

Lab – Android Development Environment

Setting up the ADT, Creating, Running and Debugging Your First Application

Objectives:

Familiarize yourself with the Android Development Environment

Important Note: This class has many students with a wide range of previous experience. Some students are fairly new to object-oriented programming (OOP). Some have OOP experience, but are new to Android. Still others have some Android experience already, and want to just freshen up their knowledge.

Because of this, I'm not expecting that everyone can finish this entire lab. I suggest that you set a time limit for yourself, say 1 hour. Work through what you can in that time and then stop and take a break. If you later feel that you have some more time for this Lab, then repeat the process. Again – don't feel that you need to finish everything in this lab. That's not the goal here.

Specifically, if you are fairly new to programming, you should try to complete Parts 1 – 4 below. If you are familiar with programming and programming environments, you should try to complete parts 1 – 6 below.

This lab contains the following Parts.

1. Set up Android Studio. We have broken this up into 3 different sections, depending on what operating system you are running locally. 1a is for Mac users, 1b is for Windows users and 1c is for Linux users. You only need to read through and follow the instructions for the operating system you are running on your development machine.
2. Create a new Android application.
3. Create an Android Virtual Device and start the Android Emulator.
4. Run the application you created in Part 2.
5. Import an application project.
6. Debug an Android application.

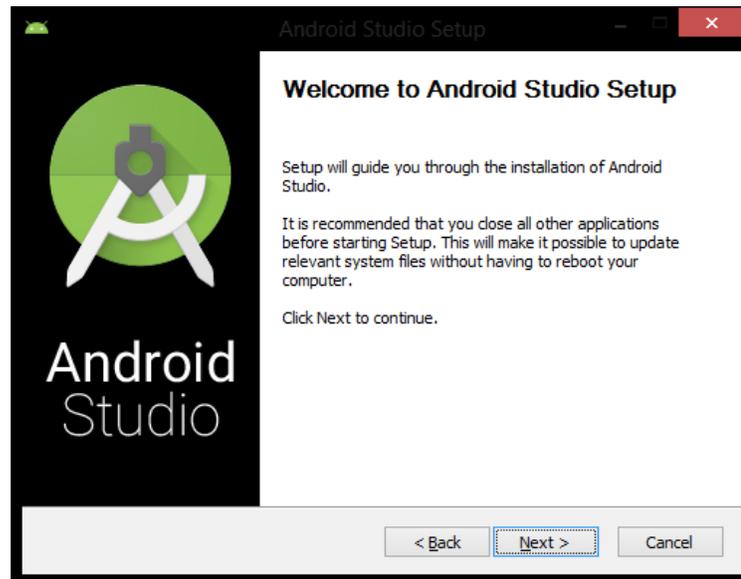
Additional helpful information can be found on the Android Developer website:

- <https://developer.android.com/studio/index.html>
- <https://developer.android.com/training/basics/firstapp/creating-project.html>
- <https://developer.android.com/studio/run/managing-avds.html>
- <https://developer.android.com/training/basics/firstapp/running-app.html>

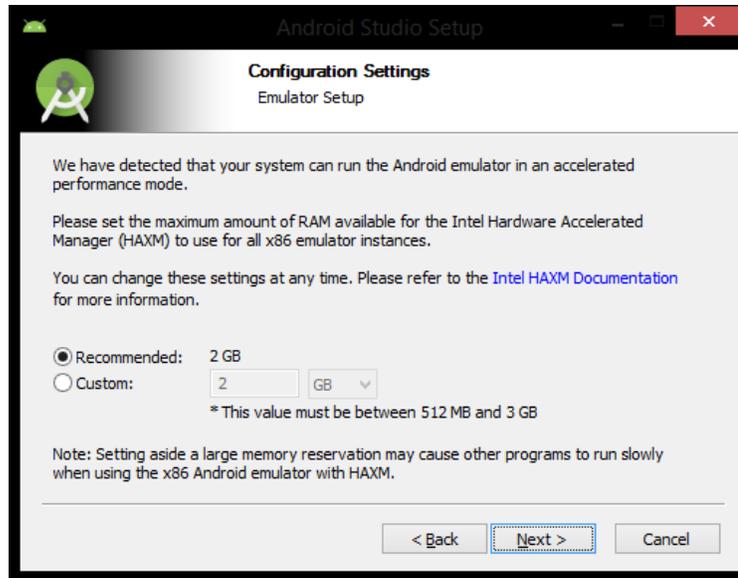
Part 1a – Setting Up Android Studio on OSX (Mac) .

In this part you will download and install Android Studio which will be the Integrated Development Environment (IDE) used for this course. For the purposes of this document, we installed Android Studio version 4.0.1 (the current latest stable release as of 6/24/2020) on a Mac running Catalina (10.15.6). All screenshots correspond to that environment.

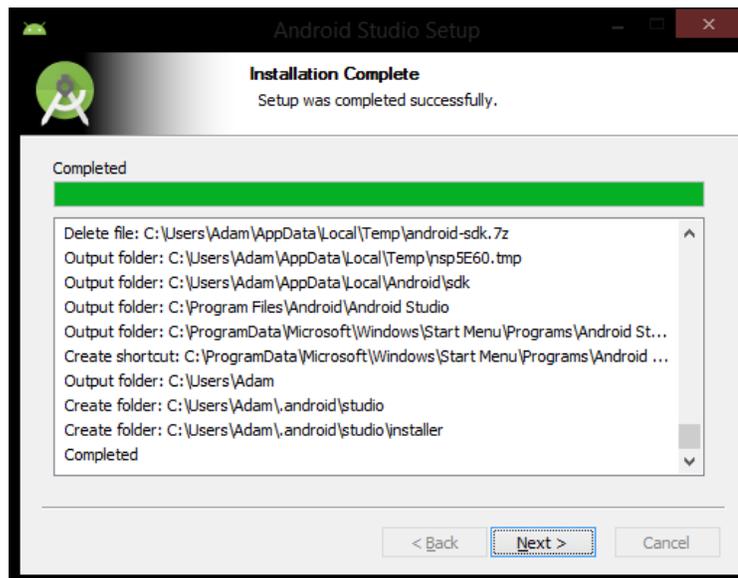
1. Download the current version of android studio 4.0.1 for Mac from <https://developer.android.com/studio>
2. Click on 'Download Android Studio'.
3. Open the executable file android-studio-**<xxx>**.
4. Once the setup loads, you will see the Welcome Screen.



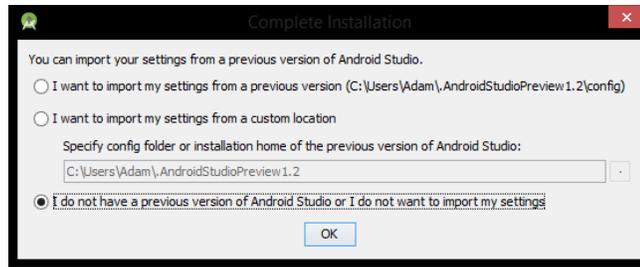
5. Click 'Next >' on the Welcome Screen.
6. When choosing components, ensure all of the checkboxes are checked in for each component to install. Once you are done, click 'Next >'.
7. Agree to the Android Studio and the Intel HAXM License Agreements after reading them.
8. Verify the install locations meet the installation requirements and click 'Next >'.
9. You may or may not see the emulator setup settings, just click 'Next >' after selecting the RAM size.



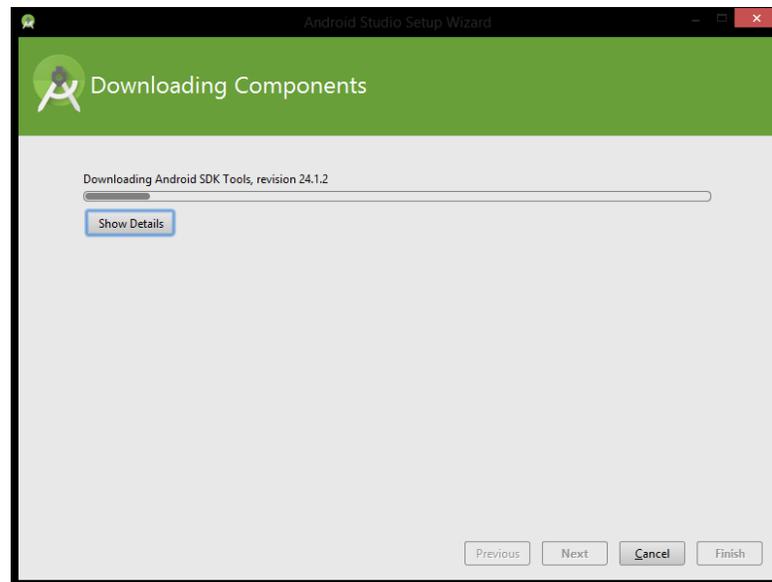
10. Finally, click 'Install'. You will see which operations are currently running in the installation process and a progress bar displaying their progress.
11. Once the installation process is finished click 'Next >'.



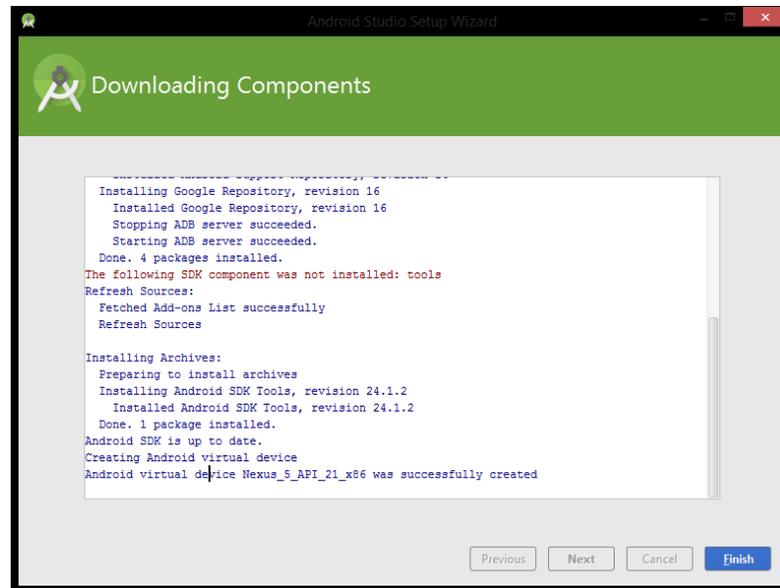
12. Android Studio is now set up. Check on 'Start Android Studio' and click 'Finish'.
13. You will see the Complete Installation screen below.
14. If you had a previous version of Android Studio installed prior, you can choose either of the first 2 radio boxes to import settings from previous install. If you do not have a previous install or do not want to import settings from a previous install, select the third radio button.



15. After the splash screen you may see some additional setup operations run, such as downloading components.



16. Once it is finished, click 'Finish'.



17. Welcome to Android Studio! In the next part we will start our first project.

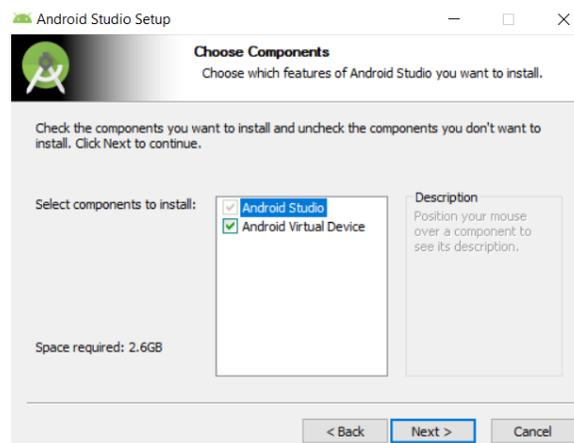
Part 1b – Setting Up Android Studio on Windows.

In this part you will download and install Android Studio which will be the Integrated Development Environment (IDE) used for this course. For the purposes of this document, we installed Android Studio version 4.0.1 (the current latest stable release as of July 2020) on a Windows 64-bit machine running the Windows 10 OS. All screenshots correspond to that environment.

1. Download Android Studio from <https://developer.android.com/studio/index.html> . Click on the 'Download Android Studio' button.
2. Open the executable file android-studio-<xxx>. If asked for permissions to open the app, click on 'Yes'.
3. Once the setup loads, you will see the Welcome Screen.

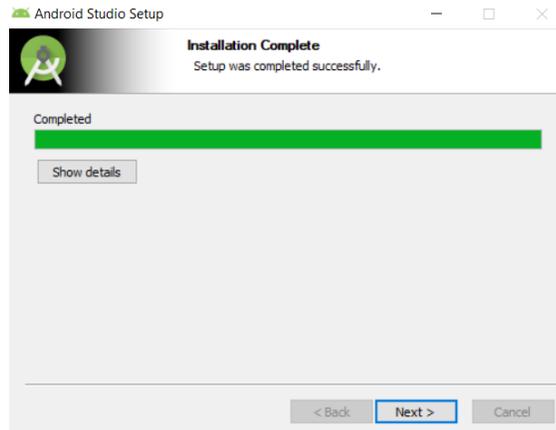


4. Click 'Next >' on the Welcome Screen.
5. When choosing components, ensure all of the checkboxes are checked in for each component to install. Once you are done, click 'Next >'.

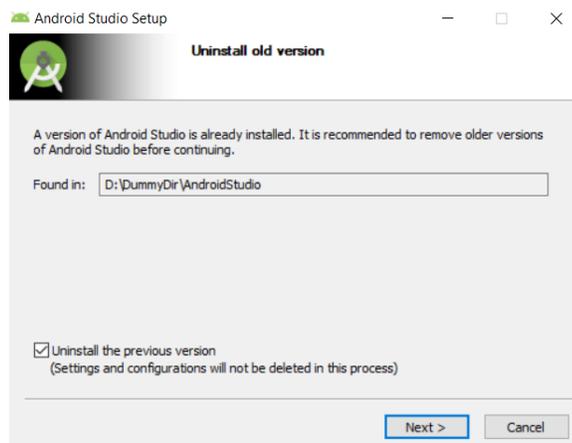


6. Verify the install locations meet the installation requirements and click 'Next >'.

7. Select the start menu folder if required (Let it be Android Studio, it auto-populates). If you don't wish to create a shortcut, check the box 'Do not create shortcuts'.
8. Finally, click 'Install'. You will see which operations are currently running in the installation process and a progress bar displaying their progress.
9. Once the installation process is finished click 'Next >'.



10. Android Studio is now set up. Check on 'Start Android Studio' and click 'Finish'.
11. You will see the Complete Installation screen below.
12. If you had a previous version of Android Studio installed prior, Windows will recommend uninstalling the previous version and then reinstall the new version. If you do not wish to do so, you may uncheck the box and install in a different directory (not recommended).

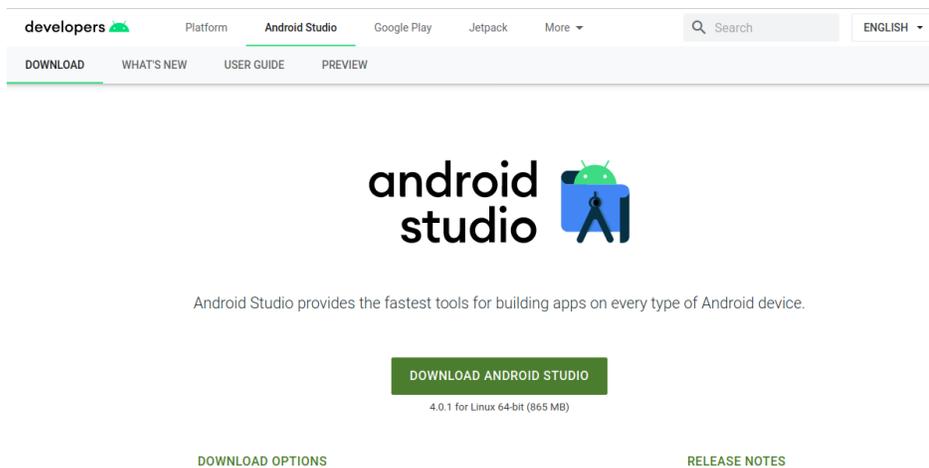


Welcome to Android Studio! In part 2 we will start our first project.

