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## ADDING ENERGY STAR RATING SCHEMA TO ANDROID APPLICATIONS ON GOOGLE PLAY STORE: AN EXAMPLE OF A PREVENTIVE POWER SAVING MODEL

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#### Abstract.

A common issue that is shared among android smartphones users was and still related to saving their batteries power and to avoid the need of using any recharging resources. A big number of researches were conducted in the general field of "Saving Energy in Android Smartphones". Another big number of researches were also conducted in the subfield of "Saving Energy in Android Smartphones at the Application Layer". Both fields did generate a good amount of proposed methodologies, models, frameworks and algorithms that were provided as market products or approaches. However, here we propose a solution in the form of an addition to Google Play Store this addition will guide the end user to find and choose the best application in terms of power consumption based on his/her smartphone model. A review of the relevant existing literature is provided herein specifically covering various energy-saving techniques and tools proposed by various authors for Android smartphones.

Keywords: Android smartphones, Android applications, Power-saving, energy star rating, preventive power saving model

### 1. Introduction

Smartphones have grown to become constant companions to humans as they are considered to offer indispensable help in easing the daily life of individuals. They are largely supported by numerous and diverse applications which help in for instance, directing us to our destinations, storing tickets when we travel, facilitate communications with friends and family, and entertain with videos or music.

Due to the underlying importance of these mobile smart devices, there have been increasing concerns, particularly from users, regarding battery-drain which puts limitations on their usage. Based on the existing literature, a significant share of power consumption in these smart devices is largely caused by applications that are installed on the devices (Taleb et al, 2013; Li, Tran & Halfond, 2014).

Depending on the applications' functionality, they entail activities such as data downloading, content display, and use of built-in-sensors such as GPS (Global Positioning System) related sensors. There are various components of mobile smart devices that facilitate the above activities including; GPS sensors, device' display, the CPU, and network interfaces among others.

Consequently, activities/functions of different Android smartphone applications increase the energy consumption of any of the above-mentioned components. As a result, there has been a lot of effort in the existing literature geared towards identifying and investigating the underlying potential for energy savings in relation to these smartphone applications at applications layer and OS layer levels (Moamen & Jamali, 2015; Zhang, et.al., 2010).

### 2. State of the Art

### 2.1 Identify the Average Android-Application Lifecycle

In order to demonstrate the main issues with current power-saving approaches, first we proposed creating a lifecycle that shows the main average stages of an average android application. The proposed cycle is shown in Figure.1:

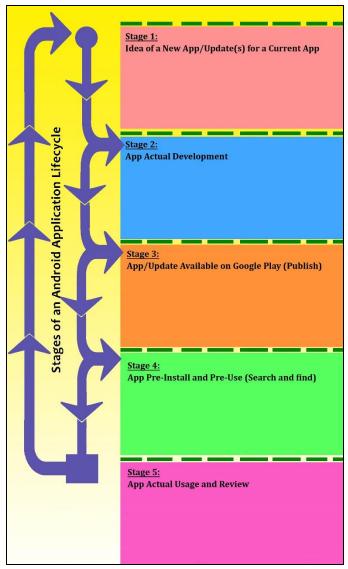


Figure 1: Average Android-Application Lifecycle

## 2.2 List the Concerned Parties and Identify their Involvement

Following the previous step In order to demonstrate the main issues with current power-saving approaches, we list the parties which are involved in our android application lifecycle as shown in figure.2:



Figure 2: Parties Involved in an Android Application Lifecycle

The next item to demonstrate is the involvement of the parties among the different stages of our android application lifecycle. The involvement is described in figure.3:

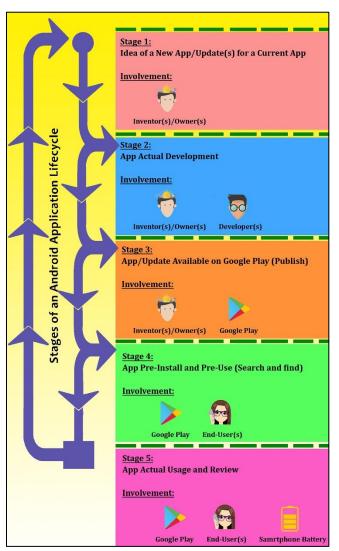


Figure 3: Involvement of Parties among the Different Stages of an Android Application Lifecycle.

# 2.3 Identify the Status of an Android Application Among Different Stages of an Android Application Lifecycle

Following the above, we need to List the main statuses of an android application in terms of its presence in an android smartphone also among the different stages of our android application lifecycle, the two main statuses were Outside the End-User's Phone (Under development or

Available on Google Play) or Inside the End-User's Phone (Installed & Running). Figure.4 will map the above statuses to the different stages of our android application lifecycle:

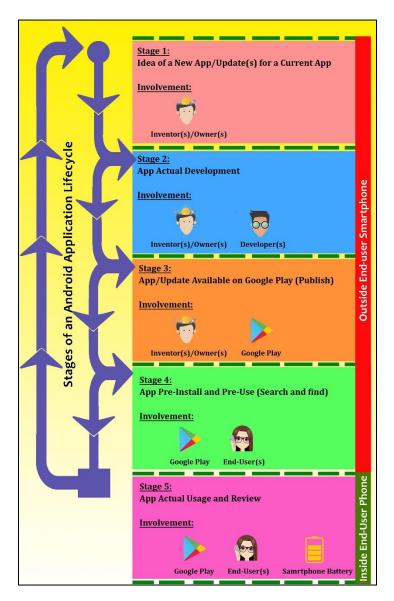


Figure 4: Status of an Android Application among Different Stages of an Android Application Lifecycle

## 2.4 Identify the Main Current Power-Saving Approaches

In order To summarize the current power saving approaches that are used in today's smartphones the following classification were made: Approach 1, follows the philosophy of "Simulate and estimate" the power consumption of and android application before making it available for enduser(s) by using techniques that may include but not limited to green coding, energy-aware designs, smartphone batteries simulators, historical analytical data, etc..

Approach 2, follows the "Monitor, detect and control" philosophy, so it applies this on the behavior of an android application while it is running on an end-users phone and optimizing the power consumption. Approach 3, is more about Sacrifice smartphones technology or performance by switching off a number of features for the sake of saving power philosophy.

## 2.5 Show the usage of current power-saving approaches among the stages of the android application lifecycle

The next stage is to show the usage of the above approaches among the stages of the android application lifecycle and from the above, Approach 1 is used in stage 2 of our android application lifecycle and involves the app inventor(s), the app developer(s) and the Android Development Platform(s), while Approaches 2 and 3 are used in stage 5 of our android application lifecycle and involve Google Play, The End-user(s) and The End-user's phone(s). The usage is shown more clearly in Figure .5

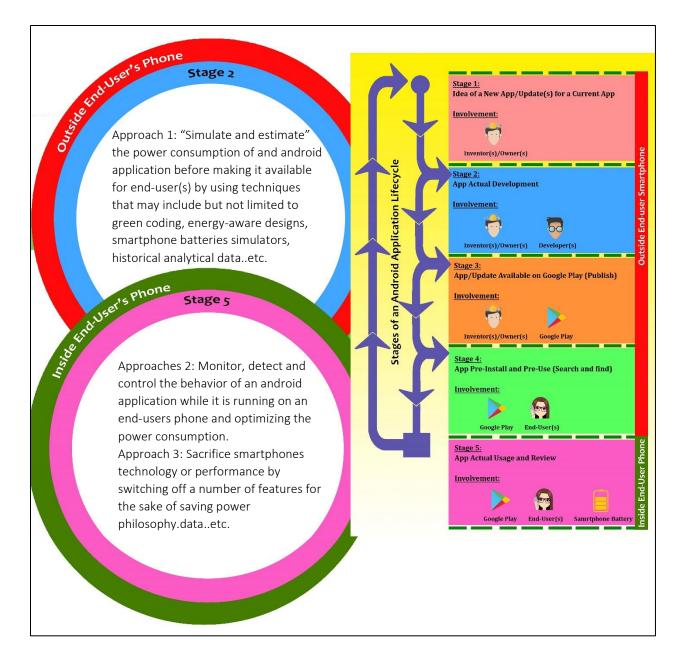


Figure 5: Usage of Current Power-Saving Approaches among the Stages of the android application lifecycle

## 3. Reviewing the Efficiency of Current Power-Saving Approaches Used Among Different Stages of an Android-Application Lifecycle

## 3.1 Estimate and simulate power consumption approach

Westfield & Gopalan (2016) contribute towards finding a solution towards power saving techniques in smartphones through proposing an approach called Orka. According to Westfield & Gopalan (2016), the Orka approach works by providing feedback to developers of software used

in smartphones. The proposed approach is designed to provide feedback on the basis of API usage by an application as well as providing feedback on the usage of energy of the application, down to the level of the method used (Westfield & Gopalan, 2016).

The authors of the study believe that it is relatively important that energy usage of software is not disassociated from energy usage of the hardware, hence Orka is designed to generally provide feedback on the consumption of energy as a result of usage of hardware (Westfield & Gopalan, 2016). Orka carries out tests on the app through using an execution trace that is dynamically created and generated through a test script that is provided by the developer of the application. In addition, the authors suggest that the proposed Orka performs the analysis on the hardware running on emulators instead of running on physical devises (Westfield & Gopalan, 2016).

