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One of the most important aspects of any application is its capacity to store data and retrieve the same. Android is one of those few smart phones that offer the developers with the enhanced capacity for data storage and retrieval. The platform not only offers Android programmers with the access to the local files framework but also to SQLite library database. Android development offers the programmers with a great scope for learning, not only about programming but also things like data storage, retrieval and cross platform integration. Therefore a lot of developers prefer developing for Android because they not only gain a rich knowledge about an upcoming platform, but also get connected to a rich developer community along with an access to application market place.

Data is a critical aspect of any application and there are certain techniques to save data in Android. They are:

• Using Shared Preferences: There is a light mechanism that enables you to store UI state, application settings and user preferences.

• Using Internal Storage: This enables Android programmers to create and load files on the internal and external media of a device.

• Using External Storage: This refers to storing data on external storage media such as SD card.

• Leveraging SQLite Databases: In the case of structuring of data, SQLite library enables each application to create its own databases with complete control.

• Leveraging the content provider framework: Android offers its programmers with the provision of using the interface, for storing and sharing the data, provided by the content providers.

From the above discussion, it is clear that for Android, enterprises should only hire android apps developers with ample industry experience. This is because not all smart phone programmers will have the capability to work on Android as it is a specialized platform. Since each of these mechanisms work differently, so it is important that a programmer involved in Android development should be able to differentiate between the two.

Now let us understand how each of the above four mechanisms work:

• Shared Preferences: This provides a general framework to share old data forms such as Boolean, floats and integers. In order to derive Shared Preferences for an application, one should use the following methods such as:

. Get Shared Preferences: This can be used only if there is a need for multiple preference files that can be identified with a file name.

get Preferences: This can be used only if there is a need for only one preference file for the activity.

• Internal Storage: When one saves files on a particular device's internal storage, those files are available to a particular application. On uninstalling, these files are removed. The three different steps of creating and writing a private file to an internal device are:

. The first step involves the calling of open File Output() with the name of the file and the operating mode.

. The second step involves writing to the file with write().

. The third step involves the closing of the stream with close().

â€¢ External Storage: Most of the devices compatible with Android support a shared external storage. Files saved here are readable and can be changed by the user. The three important steps involved in this are:

Checking the availability of the media

. Accessing the files on the external storage

. Saving all the cached files

â€¢ Databases: Android development offers robust support for SQLite databases. Typically an Android programmer creates a subclass of SQLiteOpenHelper and then supersedes the onCreate() method.

The above discussion has ample points why enterprises should always hire android app developers through a good recruitment or outsourcing agency. This would increase their chances of getting an experienced resource on board.

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