Developing Applications for iOS

Lecture 1:
Mobile Applications Development

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Grading System

- Grade options (either one):

  1) 100% individual project

  2) 100% final exam (computer test)*

  (*) + 0.2p per lab attendance (up to 1p)

- In both cases, grade must be greater than 5

Content

- Key concepts of mobile applications development
- Limitations of mobile devices
- Features of mobile devices
- General advices
- Overview of the mobile environments
- Requirements
- iOS Overview
- iOS Technology Layers

Introduction

- Mobile applications development is the process of building software applications for small handheld devices such as mobile phones, personal digital assistants, tablets, etc.

Introduction

- Platforms for mobile applications:

  Android, iOS, Windows Mobile, etc.

- Mobile applications are pre-installed on phones during manufacturing, or downloaded by customers from various mobile software distribution systems:

  App Store (iOS)

  Google Play Store (Android)

  Amazon Appstore (Android)

  Microsoft Store (Windows Mobile), etc.

Key concepts

- Smartphones and tablets are becoming the computer of choice for more and more people.
- Despite the attention paid to mobile development in the last years, a lot of developers still lack the basics when it comes to building mobile applications.
- Many developers are just used to the desktop / web.

Key concepts

- Even if it may seem easy to make an application, it is hard to create a “good user experience”.
- Mobile devices have different limitations and features compared to the desktop computers.
- The emergence of mobile devices and their smaller screens means some serious adjustments in perspective.

Key concepts

- We need to make a transition to a new perspective.

Limitations of mobile devices

- Smaller screen:
- Instead of building for large PC screens (13 to 27 inches wide), developers could be dealing with a 4 to 6 inches wide Android, iPhone or BlackBerry screen.
- Because of the screen size constraint, every pixel counts to some degree.
- Even the iPad's larger screen (7.3 by 9.5 inches) needs to be considered differently because the screen resolution is still less that of most desktop monitors.

Limitations of mobile devices

- Less memory and bandwidth:
- Mobile devices really do not have a lot of memory.
- Although a typical PC can have 8-16 GB of memory, a smartphone might have just 512 MB.

  (e.g.: developers loading 100 images of 10 MB onto a phone would quickly run out of memory)
- Network connectivity for smartphones and tablets incurs limits on downloading.
- Memory, space and battery life are some of the parameters that have to be taken into account when you develop all your apps.

Limitations of mobile devices

- Different user interaction:
- Mobile devices have no mouse. The physical keyboard is much smaller or even missing.
- This means mobile applications don't respond to double clicks or keyboard shortcuts.
- Most smartphones can interact using touch screens or capacitive displays. This can also be a feature.

Features of mobile devices

- Better user interaction:
- Most smartphones can interact using touch screens or capacitive displays.
- Capacitive displays enable the use of multi-touch gestures which allow a natural interaction with the device.

  (e.g.: pinch-open to zoom in, pinch-close to zoom-out, swipe to delete, etc.)

Features of mobile devices

- Using multi-touch gestures

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TB5nnMZlZUM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flR6mz788h0

Features of mobile devices

- Using built-in devices:
- Most smartphones have built-in devices such as: camera, accelerometer, gyroscope, GPS, compass, etc.
- Mobile applications should make use of this capabilities whenever this is possible.
- E.g.: detecting the device orientation using the accelerometer (to adjust the display) can be used for creating a better user experience.
- E.g.: building augmented reality applications requires the GPS, the compass, the camera and even the accelerometer.

Features of mobile devices

- Using built-in devices for mobile applications

General Advices

- Focus on user experience: reduce navigation for users, go with defaults, remember what users did last time.
- Choose carefully between native and web development: web-based development is less expensive and not as complex, but it doesn't deliver the kind of experience the user might expect.
- Think about how to take advantage of location: location services enable developers to offer a more customized experience.

