

Nokia UI API

In order to avoid some of the drawbacks of the MIDP 1.0 implementation, Nokia has added a proprietary API to phones mainly in the UI category. For making user-friendly games/applications great Java support is required in the low-level API which is not given by the MIDP 1.0 criteria.

Almost all the specifications in Nokia UI are supported in MIDP 2.0, so using Nokia UI API is not recommended for MIDP 2.0 for the future concern that the applications may have to be ported to other vendor devices.

Now later Nokia has also released new versions of Nokia UI API: 1.2, 1.3 that add small UI enhancements to fill in gaps of MIDP 2.0 LCDUI.

Main areas of this Nokia UI API are Sound & Full Canvas.

Following things of Nokia UI API are still missing from MIDP 2.0 APIs but available in Nokia UI API v1.0 & 1.1:

- Transparent or semi-transparent drawing targets (mutable off-screen images with alpha channel)
- Alpha channel support in graphics drawing primitives
- Fine grain control over device backlight (turning backlight on for a period of time).

In Nokia UI API 1.2 following things are added:

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These provide very interesting use cases that still are impossible via standard APIs like MIDP 2.0. For example, in many applications it's important to keep the backlight on without user need to press keys. Examples applications include Mobile TV or video viewers, navigation/map applications, turn based games like chess etc.

The low-level graphics transparency features allow to create modern UI effects.

A number of Sony Ericsson phones (Java Platforms, JP, 3-8) also support Nokia UI API. This has made it easy to port games/applications using Nokia UI API to Sony Ericsson phones as well.

Nokia UI API Specification

- Latest Nokia UI API Javadoc from Nokia Java Developer's Library: http://library.developer.nokia.com/index.jsp?topic=/Java_Developers_Library/GUID-237420DE-CCBE-4A74-A129-572E0708D428/overview-summary.html
- <http://www.developer.nokia.com/Develop/#ui>

Phones supporting Nokia UI API <http://www.enough.de/products/j2me-polish/>