Part 1c – Setting Up Android Studio on a Linux Distribution (Ubuntu 18.04).

1. Download the current version of android studio 4.0.1 for Linux 64 bit from <https://developer.android.com/studio>

Complete Installation guide: <https://developer.android.com/studio/install#64bit-libs>



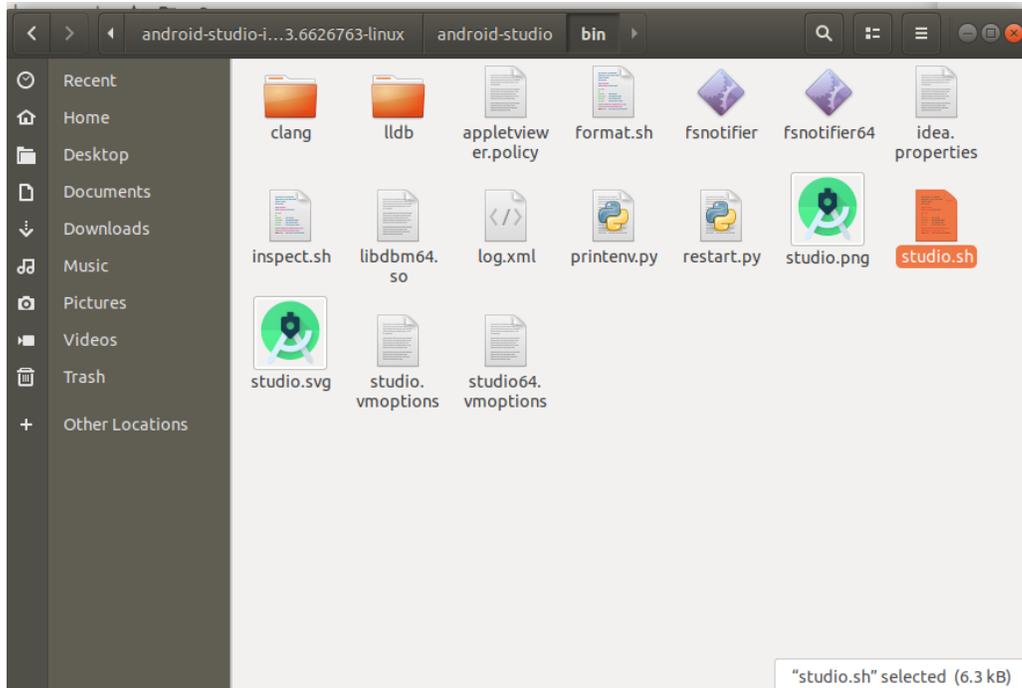
2. Unzip the package to an appropriate location for your applications, such as within `/usr/local/` for your user profile, or `/opt/` for shared users. Note: you have to use `sudo` for making the directory and give permission to write, to the new folder where you extract android studio.



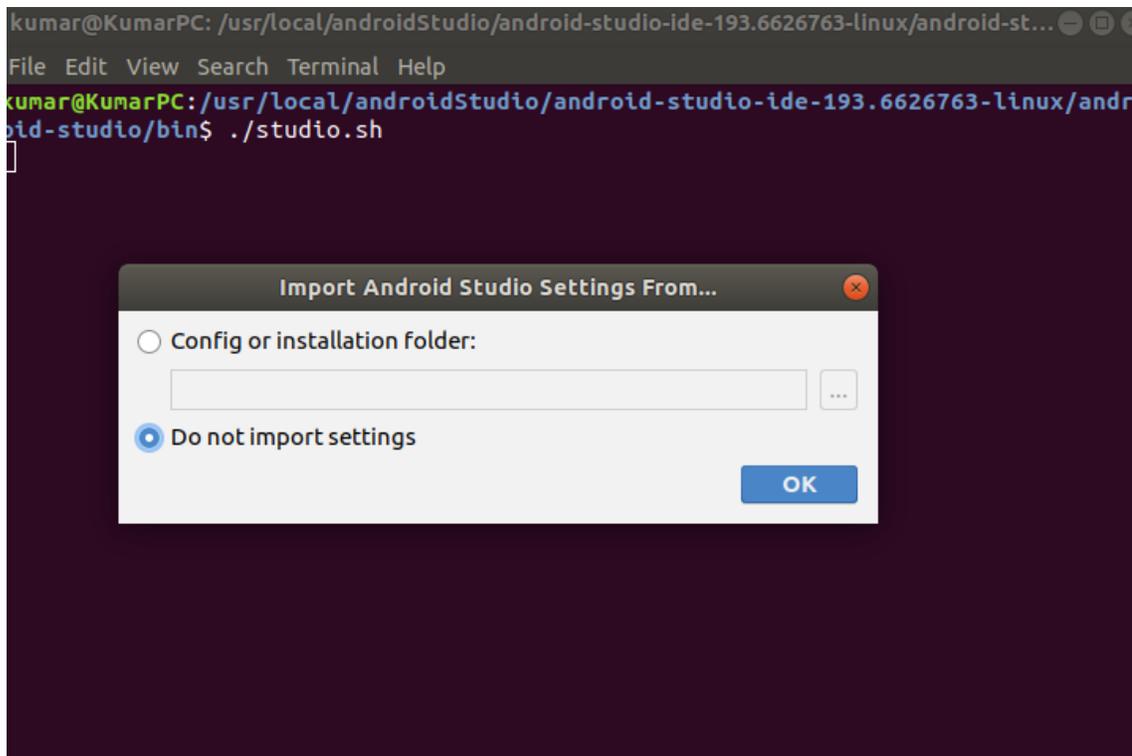
3. Please install required libraries by running this command :
`sudo apt-get install libc6:i386 libncurses5:i386 libstdc++6:i386 lib32z1 libbz2-1.0:i386`

These are 32 bit libraries required by the 64 bit version of Ubuntu.

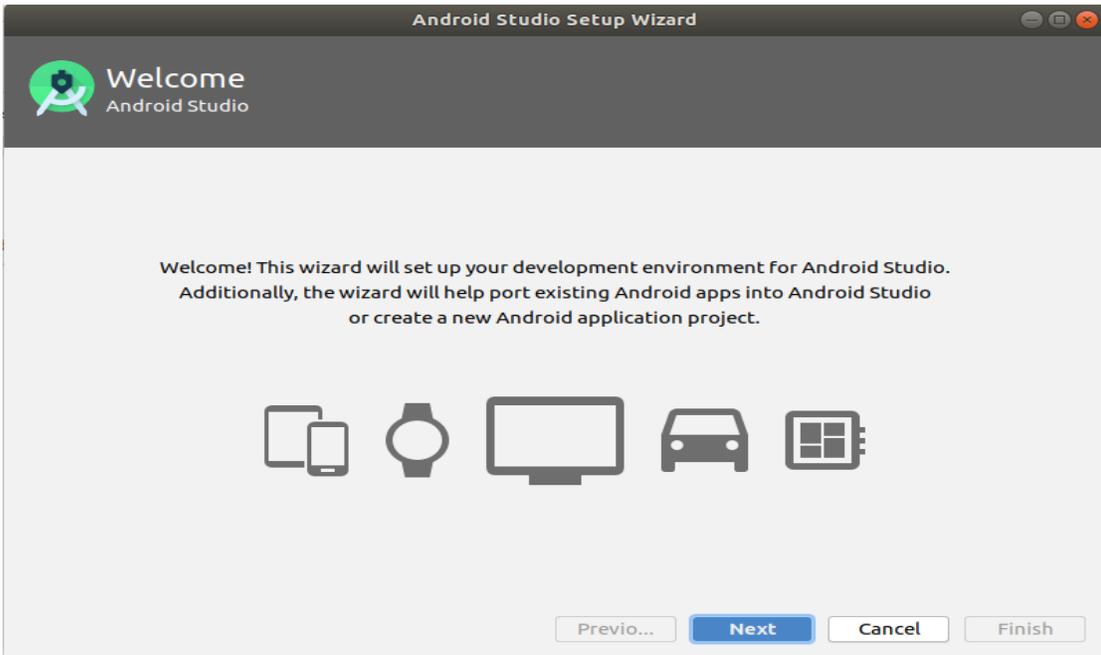
4. To launch Android Studio, open a terminal, navigate to the **android-studio/bin/** directory, and execute studio.sh by typing **./studio.sh** command.



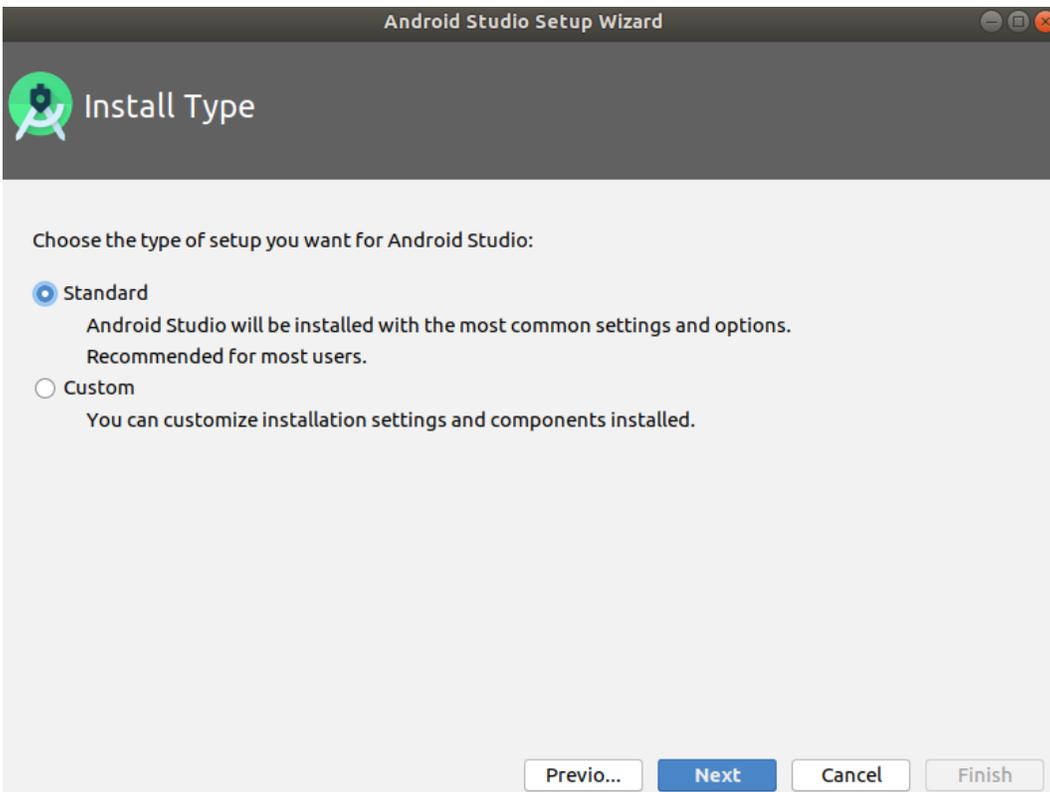
5. If you are installing it for the first time, select **do not import settings**, after running the above command/ script.



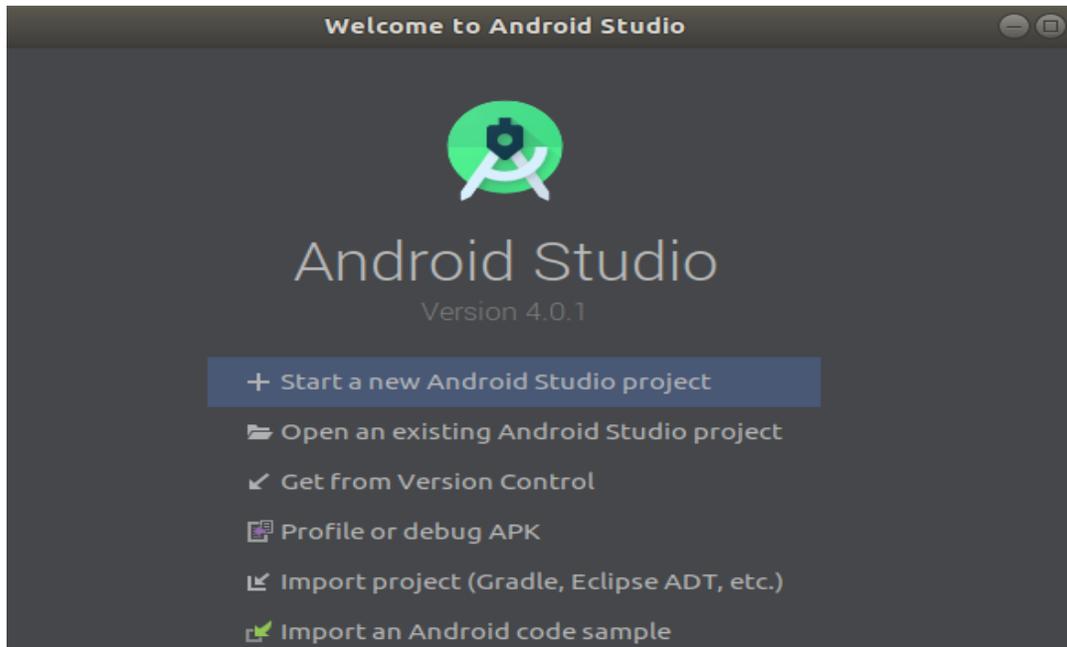
6. Click on Next.



7. Select Standard Installation.



8. Android studio 4.0.1 is installed.



Welcome to Android Studio! In part 2 we will start our first project.

Part 2 – Creating a New Project

In this part, you will create a simple Android application that displays the words, "Hello World!".

1. When you first launch Android Studio, you will be met with this screen.

Start a new Android Studio Project.

Note: You may not have a side pane as shown in this image.



