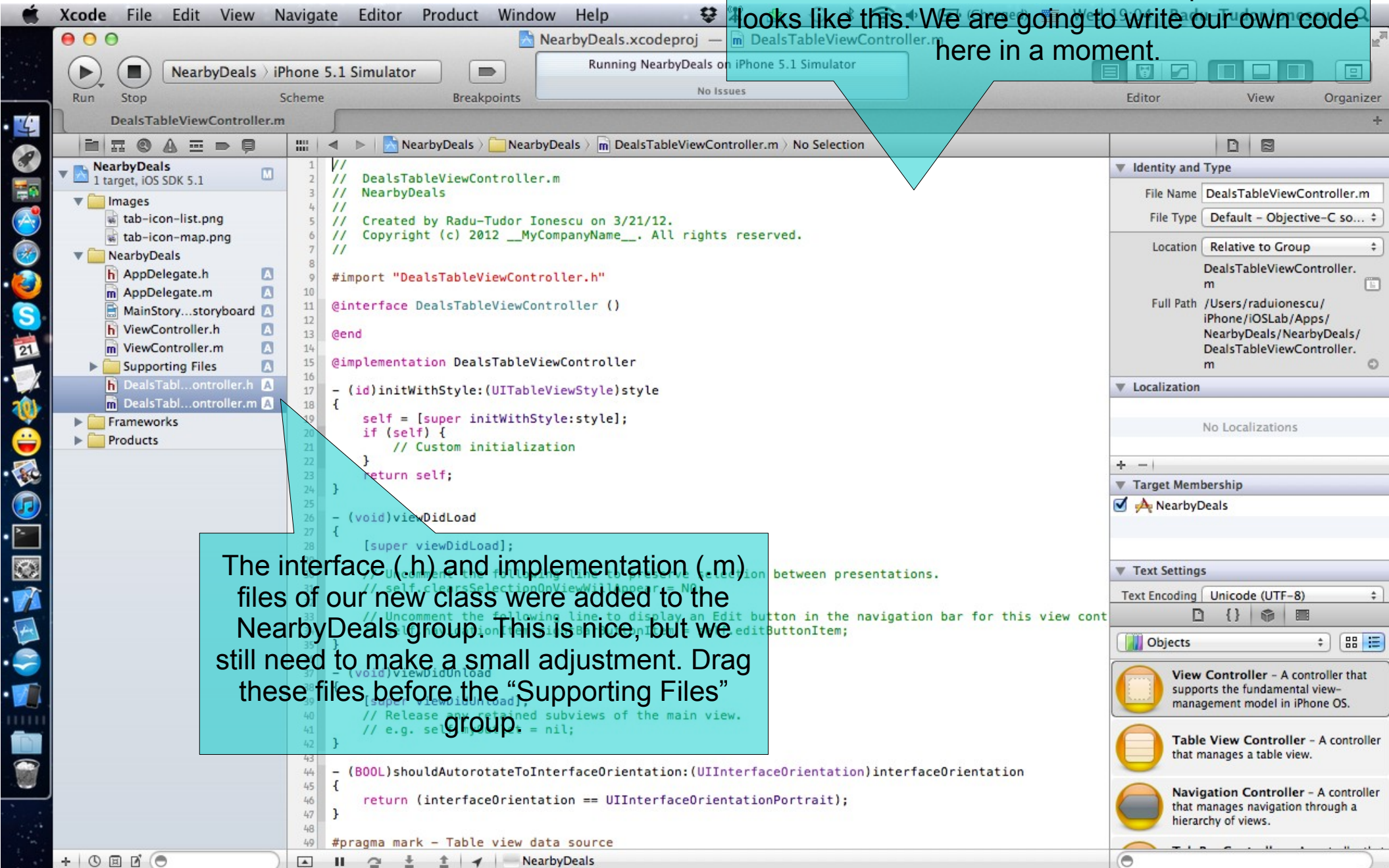


It should also automatically select the NearbyDeals folder inside our Project folder. You should make sure this subfolder is selected.

Xcode knows that we want to add our new class to the NearbyDeals group.

Click here to create the new class that is a subclass of UITableViewController.

DealsTableViewController implementation looks like this. We are going to write our own code here in a moment.



