Mobile Application Development Coursework Report

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Abstract

The purpose of this coursework was to design, create and code an android application of our own choice.

1 Introduction

I choose to design a type of Panic button. You enter the number and the message you wish to send and it automatically sends the message and brings the number up in a dial screen.
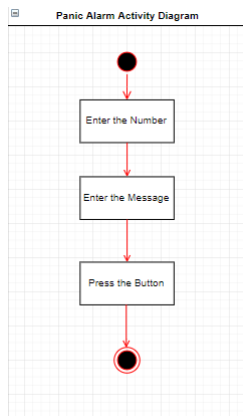
The reason i choose to design such an app was due to personal reasons. My mother had a few falls so we decided to buy her a phone which had a panic button on the back of it; Unfortunately these phones were specialized and it took a little while for the phone to be delivered.

My reasoning to create something like this was the ability to have it on any phone instead of having to buy a specialized phone.
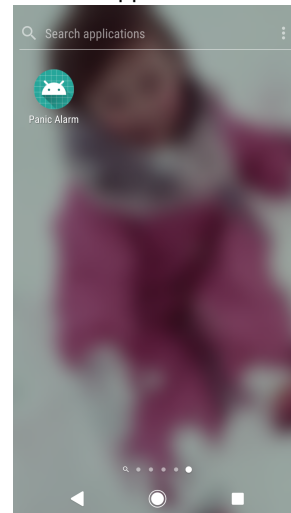
2 Software Design

This is an activity diagram of the application which was handed in. It is pretty straight forward.

The user launches the application from the home screen which is titled "Panic Button" The user then enters the desired phone number to send the message too. The user then enters the message which s/he would like to send to the defined number. The user then presses the big red panic button and the application sends the defined message to the defined number.

3 Implementation

Below are some screen shots of the application. One is of the application as it's viewed in your home screen.

This is a screen shot of the application without any information entered onto it. The Panic Button is what you press when you want to send the message and call the number entered and the message entered into the appropriate boxes.

Below is a screen shot of the application with all the information entered, all that's left is to press the button and contact the person entered into the application.

4 Critical Evaluation

In this section i am evaluating the Application i designed to my idea's of what i wanted the application to be.

4.1 Comparison

If i was to compare what my app does to the idea of what i wanted it to do i would say that it pales in comparison to my idea's. If i continued to work on the application and continue to develop and fine tune it i believe it would be an app worth buying on the store and it would possibly help people with their daily lives.

I believe what i have designed and submitted is a very early alpha. It's not what i wanted it to do at the point it's at but with time i believe it could become what i have detailed in the introduction.

4.2 Feedback

I asked various people (Friends and Family) on what i should do, i was deliberating between a Panic alarm, Automated Receptionist and a Task manager.

Most people said i should do the panic alarm as it has various uses, Medical, Safety. One person even suggested linking it up if you lose your pet to various different veterinary locations.

I feel that it had the bigger scope for things and the most usefulness in terms of helping people out in their life's.

4.3 Improvements

The application i have designed is at bare bones. The finished product for the coursework is far from what i in visioned the application would be and what it could do.

A couple of improvements would be to make the application persistent. Add in a settings menu so the person didn't have to type in there message and number each time launched the application.

I would then purpose the application for different sections. Medical, I.E when a diabetic feels a hypo coming on.

Enable the application to send the location of the person as well as a time stamp of when the person clicked the button.

Enable the application to phone the person straight away instead of going to the dial screen.

Add a settings bar so the only thing on the home screen is the button itself.

5 Personal Evaluation

In this section i will look at what i have learned while doing the application, what challenges i have overcome and how i feel my performance was given the finished application.

5.1 What I've Learned

Creating an application is not as easy as i once thought it was. There is allot of security issues which are not easy to resolve.

5.2 Challenges

Permissions were an issue to begin with, I wasn't able to make it so the application automatically phoned the users input number.

My daughter also decided it would be a fun idea to drown daddy's laptop with Juice three days before the deadline. As i never backed up my previous work i had to start from scratch and design and code the application all over again.

5.3 Performance

My performance in this coursework was not the best which has left me feeling a little disappointed in myself. I should have backed up my previous work and ensured that there was a way to recover my work, especially with a toddler running around.