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CMSC436: Programming Handheld Systems

Android Development Environment

The Android Platform

A multi-layered software stack for building and running mobile applications

The Android Development Environment

Starts with knowledge of the Android platform
Your workbench for writing Android applications
See:

https://developer.android.com/studio/intro/

Today's Topics

Downloading Android SDK

Using the Android Studio IDE

Using the Android emulator

Debugging Android applications

Other tools

Prerequisites

Supported Operating Systems:

Microsoft Windows 8/10 (64-bit)

Mac OS X 10.14 (Mojave) or higher

Any 64-bit Linux that supports Gnome, KDE, Unity DE

General Prerequisites

8GB RAM min

8GB memory for Android SDK, emulator system images, and caches

1280 x 800 min screen resolution

Getting Started

Download & install Android Studio

See: https://developer.android.com/studio/

Android Studio

Android platform

Android Studio IDE

Key development tools

System image for emulator

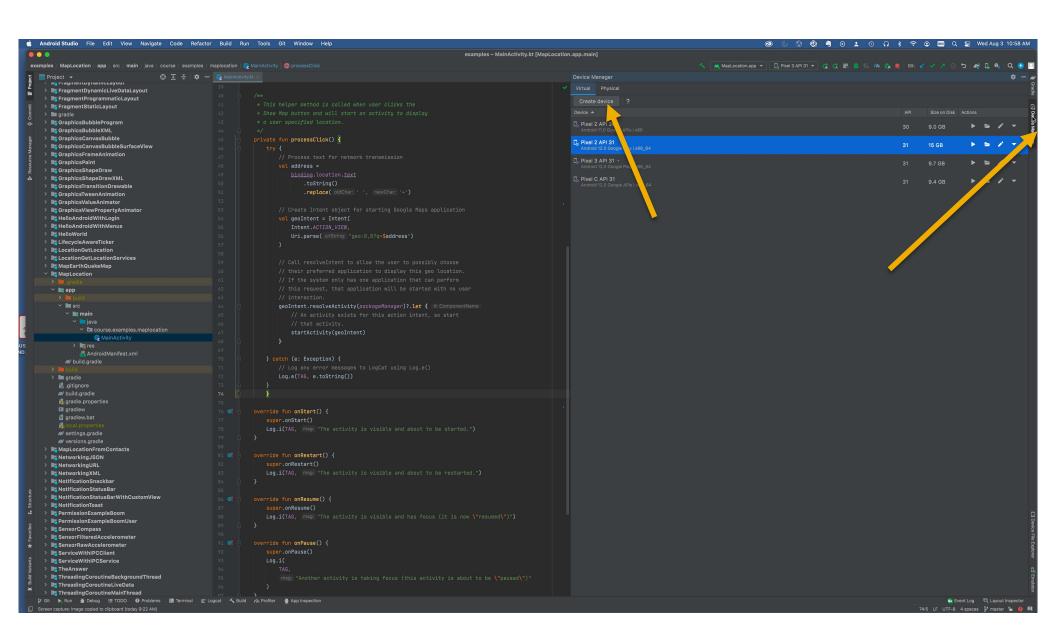
HelloWorld

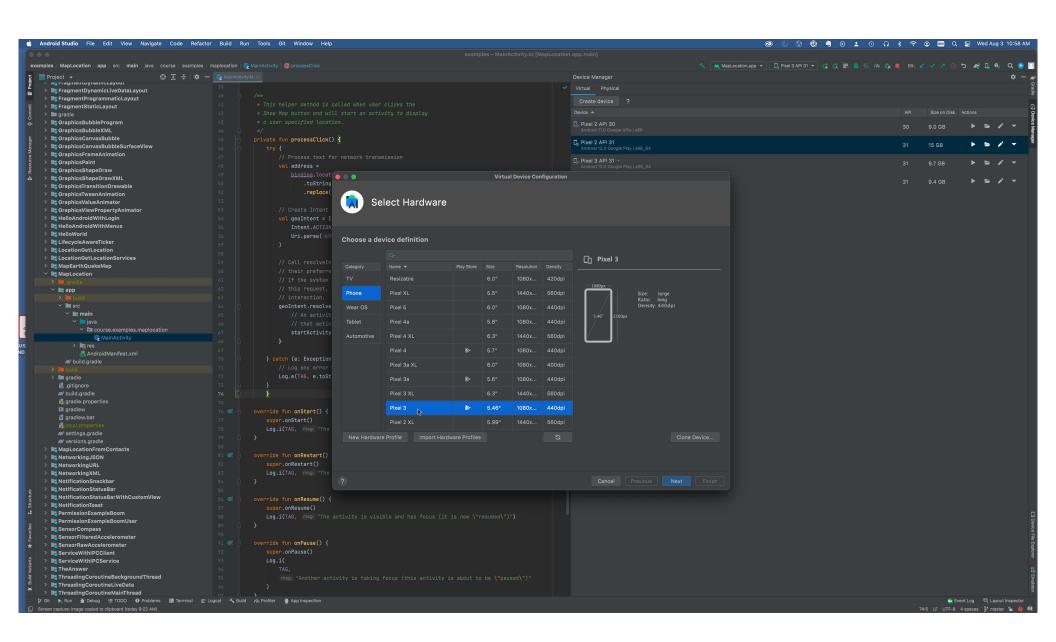


The Android Emulator

Runs virtual devices

We'll generally be using a Pixel 5 with API level 33





The Android Emulator

Pros

Doesn't require an actual phone

Hardware is reconfigurable

Changes are non-destructive

The Android Emulator

Cons

Slower than an actual device

Some features unavailable

e.g., no support for NFC, SD card insert/eject, etc.

Performance / user experience can be misleading

Can emulate many different device/user characteristics, such as:

