

November 2005

# R-EVOLUTION

Newsletter for the Developer Community

For Private Circulation only

## Editorial

Dear Developers:

Here's some good news that is sure to further enliven your happy mood of the festive season: Reliance Developer Programme's second Mobile Application Contest 2005 is on from November 1 until January 31, 2006. This year the contest has a special category for students to encourage them bring out their talents. Winners will receive exciting monetary prizes, certification from Reliance Infocomm and also get an opportunity to launch their applications commercially on R World. Contest details are available on [www.dadp.com](http://www.dadp.com). So, get cracking and start writing your codes right away. Our Lead Story in this issue talks in detail about the Mobile Application Contest 2005.

In the Tech tip section, we bring you Forced Caching, which happens at run time without necessitating restart of the application. A sample code is provided to help you understand the process.

In the interview of the month section, we present Taron Mohan of Phoneytunes, winner of the grand prize in Mobile Application Contest 2004 organized by Reliance Infocomm. Taron shares his experience in last year's contest, his winning application and advice for developers keen to participate in this year's Contest.

As always, we look forward to receiving your valuable feedback and useful suggestions.

Wishing you a Very Happy and Prosperous New year!

Warm regards,

Saurabh Chakrabarti

DADP team



## Mobile Application Contest 2005



**Tech Tip**  
Forced Caching



**Applications of the Month**  
Two prize winning entries from Mobile Application Contest 2004



**Interview of the Month**  
Taron Mohan, Phoneytunes  
Grand prize winner,  
Mobile Application Contest 2004



**Quiz**

# Mobile Application Contest 2005

**B**uoyed by the success of its first Mobile Application Contest last year, Reliance Infocomm has announced the launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Application Contest, 2005.

Aimed at harnessing talent among the country's mobile application developer community, the Contest is held under the aegis of Reliance Developer Programme (RDP) and has been kept open for registration between Nov 1, 2005 and January 31, 2006. This year, the Contest is being conducted in two categories - one for the individual developers and software companies, and the other exclusively for students. The focus will be on commercial-oriented applications.

Reliance Infocomm has pioneered the mobile application space in India. Last year's Contest, in association with NASSCOM, brought many innovative ideas and services to the fore. The contest will serve as an initiative to provide the much-needed fillip for creating new opportunities for Indian software developers.

The maiden Reliance Mobile Application Contest in 2004 in association with NASSCOM saw fifteen winners in the Mobile Applications category and three winners in the Application Ideas contest walk away with attractive prizes. All winners received their prizes from Shri Kiran Karnik, President of NASSCOM who presided over the award presentation ceremony

The Grand prize of Rs. 5 lakh was won by ITIDA Cad Services, New Delhi. Gametrix Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. from Hyderabad won the first prize of Rs. 3 lakh and an independent developer duo - Mustansir Kaizar & Sumit Kumar - students from IIT Kharagpur received the second prize of Rs. 1 lakh.

Besides this, there were 6 special prize winners and 6 consolation prize winners.

Select winning entries of the Mobile Application Contest 2005 will find their way to R World, the mobile data application suite of Reliance IndiaMobile. Other winners will get certification from RDP and they will be free to sell their applications to any handset manufacturer or service provider anywhere in the world.

*"The developer community has demonstrated exceptional creativity during the last contest. Out of the top four applications that won the last year's contest, three have already been deployed on R World. Of these, 'My Cartoon' gets about 700,000 users a day, while the physically challenged have found 'Call History' application very useful. Over the last few years, India has emerged as one of the major data markets in the world. Mobile applications space is one of the fastest growing software product areas globally with India making a major contribution,"* said Mahesh Prasad, President - Applications and Solutions Group, Reliance Infocomm.



## Aims and Objectives

The Mobile Application Contest 2005 is aimed at engaging developers to conceive, design, develop, test and bring to market new mobile applications that are relevant for Reliance IndiaMobile customers. The contest is an opportunity for developers to convert their ideas into workable products; to compete with the best mobile developer minds in the

country; to make a product that could be made available to millions of Reliance IndiaMobile subscribers.

The Mobile Application Contest 2005 will be held under the following two categories:

- 1) Individual developers, partnership firms and independent software vendors / companies/ students
- 2) Exclusively for students.

### **Attractive Prizes**

Prizes will be awarded to winning contest entries as follows:

#### **Category I - Open to all**

First prize	- Rs 200,000
Second prize	- Rs 100,000
Third prize	- Rs 50,000

#### **Category II - Open only to students**

First prize	- Rs 50,000
Second prize	- Rs 30,000-
Third prize	- Rs 20,000

There will be only one winner for each prize.



