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# Kotlin and Android Development featuring Jetpack

Build Better, Safer Android Apps

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# Kotlin and Android Development

*featuring Jetpack*

Build Better, Safer Android Apps



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*edited by Michael Swaine*



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## Create a Repository Class

First off, a repository isn't a specific Room-related class but rather a recommended Jetpack convention. The advantage of using a repository is that the `ViewModel` classes have a single location for all data access, no matter the source of that data. This means that if we were to have web service calls along with our database calls, the front-end components would go to the same place for both and not even care about which was which. Having a repository separates out how you get data with how you use the data.

In our case, having a repository is admittedly overkill since we only have a single data source and, as you'll see, the functions in our repository will just be pass-throughs to `PennyDropDao` functions. Still, it's good practice to have the repository in place once you move on to more complicated apps, like the Android Baseball League app.

To start, create the `PennyDropRepository` class in the data package and send in an instance of `PennyDropDao` as a private value.

```
class PennyDropRepository(private val pennyDropDao: PennyDropDao) { ... }
```

The `PennyDropRepository` class will have four functions to start: `getCurrentGameWithPlayers()`, `getCurrentGameStatuses()`, `startGame()`, and `updateGame()`. This highlights another advantage of a repository: we can limit the functions that are shown to the rest of the app while allowing the DAO to have extra internal functionality. While in most cases we could just make those functions protected, this would restrict us from using them in other DB-related activity, such as during `RoomDatabase` initialization.

As I mentioned before, each of these functions will be calling the corresponding function in `PennyDropDao`. Also, the latter two functions will be marked with the `suspend` keyword, as they're modifying the database. The entire `PennyDropRepository` looks like this:

```
class PennyDropRepository(private val pennyDropDao: PennyDropDao) {  
    fun getCurrentGameWithPlayers() =  
        pennyDropDao.getCurrentGameWithPlayers()  
  
    fun getCurrentGameStatuses() =  
        pennyDropDao.getCurrentGameStatuses()  
  
    suspend fun startGame(players: List<Player>) =  
        pennyDropDao.startGame(players)  
  
    suspend fun updateGameAndStatuses(  
        game: Game,  
        statuses: List<GameStatus>
```

```
    ) = pennyDropDao.updateGameAndStatuses(game, statuses)
}
```

The PennyDropRepository is now complete, but unfortunately none of the DAO functions currently exist. Let's head back over to PennyDropDao and add them in.

## Add PennyDropDao Functions

We've got four functions to add, and we're going to go in order. First up, `getCurrentGameWithPlayers()`. This function is similar to what we saw earlier (in particular, the `getPlayer()` function) but it also includes the `@Transaction` annotation. This annotation tells Room that the function you're calling references multiple tables and the data should be retrieved in a single atomic operation. In our case, we're getting data from both the games and players tables.

```
@Transaction
@Query("SELECT * FROM games ORDER BY startTime DESC LIMIT 1")
abstract fun getCurrentGameWithPlayers(): LiveData<GameWithPlayers>
```

While the query only mentions the games table, we're pulling in data from both tables due to the `@Relation` annotation and the `@Junction` on the `GameStatus` class. That tells Room to get the associated Player records for the Game without having to write out that piece of the SQL query.

The next function is `getCurrentGameStatuses()`. Unfortunately, there isn't an easy way with Room to grab a game, the players, *and* the statuses for each player in a single query and map the results to an object. So we need to pull in the `GameStatus` objects separately. This `@Query` will get the latest `GameStatus` instance by performing a subquery on the games table. We get the most recent open game, then sort the statuses by the `gamePlayerNumber` property (to ensure players are in the right play order). Note that this will also be an `@Transaction` since we're referencing multiple tables.

```
@Transaction
@Query(
    """
    SELECT * FROM game_statuses
    WHERE gameId = (
        SELECT gameId FROM games
        WHERE endTime IS NULL
        ORDER BY startTime DESC
        LIMIT 1)
    ORDER BY gamePlayerNumber
    """
)
abstract fun getCurrentGameStatuses(): LiveData<List<GameStatus>>
```

As you can see, the `@Query` annotation gives us a lot of flexibility in retrieving data from the database. But sometimes an `@Query` still isn't enough and we need to call multiple functions in a single `@Transaction`. For that scenario, we can instead create an open function and implement the function ourselves rather than letting Room do that for us. The ability to have fully implemented functions in our DAO is the reason `PennyDropDao` is an abstract class rather than an interface (as is commonly seen in the Room documentation).

