

6

Android Selection Widgets

Victor Matos
Cleveland State University

Notes are based on:
The Busy Coder's Guide to Android Development
by Mark L. Murphy
Copyright © 2008-2009 CommonsWare, LLC.
ISBN: 978-0-9816780-0-9
&
Android Developers
<http://developer.android.com/index.html>

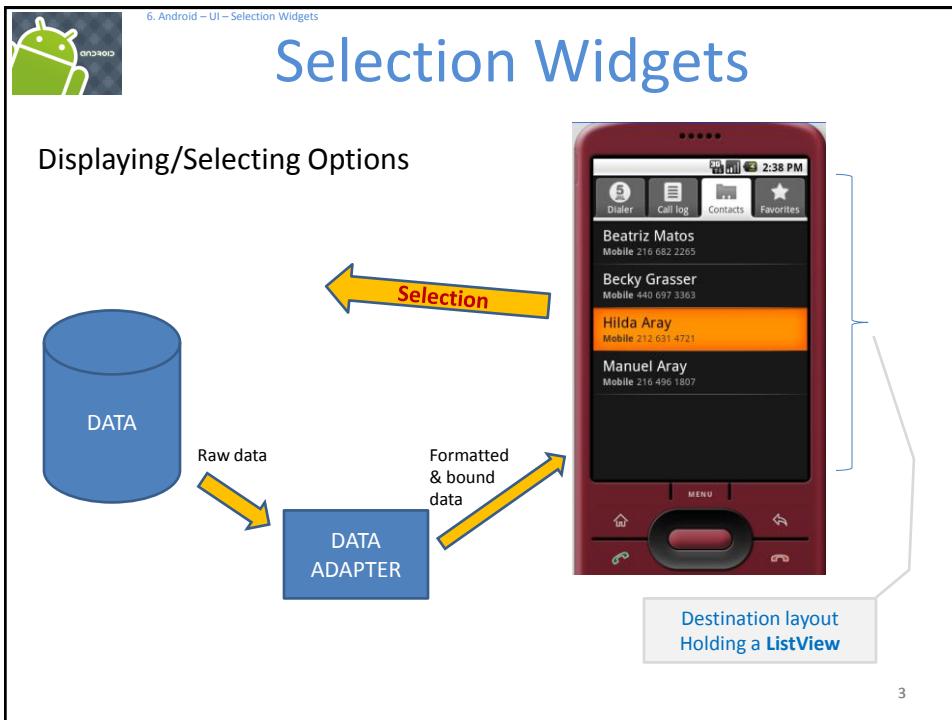


6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets



Selection Widgets

- RadioButtons and CheckButtons are suitable for selecting from a *small* set of options.
- When the pool of choices is larger other widgets are more appropriate, those include classic UI controls such as: *listboxes*, *comboboxes*, *drop-down lists*, *picture galleries*, etc.
- Android offers a framework of *data adapters* that provide a common interface to selection lists ranging from static arrays to database contents.
- *Selection views* – widgets for presenting lists of choices – are handed an adapter to supply the actual choices.



3

The diagram shows the use of an ArrayAdapter to bind data to a ListView. It features a blue cylinder labeled "DATA" and a blue rectangle labeled "DATA ADAPTER". An arrow labeled "Raw data" points from the DATA cylinder to the DATA ADAPTER. Another arrow labeled "Formatted & bound data" points from the DATA ADAPTER to a mobile phone screen displaying a contact list. A red arrow labeled "Selection" points from the phone screen back towards the DATA cylinder. Below the phone is a box labeled "Destination layout Holding a ListView".

Using ArrayAdapter

The easiest adapter to use is **ArrayAdapter** – all you need to do is wrap one of these around a Java array or java.util.List instance, and you have a fully functioning adapter:

```
String[] items={"this", "is", "a","really", "silly", "list"};
new ArrayAdapter<String>(this,
    android.R.layout.simple_list_item_1,
    items);
```

The **ArrayAdapter** constructor takes three parameters:

1. The *Context* to use (typically **this** will be your activity instance)
2. The resource ID of a *view* to use (such as the built-in system resource **android.R.layout.simple_list_item_1** as shown above)
3. The actual (source) array or list of *items* to show

4



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Example 1: A simple list (1 of 4)