The interface (.h) and implementation (.m) files of our new class were added to the NearbyDeals group. This is nice, but we still need to make a small adjustment. Drag these files before the "Supporting Files" group.

```
//
// DealsTableViewController.m
// NearbyDeals
//
// Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 3/21/12.
// Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
//

#import "DealsTableViewController.h"

@interface DealsTableViewController ()
@end

@implementation DealsTableViewController

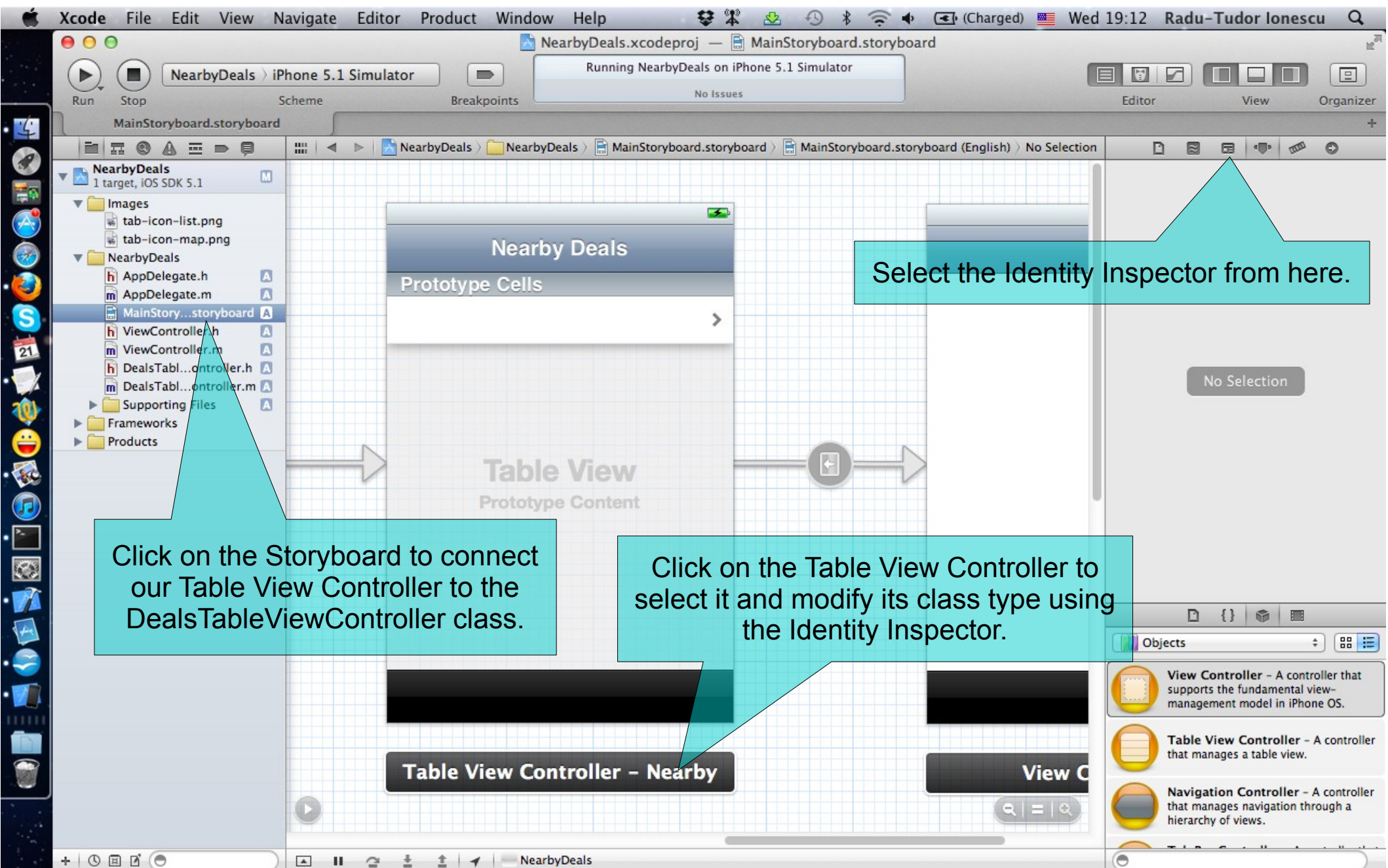
- (id)initWithStyle:(UITableViewStyle)style
{
    self = [super initWithStyle:style];
    if (self) {
        // Custom initialization
    }
    return self;
}

- (void)viewDidLoad
{
    [super viewDidLoad];
    // Uncomment the following line to preserve selection between presentations.
    // self.clearsSelectionOnViewWillAppear = NO;
    // Uncomment the following line to display an Edit button in the navigation bar for this view controller.
    // self.navigationItem.rightBarButtonItem = self.editButtonItem;
}

- (void)viewDidUnload
{
    [super viewDidUnload];
    // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
    // e.g. self.myLabel = nil;
}

- (BOOL)shouldAutorotateToInterfaceOrientation:(UIInterfaceOrientation)interfaceOrientation
{
    return (interfaceOrientation == UIInterfaceOrientationPortrait);
}

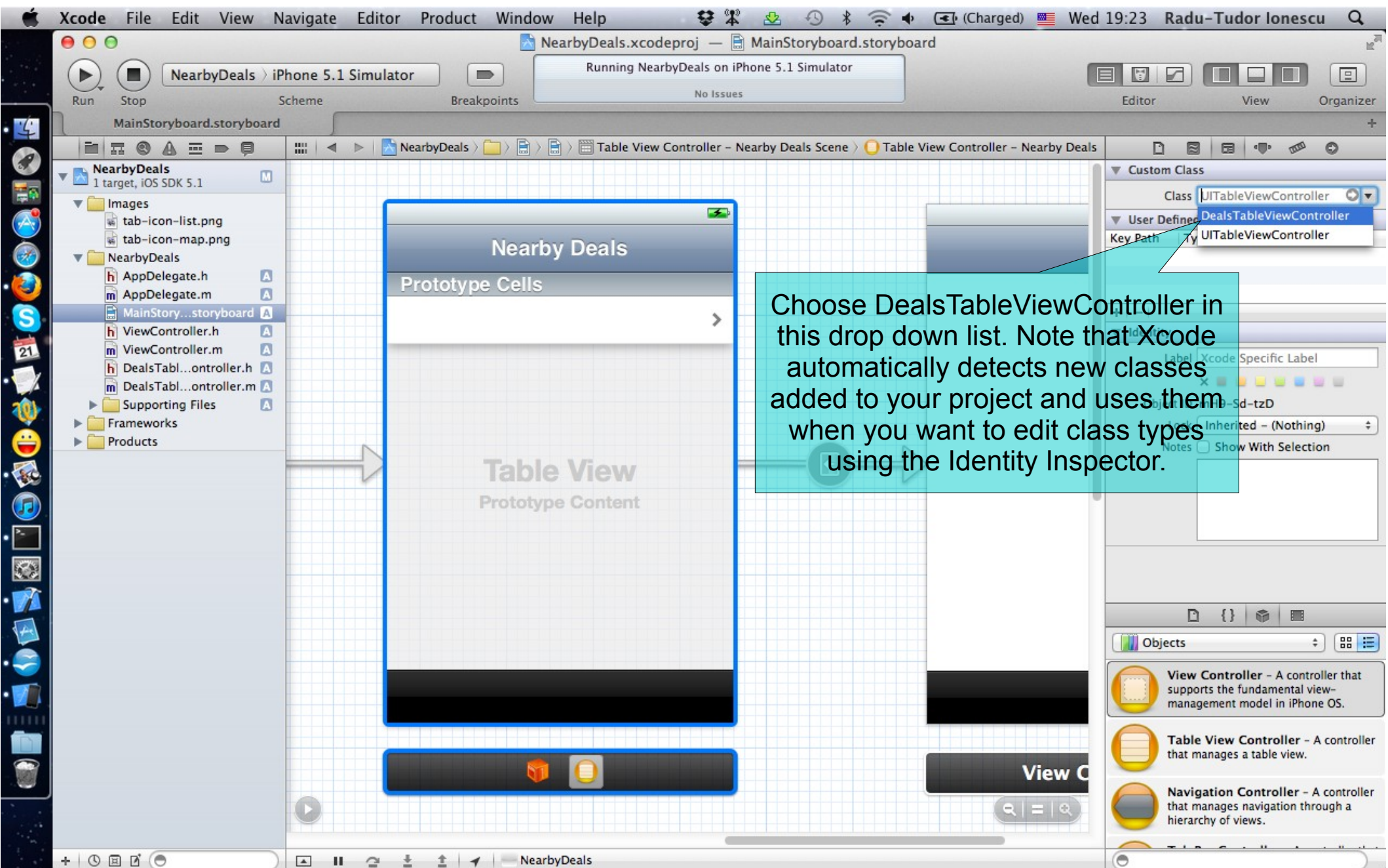
#pragma mark - Table view data source
```



