Voice Answering Machine
For Android

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Rationale

Everybody needs voicemail

Smatphones have hardware capabilities to implement voicemail locally

Voicemail API is available since Android 4.0.3.

A number of software components available in open source.

Market potential is 56% of Android devices (API-15+)

Very little competition

Development

Goal :

Voicemail app with usual answering machine features
implemented locally on the phone

Prototype parts from open source:

Phone pick-up: from AutoAnswer app
Record message: from CallRecorder app
Save recording in content provider: from Voicemail Sample
  app
Select greeting file: Android File Chooser library
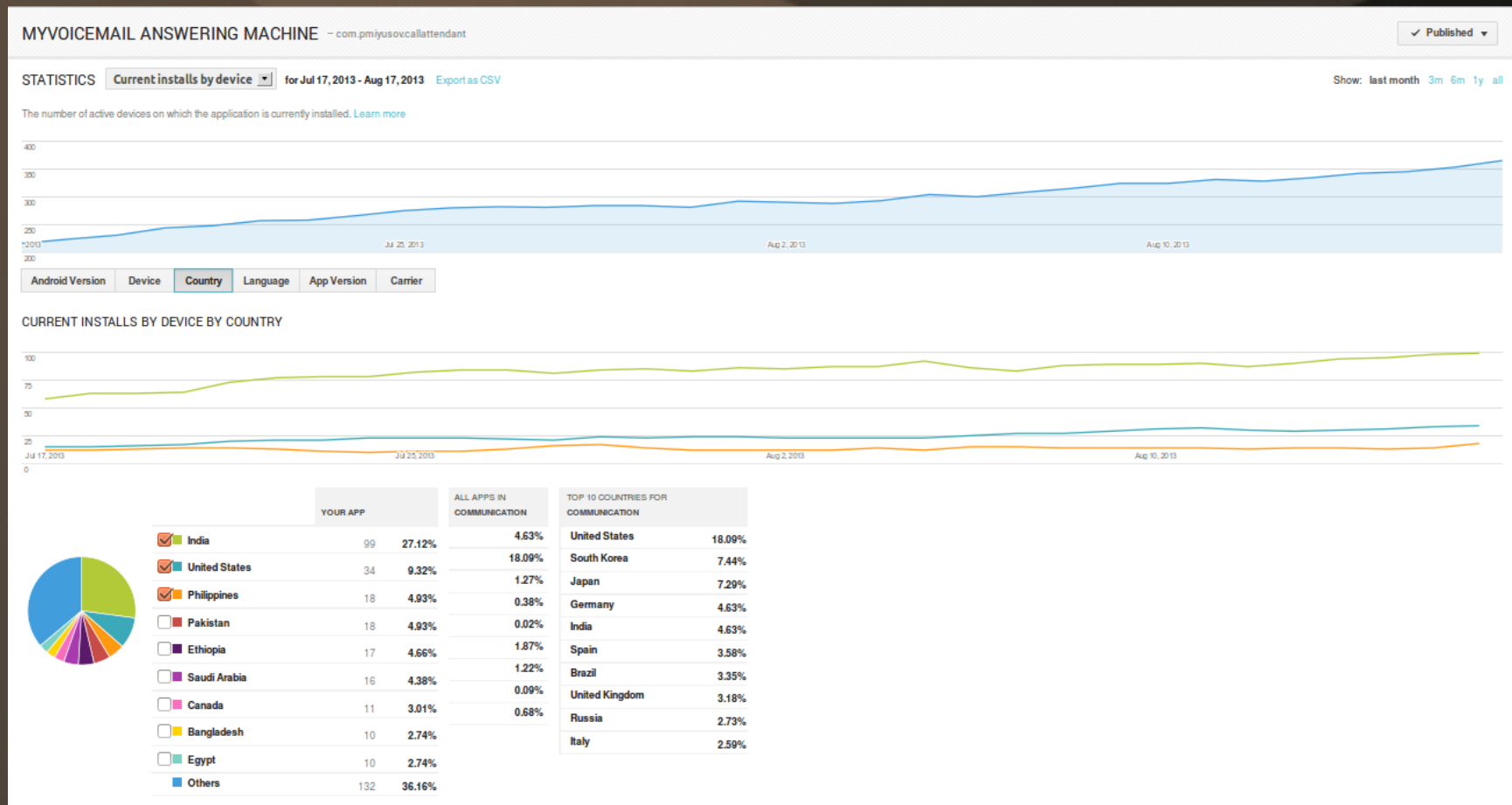
Development

Implementation :

- Main activity thread – Settings and greeting file selection. Starts daemon.

- Daemon service thread (monitor) - listening for calls and phone state changes, plays greeting. Starts recorder.

- Recorder service thread (to a file)

- Save voice mail activity (to content provider)

Testing

- Galaxy S2 I9100 with Android AOKP

- Emulator with API-14,15,17. Doesn't work on API-14.

- Min SDK supported is found to be API-15 (Android 4.0.3)

- Submitted for certification to Samsung app store.

- Not certified by Samsung. Phone app not showing voice mails in Call Log like AOSP and derived.

Download Statistics

Total installs 1,647

Active installs 342

Active paid installs 7

User Reviews

Reviews are usually negative. People write a review when they have a problem.

Active users are apparently satisfied with the app and don't care about posting a review.

How to motivate users to post a review?

Several unsolicited proposals to write a good review for money.

Distribution Proposal

Distribute apps by subscription (like Netflix for movies) and gift cards bundled with phone sales.

They select about 50 best apps in each category (like "Communication" in this case)

Require submission of no-DRM-protected version of app.

Reserve right to decompile, re-package and re-brand.

Assume no responsibility for misuse of decompiled version.

Things to Do

Test on multiple hardware/software configurations. Currently 1377 devices are listed as supported based on API level.

Improve volume control.

Add support for pre-API-15 phones. In-app voicemail browsing, not from system Phone app.

Get Samsung certification.

Start on-line discussion group for beta-testing and collecting other feedback.

Investigate reasons for uninstall, currently about 2/3 of installs

Find a way to make users of free version to buy a paid one.

Write rooted version with full control of sound and telephony.

Links

Answering Machine App on Google Play Store:

Trial version:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pmiyusov.callattendant

Full version:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pmiyusov.myvoicemail

Support email:

my.own.voicemail@gmail.com

Google Groups forum:

https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/myvoicemail-answering-machine