

# Creating Qt Applications for Maemo, Beta

Course Overview

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## Course Objectives and Prerequisites

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- Objective is to study developing Qt applications for Maemo 5 platform
  - Get familiar with Maemo platform and the development tools
  - Learn porting Qt applications from other platforms to Maemo
  - Learn fine-tuning the UI for Maemo
  - Learn Qt features only available in Maemo
- It is assumed that the course attendant has
  - Basic knowledge of Qt
  - Some previous Linux or Maemo knowledge is a big advantage

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# Creating Qt Applications for Maemo

Widgets and Appearance

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Take a look at the following Forum Nokia documents to learn about the visual aspects of Maemo applications. Especially the UI Style Guide is worth checking for any developers.

•[http://www.forum.nokia.com/info/sw.nokia.com/id/eb8a68ba-6225-4d84-ba8f-a00e4a05ff6f/Hildon\\_2\\_2\\_UI\\_Style\\_Guide.html](http://www.forum.nokia.com/info/sw.nokia.com/id/eb8a68ba-6225-4d84-ba8f-a00e4a05ff6f/Hildon_2_2_UI_Style_Guide.html)

•[http://www.forum.nokia.com/info/sw.nokia.com/id/e778ba1f-2507-4672-be45-798359a3aea7/Fremantle\\_Master\\_Layout\\_Guide.html](http://www.forum.nokia.com/info/sw.nokia.com/id/e778ba1f-2507-4672-be45-798359a3aea7/Fremantle_Master_Layout_Guide.html)


•[http://www.forum.nokia.com/info/sw.nokia.com/id/019c2b31-3777-49a0-9257-970d79580756/Hildon\\_2\\_2\\_Widget\\_UI\\_Specification.html](http://www.forum.nokia.com/info/sw.nokia.com/id/019c2b31-3777-49a0-9257-970d79580756/Hildon_2_2_Widget_UI_Specification.html)

•[http://www.forum.nokia.com/info/sw.nokia.com/id/97e9b8e0-904c-4141-bb8a-91d4f519735f/Maemo\\_5\\_Desktop\\_Widget\\_UI\\_Guidelines.html](http://www.forum.nokia.com/info/sw.nokia.com/id/97e9b8e0-904c-4141-bb8a-91d4f519735f/Maemo_5_Desktop_Widget_UI_Guidelines.html)

•[http://www.forum.nokia.com/info/sw.nokia.com/id/75994a4a-382b-4a60-aaf2-2446f9e8c4f3/Web\\_Design\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_the\\_Nokia\\_N900.html](http://www.forum.nokia.com/info/sw.nokia.com/id/75994a4a-382b-4a60-aaf2-2446f9e8c4f3/Web_Design_Guidelines_for_the_Nokia_N900.html)

## "Hildonizing" Qt

- Qt for Maemo provides very Hildonized widgets already
  - Qt widgets behaving in Hildon way
  - There is no mapping between Qt and Maemo widgets
- Integration to Hildon input method server
  - Completely Maemo/Hildon-specific implementation
- Porting Qt software from other platforms is often rather straightforward
- Things to consider
  - Smallish screen, mainly used in landscape orientation
  - Finger usage and finger scrollable
  - Virtual keyboard may appear (does it fit on the screen?)
  - Consistent UI with other applications and utilizing Hildon-specific widgets
  - Avoid absolute layout



Recall Hildon from the Maemo Software Architecture diagram. In short Hildon is an application framework for Linux operating system mobile devices (PDAs, mobile phones, etc) that focuses on providing a finger friendly interface. It is developed by Nokia for Maemo and now a part of GNOME.

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# "Hildonizing" Qt

- Improved finger usability and screen real estate usage
- Lists and window panes scrollable with finger from window pane
- New dialog layout, no cancel button, cancel action by clicking outside of dialog

Location

☒ Enable

GPS device: Internal GPS

Pair new device

Network positioning

☒ Enable

Location server: supl.nokia.com

Save

Select an item

Item 1 ✓

Item 2

Item 3

Item 4

Item 5

Done

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## Maemo Styles

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- Default style is Maemo style
- QCleanlooks, Windows and Plastique styles also supported
- Styling made in Qt way
- Widgets painted using a selected style
- Style can be changed
  - During application launch
    - `./myqtapplication -style windows`
  - Dynamically when running the application in the code
    - For the application by using `QApplication::setStyle(QStyle* style)`
    - For certain widget by using `QWidget::setStyle(QStyle* style)`
- In some details Qt Maemo style may not be 100% similar to Hildon

