

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

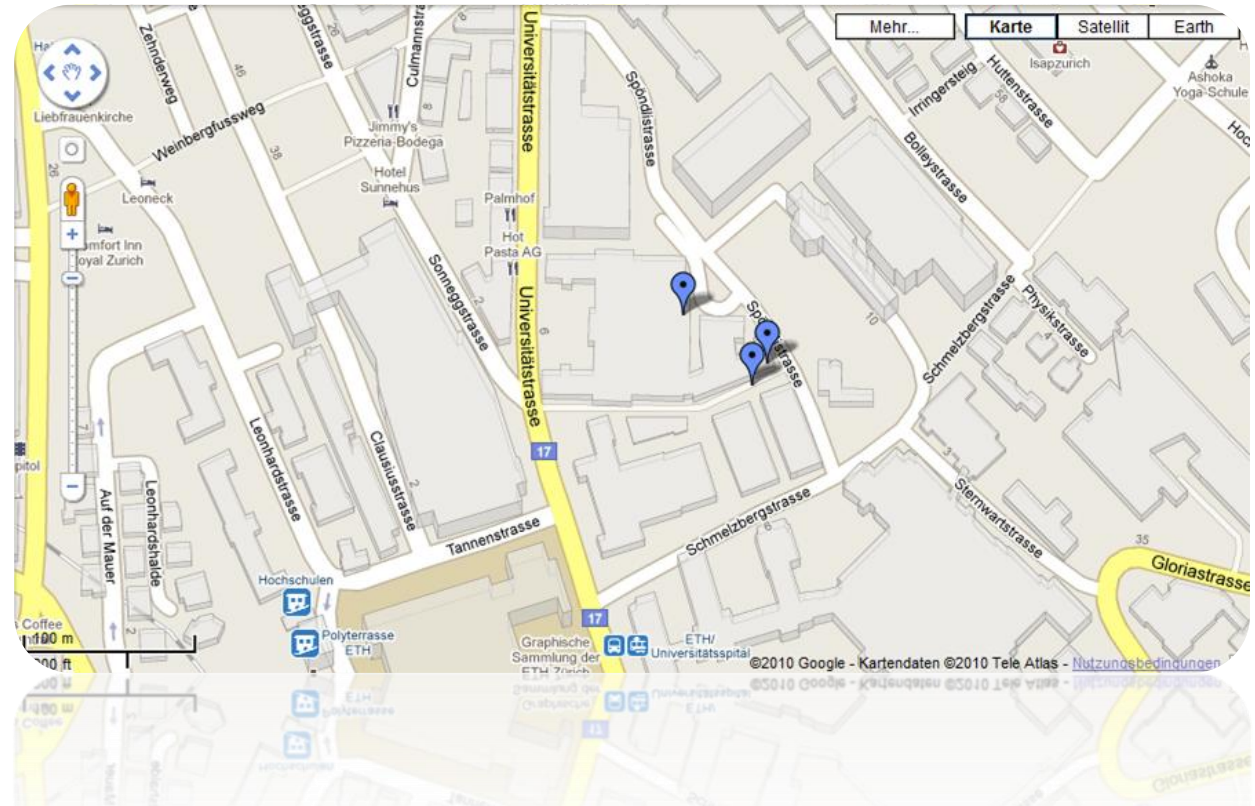
- How to find out if a service is running?
 - Not easy... ☹ Best hack: Use static field if service is local
- How to access the intent from the service?
 - Override onStartCommand(Intent intent, int flags, int startId) in service
- Where to create notifications?
 - Create them where they are triggered (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 hierachy

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.