Tel-Aviv University, summer 2013

SummaPhoto

*Summing up your day!*



**Software documentation**

Introduction:

summaphoto ® *is a photo app that creates hot-outta-the-oven new collages consisting of your life’s most precious moments. SummaPhoto divides your day into its primary events, and then makes a beautiful collage out of your photos! It’s like an automatic diary that you can view, share and enjoy forever.  
Simply choose your preferred mode of operation, your preferred style, and you’re set!*

Specifications:

The application was developed using JRE6, as required on Android.

The application was tested on the following:

Minimum API Level: **Android 2.1 Eclair (API level 7), Nexus One**

Maximum API Level: **Android 4.3 Jelly Bean (API level 18), Nexus 4**

Permissions Required:

-Read/Write to Internal Storage

-Connection to the Internet

Installation:

1. Download the app file (summaphoto.apk) from the native gmail app on the Android phone. Simple installation instructions will follow. Installation is also possible by going to “Downloads” in the apps window.

2. If this message appears: “Installation Blocked: For security, your phone is set to block installation of apps obtained from unknown sources”, then go to Settings>Security and check “unkown sources” to allow installing the app.

3. Make sure that photos you are taking include the geographical information ("Geo-Tagging").

Flows

Summaphoto allows two modes:

* *Smart Mode* – The application divides into events and decides if a collage should be created or not.
* *Scheduled Mode* – A collage creation will be made (if possible) at a specific time chosen by the user.

**Smart Mode:**

* Incoming photo is sent to Activation Manager (AM), but is also accumulated.
* In regular mode, AM “guesses” events by photo time. This is to avoid calling clustering algorithm for every photo. Practically, the first photo is always an event, and any photos arrived in less than *NEW\_CANDIDATE\_THRESHOLD\_DELTA* will be considered as the same event. Any photo that arrives in more than *NEW\_CANDIDATE\_THRESHOLD\_DELTA* will be considered as a new event. After *CANDIDATE\_EVENTS\_FOR\_COLLAGE,* The event clustering algorithm kicks in.
* Clustering algorithm returns all collected photos so far arranged in events. More about the algorithm, later.
* An attempt to generate a collage out of these events will be created if both conditions are satisfied:
  + *MIN\_TIME\_BETWEEN\_COLLAGES* has passes since last collage was created. This is to avoid too many collages being made
  + Clustering algorithm recognized more than *MIN\_EVENTS* in the photos it was given
* A template that fits the photos in the events will be chosen, populated and filled with photos to make the final collage.
* If such a template was not found, the “closest” one will be chosen, and the activation manager will be set to Dedicated Mode. This means that when a photo required to fill the “close” template will be received in the app, a collage will be created immediately again, by triggering the clustering algorithm an so forth.
* If all worked correctly (template filled with photos), a collage will be saved to the gallery and a notification will state that for the user.

Scheduled Mode:

* Incoming photos are accumulated.
* An alarm will go off at the time the user set, which triggers the clustering algorithm for all accumulated photos, and from there on it’s the same as in the smart mode.
* One exception: There are no dedicated requests in this mode. If a collage cannot be created when the user requested, it will not be created at all, until the next day when another attempt will be made.

Algorithms in use

1. Clustering algorithm – DBScan. One of the cores of the application is the clustering algorithm. The program has to divide the input photos into events, in order to pick the pictures which represent different activities of the user along the day. Later on the flow, from each event will be chosen some pictures. The division of the algorithm is based on 2 dimensions: The time and the distance. We assume that pictures which were taken in short time intervals (e.g. 5 seconds) represent the same event of the user's life. Also, pictures that were taken at the same area, are likely to represent the same event. By those two dimensions we managed to divide the different pictures into events. Off curse, this division is statistical and can never fix in 100% to the real "events of life" of the user. In addition, some users can divide the same set of pictures into different sets of event, so our mission was tough. The algorithm that we choose for the described purpose was the DBScan, which is a density-based clustering algorithm. The main advantage of this algorithm, which fits our app needs, is that the number of clusters is not a parameter of the algorithm. Also, the algorithm can conclude that some photos are noise, as happens in real life photos, and in such a way to filter them.

The algorithm has 2 parameters: the epsilon-distance parameter, which describes how to conclude if 2 photos are "close" to each other, and the minimum number of points in cluster. In high level, the algorithm go over all points in data base, and for each one of them conclude if it has enough epsilon-distanced-neighbors (in comparison to min-number-of-points). If so, it opens a new cluster with the point and all its neighbors, and for each neighbor does the same process as described, (without opening a new cluster).

Our implementation has the complexity of O(n^2).

The main parameters of our implementation, as described below are: ***MaxSecondsIntervals*** and ***MaxMetersInterval*** for the "epsilon distanced" definition, and ***minNumberOfPointsInCluster***. Another parameter we added is ***minNumberOfPointsInClusterForNoisyPictures*** which is used in case where a set of points is considered very noisy (the ratio of noisy pictures of the set is more than ***MaxRatioOfNoise*** ). In such a case, we re-cluster the whole set with the new parameter. We assume, that some users tend to take more dense pictures, and some not.

1. Algorithm for Minimum Lines crossing in Map Collage:
2. Algorithm for choosing “closest” template:

Code Structure:

The main packages and general flow of the application:

1. *com.summaphoto -*

This package holds the only Activity and Service used by the app.

* SettingsActivity – The main and only activity (GUI) in the application.
* PhotoListenerService – The main service in the application. It runs as long as the app is open (not necessarily visible) and consists of a CameraObserver object that listens to the DCIM\Camera folder for new (or deleted) photos.
* ScheduledModeService – A repated Alarm that goes off at a time which the user chooses, daily.
* SmartModeFlow – A set of function that support the Smart mode of the app.

1. *Common:*   
   This package consists of the objects that are used by more than one other package in the app.

* ActualEvent – A sole event that can be recognized by DBScan algorithm
* ActualEventBundle – The output of a the clustering algorithm. It’s a bunch of ActualEvents ties together for the collage to choose photos from.
* Photo – representation of a photo file, including the EXIF metadata that comes with it, such as: Width, height, Date Taken, orientation.
* PhotoContainer – A singleton that contains a list of fresh photos intercepted by the listener service, and a list of photos that are ready to be reviewed by the clustering algorithm.

1. ActivationManager:

* ActivationManager- the implementation of the algorithm for AM.
* DedicatedRequest – the object that changes the AM from Regular mode to Dedidcated mode. Sent to AM by the Generator.

1. Generator:

* AbstarctBuilder- abstract class which consists of mutual functions for the derived classes MapCollageBuilder & BlockCollageBuilder.
* MapCollagebuilder – functionatily for choosing a map template, and filling it correctly (minimum lines intersecting)
* BlockCollageBuilder- functionality for choosing a block template and filling it
* AbstractTemplate – abstract class which consists of mutual functions for derived MapTemplate and BlockTemplate
* MapTemplate – defines an empty map template to fill (we have 2 hard-coded templates)
* BlockTemplate- defines an empty block template to fill (we have 3 hard-coded templates)

Outexamples:

**finally** {

The project before you represents hours of hard work, many efforts and ToughLifeExceptions, but also a lot of challenging moments and funky collages that led us to the final product.

We truly hope that you find the application interesting at least as we do.

Sincerely,

SummaPhoto team

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