Orka pulls estimations of internal energy from the emulator, after running the application, in order to provide feedback on the basis of the different components utilised. Using the energy consumption data/metrics provided by the Orka approach, the developer of the application can make adjustments to their code in order improve the energy efficiency of their application.

According to Westfield & Gopalan (2016), Orka was designed specifically for applications installed on the Android Operating System (OS). Despite the fact that Orka appears to operate in a similar manner as energy profiling solutions presented in the existing literature, Westfield & Gopalan (2016) suggest that Orka's independence from the hardware makes it different from other energy profiling systems/solutions. However, it is worth noting that, the approach used in the study does not necessarily make readings on the basis of battery discharge and it does not attempt to estimate accurately an application's energy usage.



statistics and measurements generated by power consumption profilers/compilers and green code readers/evaluators. - Detecting energy leaks and measuring overall power consumption based on multi factor models which includes but not limited to: memory usage per minute, processing time, background live services, loopholes which may cause continues unintended running and length of code.

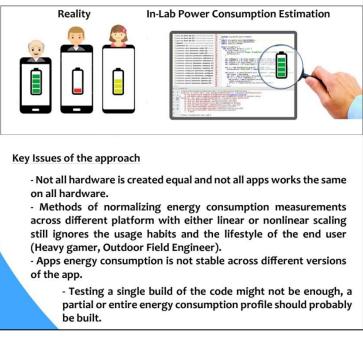


Figure 6: Follow and implement Energy-Efficient Development Best Practices

Wang, et al., (2017) are concerned with the energy testing stage of the app development as they believe that applications developers ought to understand both, the rate of energy consumption of their applications and the underlying reason why energy is consumed by the application. In their paper, Wang, et.al., (2017) propose E-Spector as a potential online based tool/method the inspects energy usage, visualises the application's energy consumption online in a manner that is instant, and it can also inform the developer what happened behind each hotspot of energy on an energy curve. According to Wang, et al., (2017), E-Spector mainly relies on static analysis and the instrumentation of the application to collect the underlying activities in real time from the execution of an application.

These activities are then presented on an instant energy curve in such a way that the user is able to recognise what actually took place behind each spike in energy usage (Wang, et al., 2017). The authors believe that their proposed solution is particularly more beneficial because it does not require hardware meters like many other solutions in order to calculate instant the power figures for each application at runtime since it is an online-based software solution/power model (Wang, et al., 2017).

Furthermore, Wang, et.al., (2017) suggest that E-Spector provides detailed breakdowns of energy for each running process on the device, including applications running both background and foreground services. In their study, Wang, et.al., (2017) evaluated and tested the overhead and accuracy of E-Spector and the results indicate that using E-Spector has the ability of providing an estimation of energy within a less than 10% error, as well as providing an estimation of energy overhead within a less than 4% error. However, tests energy model used by the authors only considers three hardware consumers of energy including; network (both cellular and WiFi network), the screen and the CPU, instead of considering all energy consumers thus presenting a key limitation to the study.

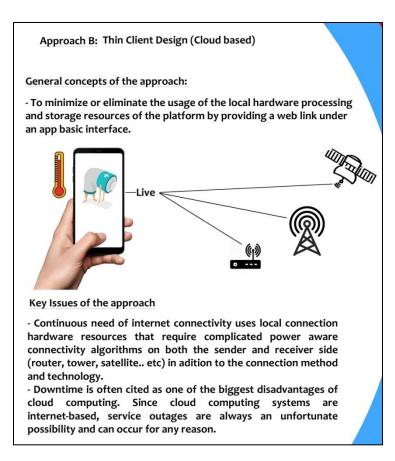


Figure 7: Approach B: Thin Client Design (Cloud based)

Moamen & Jamali (2015) are concerned with finding a solution that to sensor dependent applications that demand a lot of the phone's energy in order to continuously use sensor feed to provide services. The authors of the study believe applications that simultaneously monitor multiple sensors tend to amplify the problem as they consume significant amounts of the phone's battery (Moamen & Jamali, 2015). In their paper, Moamen & Jamali (2015) propose ShareSens as a potential solution to the above problem. ShareSens is an approach to merge applications' independent sensing requirements.

According to the authors of the report, this is achieved through utilising sensing schedulers for the sensors that would essentially determine the underlying lowest sensing rate which would mainly satisfy all the existing requests (Moamen & Jamali, 2015). Custom filters are then used to only send out the required data to each application on the device. Based on the report, any sensing requests that are made through the authors' proposed ShareSens API are generally sent to the

respective schedulers that determine the overall optimum rates for sensing in order to satisfy all the prevailing requests. Based on the experimental tests carried out on the ShareSens' capabilities, the authors found that there is significant power savings that can be attained when the ShareSens solution is used particularly when overlapping sensing requests exist (Moamen & Jamali, 2015). However, the current form of the ShareSens approach does not allow programmers to opportunistically choose sampling rates that are higher once they available, at a relatively low marginal cost.

In their study paper, Min, et.al., (2015) address the various factors that significantly impact phone batteries to the point of making their existing battery models become outdated and they further explore the initial approach that was aimed at helping phone users to understand the underlying cause and effect between the life of a phone's battery their physical activity. Min, et al., (2015) proposed Sandra, a battery information adviser for smartphones that is designed to be mobility-aware. Sandra was designed with various key features including; a forecaster that provides estimates of battery life under different conditions of the user's future mobility, and an archive that is designed to provide past battery drain rates retrospective summary categorised by different conditions of mobility (Min, et al., 2015).

Based on the tests carried out the proposed approach, Sandra was found particularly helpful to smartphone users (Min, et al., 2015). However, the tool that Min, et al., (2015) presented is neither an omniscient battery predictor nor a reconfiguration tool that extends batter's life like Power monitor v2. According to Min, et al., (2015), Sandra's main goal is user enlightenment regarding new causal factors of their changes in mobility that impact the standby life of the phone batteries.

Besides choosing between network interfaces, the strength of the device signal has an influence on the consumption of the device's network. In their study, Schulman, et al., (2010), proposed a scheduling algorithm that is designed to make use of a network signal with high strength.

Their philosophy is that applications have to preferentially communicate when there is a strong network signal in order to realise energy savings, either through deferring communications that are not urgent or through advancing communications that are anticipated in order to coincide with strong signal periods (Schulman, et al., 2010). To take advantage of a strong signal, Schulman, et al., (2010) developed a scheduling algorithm that focused on two specific kinds of applications, including streaming applications on one hand and sync applications on the other. For streaming applications, the algorithm that the authors developed modulates the traffic stream in order to match with characteristics of radio energy while for sync applications the algorithm utilises flexible synchronisation intervals (Schulman, et al., 2010).

Their proposed energy-aware scheduling algorithm thereby takes into account tail energy as well as communication energy. Through their simulations and tests, Schulman, et.al., (2010) show that energy savings of up to 60% for on-demand streaming and up to 10% for synchronisation of email were attainable.

In a study conducted by, Zhang, et.al. (2010), the authors proposed the use of an online power estimation tool and a model generation framework in their contribution towards improving power-saving capabilities of Android smartphones on both the applications layer and the OS layer. Zhang, et.al. (2010) proposed a tool called the PowerTutor which was designed as an online power estimation system for the Android platform smartphones. The tool provides real-time, accurate power consumption estimates for components of the smartphone that are power intensive such as display, the CPU, cellular interfaces, GPS, and Wi-Fi interfaces (Zhang, et.al., 2010).

The PowerTutor was designed to be used by both application developers and smartphone users. Applications developers use to conveniently, accurately and rapidly determine the overall impact of changes in software design on power consumption while smartphone users can use the tool to determine the underlying power consumption characteristics the relate to competing mobile applications thus facilitating informed decision-making for both parties (Zhang, et.al., 2010). PowerTutor, according to Zhang, et.al. (2010) has a power model that includes six different components including: GPS, LCD display, CPU, audio interfaces, Wi-Fi and cellular interfaces. Based on the experiments that authors carried out, it was found that PowerTutor was accurate within an average of 0.8% with at most 2.5% error for intervals of 10 seconds. In addition to the PowerTutor tool, Zhang, et.al. (2010) also proposed the PowerBooster tool which was designed an automatic state of battery discharge on the basis of a technique called the power model generation

technique. According to Zhang, et.al. (2010), the experimental tests carried for 10-second intervals indicated that PowerBoost was accurate within 4.1%.

#### 3.2 Monitor, detect and control app behaviour approach

Dao, et al., (2017) are concerned with the difficulty in identifying applications that are heavy power consumers on a smartphone as well as understanding why these applications are heavy power consumers. The authors believe that there is real need for phone users to be aware of applications on their smartphones that are heavy power consumers so that they are able to take appropriate action quickly enough be prevent their phone batteries being completely drained (Dao, et al., 2017).

In their study, Dao, et al., (2017) propose TIDE, a tool that they believe can identify applications that are heavy energy consumers and provide an understanding of the reasons why an application is consuming a lot of energy on the phone. TIDE, according to Dao, et al., (2017) operates as usercentric tool which can be installed on a user's phone and it continuously the performed lightweight monitoring tasks on the application usage of the user as well as monitoring the resources that the application consumes.