General Advices

- Design and code for touch interfaces: developers need to understand the user flows first, then translate the basis of touch interfaces into coding language.
- Expect users to make mistakes: developers should anticipate users pressing the wrong buttons.
- Smaller size of smartphones and unfamiliar users guarantee input mistakes. Mobile applications should be more tolerant and recover without extra effort.

“Simple can be harder than complex: You have to work hard to get your thinking clean to make it simple. But it’s worth it in the end because once you get there, you can move mountains.” - Steve Jobs

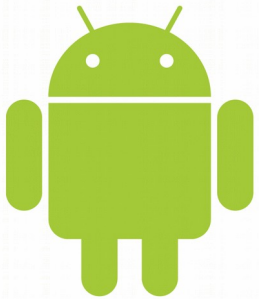
Overview of the mobile environments

- Each of the platforms for mobile applications has an IDE which provides tools to allow a developer to write, test and deploy applications into the target platform environment.

- An alternative to native applications are web-based mobile applications which are less expensive to build. This alternative represents a trade-off between cost and user experience, e.g. we will not be able to use all device capabilities.

Android

- Developers can use the Android Studio IDE to build applications using the Kotlin or Java programming languages.
- Android is based on a Linux kernel with libraries and APIs written in C.
- There are more than over 1 million apps available for Android, that can be downloaded from online stores such as Google Play Store.



Windows Phone

- Developers can build applications with Visual Studio 2010 IDE using the C# programming language.
- Windows Mobile is the successor of Windows Phone. It's a newer mobile operating system compared to Android and iOS.
- The applications are available in the Microsoft Store.

iOS

- Integrated with Xcode IDE. Developers must have Intel-based Mac computers and the latest Mac OS X installed.
- iOS applications can be developed using an open-source programming language, called Swift. This is a modern OOP language designed to be more concise than Objective-C.
- iOS is based on a UNIX kernel with libraries written in C, Objective-C and Swift.

Requirements

- Must have an Intel-based Mac with MacOS 10.11.5 or later and Xcode 11.3.1.
- Hardware:

  iPhone 4 or later, iPod Touch 4th Generation or later, iPad 2 or later
- Textbook:

  Apple online documentation

  https://developer.apple.com/develop/
- Prerequisites:

  Object-Oriented Programming Principles

Requirements

Object-Oriented Terms:

- Class (description/template for an object)
- Instance (manifestation of a class)
- Method (code invoked on an object)
- Instance Variable (object-specific storage)
- Inheritance (code-sharing mechanism)
- Superclass/Subclass (Inheritance relationships)
- Protocol (non-class-specific method declaration)

What will I learn in this course?

- How to build cool iOS apps:

  Easy to build even for very complex applications.

  Join a vibrant development community.

- Real-life Object-Oriented Programming:

  The heart of Cocoa Touch is 100% object-oriented.

  Application of MVC design model.

- Many computer science concepts applied in a commercial development platform: Databases, Graphics, Multimedia, Multithreading, Animation, Networking and much more.

- We want you to be able to go on and sell products on the AppStore.

iOS Overview

- iOS comprises the operating system and technologies that you use to run applications natively on devices, such as iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch.
- Although it shares a common heritage and many underlying technologies with Mac OS X, iOS was designed to meet the needs of a mobile environment, where users' needs are slightly different.
- Some technologies are available only on iOS, such as the Multi-Touch interface and accelerometer support.

iOS SDK Overview

- The iOS SDK contains the code, information, and tools you need to develop, test, run, debug, and tune applications for iOS.
- Xcode provides the launching point for testing your applications on an iOS device, and in iOS Simulator.
- iOS Simulator is a platform that mimics the basic iOS environment but runs on your local Macintosh computer.

