# THUNKABLE – A FREE APPLICATION TO DEVELOP PHONE APPS

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Many instructors have limitations such as budget, time and information and communication technology (ICT) skills to develop phone apps. Therefore, they are reluctant to develop specific phone apps that may meet their students' learning needs.

Currently, many applications are available for developing phone apps faster with a minimum budget. The applications do not require coding (a computer language to develop codes). Therefore, instructors with limited ICT skills can still have the opportunity to build phone apps. The development requires the users to drag and drop objects and blocks to design the interactivity of the objects.

Thunkable is one of the applications available for instructors to develop phone apps. Instructors can develop phone apps online at https://thunkable.com/ . They can sign up for free to create an account using a Google account, Apple account or an email. The screen layout for signing up is as follows:
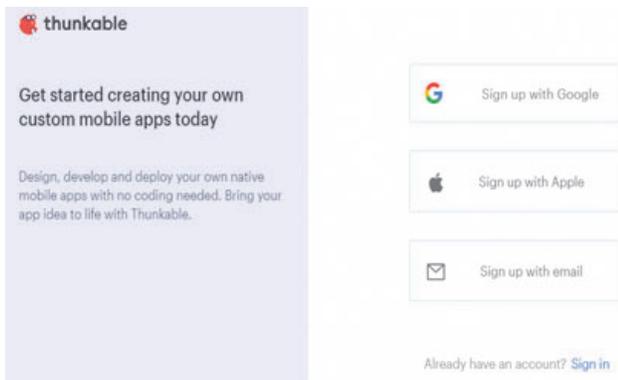


Figure 1 Sign up for Thunkable

Thunkable offers two types of plans. The first type is Personal, where Thunkable offers three plans: (1) Free, (2) Starter and (3) Pro. The other type of plan is Business, where Thunkable also offers three plans: (1) Business, (2) Team and (3) Custom. You can check the subscription fee and the description of the plans at https://thunkable.com/#/pricing. With a Free plan, Thunkable offers limited access to the features.

The following are the activities that you can do when you subscribe the Free Plan:

- Develop many projects in the public mode.
- Previewed, downloaded or remixed by other users' projects. Thunkable community can also preview, download or remix your public projects.
- Add not more than 10 screens by clicking "+" (see Figure 2).
- Develop an app with the size of 10 MB and below.
- Use any components on each screen, such as buttons, images and many more (see Figure 3), to develop your projects.
- Add interactivity to the components by using the drag-and-drop blocks in your project (see Figure 4).
- Do a live test in real time for your projects on the Thunkable app on smartphones.
- Download two APK files monthly for android apps, preferably using Mozilla FireFox.
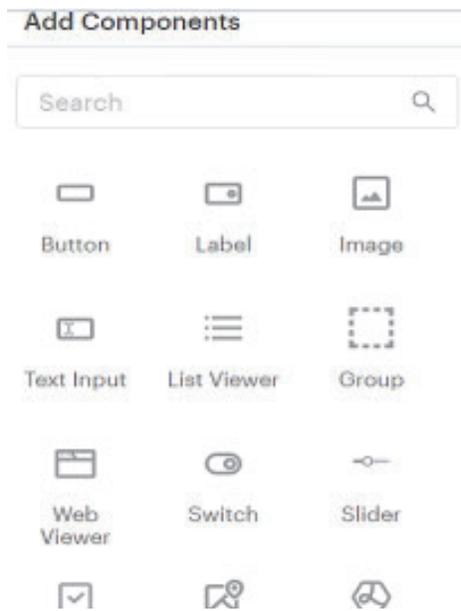
Figure 2 Screens



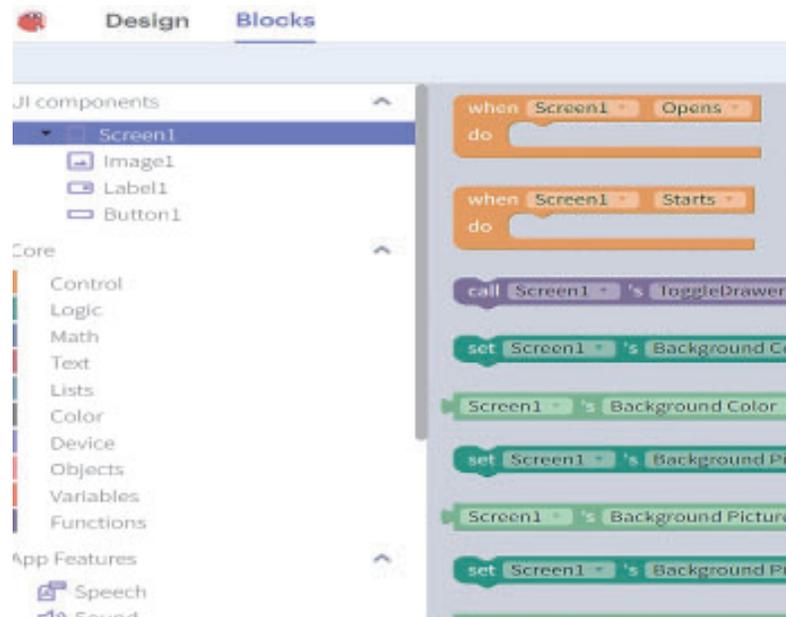Figure 3 Drag-and-drop components



Figure 4 Add-and-drop blocks for interactivity

Phone apps are essential to support learning, especially outside the classroom and enable personalised learning. Moreover, students can access phone apps easily, as smartphones are necessary in everyone's life. Therefore, instructors should try Thunkable to create phone apps to support learning.