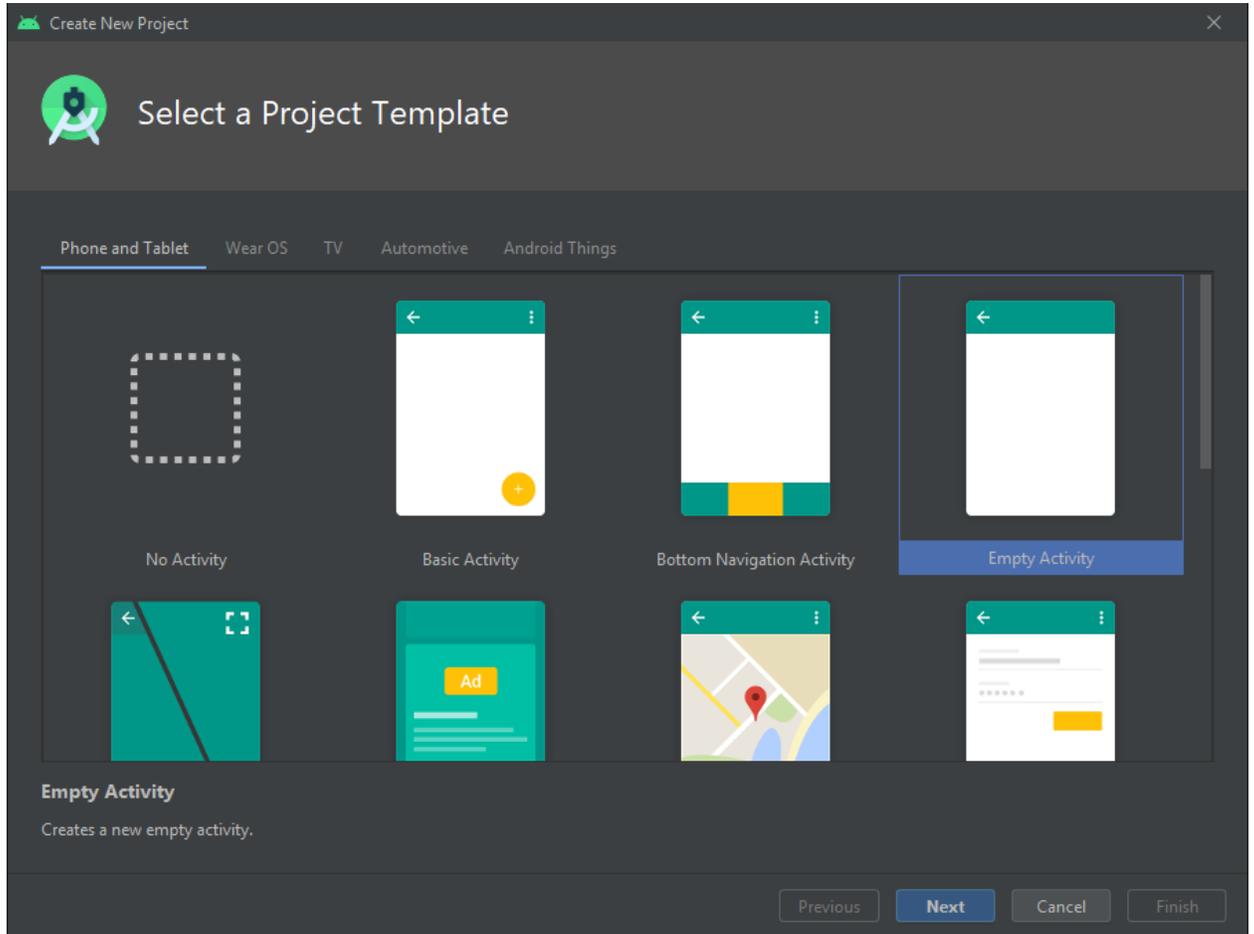
Android Studio

Version 4.0.1

- + Start a new Android Studio project
- 📁 Open an existing Android Studio project
- ↩ Get from Version Control
- 📄 Profile or debug APK
- 📂 Import project (Gradle, Eclipse ADT, etc.)
- 📄 Import an Android code sample

2. Create a new 'Empty Activity'.

For the purposes of this lab, we will be starting from an Empty Activity.



3. Name the app 'MyFirstApp'.

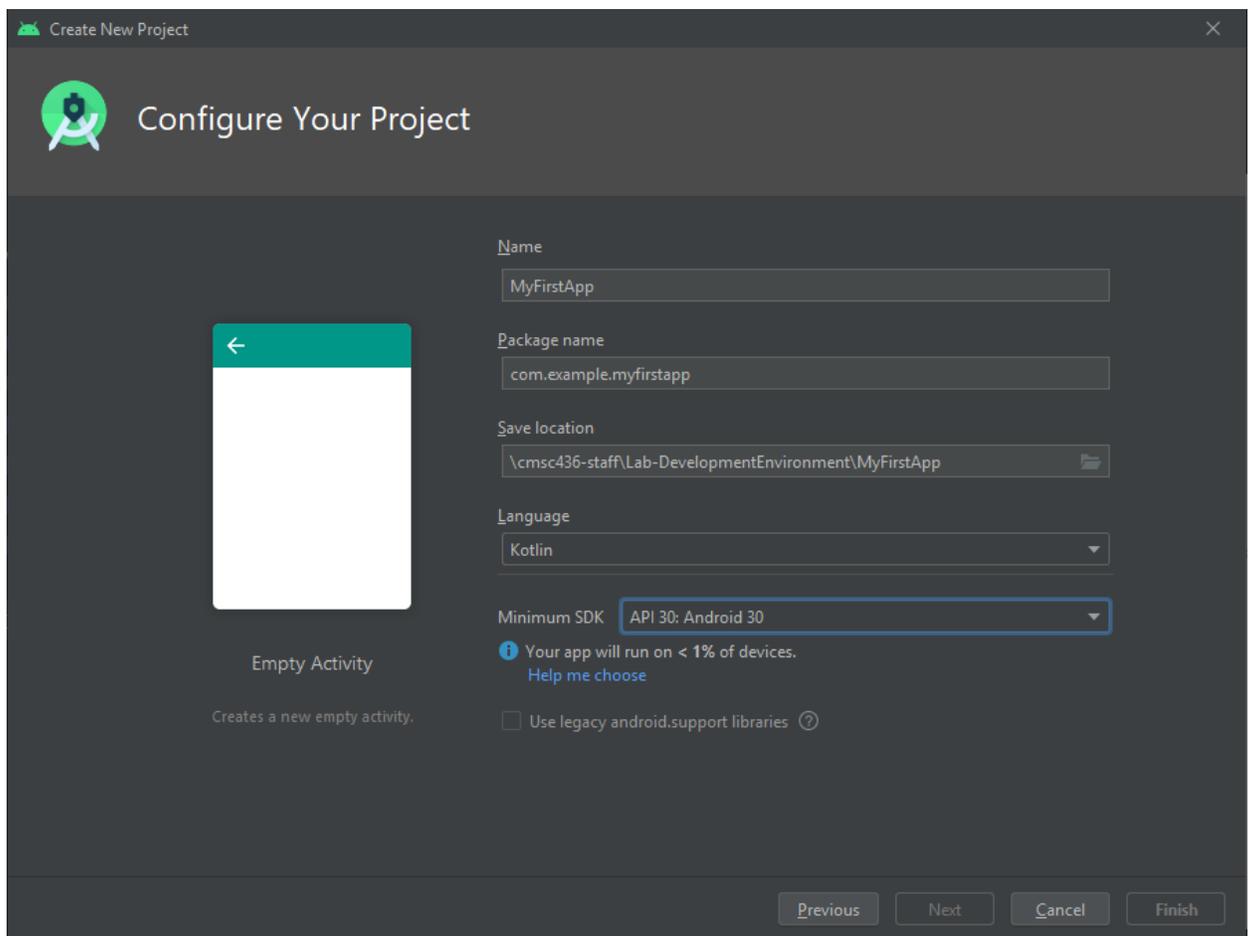
The package name is not significant for this class, but the general naming convention is to have a URL backwards.

Select where you would like the project to be stored on your file system.

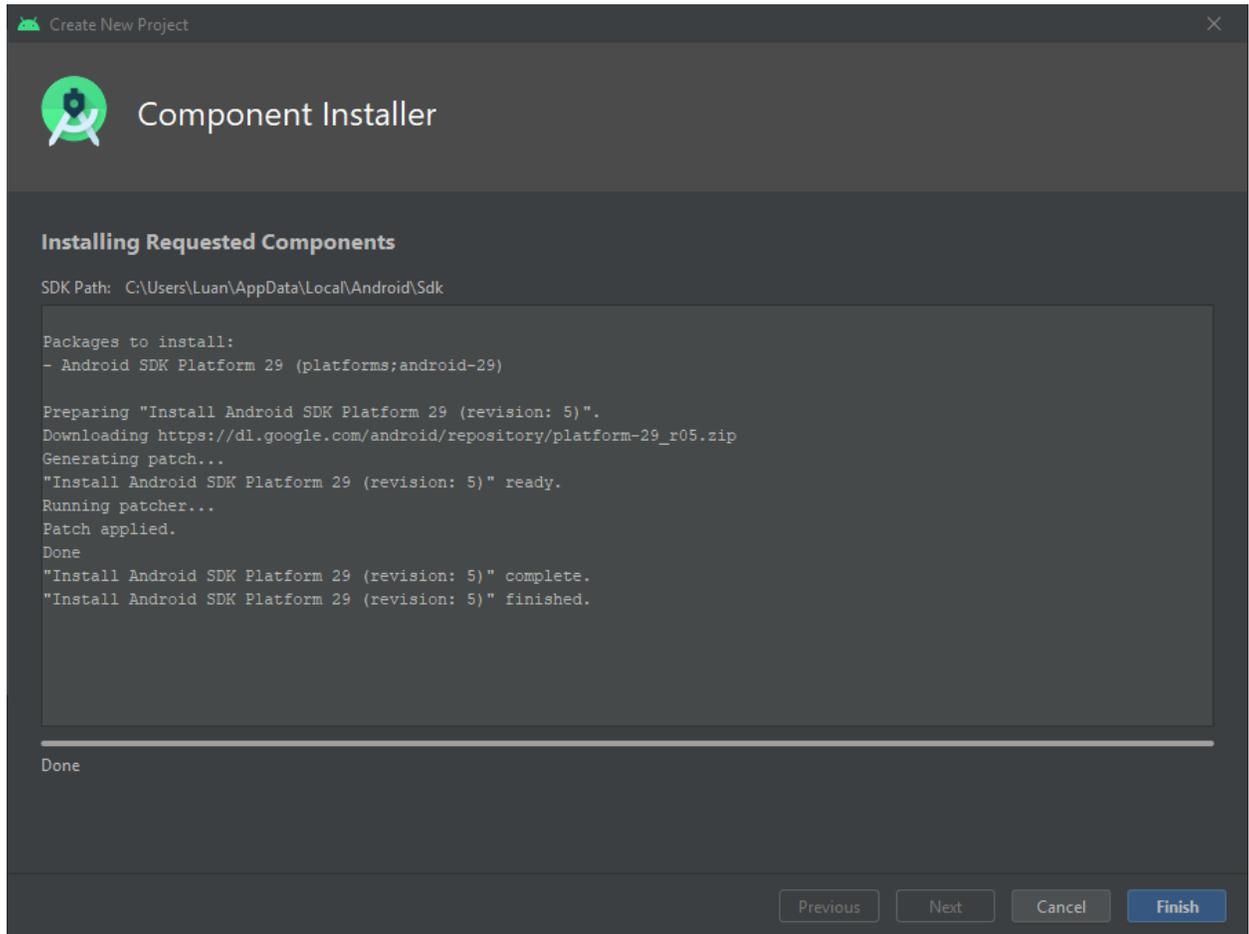
Note: I am storing the project inside the Lab-DevelopmentEnvironment directory of the cloned 436 repo on my local system.

Make sure you select 'Kotlin' as the language and set the minimum API Level to 30.

Android should now create and build your new project.



4. You might have to install some components if this is your first time creating a project on Android Studio. This might take a few minutes to complete depending on your internet connection.



Note: If you are on Windows, you may get a security warning. Allow Android Studio access to continue.

Windows Security Alert

Windows Firewall has blocked some features of this app

Windows Firewall has blocked some features of Android Studio Windows Launcher on all public and private networks.

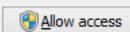
 Name: Android Studio Windows Launcher
Publisher: Android
Path: C:\program files\android\android studio\bin\studio64.exe

Allow Android Studio Windows Launcher to communicate on these networks:

Private networks, such as my home or work network

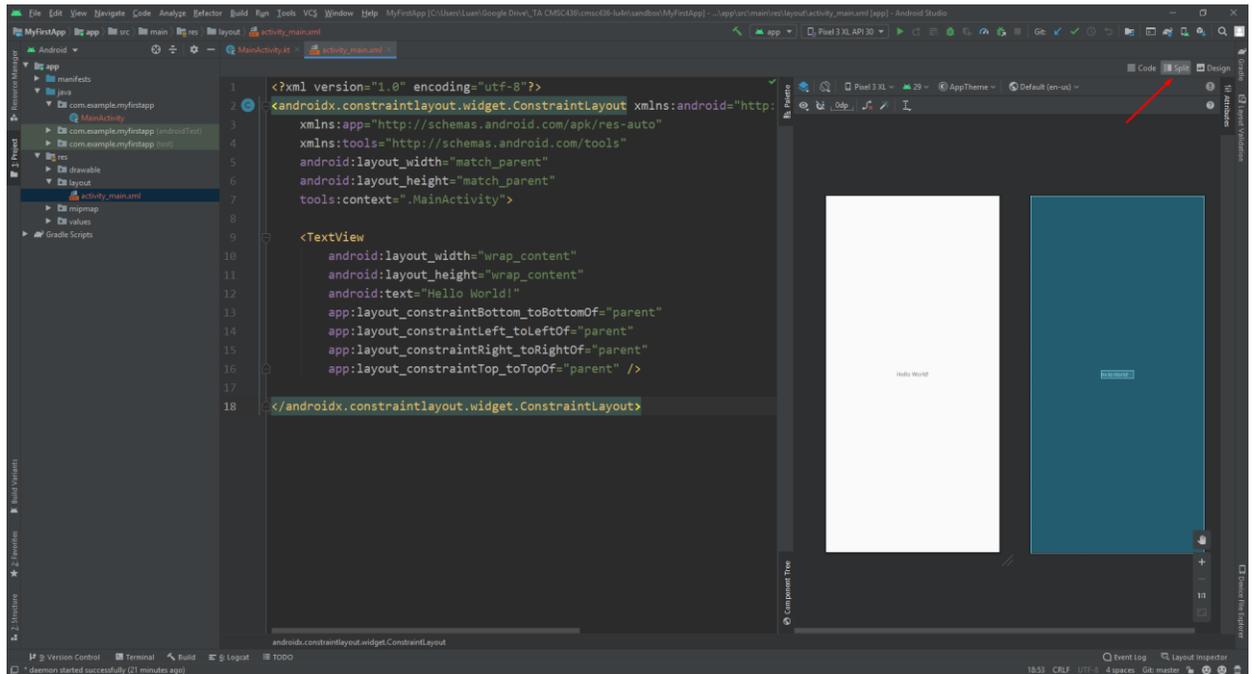
Public networks, such as those in airports and coffee shops (not recommended because these networks often have little or no security)

[What are the risks of allowing an app through a firewall?](#)

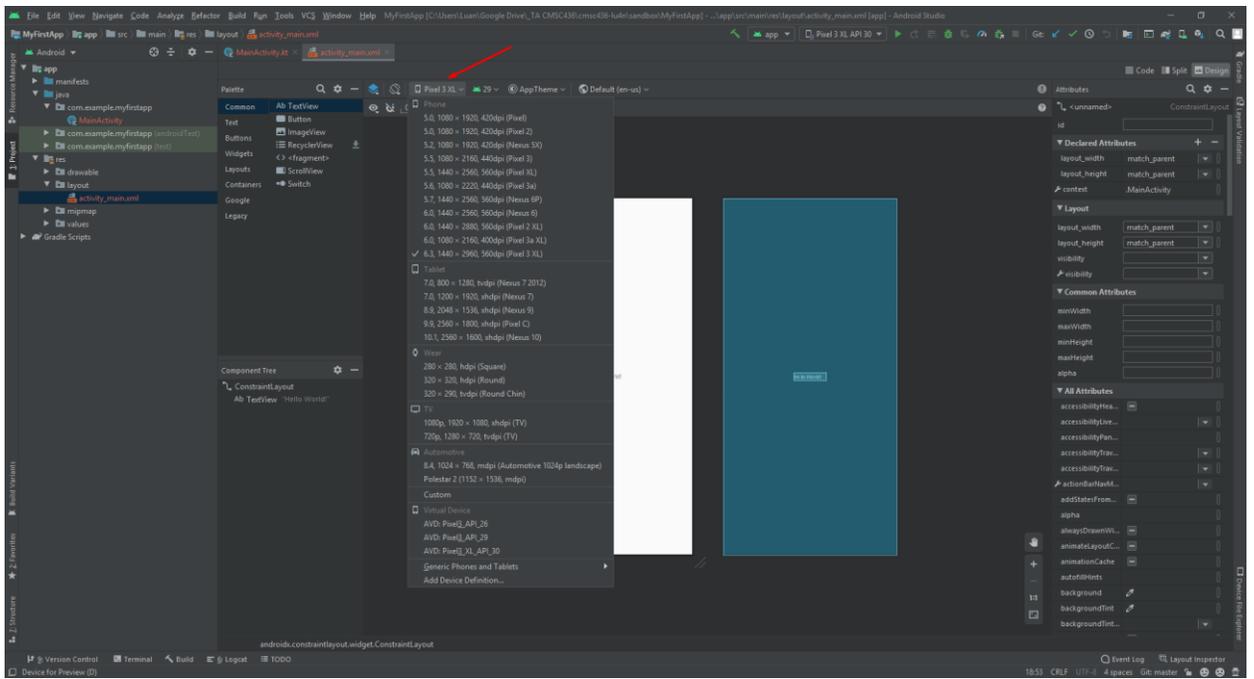
 

- It may take a few minutes for the project to build depending on your computer speed. When it is completely loaded, navigate and open 'java/com.example.myfirstapp/MainActivity.kt' and 'res/layout/activity_main.xml'.

