

# CODEFLOW

an advanced IDE for Lua

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Jean-Luc Jumpertz @JLJump  
founder celeddev @celeddev

# CodeFlow

Interactive Development of iOS / OS X Apps in Lua



Instant feedback

on real devices

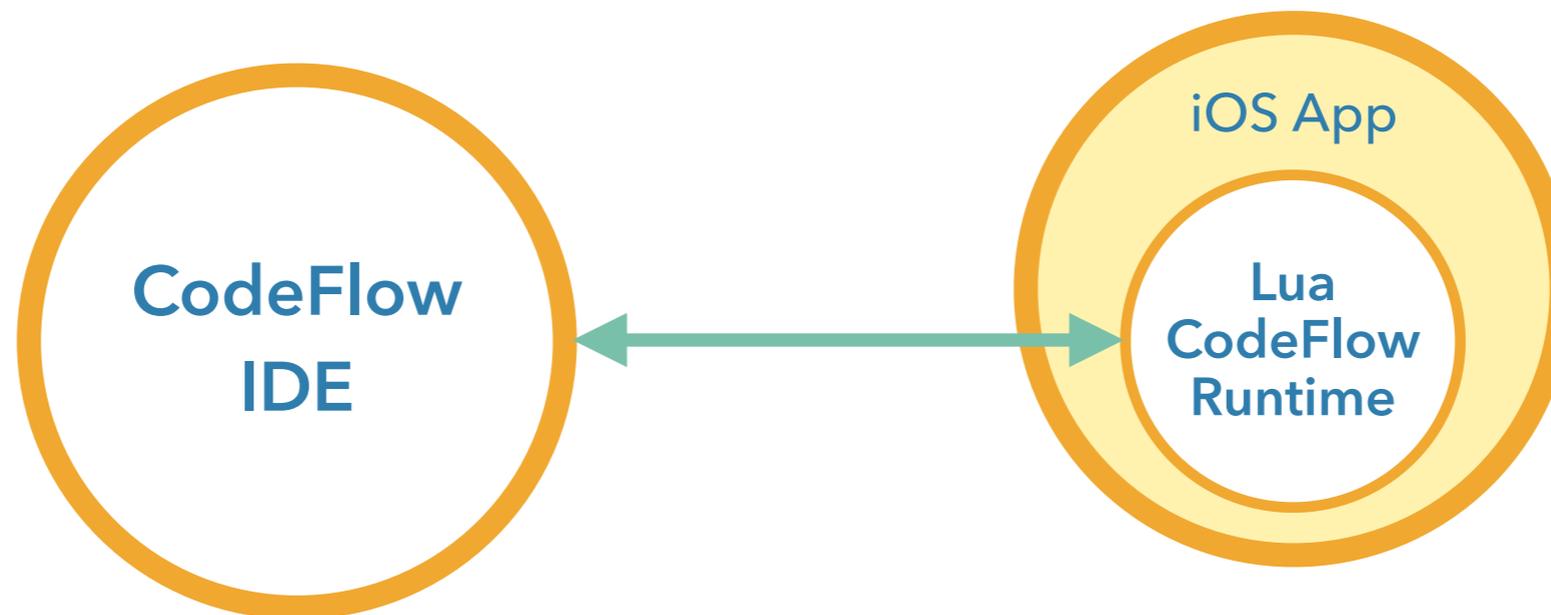
full SDK scope

powerful dev tools

- ⇒ Faster development cycle
- ⇒ Easier experimentation, higher creativity
- ⇒ Better App UX

