



# ECE 1778: Creative Applications for Mobile Devices



Lecture 4  
January 29, 2020



(1)

# Today

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1. Logistics – Plan, Assignments
  - Description of Assignment S3
  - Proposal
2. Block Diagrams + Living in Apps
3. Notes on Group Work
  - Working in Groups
4. A Note on the Android Life cycle
5. External Sensors/Gadgets you may want to use
6. TeamChooser
  - Lessons from an App development experience
7. Informal Topic Discussions/Coordination



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# Logistics

(3)



# Assignments

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- S2 was due yesterday
  - Any comments/questions?
- S3 is posted on course website
- P2 is due next Tuesday
- S1 and P1 have been graded
  - Apologies to iOS; we will have our own device soon.



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# Assignment S3

Due Tuesday February 4

All assignments are on both Course website and on Quercus



# Assignment S3 – for Specialists

- Assignment S3 is new this year.
- The goal is to stimulate ideas for different features of the App in your project, and to aid discussion within team
  
- First:
  1. Ask you to reprise your field description from S1.
  2. Give best current version of your **project** description at the same level as the Approval-in-Principle

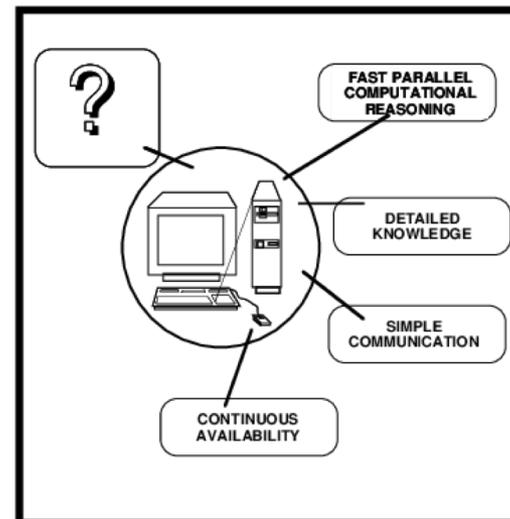


# Part 3 – Consider what is possible

- Consider all the kinds of capabilities that exist in the phone, the internet and computers in general
  - I did this in Lectures 1, 2 and 3
  - e.g. Phone sensors
  - Give a short description of various computer abilities
  - Draw from your own knowledge of what you've seen apps/computers can do

## CAPABILITIES OF COMPUTERS

Can store and work with large amounts of information.



# Part 3 – Describe/Invent Features!

- Describe separable **Features** that you want in your app
  - **without** worrying about the resource, time or complexity
  - (want to free your mind from the constraints to begin)
- But what is a feature?
  - And what does separable mean?



# What is a Feature?

- It is a separate piece of functionality in software
  - it might be essential to the basic operation
  - It might be a ‘nice-to-have’ but not essential part.
- Example:
  - Essential: in app that gives list of ski-related products, the **list** itself is essential
  - Having the ability to sort the list based on price is a feature
    - Or sort on other aspects of the product
- How to do this? “Live In” your app
  - Concrete example later



# Parts 3 and 4

3. Rank features in order of importance and describe why they are high or low.
4. Determine with programming partners what order to build
  - Based on your joint understanding of what is necessary and how difficult features are
  - This list can be bigger than what you do in the actual project.
- Purpose – to direct your creativity, and to start the process of figuring out what is practical



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# Project



# Project Stages

## 1. Forming Groups

- Must be formed now

## 2. Project Approval-in-Principle

- Should be wrapping up

## 3. Project Proposal/Plan

- Document Due February 10<sup>th</sup>

## 4. Proposal & Plan Presentations

- February 12<sup>th</sup> – see lecture 3 for details
- **NOTE EXTRA LECTURE Wed February 12th, 6-8pm, RS 208**

## 5. Spiral 2 & Spiral 4 Presentations

- 2: March 4/11 4: March 18/25

## 6. Final Presentations

- Weeks of April 1/8

## 7. Final Report Due April 15<sup>th</sup>



# Approval-in-Principle Somewhat Behind

| Approval in Principle | OS      | Project Name        | Specialist |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------|------------|
|                       |         |                     | Na         |
| Yes                   | iOS     | SAAM                | Felix      |
| Yes                   | Android | PERLS               | Alex       |
| No                    | Android | MAX                 | Michelle   |
| No                    | iOS     | Qsort               | Joseph     |
| Yes                   | iOS     | Sentinel            | Jennife    |
| No                    | Android |                     | Annat      |
| Yes                   | iOS     | iBand               |            |
| Yes                   | iOS     | Notate              | Kristen    |
| No                    | Android |                     |            |
| Yes                   | Android | Healthy Partner     |            |
| No                    | Android |                     | Marco      |
| No                    | Android |                     | Zoe F      |
| No                    | Android |                     | Josep      |
| Yes                   | Android | Smart Workout Buddy |            |



# Proposal/Plan Due Monday Feb 10 @ 6pm

1. Describe Goal, make more precise
  - What & Why
2. Rough design of what the **user** of the App sees
  - Screen designs
  - Can use Marvel App - <https://marvelapp.com>
    - From Specialist Assignment 2
    - Any drawing package will do
3. **Block Diagram** overview of planned code
  - The large pieces (roughly 5) of the system
    - With short description of each (below picture)
  - Should be linked to the screens
  - I will discuss creation of block diagrams shortly



# Plan, continued

## 4. Statement of Risks/Issues

- What roadblocks/issues/challenges do you foresee?
- Software, Hardware, Ethics, Data ...

## 5. What do you need to learn that you don't know

- all members

## 6. **Important:** Specialists

- Submit a 500 word essay on
  1. How App relates to field of Specialist, and
  2. How the Specialist will contribute to project
    - Need to be an active participant; want clear thought here
    - **Issue Tracking** on Github?

■ **Document must have these sections; will lose marks if missing**



# Proposal/Plan Document

- length: 1500 words max
  - not including Specialist essay (#6)
  - include word count as part of document, penalty for overage
- Seeking clarity, not quantity of words
  - Omit needless words
- **One member of group should submit for group**
  - Under “Proposal Plan” for your group, under its name
- Worth 10% of grade
  - including in-class presentation done following week
- Document Due Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm



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# A Note on Block Diagrams

And the creative process



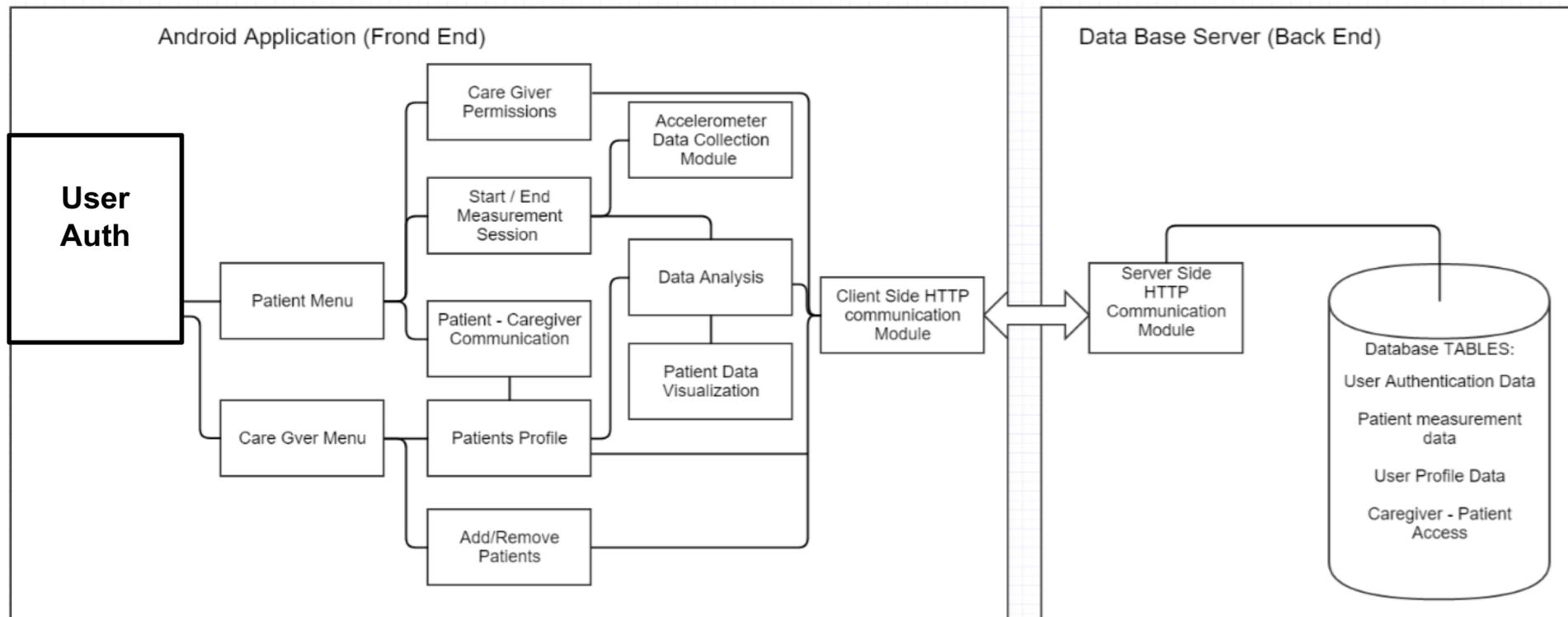
# Block Diagrams

- In Proposal you're asked to give a block diagram of your planned software
  - In past, many have not understood this
- A Block diagram describes the major pieces of the project's functions (roughly 5)
- Is the first step in the standard **divide & conquer** approach
- Draw blocks, give each block a name
  - Name gives a sense of what it does
  - Provide several sentences that give more detail of function of each block