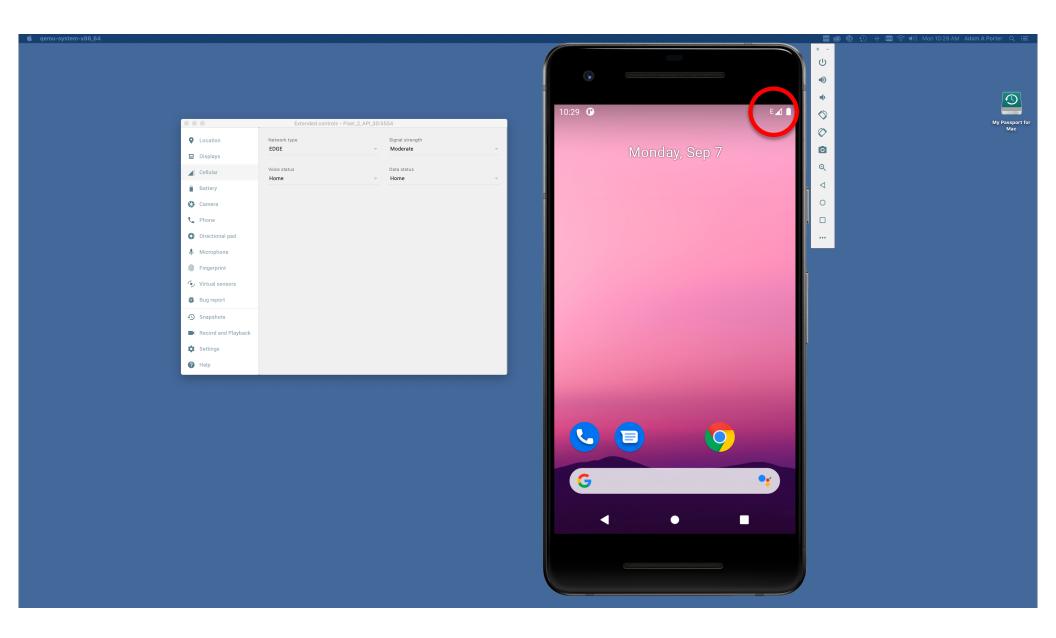
Network speed/latencies

Battery power

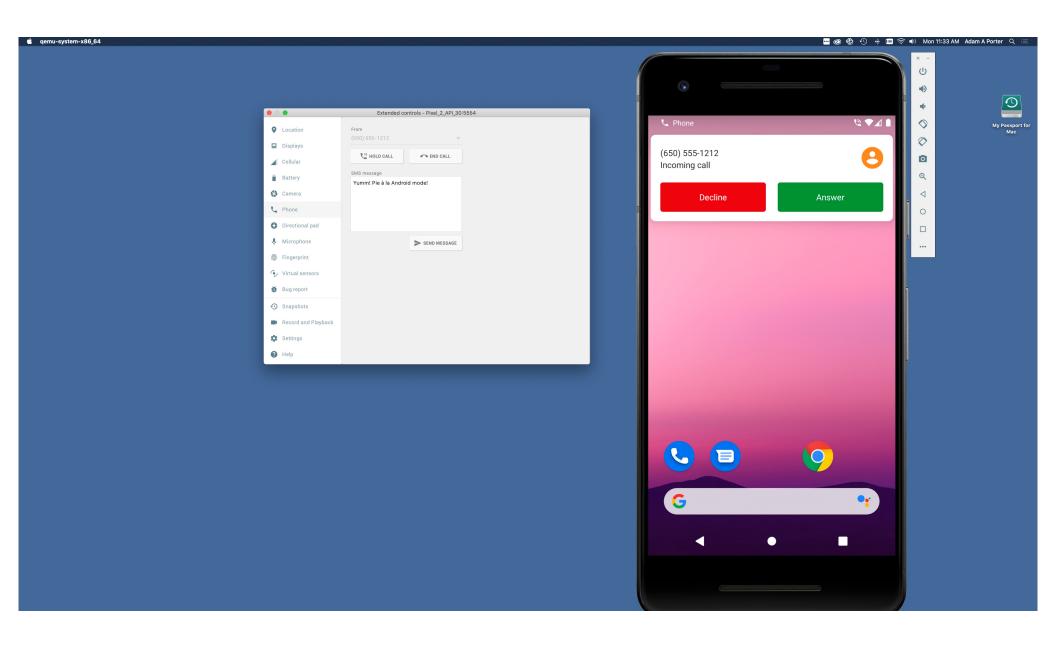
Location coordinates