In the case of `startGame()`, we're going to bring in a `List<Player>`, close up any existing games, create a new `Game`, get or insert the entered `Player` objects from/into the database, then add new `GameStatus` entries for each player before returning the newly created game's ID. To do all this, we'll call other functions inside `PennyDropDao` to do the work for us. We already created `insertGame()` and `insertPlayer()` when first building `PennyDropDao`, so we just need two additional new functions.

The first function is called `closeOpenGames()`, which goes through the database and sets the current time as the `endTime` and state of `Cancelled` for any still-open games. We previously saw named bind parameters in [Create a DAO Class, on page 7](#), but here they're more interesting.

We can't send in complex types by default, but since we previously created type converters for both types, this works just fine.

```
@Query("""
    UPDATE games
    SET endTime = :endDate, gameState = :gameState
    WHERE endTime IS NULL""")
abstract suspend fun closeOpenGames(
    endDate: OffsetDateTime = OffsetDateTime.now(),
    gameState: GameState = GameState.Cancelled
)
```

Note the use of default values for each property. We can include parameters we have no intention of overwriting purely to be able to include them as parameters in a query, yet still keep the flexibility to overwrite if needed for any reason.

Also, since this function is modifying the database, it needs to be a transaction. But instead of having to add the `@Transaction` annotation, Room automatically wraps all modifying actions as a transaction. This includes functions with an `@Insert`, `@Update`, or `@Delete` annotation.

The other function we still need is `insertGameStatuses()`, which just requires the `@Insert` annotation.



```
@Insert  
abstract suspend fun insertGameStatuses(gameStatuses: List<GameStatus>)
```

This highlights another nice Room feature: we can send in a `List<GameStatus>` and all `GameStatus` records are entered into the database instead of manually having to insert them one by one.

Now that all the functions we're using are created, we can get back to `startGame()` itself. Note that even though we have the implementation for `startGame()` in here, it still has to be marked as open since it has the `@Transaction` annotation.

The function code looks like this:

```

@Transaction
open suspend fun startGame(players: List<Player>): Long {
    this.closeOpenGames()

    val gameId = this.insertGame(
        Game(
            gameState = GameState.Started,
            currentTurnText = "The game has begun!\n",
            canRoll = true
        )
    )

    val playerIds = players.map { player ->
        getPlayer(player.playerName)?.playerId ?: insertPlayer(player)
    }

    this.insertGameStatuses(
        playerIds.mapIndexed { index, playerId ->
            GameStatus(
                gameId,
                playerId,
                index,
                index == 0
            )
        }
    )

    return gameId
}

```

The one piece I want to call out here is how we're getting the `playerIds` value. We check the database for a player and either use that to get the `playerId` or, if the player's not found, we create the player and then send back its player ID. Since `insertPlayer()` returns a `Long`, we get back the database ID right away without having to do a secondary lookup. Plus, the Elvis operator allows us to keep everything in one expression instead of having to include extra conditional logic.

We have one remaining function to cover in the `PennyDropDao`, which is the `updateGameAndStatuses()` function. This function does exactly what you'd expect: it updates the DB versions of the entered `Game` and `GameStatus` objects, all wrapped in a single `@Transaction`. `updateGame()` already exists, but we need to create `updateGameStatuses()` quickly:

```

@Update
abstract suspend fun updateGameStatuses(gameStatuses: List<GameStatus>)

```

From there, `updateGameAndStatuses()` is calling those two functions, wrapped in a `@Transaction`:

```

@Transaction
open suspend fun updateGameAndStatuses(
    game: Game,
    statuses: List<GameStatus>
) {
    this.updateGame(game)
    this.updateGameStatuses(statuses)
}

```

The last part of the PennyDropRepository I want to cover is adding the ability to have a singleton instance of the repository for use anywhere. This is optional, but it'll be useful to avoid creating multiple instances of PennyDropRepository for different views.

The idea is the same as with PennyDropDatabase: we get the existing instance variable unless it's null, then we create a new instance and return that. We're also going to take advantage of the synchronized() block to avoid having multiple simultaneous attempts at creating the PennyDropRepository. All of this will live inside PennyDropRepository in its companion object:

```

companion object {
    @Volatile
    private var instance: PennyDropRepository? = null

    fun getInstance(pennyDropDao: PennyDropDao) =
        this.instance ?: synchronized(this) {
            instance ?: PennyDropRepository(pennyDropDao).also {
                instance = it
            }
        }
}

```

With that, the PennyDropRepository and PennyDropDao classes are now all set. We have all the logic we need to persist our game data in a local database. The remaining piece is to pull that data back out of the database and use it inside GameViewModel.