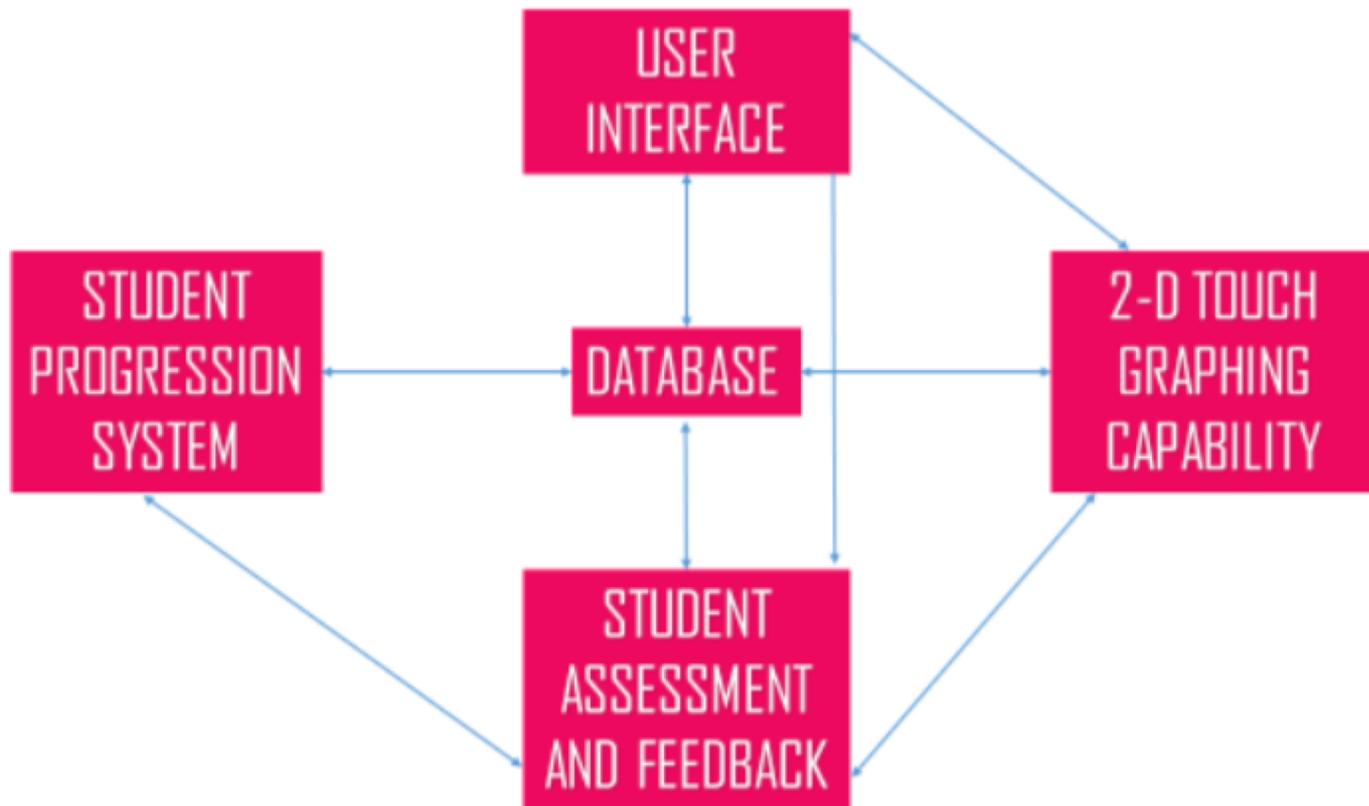


# Block Diagrams

- Lines between blocks show communication
- May need to break blocks themselves down
  - In a hierarchy, in a subsequent part of your plan document
  - This example has **too many** blocks, too small font

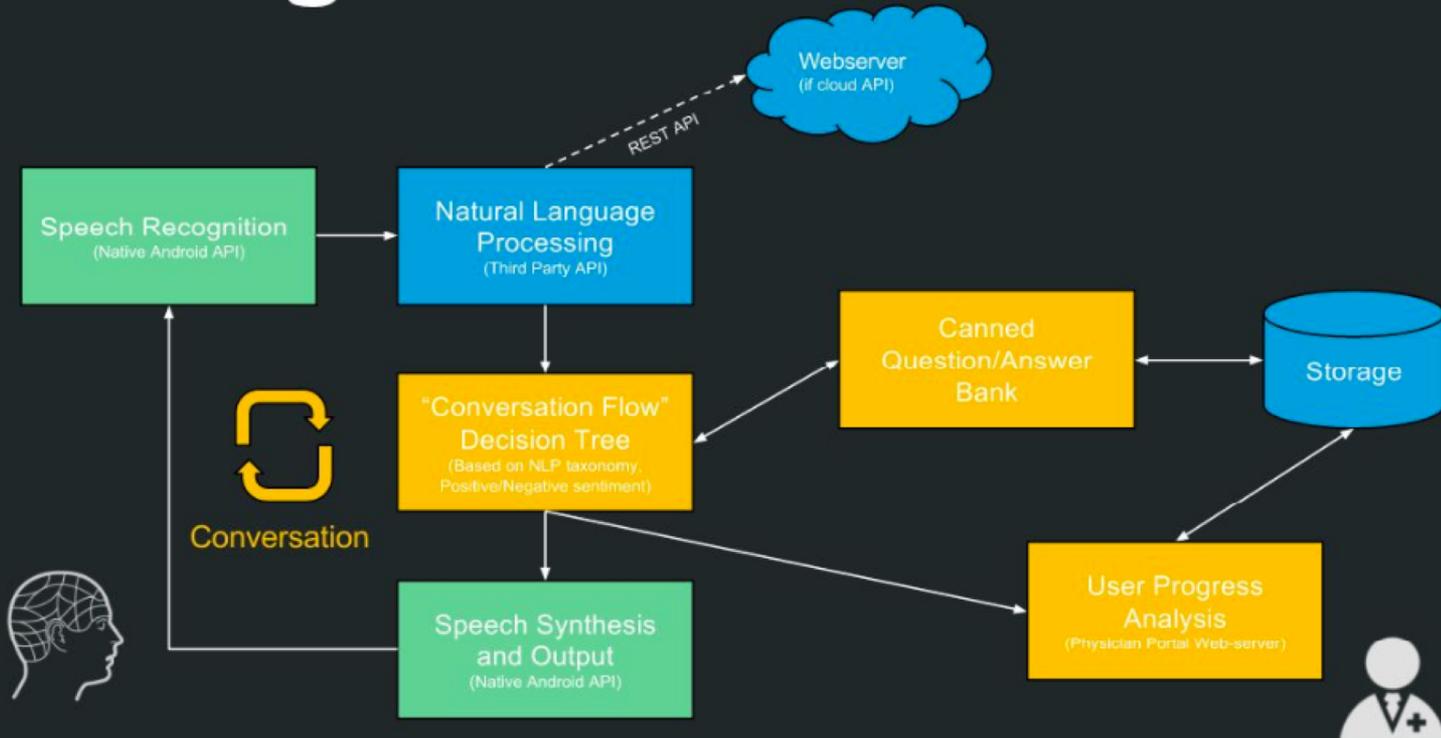


# Better, but maybe too simple



# Good

## Block Diagram



# Let's Work Through An Example

- Problem: Terrible Speed Bumps on King's College Circle
  - very poorly designed – reverse bumps!
  - hitting the yellow part almost throws bike rider off bike!



