

Archived: Using InputStream.skip() slows down MIDlet execution in S60 2nd and 3rd Edition (Known Issue)

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Overview

Using the InputStream.skip() method in S60 devices causes significantly slow MIDlet execution.

Description

The InputStream.skip(long n) method skips and discards n bytes of data from the input stream.

When skipping a large amount of bytes (for example, 500000 bytes) several times with S60 devices, the method causes significantly slow MIDlet execution: with S60 3rd Edition and S60 3rd Edition, Feature Pack 1 phones this means between 5 to 10 seconds, whereas with S60 2nd Edition phones this can be even over 20 seconds. Comparison of S60 and Series 40 shows that using the skip() method with S60 devices is approximately 5 to 9 times (or even more) slower when skipping a large amount of bytes.

How to reproduce

S60 and Series 40 devices are required for comparison.

The following piece of code reads the contents of a text file into the InputStream object. All the read content will be sent to <code>skip()</code> by using the <code>available()</code> method, and the time which the operation of the <code>skip()</code> method takes is measured. With this example, the previous procedures will be repeated 20 times by using a for-loop to visualize the slow execution.

```
InputStream instr;
long startTime = System.currentTimeMillis();
Form f;
...
for( num=0; num<20; num++){
  instr=getClass().getResourceAsStream("textfile.txt");
  instr.skip(instr.available());
  long timePassed = System.currentTimeMillis() - startTime;
  f.append("Round: "+(num+1)+", Time(ms): "+timePassed+"\n");
}</pre>
```

Solution

The performance of skip() is improved in S60 3rd Edition, Feature Pack 2 resulting from the improved buffering when reading data from InputStreams.