Platform Components

- Tools

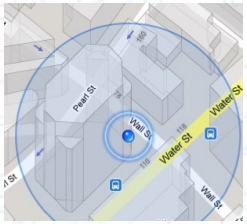


- Language

```
label.textColor = UIColor.blueColor()
```

- Frameworks

Foundation



Map Kit

Core Data

Core Motion

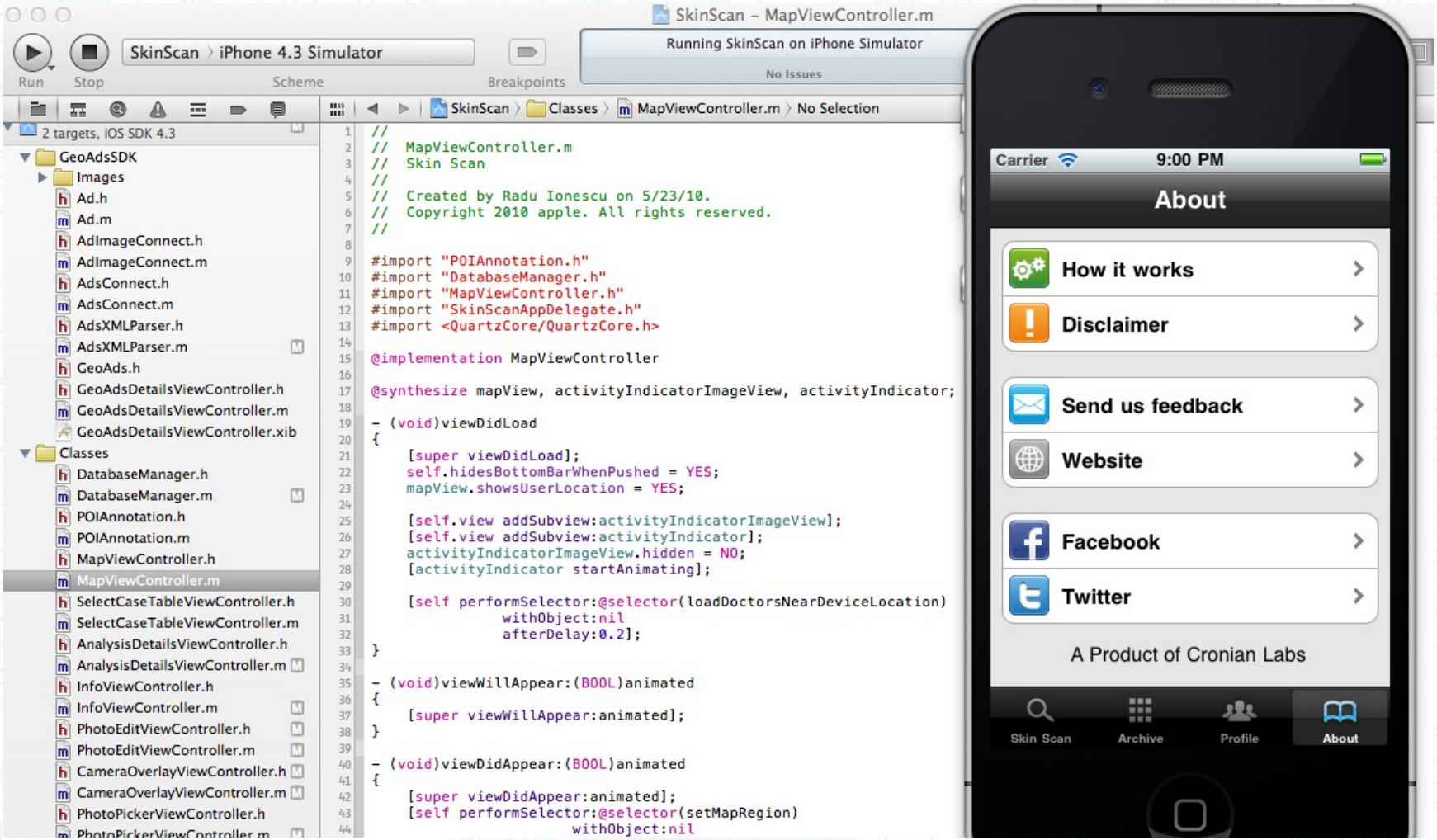
UI Kit

- Design Strategies

MVC

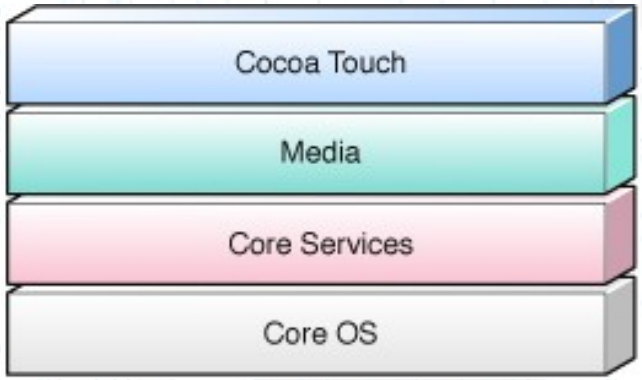
iOS SDK Overview

- Xcode and iOS Simulator:



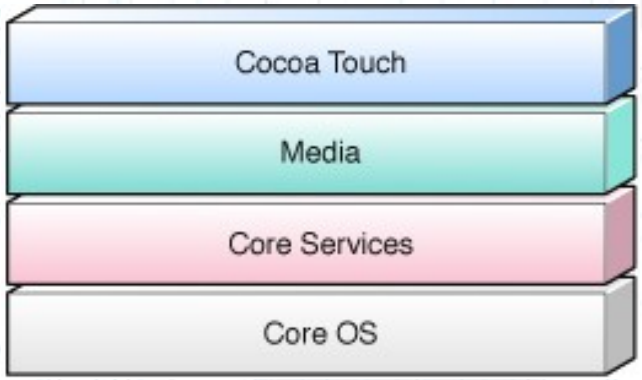
iOS Technology Layers

- The kernel in iOS is based on a variant of the same basic Mach kernel that is found in Mac OS X.
- On top of this UNIX kernel are the layers of services that are used to implement applications on the platform.