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## Look-and-Feel Customization

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- There are three levels to customize widgets look-and-feel
  - By writing custom widgets with custom paintEvent() and other event handler functions
    - Lot of work to derive from all QWidget classes
  - By changing widget's style
    - Override QStyle or any of its sub-classes
    - QMaemoStyle – platform-level default style in Maemo
      - Provides Maemo look-and-feel
  - By using style sheets
    - Interpreted at run-time
    - Override QStyle definitions
    - May be slow, if large definitions

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## How to Handle Maemo Specific Implementation?

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- Maemo Qt 4.6 specific parts should be separated as follows:

```
#ifdef Q_WS_MAEMO_5
// maemo5-specific implementation added here
#endif
```

```
maemo5 {
# maemo5-specific configuration added here in .pro file
}
```

- Consider also using the private implementation programming idiom to separate platform specific implementations
- Remember to add `QT += dbus maemo5` (inside maemo5 scope) into your .pro file and add dependencies to libqt4-maemo5 to use maemo5 specific widgets introduced next

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## Maemo 5 Specific Widgets

- Some currently available Maemo 5 specific widgets in Qt 4.6:
  - QMaemo5ValueButton: Implements a picker button, basically a button with an extra value
  - QMaemo5AbstractPickSelector: An abstract interface to implement Maemo 5 “pickers”, plus a picker implementations for time picking (QMaemo5TimePickSelector) etc
  - QMaemo5InformationBox: Support for Maemo 5 banners and notes
  - QMaemo5EditBar: Support for Maemo 5 edit toolbar
- Note that these APIs are Maemo 5 specific only.
- Kinetic scrolling can be enabled with the help of QAbstractKineticScroller in Qt 4.6 for Maemo

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Picker Button Example

Continent:  
Europe

...

I'm here to inform you I'm an information note

Choose items to delete

Delete

Item #0 Item #1 Item #2 Item #3 Item #4 Item #5

Item #6 Item #7 Item #8 Item #9 Item #10 Item #11

Item #12 Item #13 Item #14 Item #15 Item #16 Item #17

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Code examples of these rather simple widgets are available in the “widgets” example of the Qt for Maemo package, which is also bundled with this training material in examples\maemo5 folder.

See also the other examples in examples\maemo5 folder included in the Qt for Maemo package for more Maemo specific examples.

## ...More about Maemo 5 UI – Menus

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- Maemo 5 does not use hierarchical menus that are difficult to use with fingers
- Just add QActions directly to QMenuBar
- Remember to keep the number of items small
- Menu bar is property of the window manager in Maemo

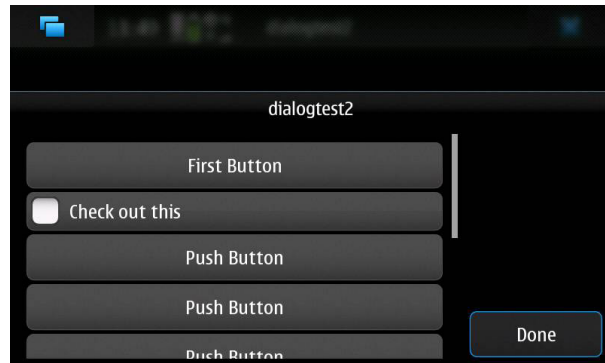
```

MyMainWindow::MyMainWindow()
{
    QMenuBar *menuBar=new QMenuBar();
    QAction *showCat=new QAction("Show a Cat",this);
    menuBar->addAction(showCat);
    connect(showCat,SIGNAL(triggered()),this,SLOT(show_mainw2()));
    QAction *showDialog=new QAction("Show Dialog",this);
    menuBar->addAction(showDialog);
    connect(showDialog,SIGNAL(triggered()),this,SLOT(show_dialog()));
    setMenuBar(menuBar);
    ...
}
    
```