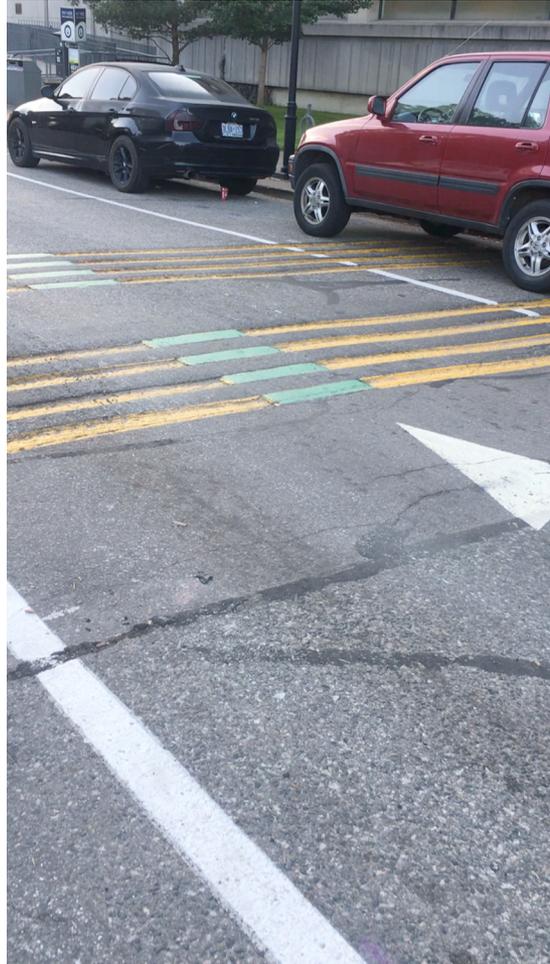
# So, Fill in Middle for Smooth Bike Cross

- This forces the cyclist into the middle of the road
- Into the path of any trailing car!



# That's Dumb, But Even Worse

- The speed bumps don't really seem to affect cars at all!
- Watch:



# App Goal:

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- Measure Speed Bumps Effectiveness in Car
  - i.e. how noticeable is the bump?
  - Does the bump get worse with higher speed of a car?
  
- How could you do this with a phone?



# Let's Make the Block Diagram

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- What are the main components?



# Let's Figure out How to Enhance it

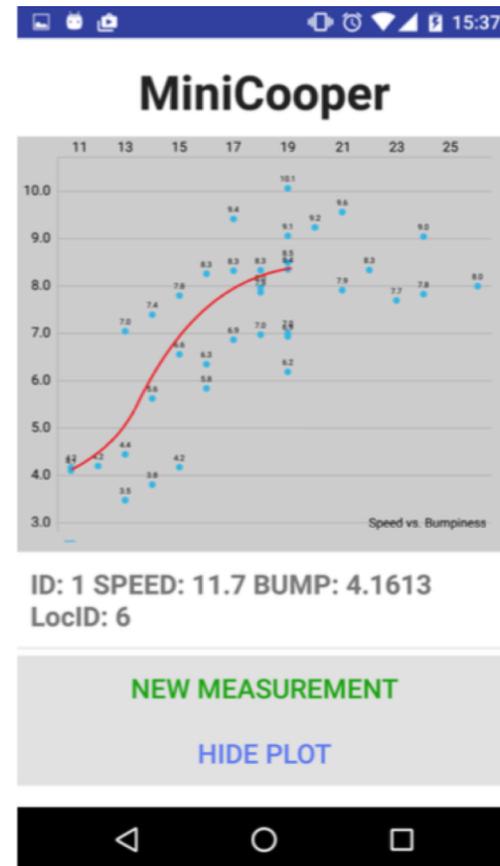
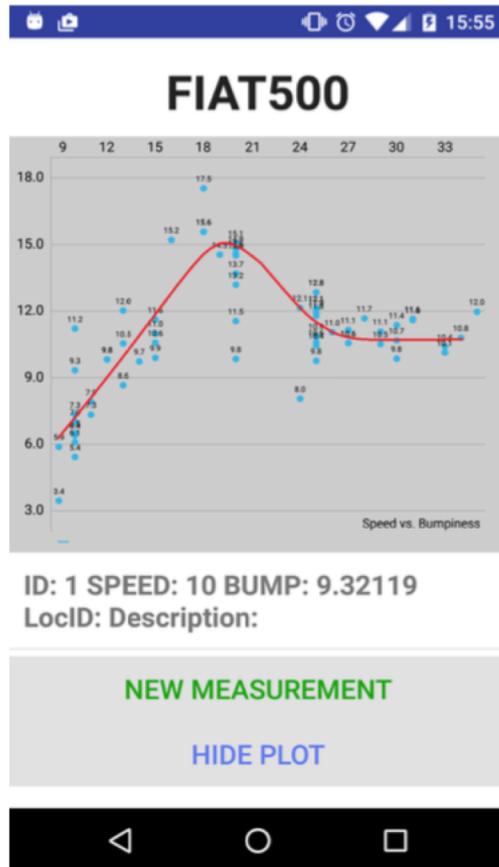
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- Think about the context, what could we do to make this more useful/functional/helpful?
- That is – what other **features** might this app have?



# Project: “How Bumpy” from 2015

- Measurement of Two Different Cars over bumps
  - Did it prove anything?



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# A Note on Group Interaction



# Group Interaction

- Now that groups are formed, it is very important for you to meet regularly and coordinate your activities
- Each of you will need to be assigned tasks, and make commitments to do those tasks at a particular deadline
- The expectations that each group member has of the others must be made clear
  - I suggest that these be written down
  - **Each** meeting in which tasks are decided:
  - Tasks should be recorded at end of each meeting
    - What
    - Who
    - When



# “When” is a guess

- **Just** because you thought you could get something done, doesn't mean you will be able to
- Tasks deadlines may have to 'slip' because of under-estimation
- is reality of engineering and indeed all work
  - A key opportunity to learn how to estimate work!
- Group must be forgiving of missed tasks
  - Must communicate and re-organize goals



# Difficulties Can and Do Happen

- Most of the difficulties that have occurred in this course have been because expectations were not made clear
- Sometimes, group members consistently failed to live up to commitments.
- If this happens, please report it to me as soon as it is something that you cannot handle with internal discussion & resolution
  - We will help you resolve it
- Disagreements are part of all human relationships
  - One distinguishes oneself by how well you deal with them



# What is a good way to communicate?

- Your favourite messaging app
  - Whatsapp, FB Messenger, WeChat....
- **Slack** - <https://slack.com/intl/en-ca/>
- Skype/Google Hangouts/Zoom
- Github Issue tracking



# That's About What Could Go Wrong

- What about doing things to make it go right?
  - See above about basic organization
- What is a good way to create a successful group?
  - Get to know each other – find out goals and interests
  - have some meals together – breakfast lunch or dinner.
  - Practice the notion of listening and giving everyone's ideas a fair hearing.



# GitHub Requirement

- We require you to use GitHub for storing software and tracking issues
  - Aside: what is source code control?
  - Demo issue tracker on github.com
- I will create the repository for you, and make **all** group members collaborators
  - Including specialists
  - Repository will be private
- Your immediate task, by this Friday:
  - Send me your **GitHub ID** so I can connect you to the repo
  - If you don't have **ID**, go to **github.com** and sign up
    - Then send your GitHub ID to me with group name
    - I will link you to the repository



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# Class Participation & Peer Review



# Class Presentations

- A key part of what happens in this course is the contribution you make to other's projects
- You will do many presentations in this class
  - Indeed, one side-effect of this project course is some real practice in giving high-quality, concise & clear communication
  - Most presentations will be 5 minutes in length
  - Must be geared so that most people in the class will understand



# Peer Review

- Want everyone to come, listen & provide useful feedback
- Expectation that you'll listen and provide thoughtful feedback and suggestions to other's presentations

## In Addition

- For each of Proposal, Spiral 2, and Spiral 4 you'll be asked to provide a written peer review for one other group; these will be graded
- Means you'll need to be here for every lecture, not just when you're presenting.



# Peer Review for Proposal

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Will be asked to answer questions such as:

1. In your own words, what was the goal of the project?
2. What parts of the proposal did you understand, and what parts could be more clear?
3. What was the best thing about the proposal?
4. What one thing could be improved the most?



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# External Hardware for your Project



# External Hardware/Gadgets

- If you know of some external hardware that will enable your project, you can request to have it purchased
  - I try to collect these for this course and research
  - No guarantee, depends on cost & function, but ask if you see something interesting!
  
- Some Examples ....

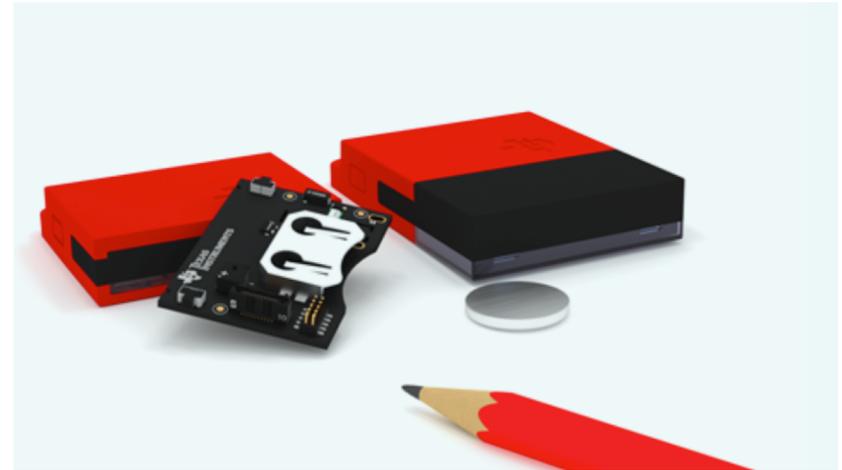


# Texas Instruments Sensor Tag 2

## ■ Bluetooth Connection

## ■ Sensors:

- 9 axis
- Magnet sensor
- Light
- Ambient temperature
- IR temperature
- Humidity
- Air pressure
- Two Buttons, two lights, quiet buzzer!