Open 'activity_main.xml' and on the top right corner, change the view to from 'Design' to 'Split'. Now you should see the code and the design side-by-side.



To ensure that your preview looks like ours, make sure you set your preview to be 'Pixel 3 XL'.

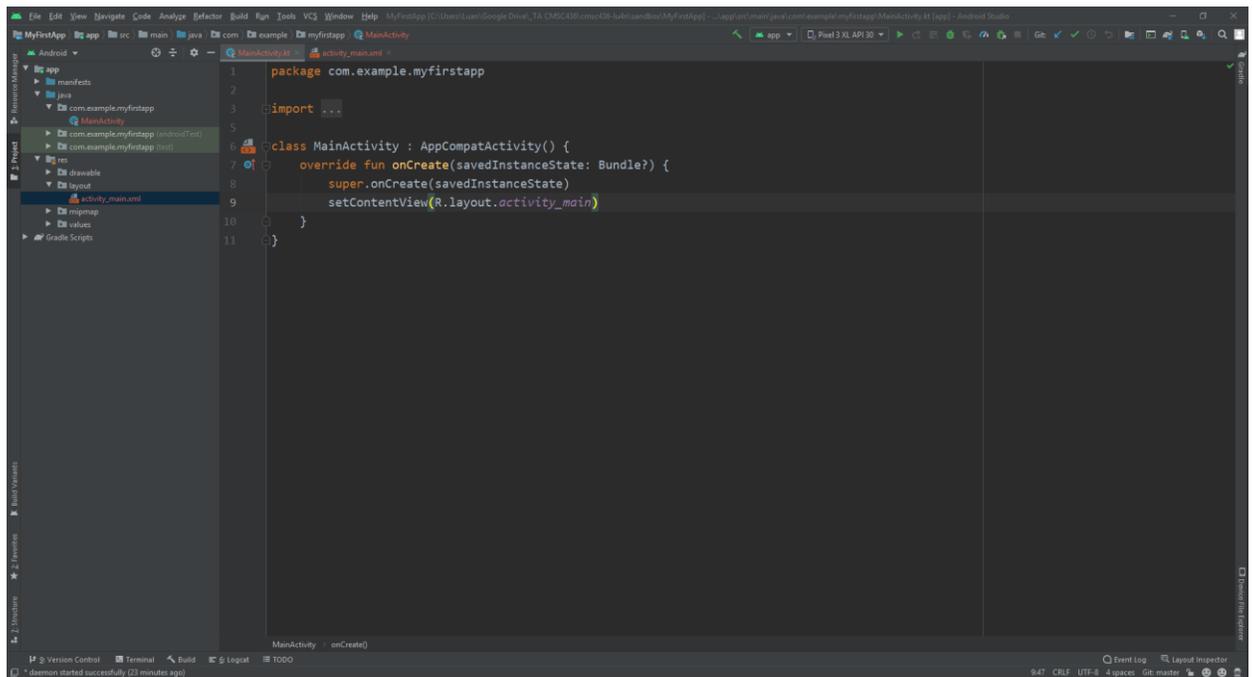


6. To view the backing code for this activity, open 'MainActivity.kt'.

In Kotlin, you must set a xml file that describes the layout of your app. We will be using the 'activity_main.xml' to describe what the layout will look like.

When the project is built, Android will create an R object that contains all the files in the 'res' directory.

In this case, we will be accessing the layout file 'activity_main', so we use the syntax 'R.layout.activity_main'.



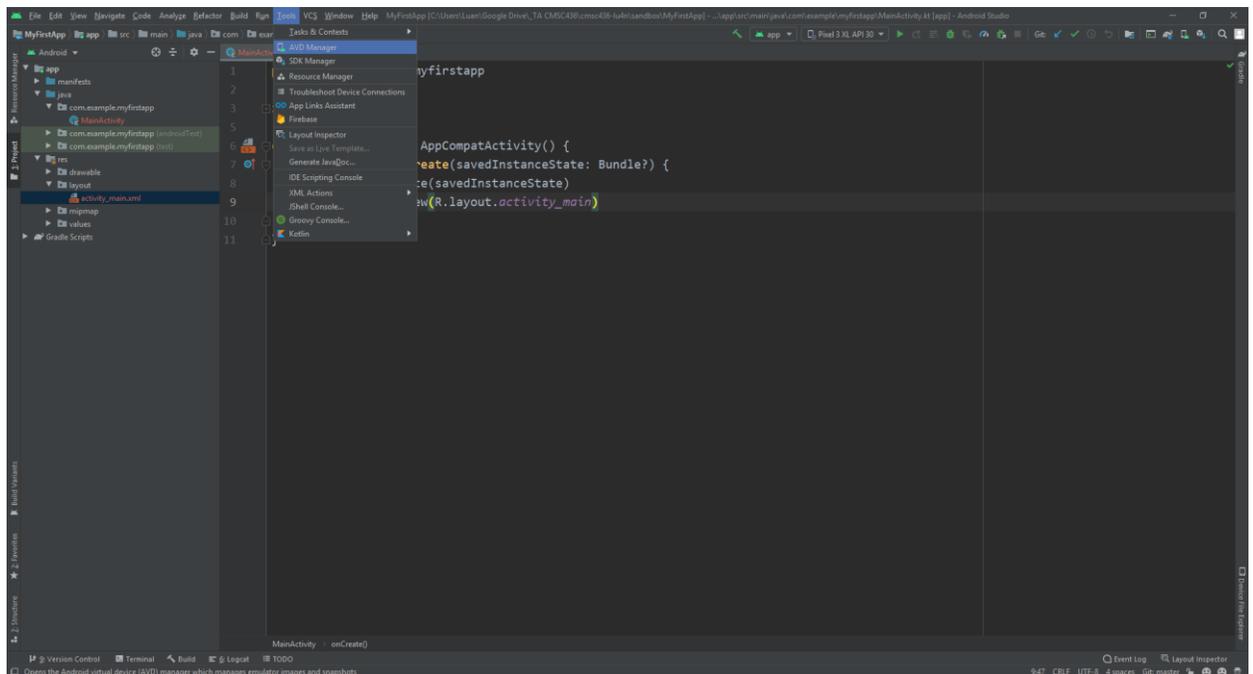
```
1 package com.example.myfirstapp
2
3 import androidx.appcompat.app.AppCompatActivity
4
5
6 class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {
7     override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
8         super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
9         setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)
10    }
11 }
```

In Part 3, we will show you how to run the app in the Android Emulator.

Part 3 – Setting up the Emulator

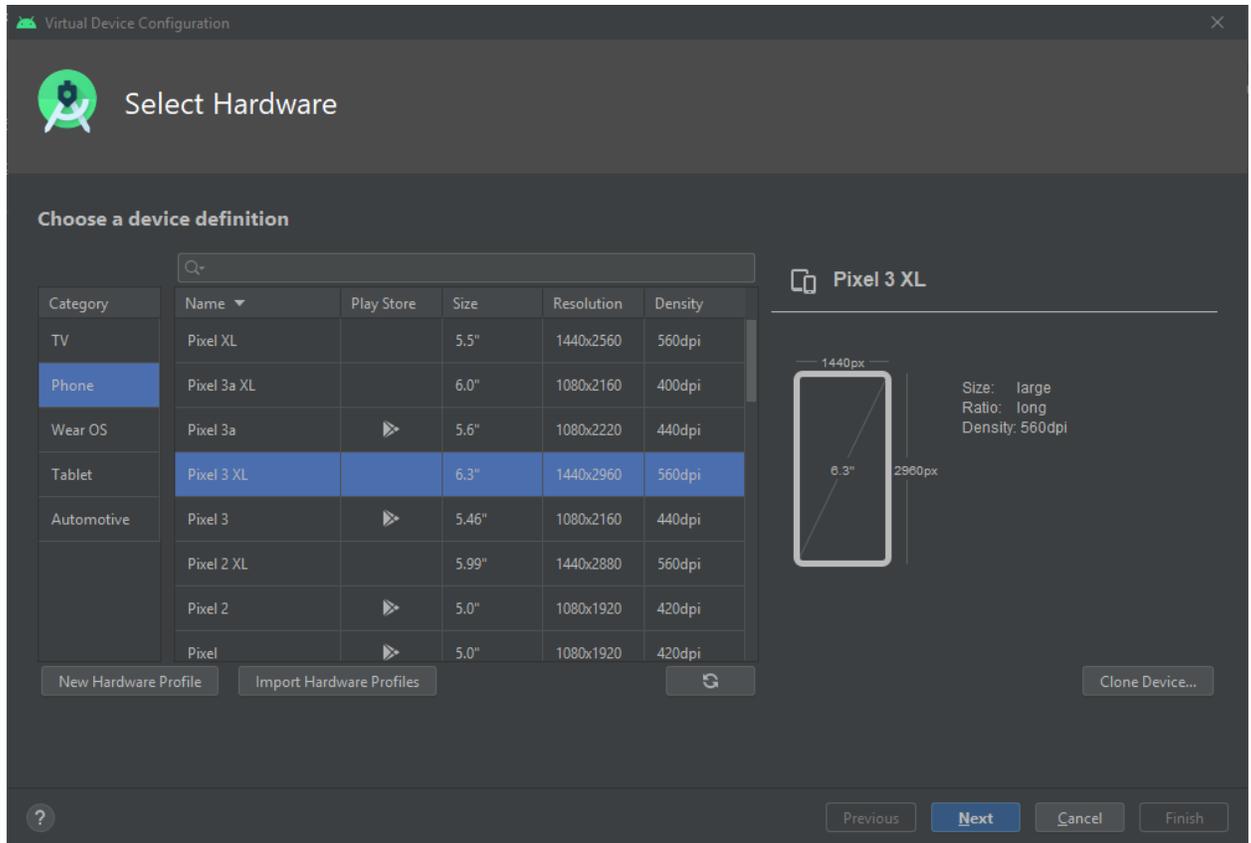
In this part, we will be setting up the Android Emulator to run your project. Emulators are what Android Studio uses to simulate the actual piece of hardware your app will run on without the need for a physical Android device.

1. Open the 'AVD Manager' in the 'Tools' menu.



2. A new dialog box will pop up. Click 'Create Virtual Device...'.
Note: This step is not pictured here

From the list of devices, select the 'Pixel 3 XL'.



3. Here is list of various System Images. Each one corresponds to the Android version.

We will be testing your code against API Level 30 (i.e. Android 10.0+ or Android R).

Note: In this screenshot, I have Android R downloaded. However, you may have to download it on your system. This may take some time depending on your internet connection.

Virtual Device Configuration

System Image

Select a system image

Recommended x86 Images Other Images

Release Name	API Level	ABI	Target
R	30	x86	Android 10.0+ (Google APIs)
Q	29	x86	Android 10.0 (Google APIs)
<i>Oreo Download</i>	27	x86	Android 8.1 (Google APIs)
Oreo	26	x86	Android 8.0 (Google APIs)
<i>Nougat Download</i>	25	x86	Android 7.1.1 (Google APIs)
<i>Nougat Download</i>	24	x86	Android 7.0 (Google APIs)
<i>Marshmallow Download</i>	23	x86	Android 6.0 (Google APIs)
<i>Lollipop Download</i>	22	x86	Android 5.1 (Google APIs)

R



API Level
30

Android
10.0+

Google Inc.

System Image
x86

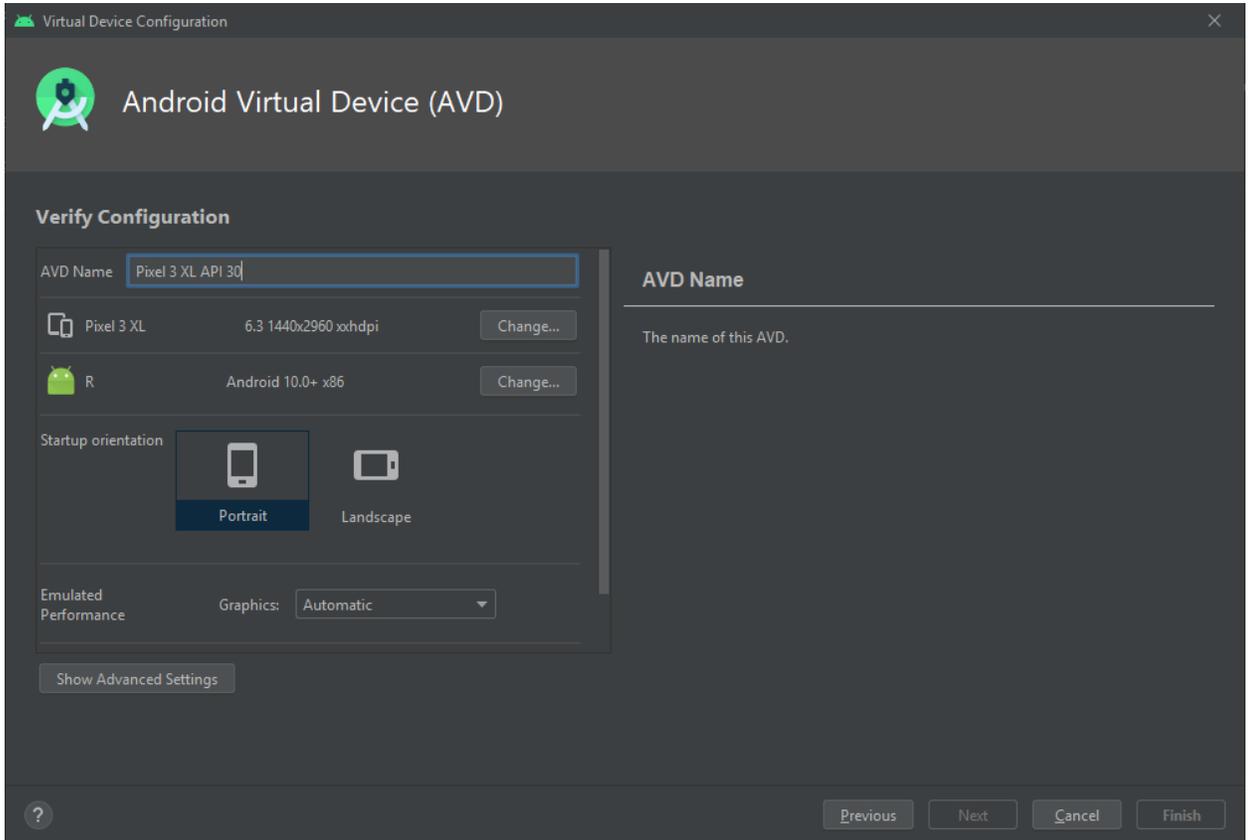
We recommend these images because they run the fastest and support Google APIs.

