

CHAPTER 2

Working with Media

starting out with >>> **APP INVENTOR**
FOR ANDROID



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Layout Components

- A layout component is a container that governs the position of the components it contains.
- You did not specify the exact location of a component on the screen.
- Let a *layout component* control the position of the components for you.
- The layout components are found in the *Layout* section of the Palette.

Table 2-1 Layout Components (Source: Pearson Education, Inc.)

Component	Summary
HorizontalArrangement	Components that are placed inside a HorizontalArrangement are arranged horizontally, across the screen.
TableArrangement	Components that are placed inside a TableArrangement are arranged in a table, with rows and columns.
VerticalArrangement	Components that are placed inside a VerticalArrangement are arranged vertically.

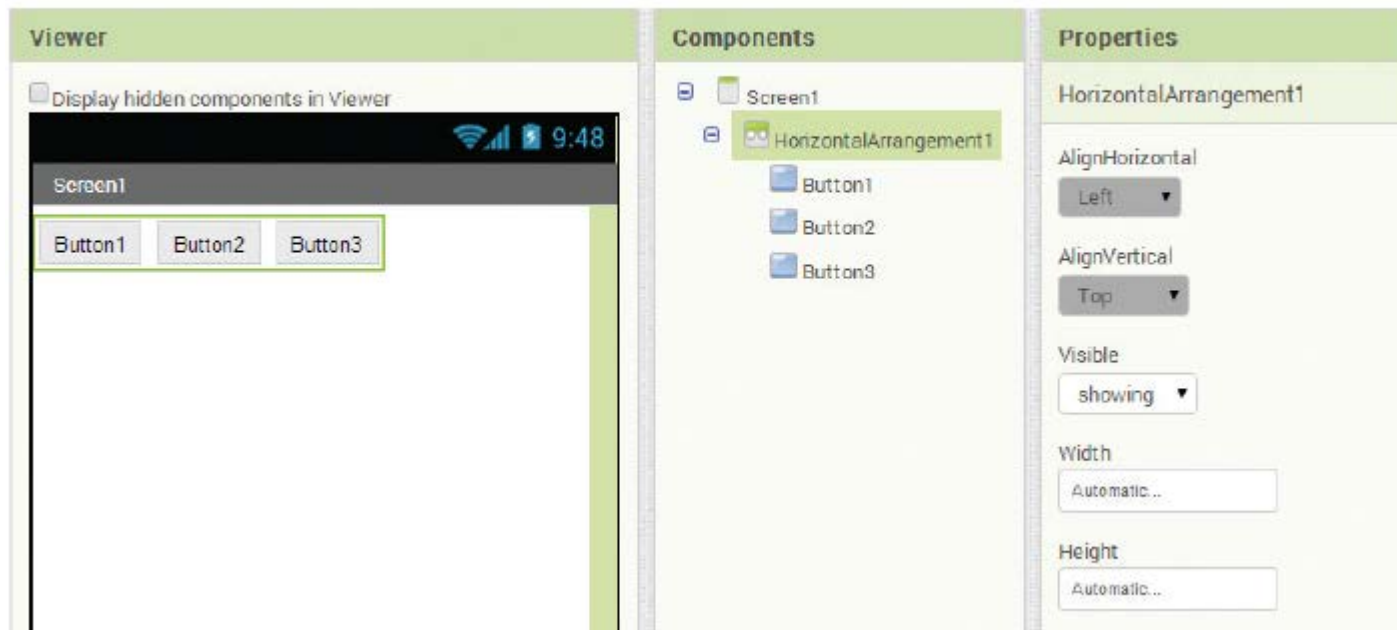
Layout components

HorizontalArrangement

- Figure 2-67 shows a screen that has a *HorizontalArrangement* component.
- The *HorizontalArrangement* component has *Width* and *Height* properties and each is set to *Automatic*.
- The width and height of the component is determined by the width and height of the components inside of it.
- The *HorizontalArrangement* component also has *AlignHorizontal* and *AlignVertical* properties. They determine the alignment components inside the *HorizontalArrangement* component.

