XAM101

Getting Started with Xamarin

Download class materials from
university.xamarin.com

Microsoft

Xamarin University

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Getting Started at Xamarin University

- To get the most out of your Xamarin University experience, be sure to watch the short welcome video which outlines the features and benefits

university.xamarin.com/getting-started

The Xamarin Approach

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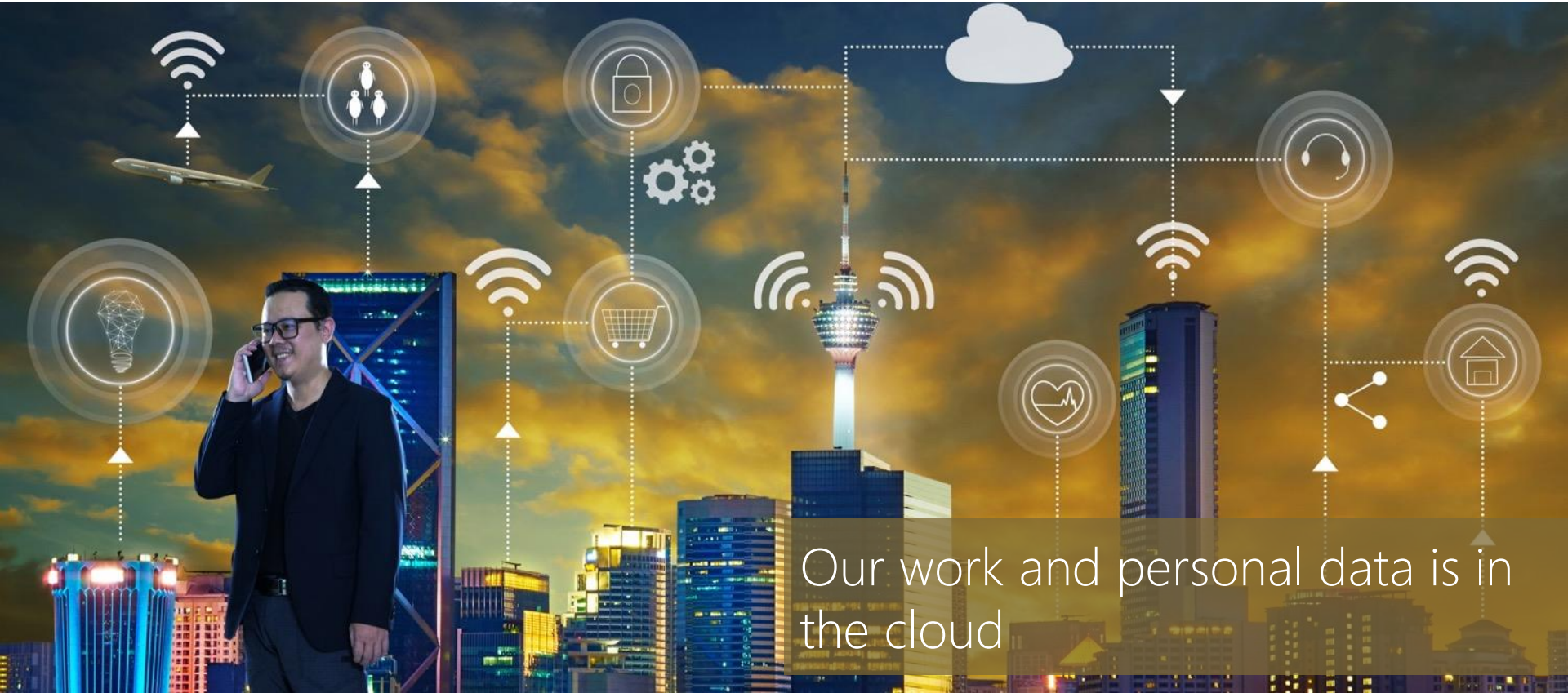
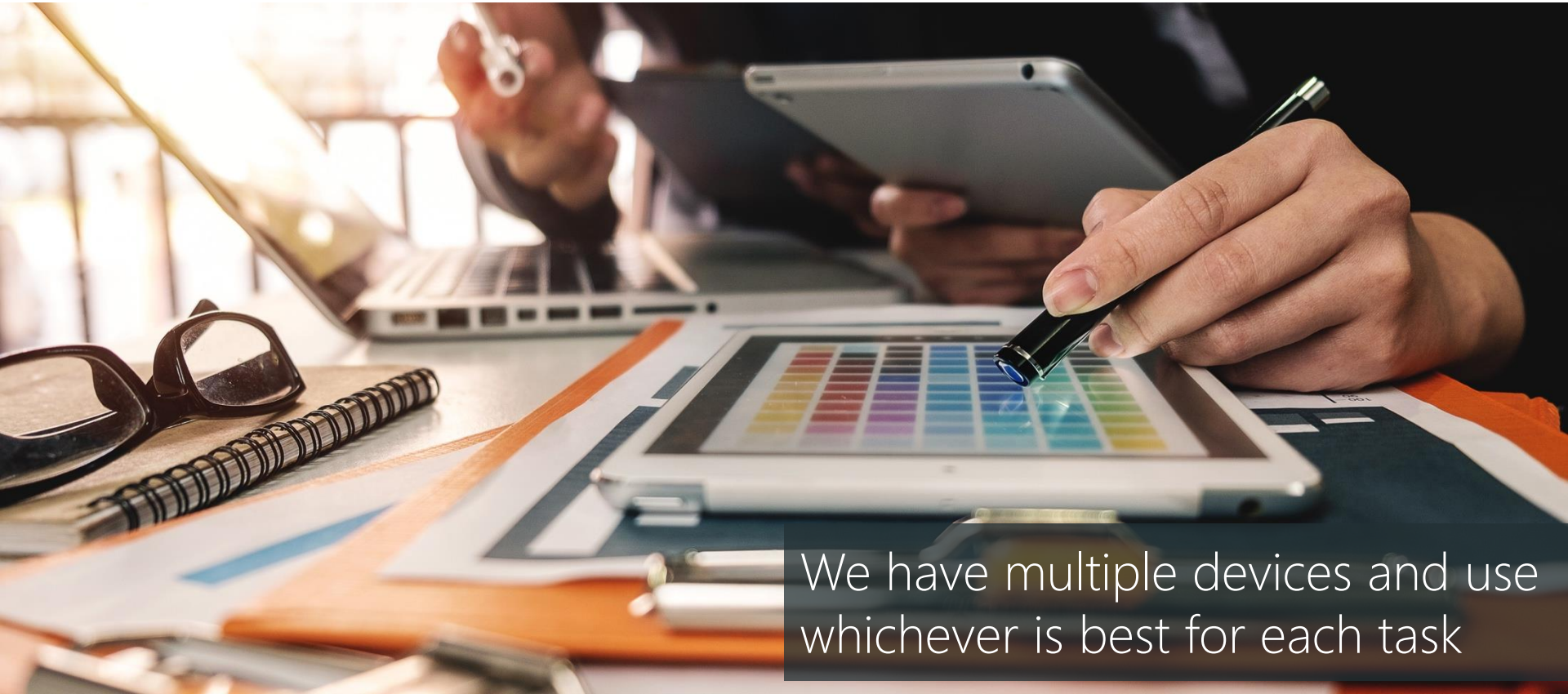
Tasks

- The state of mobile development today
- Discuss mobile app trends
- Identify approaches to development
- Discover the Xamarin Approach

