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Hot on the heels of Android 11 Developer Preview, Android Studio 3.6 is now available on a stable channel, which means that developers can start making confident use of it for their projects. This brings a number of useful features and updates, including the new Split View's Design Editor for faster design and preview of XML layouts. Another exciting new feature is the support of several displays in the Android emulator. Automatic detection of memory leakage meanwhile promises to make debugging much easier. You can check out the full array of features from the Android Developers blog, or get the highlights below. Split View and EditingPerhaps The most interesting new feature in Android Studio 3.6 is Split View for Design Editors. This allows you to see the XML code side by side along with the preview render. It's a small thing, but in fact it makes life a lot easier to view the effect that changes the code right away (and vice versa). The view you choose will also be saved on a case-by-case basis, which means you can easily download the preferred setup depending on the file you're editing. While we discuss design, we should also note the new color collector, making it much easier to select and fill color values without a set of values. It's available through the XML editor and design tools. Faster development When it comes to development, a few new changes should make life easier for Android Developers in Android Studio 3.6.View Binding is a particularly welcome inclusion that will offer a compilation of security time when linking to opinions. With this option, you'll create a binding class for each XML layout file in the module. This will actually replace the need for findViewById: you can easily refer to any type of ID without risking zero pointer exceptions or class exceptions. This can prove very useful and reduce a lot of patterns. Other new updates include the release of the IntelliJ 2019.2 platform with better launch time and new tool services, as well as support for Kotlin for more Android NDK features. Updates to the Android Gradle plug-in include support for the Maven Publish Gradle plug-in. This allows you to create artifacts in the Apache Maven repository. Testing and debugging Android Emulator 29.2.12 makes it easier for developers to interact with the location of the emulation device. Google Maps is now built into the advanced control menu, making it easy to specify locations and create routes. Perhaps more appropriate is still the support of several virtual displays that will be useful for those designing for devices such as Samsung Galaxy Fold.Read also: Development for folding devices: What you need to know, memory detection detect activity and snippet instances that may have leaked. Build time has also improved for debugging builds thanks to the use of quality of life changesIt's only a small selection of updates available in Android Studio 3.6. You'll find plenty of other small updates as you use the new software too: including the resumed SDK downloads, which is perfect for those who don't always have an hour spare to download the latest Android image! Grab Android Studio 3.6 here. Of course, on the Canary Channel you can already get your hands on Android Studio 4.1. What do you think of these new features? What would you like to see come to Android Studio in the future? Update, January 22, 2019 (9:38AM ET): Beat Cop is now available for download on the Google Play Store. 11 bits of the studios' last free download, but play the full game you will need to pay $5.50 as an in-app purchase. Early user reviews (if you discount the usual this game is not a free brigade) are pretty strong. You should, however, know that this is definitely an adult game with adult themes, hence the Mature 17 rating. Hit the button below to give it a try! Google Play Store: Beat CopOriginal Article, November 1, 2019 (1:26PM ET): Encourage aviator sunglasses and start growing a mustache because the retro-style adventure game Beat Cop is heading to Android. First released for PC back in March 2017, it comes from the same studio (11 bit studios) as the hit This War of Mine, which was ported to Android back in the 2015.In Beat Cop, you play the role of disgraced New York police detective Jack Kelly, who was demoted to beat a police officer after he was framed for murder. Developer Pixel Crow's signature pixel art style is more than just a gimmick for Beat Cop, as the story takes place in the 1980s. Beat Cop is nonlinear, with multiple endings and countless side stories You will need to carefully balance your reputation between street gangs, mafia and police as you try to fulfill your duties as a low street cop. It's the 1980s though, so drugs, bribes, and old-fashioned beat-downs are definitely on the table. 11 bit studios throughout this, you can slowly uncover the secrets of who framed you for the murder. Or you can just check the parking meters and give out tickets. Like this war of mine, Beat Cop is nonlineous, with enough content to keep you coming back again and again. The soundtrack is also excellent, with retrowave plugs that will instill you at a time when colorful headbands and aerobics were all the rage. Just check out this goofy gameplay trailer released for the PC version last year. The game is gritty and brutal, but does not take itself too seriously. It's filled with sarcasm and witty returns, but one thing's for sure: it's not for kids. There are many expletives, pornography, and drug use. According to it's humor your mother wouldn't approve of. Convinced that developing Android is for you? You need a full full environment, so you can jump and get started. Let's look at the basic steps needed to prepare your computer for Android development, such as installing Android Studio and Android software development kit (SDK). By the end, you'll be looking at a blank screen, ready to start coding and testing your apps! Read next: Java beginners Android Studio for Beginners Download Files There was a time when downloading the latest Java Development Kit (JDK) kit was a prerequisite for Android develpoment. Today, the open JDK comes baked into Android Studio, reducing the number of steps needed. However, some people still prefer to use the newest JDK just from the source. In this case, you can find the files you're looking for here: you want a Java SE Development Kit. Make sure you choose the right version and the right installation file for the operating system and processor (most likely x64). If you're new to developing Android though, then it's very unlikely you'll have to worry about it. Just stick to the default and progress to the