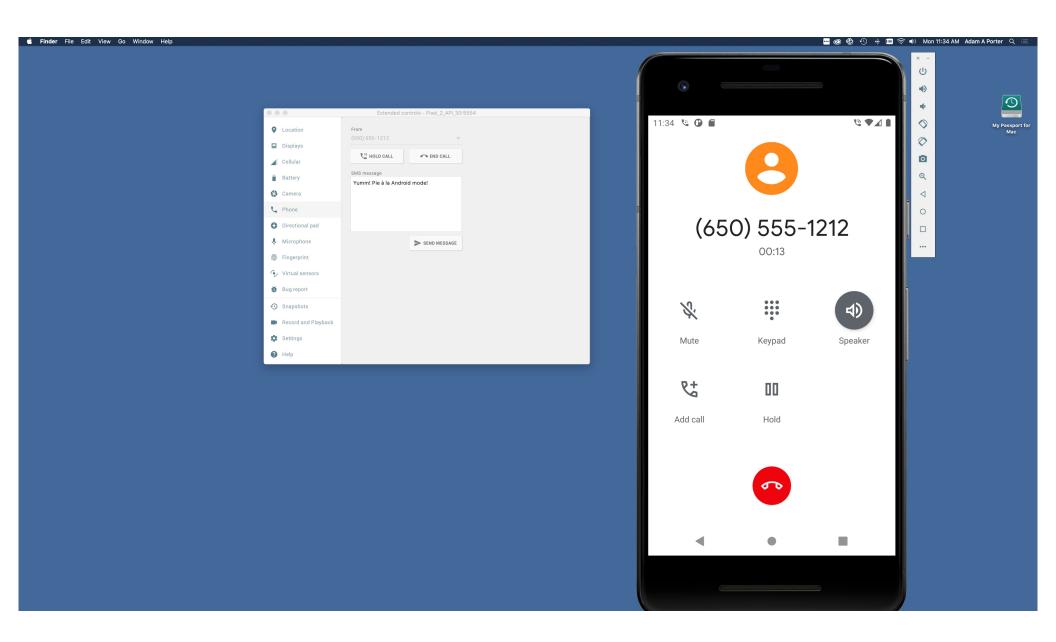
Sensor readings

Ex: Change network speeds



Ex: Emulate incoming phone calls & SMS messages





Many more options

See:

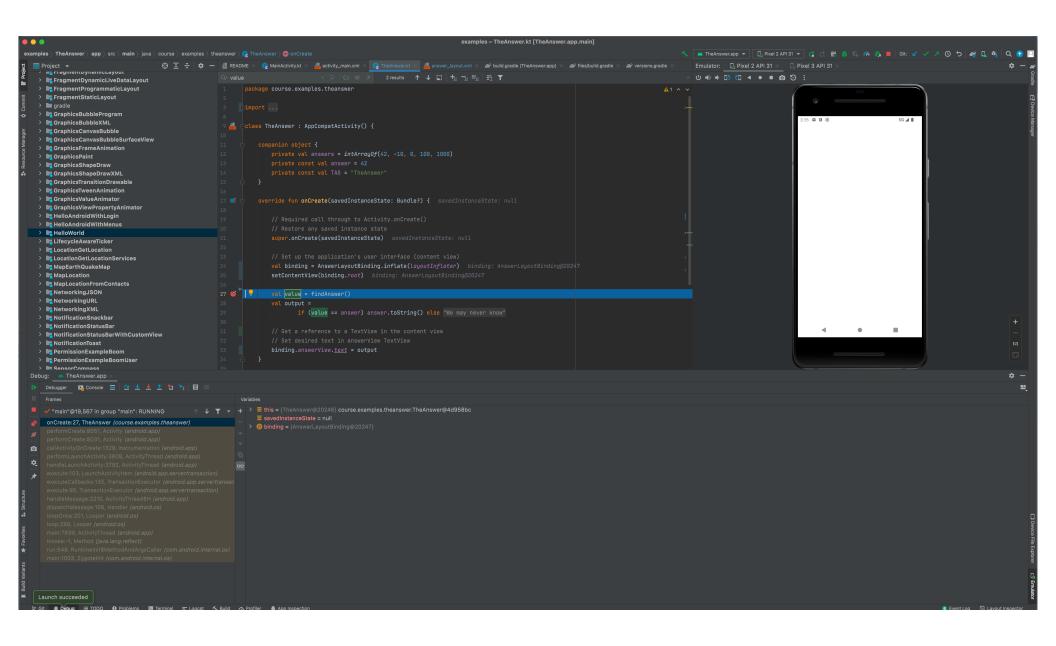
https://developer.android.com/studio/run/emulator.html