It's a mobile-first, cloud-first world



It's a mobile-first, cloud-first world



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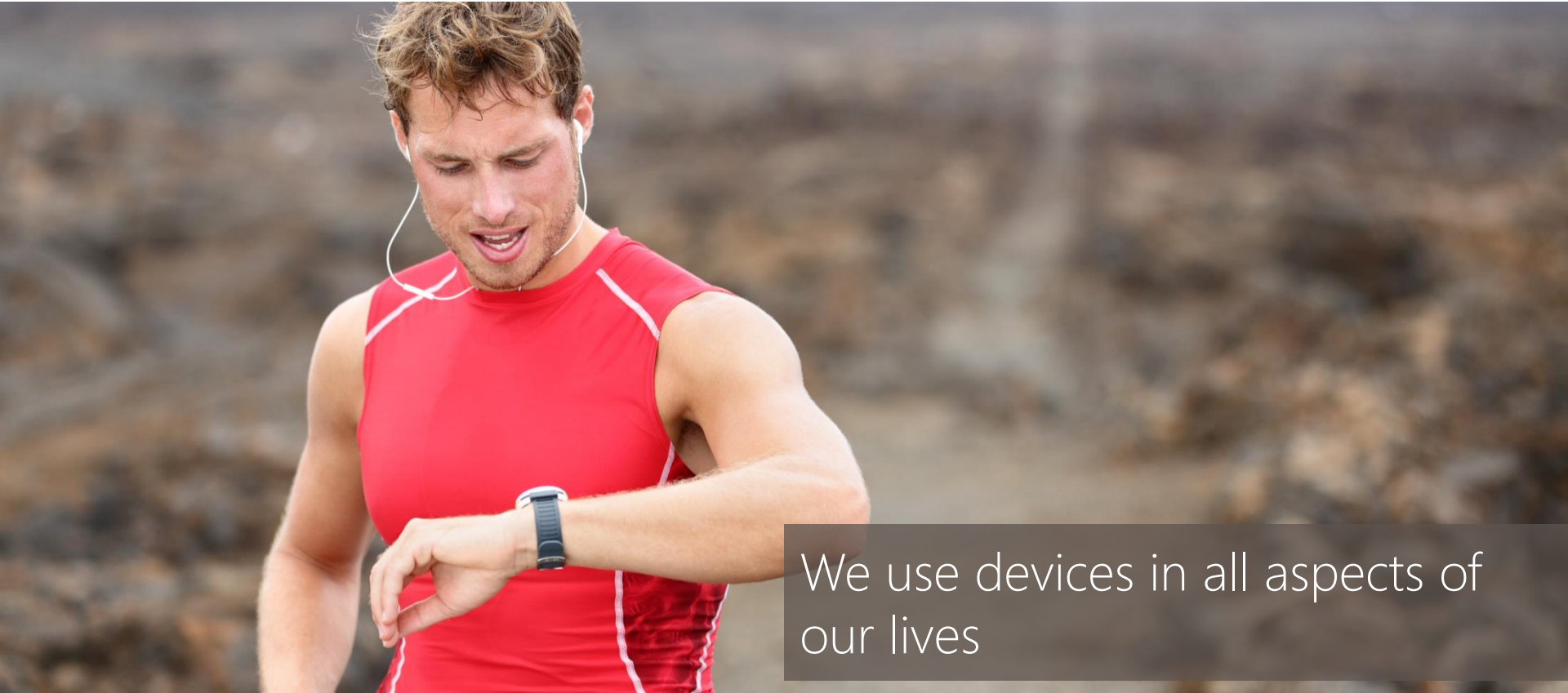
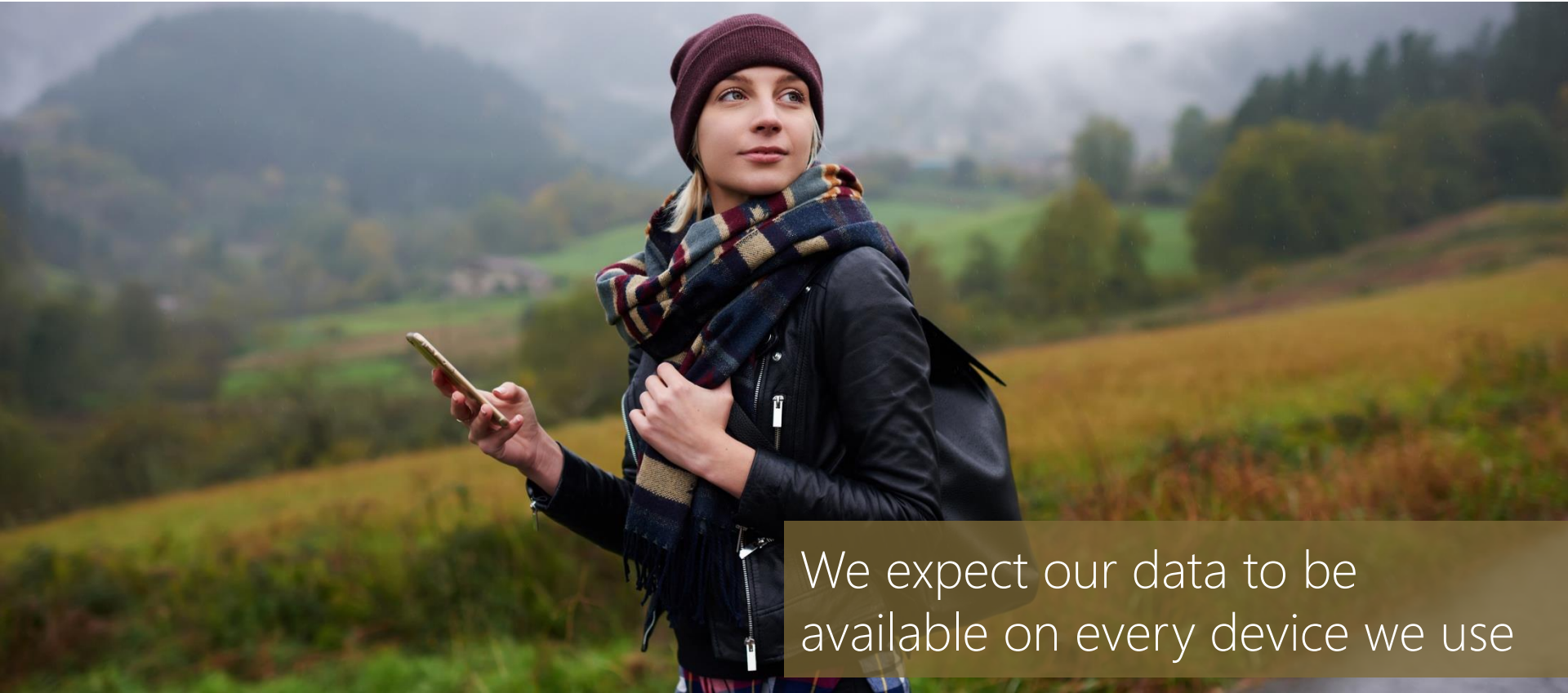
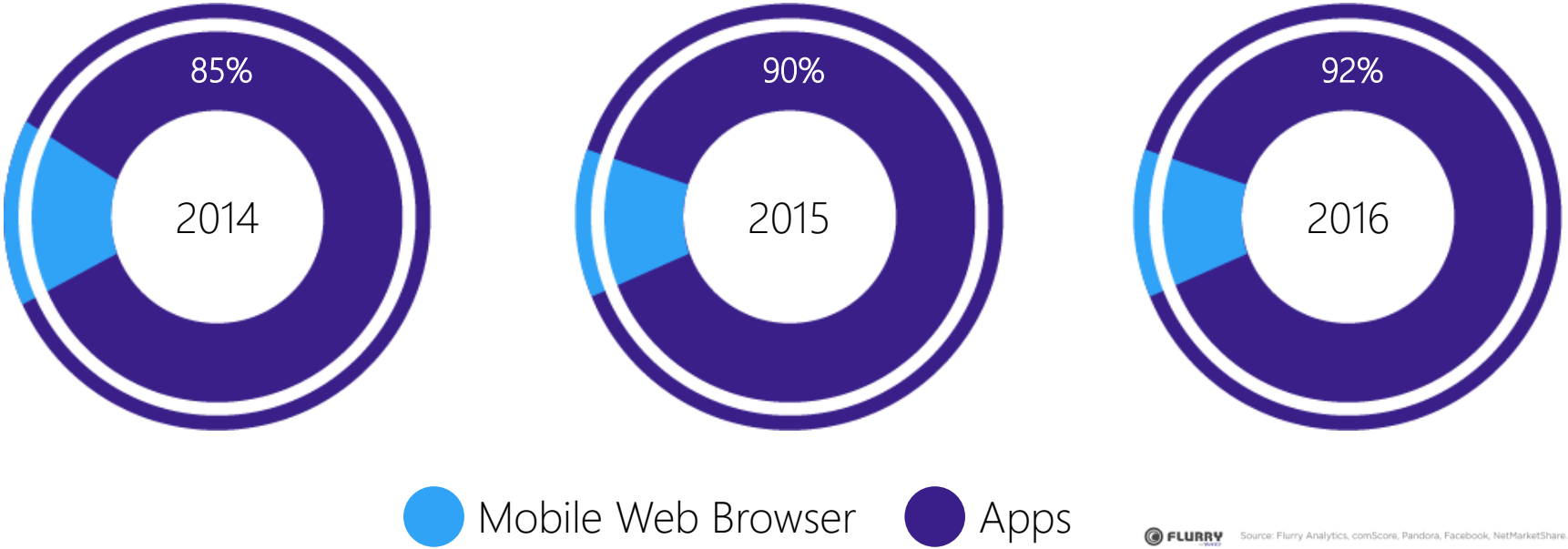


It's a mobile-first, cloud-first world



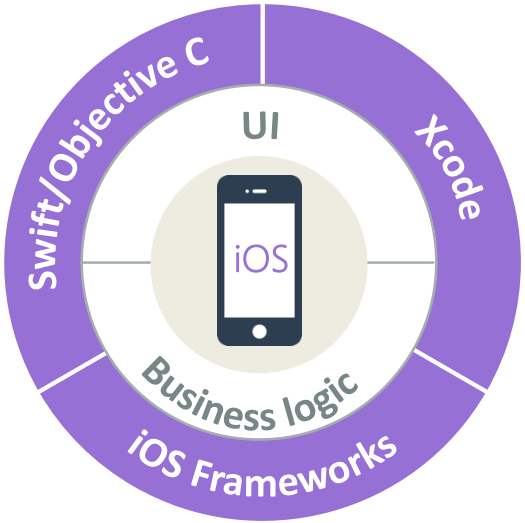
Mobile app trends

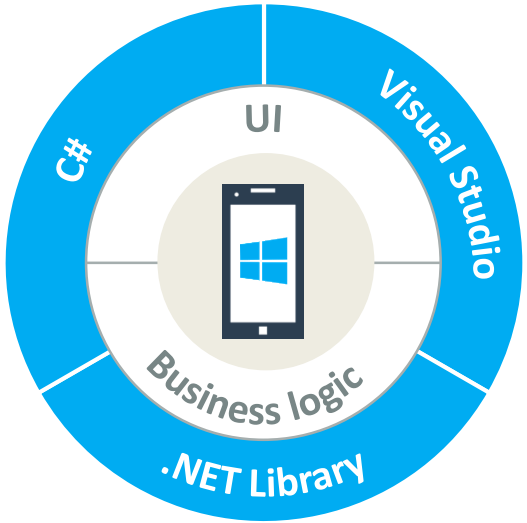
- Users prefer apps over browsers on their mobile devices



