Porting Existing PhoneGap Apps to Tizen OS - Development Story

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ProKarma



About ProKarma...

Who am I?

- Anil Kumar Yanamandra
- Mobile Architect & Head CoE for Mobility
- @ProKarma
 - Mobile Application Development: B2C, B2B
 - Native (iOS, Android, BlackBerry), Hybrid, Mobile Web apps/sites
 - Custom MDM solutions
 - Mobile Dev Governance: Coding standards, Best practices
 - Mobile Consulting: Native or Hybrid or Web? Requirements driven architecture
 - R & D



Agenda

- What is PhoneGap?
- Our porting experiment
- Changes and issues
- Demo
- Lessons learnt



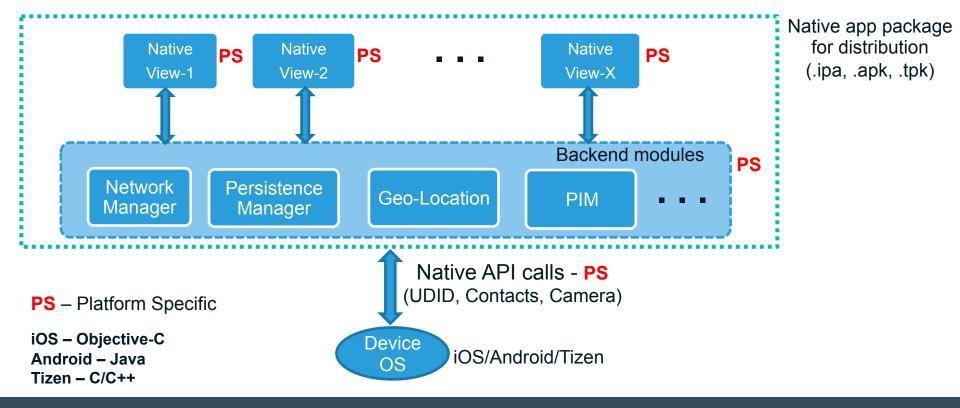
What is PhoneGap BTW?

PhoneGap

- Open-source
- Cross-platform
- Web standards based
- Mobile App Development Framework
- Access native features via Web APIs
- Pure backend framework: Works with any web UI framework
- Extensible: Add custom features

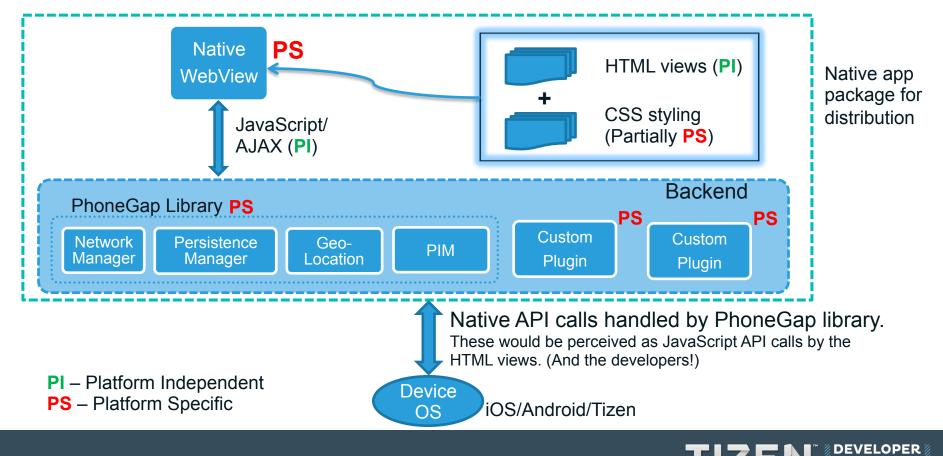


Typical Mobile App Architecture – Native





Typical Mobile App Architecture – PhoneGap



Interesting. But why bother when I have Tizen Web API?

- Code Reuse!
- Single codebase across platforms

Platform	Native	PhoneGap
Android	<pre>TelephonyManager mTelephonyMgr = (TelephonyManager) context.getSystemService(</pre>	<pre>var deviceUid = device.uuid;</pre>
iOS	NSString deviceUid = [[UIDevice currentDevice] uniqueIdentifier];	<pre>var deviceUid = device.uuid;</pre>
Tizen	<pre>String deviceUid; SystemInfo::GetValue(http://tizen.org/system/duid,</pre>	<pre>var deviceUid = device.uuid;</pre>



Our porting experiment

Automobile shipment app

- Use-case: Ship vehicles from the comfort of your mobile device
- Features:
 - ✓ Role based User Registration
 - ✓ Scan VIN barcode to auto input Year, Make, Model
 - ✓ Get Quote
 - ✓ Save Quote
 - ✓ Place an Order
 - ✓ Pay by Credit Card
 - ✓ Track Orders
 - ✓ Map shipment locations
 - ✓ Review orders



Tech Details

• Platform support:

- ✓ iOS: iPad and iPhone
- ✓ Android: Tablet and Smartphone
- ✓ BlackBerry 10

Tech Stack:

- Native shell
- PhoneGap
- HTML5 stack: HTML/CSS3/JavaScript
- AJAX
- Only "Native" feature: VIN scanner



JavaScript libraries used





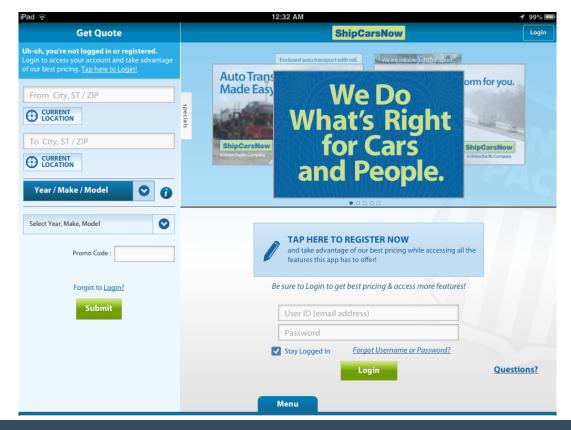


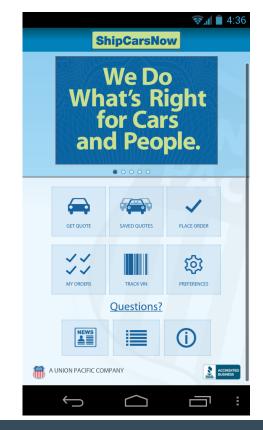
MOBISCROLL





Screencaps: Tablet and Smartphone apps







Porting to Tizen OS: Changes

- Extract web codebase from the Android/iOS PhoneGap project
- Import to new Tizen project
- Define config.xml settings
- Whitelist all URLs the app would use
- Remove the JS hooks to "native" VIN barcode scan plugin
- No more!



Debug

What worked?

- Almost everything!
- Responsive UI: media-queries, all the JavaScript libraries
- What needed "fixes"?
 - "font-face" CSS code that loads custom font using OTF files did not work
 - "Pull-to-Refresh" feature in iScroll plugin

Issues: Tizen dev device RD-210

- Performance
- Load times
- Refresh rates



Demo Time!

Final result









Lessons learnt

Summary: Why was this porting successful?

- Stick to standard web technologies: Avoid Third party frameworks with custom JavaScript translation layers.
 - Keep up with the latest supported Libs!
- Employ Responsive Web Design principles:
 - Build for varying screen sizes
 - Build for varying device capabilities
- Tizen's outstanding HTML5 compliance makes porting HTML5 based apps easier and economical



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