next step! The next step is to download Android Studio itself. You can get Android Studio here. Again: get the latest version and remember that it also means to include Android SDK and various other tools that you need to get started. Installing Android StudioIt doesn't really matter what order you set these items, but it makes sense to go ahead with Java in the first place - nothing else would work without it. Having Java on our computer when we install Android Studio also remove the extra step we would otherwise have to go through. To get started, double-click on the JDK performed and click next to go through the steps. Notice where JDK is installed, as this may come in handy in the future. Installing Android Studio is just as simple. Once again, just run the installation file and then click the next button to pass the stages. Make sure you tick the box for installing Android SDK as well as Studio. It's also a good idea to make a note where everything is set in case you need it later. By default, your app can go to AppData-Local, which is a hidden folder and can cause confusion later. If you change this to something easier to find, note that your directory is not allowed to have any gaps in it. Don't worry, you'll never have to do it again (at least until you change computers). Android Studio has come on the leaps and down since the early days - the whole process is much more affordable now. With that, you're in! The pain of installing Android Studio is over. Download it and it all has to work right out of the box. Previously you had to tell Android Studio where JDK and Android SDK were located - now it's this that automatically. Now let's look at how to set up your first project, so all you have to do is write! Calling the appTo to name your new project, just click on the top menu and select the file of the new project. You will then be asked to come up with a name for your app and add a company domain as well. The name of the package (the name of your app as the devices will see it) consists of both of these names. If you have a business, use the domain name that hosts your site (which will help define the app as yours). If not, don't worry - you can put something here. If you want to name your Ultimate Calculator app and your Business Domain Apps Forever.com, then you may end up with a package name com.appsforever.ultimatecalculator. The only name a user will ever see is the Ultimate Calculator. Focusing on the right version of AndroidNext, you are asked what device you are developing for. The minimum SDK is the lowest version of Android you want to support. We will talk more about this in future posts. At this point, know that the lower the minimum SDK, the more users will be able to try and buy your apps. If your app is going to rely on more modern Android Oreo features, for example, you may be required to focus on new versions of Android exclusively. When installing Android Studio, you've probably installed the latest and most recent versions of Android SDK. Android SDKs are compatible back, so you can support any version of Android that is below, but you need to update it if you want to support something new in the future. At this point, just leave it as it is, although you have to remember to tick your phone and tablet. If you want to target a watch or TV, then you'll tick the appropriate boxes below, too. By choosing the type of action On the next screen, you can add action. Apps are made of action - generally speaking, these are the screens between which you navigate while using the app. Chances are you'll start your app with some kind of screen splash or user interface to show the user, so you can also add up activity at this stage. You can also add action later. There are several options here though that include Basic Activity, Lower Navigation Activity, Empty Activity, and more. The main activities are the default applications. These are apps with most of the common recommended UI elements in place, such as the Floating Action Button (FAB). FAB is a round button that lives in the bottom right corner of many apps on the Play Store (including almost every app from Google). If you want to Google (Material Design) in the future, go ahead and choose Basic Activity. This introduces more code for us to deal with though, so for now I recommend you stick to Empty Activities. Calling its activitiesclick Next again and and Land on the screen where you can name your activity and accompanying layout file that will handle the look of your app and the position of the items. Activity files are written in Java and have an extension .java, while the layout files use XML and have an extension .xml. If you are building a great project application, then you may end up with a lot of different activities, all with different names. This can be misleading, so it's important to call them logically. If no activity in the app is considered the main screen, you can change that and call it something else. For most people it will be just as excellent as it is! The layout file will be included in the resource folder, as well as images and sound effects that you'll create later. All that is required in this folder is the bottom case. That's why the default name for your xml is activity_main.xml, while the default name for your Java file is MainActivity.java. MainActivity.java becomes around the lack of space through the so-called camel case, where each new word begins with capital. Because we also can't use capitals in resource files, they should use stress for individual words. And you thought installing Android Studio was hard! At this point, you can leave those names as the default - Just hit next. Now you have to look at your first app - congratulations! Google has already populated this project with some code for you, so it should already function as a complete Hello World app! If you were able to run it (which requires a little more customization, unfortunately!), you'll see Hello World! It's on the screen. At this point, if you double-click on the file activity_main.xml and then choose The Design View, you'll be able to see how it will look. A lot of different files contribute just to that one Hello World!, as well as so many buttons and tools that are probably starting to give you nightmares. Don't worry, it's all pretty simple once you know what you're doing. In a future post, we'll be demsifying Android Studio, so you're ready to start bending it to your will and creating your own apps. Now that you've installed Android Studio and know how to create your first app project, the first important step in becoming an Android developer is over! Related - How to turn on the options developer settings