## ...More about Maemo 5 UI – Dialogs

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- Make a normal dialog
- Put content in QScrollArea
- Activate finger scrollable
- QAbstractKineticScroller is enabled for QScrollArea by default in Qt 4.6 for Maemo
- Put content in QVBoxLayout inside of scroll area
- Consider using Qt Designer (Qt Creator) for composing widgets



```
void MyMainWindow::SetupDialog()
{
    // dialog content placed inside scroll area
    dialog = new QDialog(this);
    QScrollArea *scrollArea = new QScrollArea(dialog);
    scrollArea->setWidgetResizable(true);

    // activate scrolling
#ifdef Q_WS_MAEMO_5
    // Scrolling is activated for QAbstractItemView and QScrollArea by default,
    // according to the qt 4.6.2 for maemo docs
#else
    // older maemo versions must set the property "FingerScrollable" to true.
    scrollArea->setProperty("FingerScrollable",true);
#endif

    // place content in vertical layout
    QWidget *scrollAreaWidgetContents = new QWidget();
    QVBoxLayout *verticalLayout = new QVBoxLayout(scrollAreaWidgetContents);
    verticalLayout->addWidget(new QPushButton("First Button",scrollAreaWidgetContents));
    verticalLayout->addWidget(new QCheckBox("Check out this",scrollAreaWidgetContents));
    for(int i=0;i<10;i++)
        verticalLayout->addWidget(new QPushButton("Push Button",scrollAreaWidgetContents));

    // OK button and overall horizontal layout
    QDialogButtonBox *buttonBox = new QDialogButtonBox(dialog);
    buttonBox->setOrientation(Qt::Vertical);
    buttonBox->setStandardButtons(QDialogButtonBox::Ok);
    buttonBox->setCenterButtons(false);
    scrollArea->setWidget(scrollAreaWidgetContents);
    QHBoxLayout *horizontalLayout = new QHBoxLayout(dialog);
    horizontalLayout->addWidget(scrollArea);
    horizontalLayout->addWidget(buttonBox);
}
```

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## ...More about Maemo 5 UI – Stacked Windows

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- A stack sets the hierarchical relationships between windows. A child window is on top of its parent window. That allows navigation to previous window by removing the topmost window
- Users can only see and interact with the window on the top of stack until it is closed



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The child window needs to set the Maemo5StackedWindow attribute.

```
MyMainWindow::MyMainWindow()
{
#ifdef Q_WS_MAEMO_5
    setAttribute(Qt::WA_Maemo5StackedWindow);
#endif
    b2=newQPushButton("Show stacked window");
    mainw2=new QMainWindow(this);
#ifdef Q_WS_MAEMO_5
    mainw2->setAttribute(Qt::WA_Maemo5StackedWindow);
#endif
    connect(b2,SIGNAL(clicked()),this,SLOT(show_mainw2()));
    ...
}

void MyMainWindow::show_mainw2()
{
    mainw2->show();
}
```

## ...More about Maemo 5 UI – Setting the orientation

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- Qt applications are always shown in landscape mode by default.
- In order to set the application to portrait (vertical) orientation the Qt::WA\_Maemo5PortraitOrientation attribute must be set on a top-level widget.

```
void Window::toggleLandscape(bool b)
{
    setAttribute(Qt::WA_Maemo5AutoOrientation, !b);
    setAttribute(Qt::WA_Maemo5LandscapeOrientation, b);
    relayout();
}
```

- Qt will handle rotation behind the scenes and re-layout all widgets accordingly.
  - In order to explicitly react on screen rotation, the QDesktopWidget::resized() signal can be used. This signal is emitted every time the device's screen rotates.

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The Qt widget attribute constants related to the orientation are:

- Qt::WA\_Maemo5LandscapeOrientation
- Qt::WA\_Maemo5PortraitOrientation
- Qt::WA\_Maemo5AutoOrientation



## ...More Maemo 5 Specific Features

- Some new widget attribute flags added to support special Maemo 5 features:
  - Busy indicator for windows and dialogs (Qt::WA\_Maemo5ShowProgressIndicator)
  - Support to disable window compositing in the window manager to improve drawing performance (Qt::WA\_Maemo5NonComposited)
  - Stacked windows as we just learned
  - Portrait and landscape orientation as we just learned




Maemo-specific widget attributes in qnamespace.h:


- WA\_Maemo5ShowProgressIndicator
- WA\_Maemo5NonComposited
- WA\_Maemo5StackedWindow
- WA\_Maemo5PortraitOrientation
- WA\_Maemo5LandscapeOrientation
- WA\_Maemo5AutoOrientation