## ■ I can order these as needed

## ■ Demo

# Muse Head Band

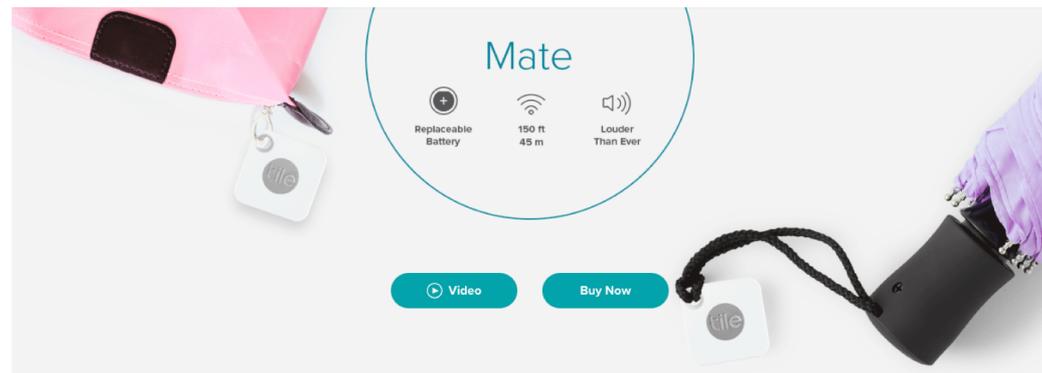
- Measures 'brain activity' through measurement of electro-magnetic waves brain produces
- Have 1 of these



# TILE Tracker

■ Note where things are, where they were lost!

- <https://www.thetileapp.com>
- <https://youtu.be/WG7BdW7iFzo>
  
- Don't have any, but could order
- There is an unofficial API documented/coded here:
  
- <https://github.com/bachya/pytile>



# Other External Devices I have

- Wahoo Tickr (1) – heart rate monitor strap
  - bluetooth connected
  - Direct live heart rate



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# My App: TeamChooser

Solving a Problem in Pick-up Team Sports

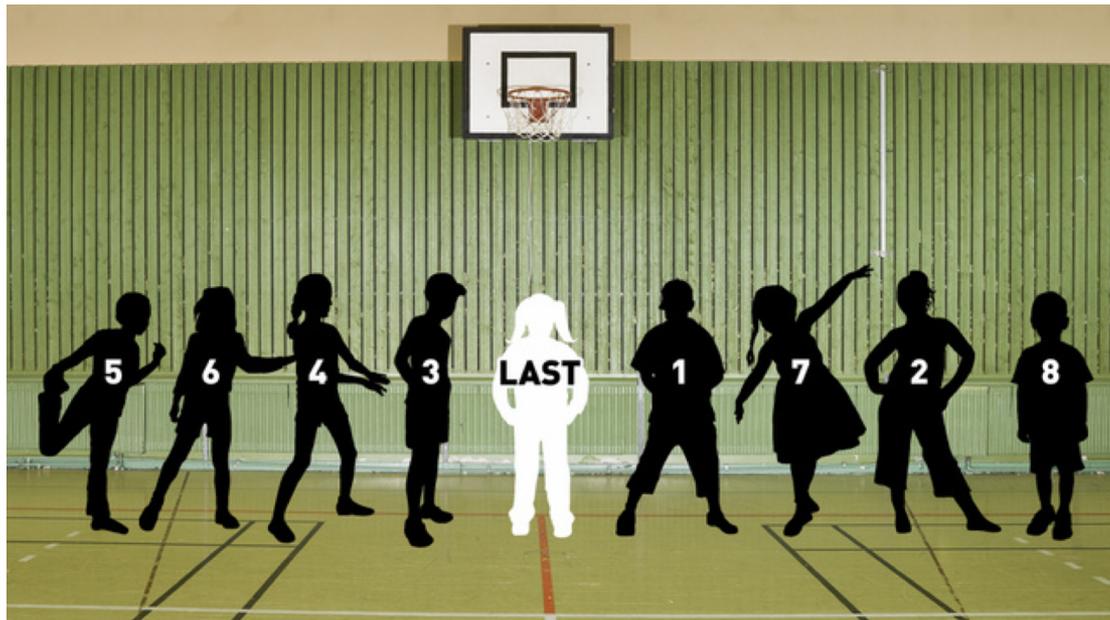


# Kids Who Play Want Games to be Fair!



# So Do Adults!

- When playing friendly games there is a need to choose who is on which team
- A common method is to have team captains, and they alternate choosing people, in a very public way
- How many people have been picked **first**? 😊
- How many people have been picked **last**? ☹️



# I've Been Playing Hockey for Many Years

- A friendly game, but still have problem choosing teams:
- Classic Canadian method:
  - Put players' sticks into middle
  - One person randomly throws sticks to either side!
  - Random outcome!
- I once chose teams for a few years in friendly game
  - People complained a lot!



# Play in Two Different Friendly Games

## ■ Wednesday Game: terrible chooser (**Agar**)

- People always complaining
- Games often lopsided, much distaste
- no-one else took over, though (didn't want the hassle?)



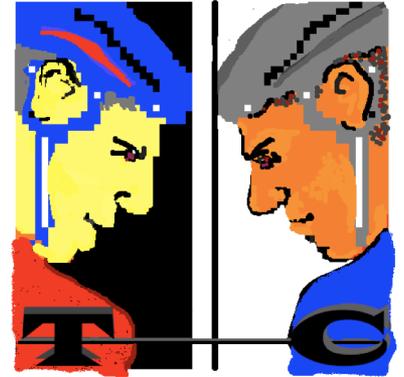
## ■ Sunday Game: excellent chooser (**Paul**)

- Paul had a natural ability to pick great teams!
- Even when teams didn't look right, many more times than not, the game was fair
- Became known as the '**algorithm**'



# The Solution: TeamChooser

- Wouldn't it be great if an App made the teams?
  - No one to yell at
  - Possibly give better teams
- Who needs this?
- Every pick-up hockey, soccer, basketball game around!



# TeamChooser: How It Works

- Enter every player's information in advance of game day
  - Player's name
  - Preferred position (offence or defense)
  - **A rating, from 1-10, as to how effective player is**
    - Rating is the trickiest part
- On game day – select all players present
- Push '**Make Teams**'
  - And voila, two evenly matched teams



# Do Demo! Entering Players

Carrier  2:01 PM 

[Done](#) Add Players

AmdurWedFri has 99 players

Name

Level (0-10)  (e.g., 5.4)

