Android - Camera

- Application to demonstrate the use of camera in android.
- A SurfaceView is created for the camera preview.
- SurfaceHolder. Callback is used to get notifications about the changes in the surface.
 - osurfaceCreated()
 - called immediately after the surface is first created
 - osurfaceChanged()
 - when there are any structural changes to the surface
 - osurfaceDestroyed()
 - called just before the surface is being destroyed
- The CAMERA permissions should be declared in the AndroidManifest.xml file to access the camera device.
- <uses-feature> element is used to declare the features of the camera that will be used by the application.

- An instance of camera is obtained using open ()
- Default Camera. Parameters can be obtained and modified using getParameters() and setParameters()
- setPreviewDisplay() sets the surface required for the camera preview.
 - A fully initialized SurfaceHolder must be passed to this method.
- startPreview() updates the preview surface
- setPreviewDisplay() must be called before calling startPreview()
- Preview should be started before taking a picture

- When image is captured using the button, the takePicture() is called which initiates a series of Callbacks for image capture.
 - A shutter callback occurs close to the moment of image capture. This callback can be used to play shutter sound
 - A raw callback occurs when raw image data is available.
 - A jpeg callback occurs when compressed image is available.
 - Image data that is available after image capture is supplied using the callback interface

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PictureCallback via onPictureTaken()
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- A null can be passed when a callback is not required.
- Since camera is a shared resource it is good practice to release the resource when not using it.

- Below screenshots demonstrate how the camera application is rendered on an emulator.
- Once the button is clicked, you can verify the captured image (which is typically an android icon on an emulator) by browsing to the gallery.





References

- Camera
- Camera Parameters
- SurfaceHolder
- SurfaceView
- SurfaceHolder Callback
- ShutterCallback
- PictureCallback

Exercise

 Change the application such that the picture is taken with the front camera instead of the back camera (assume that the device supports both front and back camera).