See also <http://doc.qt.nokia.com/qt-maemo-4.6/qt.html>

## Input Methods



- Input methods allow user to apply a virtual keyboard to set text in an editor widget
- Qt widgets integrated to native Hildon input method framework
  - Certain X events will cause the Hildon input method main UI window popped up on the bottom of the screen
- Hildon input method supports several input modes
  - Alpha
  - Numeric
  - Special
  - Hexadecimal
  - Telephone numbers
  - Unrestricted
  - Multiline
  - Invisible
  - Automatically capitalized
  - Dictionary



Input methods:

- HILDON\_GTK\_INPUT\_MODE\_ALPHA alphabetical characters and whitespace
- HILDON\_GTK\_INPUT\_MODE\_NUMERIC numbers 0-9 and the '-' character
- HILDON\_GTK\_INPUT\_MODE\_SPECIAL special characters
- HILDON\_GTK\_INPUT\_MODE\_HEXA hexadecimal characters; numbers 0-9, characters a-f, and A-F
- HILDON\_GTK\_INPUT\_MODE\_TELE telephone numbers; numbers 0-9, whitespace, and the characters "pwPW/().-+\*#?,"
- HILDON\_GTK\_INPUT\_MODE\_FULL unrestricted entry mode, combination of the alpha, numeric and special modes.
- HILDON\_GTK\_INPUT\_MODE\_MULTILINE the client contains multiple lines of text or accepts linebreaks in the input.
- HILDON\_GTK\_INPUT\_MODE\_INVISIBLE do not echo or save the input in the IM when entering sensitive information such as passwords.
- HILDON\_GTK\_INPUT\_MODE\_AUTOCAP automatically capitalize the first letter at the start of a sentence.
- HILDON\_GTK\_INPUT\_MODE\_DICTIONARY enable predictive dictionaries and learning based on the input.

See also [http://wiki.maemo.org/Qt4\\_Hildon\\_Legacy#Diablo\\_2](http://wiki.maemo.org/Qt4_Hildon_Legacy#Diablo_2)

## How to Set the Input Mode?

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- To force only digits to be accepted in QLineEdit:

```
QLineEdit *qLineEdit = new QLineEdit(...);  
Qt::InputMethodHint hints = Qt::ImhDigitsOnly;  
qLineEdit->setInputMethodHints(hints);
```

- Each kind of widget can set its input method hints. Qt widgets like QTextEdit, QLineEdit, etc., set the right input method mode automatically
- Notice some hardcoded keys in QMainWindow
  - F6 – Toggle full screen
  - F4 – Shows/hides the application menu
  - Zoom in – standard key sequence `QKeySequence::ZoomIn`
  - Zoom out – standard key sequence `QKeySequence::ZoomOut`

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QHildonInputContext is a Maemo-specific input context, which takes the widget's input method hints and sets the corresponding Maemo-specific Hildon input mode in `setFocusWidget` method.

See also QLineEdit's `setEchoMode` method.

# Creating Qt Applications for Maemo

Additional Qt for Maemo Topics

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## OpenGL-ES2.0 Support

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- Hardware-accelerated OpenGL-ES2.0 in Omap3 based devices like N900 (but not N800 and N810 which are Omap2 based)
- By default QGraphicsView is not using OpenGL-ES2.0 for drawing
- You can switch it on from command line- `gr aph i cssyst em opengl`
- You can enable it in code just setting viewport to `beQGLWidget`

```
myView *view = new myView();  
view->setViewport(new  
QGLWidget(QGLFormat(QGL::SampleBuffers)));
```

- QGLWidget make Qt a perfect OpenGL wrapper for application developer
- You can mix Qt widgets, Qt API and OpenGL API

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Imagination Technologies SDK x86 Linux OpenGL-ES2.0 emulation library .deb  
package can installed to under scratchbox (`libgles2-dev_1-1_i386.deb`)

- Imagination technologies SDK:

<http://www.imgtec.com/powervr/insider/sdk/KhronosOpenGLES2xSGX.asp>


Maemo OpenGL-ES wiki page

- <http://wiki.maemo.org/OpenGL-ES>

## Maemo Specific Storage Locations

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- `QDesktopServices::storageLocation(StandardLocation)`
  - `DesktopLocation` => `~/MyDocs`
  - `DocumentsLocation` => `~/MyDocs/.documents`
  - `PicturesLocation` => `~/MyDocs/.images`
    - Note: The images taken with native camera application go into `~/MyDocs/DCIM` folder (which is equal to "Camera" folder), not into `~/MyDocs/.images` folder!
  - `MusicLocation` => `~/MyDocs/.sounds`
  - `MoviesLocation` => `~/MyDocs/.videos`