Offense  Defense

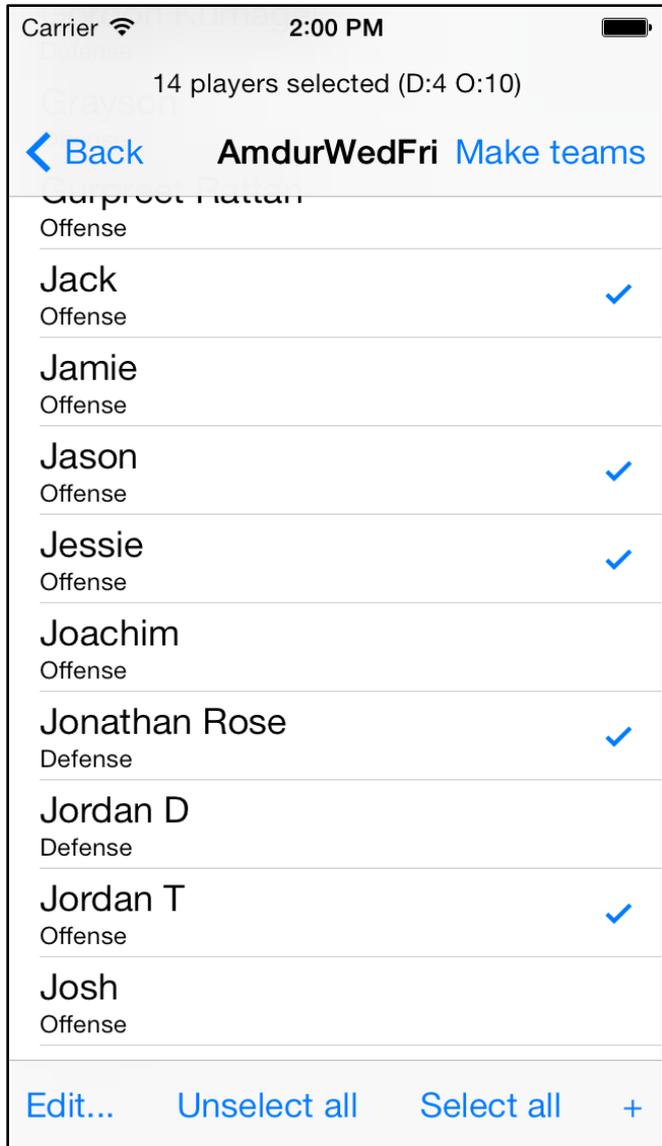
Pre-assign

Light  Dark

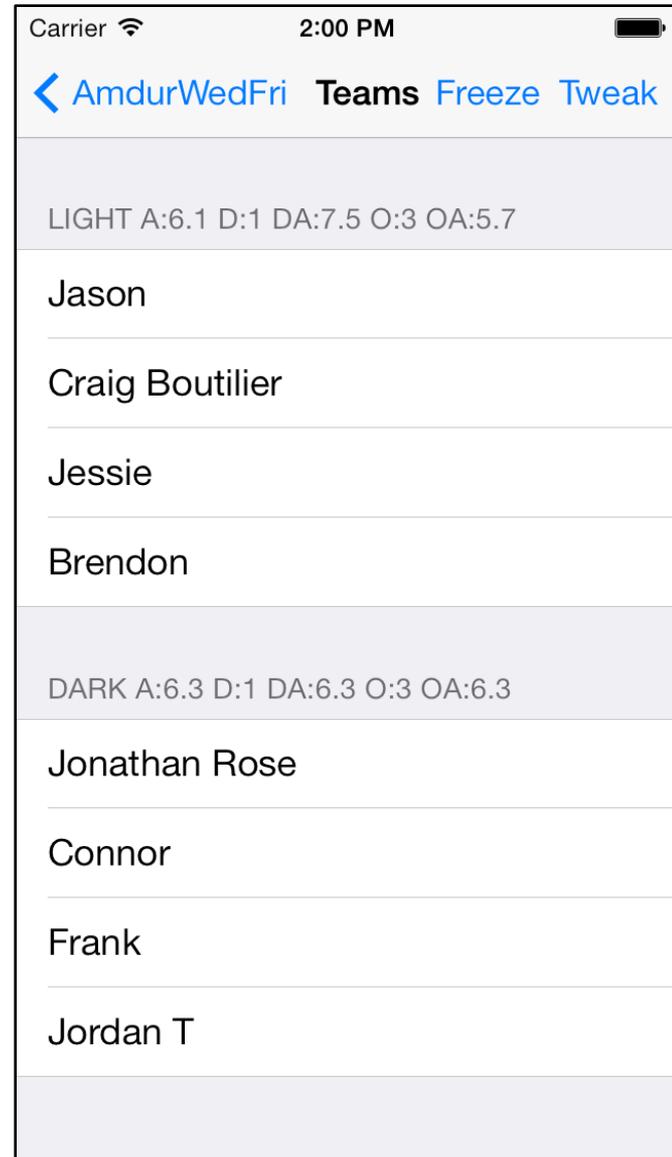
[Save](#) [Delete](#)



# Selecting Present & Making Teams



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# Example Game

Dark Team

Light Team

DARK 5.6 D:5.0 O:5.7 COUNT: 6

LIGHT 5.6 D:5.4 O:5.7 COUNT: 7

Cole Zemer

Brian Dovi

Pavel

Raj B

Matt Zale

Rich Zemer



Gurpreet Rattan

# Final Score in that Game

- A Victory for Team Chooser!



# Team Selection Method ('Algorithm')

Step 1: Sort Players in Order of Rating, Highest to Lowest

Step 2: Alternate Team Assigned Going Down List

Team A

6

Team B

5

4

3

2

1



# Team Selection Method

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- Gets more complicated when add features!
  - Balance offense and defensive player count
  - Pre-assigns
  - Balance quality of offense and defense
- Many discussions from CS and ECE Professors over algorithms in hockey game!



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# Relating to Assignment S3



# Features in App – Current and *Desired*

1. Input System – entering names and ranks
2. Choosing process and display
  - Very neat choosing + rating feature!
3. Randomized Order of Team Lists
  - So no-one is picked last
4. Large Font Button for far-sighted old folks!
5. Constraint: put selected people on fixed side
6. Constraint: equalize # of offence and defence-minded on each side
7. Late Arrival feature
8. *Infer people's scores based on result*
9. *Email/Share team files amongst multiple people*
10. *Print Out Chosen Teams<sup>(60)</sup> for Posting*



# Does it Work?

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- Yes!
- I've been using it with friends in roughly 600 hockey games and it has often done a good job.
  - We've tweaked it's algorithms here and there
  - Added some features
  - Occasionally very unbalanced games, bad luck?



# On iPhone App Store Since May 2010

## App Store Preview

This app is available only on the App Store for iPhone and iPad.



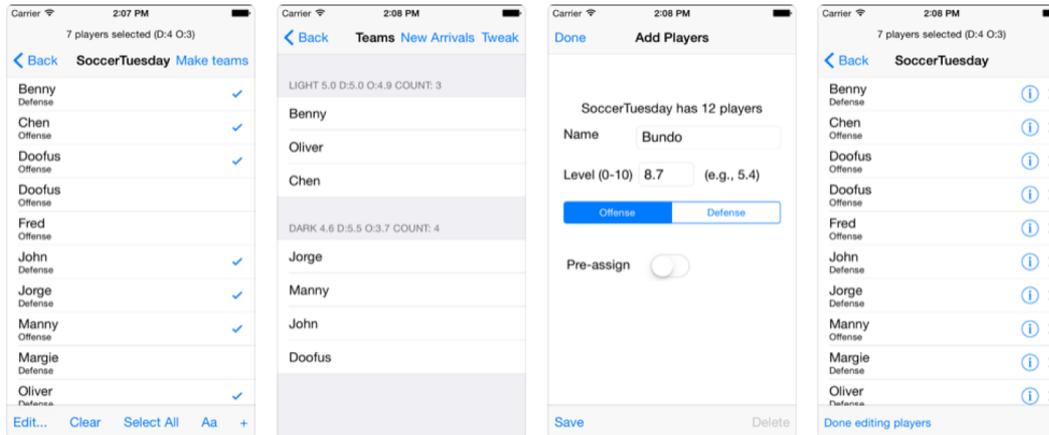
**TeamChooser** 4+

NP Press

★★★★★ 5.0, 1 Rating

Free

## Screenshots [iPhone](#) [iPad](#)



Do you play friendly pickup sports, like hockey, soccer or basketball? Would you like help choosing which players to be on each team, so that everyone enjoys the game? Then TeamChooser is the app for you! TeamChooser will work for pretty much any two-team game you can think of: rugby scrimmages, volleyball, baseball, and flag football.

[more](#)

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- Free!
- 6000 total Downloads
- Mostly in US/Canada, but a few in UK, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Romania, Portugal, Australia, Denmark, Finland



# Units

App Store Connect App Analytics

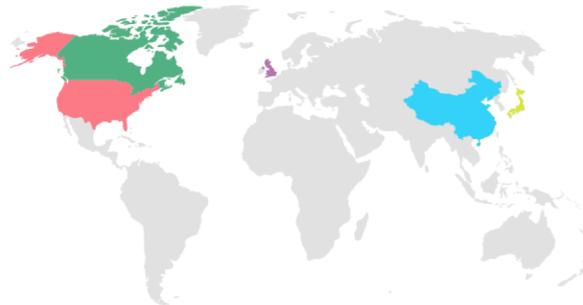
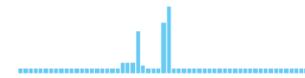
TeamChooser

