Push Notification Service for Enhancing Relation between Parents and Educational Institutions: A case Study on Egyptian Schools.

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Abstract —with the growing interest in utilizing mobile communications to enhance the interactions between different partners in educational institutions, particularly in schools. However, how communicating with parents via applications while aren't actively running is quite a challenging demand. On the other hand, the addressed success of the Android supporting features provided a good candidate to support applications with real time information. Moreover the Android platforms supports efficiently customizable notifications, which allow applications based on Google Cloud Messaging (GCM) to specify the pushed events. In this paper we demonstrate and validate the adequacy of mobile services to enhance the interaction between schools and parents based on efficient use of push notification service in both real time and critical information. The paper presents a proposed notification system; MParent, that actively provide alerts and messaging between parents and schools. Also, an open approach was used to determine the reaction of the parents depending on what they want to be pushed to their phones .The proposed system, the MParent, was implemented, tested and validated. Evaluation and questionnaire results have proven how proposed system satisfy both parties; parents and school administrations.

Keywords: Mobile Services, Android Systems, Push Notifications, Parents, Educational institutions.