Questions on API level?
[See the API level distribution chart](#)

Previous Next Cancel Finish

4. You can rename your AVD, but we suggest just leaving it alone.

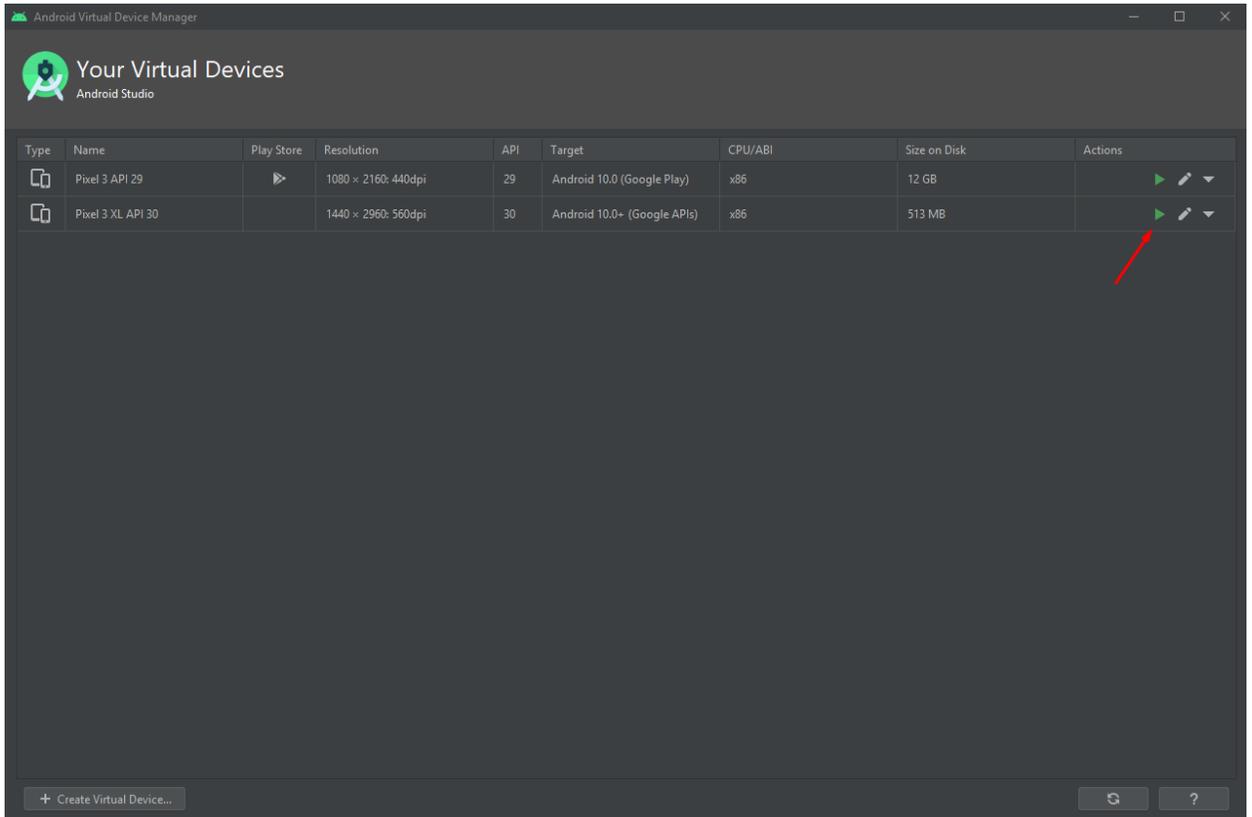
Make sure your settings are correct and that 'Portrait' is selected.



5. Click the 'Play' icon to start the emulator.

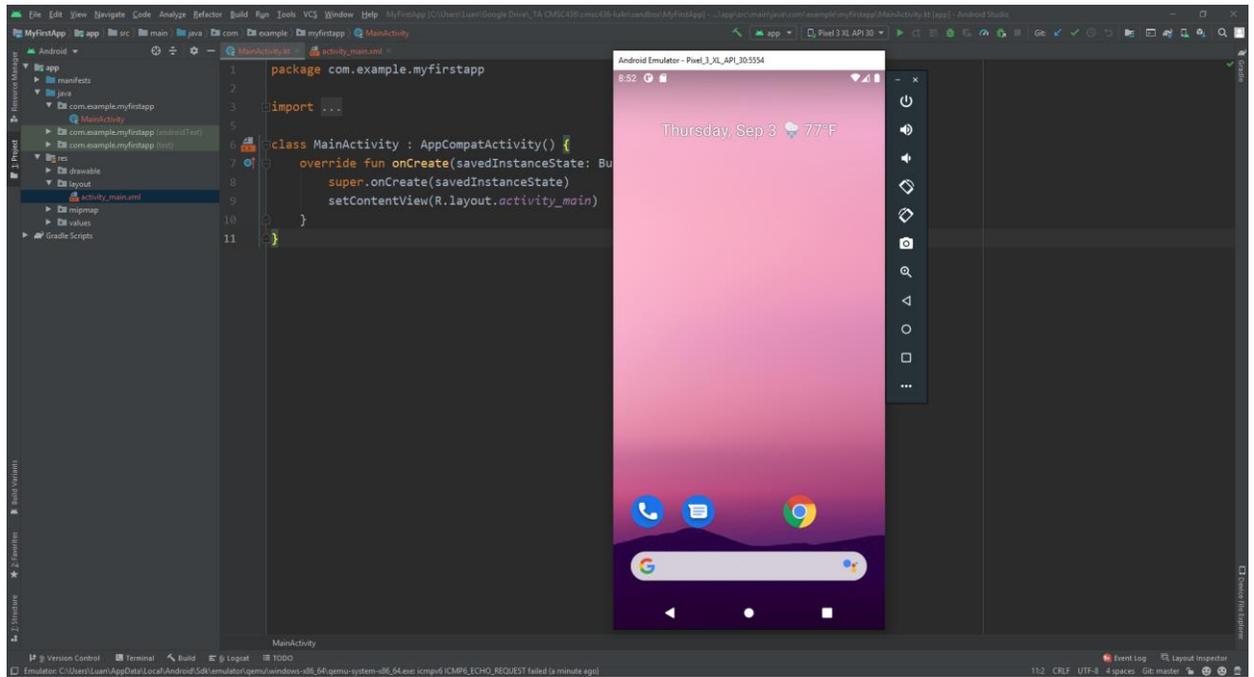
You can close this window once the emulator loads.

Note: I have another AVD installed. However, you should only have one.



- The emulator will start its boot sequence.

Note: I have the frame turned off on my system, but you should see a Pixel 3 XL frame around yours.



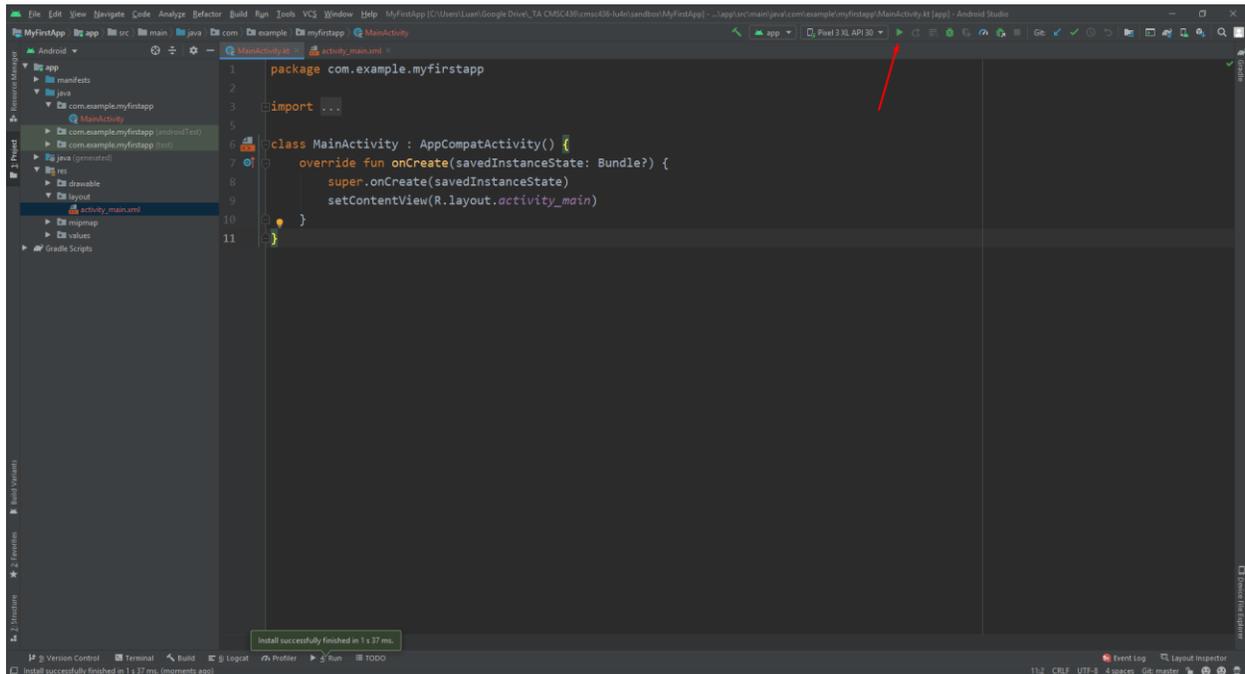
Your emulator should work just like a physical Android phone. Feel free to play around with it.

Part 4 – Running Your First App

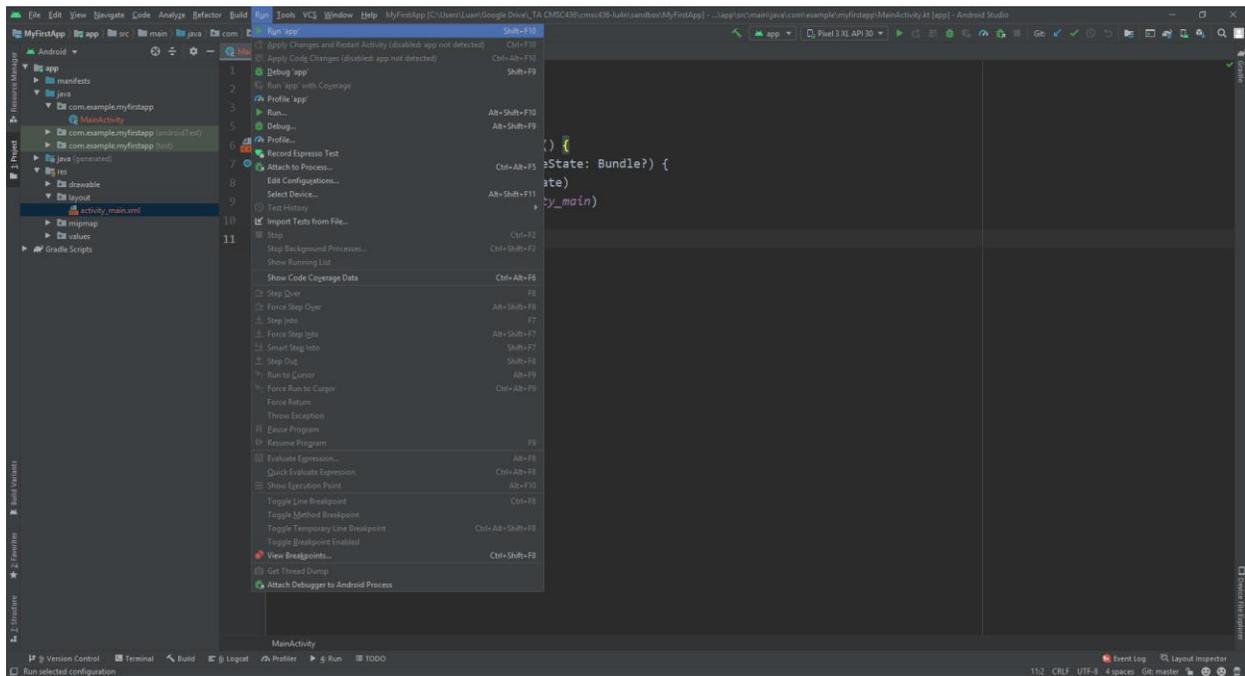
In this part, you will learn how to run the application you created in Part 2 in the Android Emulator you created in Part 3.

There are two ways to run an app:

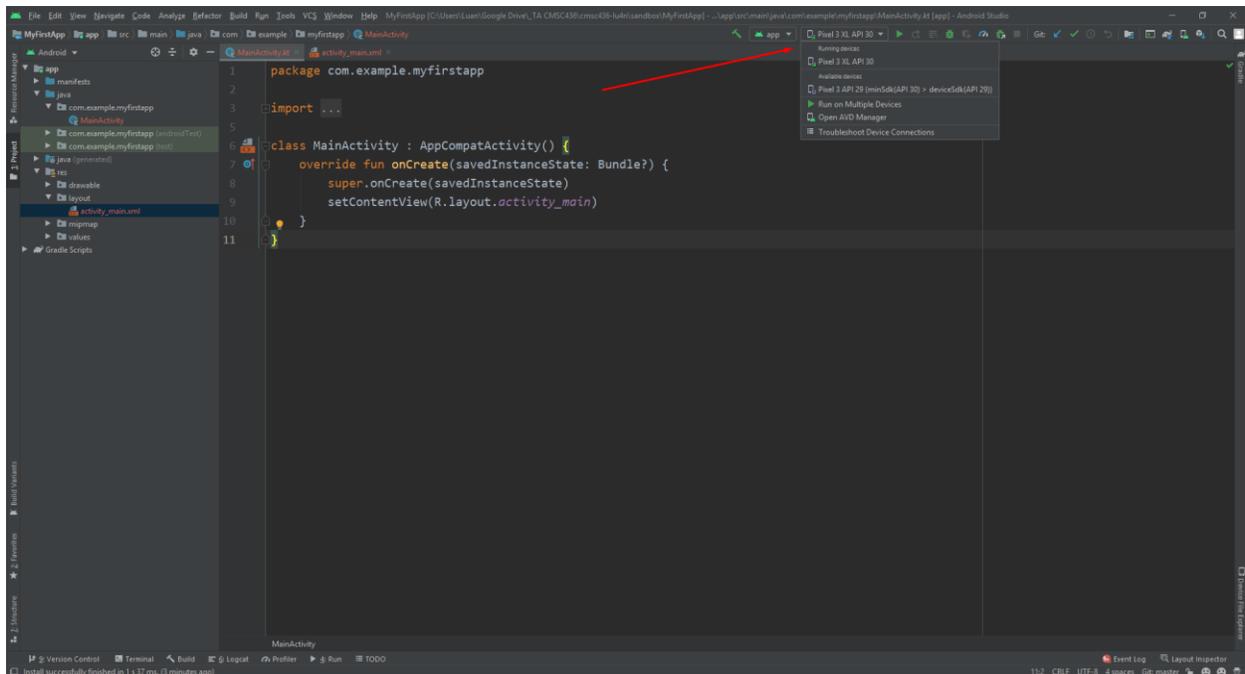
Method 1: Clicking the “Run” icon on the top bar



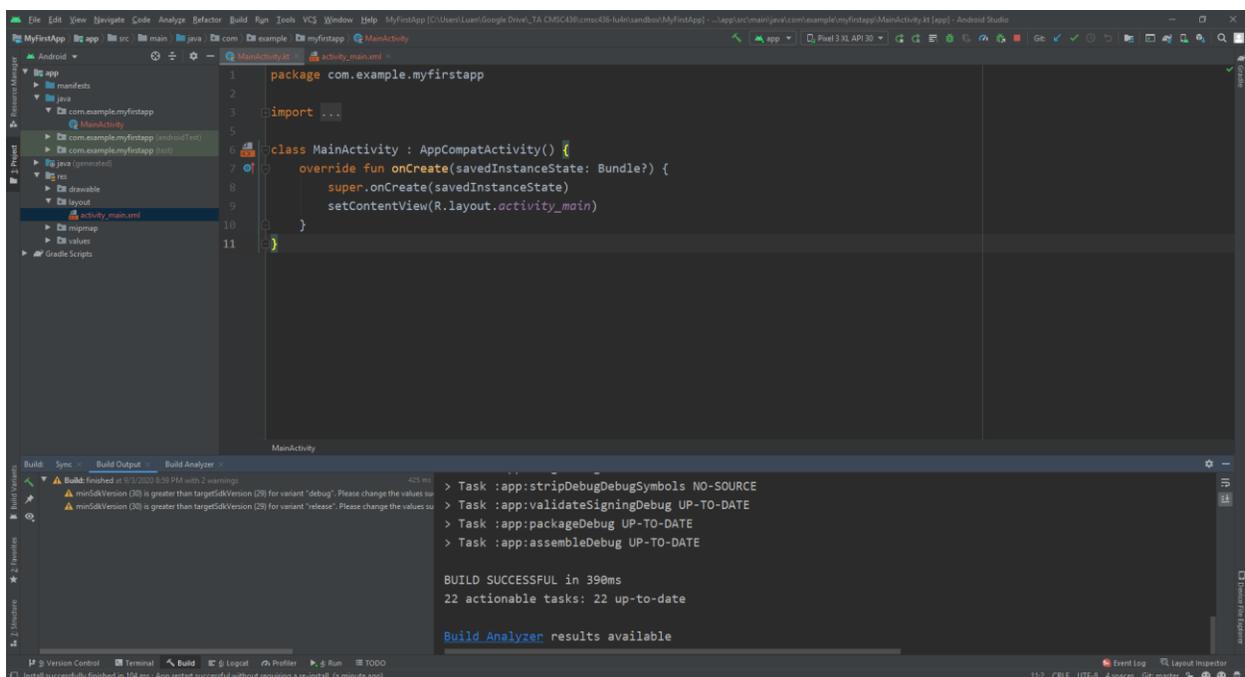
Method 2: selecting 'Run app' from the 'Run' menu (SHIFT + F10 on Windows).



