Tag and Broadcast Notifications in Native Windows Phone 8 Applications

Overview

Prerequisite: Make sure that you read the Push notifications in native Windows Phone 8 applications (../) tutorial first.

Tag notifications are notification messages that are targeted to all the devices that are subscribed to a particular tag.

Tags represent topics of interest to the user and provide the ability to receive notifications according to the chosen interest.

Broadcast notifications are a form of tag push notifications that are targeted to all subscribed devices. Broadcast notifications are enabled by default for any push-enabled MobileFirst application by a subscription to a reserved Push.all tag (auto-created for every device). This ability can be disabled by by unsubscribing from the reserved Push.all tag.

Agenda

- Notifications configuration
- Notifications API
- Sample application

Notifications configuration

Tag Notifications configuration

Setting up tags

Tags are defined in the application-descriptor.xml file:

Notifications API

API methods for tag notifications

Client-side API

- WLPush.subscribeTag(tagName,options)
 Subscribes the device to the specified tag name.
- WLPush.unsubscribeTag(tagName,options)
 Unsubscribes the device from the specified tag name.
- WLPush.isTagSubscribed(tagName)
 Returns whether the device is subscribed to a specified tag name.

Common API methods for tag and broadcast notifications

Client-side API

WLNotificationListener
 Defines the callback method to be notified when the notification arrives.

client.getPush().setWLNotificationListener(listener)

- The onMessage(props,payload) method of WLNotificationListener is called when a push notification is received by the device.
 - o props A JSON block that contains the notification properties of the platform.
 - payload A JSON block that contains other data that is sent from MobileFirst Server. It also contains the tag name for tag-based and broadcast notification. The tag name appears in the "tag" element. For broadcast notification, the default tag name is Push.ALL.

Server-side API

WL.Server.sendMessage(applicationId,notificationOptions)

This method submits a notification based on the specified target parameters and takes two mandatory parameters:

- applicationId (mandatory) The name of the MobileFirst application
- notification0ptions (mandatory) A JSON block containing message properties

For a full list of message properties, refer to the WL.Server.sendMessage API in the API reference of the user documentation.

Sample application

Click to download (https://github.com/MobileFirst-Platform-Developer-Center/TagNotifications/tree/release71) the MobileFirst project.

Click to download (https://github.com/MobileFirst-Platform-Developer-Center/TagNotificationsWP8/tree/release71) the Native project.

 The TagNotifications project contains a MobileFirst native API that you can deploy to your MobileFirst server.

- The TagNotificationsWP8 project contains a native Windows Phone 8 application that uses a MobileFirst native API library to subscribe for push notifications and receive notifications from MPNS.
- Make sure to update the wlclient.properties file in the native project with the relevant server settings.

Sending a notification

To test the application is able to receive a push notification you can perform one of the following:

- 1. From MobileFirst Studio, right-click the adapter folder, select **Call MobileFirst Adapter** and:
 - If selecting the "sendBroadcastNotification" procedure, provide the application ID and notification text in quotation marks.
 - If selecting the "sendTagNotification" procedure, provide the application ID, notification text and tag name in quotation marks.
 - The application ID can be determined from the [id] attribute in [application-descriptor.xml:

```
<application ... id="NativeWP8TagNotifications" ...>
```

2. If using the CLI:

\$ mfp adapter call

- [?] Which endpoint do you want to use? PushAdapter/sendBroadcastNotification
- [?] Enter the comma-separated parameters: "NativeWP8TagNotifications", "hello"
- [?] How should the procedure be called? GET

Or:

\$ mfp adapter call

- [?] Which endpoint **do** you want to use? PushAdapter/sendTagNotification
- [?] Enter the comma-separated parameters: "NativeWP8TagNotifications", "hello", "sample-tag1"
- [?] How should the procedure be called? GET