

Different application caption strings

This article explains the three captions that can be defined for a Symbian app, explaining how and where they are used.



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Reasons: hamishwillee (30 Jan 2012)

The article only explains 2 of the captions strings. Presumably it omits the PKG file string which is used by the installer. This article also refers to aif file, and should be updated to refer to the S60 3rd Edition resource file name (I believe the behaviour is the same other than the file name)

1. The AIF caption

The AIF file (extension .aif) allows you to set several static and dynamic application properties that influence the look-and-feel (LAF), and to some extent the running of the application. One of the caption strings associated to the application can be set in the AIF file.

```
RESOURCE AIF_DATA
{
  app_uid=0x1000FF30;
  caption_list=
  {
    CAPTION {code = ELangEnglish;caption = "MyApp";}
  };
  num_icons=0;
  embeddability=KAppNotEmbeddable;
  newfile=KAppDoesNotSupportNewFile;
}
```

This is the main application caption which can be localized as above (the nearest language caption is used in the absence of a language-specific caption), and optionally set. This caption is overridden depending on what other captions accompany the application. When defined it is used (and returned by various UI Framework APIs, e.g., `RApaLsSession::GetNextApp()`) if no other captions are specified for the application.

The application's process name is set using this caption by the UI Framework. The string is also used, in part, to set the application's main `CApaWindowGroupName` name. The caption name returned by `CApaWindowGroupName::Caption()` is also derived from this AIF caption string.

2. The xxx_caption.rss captions

The other two captions can be defined in the application-specific caption file (where xxx is the application name) that is compiled (and localized) as part of the application's .mmp file.

```
RESOURCE CAPTION_DATA
{
  caption = qtn_apps_myappname_list; // string defined in the localization file
  shortcaption = qtn_apps_myappname_grid;
}
```

The `CAPTION_DATA` is intended to reflect the `AIF_DATA::CAPTION_LIST` string, and generally, both the AIF and the above `CAPTION_DATA::caption` are defined to be the same. Either one of them can be optionally set and when defined (as implemented in S60) the 'caption' and 'shortcaption' are used as a display name on the application desktop - depending on the desktop view settings. `RApaLsSession::GetNextApp()` API returns these two captions appropriately.

