

Re: Please explain "Always Running" mentality of Windows CE

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From: David D Webb (*spivey_at_nospam.post.com*)

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What event should I look for in .NETCF for an application de-activating?

-D

"The PocketTV Team" <do-not-reply-by-email@pockettv.com> wrote in message news:O5xvKYOgEHA.3948@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...

> *I think well-programmed applications should close all the resources, opened*

> *files, opened databases etc, as soon as they are de-activated, and re-opened*

> *them when re-activated.*

>

> *That's exactly what we do in PocketTV.*

>

> *If that was the case, then you would not have the type of problem that you describe.*

>

> *Before, when we did not close the currently opened file when de-activated, people would call us to complain that they cannot delete the MPEG file or download a new one with the same name. We had to explain them that it was because the file was currently opened by the applications. Then they would*

> *ask why, since they close the applications. Then we would have to explain*

> *that tapping the X button does not really close the applications, it just*

> *de-activates it and hides it.*

>

> *Basically, when an application is de-activated, it should behave as much as*

> *possible like if it was closed (i.e. process terminated), i.e. it should*

> *release all opened resources and save its state.*

>

> *When the application is activated, it should re-open all the system*

> *resources that it needs.*

>

> *The only difference between re-activating a de-activated app and starting*

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> *the app is that it is faster, because all the initialization is already*
> *performed. That's the only difference that should be visible to the user.*
>
> *Unfortunately MSFT does a very poor job of explaining all that to*
> *developers, so most developers don't know what to do when the application*
is
> *de-activated (i.e. "minimized"). The vast majority of applications do not*
> *close/release their resources, for example, and that's a sin. But MSFT*
has
> *no way to "enforce" good behavior.*
>
> *Basically, MSFT's system works well only if all the applications follow a*
> *number of guidelines, but they have no way to enforce this, so their*
system
> *does not work very well, because many apps (including some from MSFT)*
don't
> *follow the guidelines as they should.*
>
>
> *"David D Webb" <spivey@nospam.post.com> wrote in message*
> *news:%23541zfLgEHA.3320@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...*
>> *I plan to give a real close button in my app and an Exit menu option,*
but
>> *its all of the other apps running that worry me. The more apps that are*
>> *running, the more likely something will go wrong or some resource will*
be
>> *left open or some process will drain the system.*
>>
>> *For example, my app uses an SQLCE database file. If a user clicks on*
that
>> *database file and has SQL Analyzer installed, Analyzer will open the*
file.
>> *Analyzer has an X icon instead of an OK icon, so it only truly closes*
if
>> *you select the menu option to exit. If they just click the X, that*
> *database*
>> *file is left open and my app can't attach to it.*
>>
>> *Why didn't they just do like Windows, and provide a close (X) and a*
> *minimize*
>> *(_) button. Why the heck is X minimize??*
>>
>> *And I thought Palm was frustrating.... (-;*
>
>