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# 1 Prologue

As the installation and use of XLabs is not self-explaining and there is no clear documentation available, I have wrote this document (parallel to implement some functions from XLabs) in the hope, this may help some others like me ©

Unfortunately, (at the time, I wrote this document) there are only small portions of information's available. On the XLabs-page there only are information's to the "old" Forms.Labs (new: **XLabs**) implementation available (what can be misleading additionally).

I think further, that much of the interested users are **not** hard-core-developers, that have maximum experience with Xamarin and can follow the "snipped-description's". I think that much of the developers simply want to enhance standard-XF with functions of XLabs and can be overwhelmed by the hurdles to install and use it, **what is very pity for the awesome work in this extension**.

As I don't use very much from XLabs, this is **not** a full description to XLabs, but you should be able to take the first hurdles (install and start) with it...

I work with VS (2013 - Update2) and my app is based on the template "Blank App (Xamarin.Forms **Shared**).

So... the documentation is optimal for **VS-developers** that works with a **shared-project** (if you use another project-type, you may have to implement it differently).

# My actual environment (when I have wrote this document):

VS2013 Update 2 / Xamarin-Forms 1.4.1-Pre-1, XLabs 2.0.5546.3567

This document was written at March 17, 2015. So the information's may be old, if you read it ©.

My native language is German I hope you understand this document nevertheless and... if you find some "English-bug's" (or others), you can keep it for free... ☺ ☺

Finally, I hope this document helps you and... thanks for reading it...



## 2 Introduction

XLabs is an add-on to Xamarin.Forms. The target is to enhance missing functions in Xamarin-Forms. XLabs is free and powered thru some community-members, which all works for free.

## So... I first want to thanks here the XLabs-team for their awesome work!

In XLabs, there are some controls and some services included.

My personal intent to use XLabs, was:

### • The PopUp-Control:

- In my app, I have heavy search-pages in a ScrollView.
- Some search-items have to be selected over ListViews (e.g. city/zip-code with more then 4'000 items)
- As ListView's can't be served from a ScrollView in Android since a few XF-Versions ago (and it seems generally should not be used directly in a ScrollView), I had to find a way to change my whole logic to my search-pages).
- As I don't want to call separate pages for every ListView, I have searched another solution and found it in the **PopUp-Control** of XLabs.
- ➤ With the PopUp-Control, I was able to change my code, so that I now can use my ListViews from a ScrollView without problems.
- As there is not description to the PopUp-Control is available yet on the XLabs-Page, I have posted another .pdf with a description, especially to the PopUp-Control.
- You can find it here: <a href="https://forums.xamarin.com/discussion/33587/how-to-use-a-listview-in-a-scrollview-with-xlabs-popup-control">https://forums.xamarin.com/discussion/33587/how-to-use-a-listview-in-a-scrollview-with-xlabs-popup-control</a>

#### Some of the included services:

- Device (device information's, access to media-files and camera)
- Maybe Geolocation-Service

Of course, you may have other preferences - you can check-out the available controls / services and the latest information's over the links below.

#### **XLabs-Links:**

Wiki: <a href="https://github.com/XLabs/Xamarin-Forms-Labs/wiki">https://github.com/XLabs/Xamarin-Forms-Labs/wiki</a>
 GitHub: <a href="https://github.com/XLabs/Xamarin-Forms-Labs">https://github.com/XLabs/Xamarin-Forms-Labs</a>

## Important notes:

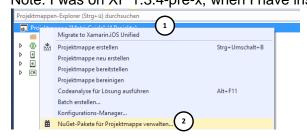
- This documentation is based on XLabs 2.x and XF 1.4.1 with unified iOS.
- If you don't have migrated to unified API, I suggest you to do it first.
- I you already have migrated to unified, I recommends you, to control the references of your iOS-Project (they should be on: \lib\Xamarin.iOS10\ (not on \lib\MonoTouch10)
- I have lost full two days to sort the problems out...
- See also chapter "Important notes".