Instead of `Activity` we will use a `ListActivity` which is an Android class specializing in the use of `ListView`s.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout
    xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:orientation="vertical"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent" >
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/selection"
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:background="#ff0000cc"
        android:textStyle="bold" />
    <!-- Here is the list. Since we are using a ListActivity, we have to call it "@android:id/list" so ListActivity will find it -->
    <ListView
        android:id="@+id/list"
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="fill_parent"
        android:drawSelectorOnTop="false" />
    <TextView android:id="@+id/empty"
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:text="Empty set" />
</LinearLayout>
```

Android's built-in list layout

Used on empty lists



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Example 1 : A simple list (2 of 4)

```
package cis493.selectionwidgets;

import android.app.ListActivity;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.View;
import android.widget.ArrayAdapter;
import android.widget.ListView;
import android.widget.TextView;
```

↓

```
public class ArrayAdapterDemo extends ListActivity {

    TextView selection;
    String[] items = { "this", "is", "a", "really",
                      "really2", "really3", "really4",
                      "really5", "silly", "list" };

    // next time try an empty list such as:
    // String[] items = {};
```

Data source

NOTE: The `ListActivity` class is implicitly bound to an object identified by `@android:id/list`

6



Selection Widgets

Example 1: A simple list (3 of 4)

```

@Override
public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
    setContentView(R.layout.main);

    setListAdapter(new ArrayAdapter<String>(
        this,
        android.R.layout.simple_list_item_1,
        items));

    selection=(TextView)findViewById(R.id.selection);
}

@Override
protected void onListItemClick(ListView l, View v,
                               int position, long id) {
    super.onListItemClick(l, v, position, id);
    String text = " position:" + position + " " + items[position];
    selection.setText(text);
}
}

```

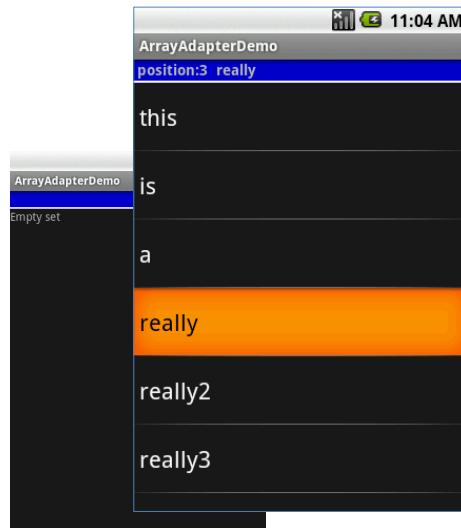
List adapter

Selection listener



Selection Widgets

Example 1: A simple list (4 of 4)



Selection seen by the listener

When you click here
background flashes orange

 6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets



Observations on Example1.

This example uses a number of predefined Android components.

1. In the XML layout we use a *ListView* widget called **`android:id=list`** (built-in definition using multiple lines, black background, light-gray separator line, horiz. scroll-bar)
2. Later in the setting of the ArrayAdapter we make a reference to **`android.R.layout.simple_list_item_1`** (details representation of a single entry in the list)

Android SDK includes a number of predefined layouts, they can be found in the folder: **`C:\Android\platforms\android-1.6\data\res\layout`**
(See Appendix A for more on this issue)

9

 6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Spin Control



- In Android, the **Spinner** is the equivalent of the drop-down selector.
- Spinners have the same functionality of a ListView but take less space.
- As with ListView, you provide the adapter for linking data to child views using **`setAdapter()`**
- Add a listener object to capture selections made from the list with **`setOnItemSelectedListener()`**.
- Use the **`setDropDownViewResource()`** method to supply the resource ID of the multi-line selection list view to use.

10

The screenshot shows three screenshots of an Android application demonstrating the use of a Spinner. The first screenshot shows a Spinner with the text "this" selected. A blue arrow labeled "1. Click here" points to the spinner icon. The second screenshot shows a dropdown menu with several options: "this", "is", "a", "really", "really2", and "really3". The option "really" is highlighted with a green circle, and a blue arrow labeled "2. Select this option" points to it. The third screenshot shows the spinner with "really" selected. A blue arrow labeled "3. Selected value" points to the selected item.

6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Example 2. Using the Spinner

1. Click here

2. Select this option

3. Selected value

11

The screenshot shows three screenshots of an Android application demonstrating the use of a Spinner. The first screenshot shows a Spinner with the text "this" selected. A blue arrow labeled "1. Click here" points to the spinner icon. The second screenshot shows a dropdown menu with several options: "this", "is", "a", "really", "really2", and "really3". The option "really" is highlighted with a green circle, and a blue arrow labeled "2. Select this option" points to it. The third screenshot shows the spinner with "really" selected. A blue arrow labeled "3. Selected value" points to the selected item.

6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Example 2. Using the Spinner

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout
    android:id="@+id/myLinearLayout"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent"
    android:orientation="vertical"
    xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
>
<TextView
    android:id="@+id/selection"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="wrap_content"
    android:background="#ff0033cc"
    android:textSize="14pt"
    android:textStyle="bold"
    >
</TextView>
<Spinner
    android:id="@+id/spinner"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="wrap_content"
    >
</Spinner>
</LinearLayout>
```