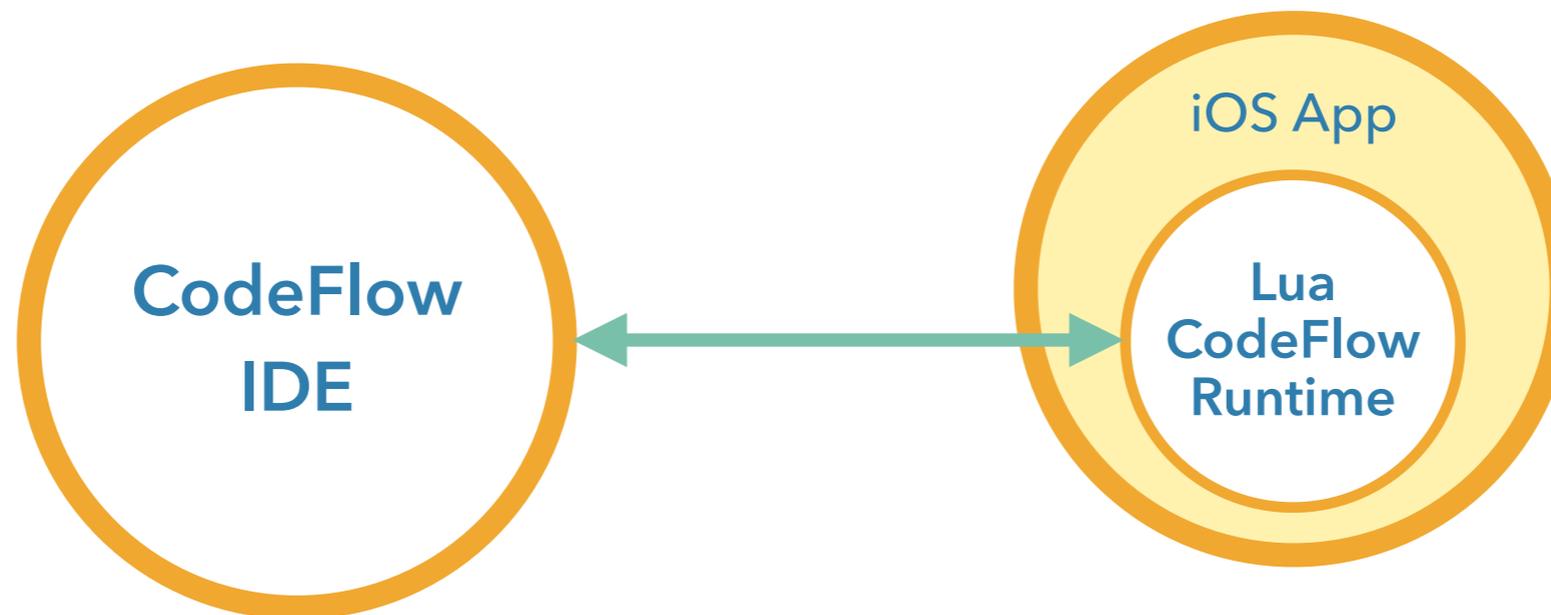
# CodeFlow

Interactive Development of iOS / OS X Apps in Lua



# CodeFlow

## Interactive Development of iOS / OS X Apps in Lua



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## Interactive Development of iOS / OS X Apps in Lua

The screenshot displays the CodeFlow IDE interface for developing an iOS application. The main window shows the source code for a file named `ViewController.lua`. The code is written in Lua and includes logic for handling gesture recognizer events. Line 156 is highlighted, showing the assignment of an attachment behavior to an `imageView`.

```
145 if gestureRecognizer.state == gestureState.Began then
146     local panPointInView = gestureRecognizer.locationInView(imageView)
147     local panOffset = { horizontal = panPointInView.x - Cg.CGRectGetMidX(imageView.bounds),
148                       vertical = panPointInView.y - Cg.CGRectGetMidY(imageView.bounds) }
149
150     if imageView.attachmentBehavior then
151         -- remove the existing attachment behavior
152         self.dynamicAnimator.removeBehavior(imageView.attachmentBehavior)
153         imageView.attachmentBehavior = nil
154     end
155
156     imageView.attachmentBehavior = objc.UIAttachmentBehavior:newWithItem_offsetFromCenter_attachedToA
157                               (imageView, panOffset, panPoint)
158     self.dynamicAnimator.addBehavior(imageView.attachmentBehavior)
159
160
161 elseif gestureRecognizer.state == gestureState.Changed then
162     imageView.attachmentBehavior.anchorPoint = panPoint
163 else
164     self:fixAttachment(imageView)
165 end
166 end
```

The interface also features a **SOURCE FILES** sidebar on the left, listing files like `ViewController`, `PhotoView`, and several `bee-1` through `bee-6` assets. Below this is the **EXTERNAL LIBS** section, showing the `iOS 9 SDK` and the `DynamicPhotos` project.

