Setting the Map language in the Maps API for Java ME

This article explains how to alter the **map language** of a Java ME application

Introduction

By default all the maps in the Map API for Java ME will display in **English**. The API is however able to support a variety of other languages. The language used to display labels on the map is set in the *ApplicationContext*, and this should be done prior to displaying the map itself. The `setDefaultLanguage()` method takes a three letter MARC Code. If an unsupported language is requested, the map will display in English by default.

Tip: It is possible to obtain the default language of the **phone** by requesting the `"microedition.locale"` system property.

```
System.getProperty("microedition.locale");
```

This will retrieve a two letter MARC Code, which can be mapped onto a three letter MARC code using a simple `switch` statement. Alternatively a locallized three letter MARC code could be read from the JAD file

Examples of usable MARC codes include:

- **ARA** Arabic
- **CHI** Chinese
- **GER** German
- **ENG** English
- **FRE** French
- **ITA** Italian
- **RUS** Russian
- **SPA** Spanish

Implementation

This is a simple example of a minimal map which will display in one of eight random languages.

```
public class MapLanguageMIDlet extends MIDlet {
    protected void startApp() throws MIDletStateChangeException {

        // Please initialise the appId and token first
       ApplicationContext ctx = ApplicationContext.getInstance();

        ctx.setAppID("MyAppId");
        ctx.setToken("MyToken");

        Display display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        MapLanguageDemo minimalMap = new MapLanguageDemo(display, this);
        display.setCurrent(minimalMap);
    }
    protected void destroyApp(boolean unconditional) throws MIDletStateChangeException
{}
    protected void pauseApp() {}
}
```

```
public class MapLanguageDemo extends MapCanvas implements CommandListener {
```


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```
    private final Command EXIT = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
    private final static String[] MARC_CODES = {"ARA", "CHI", "GER", "ENG",
        "FRE", "ITA", "RUS", "SPA"
    };
    private final static String[] LANGUAGES = {"Arabic", "Chinese", "German", "English",
        "French", "Italian", "Russian", "Spanish"
    };
    protected MIDlet midlet;

    public MapLanguageDemo(Display display, MIDlet midlet) {
        super(display);
        this.midlet = midlet;
        init();
    }

    private void init() {
        addCommand(EXIT);

        Random r = new Random();
        int i = r.nextInt(LANGUAGES.length);
        ApplicationContext.getInstance().setDefaultLanguage(MARC_CODES[i]);
        setTitle(LANGUAGES[i]);
        setCommandListener(this);
        // Set map over Europe.
        map.setState(
                new MapDisplayState(new GeoCoordinate(53.1, 13.1, 0), 4));
    }
    public void commandAction(final Command c, Displayable d) {
        if (c == EXIT) {
            midlet.notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }
    public void onMapUpdateError(String description, Throwable detail, boolean critical)
{
        Alert alertView = new Alert("Map error: ", detail.getMessage(), null,
AlertType.ERROR);
        display.setCurrent(alertView);
    }
    public void onMapContentComplete() {
    }
}
```

Example Output

Chinese	Russian	Arabic

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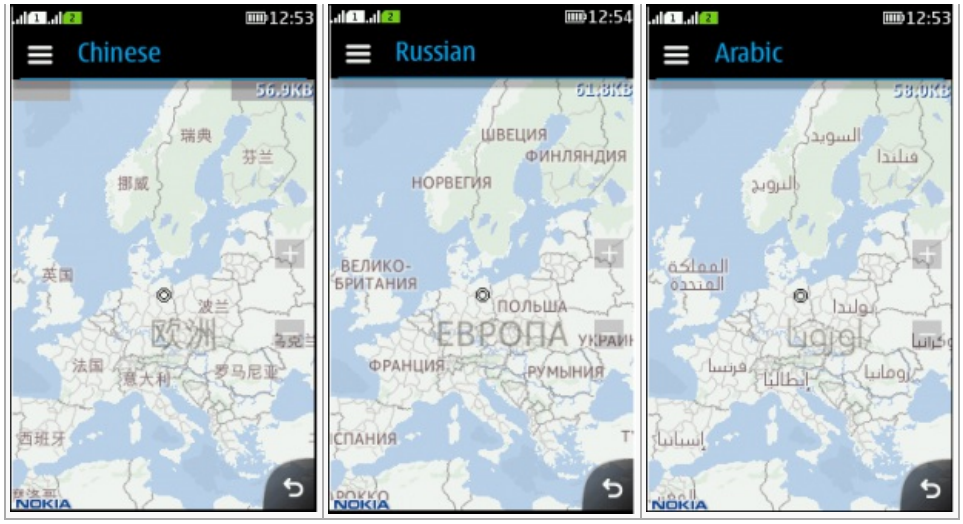

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