- This layering gives you choices when it comes to implementing your code.



iOS Technology Layers

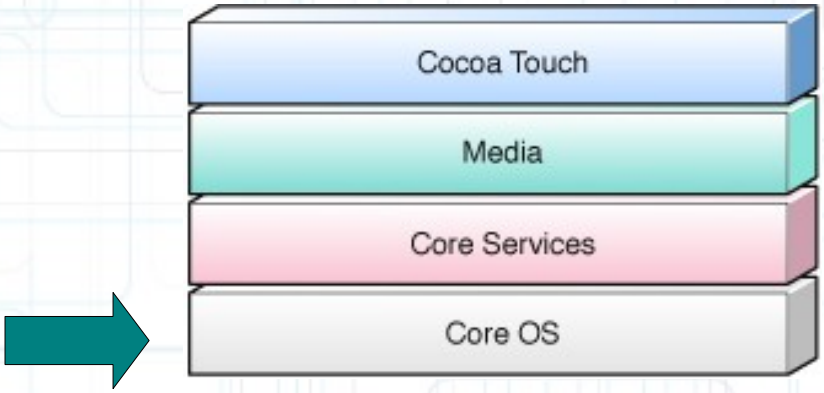
- The Core OS and Core Services layers contain the fundamental interfaces for iOS, including those used for accessing low-level data types, network sockets, and so on.
- On the upper layers you find more advanced technologies. For example, the Media layer contains the fundamental technologies used to support 2D and 3D drawing, audio, and video.



iOS Technology Layers

- Core OS:

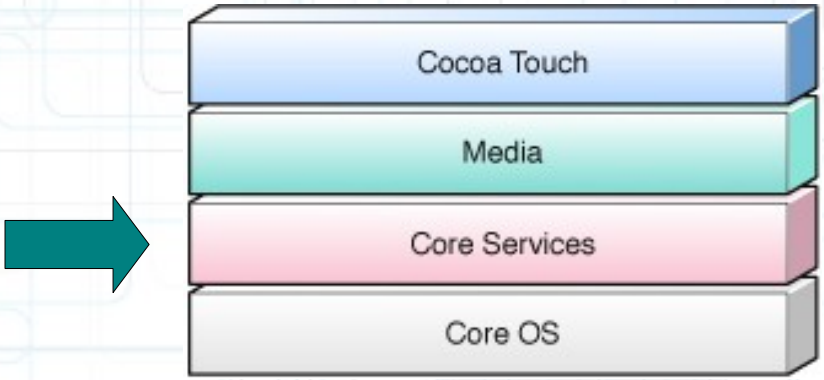
OSX Kernel	Power Management
Mach 3.0	Keychain Access
BSD Sockets	Certificates
POSIX Threads	File System
Security	Bonjour and DNS Services



iOS Technology Layers

- Core Services:

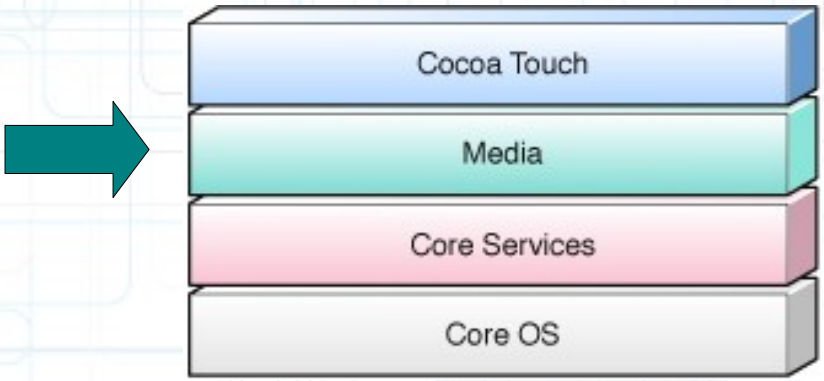
Collections	Core Location
Address Book	Net Services
Networking	Threading
File Access	Preferences
SQLite	URL Utilities



iOS Technology Layers

- Media:

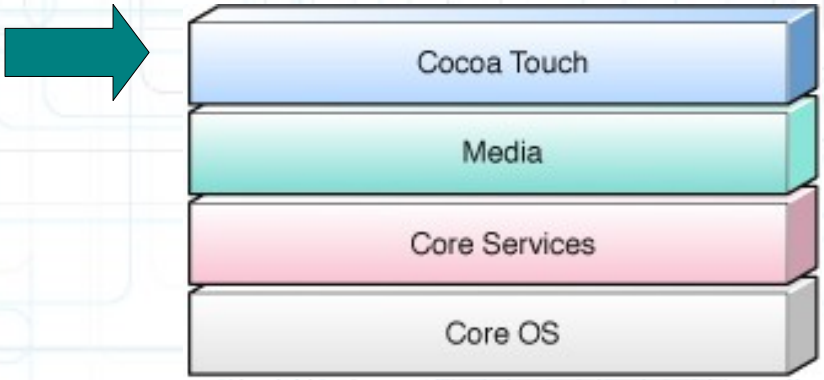
Core Audio	JPEG, PNG, TIFF
OpenAL	PDF
Audio Mixing	Quartz 2D
Audio Recording	Core Animation
Video Playback	OpenGL ES



iOS Technology Layers

- Cocoa Touch:

Multi-Touch	Alerts
Core Motion	Web View
View Hierarchy	Map Kit
Localization	Image Picker
Controls	Camera



Practical Advice

- The starting point for any new project is the Cocoa Touch layer, and the UIKit framework in particular.
- When deciding what additional technologies to use, you should start with frameworks in the higher-level layers.
- The higher-level frameworks make it easy to support standard system behaviors with the least amount of effort on your part.
- You should fall back to the lower-level frameworks only if you want to implement custom behavior that is not provided at a higher level.

Next Time

- MVC Design Concept
- Introduction to Swift