Distributed Systems – Assignment 1 (Review)

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Submission details revisited

- Problems with the submission website!!!
  - Tested on HTTP Server, HTTPS Server had different configuration!
  - `getfile` script problems

... and since we had a lot of questions regarding this, too ...

- Reports written and submitted individually
  - **Reason:** Show understanding of Android

- Code written in groups and submitted individually
  - Caveat: Package name different (no marks deducted if not...)

IF you should have submitted the same report for the whole group, contact me (**kleiminger@inf.ethz.ch**) BEFORE 14:00 TODAY.
Questions

- How to find out if a service is running?
  - Not easy... 😞 Best hack: Use static field if service is local

- How to access the intent from the service?
  - Override `onStartCommand(Intent intent, int flags, int startId)` in service

- Where to create notifications?
  - Create them where they are triggered (i.e., service)

- How to set notification flags?
  - `notification.flags |= Notification.FLAG_SHOW_LIGHTS;`

- Rename packages in Eclipse
  - Search and replace + move classes in the folder hierarchy
AntiTheft Alarm: Problems / Questions

- Prevent headphones muting the alarm?
  - Easy… 😊 Set MediaPlayer StreamType to Alarm

- Big submission files – 8MB for an alarm app?

- Interesting practical questions:
  - What is a ‘good’ silent alarm?
    - Publishing GPS data to the web
    - Texting not possible without user-interaction
  - No GPS indoors… But WiFi normally is… What to do?
    - Buffer location data in the background
  - Audible alarm and silent notification at the same time?
    - Pointless? User will remove the battery…
Nice solutions (incomplete)

- Euclidian distance in the detection algorithm
- Google Maps visualisation of phone location
The Report

Have not been able to read through everything but so far….

- **Very good submissions!**
- **Reports varied in style**
  - Some technical, others more conversational
  - Good motivation for design choices
- **General points**
  - [++] Constructive criticism of the exercise
    - It’s our first time with Android, too
  - [++] (Almost) everybody within page-limit
    - *Difficult*…
  - [++] Very good analysis (problem & solution)
The Report (ctnd.)

- General points continued
  - [+−] Add name and group number to your report next time.
  - [+−] Separate design and implementation
    - Split into sections (we know this is difficult/impossible for 1 page)
  - [+−] No need to write a whole paragraph justifying WHY you chose a checkbox over a button… It’s okay… Really… 😊
  - [−−] Diagrams? State chart for alarm?
Cheers!

I hope you had fun!

I am grateful for any positive and/or negative comments on this exercise.