At the bottom, the **Variables Inspector** shows the current state of variables for the `ViewController:panImageView` function. The `panPoint` variable is expanded, showing its `x` and `y` coordinates as `716` and `144` respectively. The **Lua Console** at the bottom right shows the output of a `print` statement: `print (imageView.attachmentBehavior.anchorPoint)`.

# Lua code editor

- Code editor common features: code coloring, indentation, completion...
- **Standard editors** manage code purely as text

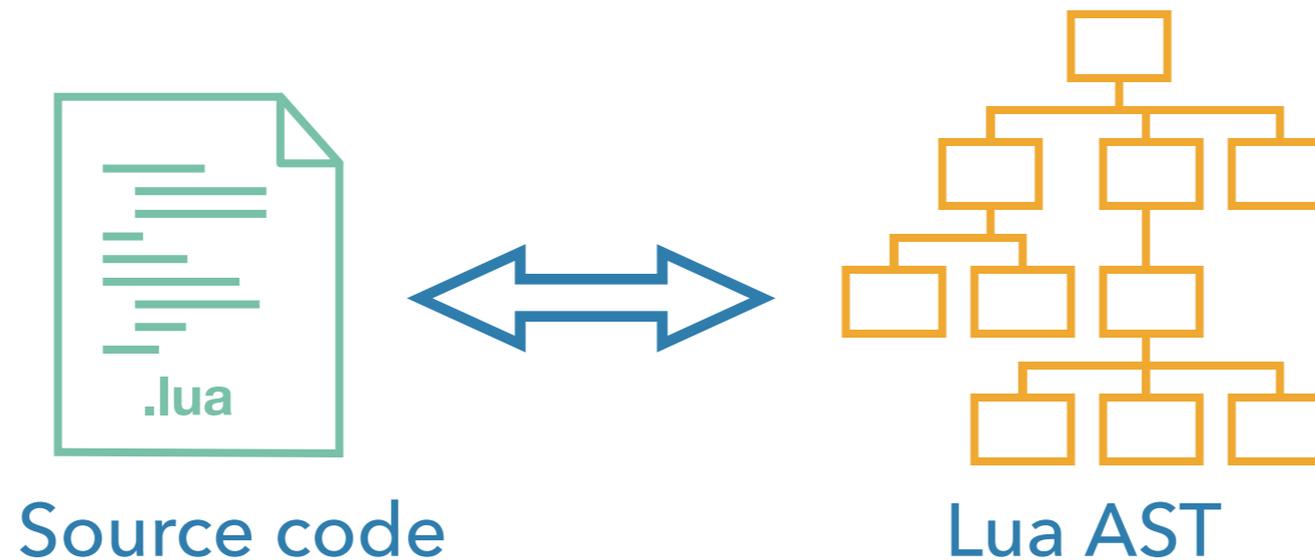


xml, json

- 1 file / language
- regex, list of keywords...

- ➔ The editor has no real knowledge of the program structure!
- ➔ Limited features set

# Syntax-driven Lua code editor



- The Lua Abstract Syntax Tree represents the syntax of a given Lua source file
  - Each AST node stores the associated char range in the source file
  - The AST must be kept in sync with the source code (asynchronously)
- ➔ All syntax-related actions in the editor use the corresponding AST
- ➔ Much more powerful and accurate than text-based processing

# Syntax-driven Lua code editor

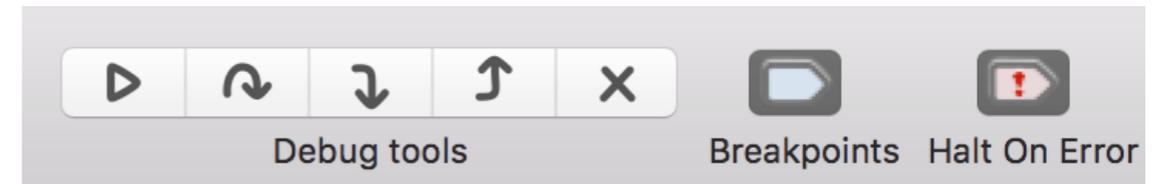
- Demo
  - ➔ An advanced syntax-aware Lua editor can be a true help for the developer!
- Under the hood: building the AST
  - Many possible strategies
  - In CodeFlow, Lua AST generation is based on the standard Lua parser (`llex.c`, `lparser.c`)
    - ➔ very good performance
    - ➔ same language understanding as the Lua runtime
  - Source available at [bitbucket.org/jean\\_luc/luasyntaxer](https://bitbucket.org/jean_luc/luasyntaxer)

