



PRODUCTION WORKFLOW CHEATSHEET v5.1

Engine Version 5.1

Please be advised that this cheatsheet contains the most current obtainable information, but is not exhaustive. For questions requiring support, please contact: support@you.tj

NAMING CONVENTIONS	Use the following method when naming Compositions, Layers, and images whenever possible: Type-SubType-Description	Class/Comment:
	e.g. Btn-Toggle-PlayPause, Image-Icon-Watchlist.png, Layout-Container-Description, Text-Title	
EXPORTING	Go to: 'Composition > Export All Compositions' to export the current project file. This will generate the timelines and layouts required to build the application. Go to: 'Composition > Export All Compositions In All Projects In Folder' to export all of the After Effects project files within the current directory. Very handy for cleaning up a project during the optimization phase. Delete all old exports files, then re-export all compositions in all projects in the folder for a clean build.	
Warnings	Warnings flag potential issues and inefficiencies within an After Effects project file. Project files should be warning free on export.	
Visibility	Layers with the visibility turned off will not be exported.	
Errors	Errors on export could lead to application instability and crashes. It is critical to fix errors prior to committing exports to a project. Notes: Double-Click on a warning or error in the exporter panel to navigate directly to the source composition.	
ANIMATIONS	Animations are used to display changes in states. Interactions and transitions are communicated through animations defined in After Effects using keyframes.	
Markers	Markers are interaction queue points. Animations are defined by keyframes within the visible range of a marker. Marker timelines can't overlap. A keyframe should be at the beginning and end of a marker's timeline. Never start an animation at frame '0'. Notes: Select 2 or more keyframes, navigate to the 'Composition' menu & select 'You.: Insert Marker' to apply a marker with the correct duration. Keyframes should be 'eased' for the motion interpolator to work properly. Easing is also referred to as 'curves' or 'beziers'.	
Recursive	Nested/recursive animations can be chained together by adding recursive:true to the parent marker. Animation markers need to have the same name.	
Image Sequence	In order to build an animation sequence, you must import the images not as an image sequence (image sequence file formats are not supported). Instead, import the images as a group of images, trim the layers to 1 frame, then sequence them in the parent composition.	
BUTTONS	Markers: (Order of marker names is inconsequential) Interactions will play in reverse if no counterpart is found. e.g. Press is required, Release is not. Interaction conventions (markers) can be combined e.g. a push button can receive touch, focus, and hover events	Note: toggle buttons and radio groups are not supported by RN by default
Push Button	"Press", "Release", "Disable"	CYIPushButtonView
Toggle Button	"Press", "Press-Checked", "Toggle-On", "Toggle-Off", "Disabled", "Disable-Checked"	CYIToggleButtonView
Focus Button (10ft)	"FocusIn", "FocusOut", "Press", "Disabled"	CYIPushButtonView
Toggle Focus Button (10ft)	"FocusIn", "FocusOut", "FocusIn-Checked", "FocusOut-Checked", "Press", "Release", "Press-Checked", "Toggle-On", "Toggle-Off", "Disabled", "Disable-Checked"	CYIToggleButtonView
Web Buttons	"Up-Over", "Over-Up", "Up-Over-Checked", "Over-Up-Checked", "Down-Up", "Down-Up-Checked"	CYIPushButtonView
Radio Buttons	A collection of CYIToggleButtons where only one button can be 'active' at any given time. Notes: Animating the same property at different state can lead to conflicting animations. Try abstracting one of the animations by parenting the layer to a null object. For example, you can animate a layer's opacity and it's parent independently.	CYIRadioGroupView
TEXT	Project fonts should be installed prior to starting work on the project. Fonts utilized in AE will be automatically exported to the AE/Assets folder.	
Paragraph Text	Paragraph is the preferred text format. Text will reflow to fill the box. Select the Text tool, and then click and drag a box for the desired amount of space.	
Text Formatting	Dynamic Text: To make text dynamic, enable the 'Dynamic Text' box in the Layer properties of the Properties Panel. Ellipsis: To add an ellipsis to truncated text, enable the 'Ellipsis' box in the Layer properties of the Properties Panel. Leading: Leading must be adjusted in the Layer properties in the Properties Panel (if unadjusted, leading renders at the font default setting). Rendering: Designers can choose the type of font renderer. Font atlas is default, but does not scale/rotate well. SDF rendering may yield better results but may not be supported by lower-end devices. Bitmap text relies on font atlas, but can be rotated.	text-placeholder:true; text-overflow:ellipsis
Input Text	Requirements: Input text must be point text and left-aligned. Regular: Input text field for entering information such as email address, name, etc. Password: Input text field for entering a protected password.	CYITextEditView; CYIPasswordTextEditView
Scrolling Text	Requirements: ListRoot (typically a Null Object layer) - must be named "ListRoot"; Precomposed Text (the height difference between Text Composition and Scrolling Text View determines the amount to scroll).	CYIScrollingTextView
