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CMSC436: Programming Handheld Systems

Modern App Architecture

Today's Topics

Architecture Principles Notional App Architecture

Android App Behavior

Apps are made from Android components

Activity, Fragments, Services, etc.

Multiple entry points for app launch, so apps can start in different components

Android can kill components on reconfiguration / low memory

Some Architectural Considerations

Framework components represent a contract between app and Android framework

- Limit app dependency on framework components
- Don't store app data or state in your app components
- Don't design app components so they depend on each other

Architectural Principles

Separation of concerns Drive UI from data models Single source of truth Unidirectional Data Flow

Separation of Concerns

App implemented in separate classes Each class has a single responsibility

Drive UI from Data Models

UI and data are separate Data models encapsulate an app's underlying data UI presents the data

Single Source of Truth

Each data type has a single owner

Only the owner can modify/mutate data instances

Owner exposes immutable instances to non-owners

Unidirectional Data Flow

App operation includes states and events Each flows in a single direction , e.g., State flows from data towards UI Events flow from UI towards data

Architecture Layers

Apps should have at least two layers:

- A *UI layer* that displays application data on the screen
- A *data layer* that contains the app's business logic and exposes its application data
- An optional *domain layer* to simplify and reuse the interactions between the UI and data layers



UI Layer

UI elements Displays on screen State holders Hold data, expose it to UI



Data Layer

Implements app's business logic

Composed of repositories and data sources

Each data source manages one source of data (e.g., sensor, network server, local database)

Repositories contain zero or more data sources

One repository for each type of data



Next Time

User Interface Classes

Example Applications

FragmentDynamicLiveDataLayout