Click on the Storyboard to connect our Table View Controller to the DealsTableViewController class.

Click on the Table View Controller to select it and modify its class type using the Identity Inspector.

Select the Identity Inspector from here.



Task 4

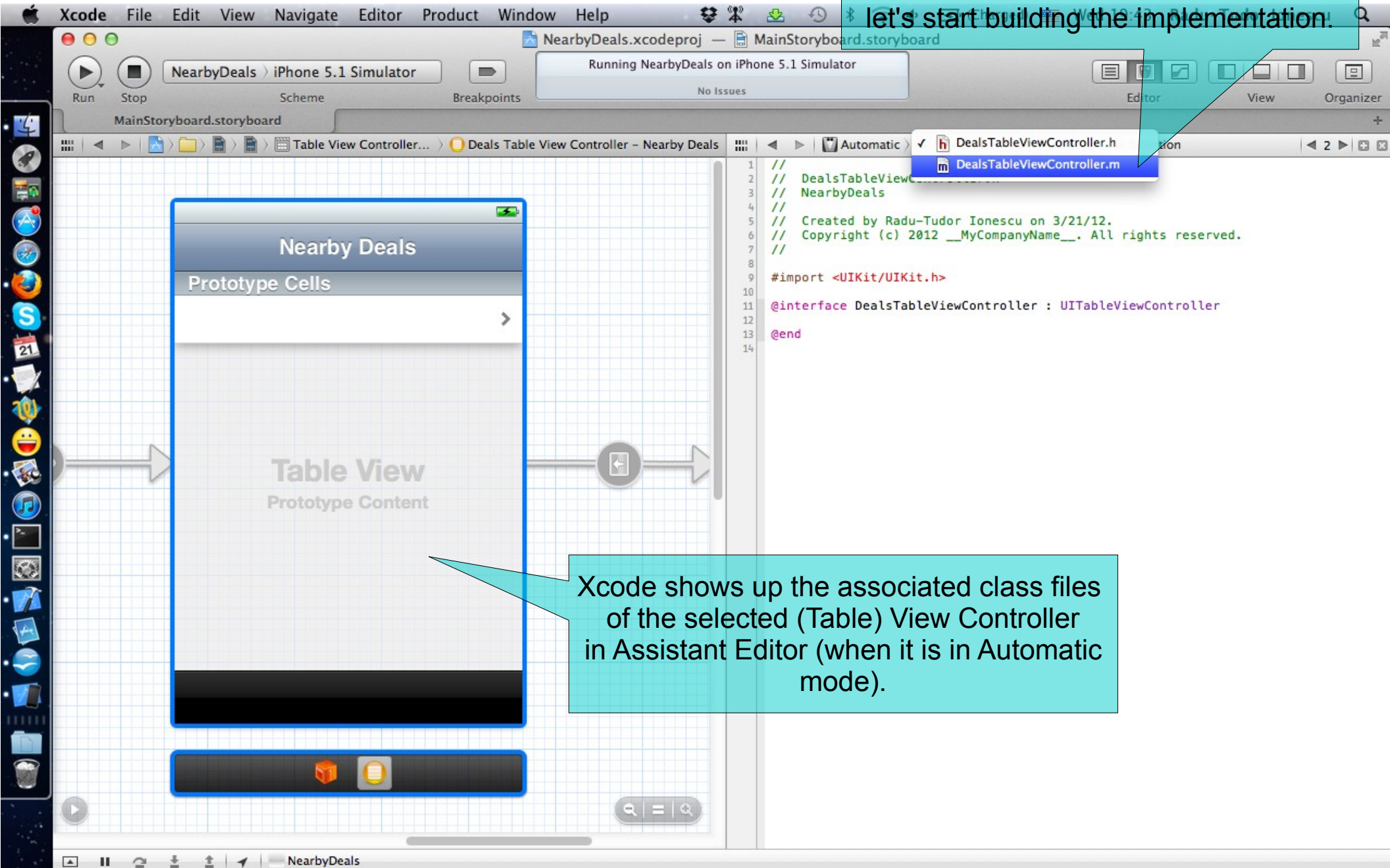
Task: Configure the Table View Controller to show some mock-up data inside its Table View.

