

1.6 Primary Objectives

The software delivered in this project is intended to work on devices with the Android operating system and should fulfil the following requirements:

- The application should be able to play FLAC files and retrieve the data from a file's meta-tags.
- The application should provide a means for the user to start, pause, stop, rewind and fast forward a song as well as a seek bar to enable moving back and forth through a song.
- It should enable its user to select a song to be played from lists of songs sorted by directories, artists, albums and genres.
- The currently played song should not pause when the application is minimized; a notification in the menu bar should also be displayed when a song is being played.
- It should provide the user with a possibility of creating and maintaining playlists of songs chosen to be played in the specified order.
- It should provide a set of customizable preferences for the songs to be sorted by their filenames, titles and track numbers and for the albums to be sorted by names and release dates.

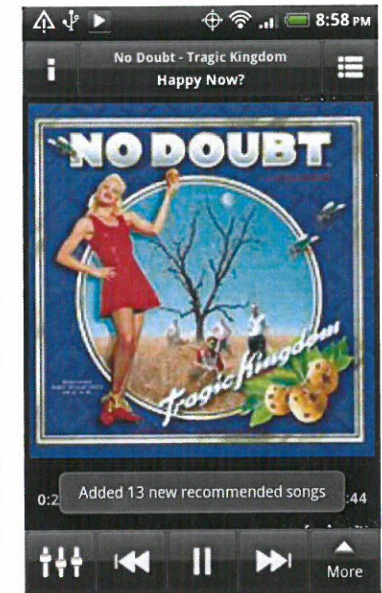


Fig. 5. MixZing Media Player screenshot showing the notification in the status bar at the top [8].

These first three features are essential for any music player – this is a matter that cannot even be discussed as even the simplest of ‘physical’ music players like cassette recorders needed to provide their users with similar features, namely: playing at least one format of music, enabling the user to select the track they want to hear and pausing, stopping, playing it as well as moving to the next or previous track; those are the most basic features of any player.

The next two features are very important for any Android music player – the notification enables users to quickly ‘jump’ back to the screen with the player from whichever application they currently are in, whereas the creating of lists of music tracks of custom playlists helps the users set the files in the order they wish them to be so that no further manipulation of the player is needed to change the songs currently playing.

Finally, the last requirement is the one I believe is missing in the FLAC players currently present on the Android Market. An example of the feature I could present to explain what I seek is a situation where a user selects firstly an artist and then one of his albums; in the players I tested there were no options as to how sort the songs in the album whereas I believe a proper music player should enable the user to sort the songs by filename, title and the track number, and not just by one of the above.