Archived:Changing the skin of the status pane on Symbian

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Reasons: hamishwillee (05 Oct 2011)
As per article comments there are devices this snippet does not work for. Workarounds required. Would also be useful if ArticleMetaData were update.

Description

Changing the status pane skin background, including the panes for signal and battery strength, was not possible prior to S60 3rd Edition, Feature Pack 2. Previously these subpanes were drawn on the server side but from S60 3rd Edition, FP2 onwards the entire status pane is owned by the application, making it possible to provide the correct theme also for the battery and signal strength subpanes.

Solution

```
MAknsSkinInstance* pSkin = AknsUtils::SkinInstance();
const TAknsItemID elementID = KAknsIIDQsnBgAreaStatus;

// KAknsIIDQsnBgAreaStaconRt as TAknsItemID can be used to skin
// status pane in landscape mode

// Load desired bitmap for background.
CAknsItemDef* pMenuSkinItemCBA
    = AknsUtils::CreateBitmapItemDefL( elementID,
                                       bitmapFile,
                                       EMbmUntitled );
if ( pMenuSkinItemCBA )
  {
  TRAPD( err_skin, pSkin->SetLocalItemDefL( pMenuSkinItemCBA) );
  }
```

The above code can be used to change the skin of the status pane (excluding the battery and signal strength panes) in devices prior to S60 3rd Edition, FP2.

Skinning in S60 3rd Edition, FP1:

Skinning in S60 3rd Edition, FP2:

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