Traditional approach [definition]

- Traditionally, apps have separate code bases written in their native language, are built using native tools, and utilize platform-specific features





Traditional approach [cons]

- Traditional app development takes longer, requires multiple teams, multiple IDEs, and **cannot share code**

```
double ComputeTax(Item[] items)
{ ...
  foreach (var item in items)
  ...
}
```

C#

```
func computeTax(items: [Item]) -> Double
{ ...
  for item in items
  ...
}
```

Swift

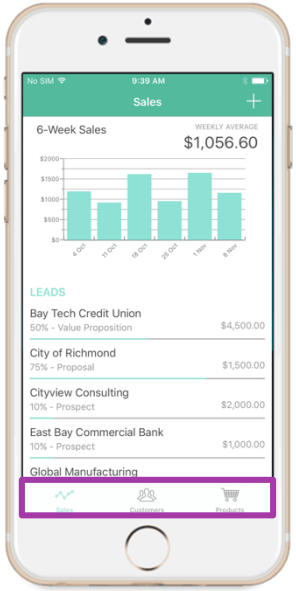
```
double computeTax(Item[] items)
{ ...
  for (Item item : items)
  ...
}
```

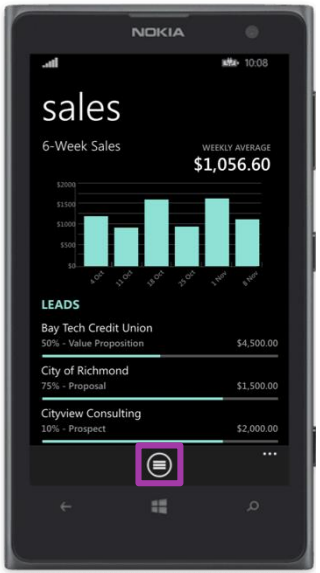
Java

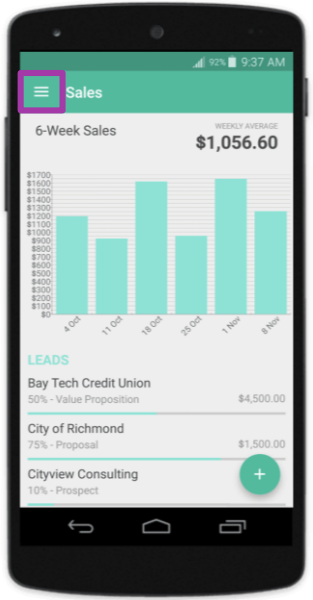
Traditional approach [pros]

- Traditional apps typically follow each platform's user-experience guidelines for things like navigation style, page layout, settings, etc.

E.g. implement the navigation style that users of each platform expect







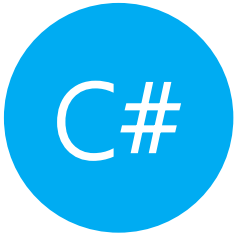
What is Xamarin?

- Xamarin is an app-development platform that lets you build apps for many operating systems from a single, shared code base

Xamarin tools

- You use Visual Studio, C#, and the .NET Libraries to build Xamarin apps

Visual Studio
for Windows or Mac

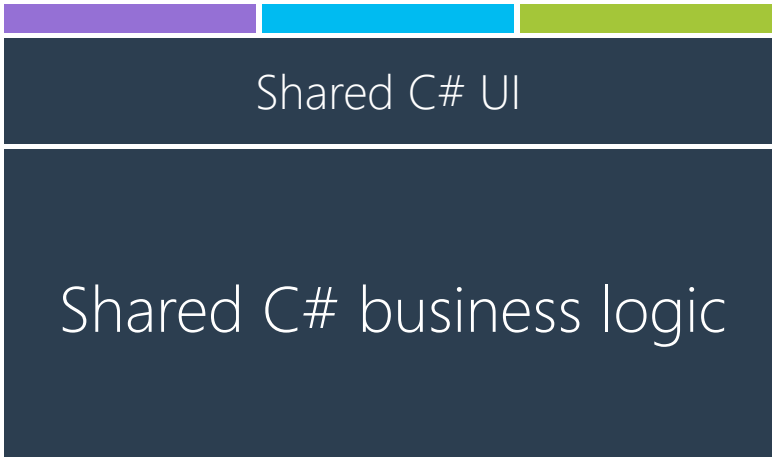


System.Net	System
System.Data	System.Windows
System.IO	System.Linq
System.Numerics	System.Core
System.Xml	System.ServiceModel

Xamarin development approaches

- Xamarin offers you two strategies: separate UI or shared UI

Xamarin.iOS and Xamarin.Android

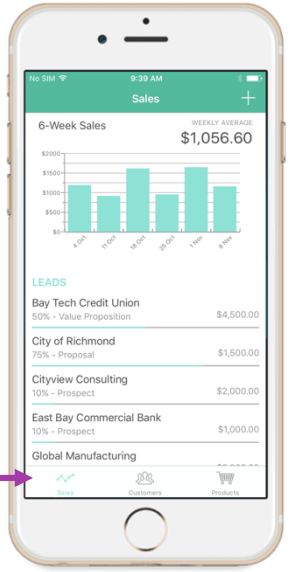


Xamarin.Forms

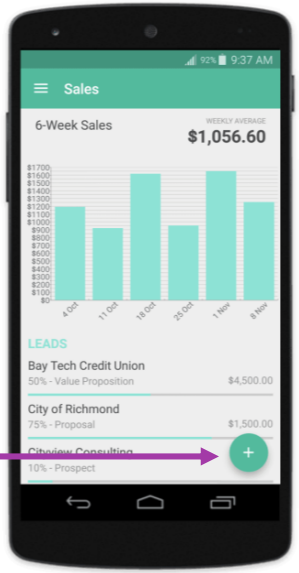
Xamarin.iOS and Xamarin.Android

- Create your business logic once and share it across platforms, while leveraging all of the native controls/features your users expect

Familiar navigation



Familiar controls

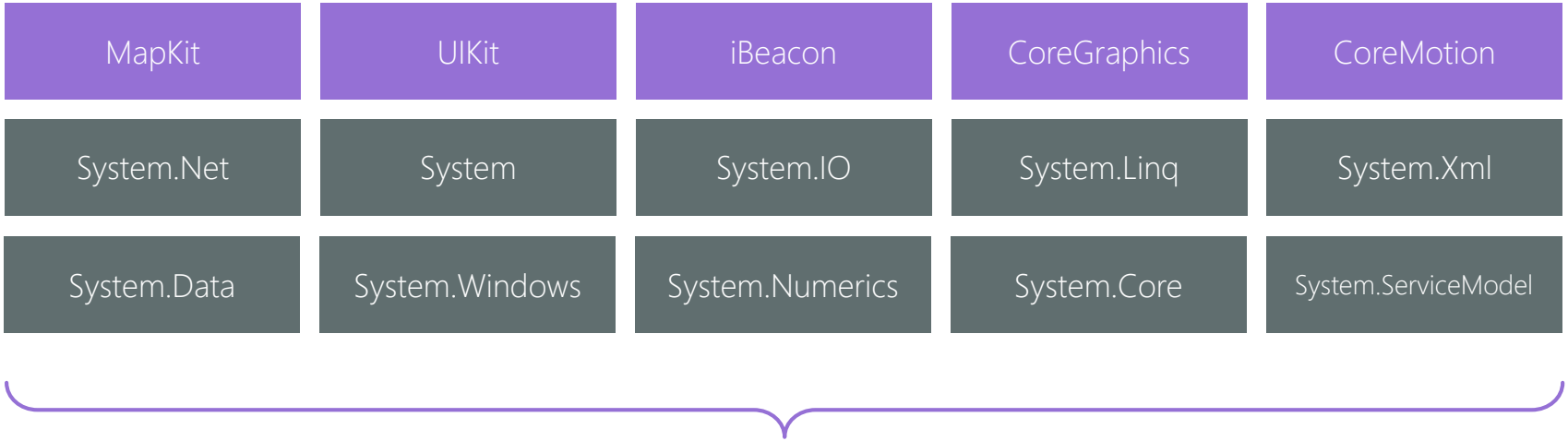


Shared code base

```
double ComputeTax(Item[] items)
{ ...
  foreach (var item in items)
  ...
}
```