### **Judging criteria**

The judging panel will evaluate the application

based on the real-world problem it is meant to solve and the benefits arising out of the application. The criteria adopted are utility, productivity, user friendliness, innovation, design, efforts that went into making the application and strict adherence to Reliance Developer Programme guidelines.

The judging panel will also evaluate contestant's written statement (not exceeding three pages) on what the application is meant to accomplish and how it is intended for use. The panel will also test the application for its functionality.

### **The sky is the limit**

Participants are encouraged to submit creative and innovative applications in any category as long as they are useful and marketable. Applications can be submitted under the following categories:

- Infotainment
- Gaming
- Productivity
- Messaging
- Community Connectivity
- M-Enterprise
- M-Transactions

However, given the potential of the Reliance infrastructure, there are no limits on the nature of applications that can be offered on the Reliance platform.

For an exhaustive list of applications already on R World, participants may visit <http://rworld.relianceinfo.com/>

The contest this year promises to be an equally exciting one and is a real good opportunity for the developer community to develop high quality, innovative and utilitarian applications and get recognition, fame and profit by associating with Reliance Infocomm - India's largest private information and communications services provider, with a subscriber base of over 13 million.



## Forced Caching

In the previous two issues we have covered two extreme cases of caching namely Dynamic and Static caching. In this issue we talk about a caching behavior, which is somewhere in between both Dynamic and Static caching called forced caching. Forced caching has a dynamic nature because it happens at run time, while the application is executing, but it also has a static nature because changes need to be made in the properties file in order to reflect those changes in the application.

An example of this type of caching could be an application that has certain parameters, which may change in the future say, Handset List or Company Name List or various other properties. In order to incorporate changes made in the properties file in the application, we can either restart the application or force the application to refresh the properties bean. This forceful refreshing of the cache is called Forced caching.

The most basic way to do Forced caching is to provide a request parameter in the servlet class, which is mapped to a method which refreshes the properties bean.

The code below demonstrates this concept.

This servlet class will be used to call the refresh method

```
package com.xyz.appname.util;

import java.util.ResourceBundle;
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;
import org.apache.log4j.*;

public class AppNameServlet extends HttpServlet
{
    public static PropertyLoader pLoader = new PropertyLoader();
    static Logger logger = Logger.getLogger("NORMAL.log");

    -----
    -----
    -----

    protected void processRequest(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response)
    {
        RequestHandler reqHandler = null;

        -----
        -----
        -----

        switch(reqIDInt)
        {
            -----
            -----
            -----

            case 9:
                logger.debug("AppNameServlet :: processRequest : Request recd for the
Properties file reload.");

                String fileID = request.getParameter("file");
                logger.info("AppNameServlet :: processRequest : File ID request for reload = " +
fileID);
                reqHandler.refreshProperties(fileID, pLoader);
                break;
        }
    }
}
```

The Request Handler class will be used to reload the properties of the application defined in the properties "AppNameServer" file

```
public class RequestHandler
{
    -----
    -----
    -----

    static Logger logger = Logger.getLogger("NORMAL.log");

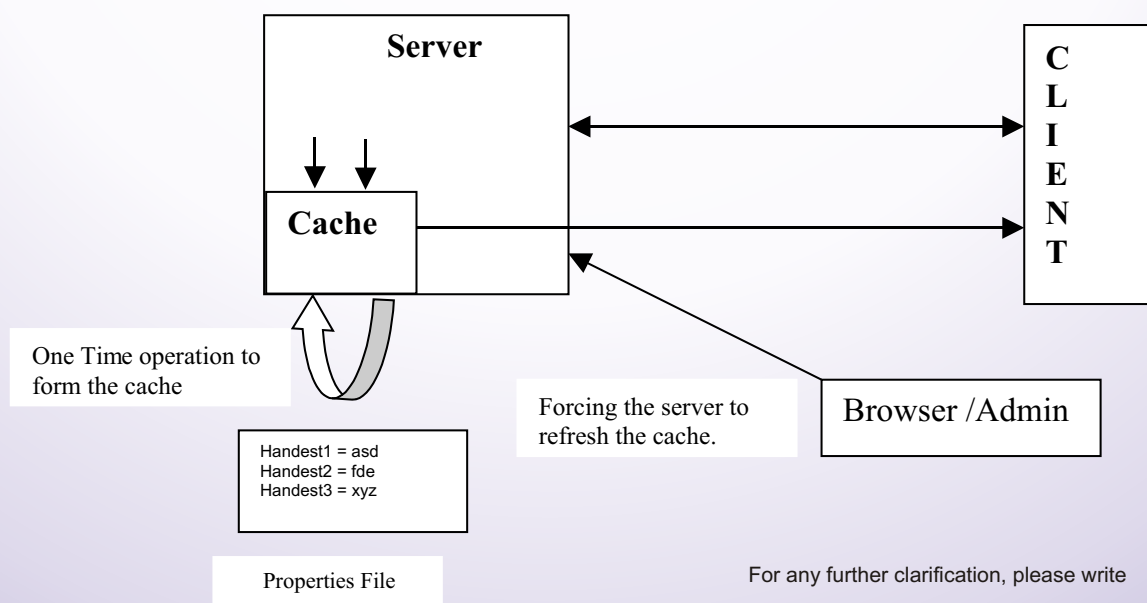
    public void refreshProperties(String fileID, PropertyLoader propertyLoader)
    {
        try
        {
            int fileIDInt = Integer.parseInt(fileID);
            logger.debug("RequestHandler :: refreshProperties : fileIDInt = " + fileIDInt);

            //PropertyLoader propertyLoader = new PropertyLoader();

            switch (fileIDInt)
            {
                case 0:
                    logger.debug("RequestHandler :: refreshProperties : case 0 ");
                    propertyLoader.refreshHandsetModels();
                    break;

                case 1:
                    logger.debug("RequestHandler :: refreshProperties : case 1 ");
                    propertyLoader.refreshURLProperties();
                    break;

                default:
                    logger.debug("RequestHandler :: refreshProperties :
                    Default case. ");
                    break;
            }
        }
        catch (Exception ex)
        {
            logger.warn("RequestHandler :: refreshProperties : Exception occured . ");
        }
    }
}
```



