



Understanding GPS Accuracy

Mastering Android SDK Geolocation

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Goals/Objectives



Go beyond the native SDK documentation

Use Cases, Use Cases, Use Cases

Coding Patterns

Android GPS Test Tool

Save you hours, days or weeks of ramp-up

Assumptions

Familiar with Android SDK

Worked with Android projects

Understand Java



Who am I?

Andy Gup

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This is not about...

New Google Play Services SDK

Fused Location Provider

Activity Recognition

Geofencing APIs



<http://developer.android.com/google/play-services/location.html>

Accuracy

Depends on many things:

Device type

Which providers enabled

Internet connectivity

Cellular provider



Accuracy

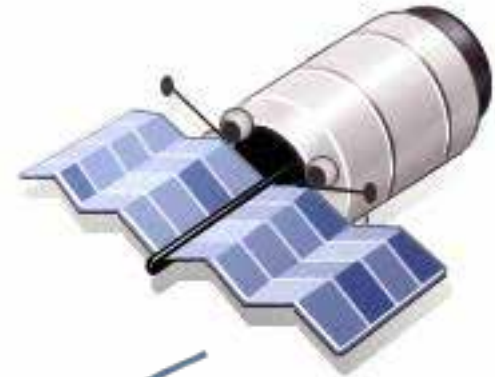
Depends on many things:

In a parked car

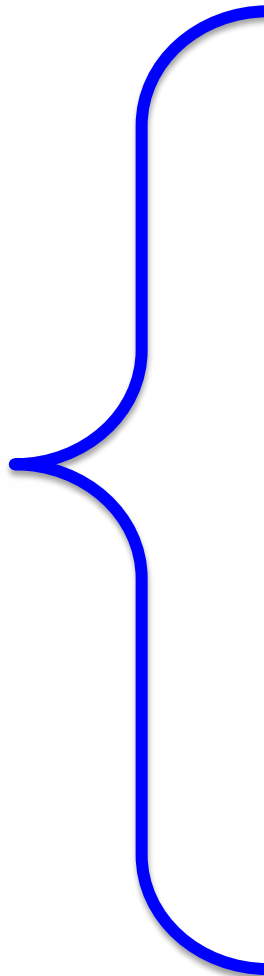
In a moving car

In a building

In a parking garage



Accuracy



GPSTester

Stop Pause Email

GPS Satellite Info (No., SNR, Used in fix)
Time to 1st fix: 00:00:03:116

3	0.0	false
5	0.0	false
6	0.0	false
7	0.0	false
8	31.5	false
9	23.5	true
10	20.8	true
13	0.0	false
16	0.0	false
19	0.0	false
20	0.0	false
23	0.0	false
27	0.0	false
28	24.1	true
66	19.4	true
67	27.4	true
68	26.9	true
75	0.0	false
76	0.0	false
77	28.9	true
78	18.7	true
85	0.0	false
86	0.0	false
87	0.0	false