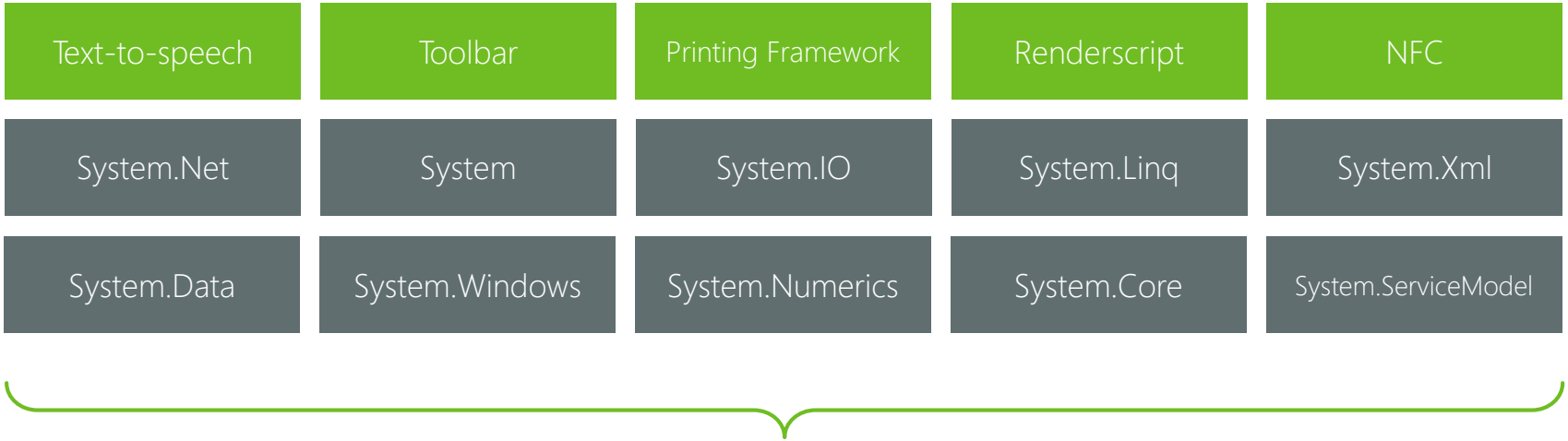
Xamarin.iOS – 100% API Coverage

- Anything you can do in Swift or Objective C for iOS you can do with Xamarin using C#



Xamarin.Android – 100% API Coverage

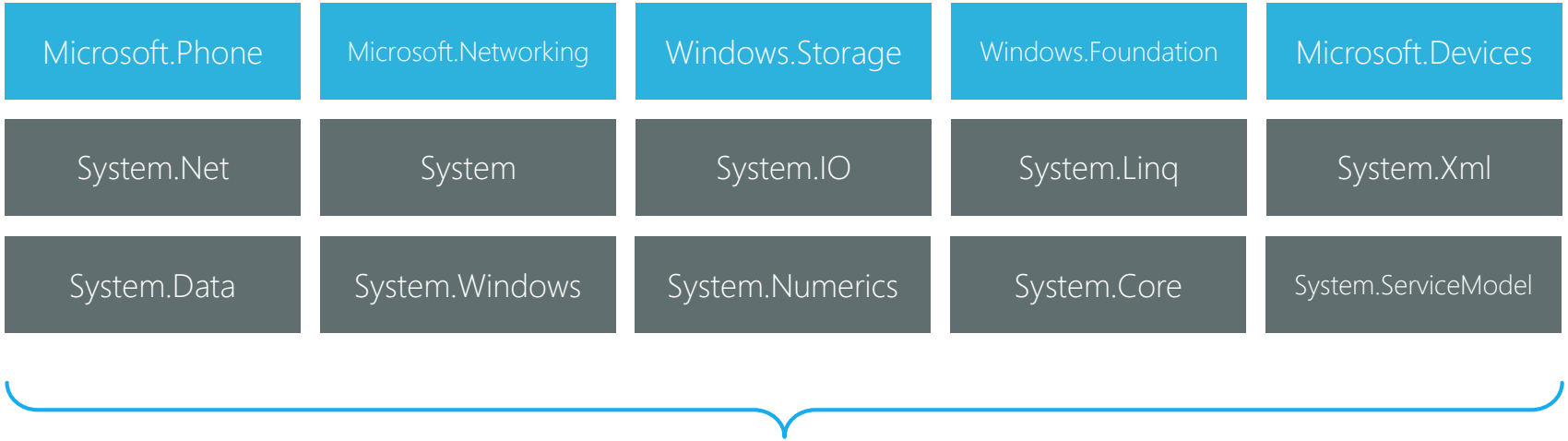
- Anything you can do in Java for Android you can do with Xamarin using C#



100% API coverage with the added benefit of the .NET APIs

Windows

- Windows apps are built in C# with all of the Native APIs



Platform libraries

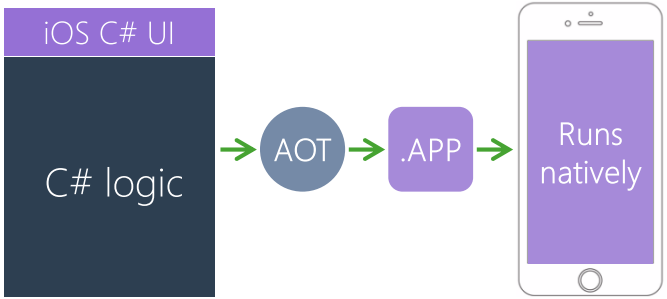
- Xamarin provides a C# version of every native library type

```
public class TextView : View ...
{ ...
   public string Text { get; set; }
   public event EventHandler<TextChangedEventArgs> TextChanged;
}
```

```
public class TextView extends View ...
{  ...
   public CharSequence getText() { return null; }
   public final void setText(CharSequence text) { }
   public void addTextChangedListener(TextWatcher watcher) { }
   public void removeTextChangedListener(TextWatcher watcher) { }
}
```

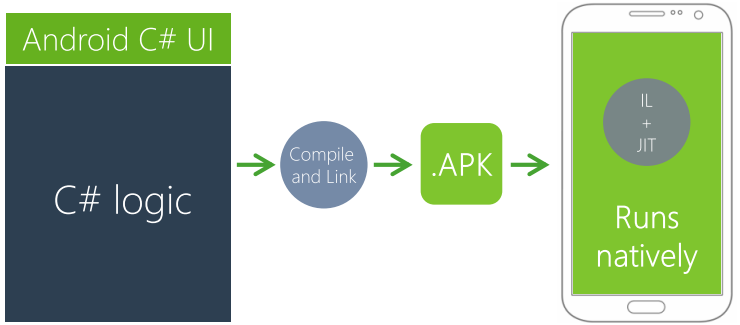
Xamarin performance

- Xamarin apps are fully native, you get fully native performance with the benefits of shared code



C# source

Native performance



C# source

Native performance

Demonstration

Cross-platform applications with Xamarin

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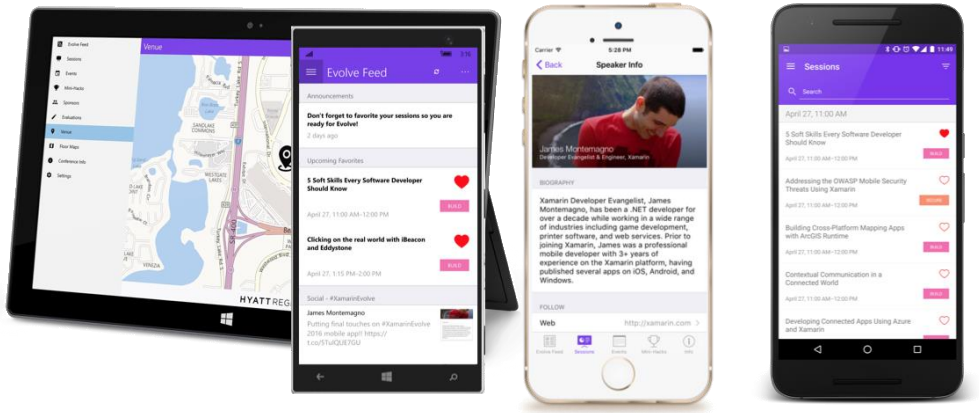
Xamarin.Forms

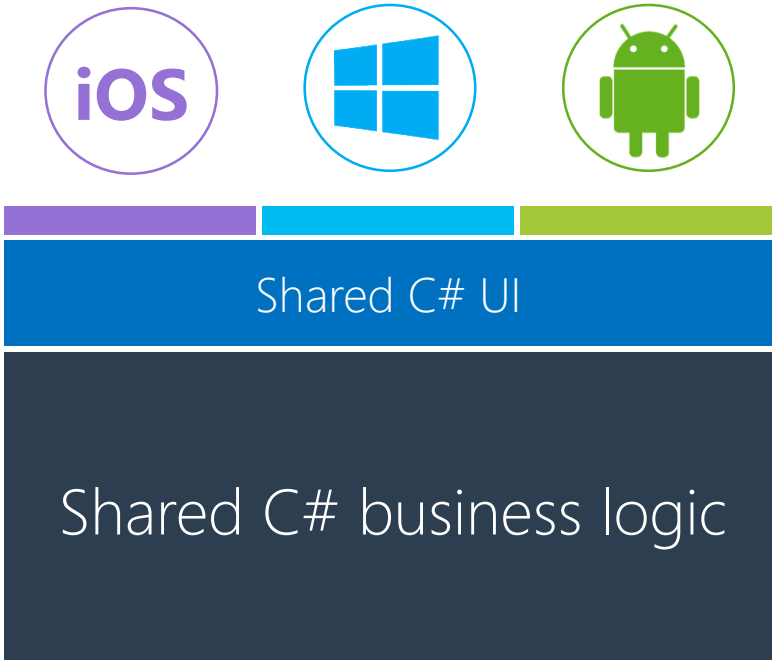
- Xamarin.Forms enables even more code-sharing through a shared UI definition when deep platform integration is unnecessary