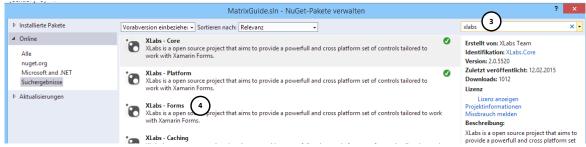


# 3 Add XLabs to project (VS2013 - Update 2)

### 3.1 Initial installation

My XF-project is based on the template "Blank App (Xamarin.Forms Shared)". Note: I was on XF 1.3.4-pre-x, when I have installed XLabs the first time.





- Select your root-project in the solution-manager (1) and call the NuGet-Manager (2)
- Type "XLabs" in the search-bar (3) and select "Xlabs Forms" (4) to install
  - Note: All depending packages then are installed automatically.

Note: There were some problems with dependencies between Xamarin.Forms and XLabs (the dependency of XLabs had to target exactly the installed XF-Version for WP-projects). This problem has been gone since XF-version 1.4 (as Xamarin has changed the WP-Implementation in XF)

- So... if you have installed a XF-Version >= 1.4, your don't should have problems @
   Further possible problems (especially with iOS) see chapter "Important notes"
- And also all references in all sub-projects (iOS, Android and WP) are added automatically (5)

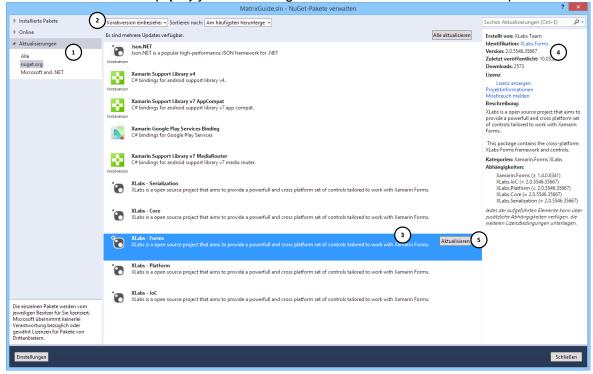


- Done... the XLabs-packages are now ready to use.
- The XLabs-controls (like the PopUp) can now be used by simple add a using on the page: using XLabs.Forms.Controls;



# 3.2 Installing updates automatically

- If you start the NuGet-Manager, you can click the Tab "Aktualisierungen" ("updates") (1) and then can see updates to all already installed packages.
- In the ComboBox on top (2) you can change between stable-versions and alpha/beta-versions:



- In the example, you can see, that there is an update to XLabs available (3).
- If you select an Item (3), you can see the version-information's on the right side (4)
- To update the package, just click on "Aktualisieren" (Update)-Button (5)
- Note: If you select the XLabs Forms package, all XLabs-Packages should be updated automatically, as there are dependencies set
- This is the fastest and easiest way to update...
- But... maybe you have to install a specific-version, that is not showed under updates...?
- In this case, you have to install the package over the NuGet-Console (see next page)

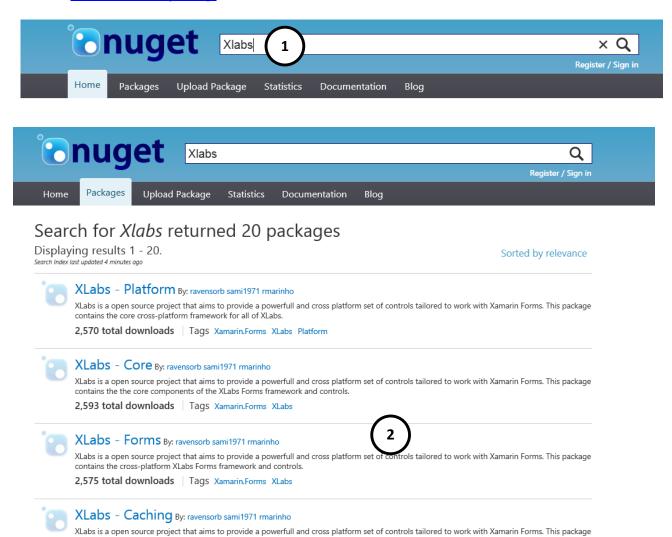


# 3.3 Installing specific versions over the NuGet-Console

Note: This short-description can be used for every NuGet-Package (not only XLabs), e.g also for Xamarin.Forms itself.