GPS NMEA



Best Accuracy = GPS

GPS Accuracy: 12.0000 meters

GPS Lat/Lon: 39.91974061, -105.11684652





Best Accuracy = GPS

GPS Accuracy: 12.0000 meters

GPS Lat/Lon: 39.91974061, -105.11684652





Best Accuracy = GPS

GPS Accuracy: 12.0000 meters

GPS Lat/Lon: 39.91974061, -105.11684652



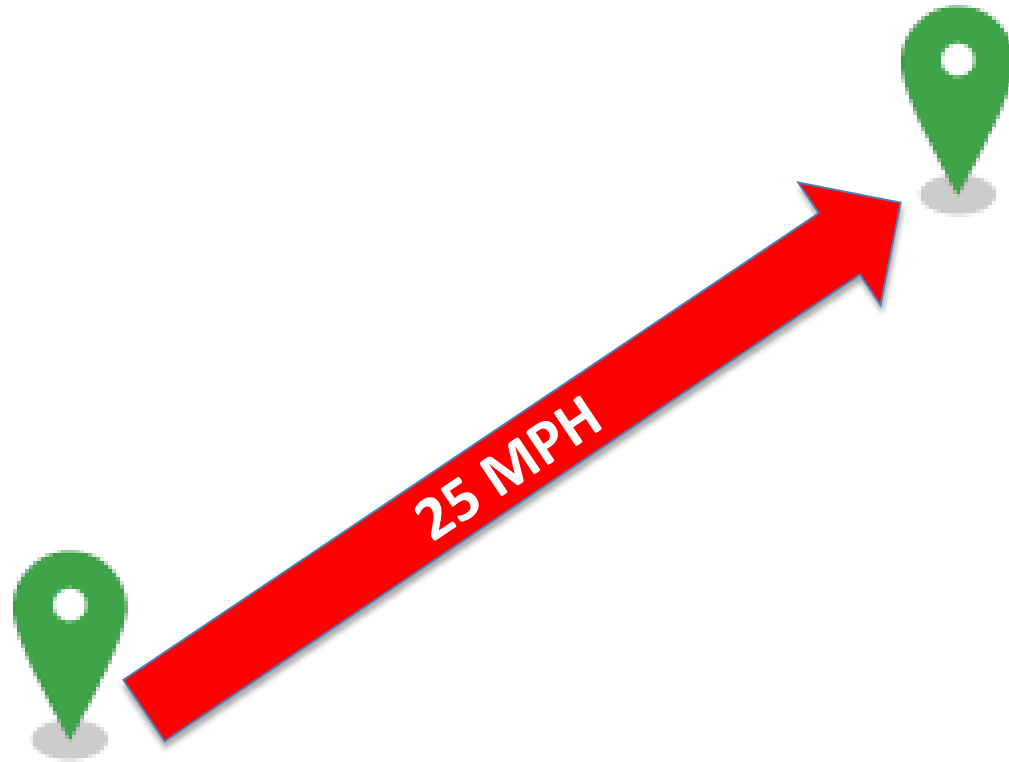
Define accuracy

Time

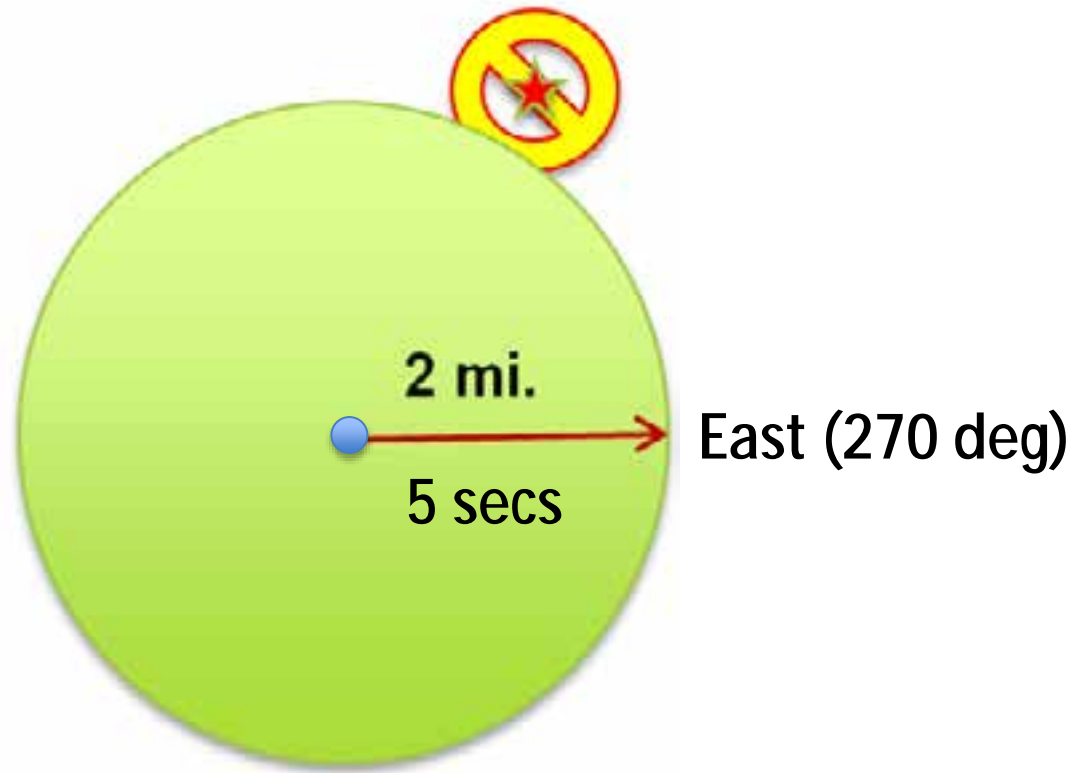
Distance

Speed

Heading



Reject bad results

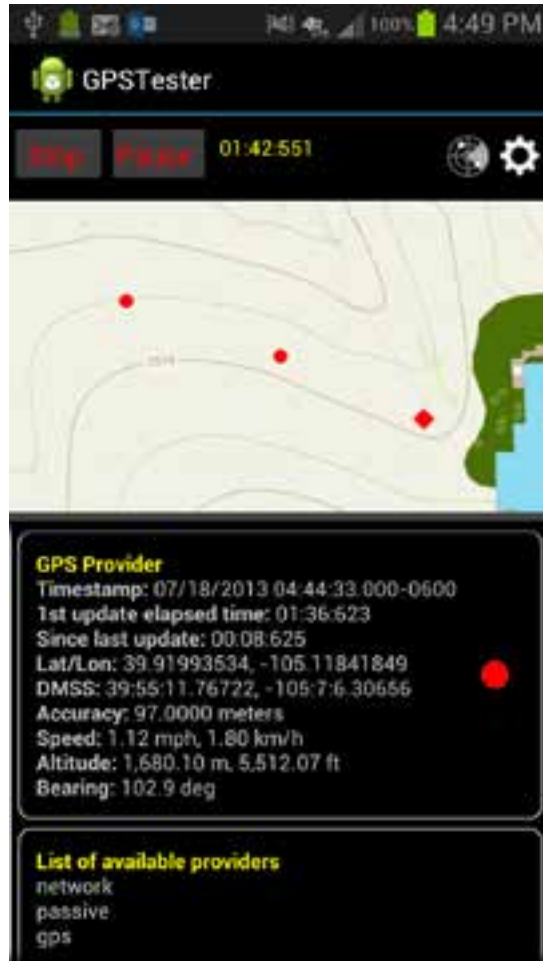


AndroidManifest.xml

```
<uses-permission  
android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION" />  
<uses-permission  
android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION" />
```

Android GPS Test Tool

<https://github.com/Esri/android-gps-test-tool>



package

android.location

Interfaces

GpsStatus.Listener

GpsStatus.NmeaListener

LocationListener

Classes

Address

Criteria

Geocoder

GpsSatellite

GpsStatus

Location

LocationManager

LocationProvider

android.location.LocationManager

Provides access to system location services.

android.location.LocationProvider

Provides geographic location

Has a set of criteria

GPS_PROVIDER

NETWORK_PROVIDER

PASSIVE_PROVIDER

Requesting Updates

`android.location.LocationManager`

`requestLocationUpdates()`

`requestSingleUpdate()` 🌟

Requesting Updates

```
requestLocationUpdates(  
    provider,  
    minTime, /* ms */  
    minDistance, /* meters */  
    listener  
);
```

Requesting Updates (GPS)

```
if(gpsProviderEnabled == true){  
    _locationManager.requestLocationUpdates(  
        locationManager.GPS_PROVIDER,  
        10000 /* minTime */,  
        10 /* minDistance */,  
        _locationListenerGPSProvider  
    );  
}
```

Six types of location data

Real-time

GPS

Network

Cached

GPS

Network

Passive

NMEA

Location data: Real-time GPS

Latitude - (decimal degrees)

Longitude - (decimal degrees)

Time - (UTC since Jan 1, 1970)

Bearing - (degrees)

Speed - (meters/second)

Altitude - (meters \geq sea level)

Accuracy - (meters)

Location data: Real-time GPS

Location[

mProvider=gps,

mTime=1374081473000,

mLatitude=39.91824753,

mLongitude=-105.10395774,

mHasAltitude=true, mAltitude=1065.0,

mHasSpeed=true, mSpeed=0.0,

mHasBearing=false, mBearing=0.0,

mHasAccuracy=true, mAccuracy=72.0,

mExtras=Bundle

[mParcelledData.dataSize=44]]

Location data: Real-time Network

Latitude - (decimal degrees)

Longitude - (decimal degrees)

Time - (UTC since Jan 1, 1970)

Accuracy - (meters)

Location data: Real-time Network

Location[

mProvider=network,

mTime=1373643571572,

mLatitude=33.6985455,

mLongitude=-117.9914674,

mHasAltitude=false, mAltitude=0.0,

mHasSpeed=false, mSpeed=0.0,

mHasBearing=false, mBearing=0.0,

mHasAccuracy=true, mAccuracy=55.161,

mExtras=Bundle

[mParcelledData.dataSize=212]]

Location: Cached GPS

Latitude - (decimal degrees)

Longitude - (decimal degrees)

Time - (UTC since Jan 1, 1970)

Bearing - (degrees)

Speed - (meters/second)

Altitude - (meters \geq sea level)

Accuracy - (meters)

Location data: Cached Network

Latitude - (decimal degrees)

Longitude - (decimal degrees)

Time - (UTC since Jan 1, 1970)

Accuracy - (meters)

Location data: Passive

Latitude - (decimal degrees)

Longitude - (decimal degrees)

Time - (UTC since Jan 1, 1970)

Bearing - (degrees) ???