Dao, et al., (2017) conduct an evaluation of their proposed tool using emulation of usage pattern traces from seventeen volunteer users and the results indicate that TIDE correctly estimated the energy consumption level for 225 applications out of 238. However, the tool does not provide a breakdown of the screen consumed energy in relation to individual applications yet the screen consumers the most amount battery power in most cases. Hence the results that the TIDE tool provide do not show the full picture of energy consumption.

Jabbarvand, et al., (2015) were concerned with the fact that application repositories lack information regarding the relative energy cost of applications based on app categories which forces the user to install applications without appropriate understanding of the energy implications of these applications.

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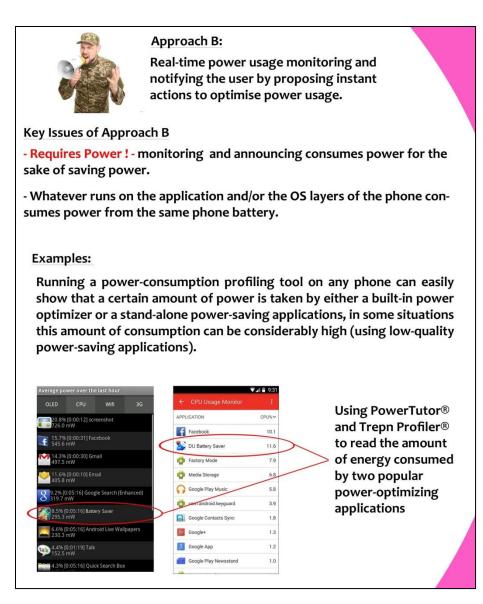


Figure 8: Approach B: key issues

Wang, et al., (2016) are concerned about the difficulty in the diagnosing energy inefficiency of applications that often use sensors to operate. In their study, Wang, et al., (2016) propose the GreenDroid approach that is designed to systematically diagnose problems associated with energy inefficiency among applications used in smartphones particularly those running on the Android platform.

The proposed approach leverages the Application Execution Model (AEM) to realistically simulate the runtime behaviours of an application and it is also designed to have the ability of automatically

analysing the sensory utilisation data of an application reporting the resulting information to the application's developers (Wang, et al., 2016). Wang, et al., (2016) evaluated the E-GreenDroid approach using 13 real applications on Android in two separate experiments and the results from the tests indicated that the tool was effective in executing its intended mandate. However, E-GreenDroid does not support concurrency of Android applications as it simply places all the execution into a single thread.

A solution presented in the existing literature that provides attempts to cover all areas of a smartphone's energy consumption is the Power monitor v2 that was proposed by Datta, Bonnet & Nikaein (2013). In their study, Datta, Bonnet & Nikaein (2013) suggest that the power monitor v2 is an Android application that works by employing a monitoring module to collect data which relates to all features of the smart device's (smartphone or tablet).

There are various modules, each collecting data on a specific feature including; the application monitor – collects data on running applications and their CPU load; battery monitor – collects data on battery status; CPU monitor – collects data on CPU operating frequency and load; the context monitor – collects data on system time, date and coarse location; the network monitor – collects data on the status of the mobile data, WiFi, network traffic used by applications and GPS status; and the display monitor – collects data on the screen timeout, level of brightness and devise interaction time (Datta, Bonnet & Nikaein, 2013). Based on their paper, Datta, Bonnet & Nikaein (2013) suggest the Power monitor v2 app monitors Android devices it is installed on continuously, stores the collected data locally for seven days and deploys a learning engine that is designed to generate various usage patterns that may exist within the smart device.

Thereafter power saving patterns for each pattern are generated dynamically. The collection of the usage data of the smart device raises various privacy related questions for the tool, however, Datta, Bonnet & Nikaein (2013) suggest that their approach preserves privacy of data since all the data collected stored and computations generated done locally. The evaluation tests carried out on the Power monitor v2 indicate that the application increased battery life of a Samsung GT-19100 running Android 2.3.4 OS by 8.2 hours while it increased the battery life of the Nexus 7 running Android 4.2.1 OS by 10 hours (Datta, Bonnet & Nikaein, 2013). Overall, the Power monitor

v2 was found to increase the battery life of the devices it was installed on by 82% (Datta, Bonnet & Nikaein, 2013).

In their study, Dong & Zhong (2012) analysed the underlying influence of the content displayed on the overall energy-usage for displays whose design is based on the OLED technology. Through their research, the authors found that energy usage largely depends on the content displayed as different content contains different colours and for the devise to display different colours a certain amount of energy would be consumed (Dong & Zhong, 2012). Hence, Dong & Zhong (2012) concluded that designers of graphical user interface generally have a significant impact on the device's energy consumption. In this regard, Dong & Zhong (2012) proposed different energy models which were designed to estimate the display content's power consumption. Dong & Zhong (2012) also proposed different transformation methods such as the utilisation of a lighter foreground colour and a dark background colour. Dong & Zhong (2012) used the transformation methods to evaluate the overall influence of their methods and found that energy usage can be reduced by approximately 75% hence saving the smartphone battery from draining.

Li, Tran & Halfond, (2014) used a similar idea to that presented by Dong & Zhong (2012) as they concentrated on the idea of reducing the consumption of energy by device-displays that use OLED technology. However, Li, Tran & Halfond, (2014) proposed a different approach in which they suggested that it is necessary to change the source code of the applications as a way of reducing the power consumption of the applications. They developed a tool they called Nyx which they suggested was capable of performing colour schemes transformations for applications (Li, Tran & Halfond, (2014). According to Li, Tran & Halfond, (2014), the test on their proposed solution found that battery savings of up to 40% for such modified applications were possible but only if users are willing to accept colour transformations in the name of saving battery.

Pathak, Hu & Zhang (2012) were concerned with the energy spent by mobile applications with the aim of finding ways to reducing such energy consumption. In their study, Pathak, Hu & Zhang (2012) presented an energy profiler tool for Android smartphone applications called the Eprof. According their study, Eprof is an energy profiler that adopts the last-trigger accounting policy to capture intuitively the asynchronous modern smartphone components' power behavior in

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mapping of energy activities to respective program smartphone entities (Pathak, Hu & Zhang, 2012). The tool was designed to be concerned with energy consumption profiling which is not linear as time and it has the capability of measuring intra-app consumption of energy including providing insights into the overall energy breakdown per application routine and per thread (Pathak, Hu & Zhang, 2012).

Their tool was also designed to be a general-purpose energy profiler that is fine grained works by assisting an application developer for Android smartphones to optimise the application's energy consumption. Pathak, Hu & Zhang (2012) carried out an experimental test which involved the profiling the energy consumption of six Android popular smartphone applications including; Facebook, Angry-Birds, and the Android Browser application among others.

Their tests showed that Eprof shed light on the applications' internal energy dissipation and it further exposed surprising findings such as 65%-75% free applications' energy is consumed thirdparty advisement modules of the applications (Pathak, Hu & Zhang, 2012). Eprof also revealed numerous "wakelock bugs" (a family of smartphone applications energy bugs) and it efficiently pinpoints their location within the application's source code for to inform decision-making. Based on the experiments conducted by Pathak, Hu & Zhang (2012), their proposed accounting presentation of application 1/O energy (bundles) helped to reduce the consumption of energy of four applications involved in the test by 20% to 65%.

#### 3.3 Switching off features approach

Petander (2009) proposed an energy-aware algorithm that was based on measurements of energy consumption in relation to 802.11 WLAN and UMTS networks on smartphones running on an Android operating system. The proposed algorithm generally utilises application traffic size estimations in order to determine the overall alternative of the minimum energy-cost through comparing the cost associated with the utilisation of UTMS with the underlying cost associated with performing a downward vertical opportunistic handoff back to WLAN, while utilising WLAN for data transfer (Petander, 2009).

The authors show in their study that the proposed solution has the ability of predicting how much data will be transferred as a result of actions taken by the user. Based on experimental tests, Petander (2009) found that energy consumption of the smartphone increases by 18.3% whenever WiFi and UTMS are both powered on simultaneously, compared to powering on UTMS alone at any one time.

In their study, Taleb et al (2013) propose a technique that involves dynamic switching between WiFi and 3G communication on the smartphones. Taleb et al (2013) aim at achieving the ability to effectively switch to an alternative Wi-Fi connection from a primary cellular network. Taleb et al, (2013) conducted a set of experimental measures in relation to various network scenarios with the aim of identify the key components which affect consumption of energy within smart devices while they are connected to WiFi and 3G networks. The authors then used the measurement results to derive at generic analytical model for energy as a function of effective download bit rate and download data size (Taleb et al, 2013).

They developed an Android-based mobile application whose intended design is to test, in real scenarios, the overall performance of the algorithm for dynamic switching between WiFi and 3G connections. The results of the tests showed that it was possible to dynamically switch between WiFi and 3G communications and, when 3G only and WiFi only connections were compared, it was found that energy savings of 30% and 18% respectively were possible (Taleb et al, 2013). This particular study highlights the underlying potential benefits that intelligent switching within heterogeneous networks can provide.

In a study conducted by Cai et.al., (2015), the authors were focused on power wastage in mobile devices with 3G/4G networking that resulted from 'tail time' where the device's radio is kept running despite the fact that no communication is taking place. Cai et.al., (2015) proposed DelayDroid as a framework which would provide a developer with the capability to add the required policies for reducing such energy wastage to existing Android application that are unmodified without any 'huhman' effort. The tool that Cai et.al., (2015) proposed uses bytecode refactoring and static analysis in order to identify method calls which send network related requests and modify the calls in order to detour them to the run-time of the DelayDroid.