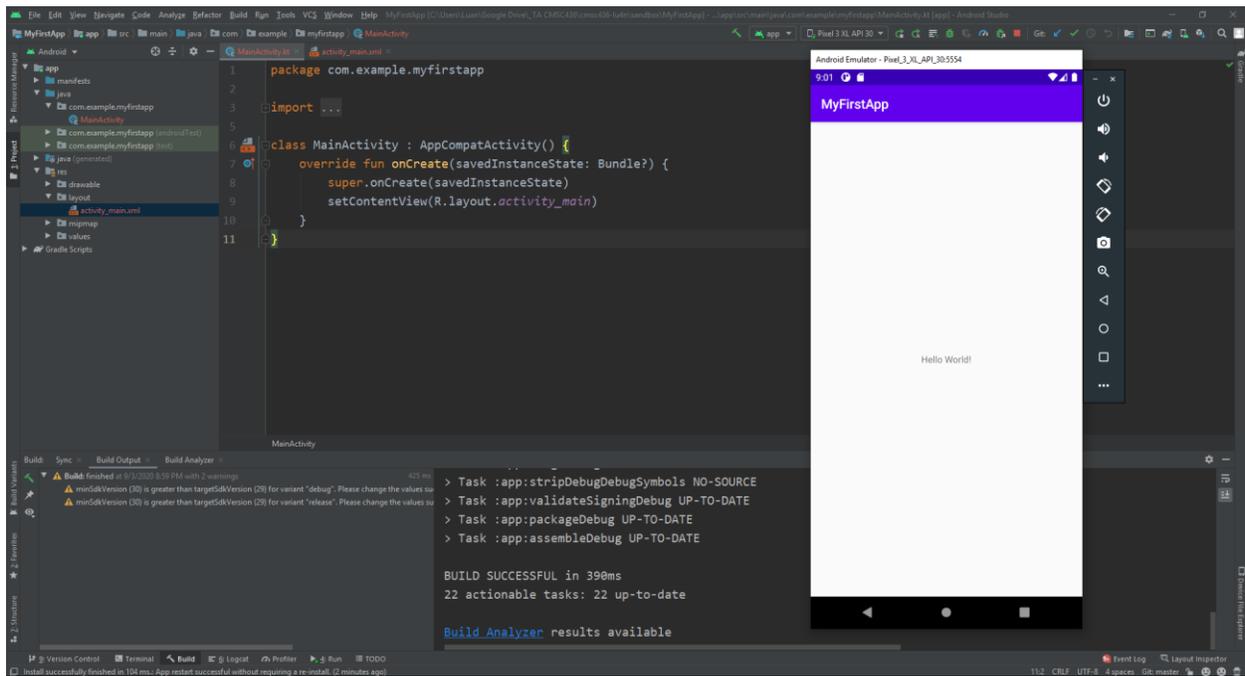
If it does not run, click on the device selection menu and select the 'Pixel 3 XL API 30' you created in Part 3.



The Build Console, below the editor will show you the app being built, loaded, and configured.



Return to your Emulator and you should see your app running.



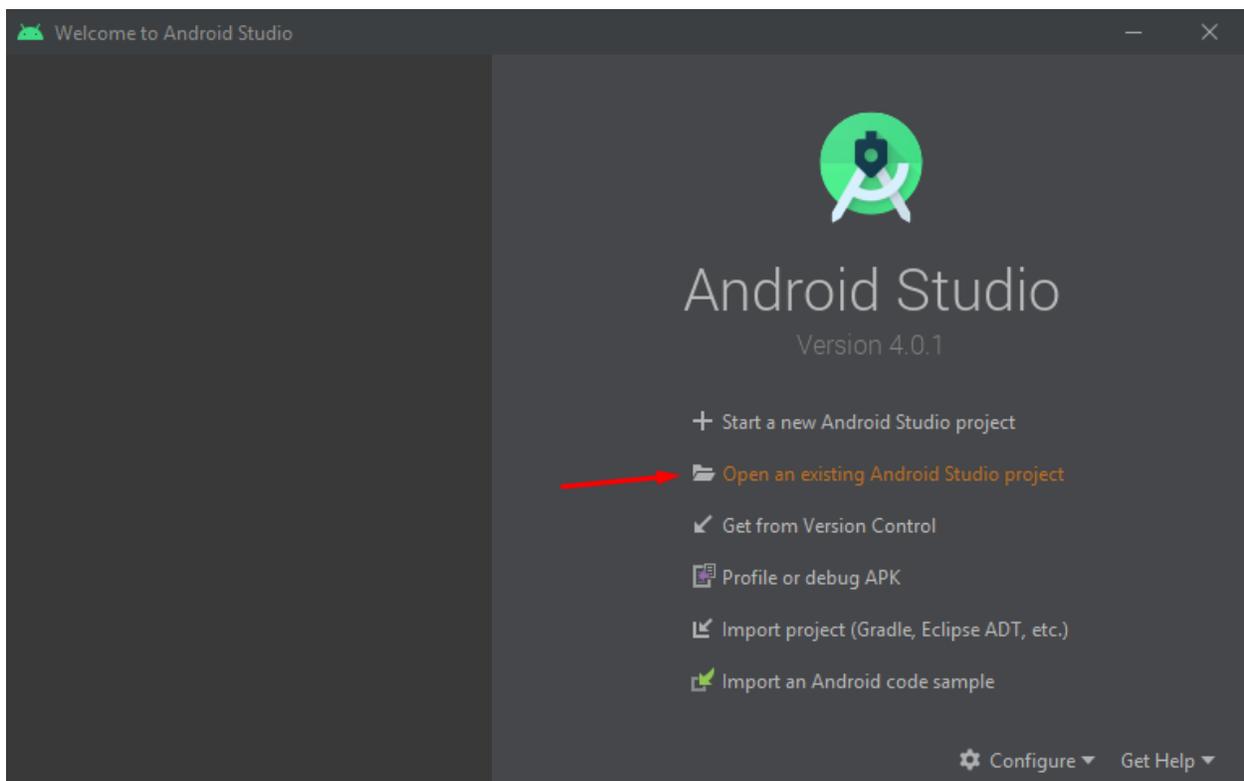
Feel free to mess around with the layout file and see how that changes the app's layout.

Part 5 – Importing an Existing Project

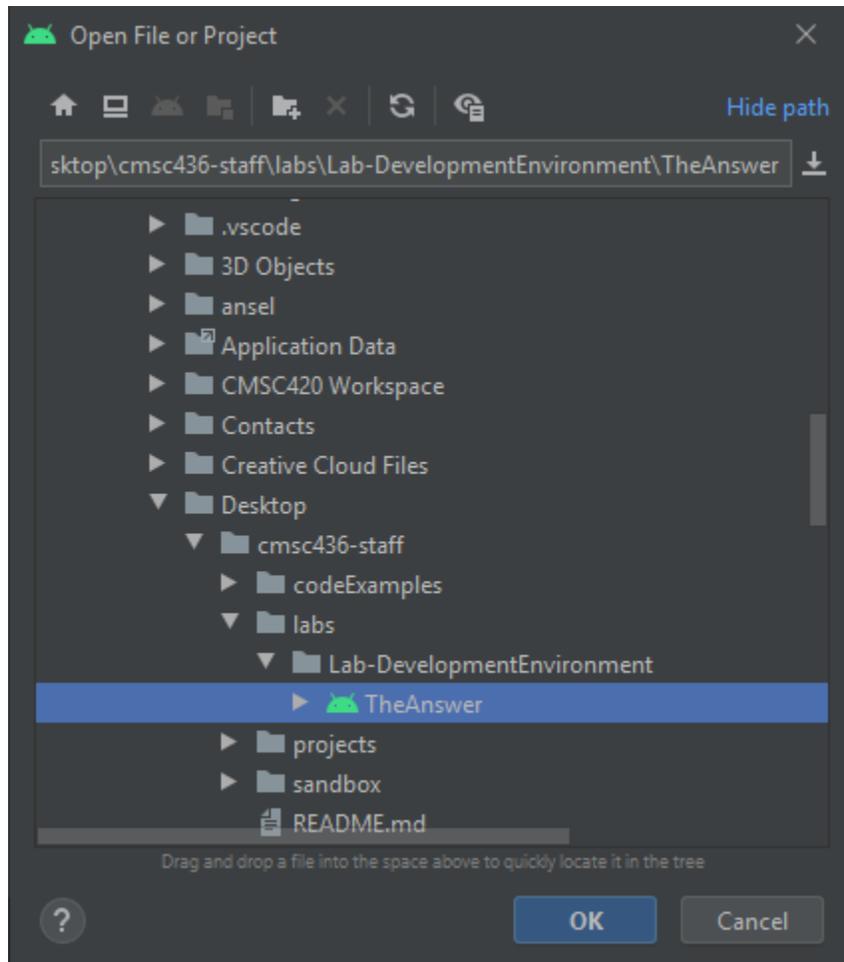
In this part, you will learn how to import a project into Android Studio. Make sure you pull from the upstream repository to get the skeleton code for the project.

Inside the Lab-DevelopmentEnvironment directory, you should see a directory named 'TheAnswer'. This is the project we will be working with.

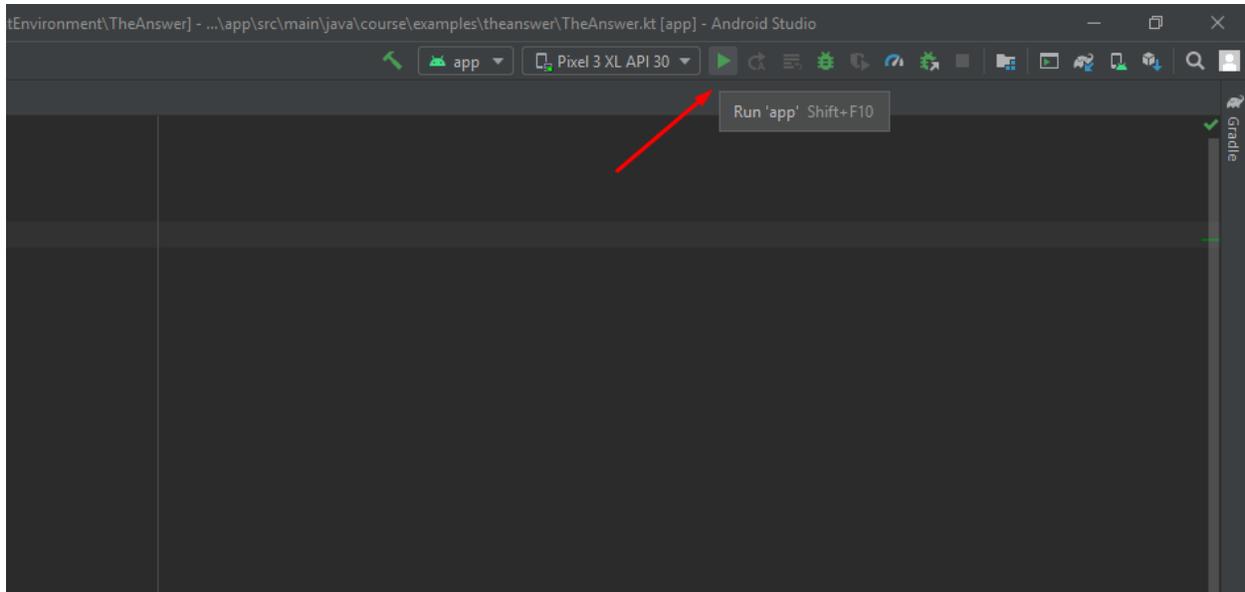
Open Android Studio again and select 'Open an existing Android Studio project'.

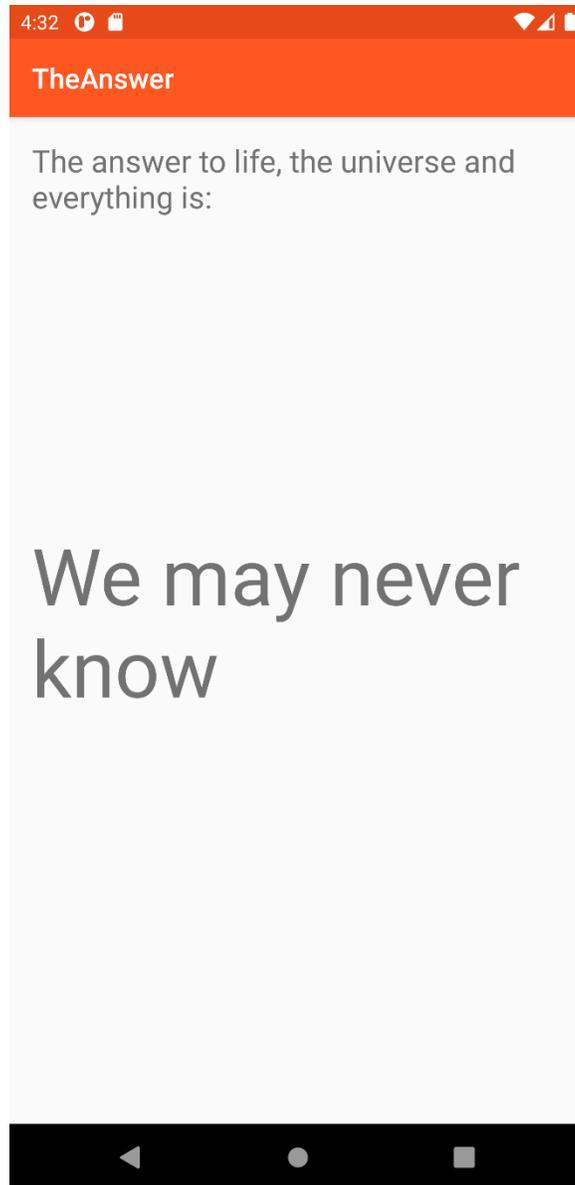


Next, you want to browse and select the project that you want to open. In this case, select 'TheAnswer' from where you cloned your repository in your local system. Then press 'OK'.