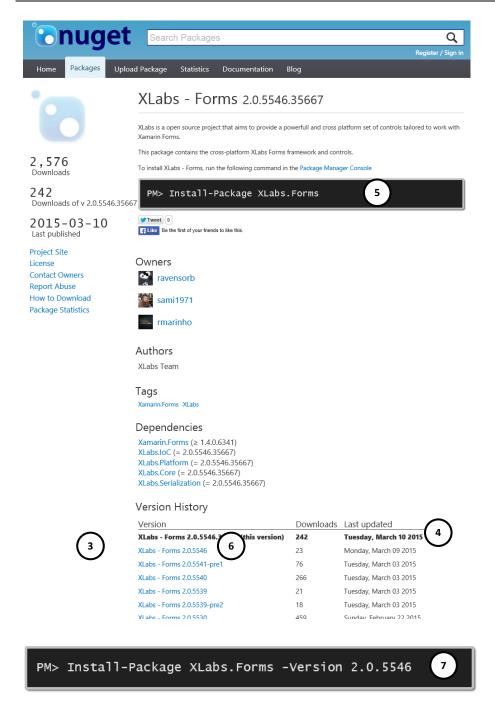
First, you should have a look, which versions are available and how to install them. Therefore you load the NuGet-Portal:

• Link: <a href="https://www.nuget.org/">https://www.nuget.org/</a>



- Type in the name of the package, you want to install (1)
- In the result, click on a package (in the example, the XLabs Forms package (2) was selected)

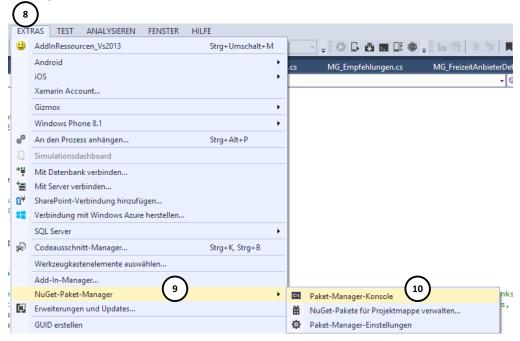




- Now, NuGet shows you all available version's to the package (3)
- In the box on top, you can see the command (5), that has to be used to install the selected package (4) in the NuGet-Console (see next page)
- If you change the selection to another version (6), also the command is changed automatically
   (7)



To install the package, call "Extras (Tools)" (8) - "NuGet-Paket-Manager" (8) - "Paket-Manager-Konsole" (10) from the VS-Menu:



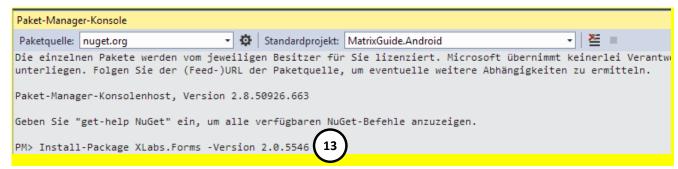
Then, the Paket-Manager-Console ist loaded:

#### Notes:

- You have to select the target-project in the ComboBox (11)
- You have to install the package for every project (in the example for the .Android, the .iOS and the .WinPhone-project)



Now just paste the command from NuGet (see (5)/(7)) to the command prompt (12)



- ...and finally press Enter (13)
- ... done ☺



# 4 Using XLabs

# 4.1 Using a control

If you only want to use some XLabs-Controls (no services):
Just enhance your page (where the control should be used) with the using:

```
using XLabs.Forms.Controls;
```

And start to implement it (e.g.):

```
var oExLabel = new ExtendedLabel();
oExLabel.IsDropShadow = true;
oExLabel....
```



# 4.2 Register a Service

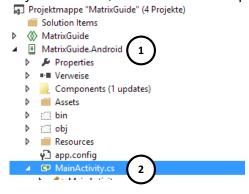
As soon as you want to use a **service**, you have to **register** it first for **every platform**.