The tool's runtime then batches them by applying a pre-defined policy, hence avoiding energy waste related to tail time hence improving energy efficiency. The universality and correctness of the DelayDroid mechanisms were evaluated and tested using 14 popular applications for Android and results indicated that DelayDroid was capable of reducing energy-waste related to 3G/4G tail time by 36% (Cai et al., 2015). However, it is worth noting here that while the test results indicate that DelayDroid was effective in reducing the energy waste, it only reduces waste related 3G/4G tail time but not from screen and CPU usage which account for a large portion of the phone battery drain.

#### 4. Key Issues with Current Power-Saving Approaches

This report has provided a review of the existing literature regarding the different solutions, techniques and tools that have been proposed by different authors in response to battery energy consumption problems of mobile applications for smart devices running on the Android OS. The literature review covers studies that provide solutions based on three key approaches, including; approach 1 estimating and simulating power consumption of android applications, approach 2 monitoring, detecting and controlling the android applications' behavior, and approach 3 switching off smartphone features when not in use in order to reduce power consumption. Based on the review of the literature, solutions presented by prior studies in relation to approach 1 reveal that the average estimations that the proposed tools/techniques provide tend to conflict the actual usage habits of device and the accuracy of the power consumption measurements and simulators remains an issue of debate.

The review of the existing literature in relation to the approach 2 reveals most solutions that monitor and control app behavior also consume power from the devise' battery for instance E-GreenDroid, Eprof, and among others. Prior studies that propose solutions in the line of approach 3 reveal that the proposed techniques use predefined saving plans that provide a one-size-fits-all approach which does not necessarily provide customized/personalized solutions for users. Therefore, while the techniques presented herein provide some potential solutions for reducing

energy consumption by mobile applications on Android-based smart-devices, they are limited in their usage.

A shared limitation among most current smartphones strategies of power and energy saving is being "detective" rather than being "preventive". The current ways of using third-party applications and/or built in firmware's that monitors the usage of the smartphone battery for the sake of saving the power of the same battery, conflicts with the main concept of saving power. The monitoring and detecting requires processing which basically requires power.

In addition to the above limitations, the average amount of power consumption of an application can be easily measured using one of the current detective techniques only after having the application installed and run. For a naive smartphone user it is impossible to predict which of the applications offered on an app store can be classified as a "Power-Hungry" application so that he/she could avoid installing while using a smartphone in an area with either no or limited recharging capabilities.

This keeps the user under the same problem of using detective techniques rather than supporting the user with a preventive plan that could give him/her an idea about what to run or don't run. Another issue of current power saving strategies is the "One Size Fits All" philosophy which does not take into consideration the factors that could distinguish different smartphone users.

## 5. Proposed Solution "Rating the level of Power-Hungry Google Play Applications" (Similar to power rating in Electrical Home Appliances)

### 5.1 Introduction

The huge success of Android smartphones is mainly due to the variety of applications available, plus the open-source OS which allow it to grow exponentially. Android users enjoyed the way applications can be downloaded and installed from an online market, but were also concerned about giving the green light to a number of flashing permissions.

These permissions need to be given to an application in order to work properly. The idea behind alerting the user about these permissions is mainly related to the privacy and the security of the

user. The idea of the following work is to add another dimension to the application market by alerting the user about the amount of power consumption of each application he is about to install on his phone. Relating permissions to power consumption in order to achieve the task is the main contribution of this report.

### 5.2 About Google Play Applications Permissions

"A permission is a restriction limiting access to a part of the code or to data on the device. The limitation is imposed to protect critical data and code that could be misused to distort or damage the user experience".

As presented to android application developers and coding standards, an application to be uploaded to Google Play must have a "manifest file" which shows important information about the application to Android system. This type of information must be given to the android system before it can run the application code. The manifest file name is "AndroidManifest.xml", which inform the system about many things including our main target which is listing the permissions used by the application.

The following example shows permissions in source code and their translation that is shown to the user:

Code: <permission-group ...android.permission.ACCESS\_COARSE\_LOCATION..../>

Translation (What is shown to user before downloading the application): "Allows an app to access approximate location derived from network location sources such as cell towers and Wi-Fi."

Here are examples of some permissions in code view and from readable text view:

Code String	Description
ACCESS CHECKIN PROPERTIES	Allows read/write access to the "properties" table in the checkin database, to change values that get uploaded.
ACCESS COARSE LOCATION	Allows an app to search approximate location derived from network location sources such as cell towers and Wi-Fi.
ACCESS FINE LOCATION	Allows an app to search precise location from location sources such as GPS, cell towers, and Wi-Fi.
ACCESS LOCATION EXTRA COMM ANDS	Allows an application to access extra location provider commands
ACCESS_MOCK_LOCATION	Allows an application to create mock location providers for testing
ACCESS NETWORK STATE	Allows applications to access information about networks
ACCESS SURFACE FLINGER	Allows an application to use SurfaceFlinger's low level features.

TABLE 3.1 Examples of Google Play Permissions code String and Description.

These permissions flashes out to inform about the different components of the phone that will be used in order to have the application to work. It mainly helps in taking one and final decision whether or not to install an application, and since the user does not have the option to select from an application permissions list, they can be accepted or rejected as one full package.

### 5.3 Using Permissions to Measure The Amount of Power Consumption of An Android Application

By our own assumption an efficient and/or accurate way to go into reading, analyzing or Statictesting an application is by having the application in its source code format. Unfortunately as per to the privacy and security standards of Google Play, the source code of an available application is not to be shown or reveled to public. At the same time Google Play does give informative translation and summarization of the code named as "application permissions". These permissions came directly from the source code of the application but in a much more understandable format for an average technology user. Though these permissions do not reflect all the commands under the source code but they reveal the nature of an application behavior in dealing with the components of a smart phone. The previous shows exactly what needs to be achieved in terms of studying, evaluating and rating an application from the power consumption' perspective.

Since Google Play updates permissions of an application directly at the same time the code of the application gets updated. An advantage of our proposed measuring technique is that it will read up-to-date information about the application source code. Then rating the application power awareness level without the need of having a third party application in order to test the application. Simply adding a third party application means increasing the current level of power consumption which is against our main research goal. In the same time the study cannot rely on a side study that was previously made on a lab phone or on a simulator to give us information about an application power consumptions behavior, which will cause us to deal with out-dated information.

As a result, these permissions can be trusted as measurements in addition to some other factors to compute the level of power consumption of an android application.

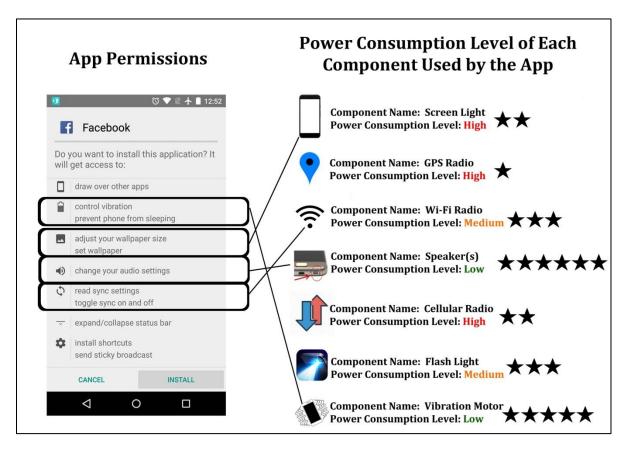


Figure 9: Power Consumption Level indication by component

### 5.4 Describing the behavior of Google Play Applications Permissions Groups

Recently Google Play did categorize all the permissions used by applications into 12 different categories. Since the user does not have enough information on how could these permissions affect his phone battery life, following will list each category and give a short description of each category describing the behavior of the permissions that does go under this category so that the user can have a quick idea on the total behavior of an application about to be install on an android phone. The following table shows the latest grouping of these permissions as per Google Play:

Permission Group	Description
In-app purchases	An app can ask you to make purchases inside the app
Device & app history	<ul> <li>An app can use one or more of the following:</li> <li>Read sensitive log data</li> <li>Retrieve system internal state</li> <li>Read your web bookmarks and history</li> <li>Retrieve name of running apps</li> </ul>
Cellular data settings	An app can use settings that control your mobile data connection and potentially the data you receive.
Identity	<ul> <li>An app can use your account and/or profile information on your device.</li> <li>Identity access may include the ability to:</li> <li>Find accounts on the device</li> <li>Read your own contact card (example: name and contact information)</li> <li>Modify your own contact card</li> <li>Add or remove accounts</li> </ul>
Contacts/Calendar	<ul> <li>An app can use your device's contacts and/or calendar information.</li> <li>Contacts and calendar access may include the ability to:</li> <li>Read your contacts</li> <li>Modify your contacts</li> <li>Read calendar events plus confidential information</li> <li>Add or modify calendar events and send email to guests without owners' knowledge</li> </ul>
Location	<ul> <li>An app can use your device's location.</li> <li>Location access may include:</li> <li>Approximate location (network-based)</li> <li>Precise location (GPS and network-based)</li> <li>Access extra location provider commands</li> <li>GPS access</li> </ul>
SMS	<ul> <li>An app can use your device's text messaging (SMS) and/or multimedia media messaging service (MMS). This group may include the ability to use text, picture, or video messages.</li> <li>Note: Depending on your plan, you may be charged by your carrier for text or multimedia messages. SMS access may include the ability to:</li> <li>Receive text messages (SMS)</li> </ul>