Animating	Notes: Best practices dictate converting the font-renderer to SDF for scale and rotation animations to avoid artifacts.	CYISDFAtlasTextSceneNode
LISTS	Scrollable lists are groups of dynamic content that can 'stream' into view. Placeholder content is added to a list and will be replaced dynamically at runtime. Layout is applied to a list to establish padding, direction, and spacing between list items.	CYIListView
Layout:	Determines the appearance of a list. Any layout can be used, but Row/Horizontal & Column/Vertical is the most typical combination.	type:horizontal
Placeholder:	Lists require content. Dynamic content must be flagged with the 'Placeholder' attribute via the Properties Panel.	placeholder:true
Direction:	Change the orientation of the list in the Properties Panel.	type:horizontal
Clipping:	Clips content to the dimensions of the List composition. To turn Clipping off, enable the Layer properties of the list in the Properties Panel.	clip:false
Overpull:	Specify how much a list can extend past its bounds before snapping back to place via layer settings in the Properties Panel.	overpull:100
Carousel:	Repeat/loop a list's content with the 'Carousel' option in the List properties.	horizontal-carousel:always;
Magnets:	Align list content to the middle or edge of a screen when scrolling. Content will 'snap' into place for ideal alignment.	horizontal-magnet-offset:0
ListMove Anim:	Make use of a 'Move' timeline for the items within the list. This is a special timeline not driven by time changes, but instead by the position of the item in view. The directional timelines are named 'MoveHorizontal' and 'MoveVertical', respectively.	Currently not supported by React-Native by default
Cascade Anim:	You can animate the in/out content of a list. All repeated items in the list will play the same animation with a delay/offset controlled via the Properties Panel. Include 'CascadeIn' and 'CascadeOut' timelines within the list items. Note that an 'In' or 'Out' marker must be present inside the CYIListView, and in all views between the CYIListView and the screen root, for the 'In' and 'Out' timeline group generation to find the cascade timelines automatically. A cascade animation will play by default in the preview tool, but code is required to trigger the animation in an app.	
SCROLLING	Scrolling views are a way to scroll overflow content into view. Scrolling views may contain static or variably-sized content. Scrolling is a sub-type of container.	CYIScrollingView
Direction:	Scrolling views can move vertically, horizontal, both, or you can set the view to not scroll at all.	horizontal-scroll:true; vertical-scroll:false
Overpull:	Specify how much a scrolling view can extend past its bounds via layer settings in the Properties Panel.	horizontal-overpull:100; vertical-overpull:100
IMAGES	Use PNG images for project work. Images should be saved in the AE/Assets/drawable/default folder.	
NPatch	Npatch images are scalable graphics that retain their integrity when resized. Registration points determine scaling behavior. Format: "Border.9.png"	
Dynamic Images	Requirements: The Dynamic Image View must contain a layer named 'ImageNode' . This layer will be replaced by the loaded (dynamic) image. Interactive: Images can receive touch input. To disable interactivity, enable the 'Interactive' box within the layer properties within the Properties Panel. Masks: Masks can be applied to solids and images in AE. Masking compositions is not supported. Animated masks are not supported. If you want a masking effect, try adding clipping to the parent composition.	CYIImageView interactive:off
Rounded Corners	You can apply rounded corners to compositions via the Decorated View Container sub-type in the Properties Panel.	CYIDecoratedView
Overflow:	An option to set clipping for the composition to match the corner path.	overflow:hidden
Color:	By default the background is transparent. Set a hex color to apply a background to the container.	background-color:FFFFFF
Border:	Applies a stroke of the specified width to the container.	border-thickness:4
Border Color:	Sets the color of the stroke applied to the border.	border-color:E3E1D8
Radius:	Sets the rounded corner radius per corner.	corner-radius-top-left:4
Notes:	Rounded corners may impact device performance. The performance hit is proportional to how big the rounded corners are.	
Special FX	Apply a gaussian blur to an adjustment layer in a composition to blur the image behind. Tint: Apply a tint effect to an adjustment layer in a composition to tint the image behind. Note: Effects such as blur can greatly impact device performance and may not be supported by all types of hardware (Roku)	
ACTIVITY INDICATORS	Activity indicators (loaders) are generally looping animations played while information/pages/scenes are being loaded	CYIActivityIndicatorView
Markers:	"Loop" the animation that's played during loading. "In" & "Out" can be animated within, or outside of, the Activity Indicator view.	
Boot Image	The image displayed at the initial launch of an application. Platform specific, the boot image is typically housed in the 'build' folder of a project.	
LAYOUT	Layouts define the alignment, orientation, spacing, height, and width of content. Layouts work in conjunction with 'sizing' anchors.	

