Hiding an app from the task list on Symbian

Overview

This article describes how to control the visibility of an application in all S60 platform versions.

Detailed description

An application can be set to behave as the telephone application and not to respond to shutdown events by calling `CEikonEnv::SetSystem(ETrue)`. `CEikonEnv::SetBusy()` is a similar function. The difference is that the latter shows a *Confirm close* dialog, but does not kill the application regardless of the answer. It is useful when the application is running a critical task and should not be terminated. In addition, it's possible to prevent an application from being visible in the task list altogether by using `CApaWindowGroupName::SetHidden()`.

Note: For a better user experience: If you 'Set' the 'Exit' button in your project to 'Hide' your application rather than shutting it down; You are advised to show a note informing the user that your application is running in the background and not entirely closed.

Solution

The following code demonstrates how to hide an application from the task list.

```
TInt wgId = iEikonEnv->RootWin().Identifier();
RWsSession session = iEikonEnv->WsSession();
CApaWindowGroupName* wgName = CApaWindowGroupName::NewLC( session, wgId );
wgName->SetHidden( ETrue );
wgName->SetWindowGroupName( iEikonEnv->RootWin() );
CleanupStack::PopAndDestroy(); // wgName
```

Alternatively, it's possible to override `CEikDocument::UpdateTaskNameL()`. This function is called by the UI framework during application start-up, allowing the window group name to be modified.

```
void CMyAppDocument::UpdateTaskNameL( CApaWindowGroupName* aWgName )
 {
 aWgName->SetHidden( ETrue );
 }
```

Note: 3rd party applications should never run as system applications or hidden unless really meaningful and necessary. Users should always be aware of applications running on the device and be allowed to close any application to free up memory.

See also

Keeping a Symbian application running in the background on exit

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