Layout Components

Figure 2-67 Three Buttons Inside a HorizontalArrangement (Source: MIT App Inventor 2)



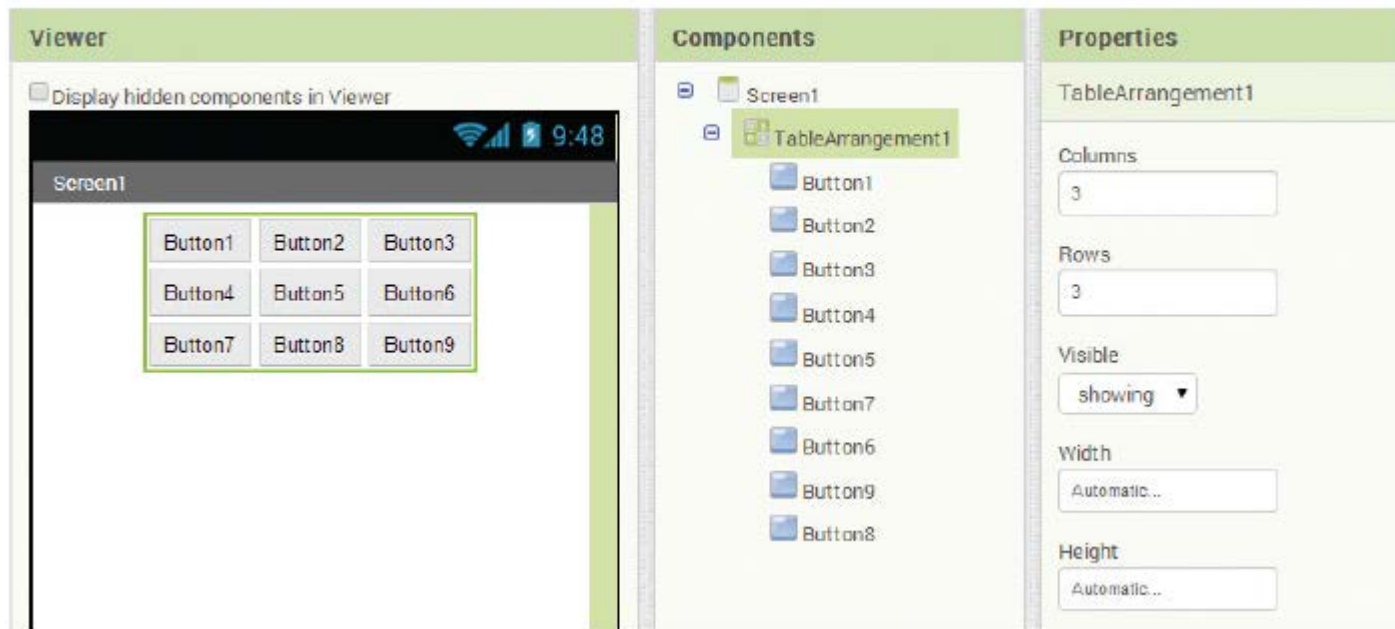
Layout Components

TableArrangement

- Components placed inside a *TableArrangement* are arranged in a grid.
- *TableArrangements* have a:
- *Row* property – That determines the number of rows
- *Columns* property – That determines the number of columns.

Layout Components

Figure 2-69 A TableArrangement with 3 Rows and 3 Columns (Source: MIT App Inventor 2)

