

The Input Method Framework

Introduction

- ❖ The IMF (Input Method framework) was introduced in Android 1.5. This framework allows us to develop a tailored software keyboard for our application.
- ❖ Some android handsets don't have a hardware keyboard. Others do have one.
- ❖ When a hardware keyboard doesn't exist the input method editor (IME) will be available.

The `android:inputType` Attribute

- ❖ This attribute allows us to set the allowed input. Using this attribute we should set its value to include one or more of the following options (delimited using the `|` operator): `text`, `number`, `phone`, `datetime`, `date` and `time`.
Some of these options include variations. The `textEmailAddress` is one of them.
- ❖ The value we set for this attribute will determine the basic set of keys that will be available.

The android:inputType Attribute

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>

<TableLayout
    xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent"
    android:stretchColumns="1">
    <TableRow>
        <TextView android:text="Email address:" />
        <EditText android:inputType="text|textEmailAddress" />
    </TableRow>
</TableLayout>
```

Customized IMF

- ❖ The IMF is packaged in the form of a service. We can extend the default IMF and create our own customized soft keyboard.

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