Jonathan Rose

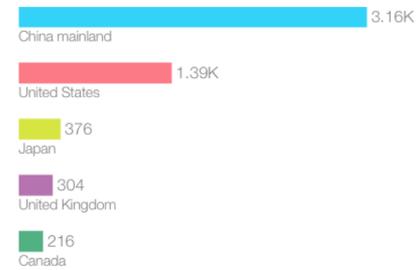
Overview Metrics Sources Retention

About App Analytics Data

Apr 1, 2015-Jan 24, 2020



App Units by Territory



App Units by Source



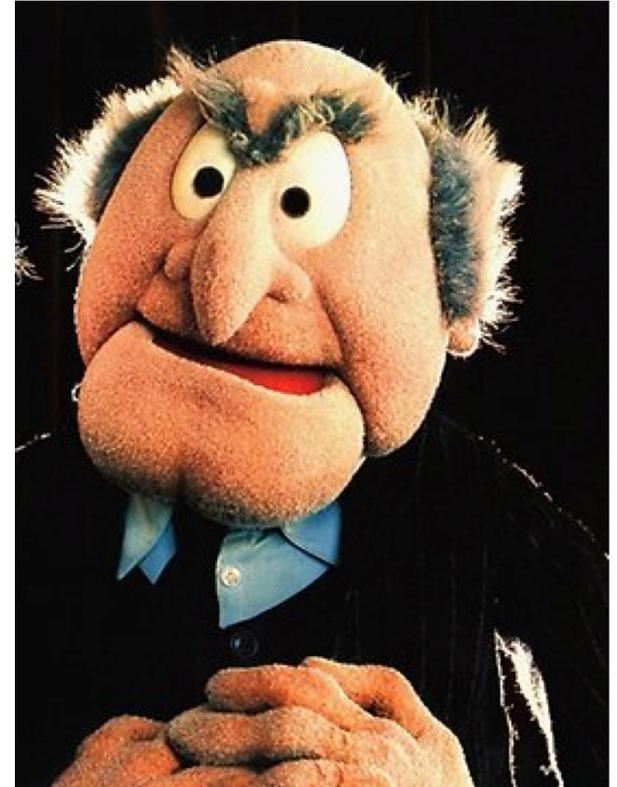
# Lesson Learned

- From last time: Ratings of players, key part of engine, **must be kept secret!**
- Can add password to App so no-one can grab phone and look at their ratings or anyone else's



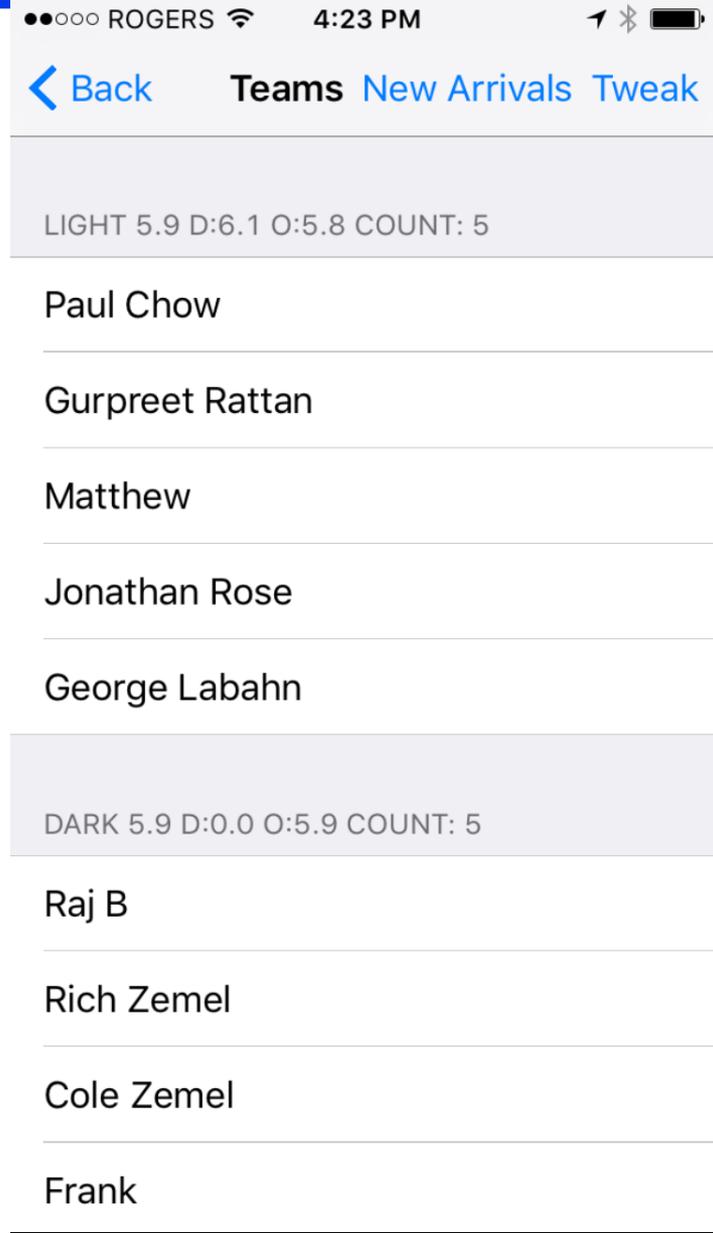
# Sad Outcome: Agar

- The day after the first use of TeamChooser on Wednesday
  - Recall very poor chooser – Agar
  - Folks joked and called it the iGar.
- Agar **never played again on Wednesday!**
  - Still plays hockey, but not with team he played with for decades



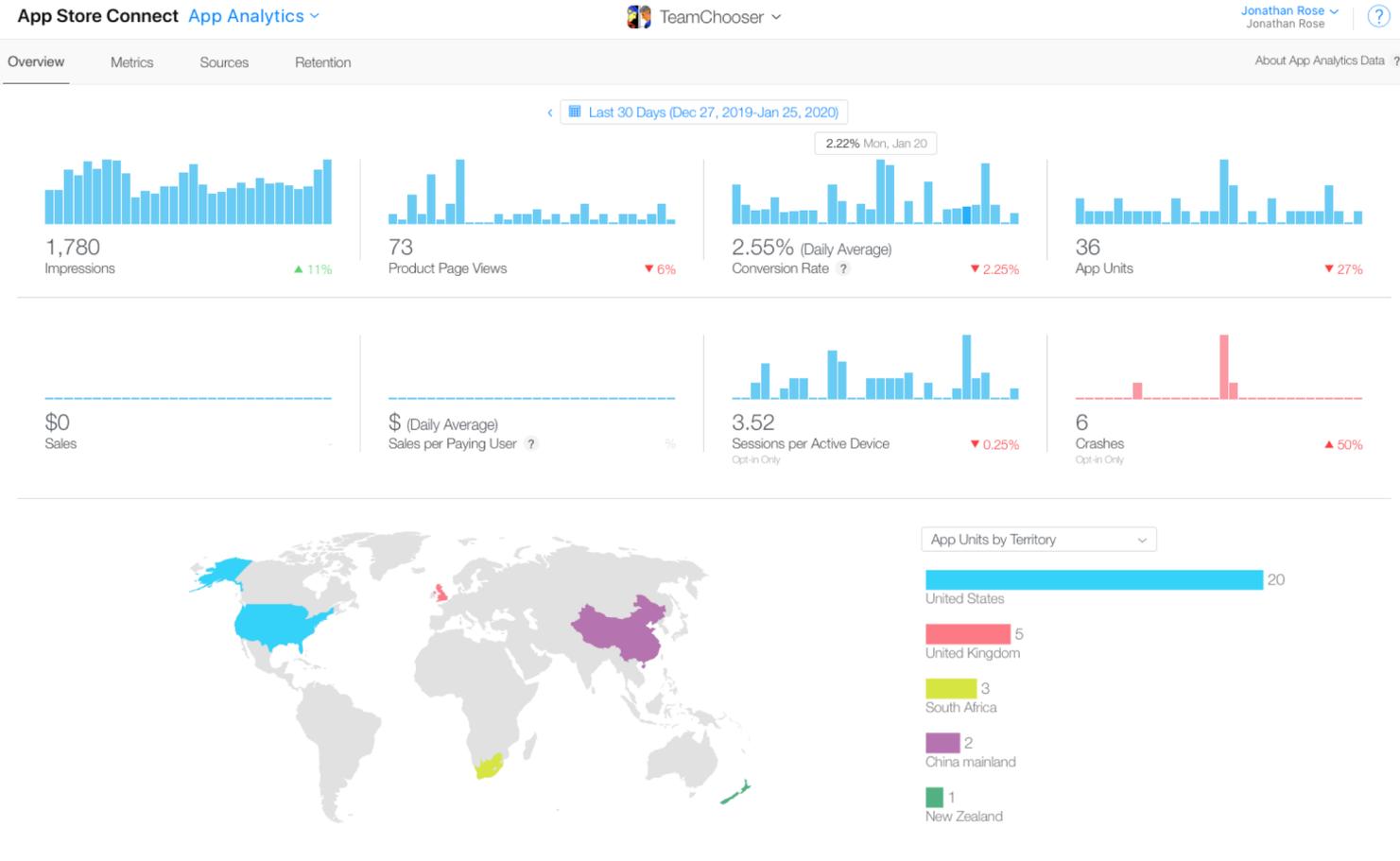
# Feature: No-One Chosen Last!

- The order that people are listed (and spoken out loud by user) is randomized
- There is no way to infer rating



# Downloads Over the Last 30 Days

■ Is delightful to see people using!