TABLE 3.2 Grouping of Google Play Permissions as Per to Google Play 2014

	<ul> <li>Read your text messages (SMS or MMS)</li> <li>Receive text messages (MMS, like a picture or video message)</li> <li>Edit your text messages (SMS or MMS)</li> <li>Send SMS messages; this may cost you money</li> <li>Receive text messages (WAP)</li> </ul>
Phone	<ul> <li>An app can use your phone and/or its call history.</li> <li>Note: Depending on your plan, you may be charged by your carrier for phone calls.</li> <li>Phone access may include the ability to: <ul> <li>Directly call phone numbers; this may cost you money</li> <li>Write call log (example: call history)</li> <li>Read call log</li> <li>Reroute outgoing calls</li> <li>Modify phone state</li> <li>Make calls without your intervention</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Photos/Media/Files	<ul> <li>An app can use files or data stored on your device.</li> <li>Photos/Media/Files access may include the ability to:</li> <li>Read the contents of your USB storage (example: SD card)</li> <li>Modify or delete the contents of your USB storage</li> <li>Format external storage</li> <li>Mount or unmount external storage</li> </ul>
Camera/Microphone	An app can use your device's camera and/or microphone. Camera and microphone access may include the ability to: Take pictures and videos Record audio Record video
Wi-Fi connection information	<ul> <li>An app can access your device's Wi-Fi connection information, like if Wi-Fi is turned on and the name(s) of connected devices.</li> <li>Wi-Fi connection information access may include the ability to:</li> <li>View Wi-Fi connections</li> </ul>
Device ID & call information	<ul> <li>An app can access your device ID(s), phone number, whether you're on the phone, and the number connected by a call.</li> <li>Device ID &amp; call information may include the ability to:</li> <li>Read phone status and identity</li> </ul>

A Simple conclusion from Table 3.2 shows that Google Play did its categorization strategy based on three main factors which are:

• **Privacy**: How far does an application go into dealing with the private stuff of the user which is shown clear in the listing of the following categories: Device & app history,

Contacts/Calendar, SMS, Photos/Media/Files, Camera/Microphone, Device ID & call information

- Security: How secure it is to leave this application to deal freely with some sensitive information that belongs to or identifies the user which is shown clear in the listing of the following categories: Identity, Location, Phone, Wi-Fi connection information
- Additional Charges: Does using this application going to cost the user an additional charge without his notice or approval which is shown clear in the listing of the following categories: In-app purchases, Cellular data settings, SMS, Phone

Next is to list all the permissions used by Google Play applications and filter them under a new category that focuses more into the use of power and power consumption.

A start is by listing components of an average Smartphone that runs Android. Then measuring the behavior of each component in terms of power consumption in order to find components that can be classified as most power consuming components. The next step is by going back to the full list of permissions and then extract the permissions that deal with those power consuming components and name them as Google Play Power Consuming Applications Permissions.

In short our contribution in this part is adding a new categorization feature to the three already provided by Google play. In fact, permissions were always investigated relative to privacy, security, additional-charges but rarely with power-consumption.

## 5.5 Rating Power Consuming Smartphone Components

The following list contains the most key and common components and/or features that can be found on any average Android Smartphone as per to popularity of use today:

- Application Processor
- Cellular Radio (GSM, 3G, 4G ...etc)
- Screen (Including Sensors)
- Vibration

- Cameras
- Flash Light
- Audio Speaker
- Microphone
- GPS
- Wi-Fi Radio
- Bluetooth Radio

The second step is to start measuring the amount of power consumed by each of the above components using PowerTutor© assuming that the component is used continuously for a period of 60 seconds. Since most of the components in any android phone do work as a group in order to achieve a certain purpose, it was difficult to force a component to work alone without having other components involved. This caused accuracy issues about having valid power measurement results of each. This uncertainty was taken care of later by implementing some pre-testing techniques. What helped more in this regards was the flexibility of Android phones that gave us the chance to perform a number of steps easily like: Hard restart, Kill all processes and background applications, Clear RAM, Deactivate all features that are not essential to make the component work alone.

The following table shows the results of the experimental measurements done by us on a Samsung 19500 running Android OS, v4.2.2 (Jelly Bean), v4.3, using PowerTutor which is an application developed by University of Michigan Ph.D. students Mark Gordon, Lide Zhang and Birjodh Tiwana under the direction of Robert Dick and Zhuoqing Morley Mao at the University of Michigan and Lei Yang at Google. Results are ordered starting from the most consuming till the least consuming.

Smartphone Component	Capacity of the phone Battery before fully activating the component (mAh)	Capacity of the phone Battery after fully activating the component alone for a period of 60 seconds (mAh)	Average Amount of Energy Consumption measured (mAh/m)
GPS	2600	~ 2575	~ 25
Application Processor	2600	~ 2580	~ 20
Flash Light	2600	~ 2581	~ 19
Cellular Radio (GSM, 3G, 4Getc)	2600 (Fully Charged)	~ 2583	~ 17
Cameras	2600	~ 2583	~ 17
Screen (Including Sensors)	2600	~ 2584	~ 16
Vibration	2600	~ 2585	~ 15
Wi-Fi Radio	2600	~ 2588	~ 12
Bluetooth Radio	2600	~ 2590	~ 10
Audio Speaker	2600	~ 2591	~ 9
Microphone	2600	~ 2595	~ 5

TABLE 3.3 Smartphone Components Sorted By Average Amount of Energy Consumption

The next step in our empirical experimentation is to create a scale in order to rate the above components in terms of the amount of power consumption of each. While the above results showed us the highest power consumption measurement  $\sim 25$  mAh and the lowest  $\sim 5$  mAh, it is recommended to scale up the result pool in order to make the rating criteria compatible with future measurements. So by assuming that the scale of rating a smart phone component is between  $\sim 1$  to  $\sim 30$  mAh, From the previus it is now simple to start fetching our results as follows: The following table shows the rating of smart phone components in terms of the amount of Energy

consumption on a scale of six stars, where one star means light power consuming component and five starts means heavy power consuming component.

TABLE 3.4 Rating Smartphone	Components Ir	n Terms c	of Energy	Consumption	using Stars
Scale:					

Smartphone	Average Amount of Energy	Star Rating out of Six Stars (~ 1 to
Component	Consumption Per Minute	~ 30 mAh)
GPS	~ 25 mAh	****
Application Processor	~ 20 mAh	****
Flash Light	~ 19 mAh	****
Cellular Radio (GSM,	~ 17 mAh	***
3Getc)		
Cameras	~ 17 mAh	***
Screen (Including	~ 16 mAh	***
Sensors)		
Vibration	~ 15 mAh	***
Wi-Fi Radio	~ 12 mAh	**
Bluetooth Radio	~ 10 mAh	**
Audio Speaker	~ 9 mAh	**
Microphone	~ 5 mAh	*

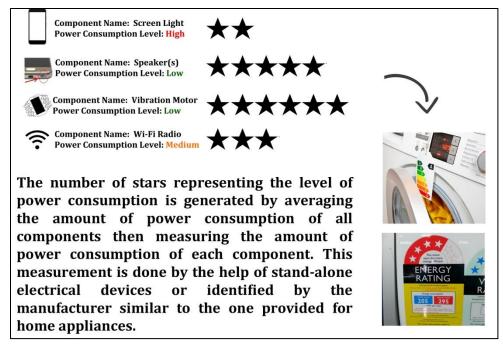


Figure 9: The proposed star system rating

### 5.6 Power Consumption Keywords Extracted From Permissions.

Based on the previous ratings of Smartphone components power consumption level, and in order to identify permissions classified as power consuming permissions, following is a list of all permission used by Google Play. The list is generated in order to use it as data to be compared with Table 3.4 of Smartphone components. The following is the full list of permission used by Google Play applications:

<ul> <li>access Bluetooth settings</li> </ul>		
settings access extra location provider commands access USB storage file system add or modify calendar events and send email to guests without owners' knowledge add or remove accounts adjust your wallpaper size allow Wi-Fi Multicast reception approximate (network- based) location Broadcast data messages to apps change network connectivity change system display settings change your audio settings change/intercept network settings and traffic choose widgets close other apps connect and disconnect from Wi-Fi control flashlight control Near Field Communication control vibration create accounts and set passwords delete all app cache data directly call phone numbers disable your screen lock download files without notification	<ul> <li>Google Play license check</li> <li>install shortcuts</li> <li>make app always run</li> <li>measure app storage space</li> <li>mock location sources for testing</li> <li>modify or delete the contents of your USB storage</li> <li>modify phone state</li> <li>modify system settings</li> <li>modify your contacts</li> <li>modify your own contact card</li> <li>modify/delete internal media storage contents</li> <li>pair with Bluetooth devices</li> <li>precise (GPS) location</li> <li>prevent phone from sleeping</li> <li>read calendar events plus confidential information</li> <li>read call log</li> <li>read call log, write call log</li> <li>Read email attachments</li> <li>read Google service configuration</li> <li>read Google service</li> <li>configuration</li> <li>read subscribed feeds</li> <li>read sync settings</li> <li>read your contacts</li> <li>read your contacts, read call log</li> <li>read sync statistics</li> <li>read sync statistics</li> <li>read your contacts, read call log</li> <li>read your contacts, read call log</li> <li>read sync statistics</li> <li>read your contacts, read call log</li> <li>read your social stream</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>read your text messages (SMS of MMS)</li> <li>read your Web bookmarks and history</li> <li>receive text messages (MMS)</li> <li>receive text messages (SMS)</li> <li>receive text messages (SMS)</li> <li>receive text messages (WAP)</li> <li>record audio</li> <li>reorder running apps</li> <li>reroute outgoing calls</li> <li>retrieve running apps</li> <li>rentieve running apps</li> <li>rentieve running apps</li> <li>send SMS messages</li> <li>send SMS messages</li> <li>send sticky broadcast</li> <li>set preferred apps</li> <li>set wallpaper</li> <li>take pictures and videos, recor audio</li> <li>test access to protected storag</li> <li>toggle sync on and off</li> <li>uninstall shortcuts</li> <li>use accounts on the device</li> <li>view configured accounts</li> <li>view Wi-Fi connections</li> <li>write call log</li> <li>write subscribed feeds</li> <li>write to user-defined dictionart</li> <li>write to your social stream</li> <li>write web bookmarks and history</li> <li>write web bookmarks and history, set an alarm</li> </ul>

TABLE 3.5 Permissions Used By Google Play Applications (In three column for display purpose):

edit your text message	es	
(SMS or MMS)		
expand/collapse statu	s	
bar		
find accounts on the		
device		
full network access		
Google Play billing		
service		

By going through Table 3.5 a number of permissions were identified as permissions that are related to one or more phone components listed in Table 3.3 and after taking a fundamental step of extracting the common words that are related to one or more phone components, our results were presented on Table 3.6 which shows the extracted common words and their relation with the phone components. In fact, this synonym interpretation of keywords is very much related to our unified work on the last chapter (8) of this thesis which is entitled "Ontology for Power Consumption of Smart Mobile Phones". To our knowledge this Ontology has never been presented in any previous research. The proposed Ontology automates the interpretation of keywords done in this table.

Keyword Classified as	Reason of selecting the word
Power Consumption keyword	(Relation with a Power Draining Component)
GPS	GPS
system settings	Application Processor
Reception	Wi-Fi Radio, Cellular Radio
call phone	Wi-Fi Radio, Cellular Radio, Audio Speaker
always run	Application Processor
Download	Wi-Fi Radio, Cellular Radio
network settings	Wi-Fi Radio, Cellular Radio
network connectivity	Wi-Fi Radio, Cellular Radio
network access	Wi-Fi Radio, Cellular Radio
Display	Screen
Record	Audio Speaker, Screen
Audio	Audio Speaker
Vibration	Vibration
take pictures	Flash light, Screen
take Videos	Flash light, Screen

TABLE 3.6 Key	words Classifie	ad as "Powe	r Consumption	Related"	(A) word
TADLE 5.0 Key	WULUS CIASSIIIE	eu as rowe	i consumptioi	i nelateu l	(eyworu)

Stream	Screen, Wi-Fi Radio, Cellular Radio	
Flashlight	Flash light	
Sleeping	Application Processor	
phone state	Application Processor	
Bluetooth	Bluetooth Radio	
Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi Radio	
Toggle	Screen	
Broadcast	Wi-Fi Radio, Cellular Radio	
Startup	Application Processor	

## 5.7 Extracting and Rating Google Play Power Consuming Applications Permissions

Proceeding with our empirical experimentation sequence, after matching the common words of the above table with the full list of permissions that are used by all Google Play applications, permissions that can be classified as high power consuming permissions were listed in the Table 3.7.

TABLE 3.7 Google Play Power Consuming Applications Permissions

(They are put in two columns for display purpose)

Google Play Power Consuming Applications Permissions			
<ul> <li>access Bluetooth settings</li> <li>allow Wi-Fi Multicast reception</li> <li>Broadcast data messages to apps</li> <li>change network connectivity</li> <li>change system display settings</li> <li>change your audio settings</li> <li>change/intercept network settings and traffic</li> <li>connect and disconnect from Wi-Fi</li> <li>control flashlight</li> <li>control vibration</li> <li>directly call phone numbers</li> <li>download files without notification</li> <li>full network access</li> <li>make app always run</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>modify phone state</li> <li>modify secure system settings</li> <li>modify system settings</li> <li>pair with Bluetooth devices</li> <li>precise (GPS) location</li> <li>prevent phone from sleeping</li> <li>read your social stream</li> <li>record audio</li> <li>run at startup</li> <li>send sticky broadcast</li> <li>take pictures and videos</li> <li>toggle sync on and off</li> <li>view Wi-Fi connections</li> <li>write to your social stream</li> </ul>		

Since the previous study were able distinguish which applications permissions can be marked as power consuming permission based on matching with "the common words" that are related to smart phones components that are marked by our previous study as power consuming permissions. Our next step is to rate each one of these newly extracted permissions that are called Google Play Power Consuming Applications Permissions.

They will lead us to the last stage of this empirical experimentation which is to rate an application in terms of power consumption based on the permissions related to this application, in the following the study will list each power consuming permission side by side with the ratings of the components it uses in order to find an overall average rating of each power consuming permission.

The following table shows the average power energy consumption amount and ratings for each power consuming permissions. They are calculated from the average rating of each component in table 3.6 that is used by the permission:

Power Consuming Applications Permissions	Amount of Energy Consumption of each Used Component	Permission Average Energy Consumption Amount per minute	Permission Star Rating out of Six Stars ( $\sim$ 1 to $\sim$ 30 mAh)
access Bluetooth settings	Bluetooth Radio (~ 10 mAh)	~ 10 mAh	**
allow Wi-Fi Multicast reception	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 12 mAh	**
Broadcast data messages to apps	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)	~ 15 mAh	***
change network connectivity	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)	~ 15 mAh	***
change system display settings	Screen (~ 16 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	***
change your audio settings	Audio Speaker (~ 9 mAh)	~ 9 mAh	**
change/intercept network settings and traffic	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	***

TABLE 3.8 Average Power Energy Consumption Amount and Ratings of Power Consuming Permissions

connect and disconnect from Wi-Fi Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)		~ 12 mAh	**
control flashlight	Flash Light (~ 19 mAh)	~ 19 mAh	****
control vibration	Vibration (~ 15 mAh)	~ 15 mAh	***
directly call phone numbers	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Microphone (~ 5 mAh) Audio Speaker (~ 9 mAh)	~ 10 mAh	**
download files without notification	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	***
full network access	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	***
make an app to always run	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	****
modify phone state	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	****
modify secure system settings	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	****
modify system settings	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	****
pair with Bluetooth devices	Bluetooth Radio (~ 10 mAh)	~ 10 mAh	****
precise (GPS) location	GPS (~ 25 mAh)	~ 25 mAh	****
prevent phone from sleeping	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh) Screen (~ 16 mAh)	~ 18 mAh	****
read your social stream	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	***
record audio	Microphone (~ 5 mAh)	~ 5 mAh	*
run at startup	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	****
send sticky broadcast	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	***

take pictures and videos	Cameras (~ 17 mAh) Flash Light (~ 19 mAh) Microphone (~ 5 mAh)	~ 14 mAh	***
toggle sync on and off	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	***
view Wi-Fi connections	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 12 mAh	**
write to your social stream	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	***

## 5.8 Variable Amounts of Energy Consumption for Network Connectivity Permission

As per the two commonly used types of network connections, Wi-Fi and Cellular connections, the study had to be more precise in giving the approximate amount of average power consumption amount of each "power consuming" permission under the two situations of network use. A mandatory split was done to each permission that does deal with the phone network connections into two main situations:

- 1. Using the permission "Indoor" (assuming using Wi-Fi network connection)
- 2. Using the permission "Outdoor" (assuming using the Cellular network connection)

The above two situation had to be incorporated within the previous calculations of the average power consumption for each power consuming permission. This will give as a result two new average amounts of energy consumption for each component that deals with the phone network connectivity. Calculating the two new amounts will simply take into consideration the use of either Wi-Fi or Cellular connection. Then recalculate the overall power consumption average of the permission as per to the situation. For example if a permission uses either Wi-Fi connection or Cellular connection in order to keep the network connection and the same permission were used "outdoor" then the average amount of power consumption will be calculated by assuming that the permission is only using the cellular network connection in order to keep the network connections.

So the Wi-Fi average amount of power consumption will be discarded when calculating the overall average power consumption of the permission. The same case goes if the same permission was used Indoor, then the average power consumption will be recalculated by assuming that the permission is only using the Wi-Fi network connection in order to keep the connection with the network. So the Cellular average amount of power consumption will be discarded when calculating the overall average of power consumption of the same permission. As per to the above assumptions a list was generated showing the new average amounts of power consumption of all the power consumption permissions that deal with network connections under the two previously mentioned situations.