Debugger

Tool for examining the internal state of a running application

TheAnswer





Development Tools

Android Studio provides numerous tools for monitoring application behaviors

Example Tools

Device File Explorer

Logcat

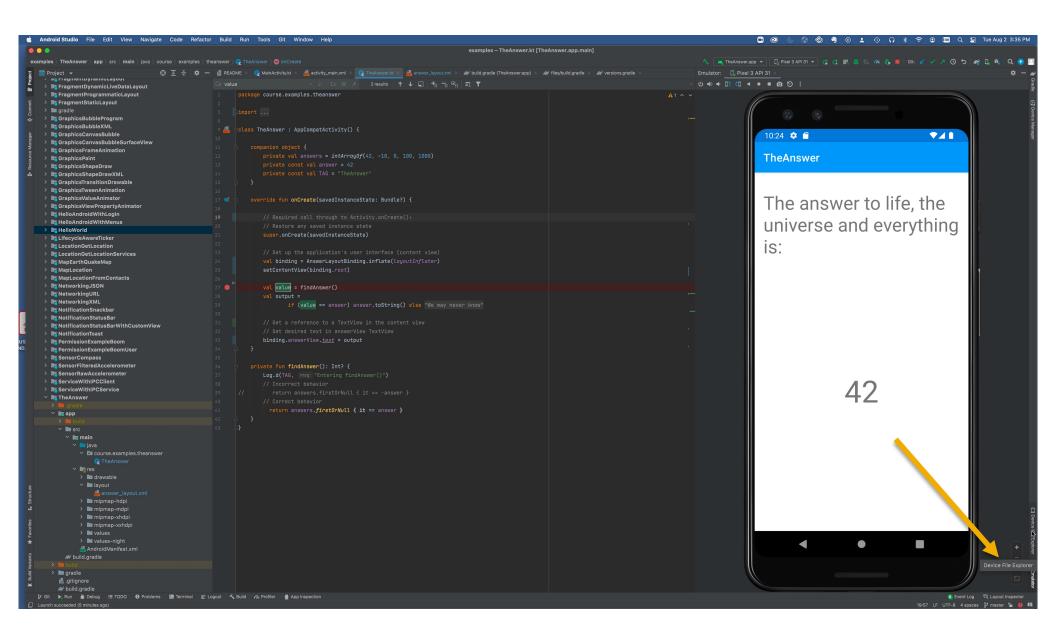
Layout Inspector