# Is Anyone Using it Who Bought It?

- Instrumented both with Apple Analytics & Firebase Analytics
  - Very easy to insert into any app
- Reports:
  - # of users sessions, amount of time spent on app
  - Specific pages/events, as you wish from each user
  - Location of user, if already use GPS (no other ID).
  - **Anything I wish to report!**



# Session Report from Apple Analytics

App Store Connect App Analytics

TeamChooser

Jonathan Rose



Overview Metrics Sources Retention

About App Analytics Data

APP STORE

Impressions

Product Page Views

SALES

App Units

In-App Purchases

Sales

Paying Users

USAGE

Installations

Sessions

Active Devices

Active Last 30 Days

Crashes

Deletions

COMPARE TO

None

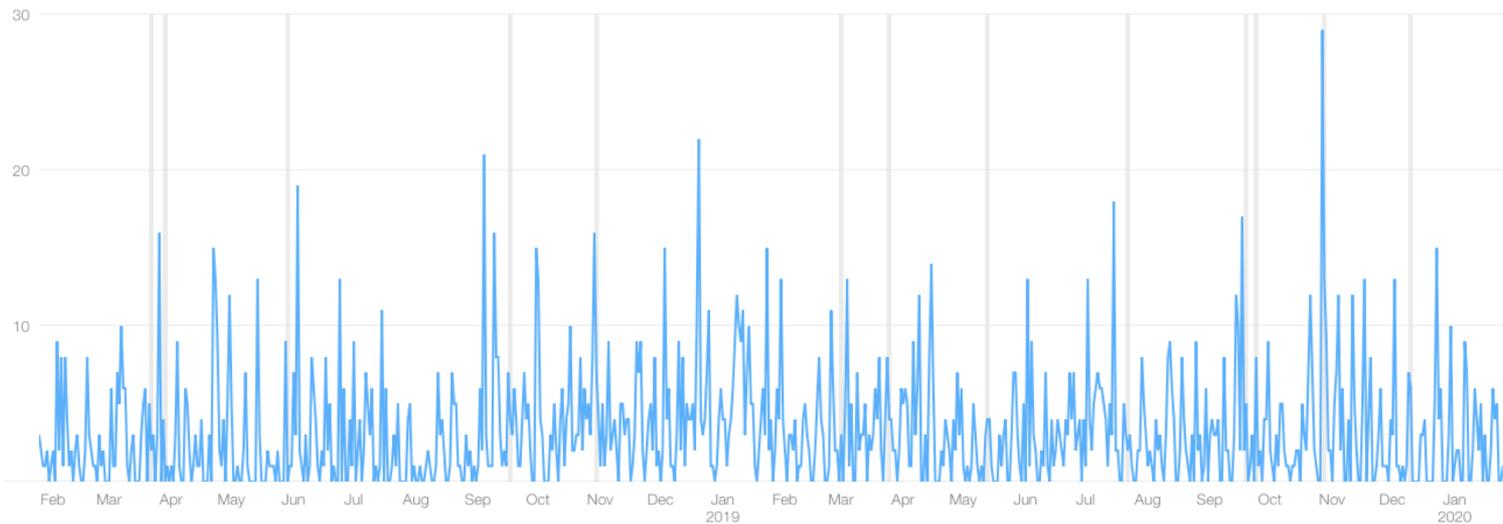
SAVED VIEWS

View By Add Filter

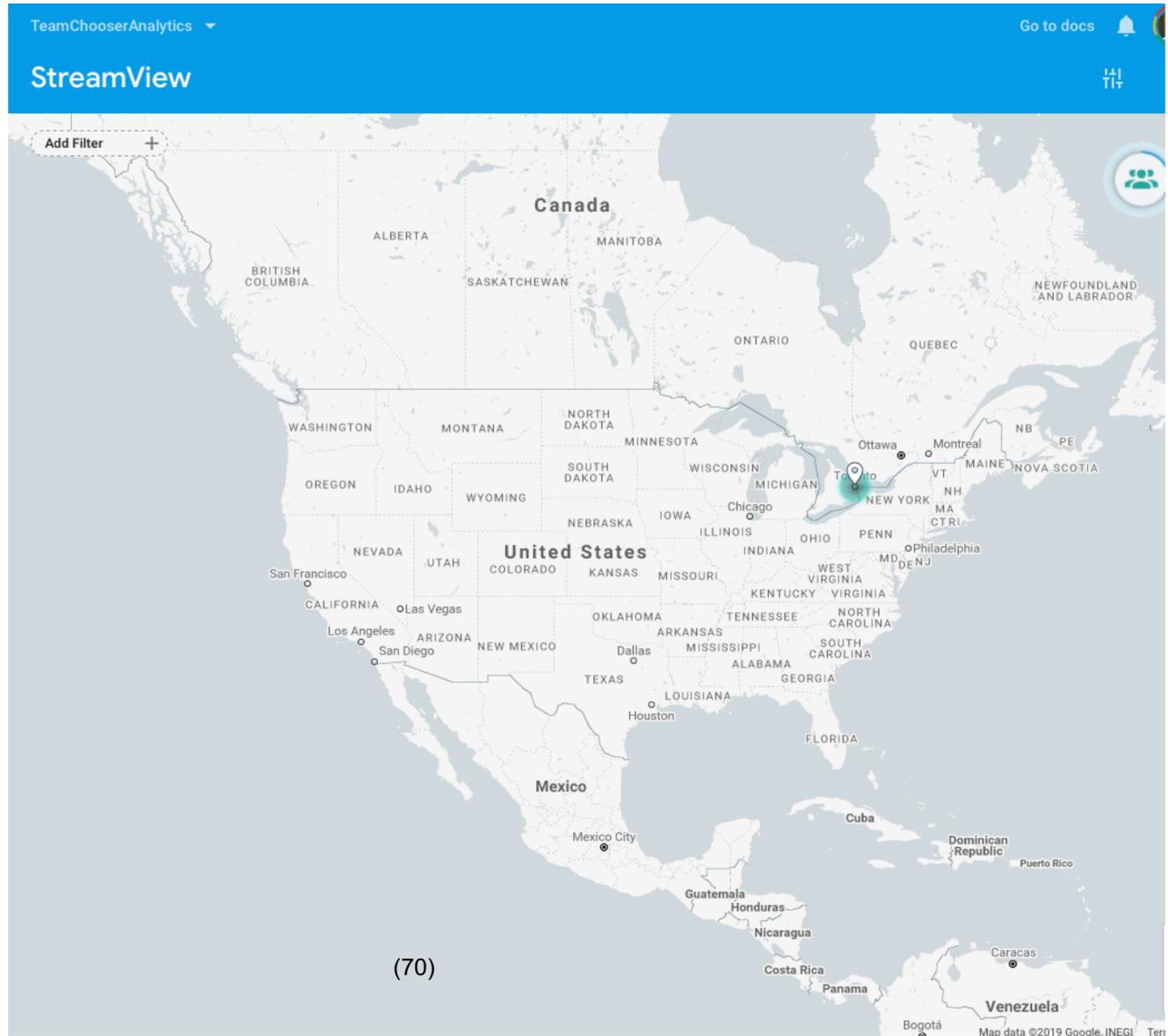
Jan 25, 2018-Jan 25, 2020

2,391 Sessions  
Opt-in Only

Line Days



# Stream View – Live!

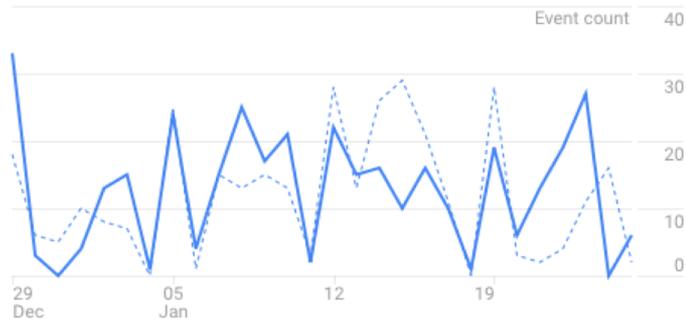


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# Event Logs

data

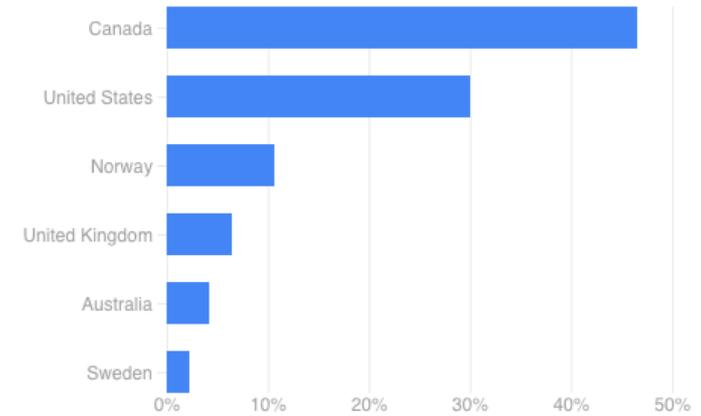


|   | Count | Users |
|---|-------|-------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (total) 183 items | 357   | 26    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (not set)                    | 15    | 1     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Night ...3 BDef 8.00  | 9     | 1     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Night ...3 BDef 7.75  | 9     | 1     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Night ...0 BDef 8.25  | 8     | 1     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hudson Hock... BDef 24.00    | 7     | 1     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling AAvg...0 BDef 0.00   | 6     | 1     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AmdurWedFri ... BDef 7.73    | 5     | 1     |

Event location ⓘ



Country/Region



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# Small Programming Note: The Android Life Cycle



# Android Application Life Cycle

- Recall: Activities are screens that the user sees, and associated process
- Android manages these Activities as a **stack**.
- When a new activity is started, it is placed on the top of the stack and becomes the running activity
- The previous activity always remains below it in the stack,
  - and will not come to the foreground again until the new activity exits.