These "indoor", "outdoor" attributes are included in the Ontology unifying work presented in our last chapter of this thesis which is entitled "OWL Ontology for Power Consumption of Smart Mobile Phones". To our knowledge this Ontology has never been presented in any previous research. The proposed Ontology automates the incorporation of concepts and attributes like "indoor", "outdoor", etc., and the results were as follows:

The following table shows the two different average amounts and ratings for only power consuming permissions highlighted in grey since they deal with network connectivity. They are calculated from the average rating of each component used by the permission, and on each different situation either Wi-Fi or Cellular was eliminated from the calculation:

40

TABLE 3.9 Average Power Consumption Amounts and Ratings of Power Consuming Permissions. (Only the Ones Dealing With Network Connectivity under Indoor/Outdoor Usage)

Power Consuming Applications Permissions	Amount of Energy Consumption of each Used Component	Energy Cons	Permission Average Energy Consumption Amount per minute		Star Rating ars ( $\sim$ 1 to $\sim$
		Indoor (Using Wi- Fi)	Outdoor (Using Cellular)	Indoor (Using Wi- Fi)	Outdoor (Using Cellular)
access Bluetooth settings	Bluetooth Radio (~ 10 mAh)	~ 10 mAh	~ 10 mAh	**	**
allow Wi-Fi Multicast reception	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 12 mAh	~ 12 mAh	**	**
Broadcast data messages to apps	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)	~ 12 mAh	~ 17 mAh	**	***
change network connectivity	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)	~ 12 mAh	~ 17 mAh	**	***
change system display settings	Screen (~ 16 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh	***	***
change your audio settings	Audio Speaker (~ 9 mAh)	~ 9 mAh	~ 9 mAh	**	**
change/intercept network settings and traffic	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh	***	****
connect and disconnect from Wi- Fi	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 12 mAh	~ 12 mAh	**	**
control flashlight	Flash Light (~ 19 mAh)	~ 19 mAh	~ 19 mAh	****	****
control vibration	Vibration (~ 15 mAh)	~ 15 mAh	~ 15 mAh	***	***

directly call phone numbers	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)	~ 10 mAh	~ 10 mAh		
	Microphone (~ 5 mAh)				
	Audio Speaker (~ 9 mAh)			**	**
download files without notification	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)			***	****
full network access	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor				
	(~ 20 mAh)			***	****
make app always run	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh	****	****
modify phone state	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh	****	****
modify secure system settings	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh	****	****
modify system settings	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh	****	****
pair with Bluetooth devices	Bluetooth Radio (~ 10 mAh)	~ 10 mAh	~ 10 mAh	****	****
precise (GPS) location	GPS (~ 25 mAh)	~ 25 mAh	~ 25 mAh	**** *	****
prevent phone from sleeping	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 18 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
	Screen (~ 16 mAh)			****	****
read your social	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
stream	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)				
	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)			***	****

record audio	Microphone (~ 5 mAh)	~ 5 mAh	~ 5 mAh	*	*
run at startup	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh	****	****
send sticky broadcast	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh	***	****
take pictures and videos	Cameras (~ 17 mAh) Flash Light (~ 19 mAh) Microphone (~ 5 mAh)	~ 14 mAh	~ 14 mAh	***	***
toggle sync on and off	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh	***	****
view Wi-Fi connections	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 12 mAh	~ 12 mAh	**	**
write to your social stream	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh	***	****

Continuing with our empirical measurements experimentation work, from the above results a simple comparison can be made between the two average amounts of energy consumption and to come up with an average approximate rate of either increase or decrease in the average amount of power consumption of permission. In order to use it with the coming stage of finding the average amount of energy consumption of a Google Play application for a full Applications Category, the table of comparison is as follows:

TABLE 3.10 Difference in the amount of power consumption for Power Consuming Permissions under "Indoor" and "outdoor" usage

Power Consuming ApplicationsAmount of Energy Consumption of each Used ComponentPermissionPower Amount of Energy Consumption of each Used ComponentAmount per minute, either Indoor or		per m Indoor/Ou	on Amount inute for	Increase/Decrease Percentage		
		Outdoor	Indoor (Wi-Fi)	(Cellular)	Indoor (Wi-Fi)	(Cellular)
access Bluetooth settings	Bluetooth Radio (~ 10 mAh)	~ 10 mAh	~ 10 mAh	~ 10 mAh		
allow Wi-Fi Multicast reception	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 12 mAh	~ 12 mAh	~ 12 mAh		
Broadcast data messages to apps	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17	~ 15 mAh	~ 12 mAh	~ 17 mAh		
	mAh)				-20%	12%
change network connectivity	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17	~ 15 mAh	~ 12 mAh	~ 17 mAh		
	mAh)				-20%	12%
change system display settings	Screen (~ 16 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh		
change your audio settings	Audio Speaker (~ 9 mAh)	~ 9 mAh	~ 9 mAh	~ 9 mAh		
change/intercept network settings and traffic	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh) Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh	0%	12%
connect and disconnect from Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 12 mAh	~ 12 mAh	~ 12 mAh		
control flashlight	Flash Light (~ 19 mAh)	~ 19 mAh	~ 19 mAh	~ 19 mAh		
control vibration	Vibration (~ 15 mAh)	~ 15 mAh	~ 15 mAh	~ 15 mAh		

directly call phone numbers	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)	∼ 10 mAh	~ 10 mAh	~ 10 mAh		
phone numbers	Microphone (~ 5 mAh)					
	Audio Speaker (~ 9 mAh)					
download files without	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
notification	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh) Application Processor					
	(~ 20 mAh)				0%	12%
full network access	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)					
	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)				0%	12%
make app always run	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh		
modify phone state	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	∼ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh		
modify secure system settings	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh		
modify system settings	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh		
pair with Bluetooth devices	Bluetooth Radio (~ 10 mAh)	~ 10 mAh	~ 10 mAh	~ 10 mAh		
precise (GPS) location	GPS (~ 25 mAh)	~ 25 mAh	∼ 25 mAh	~ 25 mAh		
prevent phone from sleeping	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 18 mAh	~ 18 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
	Screen (~ 16 mAh)					
read your social stream	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)					
	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)				0%	12%

record audio	Microphone (~ 5 mAh)	∼ 5 mAh	∼ 5 mAh	~ 5 mAh		
run at startup	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh	~ 20 mAh		
send sticky broadcast	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)					
	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)				0%	12%
take pictures and videos	Cameras (~ 17 mAh)	~ 14 mAh	~ 14 mAh	~ 14 mAh		
videos	Flash Light (~ 19 mAh)		man			
	Microphone (~ 5 mAh)					
toggle sync on and off	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)					
	Application Processor				00/	120/
	(~ 20 mAh)				0%	12%
view Wi-Fi connections	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	∼ 12 mAh	~ 12 mAh	∼ 12 mAh		
write to your social stream	Wi-Fi Radio (~ 12 mAh)	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh		
	Cellular Radio (~ 17 mAh)					
	Application Processor (~ 20 mAh)				0%	12%

Table 3.10 summarizes the average amount of power consumption for a power consuming permission which deals with the phone connectivity is decreased approximately by 4% if this permission was used Indoor. The average amount of power consumption for a power consuming permission that deals with the phone connectivity is increased approximately by 12% if this permission was used outdoor. This conclusion can be used in the next stages of the study to come up with more accurate results.

### 6. Report of current research results and proposal

### 6.1 Midway Conclusion

By the end of the previous part the study were able to classify the different levels of power-usage among different smartphone resources. That has helped us later to sort the smartphone components in terms of their level of power consumption. Also helped us to extract applications permissions that interact with those phone components and sort these permission as per to their power-usage based on their interaction with different levels of power-usage components. Then the study started rating the permissions on a scale of six stars to demonstrate their level of power consumption, taking into consideration using these permissions under the two most familiar network connections which are Wi-Fi and Cellular.

The coming step now is to use our results from the provirus part to proceed with our main purpose of this study which is to provide a clear strategy that gives a trusted result in case a user wanted to view the amount of power consumption an application needs before downloading this application. This can be achieved by using our results from previous part to put a strategy to rate an application, the next step is to give a much wider image by rating each applications category in terms of power consumption levels.

## 6.2 About Google Play Applications Categories:

Just like any other market or application store, Google Play categorizes its applications into different categories. This made our job easier because now it is difficult to find an application that does not belong to a certain category. The following table shows Google Play application categories sorted by the most popular, in other words categories that have the highest number of downloads:

No.	Category	Apps with >50K downloads
1	Entertainment	8525
2	Tools	7577
3	Personalization	6405
4	Lifestyle	4634
5	Education	3923
6	Music & Audio	3441
7	Books & Reference	3359
8	Communication	2476
9	Photography	2436
10	Productivity	2256
11	Media & Video	2202
12	News & Magazines	1858
13	Travel & Local	1839
14	Social	1834
15	Health & Fitness	1771
16	Shopping	1227
17	Transportation	1117
18	Business	836
19	Weather	653
20	Medical	498
21	Libraries & Demo	207

TABLE 3.11 Google Play Applications Categories and the Popularity of Each Category

# 6.3 Measuring The Use of Power Consumption Permissions Among Each Category From All Google Play Applications Categories

In order to rate the power consumption level of each application category using our scale of power consumption measurement, the study must list all the applications of each category and to list all

the permissions that are used by each and every application of this category. Then to highlight permission that are marked as power consuming permissions, then find the average rating of each category just like what was implemented above on applications permissions.