As I use the "device-service" the following description is related to the device-service - further, I have added the GeoLocation-Service.

You should be able to add further services in the same way without problems.

#### 4.2.1 Android

In your solution, select the Android-project (1) and open MainActivity.cs (2)



# 4.2.1.1 My MainActivity.cs before adding XLabs

```
using System;
using Android.App;
using Android.Content;
using Android.Runtime;
using Android.Views;
using Android.Widget;
using Android.OS;
using Xamarin.Forms.Platform.Android;
using Android.Content.PM;
namespace MatrixGuide.Droid
{
    [Activity(Label = "MatrixGuide", ConfigurationChanges = ConfigChanges.Orientation
ConfigChanges.ScreenSize)]
    public class MainActivity :
    global::Xamarin.Forms.Platform.Android.FormsApplicationActivity
        protected override void OnCreate(Bundle bundle)
            base.OnCreate(bundle);
            Xamarin.Forms.Forms.Init(this, bundle);
            Xamarin.FormsMaps.Init(this, bundle);
            LoadApplication(new App());
        }
    }
}
```



### 4.2.1.2 Code to add

To register a service, you first have to add a SimpleContainer (included in Xabs). Then you have to register the services, you want to use.

## **Usings:**

```
using XLabs.Ioc; // For the XLabs simple container
using XLabs.Platform.Services.Geolocation; // For the GeoLocation-Service
using XLabs.Platform.Device; // For the Device-Service
```

#### Code.

```
var container = new SimpleContainer(); // Create a SimpleContainer
container.Register<IGeolocator, Geolocator>(); // Register the Geolocator
container.Register<IDevice> (t => AndroidDevice.CurrentDevice); // Register the Device
Resolver.SetResolver(container.GetResolver()); // Resolve it
```

Maybe you want / have to full-qualify the objects, Example for Geolocator: container.Register<IGeolocator, global::XLabs.Platform.Services.Geolocation.Geolocator>();

## 4.2.1.3 My MainActivtiy.cs after adding XLabs

```
using System;
using Android.App;
using Android.Content;
using Android.Runtime;
using Android.Views;
using Android.Widget;
using Android.OS;
using Xamarin.Forms.Platform.Android;
using Android.Content.PM;
// New Xlabs
using XLabs.Ioc; // Using for SimpleContainer
using XLabs.Platform.Services.Geolocation; // Using for Geolocation
using XLabs.Platform.Device; // Using for Display
// End new Xlabs
namespace MatrixGuide.Droid
    [Activity(Label = "MatrixGuide", ConfigurationChanges = ConfigChanges.Orientation |
ConfigChanges.ScreenSize)]
    public class MainActivity :
    global::Xamarin.Forms.Platform.Android.FormsApplicationActivity
        protected override void OnCreate(Bundle bundle)
            base.OnCreate(bundle);
// New Xlabs
            var container = new SimpleContainer();
            container.Register<IDevice> (t => AndroidDevice.CurrentDevice);
            container.Register<IGeolocator, Geolocator>();
            Resolver.SetResolver(container.GetResolver()); // Resolving the services
// End new Xlabs
            Xamarin.Forms.Forms.Init(this, bundle);
            Xamarin.FormsMaps.Init(this, bundle);
            LoadApplication(new App());
        }
    }
}
```



#### 4.2.2 iOS

In your solution, select the iOS-project (1) and open AppDelegate.cs (2)

```
Projektmappe "MatrixGuide" (4 Projekte)

Solution Items

MatrixGuide

MatrixGuide.Android

MatrixGuide.iOS

MatrixGuide

MatrixGuide.iOS

MatrixGuide

MatrixGuide.iOS

Mat
```

# 4.2.2.1 My AppDelegate.cs <u>before</u> adding XLabs

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using Foundation;
using UIKit;
using Xamarin.Forms;
namespace MatrixGuide.iOS
{
    [Foundation.Register("AppDelegate")]
    public partial class AppDelegate :
    global::Xamarin.Forms.Platform.iOS.FormsApplicationDelegate
        // class-level declarations
        UIWindow window;
        //
        public override bool FinishedLaunching(UIApplication app, NSDictionary options)
            Forms.Init();
            Xamarin.FormsMaps.Init();
            LoadApplication(new App());
            return base.FinishedLaunching(app, options);
        }
    }
}
```

## 4.2.2.2 Code to add

To register a service, you first have to add a SimpleContainer (included in Xabs) Then you have to register the services, you want to use

#### **Usings:**