Build native UIs for Android, iOS, and Windows from a single, shared C# codebase

Included in Xamarin.Forms

- ✓ UI building blocks like pages, layouts, and controls
- ✓ XAML-defined UI
- ✓ Data binding
- ✓ Navigation
- ✓ Animation API
- ✓ Dependency Service
- ✓ Messaging Center



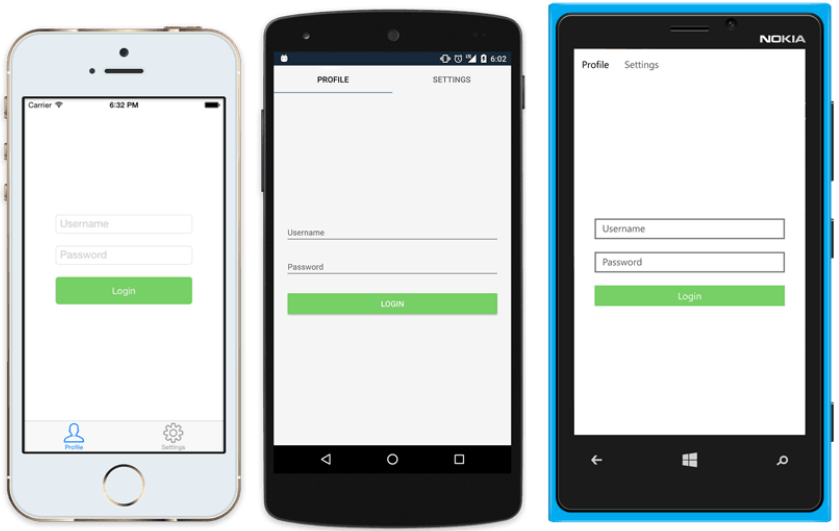
Native controls are used at runtime

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<TabbedPage xmlns="http://xamarin.com/schemas/2014/forms"
            xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2009/xaml"
            x:Class="MyApp.MainPage">

   <ContentPage Title="Profile" Icon="Profile.png">
      <StackLayout Spacing="20" Padding="20"
                   VerticalOptions="Center">
         <Entry Placeholder="Username" Text="{Binding Username}"/>
         <Entry Placeholder="Password" Text="{Binding Password}"
                IsPassword="true"/>
         <Button Text="Login" TextColor="White"
                 BackgroundColor="#77D065"
                 Command="{Binding LoginCommand}"/>
      </StackLayout>
   </ContentPage>