You choose the name

12

6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets



Selection Widgets

Example 2. Using the Spinner

```

package cis493.selectionwidgets;

import android.app.Activity;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.View;
import android.widget.AdapterView;
import android.widget.ArrayAdapter;
import android.widget.Spinner;
import android.widget.TextView;

```

↓ ↓

```

public class ArrayAdapterDemo2 extends Activity
    implements AdapterView.OnItemSelectedListener {

    TextView selection;
    String[] items = { "this", "is", "a",
                      "really", "really2", "really3",
                      "really4", "really5", "silly", "list" };

```

13

6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets



Selection Widgets

Example 2. Using the Spinner

```

@Override
public void onCreate(Bundle icicle) {
    super.onCreate(icicle);
    setContentView(R.layout.main);

    selection = (TextView) findViewById(R.id.selection);

    Spinner spin = (Spinner) findViewById(R.id.spinner);
    spin.setOnItemSelectedListener(this);
    // set a clickable right push-button comboBox to show items
    ArrayAdapter<String> aa = new ArrayAdapter<String>(
        this, android.R.layout.simple_spinner_item, items);
    aa.setDropDownViewResource(
        android.R.layout.simple_spinner_dropdown_item);
    // associate GUI spinner and adapter
    spin.setAdapter(aa);
}

public void onItemSelected(
    AdapterView<?> parent, View v, int position, long id) {
    selection.setText(items[position]);
}

public void onNothingSelected(AdapterView<?> parent) {
    selection.setText("");
}

```



14



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

GridView

GridView is a ViewGroup that displays items in a two-dimensional, scrollable grid.

The grid items are automatically inserted to the layout using a ListAdapter.




15



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

GridView

Some properties used to determine the number of columns and their sizes:

- **android:numColumns** spells out how many columns there are, or, if you supply a value of `auto_fit`, Android will compute the number of columns based on available space and the properties listed below.
- **android:verticalSpacing** and its counterpart **android:horizontalSpacing** indicate how much whitespace there should be between items in the grid.
- **android:columnWidth** indicates how many pixels wide each column should be.
- **android:stretchMode** indicates, for grids with `auto_fit` for `android:numColumns`, what should happen for any available space not taken up by columns or spacing .

16



Selection Widgets

GridView

Example: Fitting the View

Suppose the screen is **320** pixels wide, and we have
`android:columnWidth` set to **100px** and
`android:horizontalSpacing` set to **5px**.

Three columns would use **310** pixels (three columns of 100 pixels and two whitespaces of 5 pixels).

With `android:stretchMode` set to `columnWidth`, the three columns will each expand by 3-4 pixels to use up the remaining 10 pixels.

With `android:stretchMode` set to `spacingWidth`, the two internal whitespaces will each grow by 5 pixels to consume the remaining 10 pixels.

17



Selection Widgets

Example 3. GridView

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout
    xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:orientation="vertical"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent"
    >
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/selection"
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:background="#ff0033cc"
        android:textSize="14pt"
        android:textStyle="bold"
        />
    <GridView
        android:id="@+id/grid"
        android:background="#ff0000ff"
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="fill_parent"
        android:verticalSpacing="35px"
        android:horizontalSpacing="5px"
        android:numColumns="auto_fit"
        android:columnWidth="100px"
        android:stretchMode="columnWidth"
        android:gravity="center"
        />
</LinearLayout>
```



3



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Example 3. GridView

```
package cis493.selectionwidgets;
// using a gridview
import android.app.Activity;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.View;
import android.widget.AdapterView;
import android.widget.ArrayAdapter;
import android.widget.GridView;
import android.widget.TextView;

public class ArrayAdapterDemo3 extends Activity
    implements AdapterView.OnItemClickListener {

    TextView selection;
    String[] items = { "this", "is", "a",
        "really", "really2", "really3",
        "really4", "really5", "silly", "list" };

    @Override
    protected void onCreate(Bundle icicle) {
        super.onCreate(icicle);
        setContentView(R.layout.main);
        selection = (TextView) findViewById(R.id.selection);

        GridView gv = (GridView) findViewById(R.id.grid);
        gv.setAdapter(aa);
        gv.setOnItemClickListener(this);
    }