# Important to Pay Attention to 'LifeCycle'

- To ensure app behaves well in several ways, including:
  1. Does not crash if the user receives a phone call or switches to another app
  2. Does not consume valuable system resources when the user is not actively using your app
  3. Does not lose the user's progress if they leave your app and return to it at a later time
  4. Does not crash or lose the user's progress when the screen rotates between landscape and portrait orientation.



# An Activity Can Be in 1 of 4 'States'

## State 1: Active/Running

- Activity in the foreground of the screen (at the top of the stack)
- Has 'focus', meaning user interactions go to it.

## State 2: Paused

- activity has lost focus but is still visible
- a new smaller or transparent activity has focus on top of the activity)
- A paused activity is completely alive (it maintains all state and member information and remains attached to the window manager), but can be killed by the system in extreme low memory situations.



# Activity States 3 and 4

## State 3: Stopped

- activity is completely obscured by another activity
- retains all state and member information
- no longer visible to the user so its window is hidden
- it will often be killed by the system when memory is needed elsewhere.

## State 4: Destroyed

- If an activity is paused or stopped, the system can drop the activity from memory by either asking it to finish, **or simply killing its process.**
- When displayed again to the user, it must be completely restarted and restored to its previous state.



# Android Talking to Your App

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- The Android operating system asks (or tells) your app to go into those different states by invoking methods associated with your Activity





# Three Key States

- Activity can be in 1 of 3 states for long period of time:

## 1. Resumed

- In this state, the activity is in the foreground and the user can interact with it. (Also sometimes referred to as the "running" state.)

## 2. Paused

- In this state, the activity is partially obscured by another activity—the other activity that's in the foreground is semi-transparent or doesn't cover the entire screen. The paused activity does not receive user input and cannot execute any code.

## 3. Stopped

- In this state, the activity is completely hidden and not visible to the user; it is considered to be in the background. While stopped, the activity instance and all its state information such as member variables is retained, but it cannot execute any code.



# State Management

- The other states (Created and Started) are transient and the system quickly moves from them to the next state by calling the next lifecycle callback method. That is, after the system calls `onCreate()`, it quickly calls `onStart()`, which is quickly followed by `onResume()`.
- Depending on the complexity of your activity, you probably don't need to implement all the lifecycle methods.
- However, it's important that you understand each one and implement those that ensure your app behaves the way users expect.



# References

1. The Android Documentation:

<https://developer.android.com/guide/components/activities/activity-lifecycle>

2. Murphy, Busy Coder's Android, Chapter "Activities and their Lifecycles" (Page 316)

■ Once your project gets going, it is really important to read through this and understand it

- Previous years' students pointed out that this was the key thing they had not understood in Android, that caused the most problems



# The Key 'LifeCycle' Methods

## OnCreate()

- Familiar with already – brings the activity to life

## OnPause()

- Another Activity has gained the 'focus'
- Should stop any background threads, release large resources (such as a camera)
- **No guarantee that OnDestroy() will be called**, so best to save **all** state here

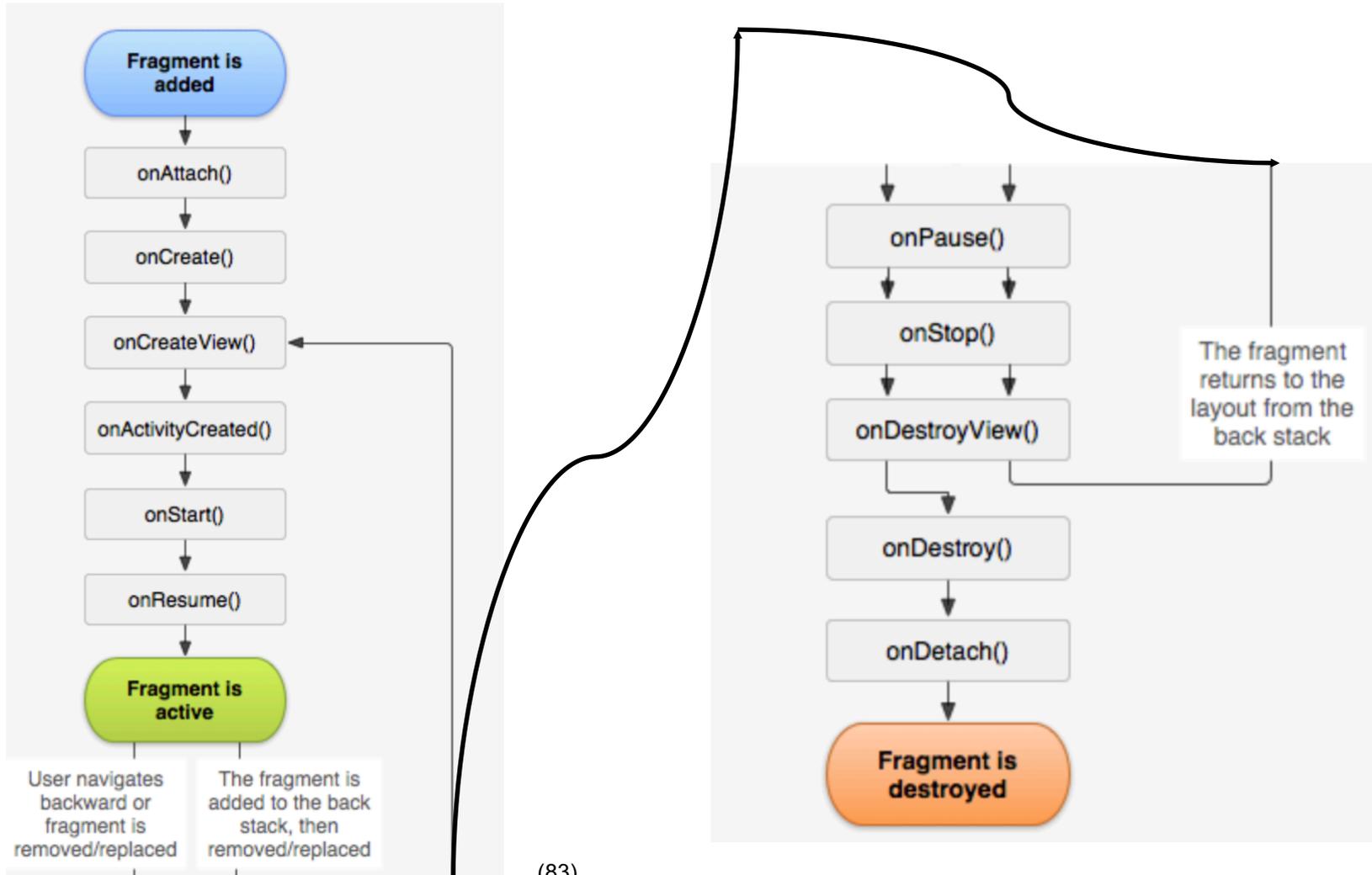
## OnResume()

- Called as activity starts, **or** is restarted from a pause
- Can recall state from file, refresh the User Interface – see example



# Fragments Behave Similarly

<http://developer.android.com/guide/components/fragments.html>



# Topic Discussion Time

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# Groups in Progress

| Approval in Principle | OS      | Project Name        | Specialist |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------|------------|
|                       |         |                     | Na         |
| Yes                   | iOS     | SAAM                | Felix      |
| Yes                   | Android | PERLS               | Alex       |
| No                    | Android | MAX                 | Michelle   |
| No                    | iOS     | Qsort               | Joseph     |
| Yes                   | iOS     | Sentinel            | Jennife    |
| No                    | Android |                     | Annat      |
| Yes                   | iOS     | iBand               |            |
| Yes                   | iOS     | Notate              | Kristen    |
| No                    | Android |                     |            |
| Yes                   | Android | Healthy Partner     |            |
| No                    | Android |                     | Marco      |
| No                    | Android |                     | Zoe F      |
| No                    | Android |                     | Josep      |
| Yes                   | Android | Smart Workout Buddy |            |