6. Close the Project Navigator and Utilities area to make room for the Assistant Editor.
7. We are going to modify the DealsTableViewController.m file. Open it in Assistant Editor. Note that when you select a View Controller in your Storyboard, Xcode will automatically select its class files in Assistant Editor.

We will add a very simple model to our Table View Controller that will hold the mock-up data that we want to present in our table. We are going to re-implement some of the Table View `dataSource` methods to present the data in our Table View.

The next slides will show you how to do this.

Select DealsTableViewController.m and let's start building the implementation.

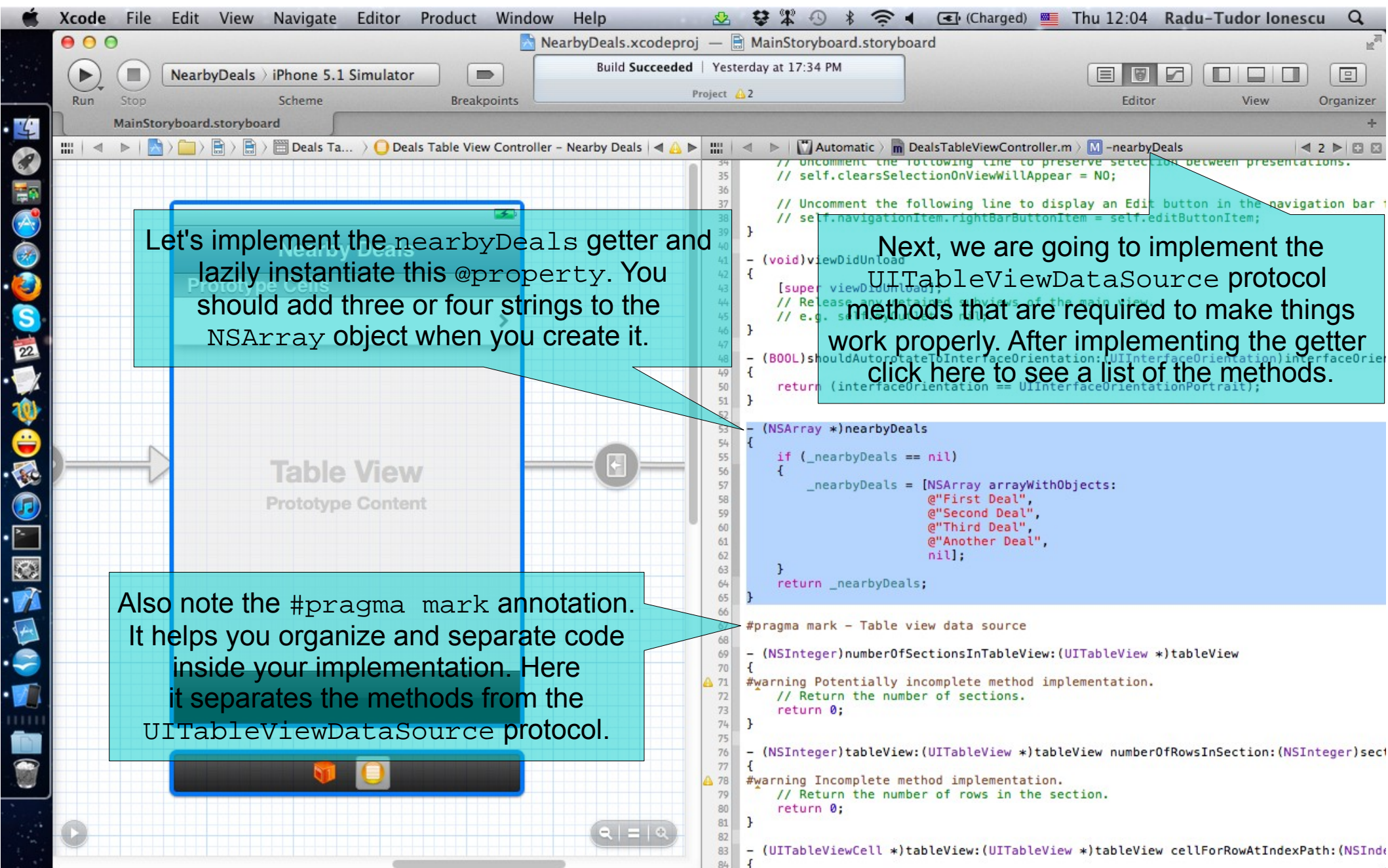


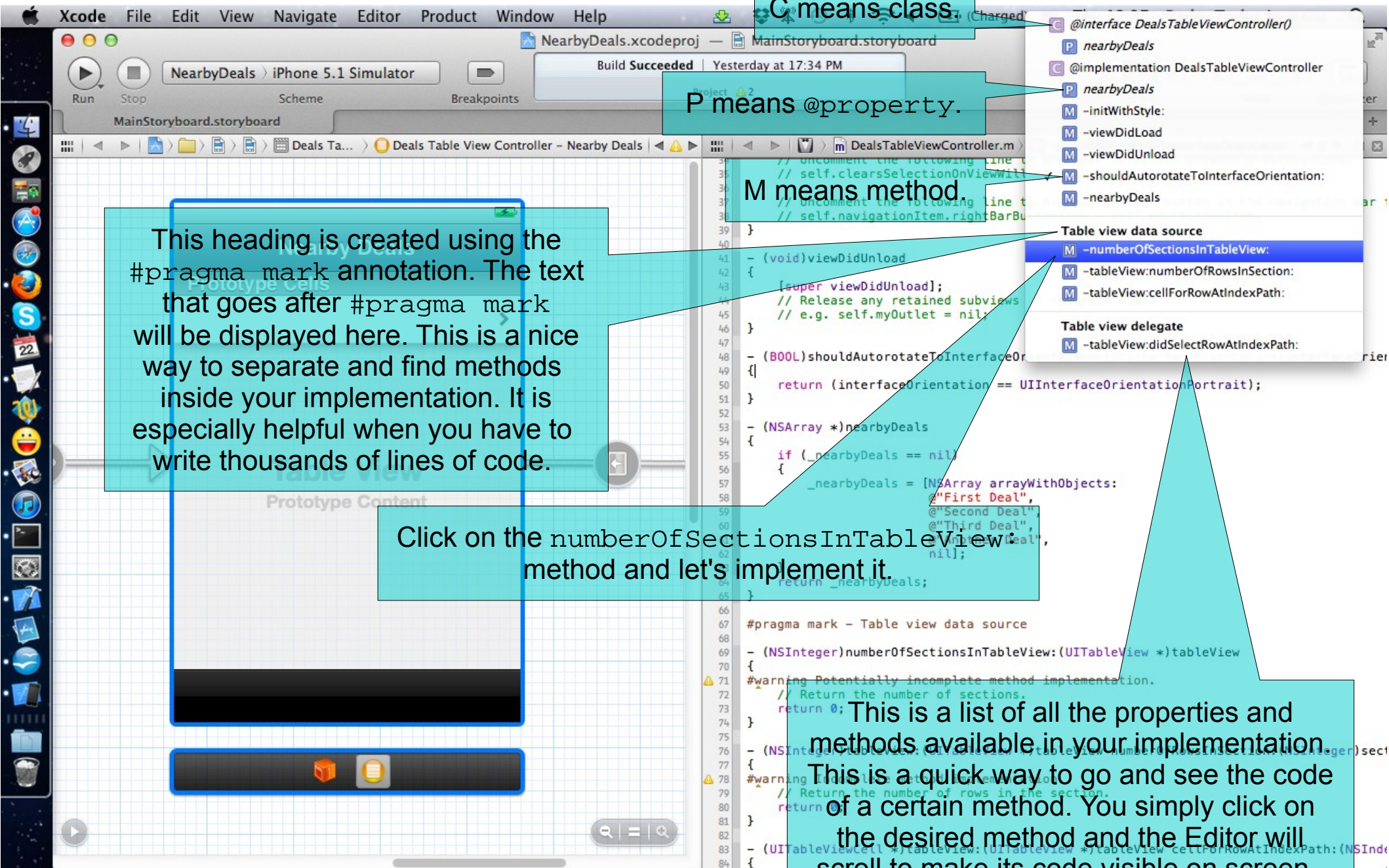
We should define a private @property named nearbyDeals that will be a pointer to an NSArray object. This will be our model of the Table View Controller.

We keep a strong reference to it. Because we hold the only reference to this object it needs to be strong, otherwise it will be deallocated too soon.

Synthesize this property in the DealsTableViewController implementation. Also rename its instance variable here.

```
1 //
2 // DealsTableViewController.m
3 // NearbyDeals
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 3/21/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import "DealsTableViewController.h"