Composition vs. Layer	Layout applied to a composition will effect all of it's children. Layout can be applied directly to a child/layer to override it's default properties. Be sure you're applying layout to the right composition/layer by checking the name of the item selected in the Properties Panel.	
Row Layout	Automatically align items horizontally.	CYIRowLayout
Column Layout	Automatically align items vertically.	CYIColumnLayout
Stack Layout	Layer items on top of each other in a stack.	CYIStackLayout
Grid Layout	Arrange items as a grid, filling the container.	CYIGridLayout
Auto Linear Layout	Automatically switch layouts between Row & Column, based on the screen orientation (landscape vs. portrait).	CYIAutoLinearLayout
Scaling Layout	Similar to Stack Layout, but scales its children to fill their containers. There are four Scaling modes: Stretch, Fit, Fill, and None.	CYIScalingLayout
Auto Layout	A layout that assigns margins to children based on their initial position and size.	CYIAutoLayout
Parameters	<p>Gravity: Select the orientation of gravity - center, top, bottom, left, right, or any combination thereof. Top-Left is default. Gravity can be set for the entire layout, as well as for individual layers.</p> <p>Fit Content: You can select to have a layout 'fit the size of content' for width and/or height. Especially useful for variably-sized content. Enable the Width/Height box in the Layout properties (ensure the Composition tab is selected in the Properties Panel).</p> <p>Fill Parent: Resize the content of a layer to match the width/height of a layout container (ensure the Layer tab is selected in the Properties Panel).</p> <p>Spacing: Amount of space in pixels between layout items. 10 pixels is default.</p> <p>Padding: Amount of space around the layout. You can set margins for: left, right, top, bottom. Margins can be positive or negative numbers.</p> <p>Background: An option to have a layer fill the entire composition without affecting other elements in the layout.</p> <p>Layoutable: An option to have layout ignore the selected layer.</p> <p>Maintain AR: An option to maintain the aspect ratio of an element within a layout (may require an additional precomposition).</p>	<p>gravity:center</p> <p>width:fit-content; height:fit-content</p> <p>width:fill-parent; height:fill-parent</p> <p>spacing:15</p> <p>padding-top:20</p> <p>background:true;</p> <p>layoutable:false;</p> <p>maintain-aspect-ratio:true;</p>

RESPONSIVE ANCHORS	When items are parented to responsive anchors, they inherit scaling and positioning behaviors.	
Scaling	Scale 1:1 to match the device's screen and aspect ratio. Can be defined as width/height scaling (default behavior).	
Non-Scaling	Preserve the original size of the UI component. Great for preventing stretch/squashing for images/items that need to preserve their aspect ratio.	Currently not supported by React-Native
Proportional	Scale in size & maintain aspect ratio. Great for lists and background images. Defined by difference in height, width, or average between the 2 dimensions.	
Sizing	Sizing anchors are intended to be used with the 'CYILayout' system. The anchor is applied to the layout component to inherit differences in screen size.	
	Direction:	Sets the origin/anchor point of the scaling anchor. Choose from: left, top, center, right, bottom (in any combination).
	Warning:	Anchor properties are determined by the dimensions of the parent composition. If the composition is resized, the anchors must be recreated.