When it is done building launch the app and select the AVD you created at the start of the tutorial. The Android emulator will now run the example app.





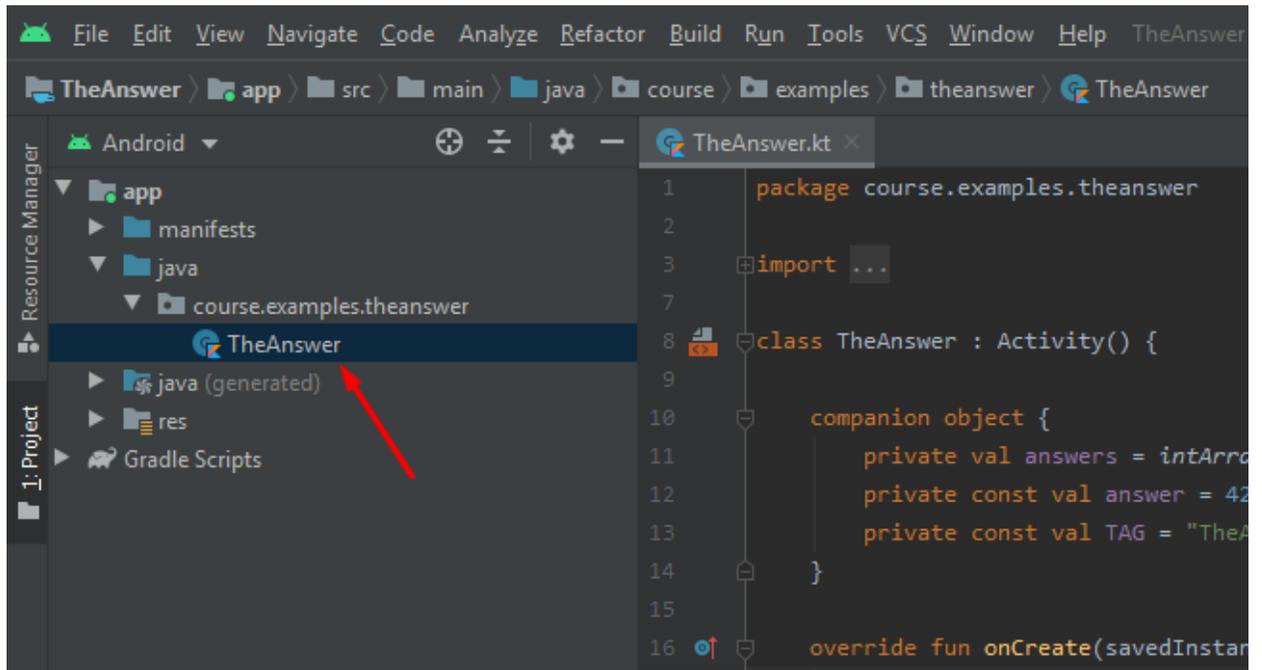
Currently, the app does not return the correct response. Look at the bottom of 'TheAnswer.kt' for the 'findAnswer()' method. Try to change the code to make it display the correct answer: 42.

Hint: you only need to change one line of code.

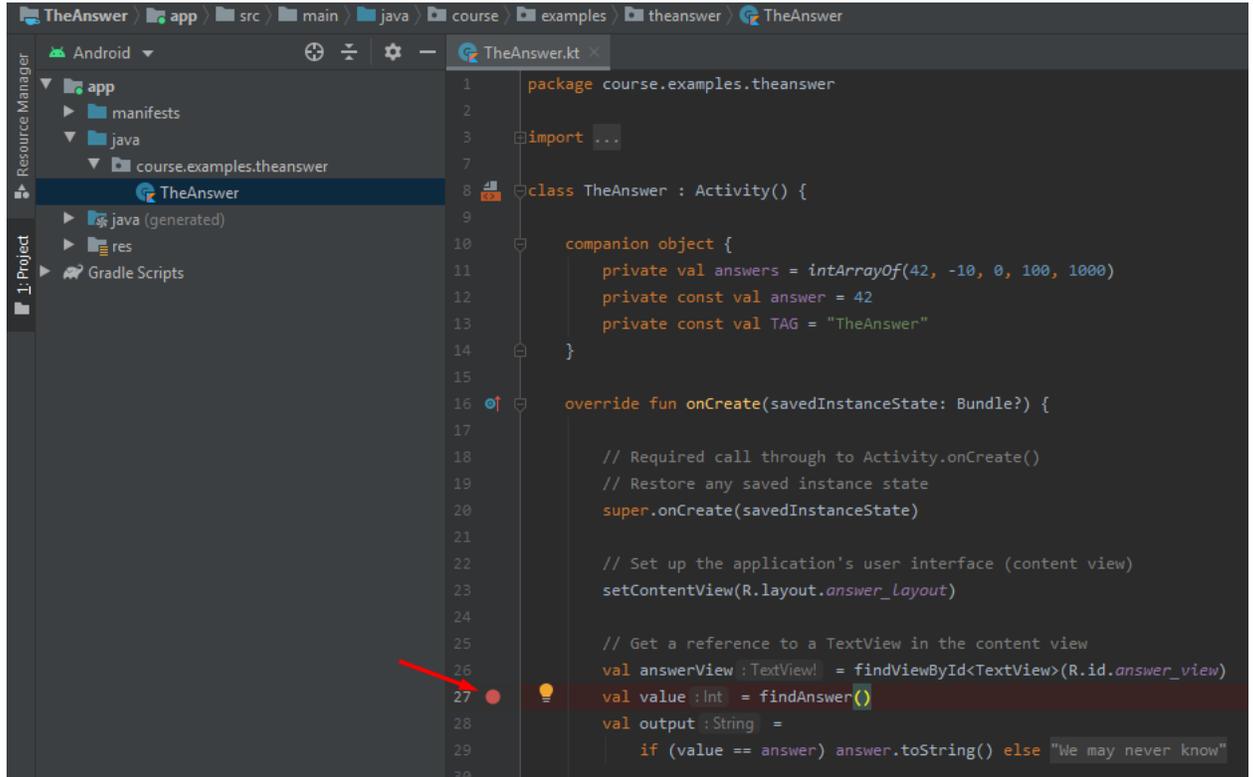
Part 6 – Debugging an Android App

In this part, we will use the debugger to debug TheAnswer app.

1. On the left side of the editor, open 'TheAnswer.kt'. It should be under app > java > course.examples.theanswer > TheAnswer.



2. Click on the highlighted area next to the line: 'val value = findAnswer()'



```
1 package course.examples.theanswer
2
3 import ...
7
8 class TheAnswer : Activity() {
9
10     companion object {
11         private val answers = intArrayOf(42, -10, 0, 100, 1000)
12         private const val answer = 42
13         private const val TAG = "TheAnswer"
14     }
15
16     override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
17
18         // Required call through to Activity.onCreate()
19         // Restore any saved instance state
20         super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
21
22         // Set up the application's user interface (content view)
23         setContentView(R.layout.answer_layout)
24
25         // Get a reference to a TextView in the content view
26         val answerView :TextView! = findViewById<TextView>(R.id.answer_view)
27         val value :Int = findAnswer()
28         val output :String =
29             if (value == answer) answer.toString() else "We may never know"
30     }
```

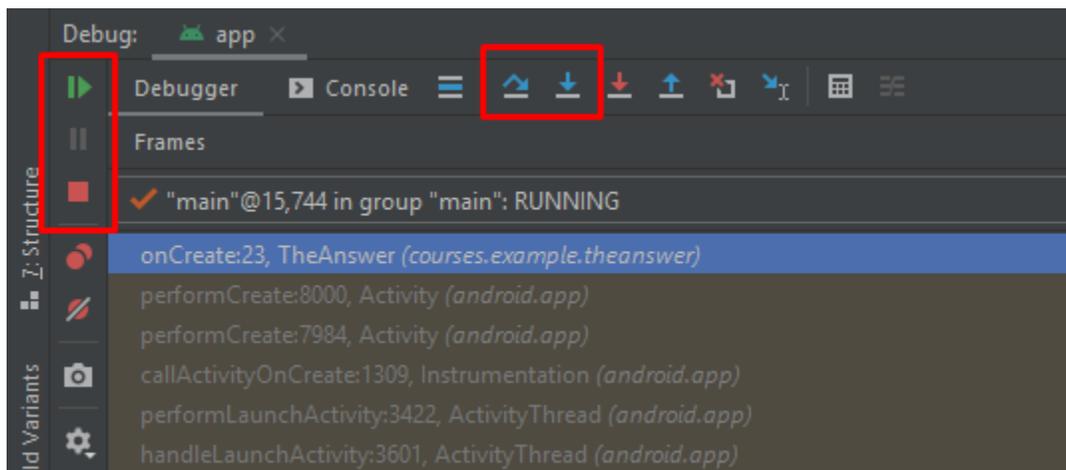
A new breakpoint will be set at that line.

5. The app should stop at line 27 and nothing should show on your AVD.

The debugger has a few tools that we will look at.

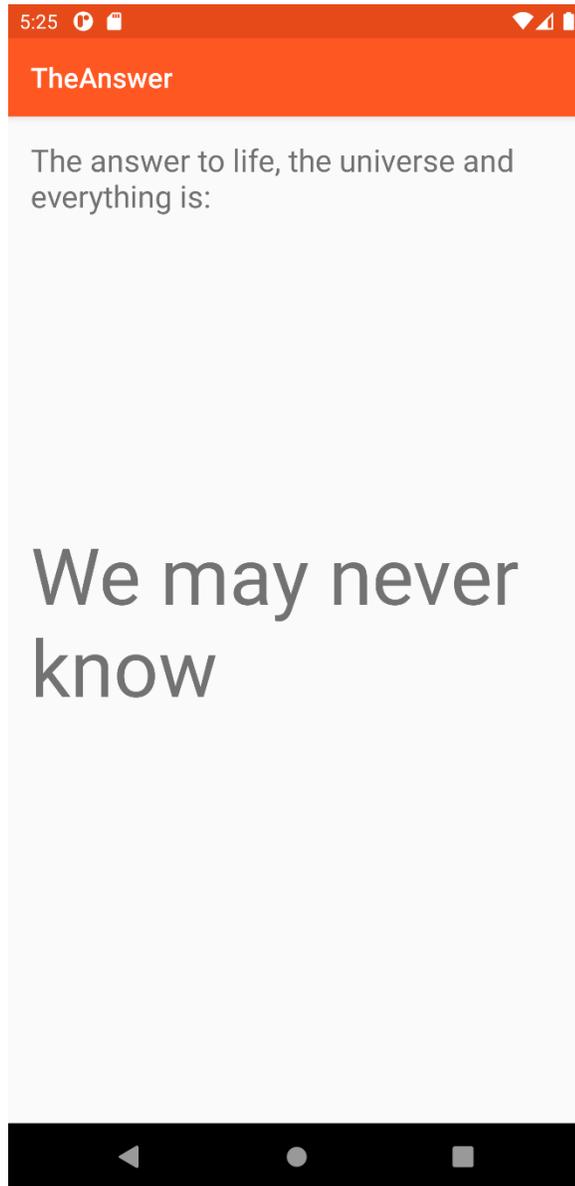
The top bar are the controls for executing code by line. The first one is 'Step Over' and the second is "Step Into'. Use 'Step Over' is used to go to the next line of code. However, if the line calls a method you may want to use 'Step Into' to enter code in the method.

The side bar has three controls for running the app. The top one is 'Resume Program' and the bottom one is 'Stop app'. Use 'Resume Program' to continue running the app until it hits another breakpoint. Use the 'Stop app' if you want to completely stop the app.



Play around with setting breakpoints and the debugger until you are comfortable with it.

6. Press the 'Resume Program' icon to continue executing the app. The app will finish loading and display the text again.

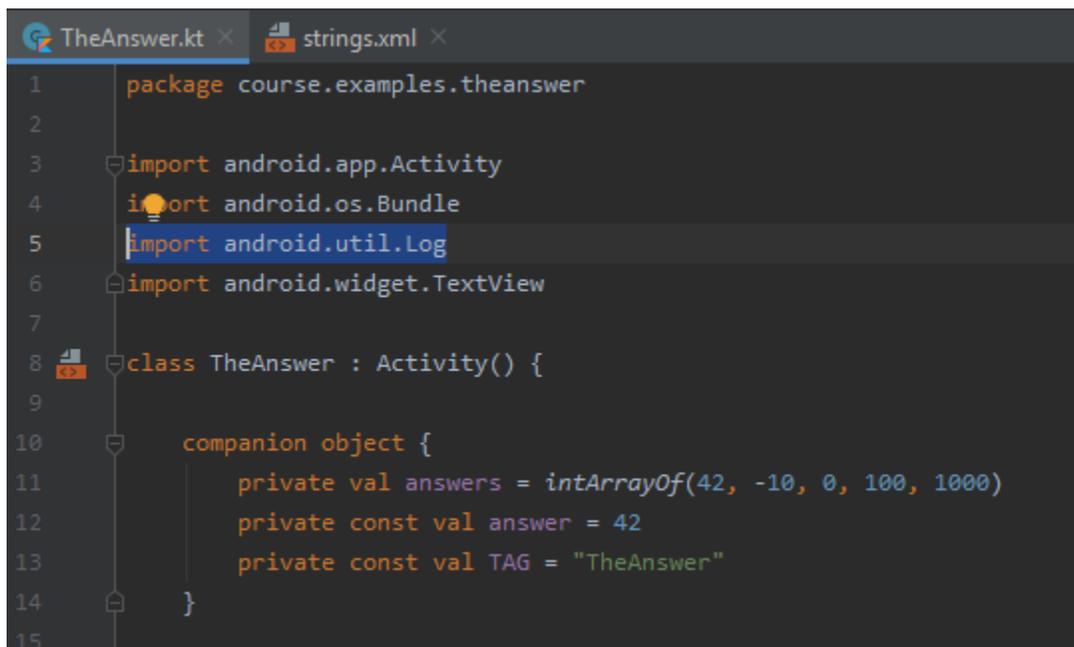


The next debugging task will have you create and display informational messages to the Logcat panel, to help you better understand the application's runtime behavior. To generate these messages, you will use methods in the `android.util.Log` class. You will also need to import this class into your app. Some Logcat functions include:

1. `Log.i(TAG, ...)` – Sends an INFO Logcat message
2. `Log.d(TAG, ...)` – Sends a DEBUG Logcat message
3. `Log.e(TAG, ...)` – Sends an ERROR Logcat message
4. `Log.v(TAG, ...)` – Sends a VERBOSE Logcat message

See <https://developer.android.com/reference/android/util/Log.html> for more information.

1. Import the '`android.util.Log`' library by typing, "`import android.util.Log`" in `TheAnswer.kt`.



```
1 package course.examples.theanswer
2
3 import android.app.Activity
4 import android.os.Bundle
5 import android.util.Log
6 import android.widget.TextView
7
8 class TheAnswer : Activity() {
9
10     companion object {
11         private val answers = intArrayOf(42, -10, 0, 100, 1000)
12         private const val answer = 42
13         private const val TAG = "TheAnswer"
14     }
15 }
```

The `Log` class' methods require a `String` called `Tag`, which identifies the creator of the message and can be used to sort and filter messages that are displayed. This is on line 13 inside the '`companion object`'.