    ArrayAdapter<String> aa = new ArrayAdapter<String>(
        this,
        android.R.layout.simple_list_item_1,
        items );
}
```

19



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Example 3. GridView

```
@Override
public void onCreate(Bundle icicle) {
    super.onCreate(icicle);
    setContentView(R.layout.main);
    selection = (TextView) findViewById(R.id.selection);

    GridView gv = (GridView) findViewById(R.id.grid);
    ArrayAdapter<String> aa = new ArrayAdapter<String>(
        this,
        android.R.layout.simple_list_item_1,
        items );
    gv.setAdapter(aa);
    gv.setOnItemClickListener(this);
}

public void onItemClick(AdapterView<?> parent, View v,
    int position, long id) {
    selection.setText(items[position]);
}

// class
```



0



Selection Widgets

AutoCompleteTextView

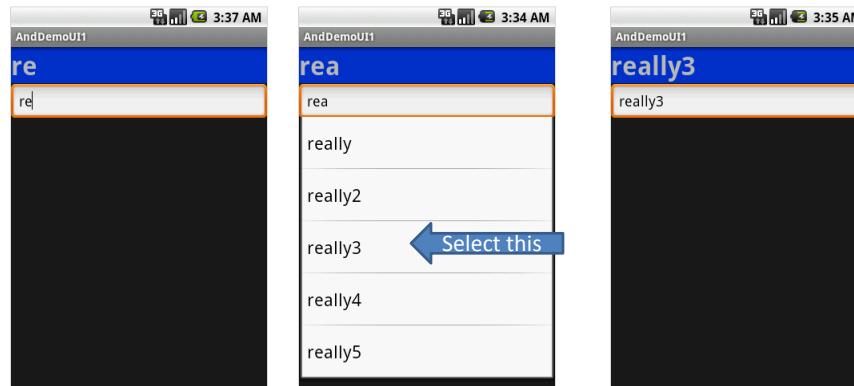
- With **auto-completion**, as the user types, the text is treated as a prefix filter, comparing the entered text as a prefix against a list of candidates.
- Matches are shown in a **selection list** that, like with Spinner, folds down from the field.
- The user can either type out a *new entry* (e.g., something not in the list) or *choose an entry from the list* to be the value of the field.
- AutoCompleteTextView subclasses EditText, so you can configure all the standard look-and-feel aspects, such as font face and color.
- AutoCompleteTextView has a **android:completionThreshold** property, to indicate the minimum number of characters a user must enter before the list filtering begins.

21



Selection Widgets

AutoCompleteTextView



22



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Example 4. AutoCompleteTextView

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout
    xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:orientation="vertical"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent"
    >
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/selection"
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:background="#ff0033cc"
        android:textSize="14pt"
        android:textStyle="bold"
        />
    <AutoCompleteTextView
        android:id="@+id/edit"
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:completionThreshold="3"/>
</LinearLayout>
```

Min. 3 chars to work

23



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Example 4. AutoCompleteTextView

```
package cis493.selectionwidgets;

import android.app.Activity;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.text.Editable;
import android.text.TextWatcher;
import android.widget.ArrayAdapter;
import android.widget.AutoCompleteTextView;
import android.widget.TextView;

public class AndDemoUI1 extends Activity implements TextWatcher {
    TextView selection;
    AutoCompleteTextView edit;
    String[] items = { "this", "is", "a",
                      "really", "really2", "really3",
                      "really4", "really5", "silly", "list" };
    
```

24



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Example 4. AutoCompleteTextView

```

@Override
public void onCreate(Bundle icicle) {
    super.onCreate(icicle);
    setContentView(R.layout.main);
    selection = (EditText) findViewById(R.id.selection);

    edit = (AutoCompleteTextView) findViewById(R.id.edit);
    edit.addTextChangedListener(this);

    edit.setAdapter(new ArrayAdapter<String>(this,
        android.R.layout.simple_dropdown_item_1line, items));
}

public void onTextChanged(CharSequence s, int start, int before, int count) {
    selection.setText(edit.getText());
}

public void beforeTextChanged(CharSequence s, int start,
    int count, int after) {
    // needed for interface, but not used
}
public void afterTextChanged(Editable s) {
    // needed for interface, but not used
}
}

```

25



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets

Selection Widgets

Gallery Widget

- The Gallery widget provides a set of options depicted as images.
- Image choices are offered on a contiguous horizontal mode, you may scroll across the image-set.