# Lua debugger

- For many developers, prints in the console is still the primary debug tool. 😞
- **A good debugger makes bug fixing much easier!**
- The ideal debugger should be...
  - ➔ Easy to use and well-integrated with the rest of the IDE
  - ➔ Fast, low overhead
  - ➔ Transparent to use  
i.e not forcing you to change your program code to make it debug-compliant

# Debugger features

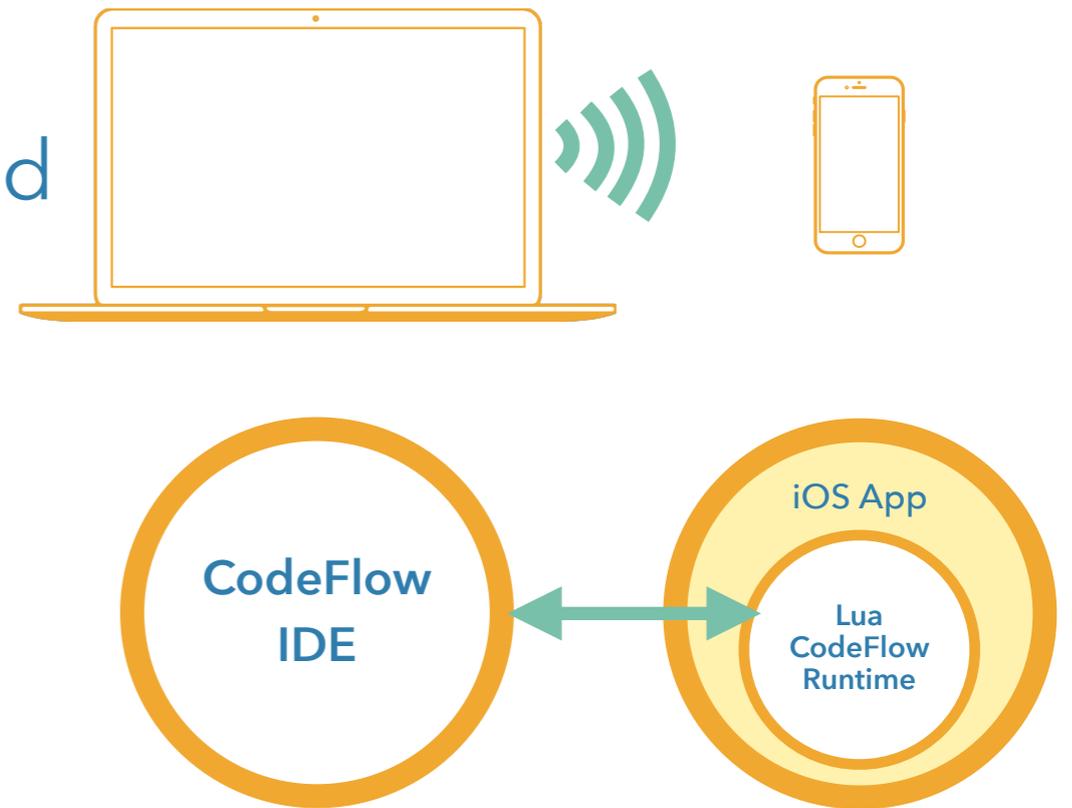
- step-by-step execution and breakpoints
- runtime errors analysis (+ make them recoverable)
- variable inspector / editor
- stack-context-aware command console
- multi-thread debugging



Variables Inspector	
Thread 2	
TextView:drawRect	
self	TextView <0x610000047138>
rect	CGRect <0x610000081b60>
NSColor	Class NSColor <0x7fff7d84f040>
CgContext	<0x61800006cd80>
CGPoint	<0x608000044b28>
startingAngle	123 -1.570796326794897
glyphsSpacingFactor	123 1.3
CgAffineTransform	<0x610000073d80>
NSRange	<0x608000044a38>
bounds	CGRect <0x610000084cc0>
center	<0x610000077480>
x	123 345.5
y	123 262
radius	123 262
lineRect	CGRect <0x610000085350>
origin	CGPoint <0x610000085350>
size	CGSize <0x610000085360>
width	123 501.1321015625
height	123 37.62405395507812