   <ContentPage Title="Settings" Icon="Settings.png">
   </ContentPage>

</TabbedPage>
```



UITextField EditText TextBox

Demonstration

Cross-platform applications with Xamarin

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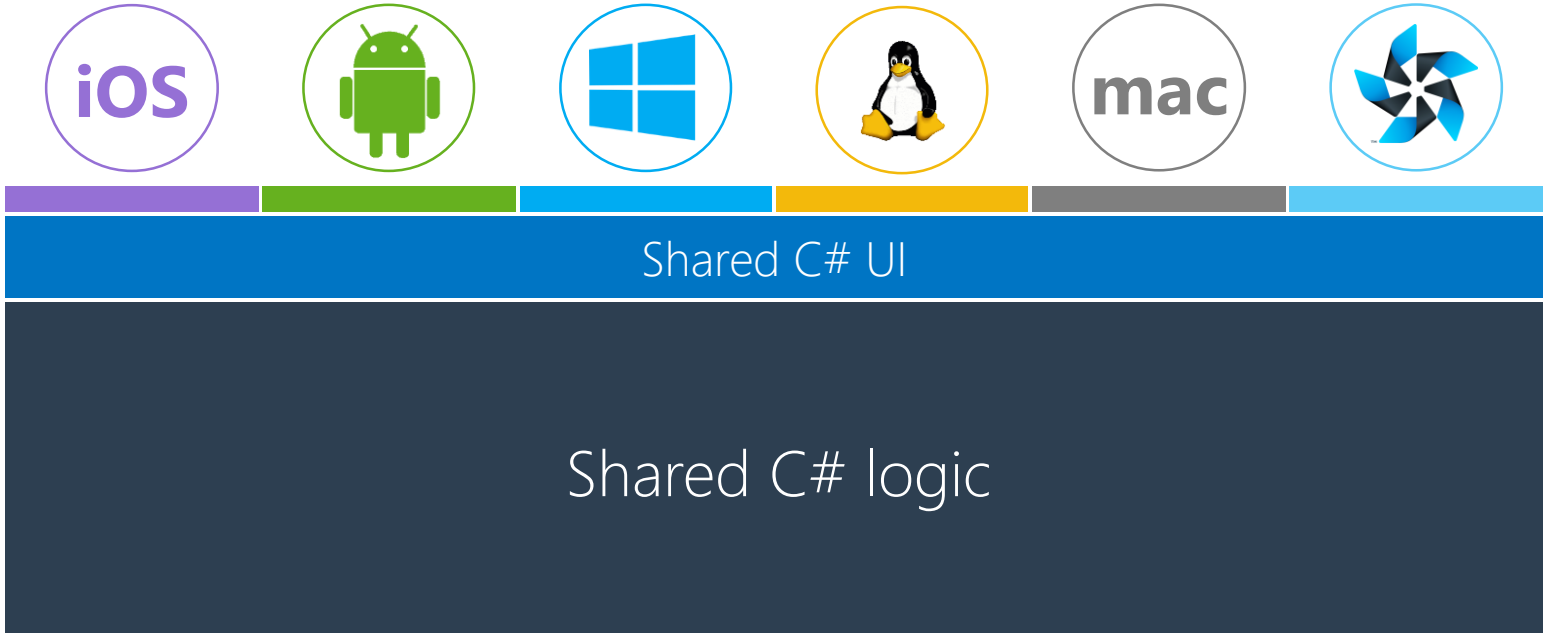
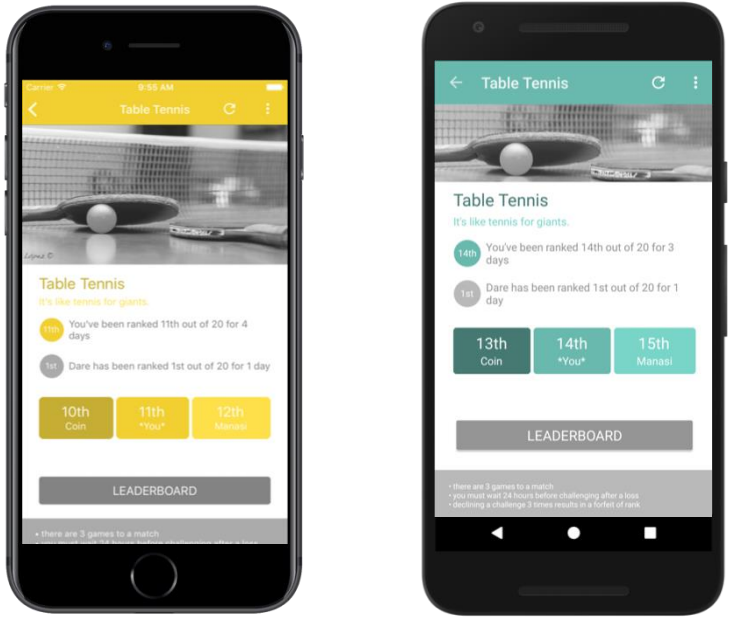
Xamarin.Forms platform support

- Xamarin.Forms supports a broad selection of mobile and desktop platforms and UI frameworks



Beautiful apps in less time

- Create great looking apps that have feature parity with native performance and enjoy the benefit of shared UI and business logic with Xamarin.Forms



Open Source – open.xamarin.com

One code base, unlimited possibilities

- With one code base and native performance you can meet your customers where they need to be

Install Xamarin

Xamarin University

Before we start…

- Download and launch the Xamarin Installer *now* on your development machine to begin the automated setup so you are ready when we hit the installation section

Visual Studio Installer
https://www.visualstudio.com

Note: for iOS development with Visual Studio on Windows, you also need to set up a Mac with the Xamarin tools.

Supported operating systems

- Xamarin tools can be installed on macOS and Windows

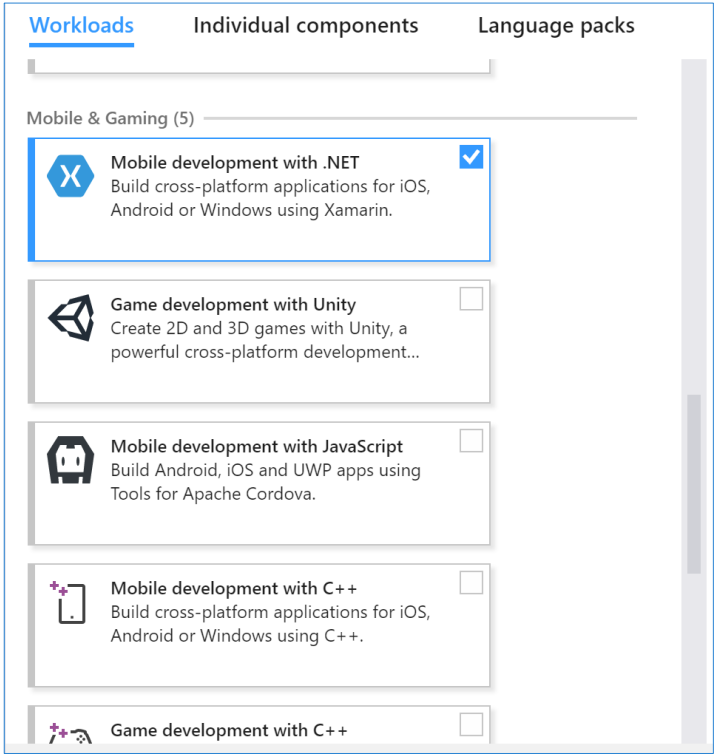
iOS, Android, and macOS
Visual Studio for Mac

iOS, Android, and Windows
Visual Studio IDE

Install on Windows

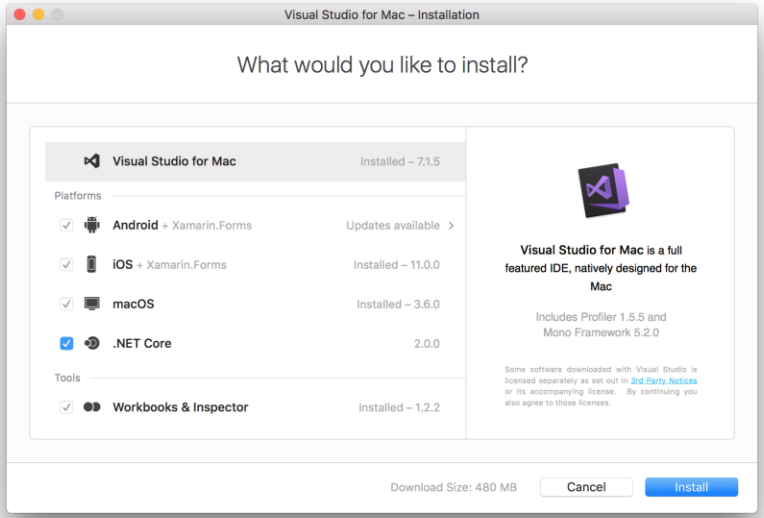
- On Windows, Xamarin installs directly from the Visual Studio Installer

Make sure the Mobile development with .NET Workload is selected



Install on a Mac

- When developing on a Mac, the first thing you should do is install Xcode and use the Xamarin Unified Installer to download and install required components



Visual Studio Enterprise benefits

- There are additional benefits included with a Visual Studio Enterprise license

Bytecode hiding for Android APKs

