



An embedded edition of FrontlineSMS would allow compact and easy setup of a simple SMS messaging platform.

Porting FrontlineSMS to iPhone or JavaME smartphone is impossible due to API restrictions on these platforms; a Symbian port would likely suffer from the abysmal performance and porting issues that are the hallmark of the platform. Conversely, Android allows access to all the functionality required for FrontlineSMS, and so far seems to adhere well to the write-once-run-anywhere paradigm.

The Android platform is coming of age, and the cheapest Android phones now cost around £200 new and less than half that used, making FrontlineSMS for Android cheaper and simpler than the desktop edition running on a netbook and a phone.

Functionality

- organise contacts into groups
- send SMS to single contacts or groups of contacts
- perform actions on receiving an SMS
- log actions performed

Some of this functionality may be achieved using the built-in Android SMS software and contact management (PIM)

Actions

The actions performed should depend on the keyword contained in the SMS received. A keyword is the first word in an SMS, and so only one keyword can be matched for a particular SMS. A keyword may have multiple actions attached to it, and these should be ordered. Actions include:

- join or leave a group
- send an SMS to a group
- reply to the sender with an SMS
- forward the SMS as an email
- perform an HTTP request and act on the response (SMS reply; forward to group)