10
11 @interface DealsTableViewController ()
12
13 @property (nonatomic, strong) NSArray *nearbyDeals;
14
15 @end
16
17 @implementation DealsTableViewController
18
19 @synthesize nearbyDeals = _nearbyDeals;
20
21 - (id)initWithStyle:(UITableViewStyle)style
22 {
23     self = [super initWithStyle:style];
24     if (self) {
25         // Custom initialization
26     }
27     return self;
28 }
29
30 - (void)viewDidLoad
31 {
32     [super viewDidLoad];
33
34     // Uncomment the following line to preserve selection between presentations.
35     // self.clearsSelectionOnViewWillAppear = NO;
36
37     // Uncomment the following line to display an Edit button in the navigation bar.
38     // self.navigationItem.rightBarButtonItem = self.editButtonItem;
39 }
40
41 - (void)viewDidUnload
42 {
43     [super viewDidUnload];
44     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
45     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
46 }
47
48 - (BOOL)shouldAutorotateToInterfaceOrientation:(UIInterfaceOrientation)interfaceOrientation
49 {
50     // Return YES for supported orientations
51     return (interfaceOrientation == UIInterfaceOrientationPortrait ||
52            interfaceOrientation == UIInterfaceOrientationLandscapeLeft ||
53            interfaceOrientation == UIInterfaceOrientationLandscapeRight);
54 }
```



C means class.

