

Informatics Forum App

About

The IF App, developed for the Android Platform has the purpose of welcoming and guiding visitors whose intention is to attend an event at the Informatics Forum in Edinburgh.

Usage and Features

Note: In order to use the full functionality of the App the project's build target should be set to Google APIs by Google Inc., greater than or equal to API level 10. The emulator should have the same settings as well.

When The App is launched and the home screen appears, there are four basic categories of services offered: **Directions, Facilities near the IF, Edinburgh Weather, IF on Google Maps.**

1. Directions

When the user enters the Directions menu the App asks for the user's location. There are two possibilities here: 1. Edinburgh Airport, 2. Waverly Station.

If you choose Edinburgh Airport, the App will enter a new activity, which asks the user for the desired mode of transport for getting to the forum. The possibilities here are bus and taxi. If bus is chosen here, the App gives information about the Airlink bus like where the bus stops are and how long the journey will take. After getting off the bus the user has reached Waverly Station, from where there are 3 ways of travelling to the forum: on foot, by bus or again by taxi. If the user chooses to walk, a zoomable map with a route is shown to the user, stating that the walking distance is about 0.7 mile and will take up to 10 minutes. There is also information about the buses that run from Waverly to the forum and some taxi services.

If the user has arrived at the Waverly Station the modes of transport are as mentioned above.

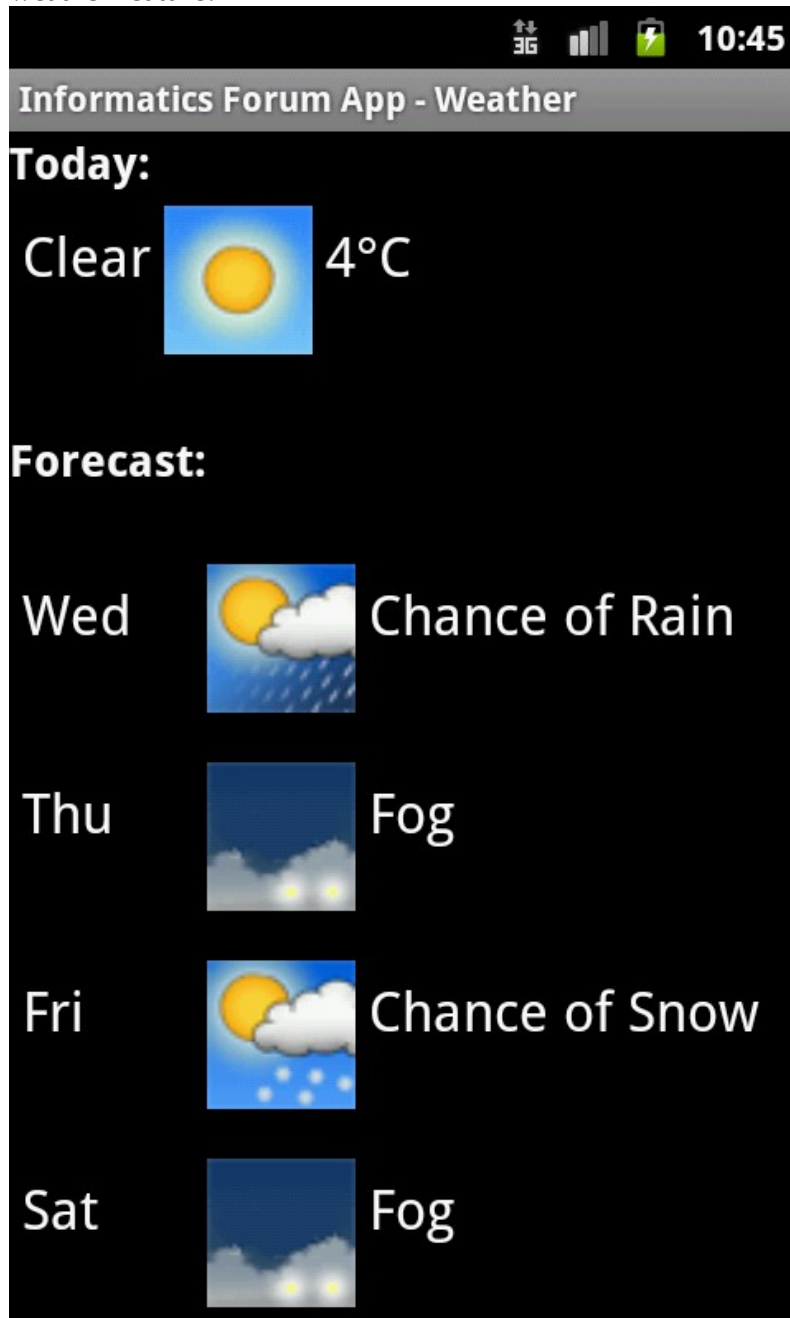
2. Facilities near the Forum

The second feature enables the user to browse, edit, add or remove hotels, restaurants, shops and cafes from a list.

Some checkboxes are there for the user to choose what kind of facilities he/she would like to see. Then a spinner allows the user to sort these facilities by rating or by distance away from the forum. The button “Show List” displays the list of the selected facilities in the selected order. If the user long presses on an item he/she is allowed to delete or edit the selected item. If the user wants to add an item then he/she must press the “Menu” button. The list of facilities is maintained by a database in SQLite, which can be easily updated by the user or the developer.

3. Weather

The weather button on the home screen allows the user to view what the weather is currently like and a forecast for the next four days. This feature requires INTERNET permission and connection as it uses Google Weather API. The way it works is simple: it sends a request to the server for the weather in Edinburgh and the server replies with an XML file containing the information we need. Then a SAX parser, parses the .xml document and extracts the relevant information such as temperatures, weather conditions and icons and passes these to the activity to display them. Here is a screenshot of the weather feature:



4. IF on the Map

The Map button at the home screen simply shows an interactive, zoomable map which is centered at the Informatics Forum and has a flag on it.