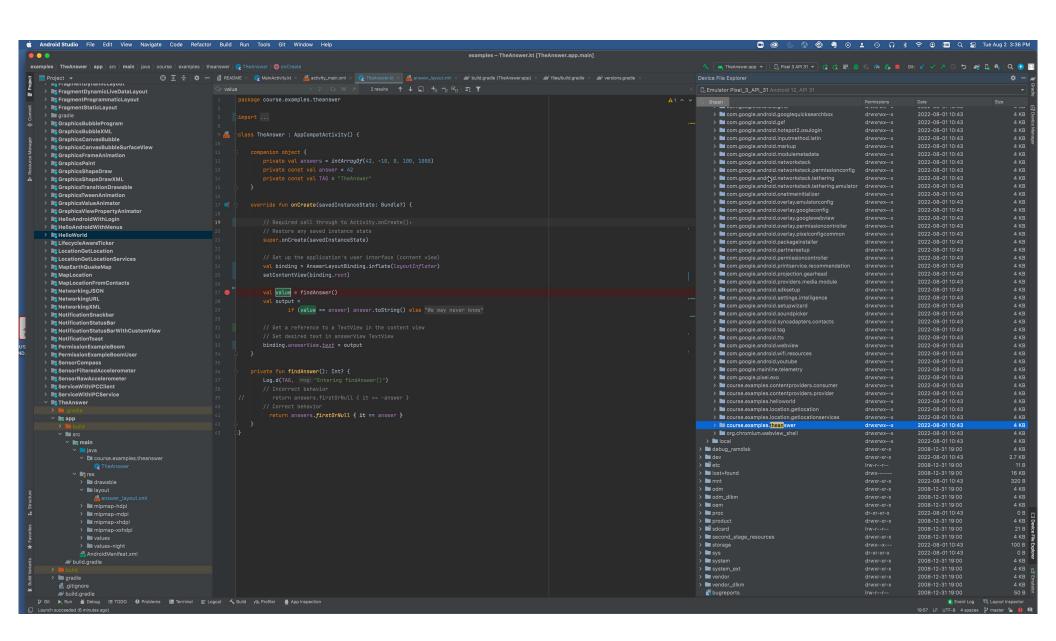
CPU Profiler

Device File Explorer

View, copy, and delete files on your device

Often used to examine and verify file creation and transfer



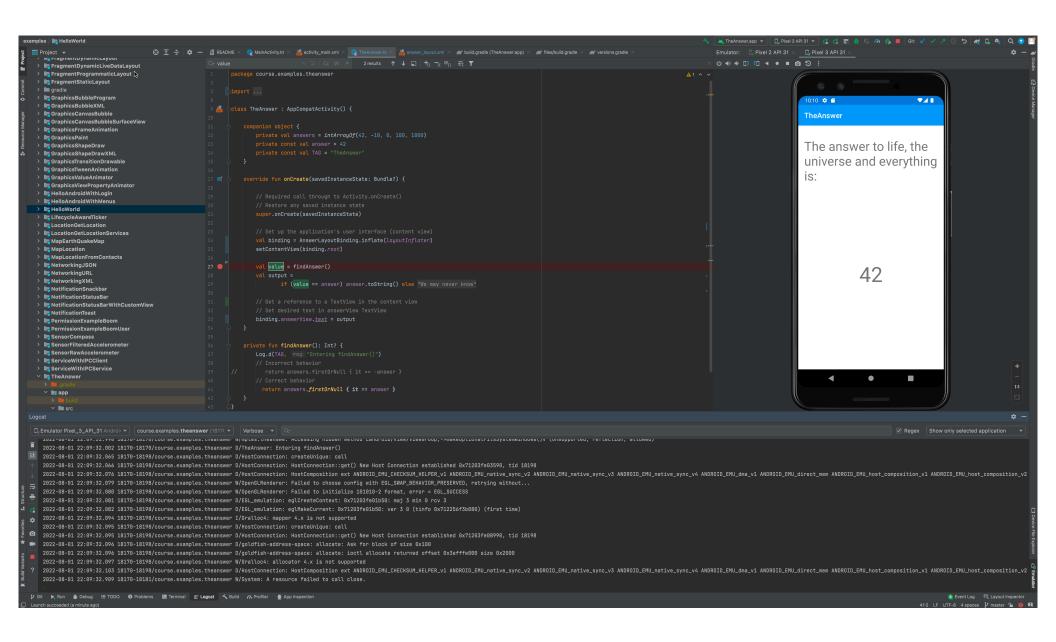


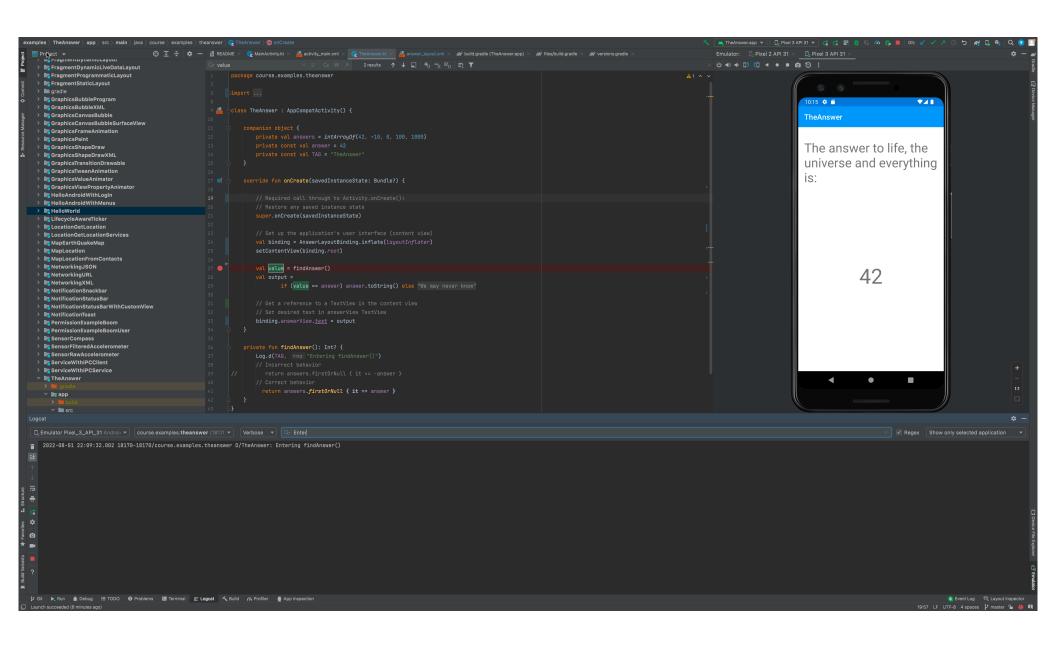
Logcat

Write and review log messages