AndDemoUI1
SDK1.5 /samples/.../view/Gallery1.java
selected 2 2

26

6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets



Selection Widgets

Gallery Widget - Example

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinearLayout xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    android:orientation="vertical"
    android:layout_width="fill_parent"
    android:layout_height="fill_parent"
    >
    <TextView
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:text="SDK1.5 /samples/.../view/Gallery1.java"
    />
    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/mySelection"
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:background="#ff0000ff"
    />
    <Gallery
        android:id="@+id/myGallery"
        android:layout_width="fill_parent"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:gravity="bottom"
    />
</LinearLayout>
```

27

6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets



Selection Widgets

Gallery Widget - Example

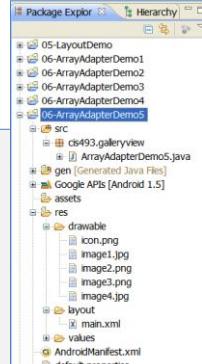
```
package cis493.selectionwidgets;

import android.app.Activity;
import android.content.Context;
import android.os.Bundle;
import android.view.View;
import android.view.ViewGroup;
import android.widget.AdapterView;
import android.widget.BaseAdapter;
import android.widget.Gallery;
import android.widget.ImageView;
import android.widget.TextView;
import android.widget.AdapterView.OnItemSelectedListener;
```

```
public class AndDemoUI1 extends Activity {
    // Using Gallery widget. G1 phone resolution: HVGA 320x480 px
    // code adapted from:
    // C:\Android\platforms\android-1.5\samples\ApiDemos\
    // src\com\example\android\apis\view\Galler1.java
```

```
    TextView mySelection;
    Gallery myGallery;
```

28



6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets



Selection Widgets

Gallery Widget - Example

```

@Override
public void onCreate(Bundle icicle) {
    super.onCreate(icicle);
    setContentView(R.layout.main);
    mySelection = (TextView) findViewById(R.id.mySelection);

    // Bind the gallery defined in the main.xml
    // Apply a new (customized) ImageAdapter to it.

    myGallery = (Gallery) findViewById(R.id.myGallery);

    myGallery.setAdapter(new ImageAdapter(this));
    myGallery.setOnItemSelectedListener(new OnItemSelectedListener() {

        @Override
        public void onItemSelected(AdapterView<?> arg0, View arg1,
                int arg2, long arg3) {
            mySelection.setText(" selected option: " + arg2 );
        }

        @Override
        public void onNothingSelected(AdapterView<?> arg0) {
            mySelection.setText("Nothing selected");
        }
    });
}
// onCreate

```



29

6. Android – UI – Selection Widgets



Selection Widgets

Gallery Widget - Example

```

public class ImageAdapter extends BaseAdapter {
    /** The parent context */
    private Context myContext;
    // Put some images to project-folder: /res/drawable/
    // format: jpg, gif, png, bmp, ...
    private int[] myImageIds = { R.drawable.image1, R.drawable.image2,
        R.drawable.image3, R.drawable.image4 };

    /** Simple Constructor saving the 'parent' context. */
    public ImageAdapter(Context c) {
        this.myContext = c;
    }

    // inherited abstract methods - must be implemented
    // Returns count of images, and individual IDs
    public int getCount() {
        return this.myImageIds.length;
    }

    public Object getItem(int position) {
        return position;
    }

    public long getItemId(int position) {
        return position;
    }
}

```

0



Selection Widgets

Gallery Widget - Example

```
// Returns a new ImageView to be displayed,
public View getView(int position, View convertView,
                     ViewGroup parent) {

    // Get a View to display image data
    ImageView iv = new ImageView(this.mContext);
    iv.setImageResource(this.myImageIds[position]);

    // Image should be scaled somehow
    //iv.setScaleType(ImageView.ScaleType.CENTER);
    //iv.setScaleType(ImageView.ScaleType.CENTER_CROP);
    //iv.setScaleType(ImageView.ScaleType.CENTER_INSIDE);
    //iv.setScaleType(ImageView.ScaleType.FIT_CENTER);
    //iv.setScaleType(ImageView.ScaleType.FIT_XY);
    iv.setScaleType(ImageView.ScaleType.FIT_END);

    // Set the Width & Height of the individual images
    iv.setLayoutParams(new Gallery.LayoutParams(95, 70));

    return iv;
}
} // ImageAdapter
} // class
```

31



Selection Widgets

GridView (again...)

A –perhaps-- more interesting version of the **GridView** control uses images instead of text.

The programmer must supply an **ImageAdapter** to indicate what to do when an individual image is selected/clicked.

The following example illustrates how to use this control.

32