Speed - (meters/second) ???

Altitude - (meters \geq sea level) ??

Accuracy - (meters) ???

Location data: NMEA

```
addNmeaListener(GpsStatus.NmeaListener);
```

```
$GNGSA,A,2,67,68,78,,,,,,,,,2.4,2.2,0.8*23
```

7 Technical use cases

Cold start

Warm start

Minimized

Passive

Snapshot

Intermittent

Continuous

Technical Use Case: Cold start

Phone rebooted

Updated phone OS

Potential for no cached values

Potential for large inaccuracy



Cold start

Best Accuracy = Network
Network Accuracy: 1,199.0000 meters
Network Lat/Lon: 39.9338688, -105.1263762

The screenshot shows the GPSTester application interface. At the top, the status bar displays connectivity icons, 100% battery, and the time 1:28 PM. The app title 'GPSTester' is visible. Below the title, there are 'Start' and 'Pause' buttons, a timer showing '00:01:972', and icons for a globe and settings. The main area is a map with a blue dot indicating the current location. A red arrow points from this dot to a callout box on the left. Below the map, there are three panels of provider information:

- Network Lat/Lon:** 39.9338688, -105.1263762
- Cached Network Provider**
Timestamp: 07/18/2013 01:27:14.172-0600
Retrieved in: 00:00:00
Lat/Lon: 39.9338688, -105.1263762
DMSS: 39:56:1.92768, -105:7:34.95432
Accuracy: 1,199.0000 meters
- Cached GPS Provider**
Lat/Lon: N/A
Accuracy: N/A
- Network Provider**
Timestamp: 07/18/2013 01:27:17.213-0600

Technical Use Case: Warm start

Cached locations available
GPS has been run recently



Cached Network Provider

Timestamp: 07/18/2013 01:37:36.756-0600

Retrieved in: 00:00:00

Lat/Lon: 39.9338688, -105.1263762

DMSS: 39:56:1.92768, -105:7:34.95432

Accuracy: 1,199.0000 meters



Cached GPS Provider

Timestamp: 07/18/2013 01:33:09.000-0600

Retrieved in: 00:00:00

Lat/Lon: 39.91968793, -105.11756249

DMSS: 39:55:10.87655, -105:7:3.22496

Accuracy: 72.0 meters

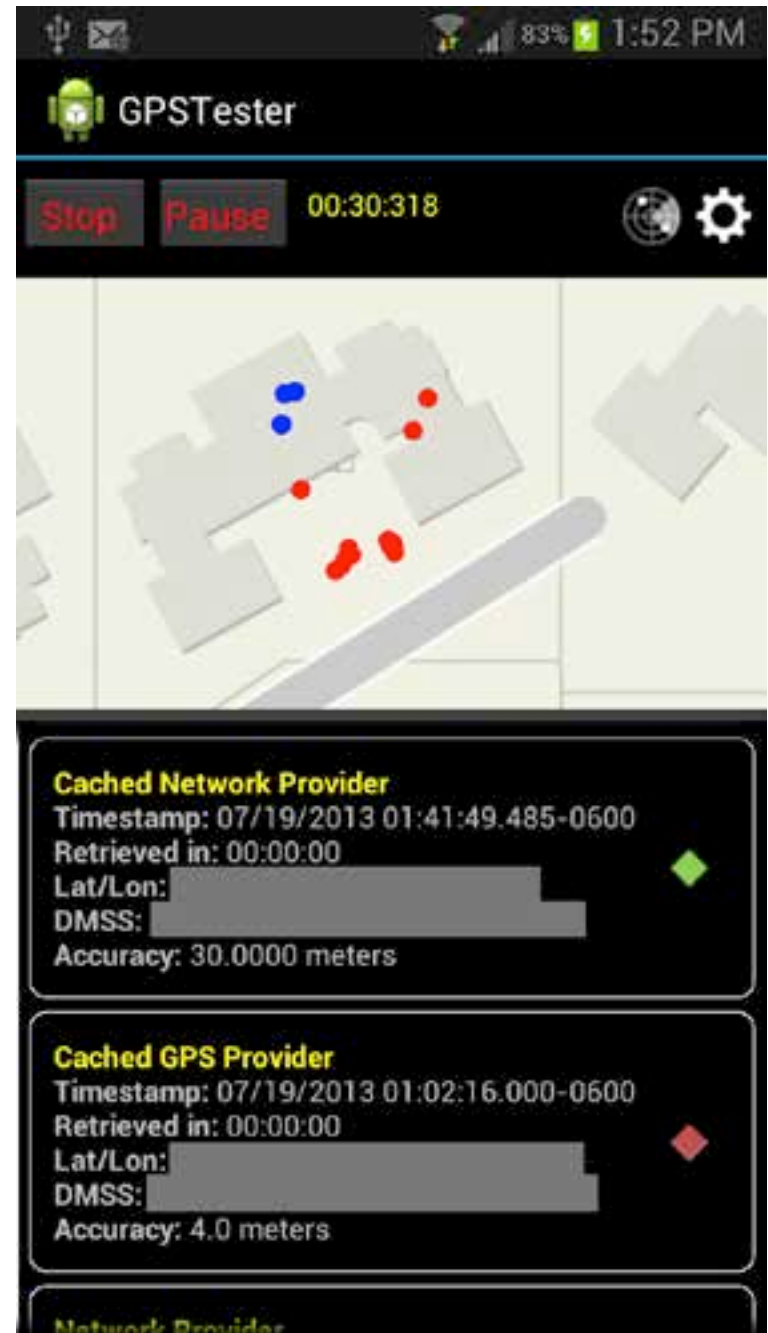


Warm start

Compare

Cached network & GPS

Check timestamps!!