Apps use Log class to write messages to log

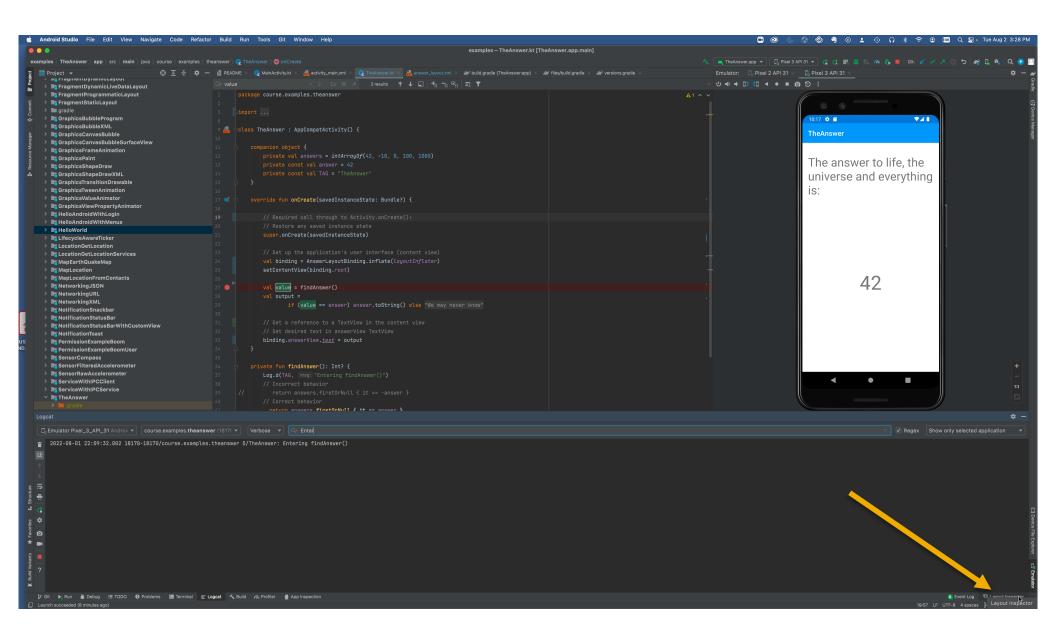
Developer can search and filter log messages

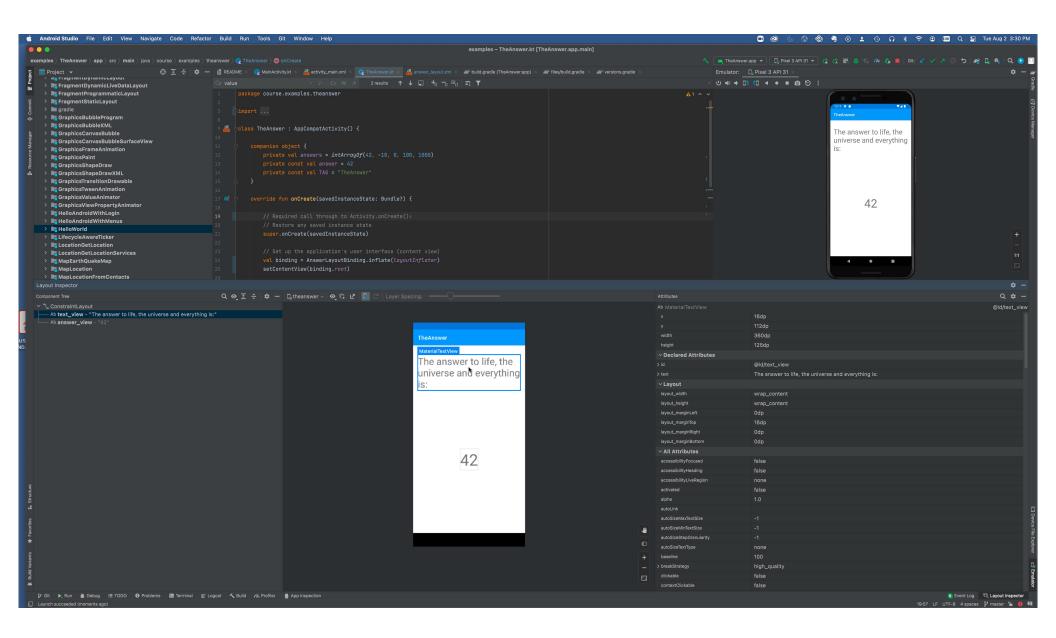




Layout Inspector

Shows the runtime organization of the user interface





Next

Application Fundamentals

Example Applications

HelloWorld

TheAnswer