



# Police Scanner for Android

## Locate and listen to Police dispatch frequencies

---

### *Executive Summary*

Ever thought of an application for the mobile phone that could alert you with emergency broadcast streams in real time along with text message to warn you of the disaster that can occur in future? Here is an app that focuses on these as well as some other services such as ambulance dispatch, fire departments, highway patrol and many more. Our client was keen to develop an app for the Android platform that would enable users to know about the forthcoming disaster. After having listed the requirements, the client was in search of a reliable and efficient software development partner to build the application.



Client's search for the right development partner ended at Mindfire Solutions. After few quick discussions with Mindfire's technical team, the client could judge the capability of our unit and awarded the project to us. Mindfire took no time in understanding the objectives of the client and started work immediately. The end result developed was a plug-in in Android that streams the media buffer of a radio channel over an internet and plays the media buffer with the native media player. The client was very happy to have received a fully functional app in time without much of involvement with the developers during the development phase.

### *About our Client*

**Client** Software Service Provider | **Location** USA | **Industry** IT & Software

### *Business Situation*

An application/tool for the Android, which can locate police dispatch frequencies of various countries along with cities, counties, and channels, was something that one of our clients wanted to develop. Their objective was to help people (users of the app) stay informed about any major disaster (happened/forthcoming) by listening to emergency broadcast streams in real time. Their requirement revealed that they wanted the app to stream the media buffer of a radio channel over internet and play it with native media player. He also required that all users of the app would be automatically updated to the new list whenever there is a new entry to the database that contained the list of countries, cities or station. Their requirements were stringent and needed someone who can understand their vision and meet their expectations.

### *Solution Details*

#### **The Mindfire Solution**

After the client offered the development work to Mindfire Solution's team, Mindfire started work responsibly and carefully in order to avoid any unusual scenario for the client and also for us. The development team had



brainstorming sessions to come up with the development plans. Finally, our team developed a plug-in for Android. The app built, could meet the objective of the client as it could stream the media buffer of a radio channel over internet and also played the media buffer with the native media player. The media buffer streamed from internet was saved into a file created locally and then played with Media player (already available in Android). The app parsed the xml file which include the radio channel info like country, city, stream url, location and .pls file. A user interface was created to display available radio channels for a country or for a city with some other information also displayed.

### Achievements

This kind of a task was something that our team was working on for the first time without prior experience. Streaming media buffer of radio channel over internet and then playing it with a native player by extracting the files from the locally created file was a challenge for our developers. But, they brainstormed and came up with the perfect solution. There was also a task of listening to the audio stream by the users while accessing various other applications which was challenging. Mindfire’s team performed satisfactorily in this area to overcome the request thus providing the client with a useful application.

### Technologies

SDK: Android 1.1, XML

### Final Results Software System



Fig: UI



Fig: App Window



### *Customer Benefits*

With the introduction of the app in the market, the response was huge with large number of Android users downloading it. Customers had the provision of staying informed during disaster times. Consumers were able to listen to streams in the background while browsing the web or using other application.

### *Future relationship*

As we could meet the timeframe and expectation of the client with minimal involvement, the client was very pleased and also recommended us to one of its acquaintances for another project. The client also came back to us after a month with another larger project related to mobile app development.

