CMSC436: Programming Handheld Systems
Alarms
Today’s Topics

Alarms
AlarmManager APIs
Alarm Types
Example Application
Alarms

Mechanism for sending Intents at some point in the future

Allows one application to make code execute, even when that application is no longer running
Alarms

Once registered, Alarms remain active even if the device is asleep
Can configure Alarms to wake a sleeping device
Alarms are canceled on device shutdown/restart
Alarm Examples

MMS - Retry Scheduler
Settings - Bluetooth Discoverable timeout
Phone - User Info Cache
AlarmManager

You create and manage Alarms by interacting with the AlarmManager

Get a reference to the AlarmManager by calling the Context class’

getSystemService(Context.ALARM_SERVICE)
Creating Alarms

// One-shot Alarm with inexact timing. If there is already an alarm
// scheduled for the same IntentSender, that previous alarm will first
// be canceled

void set(int type, long triggerAtTime, PendingIntent operation)
Creating Alarms

// One-shot Alarm with exact timing

void setExact (int type, long triggerAtMillis, PendingIntent operation)
Creating Alarms

// Repeating alarm with inexact timing

void setRepeating (int type, long triggerAtMillis,
                   long intervalMillis, PendingIntent operation)
Alarm Types

Two degrees of configurability

How to interpret time

What to do if the device is sleeping when the Alarm fires
Interpreting Time

Realtime - relative to system clock
Elapsed - relative to time since last boot up
Sleeping Devices

When Alarm fires and device is asleep can either

Wake up device now & deliver Intent

Wait to deliver Intent until device wakes up
Alarm Type Constants

RTC_WAKEUP
RTC
ELAPSED_REALTIME
ELAPSED_REALTIME_WAKEUP
PendingIntent

A description of an Intent and a target action to perform with it

Can be handed to other applications so that they can perform actions on your behalf at a later time

Key concern - proxy applications shouldn’t perform operations that originating application can’t
PendingIntent

PendingIntent getActivity(Context context, int requestCode,
                          Intent intent, int flags, Bundle options)

PendingIntent getBroadcast(Context context, int requestCode,
                           Intent intent, int flags)

PendingIntent getService(Context context, int requestCode, Intent
                          intent, int flags)
public class AlarmCreateActivity extends Activity {

    public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.main);

        // Get the AlarmManager Service
        mAlarmManager = (AlarmManager) getSystemService(ALARM_SERVICE);

        // Create an Intent to broadcast to the AlarmNotificationReceiver
        Intent mNotificationReceiverIntent = new Intent(AlarmCreateActivity.this,
                                                        AlarmNotificationReceiver.class);

        // Create an PendingIntent that holds the NotificationReceiverIntent
        mNotificationReceiverPendingIntent = PendingIntent.getBroadcast(AlarmCreateActivity.this, 0, mNotificationReceiverIntent, 0);
    }
}
// Create an Intent to broadcast to the AlarmLoggerReceiver
Intent mLoggerReceiverIntent = new Intent(AlarmCreateActivity.this, AlarmLoggerReceiver.class);

// Create PendingIntent that holds the mLoggerReceiverPendingIntent
mLoggerReceiverPendingIntent = PendingIntent.getBroadcast(AlarmCreateActivity.this, 0, mLoggerReceiverIntent, 0);
// Set single Alarms
public void onClickButton(View v) {

    // Set first alarm to fire immediately
    mAlarmManager.set(AlarmManager.RTC_WAKEUP,
            System.currentTimeMillis(),
            mNotificationReceiverPendingIntent);

    // Set single alarm to fire shortly after previous alarm
    mAlarmManager.set(AlarmManager.RTC_WAKEUP,
            System.currentTimeMillis() + JITTER,
            mLoggerReceiverPendingIntent);

    // Show Toast message
    Toast.makeText(getApplicationContext(), "Single Alarm Set",
            Toast.LENGTH_LONG).show();
}
public class AlarmLoggerReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver {

    public void onReceive(Context context, Intent intent) {

        // Log receipt of the Intent with timestamp
        Log.i(TAG, context.getString(R.string.logging_at_string) +
              DateFormat.getDateTimeInstance().format(new Date()));
    }
}
public class AlarmNotificationReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver {

    ...

    public void onReceive(Context context, Intent intent) {
        mContext = context;
        // Create and Send Notification
        ...

        // Log occurrence of notify() call
        Log.i(TAG, mContext.getString(R.string.sending_not_string)
                + DateFormat.getDateTimeInstance().format(new Date()));
    }
}
// Set repeating Alarms
public void onClickRepButton(View v) {
    // Set first repeating Alarm
    mAlarmManager.setRepeating(AlarmManager.ELAPSED_REALTIME,
                                SystemClock.elapsedRealtime(),
                                REPEAT_INTERVAL,
                                mNotificationReceiverPendingIntent);

    // Set repeating alarm to fire shortly after previous alarm
    mAlarmManager.setRepeating(AlarmManager.ELAPSED_REALTIME,
                                SystemClock.elapsedRealtime() + JITTER,
                                REPEAT_INTERVAL,
                                mLoggerReceiverPendingIntent);

    // Show Toast message
    Toast.makeText(getApplicationContext(), "Repeating Alarm Set",
                    Toast.LENGTH_LONG).show();
}
// Cancel existing Alarms
public void onClickCancelRepButton(View v) {

    // Cancel all alarms using mNotificationReceiverPendingIntent
    mAlarmManager.cancel(mNotificationReceiverPendingIntent);

    // Cancel all alarms using mLoggerReceiverPendingIntent
    mAlarmManager.cancel(mLoggerReceiverPendingIntent);

    // Show Toast message
    Toast.makeText(getApplicationContext(),
                    "Repeating Alarms Cancelled", Toast.LENGTH_LONG).show();
}
Next Time

Networking
Example Applications

AlarmCreate