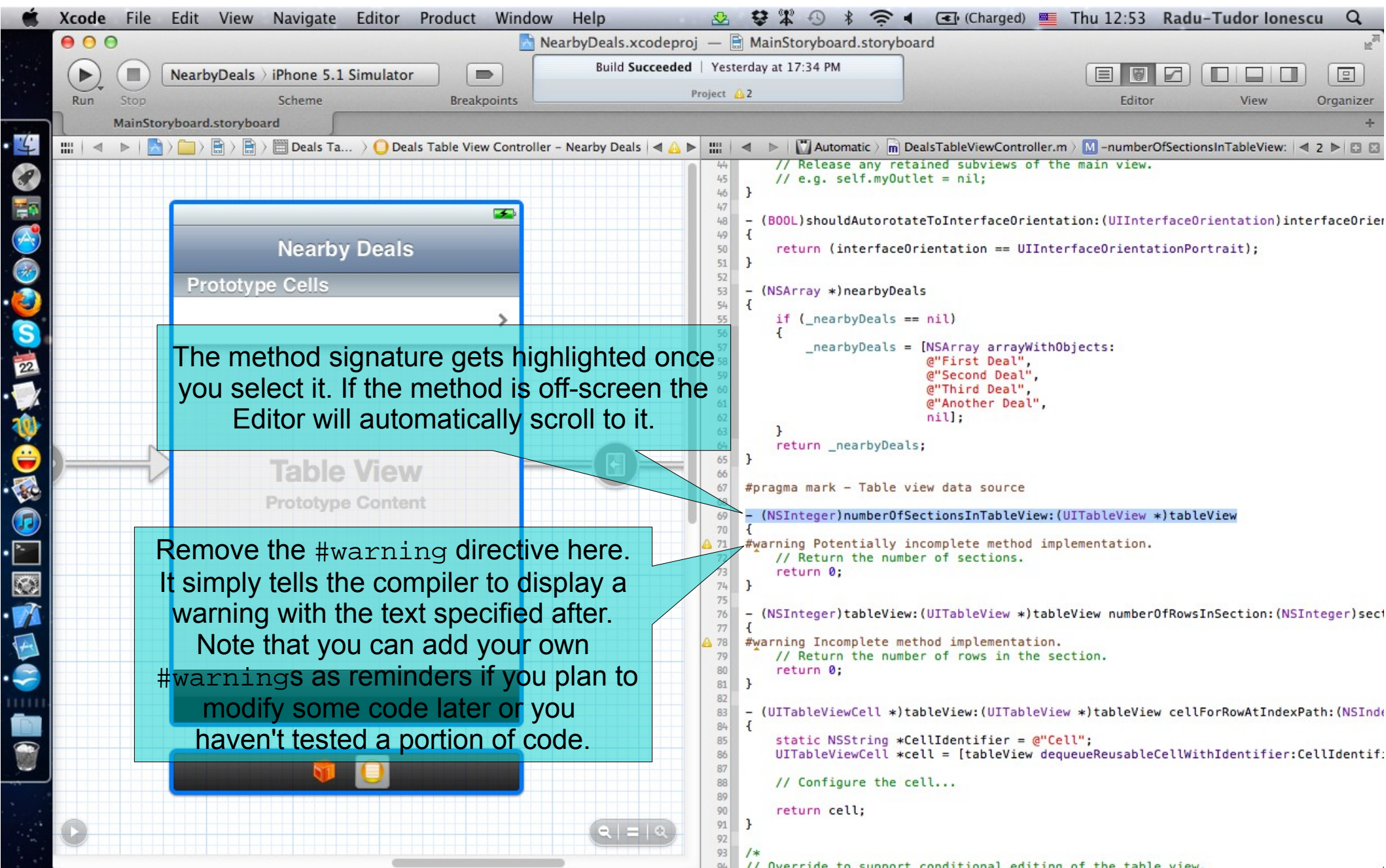
P means @property.

M means method.

This heading is created using the #pragma mark annotation. The text that goes after #pragma mark will be displayed here. This is a nice way to separate and find methods inside your implementation. It is especially helpful when you have to write thousands of lines of code.

Click on the numberOfSectionsInTableView: method and let's implement it.

This is a list of all the properties and methods available in your implementation. This is a quick way to go and see the code of a certain method. You simply click on the desired method and the Editor will scroll to make its code visible on screen.



The screenshot shows the Xcode IDE with a project named 'NearbyDeals'. The interface is split into three main areas: a storyboard on the left, a code editor on the right, and a console at the bottom. The storyboard, titled 'MainStoryboard.storyboard', shows a 'Nearby Deals' app with a 'Prototype Cells' section. The code editor shows the implementation of the 'UITableViewDataSource' protocol in 'DealsTableViewController.m'. The code includes methods for 'numberOfSectionsInTableView:', 'tableView:numberOfRowsInSection:', and 'tableView:cellForRowAtIndexPath:'. A warning is visible in the code editor, indicating an 'Incomplete method implementation' for 'tableView:numberOfRowsInSection:'. Three callout boxes provide instructions: the first explains the return value for 'numberOfSectionsInTableView:', the second explains the next step in implementing 'tableView:numberOfRowsInSection:', and the third points to a separator line in the storyboard, suggesting it be moved to the left to create more space for code.