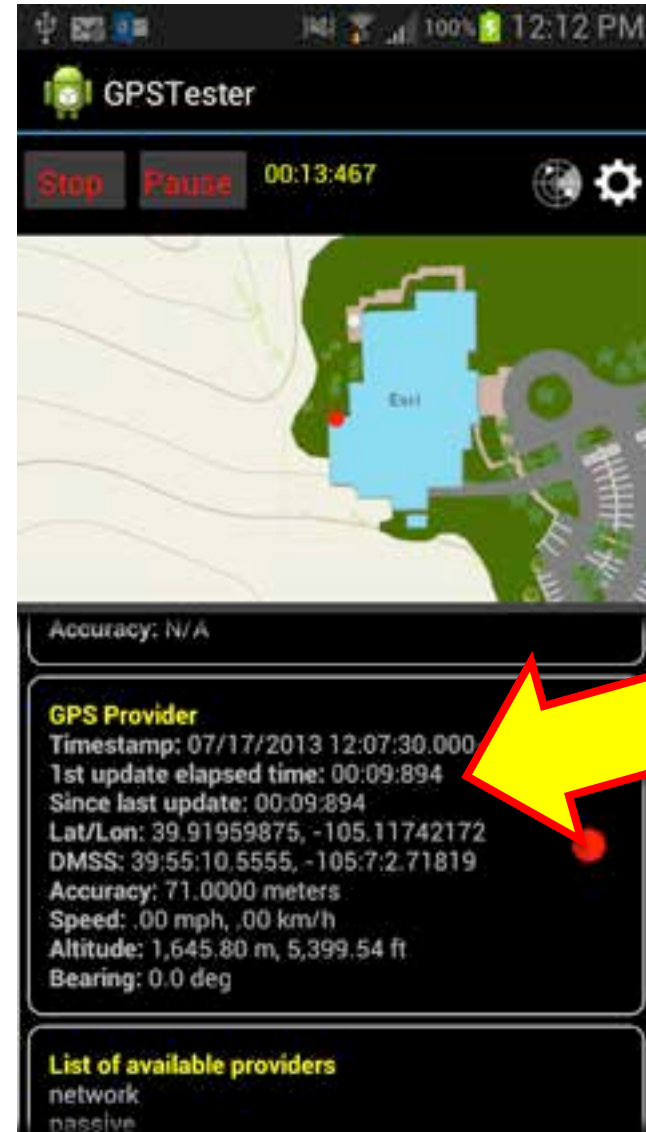


Warm start

Example:

~10 seconds

Accuracy 71 meters



Technical Use Case: Minimized

App in background

GPS can be run

Can kill battery quickly



Technical Use Case: Passive

Dependent on some other app

Only receives if other app requests location

No guarantees!

```
<receiver  
    android:name=".receivers.PassiveLocationChangedReceiver" />
```

Technical Use Case: Snapshot

One-time location
>= minimum accuracy

Example:

Standing indoors

~2 mins

Accuracy 20 meters



Technical Use Case: Snapshot

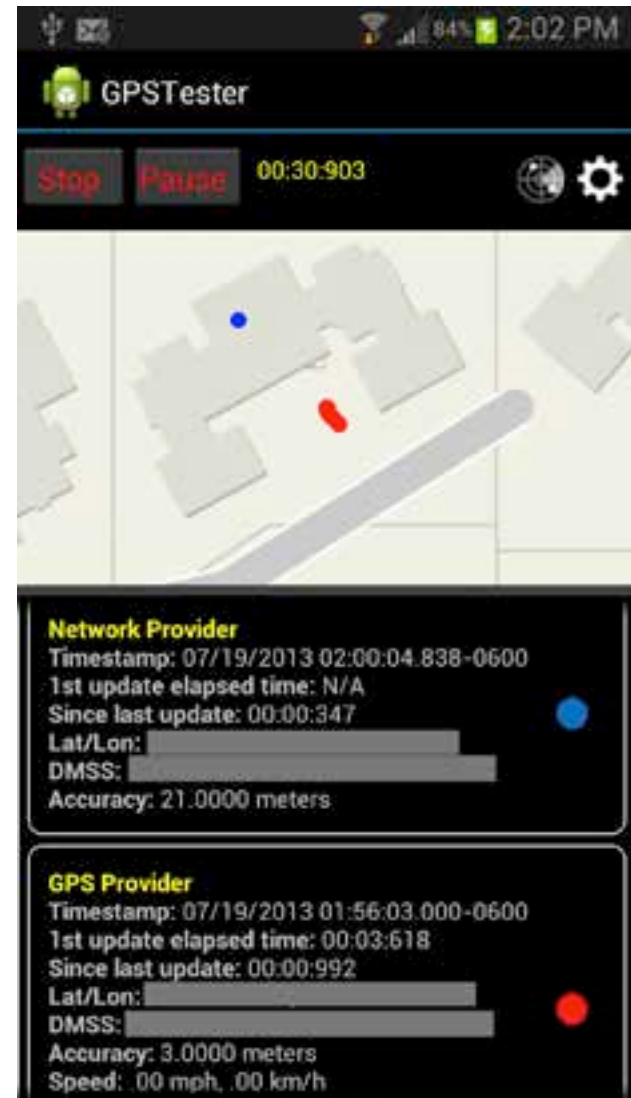
One-time location
>= minimum accuracy

Example:

Next to building

~30 seconds

Accuracy 3 meters



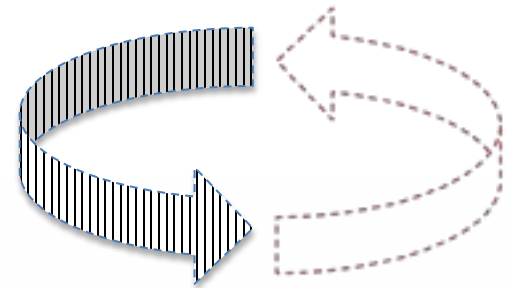
Technical Use Case: Intermittent

No movement detected for period of time

Adjusts minTime & minDistance

Temporarily sleep GPS

Keeps GPS 'warm'



Technical Use Case: Continuous

GPS stays on

Highest level of accuracy

Most battery usage



End-User scenarios - Continuous

Walking

Running

Hiking

Biking

Driving

Biking

Example Technical Requirements

Start

minTime = 0

minDistance = 0

if

accuracy \leq 20 meters

speed $>$ 5 mph && speed $<$ 45 mph

time $>$ 2 minutes

power source = battery

then

reset location updates

minTime = 5000

minDistance = 10



End-User scenarios - Snapshot

Find coffee

Find nearby places

Get start location for driving directions



Find nearby coffee shops

Example Technical Requirements

Start

minTime = 0

minDistance = 0

if

accuracy \leq 1000 meters

then

shutoff location



Questions?