Live app inspector

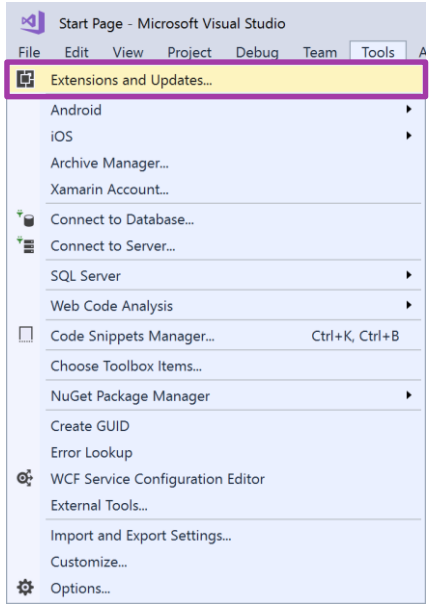
Profiler

Test Recorder

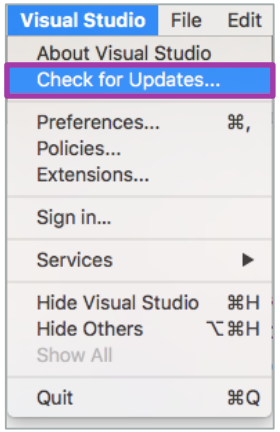
Important: Make sure to use the Enterprise installer from the Visual Studio download page to ensure you get the correct edition of the development environment installed!

Keep Xamarin up to date

- Xamarin releases updates to add new APIs, match vendor releases, and fix issues



Visual Studio on Windows

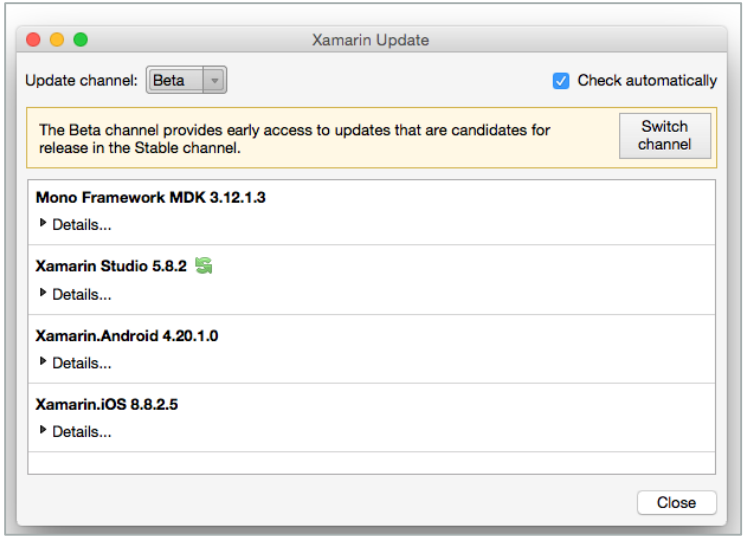


Visual Studio for Mac

Xamarin macOS release channels

- Xamarin updates are deployed in stages for macOS, and exposed through release channels (Alpha > Beta > Stable)

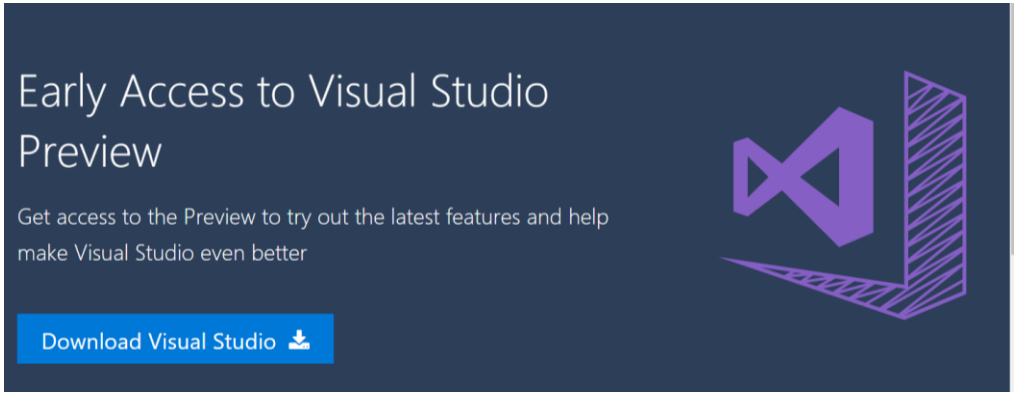
Alpha: most current, least tested
Beta: what's next
Stable: released code, most tested



Important: We recommend the stable channel for most classes

Xamarin pre-release on Windows

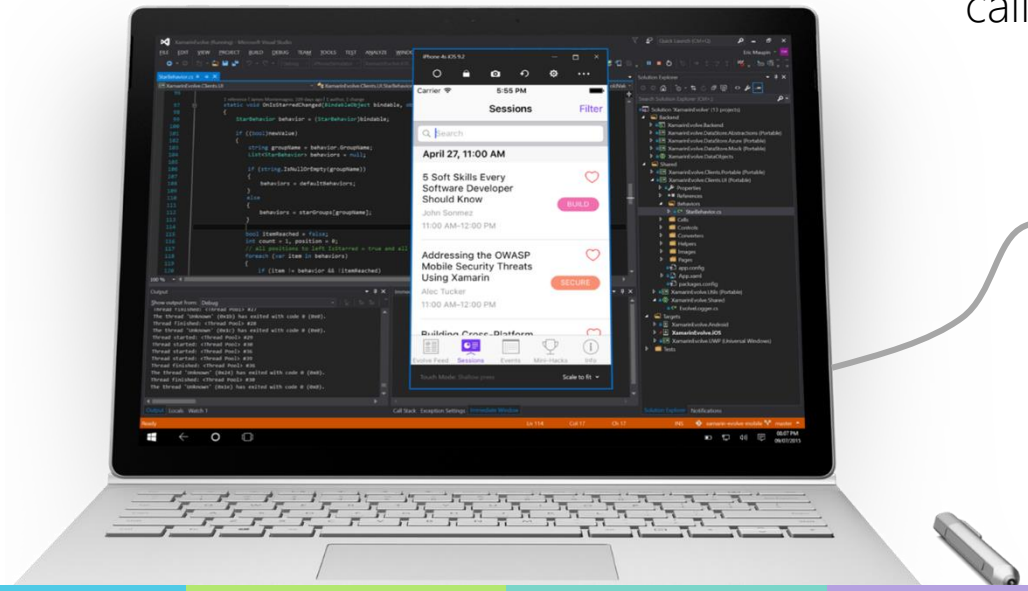
- Xamarin early access releases are deployed with Visual Studio Preview, available for download



Important: We recommend the standard Visual Studio release for most classes

iOS Development Requires a Mac

You work in Visual Studio on Windows

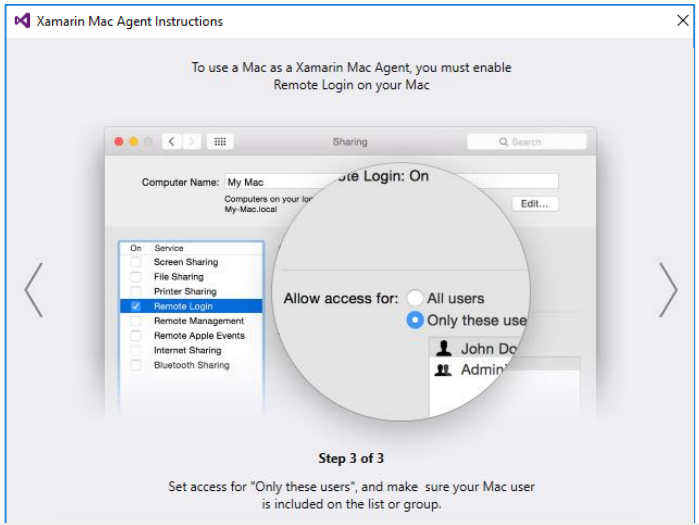


Delegates parts of the build to a Mac using a server process called the ***Xamarin Mac Agent***

Run the Xamarin installer on your Mac to setup the Mac Agent

Connecting to Mac Agent

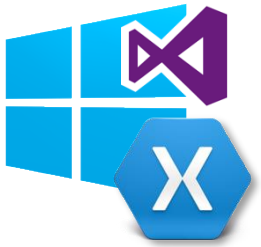
- Creating or opening an iOS project in VS will login to the associated Mac host, if no host is available, it will launch the connection wizard



You can also use **Tools > iOS > Xamarin Mac Agent** to launch connection wizard manually to connect to a different host

Connecting to the Mac

- Building an iOS application will automatically connect to the build agent



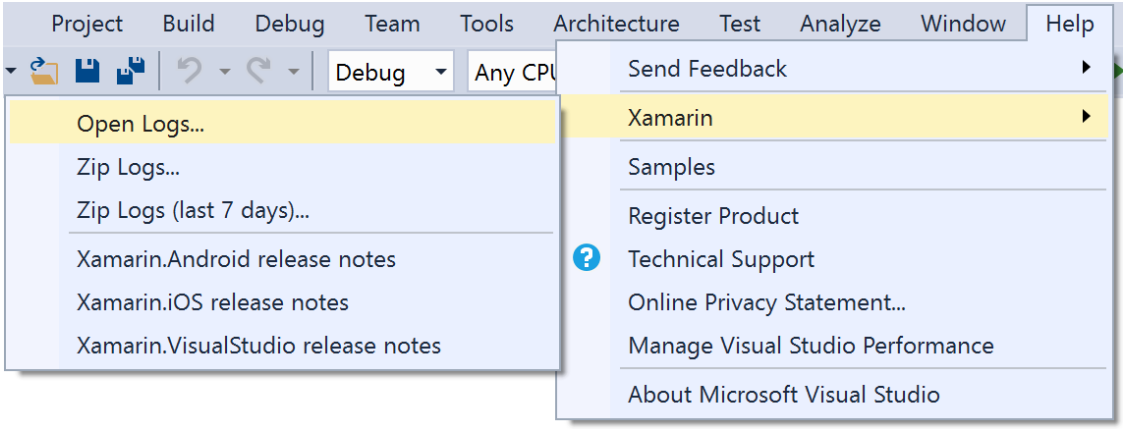
Visual Studio with Xamarin Tools

Mac Host with Xamarin Tools and Xcode