We will return 1 for the number of sections. We want our Table View to display the deals in a single section. More about table sections later.

Next we are going to implement the `tableView:numberOfRowsInSection:` method. Let's remove this #warning.

Drag this separator line to the left to make more room for our code. We are going to need it for the next two methods.

```
// Release any retained subviews of the main view.
// e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
}

- (BOOL)shouldAutorotateToInterfaceOrientation:(UIInterfaceOrientation)interfaceOrientation
{
    return (interfaceOrientation == UIInterfaceOrientationPortrait);
}

- (NSArray *)nearbyDeals
{
    if (_nearbyDeals == nil)
    {
        _nearbyDeals = [NSArray arrayWithObjects:
            @"First Deal",
            @"Second Deal",
            @"Third Deal",
            @"Another Deal",
            nil];
    }
    return _nearbyDeals;
}

#pragma mark - Table view data source

- (NSInteger)numberOfSectionsInTableView:(UITableView *)tableView
{
    // Return the number of sections.
    return 1;
}

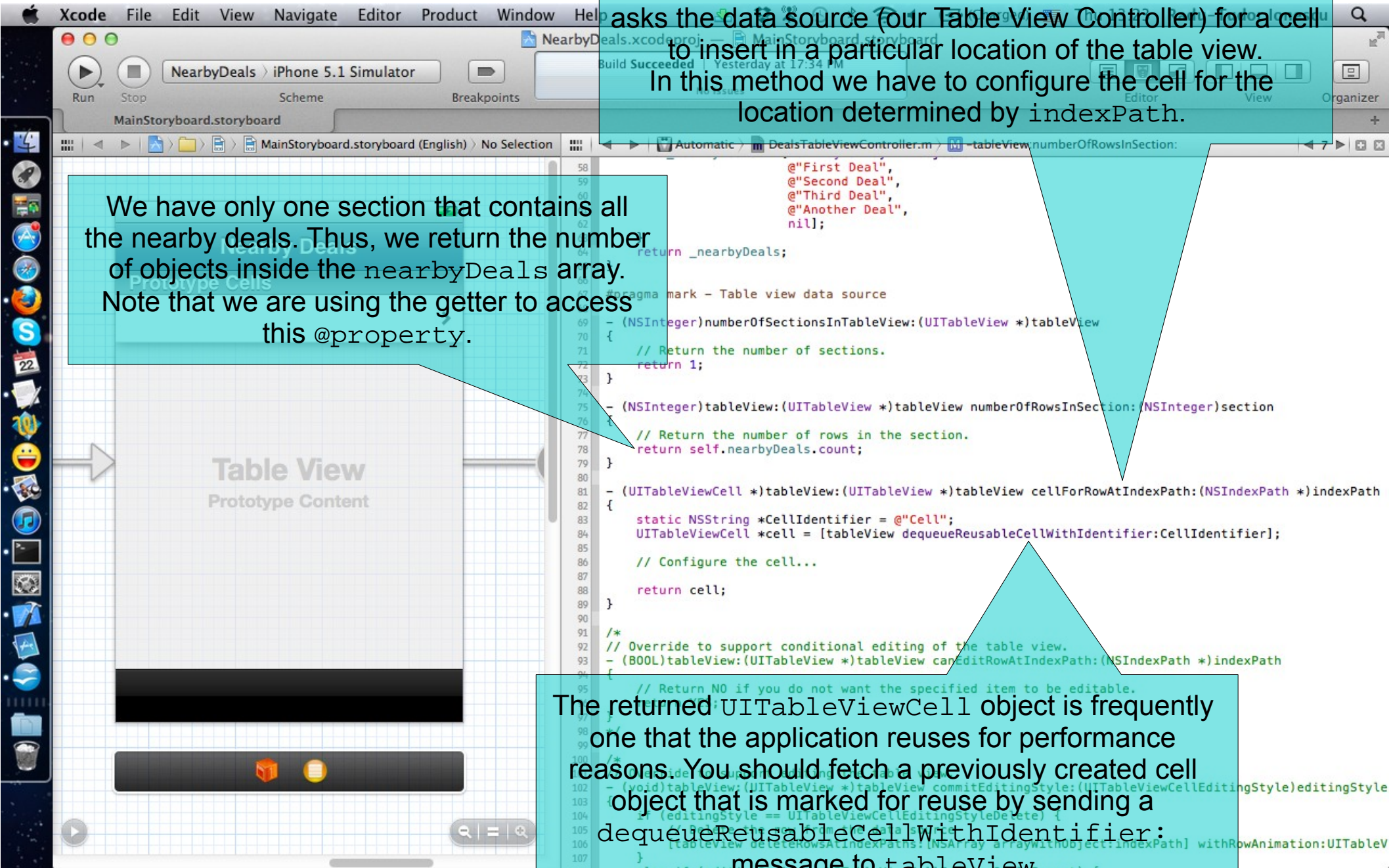
- (NSInteger)tableView:(UITableView *)tableView numberOfRowsInSectionSection:(NSInteger)section
{
    #warning Incomplete method implementation.
    // Return the number of rows in the section.
    return 0;
}

- (UITableViewCell *)tableView:(UITableView *)tableView cellForRowAtIndexPath:(NSIndexPath *)indexPath
{