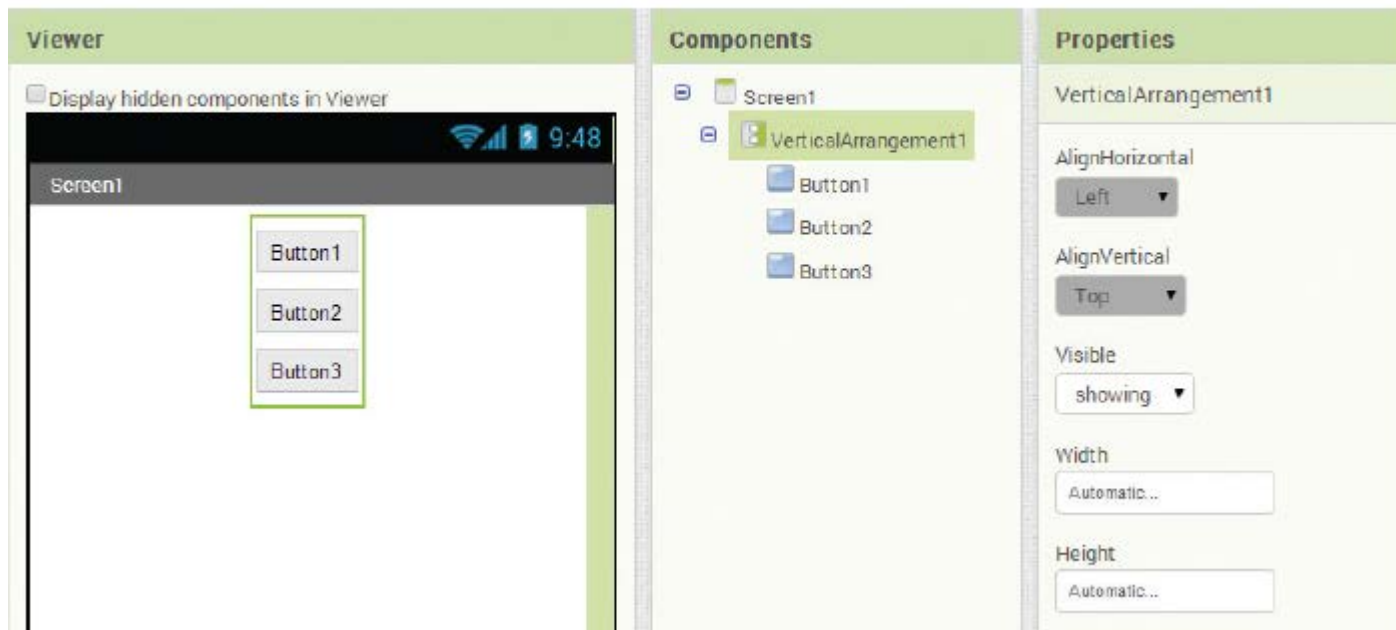


Layout Components

VerticalArrangement

Figure 2-70 shows a screen that has a *VerticalArrangementComponent*

Figure 2-70 Three Buttons Inside a VerticalArrangement (Source: MIT App Inventor 2)



Layout Components

Using Multiple Components in the Same Screen

- Quite often you will have to use multiple layout components.
- You can nest a layout component inside of another component.
- Figure 2-71 shows a screen that has *TableArrangement* component with a *VerticalArrangement* component .

Layout Components

Here are details details about the components in figure 2-71.

- The *TableArrangement* has two columns and one row.
- The *Button* component is in the *TableArrangementsLeft* column.
- The *VerticalArrangement* is in the *TableArrangement*'s right column.
- The *Image* components are in the *VerticalArrangement*.

Vertical Components

Figure 2-71 A Screen with Nested Arrangement Components (Source: MIT App Inventor 2)

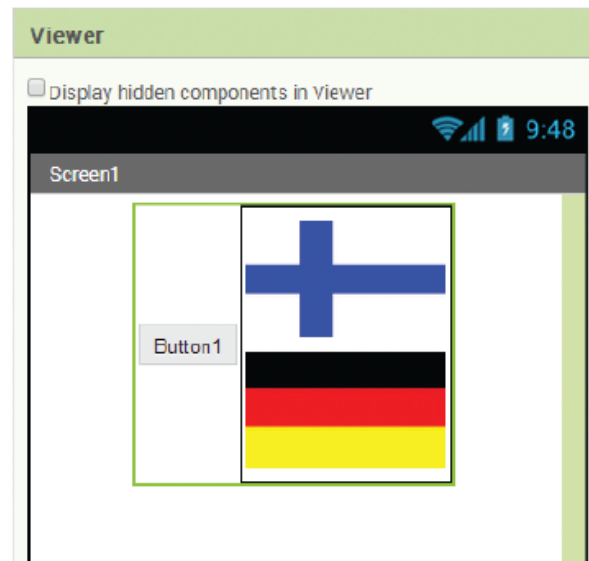
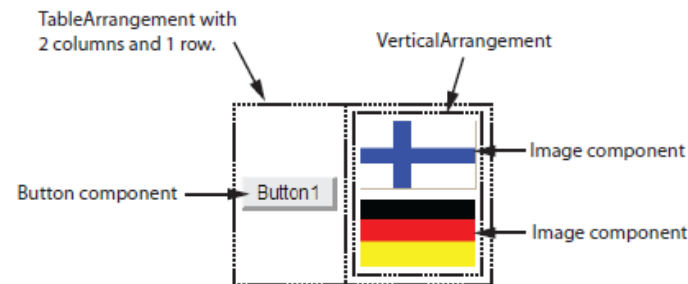


Figure 2-72 The Screen Layout (Source: MIT App Inventor 2)



Commenting Blocks

A *comment* is a note that programmer writes into the program, explaining some part of the code.


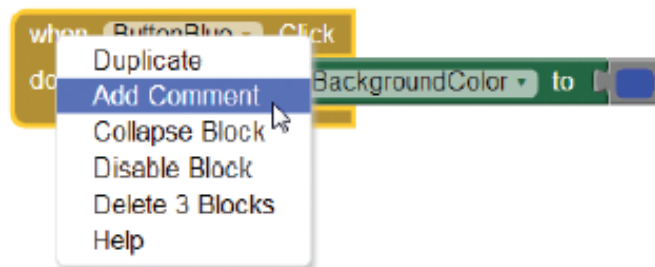
- In the Block's Editor, you can add a comment by right-clicking the block, then selecting *Add Comment* from the menu that pops up.
- A small question mark  will appear on the block.
- Click the question mark.
- A small note editor will appear.

Figure 2-79 Right-click a Block to Get this Menu



Commenting Blocks

- Comments do not affect the execution of your app in any way.
- They make your program more understandable.

Figure 2-80 Note Editor for Comments (Source: MIT App Inventor 2)