For any further clarification, please write to [dadp.newsletter@relianceinfo.com](mailto:dadp.newsletter@relianceinfo.com).

In consonance with our Lead Story on Mobile Application Contest 2005 for developers (the second of its kind under the aegis of Reliance Infocomm) we present a synopsis on two innovative applications 'My Cartoons' and 'Call Minder' that won prizes in Mobile Application Contest 2004. Both these applications have been launched on R World and are among the most popular applications.

## My Cartoons:

Phoneytunes, a DADP developer came up with the idea of 'My Cartoons' application in the DADP Contest 2004. The application went on to win the first prize in the contest. Subsequently, the DADP team closely worked with Phoneytunes to fine-tune the application for commercial launch on R World.

Cartoons are a great stress buster. They have always made interesting reading in the morning newspapers. The caricatures, which highlight the peculiarities of an individual, have always fascinated most readers. Often, most of us resort to scribbling, doodling and drawing caricatures while relaxing or at leisure time. 'My Cartoons' application takes this popular user interest forward. 'My Cartoons' is a Java-based application that allows the mobile phone to be used as a drawing device. The user can choose from various options of facial features to draw a variety of cartoons. He can choose a particular face style, i.e. a round face, a long face etc, then he could choose from a variety of hairstyles, eyebrow styles, and choose the kind of eyes, ears and lips his cartoon needs to have.

As the application administrator can add new sketches to any of the facial styles, the application can be tuned to be on the lines of any of the popular contemporary topics. For example, if there is a cricket series, then popular a player's face, hairstyle, eyes, lips etc can be created. Likewise, users can try various facial styles on the cartoons of their superstars. Also, during festivals like Holi, Christmas etc, the application can have a colorful face dabbed with colors of Holi for fun. Like wise the user can create a Santa Claus. Or say during the election season, users can have options of making caricatures of popular election candidates. With images being in line with events of public interest, the application attempts to generate a fun element around a topic with which users can easily relate to. On creating a cartoon image, the user has the option of

composing a message to create a greeting card, which can be sent to another RIM user. The user can also save the created card for future use. The recipient of the card has the option of saving the card as well as forwarding it to another user. The messaging mechanism of this application creates a fun element and also allows exchange of greetings at the time of popular festivals.

Launched on the Reliance network early this year, the application has steadily built a good base of loyal users who employ their creativity and imagination to come out with a variety of funny faces and then send them as greetings to bring smiles on faces of their friends.

## Call Minder:

J a y d e v Gopalakrishnan and Anupam Varghese of Tinfo Mobile , conceptualized the

'Call history' Application which won a special prize at the first ever Mobile Applications Contest in India, organized by DADP in 2003-04.

The DADP team took the prize winning application forward by dovetailing it to the Reliance environment and thereby enabling the goal of fulfilling a noble cause. Targeted at the visually challenged, 'Call History' reads out the missed, dialed and received calls list on reliance Phones and features an innovative J2ME-based number-to-speech engine.

Not only it enables a visually challenged person to access information on missed, dialed, and received calls but also it provides easy navigation through the menus on hearing the voice prompts by pressing the appropriate number key. The user can also selectively 'listen' to any of these call numbers and choose to either call back or delete the number from the respective lists.

The 'Call History' application has been showcased as a pioneering effort on the part of Reliance Infocomm in fulfilling social obligations toward the visually impaired. Though the application is primarily meant for the benefit of the visually challenged, it is expected to serve as a high utility tool for anyone using a Reliance mobile phone.