```
using XLabs.Ioc; // Using for SimpleContainer
using XLabs.Platform.Services.Geolocation; // Using for Geolocation
using XLabs.Platform.Device; // Using for Device
```

#### Code:

```
var container = new XLabs.Ioc.SimpleContainer(); // Create SimpleContainer
container.Register<IDevice>(t => AppleDevice.CurrentDevice); // Register Device
container.Register<IGeolocator, Geolocator>(); // Register Geolocator
Resolver.SetResolver(container.GetResolver()); // Resolving the services
```



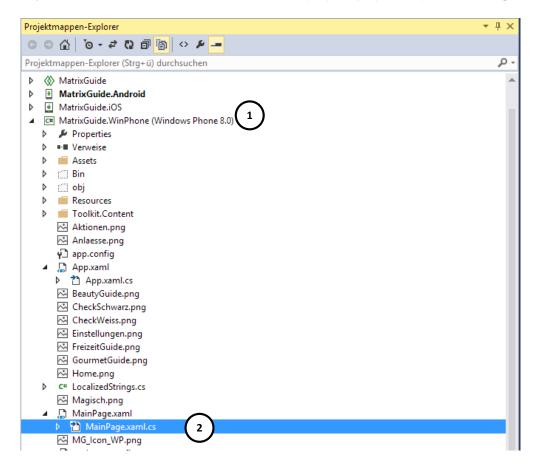
# 4.2.3 My AppDelegate.cs after adding XLabs

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using Foundation;
using UIKit;
using Xamarin.Forms;
// New Xlabs
using XLabs.Ioc; // Using for SimpleContainer
using XLabs.Platform.Services.Geolocation; // Using for Geolocation
using XLabs.Platform.Device; // Using for Device
// End new Xlabs
namespace MatrixGuide.iOS
    [Foundation.Register("AppDelegate")]
    public partial class AppDelegate :
    global::Xamarin.Forms.Platform.iOS.FormsApplicationDelegate
        UIWindow window;
        public override bool FinishedLaunching(UIApplication app, NSDictionary options)
// New Xlabs
            var container = new XLabs.Ioc.SimpleContainer();
            container.Register<IDevice>(t => AppleDevice.CurrentDevice);
            container.Register<IGeolocator, Geolocator>();
            Resolver.SetResolver(container.GetResolver());
// End new Xlabs
            Forms.Init();
            Xamarin.FormsMaps.Init();
            LoadApplication(new App());
            return base.FinishedLaunching(app, options);
        }
    }
}
```



### 4.2.4 Windows-Phone

In your solution, select the Windows-Phone-project (1) and open MainPage.xaml.cs (2)



# 4.2.5 My MainPage.xaml.cs before adding XLabs

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Net;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
using System.Windows.Navigation;
using Microsoft.Phone.Controls;
using Microsoft.Phone.Shell;
using Xamarin.Forms;
namespace MatrixGuide.WinPhone
public partial class MainPage : global::Xamarin.Forms.Platform.WinPhone.FormsApplicationPage
{
        public MainPage()
            InitializeComponent();
            SupportedOrientations = SupportedPageOrientation.PortraitOrLandscape;
            global::Xamarin.Forms.Forms.Init();
            Xamarin.FormsMaps.Init();
            LoadApplication(new MatrixGuide.App());
        }
    }
}
```



### 4.2.6 Code to add

```
Using's:
```

```
using XLabs.Ioc; // Using for SimpleContainer
using XLabs.Platform.Services.Geolocation; // Using for Geolocation
using XLabs.Platform.Device; // Using for Device
```

#### Code:

```
var container = new SimpleContainer();// Create SimpleContainer
container.Register<IDevice>(t => WindowsPhoneDevice.CurrentDevice); // Register Device
container.Register<IGeolocator, Geolocator>(); // Register Geolocator
Resolver.SetResolver(container.GetResolver()); // Resolving the services
```

# 4.2.7 My MainPage.xaml.cs after adding XLabs

```
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Ling;
using System.Net;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
using System.Windows.Navigation;
using Microsoft.Phone.Controls;
using Microsoft.Phone.Shell;
using Xamarin.Forms;
// New Xlabs
using XLabs.Ioc;
using XLabs.Platform.Services.Geolocation;
using XLabs.Platform.Device;
// End new Xlabs
namespace MatrixGuide.WinPhone
    public partial class MainPage :
global::Xamarin.Forms.Platform.WinPhone.FormsApplicationPage
    {
        public MainPage()
            InitializeComponent();
            SupportedOrientations = SupportedPageOrientation.PortraitOrLandscape;
// New Xlabs
            var container = new SimpleContainer();
            container.Register<IDevice>(t => WindowsPhoneDevice.CurrentDevice);
            container.Register<IGeolocator, Geolocator>();
            Resolver.SetResolver(container.GetResolver());
// End new Xlabs
            global::Xamarin.Forms.Forms.Init();
            Xamarin.FormsMaps.Init();
            LoadApplication(new MatrixGuide.App());
        }
    }
}
```



# 4.3 Using the services (example to geolocation- and device-service)

Especially behind the device-service, there is a **huge functionality with various "sub-services"**. In the following, I have documented, the functionality (by inspect the objects). The example-values were queried with an Android-tablet SM-T900, connected via WLAN.

Note: I suggest you, to encapsulate the code in a try catch and check the objects for Null, when you implement it. By my tests, I further have noted some problems (crash) with the debugger (not on device). But.. this seems to be a problem with the Xamarin-VS-extensions.

Please read also the chapter "Important notes"

# 4.3.1 Usings

## **Usings:**

```
using XLabs.Platform.Device;
using XLabs.Platform;
using XLabs.Ioc;
using XLabs.Platform.Services.Geolocation;
```

#### 4.3.2 Geolocation Service

```
var oGeolocator = Resolver.Resolve<IGeolocator>(); // Resolve the Geolocator over the resolver
//oGeolocator.DesiredAccuracy property that gets or sets the Accuracy
//oGeolocator.GetPositionAsync() method to get the current position
//oGeolocator.IsGeolocationAvailable property: geolocation implemented on device?
//oGeolocator.IsGeolocationEnabled propery: geolocation enabled?
//oGeolocator.IsListening property: Listening is actived?
//oGeolocator.PositionChanged event
//oGeolocator.PositionError event
//oGeolocator.StartListening() Method that starts the Listening
//oGeolocator.StopListening Method that stops the Listening
//oGeolocator.SupportsHeading property
```



#### 4.3.3 Device-Service