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Bonus Slides



Step 1: AndroidManifest.xml

```
<uses-permission  
android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION" />  
<uses-permission  
android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION" />
```

Step 2a: retrieve LocationManager

```
LocationManager _locationManager =  
Context.getSystemService(Context.LOCATION_SERVICE);
```

Step 2b: verify providers

```
final Boolean gpsProviderEnabled =
    _locationManager.isProviderEnabled(
        locationManager.GPS_PROVIDER);

final Boolean networkProviderEnabled =
    _locationManager.isProviderEnabled(
        locationManager.NETWORK_PROVIDER);

final Boolean passiveProviderEnabled =
    _locationManager.isProviderEnabled(
        locationManager.PASSIVE_PROVIDER);
```

Step 3: Last Known Location

```
Location _lastKnownLocationNetworkProvider =  
    _locationManager.getLastKnownLocation(  
        locationManager.NETWORK_PROVIDER);
```

```
Location _lastKnownLocationGPSProvider =  
    _locationManager.getLastKnownLocation(  
        locationManager.GPS_PROVIDER);
```

```
if(_lastKnownLocationNetworkProvider != null){  
    final double cachedNetworkLatitude =  
        _lastKnownLocationNetworkProvider.getLatitude();  
  
    final double cachedNetworkLongitude =  
        _lastKnownLocationNetworkProvider.getLongitude();  
}
```

Step 4a: set GPS Listener

```
_gpsLocationListener = new LocationListener() {  
    @Override  
    public void onLocationChanged(Location location) {  
        // TODO Auto-generated method stub  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public void onStatusChanged(String provider, int status, Bundle extras) {  
        // TODO Auto-generated method stub  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public void onProviderEnabled(String provider) {  
        // TODO Auto-generated method stub  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public void onProviderDisabled(String provider) {  
        // TODO Auto-generated method stub  
    }  
}
```

Step 4b: set Network Listener

```
_networkLocationListener = new LocationListener() {  
    @Override  
    public void onLocationChanged(Location location) {  
        // TODO Auto-generated method stub  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public void onStatusChanged(String provider, int status, Bundle extras) {  
        // TODO Auto-generated method stub  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public void onProviderEnabled(String provider) {  
        // TODO Auto-generated method stub  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public void onProviderDisabled(String provider) {  
        // TODO Auto-generated method stub  
    }  
}
```

NOTE: multiple listeners

You will not be able to shut off a [provider](#) if it has multiple listeners.



Step 5: Requesting Updates

`android.location.LocationManager`

`requestLocationUpdates()`

`requestSingleUpdate()` 🌟

Requesting Updates

```
requestLocationUpdates(  
    provider,  
    minTime, /* ms */  
    minDistance, /* meters */  
    listener  
);
```

Requesting Updates (GPS)

```
if(gpsProviderEnabled == true){  
    _locationManager.requestLocationUpdates(  
        locationManager.GPS_PROVIDER,  
        10000 /* minTime */,  
        10 /* minDistance */,  
        _locationListenerGPSProvider  
    );  
}
```

Requesting Updates (Network)

```
if(networkProviderEnabled == true){  
    _locationManager.requestLocationUpdates(  
        locationManager.NETWORK_PROVIDER,  
        10000 /* minTime */,  
        10 /* minDistance */,  
        _locationListenerNetworkProvider  
    );  
}
```

Requesting Updates (Passive)

```
if(passiveProviderEnabled == true){  
    _locationManager.requestLocationUpdates(  
        locationManager.PASSIVE_PROVIDER,  
        10000 /* minTime */,  
        10 /* minDistance */,  
        _locationListenerPassiveProvider  
    );  
}
```