In order to ease the procedure of the study and to use a sufficient sampling technique rather than listing all the applications of the category. Our sample was the top ten downloaded applications of each category. The following table shows an example of one category and the way the category was analyzed into the permissions level. The example shows five application while the actual test was done using ten applications:

Top 10 Popular Apps	Needed Permissions for the App
	test access to protected storage
	approximate (network-based) location
	full network access
	view network connections
1. 4shared	receive data from Internet
1. 4310120	modify or delete the contents of your USB storage
	read phone status and identity
	send sticky broadcast
	prevent phone from sleeping
	run at startup
	view network connections
	view Wi-Fi connections
	pair with Bluetooth devices
	full network access
2. Netflix	receive data from Internet
2. Negin	find accounts on the device
	read phone status and identity
	allow Wi-Fi Multicast reception
	retrieve running apps
	prevent phone from sleeping
	test access to protected storage
	Google Play billing service
	full network access
	view network connections
3. Talking Tom Cat 2	view Wi-Fi connections
Free	receive data from Internet
	read phone status and identity
	record audio
	control vibration
	modify system settings

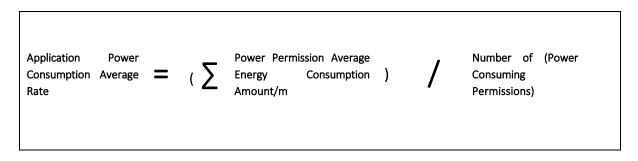
TABLE 3.12 A Sample of five applications under "Entertainment" Category, listing all permissions needed for each application

[	prevent phone from sleeping
	test access to protected storage
	Google Play billing service
	full network access
	view network connections
	view Wi-Fi connections
4. Talking Ben	receive data from Internet
The Dog Free	modify or delete the contents of your USB storage
The Doy Tree	read phone status and identity
	record audio
	modify system settings
	prevent phone from sleeping
	test access to protected storage
	read your contacts
	set an alarm
	view network connections
	full network access
	view Wi-Fi connections
	receive data from Internet
	Google Play billing service
5. Audio Ringtones	find accounts on the device
	modify or delete the contents of your USB storage
	read phone status and identity
	control vibration
	modify system settings
	prevent phone from sleeping
	run at startup

## 6.4 Rating the level of Power consumption for an application and for each Google Play Category

The next step in our experimental work is to recall the list of power consuming permissions and then start matching each list of permissions that belongs to an application with the table of power consuming permissions. This is alone by highlighting power consuming permissions found on each application list of permissions. This step is repeated till the study covers all the ten applications of the sample. Next is to calculate the average rating of the application by calculating the total average rating of all power consuming permissions ratings that are used by this application. Then it will be possible to calculate the total average rating of all the ten applications in order to find the average rating of each category. The study will also take into consideration the situation of using a permission either "Indoor" or "Outdoor" while calculating our results to give us more accurate rating for either an application or a category.

Application Power Consumption Average Rate Equation:



The following table shows an example of power consuming rating for 4shared application, where power consuming permissions are highlighted in grey:

Category	Top 10 Popular Apps	Needed Permissions for the App	Permissions consumption rate	Application Average Energy Consumptio n Amount per minute	Applicatio n Star Rating out of Six Stars (~ 1 to ~ 30 mAh)
	1. 4shared	test access to protected storage approximate (network-based) location full network access	~ 16 mAh	-	*** *
Entertainment		view network connections receive data from Internet modify or delete the contents of your USB storage		~ 18 mAh	
		read phone status and identity send sticky broadcast prevent phone from sleeping run at startup	~ 16 mAh ~ 18 mAh ~ 20 mAh		

TABLE 3.13 Rating "4shared" Application Using Power Consumption Stars Scale

From the above example, next is to rate the power consumption level of same application under the two network usage situations, which are "Wi-Fi" and "Cellular".

The following table shows the same example under the two network usage situations:

TABLE 3.14 Rating "4shared" Application Using Power Consumption Stars Scale Under Two Different Network Connectivity Modes

<b>C</b> atego ry	Top 10 Popular Apps	Needed Permissions for the App	Permission Average Energy Consumption Amount per minute for Indoor/Outdoor		Application Average Energy Consumption Amount per minute for Indoor/Outdoor		Application Star Rating out of Six Stars (~ 1 to ~ 30 mAh)	
			Indoor (Wi-Fi)	Outdoor (Cellular )	Indo or (Wi- Fi)	Outdo or (Cellul ar)	Indoo r (Wi- Fi)	Outdoo r (Cellula r)
	1. 4shared	test access to protected storage				~ 19 mAh	** *	*** *
		approximate (network-based) location			mAh	111/211		
		full network access	∼16 mAh	~ 18 mAh				
		view network connections						
nent		receive data from Internet						
Entertainment		modify or delete the contents of your USB storage						
		read phone status and identity						
		send sticky broadcast	~ 16 mAh	~ 18 mAh				
		prevent phone from sleeping	~ 18 mAh					
		run at startup	~ 20 mAh					

The following table shows an example where power consuming rating is made for the Entertainment category also under the two network usage situations:

TABLE 3.15 Rating "Entertainment" Applications Category Using Power Consumption Stars Scale Under Two Different Network Connectivity Modes

Category	Top 10 Popular Apps		Application Average Energy Consumption Amount per minute for Indoor/Outdoor		Category Average Energy Consumption Amount per minute for Indoor/Outdoor		Category Star Rating out of Six Stars (~ 1 to ~ 30 mAh)	
			Indoor (Wi-Fi)	Outdoor (Cellular)	Indoor (Wi-Fi)	Outdoor (Cellular)	Indoor (Wi-Fi)	Outdoor (Cellular)
	1.	4shared	~ 17 mAh	~ 19 mAh	~ 15 mAh	~ 18 mAh	***	****
	2.	Netflix	~ 12 mAh	~ 20 mAh				
	3.	Talking Tom Cat 2 Free	~ 14 mAh	~ 14 mAh				
	4.	"Talking Ben The Dog Free"	~ 14 mAh	~ 14 mAh				
t	5.	Audiko Ringtones	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh				
Entertainment	6.	Twitch	~ 14 mAh	~ 21 mAh				
Ente	7.	"MP3 Music Download"	~ 15 mAh	~ 20 mAh				
	8.	Talking Ginger	~ 15 mAh	~ 15 mAh				
	9.	"9GAG- Funny pics and videos"	~ 15 mAh	~ 22 mAh				
	10.	"Talking Tom & Ben News Free"	~ 14 mAh	~ 14 mAh				

The following table shows all Google Play applications categories sorted by their power consumption rating scores:

TABLE 3.17 Rating All Google Play Applications Categories Using Power Consumption Stars Scale under Two Different Network Connectivity Modes

Catagory	Category A Consumption Am	verage Energy nount per minute	Category Star Rating out of Six Stars ( $\sim$ 1 to $\sim$ 30 mAh)		
Category	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	
	(Wi-Fi)	(Cellular)	(Wi-Fi)	(Cellular)	
Social	~ 26 mAh	~ 30 mAh	****	*****	
Tools	~ 26 mAh	~ 26 mAh	****	****	
Communication	~ 25 mAh	~ 28 mAh	****	****	
Personalization	~ 20 mAh	~ 22 mAh	****	****	
Lifestyle	~ 21 mAh	~ 21 mAh	****	****	
Productivity	∼ 21 mAh	~ 21 mAh	****	****	
Travel & Local	~ 19 mAh	~ 21 mAh	****	****	
Health & Fitness	~ 17 mAh	~ 17 mAh	***	***	
Business	~ 15 mAh	~ 18 mAh	***	****	
Music & Audio	~ 15 mAh	~ 18 mAh	***	****	
Photography	~ 16 mAh	~ 16 mAh	***	***	
Entertainment	~ 15 mAh	~ 18 mAh	***	****	
Media & Video	~ 15 mAh	~ 19 mAh	***	****	
Shopping	~ 15 mAh	~ 18 mAh	***	****	
Transportation	~ 14 mAh	~ 16 mAh	***	****	
Medical	~ 14 mAh	~ 14 mAh	***	***	
Books & Reference	~ 12 mAh	~ 12 mAh	**	**	
Weather	~ 11 mAh	~ 14 mAh	**	***	
News & Magazines	~ 9 mAh	~ 11 mAh	**	**	
Education	~ 10 mAh	~ 10 mAh	**	**	
Libraries & Demo	~ 4 mAh	~ 4 mAh	*	*	

## 6.5 The Solution

The rating was made by finding the power consumption permissions from the list of permissions used by the application, and then calculated the consumption rate of the application. The values of results from the above were fetched into the equation, after having the rating of each application an overall rating of all application categories available on Google Play was calculated. This was made by using a sample of ten applications from each category, and all of the above were made under the two different most common network usage situations which were "Wi-Fi" and "Cellular".

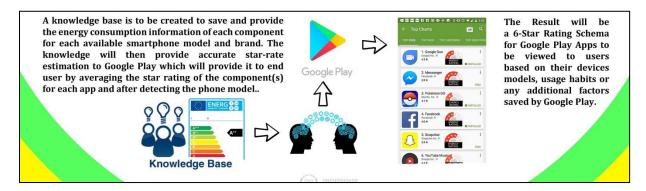


Figure 10: Overall functional description for the preventive power saving model

Along with the above scheme that summarises the proposal, the chart rate to inform users will add a similar rate system to the one used with electrical domestic appliances, as presented for a google play android mobile device screen.



Figure 11: The star rating scheme in the Google Play store

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