```
var device = Resolver.Resolve<IDevice>(); // Resolve the device over the resolver
var oDisplay = device.Display; // create display-interface
var iBreite = oDisplay.Width; // Returns EG: 2560
var iHoehe = oDisplay.Height; // Returns EG: 1600
var iXdpi = oDisplay.Xdpi; // Returns EG: 248.182998657227
var iYdpi = oDisplay.Ydpi; // Returns EG: 247.804000854492
//
var HW = device.HardwareVersion; // Returns EG: "universal5420"
var FirmWareVersion = device.FirmwareVersion; // Returns EG: "4.4.2"
var Manufacturer = device.Manufacturer; // Returns EG: "samsung"
var ID = device.Id; // Returns EG: "5205ce9c4b88215b"
var DeviceOrientation = device.Orientation; // Returns EG: XLabs.Enums.Orientation.Portrait
var Memory = device.TotalMemory; // Returns EG: 2910535680
var DeviceName = device.Name; // Returns EG: "SM-T900"
var cTimeZone = device.TimeZone; // Returns EG: "Europe/Zurich"
var cLanguageCode = device.LanguageCode; // Returns EG: "de"
//Further methods to Device
//device.HeightRequestInInches() // method, that convert inches to RunTimePixel for Height
//device.WidthRequestInInches() // method, that convert inches to RunTimePixel for Width
//device.IsInLandscape() // method that returns, if the device is in Landscape-mode
//device.IsInPortrait() // method that returns, if the device is in Portrait-mode
var oNetwork = device.Network; // Create Interface to Network-functions
var xx = oNetwork.InternetConnectionStatus();// Returns EG:
XLabs.Platform.Services.NetworkStatus.ReachableViaWiFiNetwork
TimeSpan TSTimeOut = new TimeSpan(1000);
var NetworkAvailable = oNetwork.IsReachable("172.2.13.33", TSTimeOut); // Returns EG: Id = 53,
Status = Running
//Further properties / methods / events:
//oNetwork.IsReachableByWifi()
//oNetwork.ReachabilityChanged event
var oBlueTooth = device.BluetoothHub; // Create Interface to BluetoothHub
//Further properties / methods / events:
//oBlueTooth.Enabled property
//oBlueTooth.GetPairedDevices()
//oBlueTooth.GetType()
//oBlueTooth.OpenSettings()
var oMicroPhone = device.Microphone; // Create Interface to Microphone
//Further properties / methods / events:
//oMicroPhone.BitsPerSample property
//oMicroPhone.SampleRate property
//oMicroPhone.SupportedSampleRates property
//oMicroPhone.ChannelCount property
//oMicroPhone.OnBroadcast event
//oMicroPhone.Start() method to start recording
//oMicroPhone.Stop()method to stop recording
var oAccelometer = device.Accelerometer; // Create Interface to Accelerometer
//Further properties / methods / events:
//oAccelometer.Interval property
//oAccelometer.LatestReading property
//oAccelometer.ReadingAvailable event
```