Requesting Updates

`minTime`

`milliseconds >= 0`

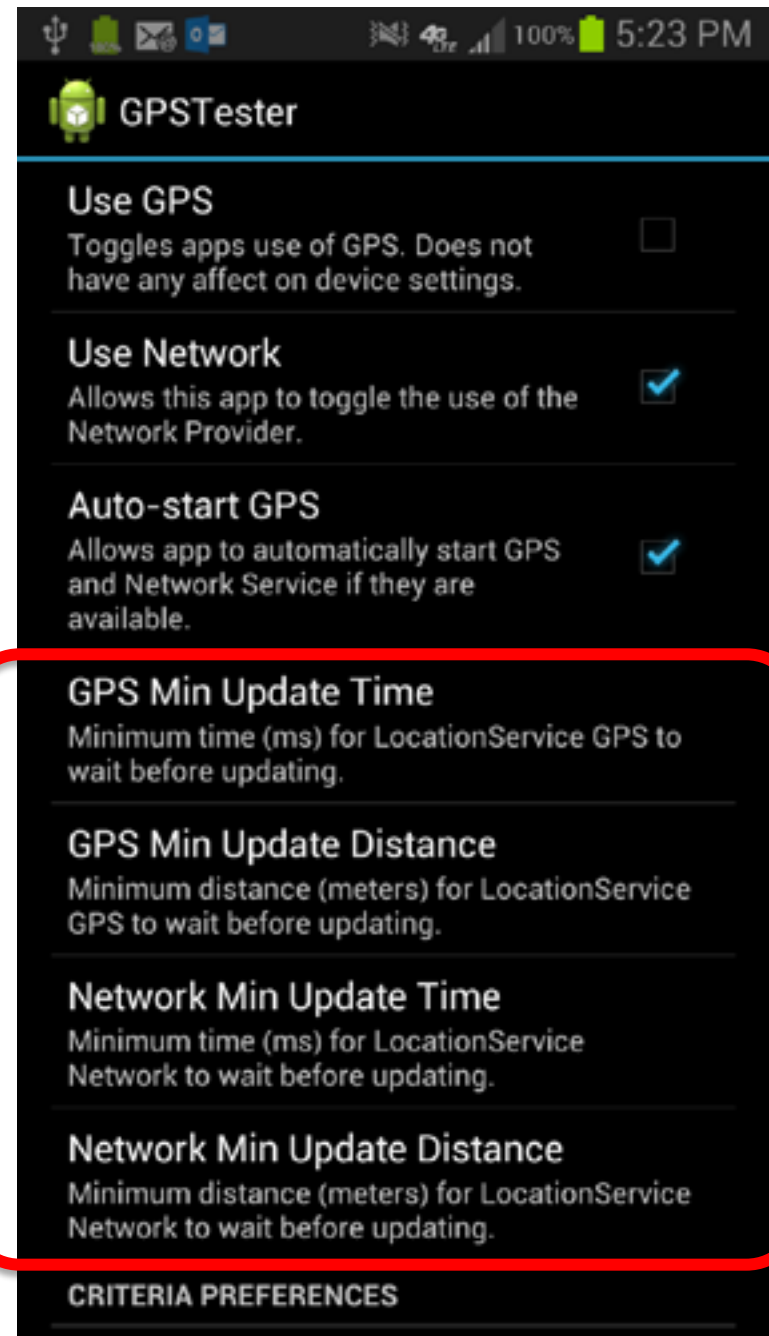
`if (minTime > 0 && minDistance)`

`minDistance`

`meters >= 0`

Less battery efficient than `minTime`

Requesting Updates



Step 6: process location updates

```
@Override
```

```
public void onLocationChanged(Location location) {  
    double lat = location.getLatitude();  
    double long = location.getLongitude();  
    double altitude = location.getAltitude();  
    float accuracy = location.getAccuracy();  
    float bearing = location.getBearing();  
    float speed = location.getSpeed();  
}
```


Best Provider via **Criteria**

```
Criteria criteria = new Criteria();
criteria.setAccuracy(accuracy);
criteria.setCostAllowed(cost);
criteria.setPowerRequirement(power);
...
...

final String bestProviderName =
_locationManager.getBestProvider(criteria, true);
```

Best Provider by comparison

```
if(_networkAccuracy > _gpsAccuracy &&
    _gpsTime > _networkTime &&
    _gpsTimeDiff > _MIN_UPDATE_TIME){
    //Use network Location data
}

if(_gpsAccuracy > _networkAccuracy &&
    _networkTime > _gpsTime &&
    _networkTimeDiff > _MIN_UPDATE_TIME){
    //use gps Location data
}
```

Step 7: shutdown updates

```
if(_locationManager != null &&
    _locationListenerNetworkProvider != null &&
    _locationListenerGPSProvider != null){

    _locationManager.removeUpdates(
        _locationListenerNetworkProvider);

    _locationManager.removeUpdates(
        _locationListenerGPSProvider);

    _locationListenerNetworkProvider = null;
    _locationListenerGPSProvider = null;
}
```

Consuming real-time locations

Time to 1st result

- Elapsed time
- Accuracy value

Compare GPS vs Network



Consuming real-time locations

Subsequent results

- Elapsed time
- Accuracy value
- Bearing
- Distance traveled

Streaming updates

Time between updates



The screenshot shows the GPSTester application interface. At the top, the status bar displays system icons, signal strength, 100% battery, and the time 12:27 PM. The app title "GPSTester" is centered at the top. Below the title, there are control buttons: a red "Stop" button, a grey "Pause" button, and a yellow timer showing "10:35:455". To the right of the timer are icons for a globe and a gear (settings). The main area is a map showing a blue building labeled "Eeri" with two red dots indicating location points. Below the map, the "Accuracy: N/A" is displayed. The "GPS Provider" section lists the following data: Timestamp: 07/17/2013 12:17:24.000-0600, 1st update elapsed time: 00:10:261, Since last update: 04:42:974, Lat/Lon: 39.91976804, -105.16494, -105.16494, DMSS: 39:55:11.16494, -105:09:16.69, Accuracy: 102.0000 meters, Speed: .00 mph, .00 km/h, Altitude: 1,679.70 m, 5,510.76 ft, and Bearing: 0.0 deg. A large yellow arrow with a red outline points to the "Accuracy: 102.0000 meters" line. The "List of available providers" section is partially visible at the bottom, showing "network" and "gps-tty" entries.

Accuracy: N/A

GPS Provider
Timestamp: 07/17/2013 12:17:24.000-0600
1st update elapsed time: 00:10:261
Since last update: 04:42:974
Lat/Lon: 39.91976804, -105.16494, -105.16494
DMSS: 39:55:11.16494, -105:09:16.69
Accuracy: 102.0000 meters
Speed: .00 mph, .00 km/h
Altitude: 1,679.70 m, 5,510.76 ft
Bearing: 0.0 deg

List of available providers
network
gps-tty

Streaming updates

Network vs GPS

Example:

2093m vs 17m



The screenshot shows the GPSTester application interface. At the top, there's a status bar with icons for USB, email, signal strength, 98% battery, and the time 2:05 PM. Below that, the app title 'GPSTester' is displayed. A control bar contains 'Stop' and 'Pause' buttons, a timer showing '05:32:354', and icons for a globe and settings. The main area is a map showing a parking lot with several red dots representing location updates. Below the map, there are two panels for provider status:

Network Provider
Timestamp: 07/18/2013 01:58:38.941-0600
1st update elapsed time: N/A
Since last update: 00:19:113
Lat/Lon: 39.9279357, -105.1289362
DMSS: 39:55:40.56852, -105:7:44.17032
Accuracy: 2,093.0000 meters

GPS Provider
Timestamp: 07/18/2013 01:58:44.909-0600
1st update elapsed time: 00:15:456
Since last update: 00:03:335
Lat/Lon: 39.91960675, -105.11700442
DMSS: 39:55:10.5843, -105:7:1.21591
Accuracy: 17.0000 meters
Speed: 3.91 mph, 6.30 km/h

Consuming real-time locations

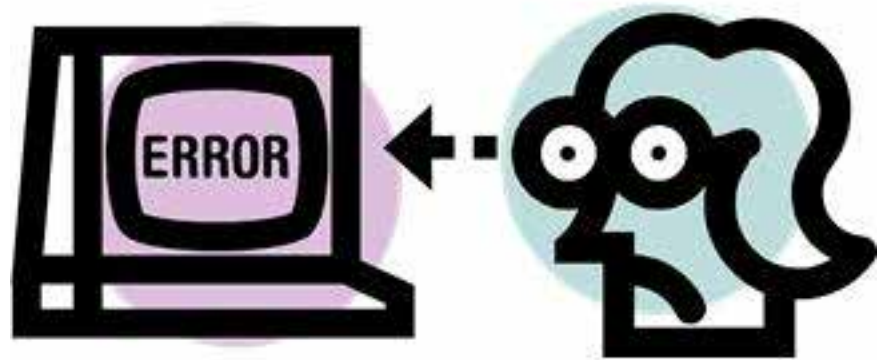
Handle bad locations

Recovering from errors

Lost connection:

GPS

Network



Detect power on app startup

```
@Override
public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {

    Intent intent = registerReceiver(null, new
        IntentFilter(Intent.ACTION_BATTERY_CHANGED));

    boolean isBatteryOn =
        intent.getIntExtra(
            BatteryManager.EXTRA_PLUGGED, -1) > 0

}
```

Detect power state change

BroadcastReceiver

```
<action android:name="android.intent.action.ACTION_POWER_CONNECTED" />  
<action android:name="android.intent.action.ACTION_POWER_DISCONNECTED" />
```



Detect low battery

```
<action android:name="android.intent.action.ACTION_BATTERY_LOW"/>  
<action  
android:name="android.intent.action.ACTION_BATTERY_OKAY"/>
```

```
public class PowerStateChangedReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver  
{  
    @Override  
    public void onReceive(Context context, Intent intent) {  
        boolean batteryLow =  
            intent.getAction().equals(Intent.ACTION_BATTERY_LOW);  
        if(batteryLow == true){  
            //Do something  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Detecting provider changes

```
@Override
public void onStatusChanged(String provider, in
    status, Bundle extras) {
    // TODO Auto-generated method stub
}
```

```
@Override
public void onProviderEnabled(String provider) {
    // TODO Auto-generated method stub
}
```

```
@Override
public void onProviderDisabled(String provider) {
    // TODO Auto-generated method stub
}
```

onStatusChanged Event

OUT_OF_SERVICE

TEMPORARILY_UNAVAILABLE

AVAILABLE

onProviderDisabled Event

Let your user know

Store the timestamp for comparison

Attempt to reestablish connection/reset

onProviderEnabled Event


Verify accuracy, timestamp

Let user know data was interrupted

Activity starting and stopping

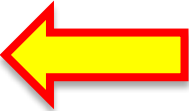
@Override

```
protected void onPause() {  
    stopLocation();  
    super.onPause();  
}
```



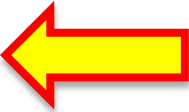
@Override

```
protected void onStop(){  
    super.onStop();  
    stopLocation();  
}
```



@Override

```
protected void onResume() {  
    super.onResume();  
    startLocation();  
}
```



Detect connectivity change (static)

```
public static Boolean checkNow(Context con){  
    try{  
        connectivityManager = (ConnectivityManager) con.getSystemService(Context.CONNECTIVITY_SERVICE);  
        wifiInfo = connectivityManager.getNetworkInfo(ConnectivityManager.TYPE_WIFI);  
        mobileInfo = connectivityManager.getNetworkInfo(ConnectivityManager.TYPE_MOBILE);  
        network = connectivityManager.getActiveNetworkInfo();  
  
        if(wifiInfo.isConnected() || mobileInfo.isConnected() || network.isConnected())  
        {  
            return true;  
        }  
    }  
    catch(Exception e){  
        Log.d("GPSTester", "CheckConnectivity Exception: " + e.getMessage());  
    }  
    return false;  
}
```

Helper methods: Distance Traveled

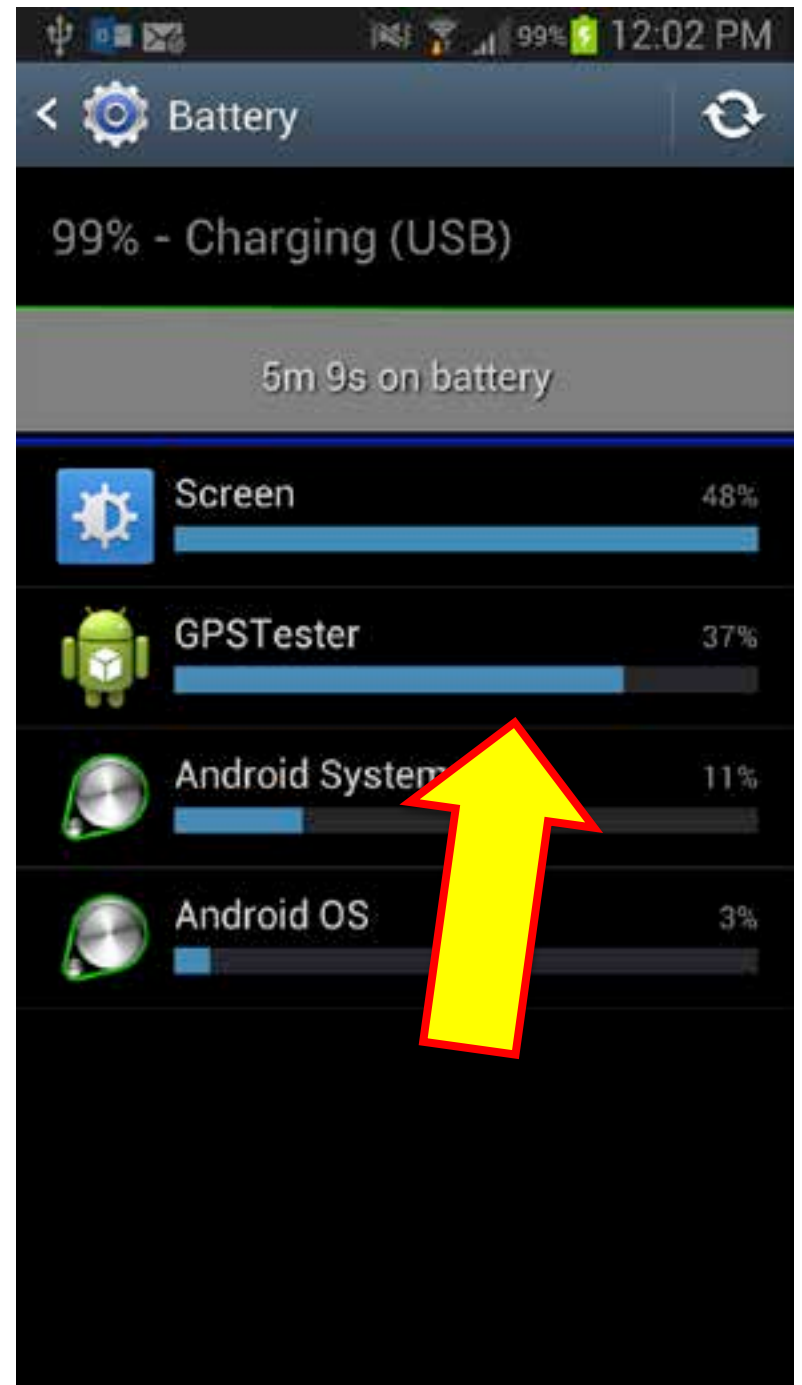
```
android.location.Location
```