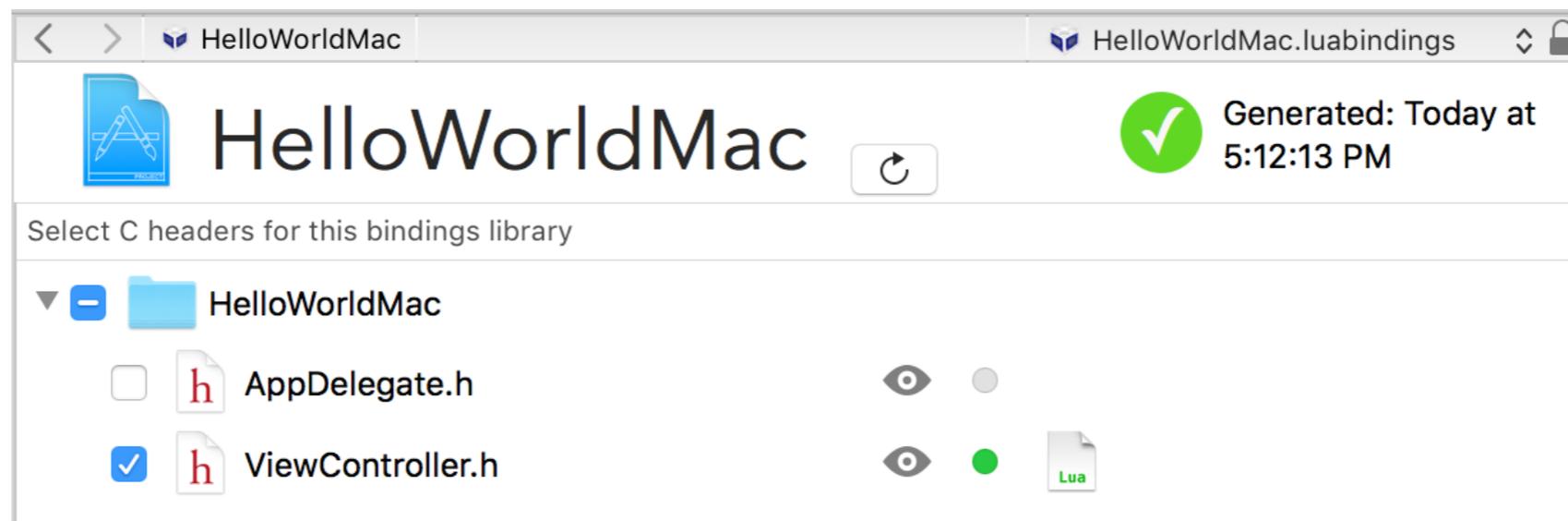
# Lua Modules in CodeFlow

- Managing modules is a classic role of an IDE
- A logical choice for Lua modules interaction: use the **require** function
- In CodeFlow, Lua modules are in the IDE space; but **require** is called from the app on the device
  - ➔ Custom **require** function in the CodeFlow Runtime
- Behavior changes
  - Enable multiple return values
  - Reload a module if **syntactically changed** in the IDE



# Automatic Bindings generation

- In the target apps, Lua code interacts heavily with C / ObjC APIs
- May needs to call the System SDK, but also custom APIs defined by the target app
- CodeFlow automatically generates *project* bindings for custom APIs defined in the app's Xcode project.



- Integration in the IDE
  - ➔ auto-completion of *project* bindings APIs in the editor
  - ➔ inspection of *project* bindings types in the debugger

# As a conclusion

- The real value of an IDE comes from integration of its components
- A dynamic language like Lua comes with specific challenges for the developer, that a dedicated IDE can help to address.

Want to try? Download CodeFlow at [celedev.com/en/support](http://celedev.com/en/support)

# Questions?

[www.celedev.com](http://www.celedev.com)  
[github.com/celedev](https://github.com/celedev)  
[bitbucket.org/jean\\_luc/luasyntaxer](https://bitbucket.org/jean_luc/luasyntaxer)

Jean-Luc Jumpertz  
[contact@celedev.com](mailto:contact@celedev.com)  
[@JLJump](https://twitter.com/JLJump)