```
var oBattery = device.Battery; // Create Interface to Battery
//Further properties / methods / events:
//oBattery.Charging property
//oBattery.Level property
//oBattery.OnChargerStatusChanged event
//oBattery.OnLevelChange event
var oFileManager = device.FileManager; // Create Interface to FileManager
//Further properties / methods / events:
//oFileManager.CreateDirectory() method
//oFileManager.DirectoryExists() method
//oFileManager.FileExists() method
//oFileManager.GetLastWriteTime() method
//oFileManager.OpenFile() method
var oGyroscope = device.Gyroscope;
//Further properties / methods / events:
//oGyroscope.Interval property
//oGyroscope.LatestReading property
//oGyroscope.ReadingAvailable event
var oMediaPicker = device.MediaPicker;
//Further properties / methods / events:
//oMediaPicker.IsCameraAvailable property
//oMediaPicker.IsPhotosSupported property
//oMediaPicker.OnError event Gets or sets the error
//oMediaPicker.OnMediaSelected event
//oMediaPicker.SelectPhotoAsync() // method, that select an image from library
//oMediaPicker.SelectVideoAsync() // method, that select a video from library
//oMediaPicker.TakePhotoAsync() // method, that takes a Photo
//oMediaPicker.TakeVideoAsync() // method, that takes a Video
var oPhoneServices = device.PhoneService;
//oPhoneServices.CanSendSMS property
//oPhoneServices.CellularProvider property
//oPhoneServices.DialNumber() method
//oPhoneServices.ICC property gets the ISO-Country-code
//oPhoneServices.IsCellularDataEnabled property
//oPhoneServices.IsCellularDataRoamingEnabled property
//oPhoneServices.IsNetworkAvailable property
//oPhoneServices.MCC property: Gets the Mobile country-code
//oPhoneServices.MNC property: gets the mobile network-code
//oPhoneServices.SendSMS() method to send a SMS
```



# 4.4 Important notes

## 4.4.1 Possible hurdles

By my implementation, I had some permission-problems with Android and with WP (see next chapter) and **huge problems** with the **iOS**-project (that have cost me full two days):

First, I had a problem, that my project was not updated properly to the new iOS-unified API by the Xamarin-"migration-tool":

"Self-explaining" error-message (translated from German to English):

"Lambda Expression cannot be translated to system.type as it is no delegate-type"

Then I had problems with the add-in Xamarin. Mobile (that I use for Geolocation)

### **Error-message:**

Cannot include both 'monotouch.dll' and 'Xamarin.iOS.dll' in the same Xamarin.iOS project - 'Xamarin.iOS.dll' is referenced explicitly, while 'monotouch.dll' is referenced by 'Xamarin.Mobile, Version=0.7.1.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=null'.

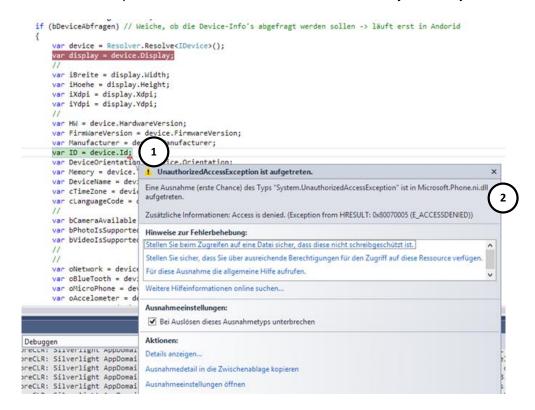
The problem is, that you have to use Xamarin. Mobile 0.7.5, what is **not** available via NuGet.

If you also have such problems, you can have a look at my posting in the forum here <a href="http://forums.xamarin.com/discussion/35928/information-problems-update-xf-to-unified-appledevice-xamarin-mobile-xlabs#latest">http://forums.xamarin.com/discussion/35928/information-problems-update-xf-to-unified-appledevice-xamarin-mobile-xlabs#latest</a>



#### 4.4.2 Windows Phone

Depending on what services you use, you have to enhance the rights for your Application. When I have implemented / tested the device-service in my WP-Project, I had e.g. the following crash:

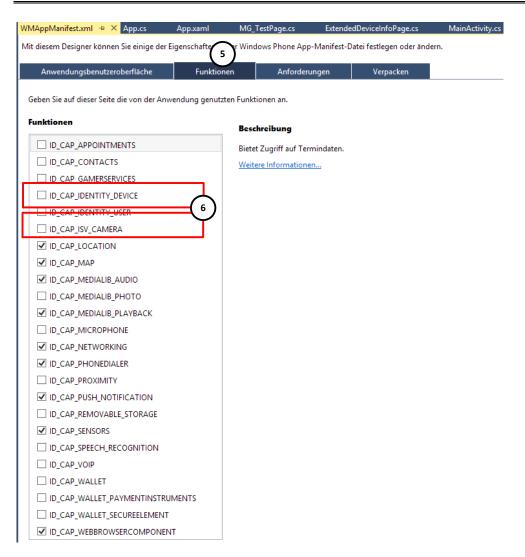


- The app has crashed, by trying to get the device.id (1) (and further by trying accessing the device-Capabilities (like device.MediaPicker.IsCameraAvailable)
- In WP, there is fortunately a meaningful message showed in debugger (2), so I have seen, that I had to set additional permissions.

For WP, select your Windows Phone project (3) and open the File "WMAppManifest.xml" (4):







Select the tab "Functions" (5) and set the needed permissions (6)

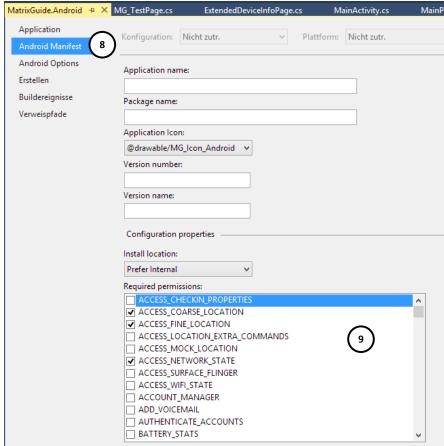


### 4.4.3 Android

To add permissions to Android:



• Select the Android-project (7) - right-click and select "properties":



• Select Tab "Android Manifest" (8) and set the needed permissions (9)

The settings then are stored in the file "AndroidManifest.xml" (10)