## To the best of my knowledge DADP's Contest is quite comparable to the Ericsson and Java contests

In this interview we present Taron Mohan, CEO, Phoneytunes and the Grand prize winner of the Mobile Application Contest 2004 held under the auspices of DADP. An engineering graduate from IIT, Delhi, Taron is an active DADP developer and an assiduous entrepreneur. He started his company Phoneytunes in 2000 to offer value added services on mobile handsets. Since then Phoneytunes has emerged as a key player in the mobile applications space. Taron is married and he frequently travels both for work and pleasure. Here Taron shares his experience in participating in last year's Mobile Application Contest which will inspire readers to develop innovative applications. Excerpts:



*Taron Mohan*  
Phoneytunes

### Could you tell us about your experience in participating in the Mobile Application Contest 2003-04?

Well, it was indeed unique. For the first time we had an opportunity to bring out our creativity and develop new applications for mobile devices. I think we did a decent job of the development.

### What did you find so unique and interesting for the developers in the Mobile Application Contest 2003-04?

The complete freedom to create any application coupled with the power of the Java platform on the devices. These two aspects really set our creative thinking afire.

### What prompted you to develop the grand prize winning application 'My Palette' for the contest?

I believe in entertainment as it gives totally a new experience for the users. Therefore adding fun to the mobile device was foremost in my mind.

That motivated me to go in for this particular application. It also brings in a lot of colour to the handset use.

### How do you rate the DADP contest vis-a-vis other similar contests?

Well, to the best of my knowledge DADP's Contest is quite comparable to the Ericsson and Java contests.

### What kind of application would you like to develop for this year's contest and what message would you like to give to other developers who desire to participate in this year's contest?

We are yet to work out the actual application but one thing is sure - we will keep it different from the others so as to highlight its rich user experience.

My message to developers who plan to participate in the Contest is let your imagination run wild!!! Create the best and then enjoy taking it live on the network. I am confident that your application will stand out for its very utility/entertainment value.

Dear DADP:

It is very interesting to read about the developers and their applications which you publish in the "Interview of the Month" section in R-evolution. As a student developer, this inspires me to think of innovative mobile ideas, productize the same and make money ....all thanks to your newsletter

Keep up the good work.

Anjan Sharma  
Engineering student, Bangalore

Hello,

I am a regular reader of the DADP newsletter and a blogger.

It would be nice if you can produce the newsletter in HTML so that I can link to it from my blog. Also, adding a RSS feed would be a good idea.

Best regards,

Veer.  
DADP Developer

## Quiz

- Choose the statement that best describes the relationship between JSP and servlets:
  - Servlets are built on JSP semantics and all servlets are compiled to JSP pages for runtime usage.
  - JSP and servlets are unrelated technologies.
  - Servlets and JSP are competing technologies for handling web requests. Servlets are being superseded by JSP, which is preferred. The two technologies are not useful in combination.
  - JSPs are built on servlet semantics and all JSPs are compiled to servlets for runtime usage.
- What alternatives exist to embedding Java code directly within the HTML markup of your JSP page?
  - Moving the code into your session manager.
  - Moving the code into scriptlets.
  - Moving the code into JavaBeans and servlets.
  - Moving the code into a transaction manager
- Which of the following network connections is supported by MIDP?
  - UDP datagrams
  - WAP
  - HTTP
  - All of the aboves
- In the CDC, user interface issues are handled by the:
  - Foundation profile
  - Personal profile
  - Mobile Information Device Profile (MIDP)
  - None of the above
- Which of the following areas are being investigated by the MIDP Next Generation?
  - HTTPS and secure networking
  - Network connectivity through sockets and datagrams
  - Extensions to the low-level user interface APIs to allow greater game functionality
  - All of the above

Answers 1. D) 2. C) 3. C) 4. B) 5. D)

## Monthly Poser

Which famous personality is known as the "Guy with the algorithm"?

- Kunwal Rekhi
- Vijay Mukhi
- Bill Gates
- None of the above

Answer to last month's poser: CIA Computer expert.

Winner of the last month's poser (through a lucky draw) is: Syed Mohammed Ali, Hyderabad  
Winner will receive the prize by courier.

Answers to the Monthly Poser should be sent to [dadp.newsletter@relianceinfo.com](mailto:dadp.newsletter@relianceinfo.com) mentioning Monthly Poser - November 2005 as the subject with the sender's location stated. The winner will be decided on the basis of a lucky draw and walk away with a prize.

You can contribute ideas and information to R-evolution at the following e-mail address: [dadp.newsletter@relianceinfo.com](mailto:dadp.newsletter@relianceinfo.com).

Please note that contributions may be edited for clarity, style or length.

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