Android Distribution Guide – Beta Distribution

Useful Links

Xamarin Publishing Guide -
https://developer.xamarin.com/guides/android/deployment,_testing,_and_metrics/publishing_an_application/

Google Developers Guide - https://developer.android.com/distribute/best-practices/launch/index.html

1.0 Packaging and Signing

1.1 Rebuild and Archive - Refer to Part 1 of the Xamarin Publishing guide

In the Solution Explorer window, select DiabetesApp.Android. Open Android Manifest.

Project -> DiabetesApp.Android Properties

Name the app and package. In this version the package name defaults to com.xamarin.diabetesapp.android.

Check that the app icon is correctly set and version the app (optionally give the version a name as well).

In the Android Options panel select Release from the Configuration drop down bar and select SDK Assemblies Only from the Linking drop down bar. In this version of the app attempting to Rebuild with Shared Runtime enabled threw an error so disable the option. Save.

Rebuild the solution and when complete Archive.

Once archiving has complete, select Distribute to sign and publish.

1.2 Signing - Refer to Part 2 of the Xamarin Publishing guide

This version of the app has been distributed as a beta on the Google Play store but the options exist for ad hoc distribution.

Select Google Play on the Distribution Channel screen and create a new certificate by selecting the green + symbol. Give the certificate an Alias, password, and fill in the personal/organization details.

Save the signed apk inputting the certificate password.

2.0 Publish the App

2.1 Google Play – Create Application

Sign in to the Google Play Console with your Google Developer account.

Create a new application and give the app a name. Select English en-AU in the language options.

Select the App Releases tab and select a release method. In the current version of the app we chose Beta in order to easily restrict the availability of the app to the studies users.

Create Release and upload the signed APK. Name the release and add any release notes required.

2.2 Store Listing

Select the Store Listing tab. Edit the title, short description, and full description as necessary.

Add up to 8 app screenshots, a 512 x 512 version of the app icon, and a 1024w x 500h graphic.

Complete the Categorization segment and the content rating questionnaire (content rating requires the apk to have already been uploaded).

Select Not submitting a privacy policy URL at this time.

2.3 Pricing & Distribution

Set the application pricing to Free, limit the app availability to Australia. Answer the rest of the questions as required for your version of the app.

Tick the 3 options in the Consent segment (Marketing opt-out, Content guidelines, and US export laws) and save.

Navigate back to the App Release and deploy the app.

3.0 Manage Beta

After the beta has been successfully deployed an opt-in URL will become available.

Set the testing method to Closed Beta Testing and create a list of Users.

Any testers that the opt-in link is emailed to are required to have their gmail address in the Users list or they will be unable to download the app.

Users following the link will have to accept an invitation to become a tester and be redirected to the app on the Google Play store. Users should be instructed to use their phone to follow the opt-in link or, if using a desktop/laptop, add the app to their wishlist to download the app to their phone later.