2. Use the 'Log.i()' function to create a new output message before the 'val value = findAnswer()'. Type a new line: 'Log.i(TAG, "Printing the answer to life")'

```
16 override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {
17
18     // Required call through to Activity.onCreate()
19     // Restore any saved instance state
20     super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)
21
22     // Set up the application's user interface (content view)
23     setContentView(R.layout.answer_layout)
24
25     // Get a reference to a TextView in the content view
26     val answerView :TextView! = findViewById<TextView>(R.id.answer_view)
27     Log.i(TAG, msg: "Printing the answer to life")
28     val value :Int = findAnswer()
29     val output :String =
30         if (value == answer) answer.toString() else "You"
31
32     // Set desired text in answerView TextView
33     answerView.text = output
34 }
```

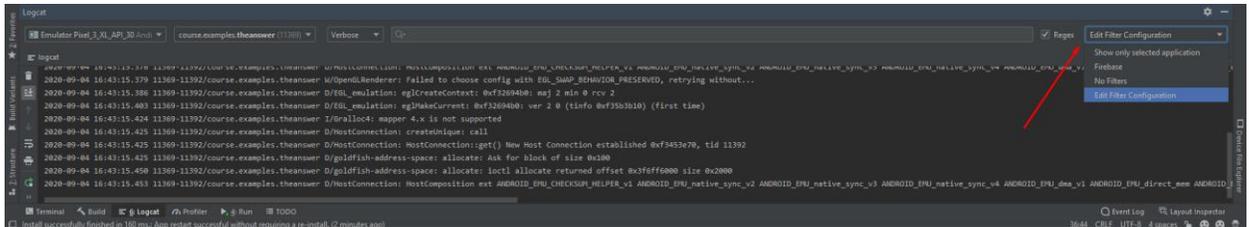
3. Save your changes and run the application.
4. If you have not already, stop the app.

Run the app as usual and switch to the 'Logcat' pane at the bottom.

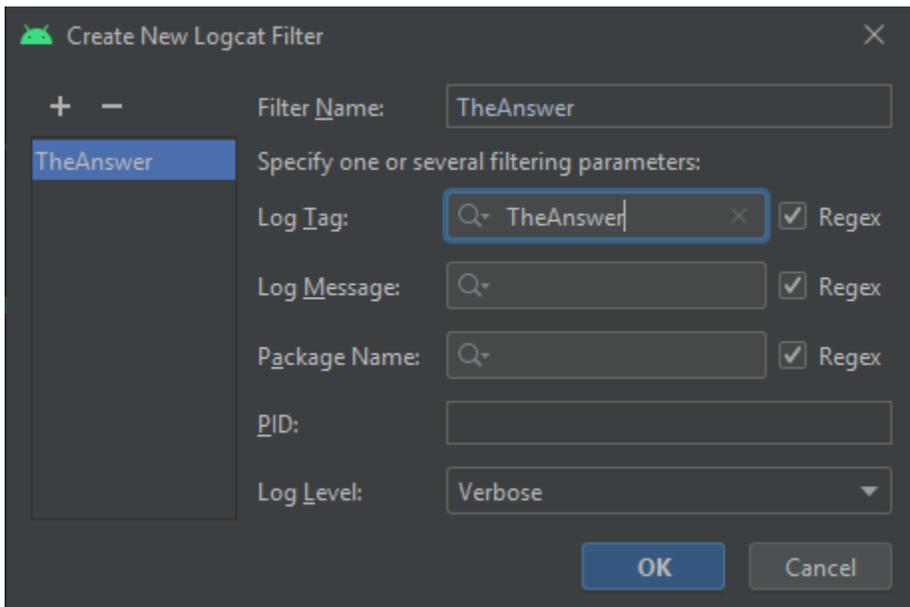
```
Logcat
Emulator Pixel_3_XL_API_30 Andri | courses.example.theanswer (7837) | Verbose | Q+
logcat
2020-09-03 23:37:07.284 7837-7859/courses.example.theanswer W/OpenGLRenderer: Failed to choose config with EGL_SWAP
2020-09-03 23:37:07.288 7837-7859/courses.example.theanswer D/EGL_emulation: eglCreateContext: 0xf32509a0: maj 2 m
2020-09-03 23:37:07.304 7837-7859/courses.example.theanswer D/EGL_emulation: eglMakeCurrent: 0xf32509a0: ver 2 0 (
2020-09-03 23:37:07.329 7837-7859/courses.example.theanswer I/Gralloc4: mapper 4.x is not supported
2020-09-03 23:37:07.329 7837-7859/courses.example.theanswer D/HostConnection: createUnique: call
2020-09-03 23:37:07.330 7837-7859/courses.example.theanswer D/HostConnection: HostConnection::get() New Host Connec
2020-09-03 23:37:07.330 7837-7859/courses.example.theanswer D/goldfish-address-space: allocate: Ask for block of si
2020-09-03 23:37:07.342 7837-7859/courses.example.theanswer D/goldfish-address-space: allocate: ioctl allocate retu
2020-09-03 23:37:07.345 7837-7859/courses.example.theanswer D/HostConnection: HostComposition ext ANDROID_EMU_CHECK
4: Run | 5: Debug | TODO | 9: Version Control | Build | Profiler | 6: Logcat | Terminal
Install successfully finished in 104 ms.: App restart successful without requiring a re-install. (moments ago)
```

- This is where all the debugging information from the app is displayed. It is a jumbled mess right now so let's filter it to only messages we are interested in.

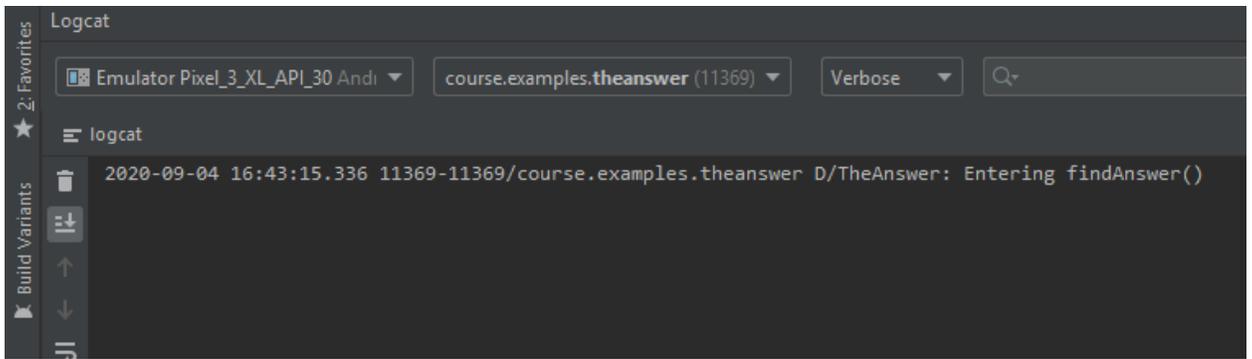
On the right side of the Logcat pane, we can filter the messages to the ones that we want.



- Recall the 'TAG' const val we created in the 'companion object' was 'TheAnswer'. Create a Logcat filter with that tag.



- The Logcat should now filter out the other messages and only display the "Entering findAnswer()". Without changing the settings, modify the code to display a new line with your name when it runs.



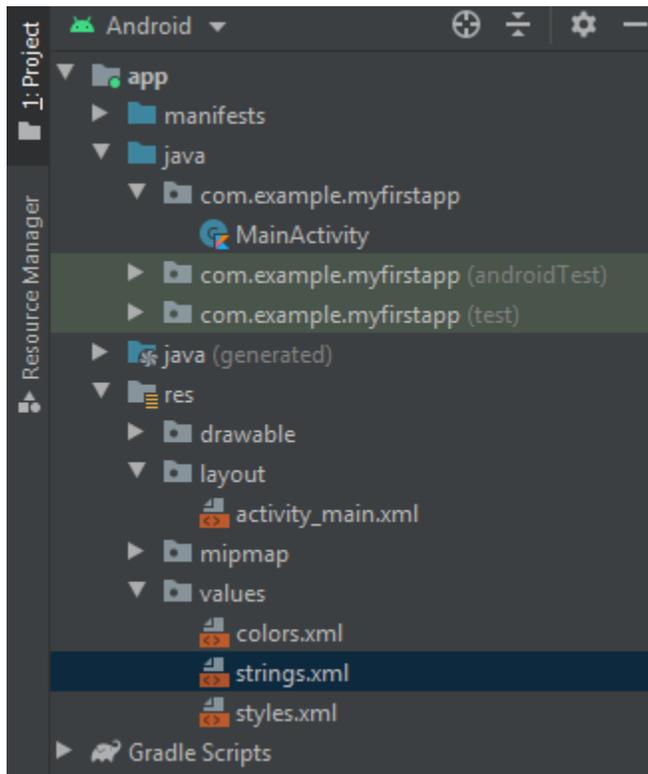
Extra Challenge

If you finish all the work above, try doing the challenge activity.

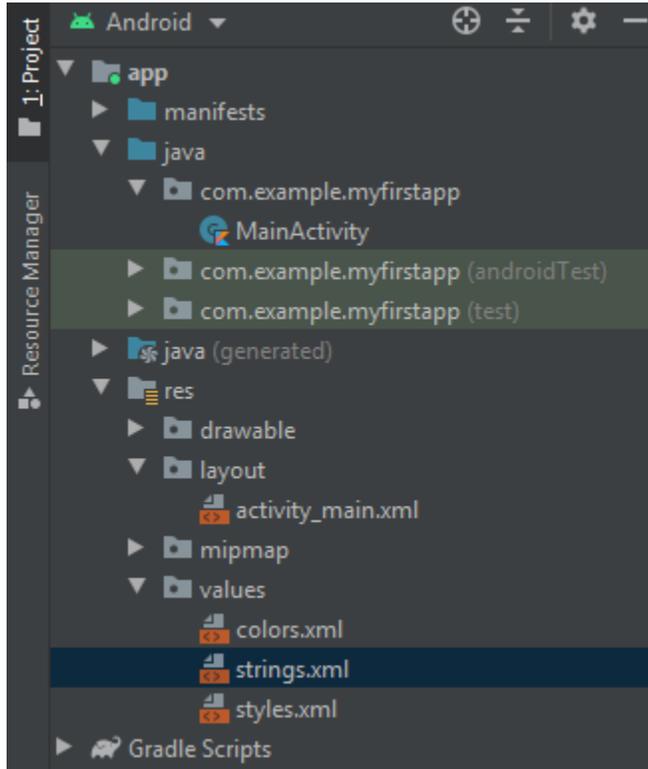
Modified Hello World

Remember the first app you made? Let's return to that! We will be modifying the original "Hello World!" message of your first app.

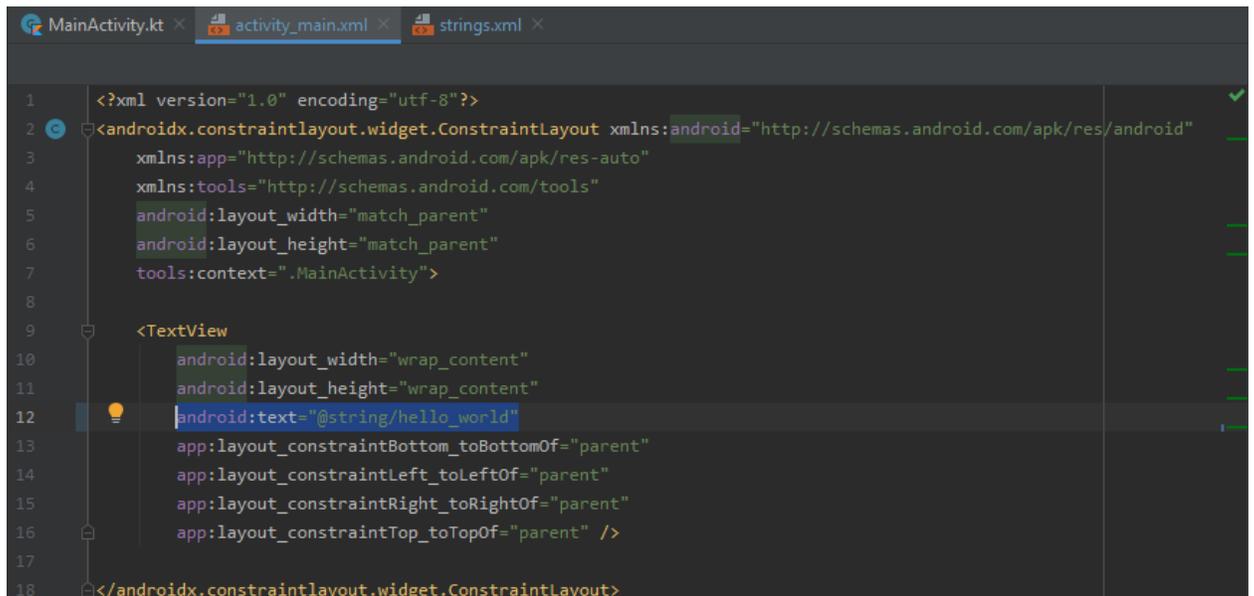
1. To do this, you need to modify the String value in '\res\values\strings.xml'.



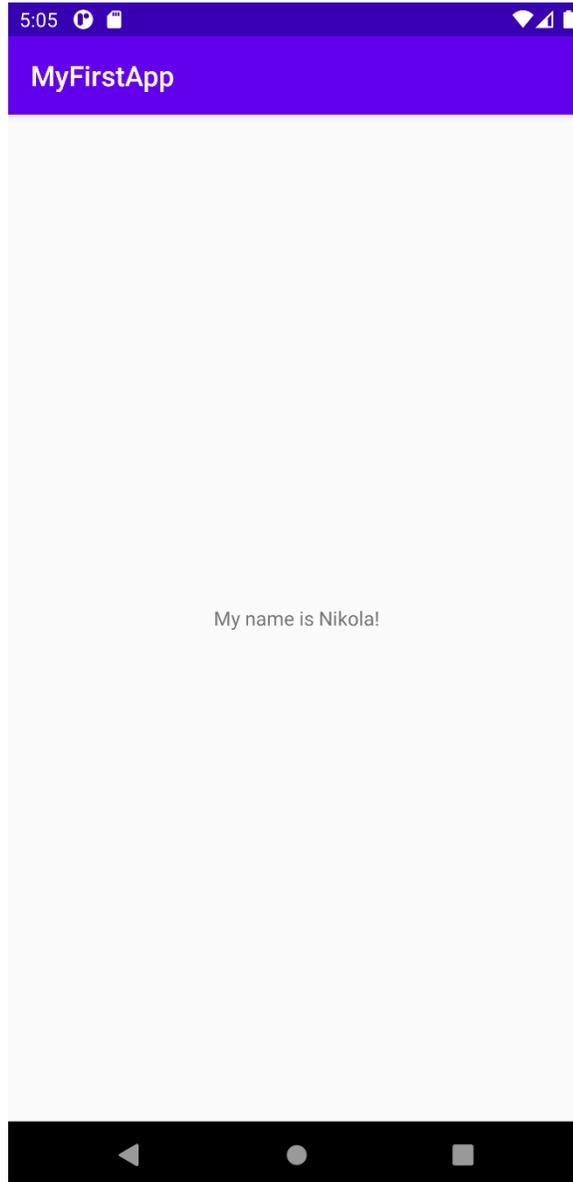
2. Add another String element with the text: "My name is <your_name>!".



3. Now go to the 'activity_main.xml' file in 'res/layout'. Edit the TextView element so that it references the hello_world String element you just created in the previous step.



4. Now run the app and see the change.



For more information, take a look at:

<https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/resources/string-resource.html>

5. Now add support for another language such as Spanish! To do this, you will need to create an appropriate string file, run your app, change the emulator's instance default language to Spanish, then rerun the app. Your Spanish String could be: "Hola Mundo! Me llamo <your_name>!".

For more information, take a look at:

<https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/resources/string-resource.html>