```
distanceBetween( )
```

```
distanceTo( )
```

```
bearingTo( )
```

Battery life



Battery life

minTime > 0

Shutoff location when minimized.

Shutoff location at min. accuracy

Modify LocationManager

on battery

if movement stops for long periods

under different usage conditions

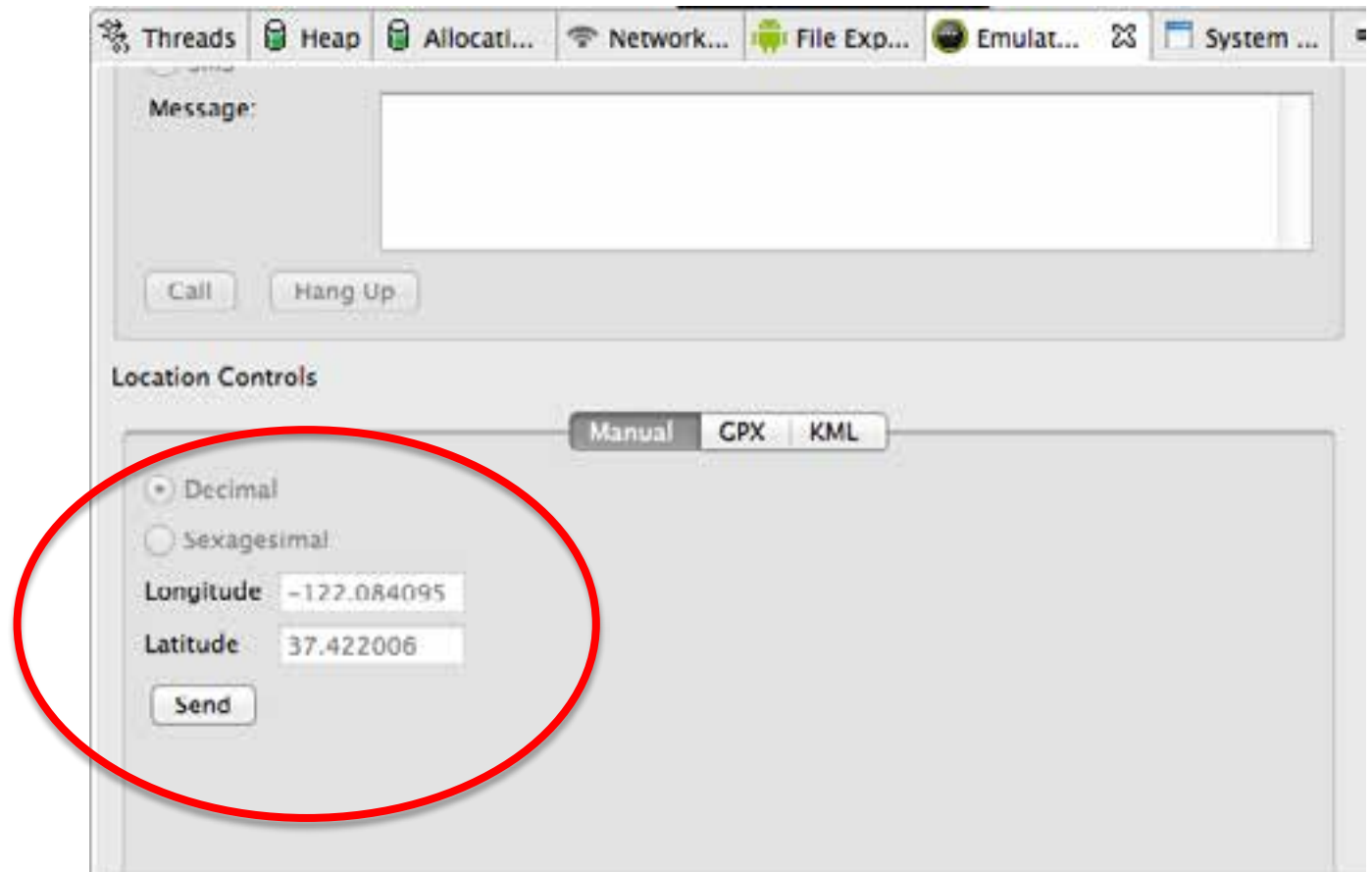


Keep screen turned on

```
getWindow().addFlags(  
    WindowManager.LayoutParams.FLAG_KEEP_SCREEN_ON);
```

Mock Updates (Emulator)

DDMS Emulator Control



Mock Updates (Device)

Android Manifest

```
<uses-permission  
android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_MOCK_LOCATION" />
```

Mock Updates (Device)

Android Manifest

```
<uses-permission  
android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_MOCK_LOCATION" />
```

Device Settings

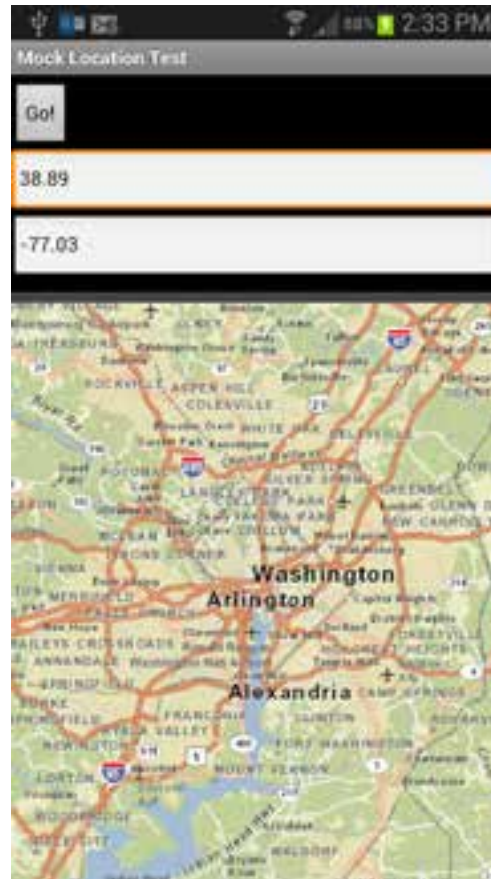
Allow mock locations

Allow mock locations



Mock Updates (Device)

<https://github.com/andygup/mock-location-test-android>





Best Accuracy = GPS

GPS Accuracy: 12.0000 meters

GPS Lat/Lon: 39.91974061, -105.11684652



Privacy

Get legal advice

Allow for opt-out

Be **clear** about your privacy policy