```
Starting connection to Mac 192.168.0.193...
Starting Broker in port 54837...
Connection successfully established with the Mac 192.168.0.193:54837
Starting agents on Mac 192.168.0.193 (192.168.0.193)
Starting Agent IDB...
Starting Agent Build...
Starting Agent Designer...
Agent Build is running
Agent IDB is running
Agent Designer is running
Connected to the Mac 192.168.0.193 (192.168.0.193) with Full support.
```

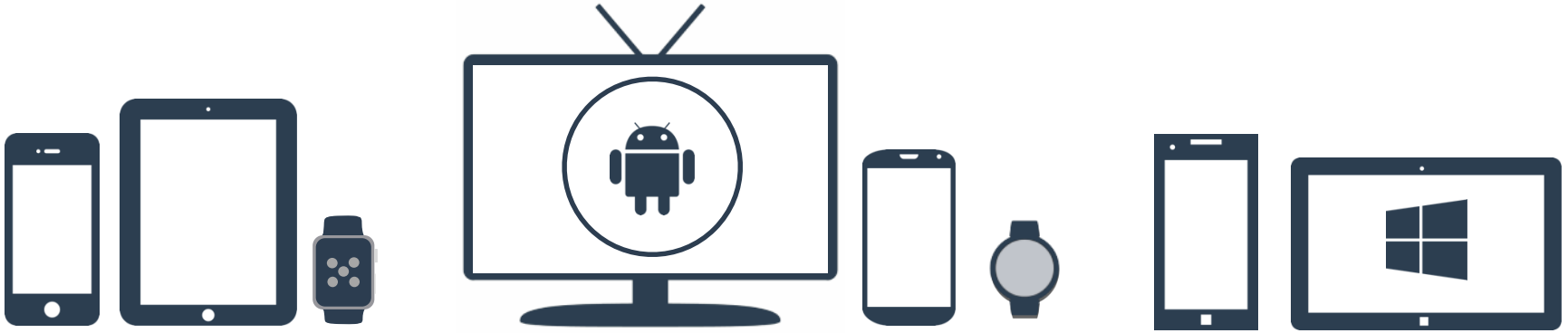
Troubleshooting Xamarin Mac Agent

- The Xamarin Mac Agent will generally diagnose and help correct connection issues; use **Help > Xamarin** for more detailed log information if necessary



Running your applications

- You need to run applications to test them – can run on devices, or use emulators and simulators which simulate a real device in software

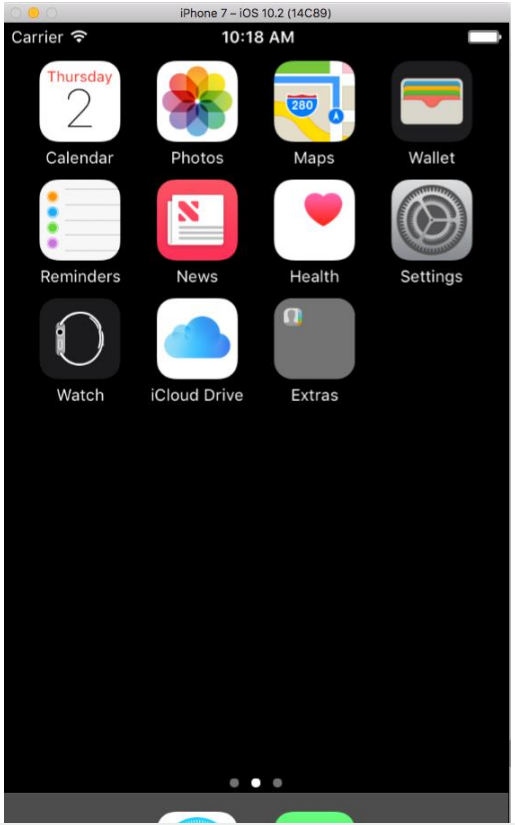


iOS, Android, and Windows all have emulators or simulators

Running iOS apps

- Apple supplies an iOS simulator with Xcode which can be launched on the Mac host

The simulator supports different devices, resolutions

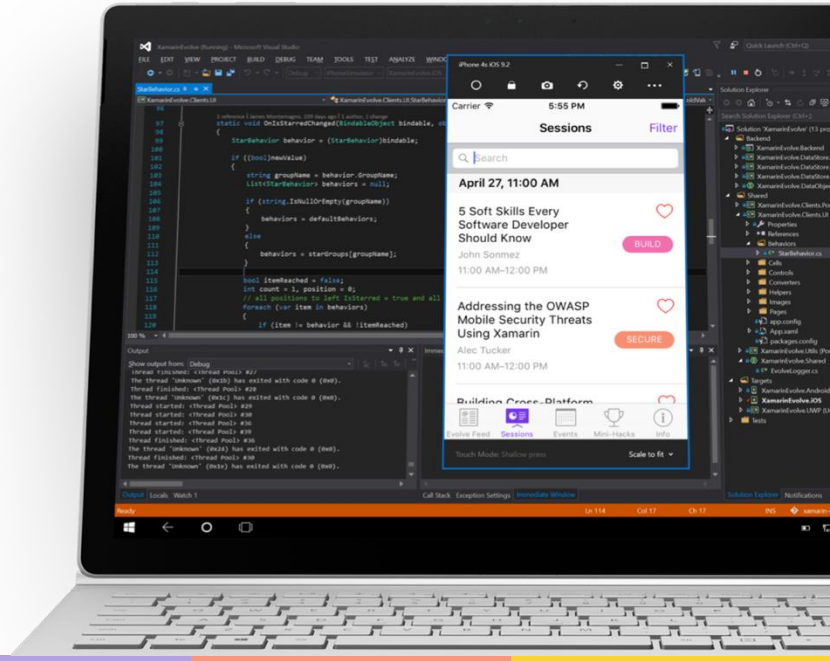


Only the latest iOS release is installed by default, but you can use Xcode to install older iOS versions

Remoted iOS Simulator (for Windows)

- The Remoted iOS Simulator for Windows makes testing and debugging iOS apps is entirely possible within Visual Studio Enterprise on Windows

  - Supports rotation, screenshots, and location changes
  - Multi-touch and pressure-sensitive interaction
  - Performant



Running Android apps

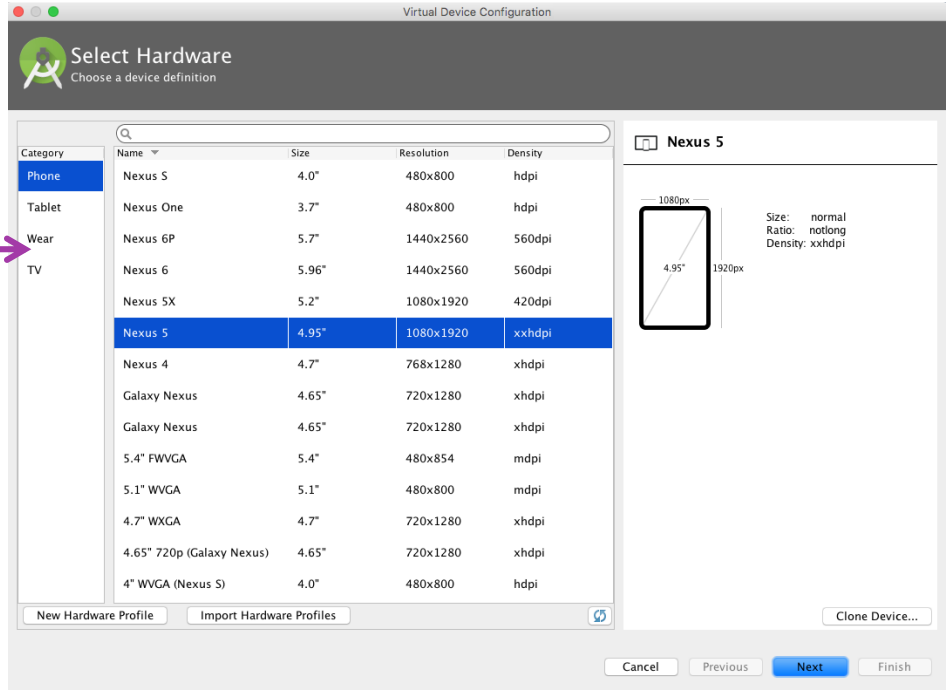
- Google provides the standard Android emulator and includes it with the Android SDK and often include Google apps support automatically

Improved emulator engine and configuration support is available if you install the **Android Studio** IDE from Google

Installing the Google emulators

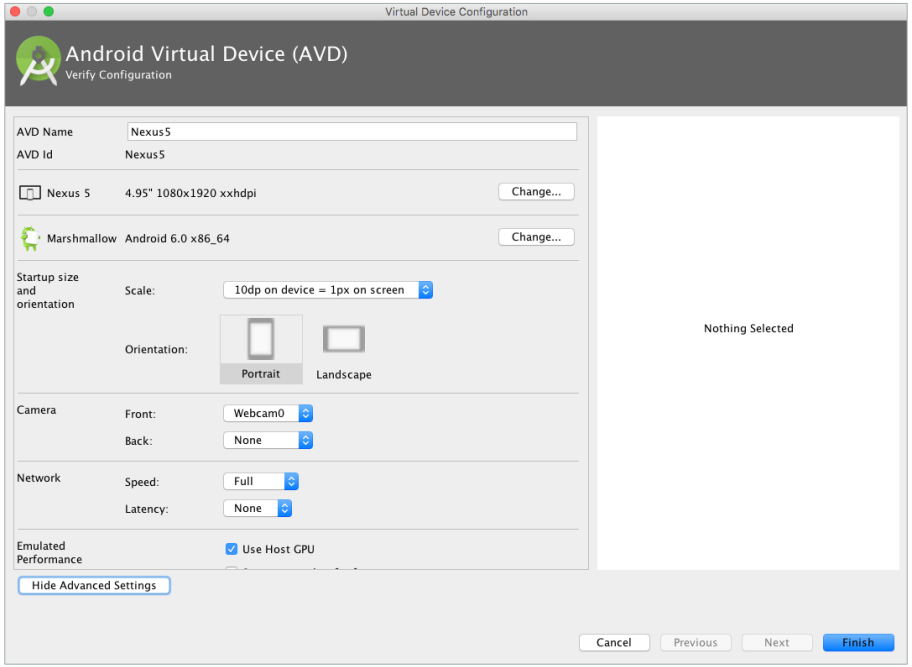
- Google supports the widest variety of Android devices and versions

Includes TV and wearable definitions



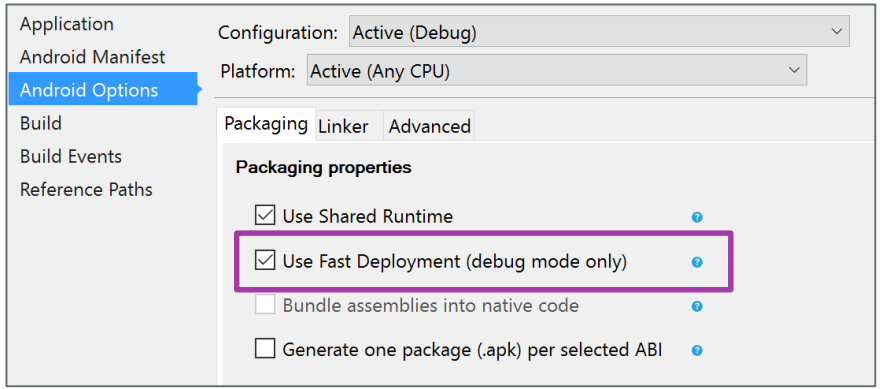
Creating a new Google emulator

- Android Studio provides access to a much nicer configuration dialog



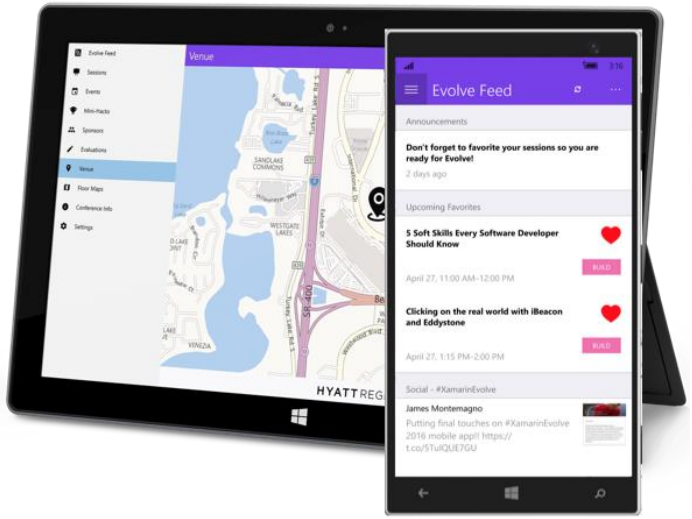
Running apps on Android emulators

- Some Android emulators do not support the "Fast Deployment" optimization which updates the app in-place on the device, if your application will not install, try turning this feature off in the project settings



Running UWP apps (Windows)

- Visual Studio can deploy to local or remote Windows 10 devices as well as a optional Windows simulators



Be aware that simulators require Hyper-V and can interfere with virtualization software like VMware and Virtual Box

Using a real device

- Can use a physical device to run and debug your applications – requires some one-time platform-specific setup
  - iOS: http://bit.ly/1R7YmH8
  - Android: http://bit.ly/1PjDlFz
  - Windows: http://bit.ly/2nsGf7i

Selecting a device or emulator

- Select the device (or emulator) to run your project using the drop-down on the **Standard Toolbar**

Setup Validation

Let's make sure your environment is ready to go!

Xamarin University

Thank You!

Please complete the class survey in your profile:
university.xamarin.com/profile