PREVIEW TOOL	The Preview Tool is an interactive way to simulate application content, screens, and features.	
Preview Current Composition	Go to Composition > You.i: Preview Current Composition (you may want to set up a system shortcut for this task).	
Preview App Log	Check the App Log for more information regarding crashes and debug. Go to Composition > You.i: View Preview App Log.	
Shortcuts	<p>Help: Press 'h' to see a list of help tips, or use the menu navigation. Also displays the You.i Engine Plugin version number (in the footer).</p> <p>Screen: Press 's' to select a device screen to emulate. You can also resize the window to test your layout. 'r' will rotate the screen orientation.</p> <p>Text: Cycle through variable text strings to test the dynamic layout of a page.</p> <p>Animations: Press the number keys to play timelines in order of appearance. 'In' animations play by default. Press 'I' to play the timeline 'in'; press 'o' for 'out'. While animations are previewable, code may be required to trigger them in an application.</p> <p>Asset Viewer: Press 'a' to see how much space different types of assets are consuming.</p> <p>Scene Tree: Press 'V' to open the scene tree viewer dialog.</p> <p>Outlines: Press 'e' to see outlines for assets. A strong visual aid when working with alignment and layout.</p> <p>Magnets: Press 'm' to display magnets during preview.</p> <p>Reset: Press 'delete' or 'backspace' to reset the preview window. This will also fix the preview window size for non-standard composition resolutions.</p>	

Developer Panel	<p>Access: Triple click in the left-hand corner of the Preview window to access the Developer/Debug panel. The Dev panel has many features, this section outlines common practices.</p> <p>Scene Tree Inspector: View information about the pointed-to node.</p> <p>Assets Viewer: View loaded assets and memory usage</p> <p>Virtual Mouse: Enable a mouse controlled by the arrow keys.</p> <p>Scene Tree Viewer: View the scene tree and bounding boxes.</p> <p>Focus Debugger: Shows information about focused items.</p> <p>Time Dilation: Run the app in slow-motion.</p>	
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CROSS PLATFORM	While it's possible to develop one design for each screen to work across a variety of platforms, best practices often require a unique design to support each device.	
Asset Locator	Designs specific to platforms are segregated into a system of folders within a project file. Common elements are reused wherever possible.	
	handset:	This folder defaults as the asset folder for Handset - typically 9:16 format (1080x1920).
	tablet:	Folder for tablet layouts & components. Tablets are typically 16:9 (1920x1080 - Android) or 4:3 (2048x1536 - iOS).
	tv:	Folder for television layouts. TVs render in a 16:9 (1920x1080) format.
	default:	Cross-platform content should be left outside of folders in the project library. e.g. a button used for handset & tablet.
	other:	Custom compositions can be created for specific cases. e.g. Roku, PS3, Brand1, Brand2, .etc

PROTOTYPING	Leverage the Preview Tool within After Effects to build out high-fidelity prototypes without the need for code.	
Connect Events to Animations	To connect a timeline to a button, add the following layer comment to the button: on-click:CompositionName.MarkerName Toggle animations (requires Toggle-Button): on-toggle-on:CompositionName.MarkerName1;on-toggle-off:CompositionName.MarkerName2	
	Notes:	If using the 'on-click' method, the animations must appear in a child composition, not in the Root/Main composition. Otherwise an error may occur - something to the tune of 'Error: Could not locate any node named 'CompositionName'

CONVENTIONS	Markers: (Order of marker names is inconsequential) Interactions will play in reverse if no counterpart is found. e.g. Press is required, Release is not.	
Masking	Masking support is limited. In most cases you can achieve the desired masking effect by applying the clipping:true property to a composition/container.	
AE Effects	Most effects aren't supported, with the exception of Gaussian Blur and Tint.	
Track Mattes	Unsupported	
Shape Layers	Unsupported	
Acceptable Import Filetypes	.png (preferred), .jpg	
3D layers	3D layers are supported, however pixels will be drawn in their layer order, not by z-depth.	
Radio Buttons	A collection of CYIToggleButtons where only one button can be 'active' at any given time.	
Visibility	Visibility can be controlled by: opacity, visibility track, and visibility toggle (layers with the visibility toggled off will not be exported)	