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App Inventor meets NXT Top Tips



App Inventor is a tool that enables users to develop their very own Android applications. These applications can be downloaded straight onto Android devices or even uploaded to the Play store where it can be purchased or downloaded for free by users across the World! The application can also be connected via bluetooth to a Lego NXT device. The App Inventor interface is divided into 2 main sections, the design and the blocks editor. The designer has a variety of components to use which can each be adapted according to preference using each component's different properties. On the Blocks editor pieces of code that look like jigsaw pieces can be connected and built up that perform a selection of different tasks depending on the manner in which they are implemented.

On the next page are the built-in blocks that are available for you to use at any time within your own application. When you click on one of these block groups, a menu of jigsaw pieces will appear to the right of it. These separate jigsaw pieces are the code that can be dragged onto the Blocks Editor. Some specifically require further blocks attached to it, others sometimes look like blocks can be sandwiched within them. If you have a block of code that does require more code added to it, the program will not run properly as it is incomplete.

Blocks

Definition

Text

Lists

Math

Logic

Control

Colors

Description

These blocks are used to define values that can be later used within your application. These include such as lists, constant numbers, names etc.

These blocks are used for string manipulation or the creation and altering of text.

These blocks are used for list manipulation, or the creation and altering of lists.

These blocks are for all mathematical calculations. They are also used to define numeric values and the operators needed to carry out calculations.

These blocks are for doing logic tests, such as values of true and false and AND/OR logic.

These blocks are for doing flow control, such as conditionals and loops.

These blocks are for controlling colours of various components.

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