    static NSString *CellIdentifier = @"Cell";
    UITableViewCell *cell = [tableView dequeueReusableCellWithIdentifier:CellIdentifier];

    // Configure the cell...

    return cell;
}

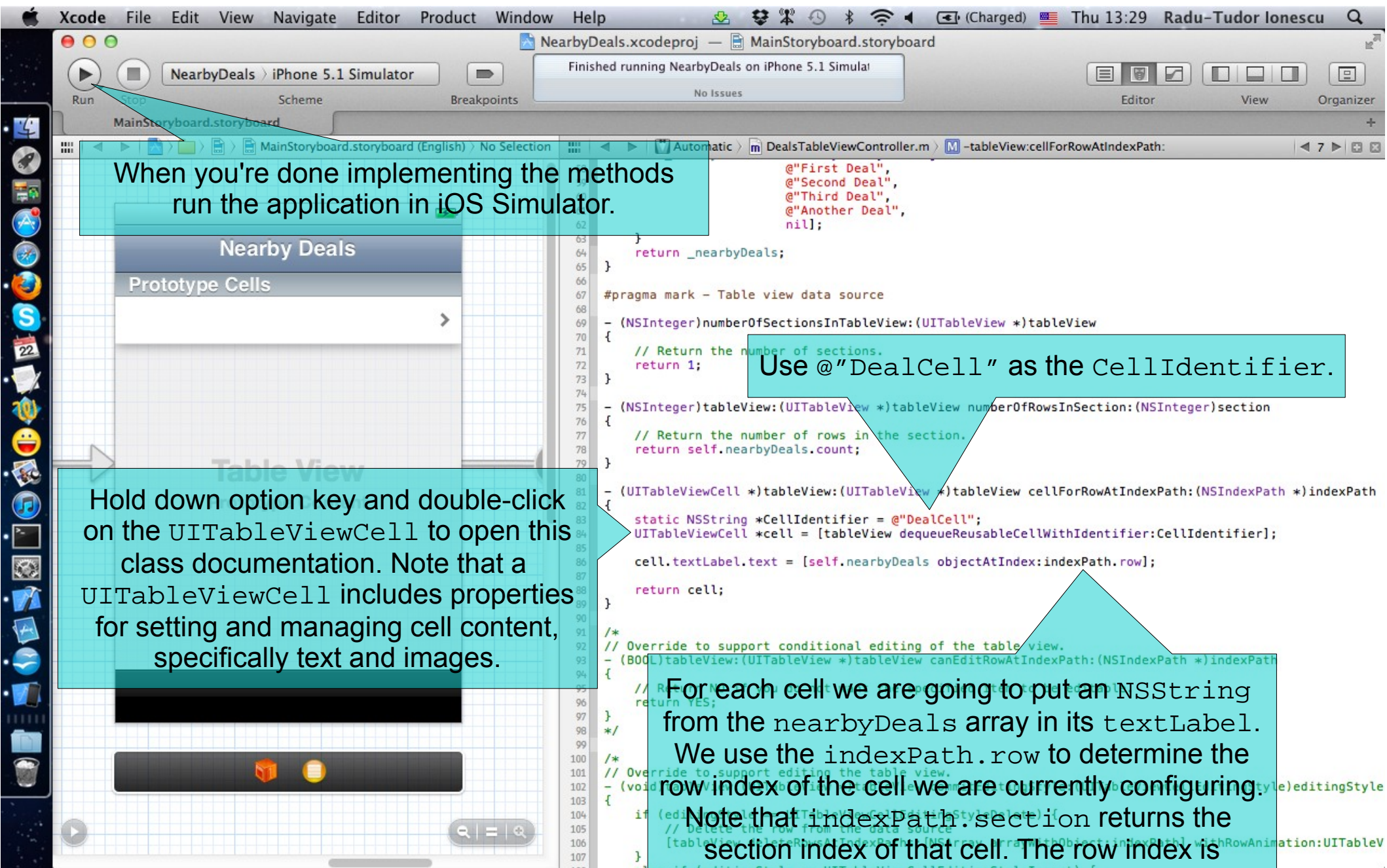
/*
// Override to support conditional editing of the table view.
- (BOOL)tableView:(UITableView *)tableView canEditRowAtIndexPath:(NSIndexPath *)indexPath
{
    // Return NO if you do not want the specified item to be editable.
    return NO;
}
*/
```

The `tableView:cellForRowAtIndexPath:` method asks the data source (our Table View Controller) for a cell to insert in a particular location of the table view. In this method we have to configure the cell for the location determined by `indexPath`.

We have only one section that contains all the nearby deals. Thus, we return the number of objects inside the `nearbyDeals` array. Note that we are using the getter to access this `@property`.

The returned `UITableViewCell` object is frequently one that the application reuses for performance reasons. You should fetch a previously created cell object that is marked for reuse by sending a `dequeueReusableCellWithIdentifier:` message to `tableView`.



Assignment 1

Assignment: Add enough mock-up deals when creating the `nearbyDeals` array so that the Table View will have to use scrolling to display all its cells.

Hint: You should add more than 9 objects to the `NSArray` that is the Model of our Table View Controller.

Congratulations!