**QString QDesktopServices::storageLocation(StandardLocation type)** returns specific Maemo locations for these types:

-DesktopLocation: `QDir::homePath() + QLatin1String("/MyDocs")`, instead of `QDir::homePath() + QLatin1String("/Desktop")`

-DocumentsLocation: `QDir::homePath() + QLatin1String("/MyDocs/.documents")`, instead of `QDir::homePath() + QLatin1String("/MyDocs/.documents")`

-PicturesLocation: `QDir::homePath() + QLatin1String("/MyDocs/.images")`, instead of `QDir::homePath() + QLatin1String("/Pictures")`


-MusicLocation: `QDir::homePath() + QLatin1String("/MyDocs/.sounds")`, instead of `QDir::homePath() + QLatin1String("/Music")`

-MoviesLocation: `QDir::homePath() + QLatin1String("/MyDocs/.videos")`, instead of `QDir::homePath() + QLatin1String("/MyDocs/.videos")`

## Using D-Bus

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- D-Bus was mentioned when we talked about Maemo Software Architecture
- It is an Inter-Process Communication (IPC) and Remote Procedure Calling (RPC) for Linux (including Maemo), and available via QtDBus module
- See:
  - <http://qt.nokia.com/doc/4.6/intro-to-dbus.html>
  - <http://qt.nokia.com/doc/4.6/qtdbus.html>
- To use QtDBus add in your project file: `CONFIG += dbus`
  - Remember that QtDBus is not available on all platforms
- An example of using D-Bus to request notifications is given in the next slide



Applications using the QtDBus module can provide services to other, remote applications by exporting objects, as well as use services exported by those applications by placing calls and accessing properties. The QtDBus module provides an interface that extends the Qt Signals and Slots mechanism, allowing one to connect to a signal emitted remotely as well as to connect a local signal to remote slot.

As another practical D-Bus example, see the qt-maemo-gravity-example which uses the accelerometer D-Bus interface in a Maemo 5 Qt application.

- The example is bundled with this training material
- The example is briefly documented here:  
[http://wiki.maemo.org/Documentation/Maemo\\_5\\_Developer\\_Guide/Development\\_Environment/Maemo\\_Programming\\_Environments/Using\\_Maemo\\_5\\_specific\\_APIs\\_in\\_Qt\\_application](http://wiki.maemo.org/Documentation/Maemo_5_Developer_Guide/Development_Environment/Maemo_Programming_Environments/Using_Maemo_5_specific_APIs_in_Qt_application)
- The original example location is:  
<https://garage.maemo.org/svn/maemoexamples/trunk/qt-maemo-gravity-example/>

## Using D-Bus to Detect Device Orientation

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- Orientation changes can be noticed with DBUS connection

```
MyReceiverClass * receiver = new MyReceiverClass(this);
QDBusConnection systemBus = QDBusConnection::systemBus();
systemBus.connect("com.nokia.mce",
                  "/com/nokia/mce/signal",
                  "com.nokia.mce.signal",
                  "sig_device_orientation_ind",
                  receiver,
                  SLOT(orientationChanged(QString))); // "portrait" or "landscape"
```

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Another Hildon-specific mechanism for changing application's orientation that works even with the unofficial Qt 4.5 port:

### Includes for portrait mode support:

```
# include <X11/Xlib.h>
# include <X11/Xatom.h>
# include <QtGui/QX11Info>
```

### Code for the application's main widget constructor:

```
int value = 1;
Atom portraitSupport = XInternAtom(QX11Info::display(),
    "_HILDON_PORTRAIT_MODE_SUPPORT", false);
Atom portraitRequest = XInternAtom(QX11Info::display(),
    "_HILDON_PORTRAIT_MODE_REQUEST", false);
XChangeProperty(QX11Info::display(), winId(), portraitSupport, XA_CARDINAL, 32,
    PropModeReplace, (uchar *)&value, 1);
XChangeProperty(QX11Info::display(), winId(), portraitRequest, XA_CARDINAL, 32,
    PropModeReplace, (uchar *)&value, 1);
```