AlzNav FAQ

AlzNav is an application designed to help older adults and persons in the initial stages of dementia, as well as their caregivers.

Main features:
- can be used as a simplified walking navigator to help a person get back home when disoriented;
- detects if a person leaves a certain safety area, and can:
    - alert a caregiver by sending out an SMS with the person's location;
    - alert the actual user, providing him with the possibility to:
        - easily call his caregiver, family members or friends;
        - try to return home or to a familiar place himself by being guided by the application;
        - find out its current location, and call a cab/taxi to take him back home;
- autonomously responds to remote location requests sent by the caregiver (this can be disabled);
- 3 different complexity levels to adapt the application and its features to each user's needs;

NOTES
1. The application will be more power efficient if you have a home Wi-Fi to which the device should auto connect when within range. (this also means that Wi-Fi should be enabled)
2. If possible, the device should only connect to known Wi-Fi networks that provide valid data connections.

FAQ

1. How does keeping the Wi-Fi on make the application more power efficient?
A: AlzNav uses an algorithm that switches between network obtained locations (more power efficient) and GPS locations (more power consuming) according to the potential danger the user is in of getting lost.
Being so, when Wi-Fi isn't available the application will have to be more GPS reliant, and as such, more power consuming.

2. Even if I have 3G on does Wi-Fi still help?
A: Yes! Just having the Wi-Fi on will likely greatly increase the accuracy of the obtained locations.

3. Can I still have the Wi-Fi sleep policy set so that Wi-Fi is turned off when the screen is off (default)?
A: The short answer is yes. The application considers this situation and if it is sure the user is safe (home), it will conserve power.
However, this may also mean that the application may take a little more time to realise that the user has left the house, specially if the device is never woken up in the process of doing so.

4. Will the application still work with Wi-Fi disabled or without a home Wi-Fi access point?
A: Yes, but indoor locations will have worse accuracy and as such, the application may not be as power efficient. If that's the case, and if possible, it would probably be better to turn the application off during the night.

5. If the user leaves its safety limits will I (the caregiver) instantly receive an SMS?
A: If the corresponding option is turned on, the caregiver's number is correctly set and the device has enough balance to send SMSs, then you should receive the alert anywhere from instantly to within a couple of minutes.
In normal circumstances you should receive the alert within seconds!

6. Does the same apply to the alert that is shown to the actual user?
A: Yes! the same principle applies.

7. I left the safe zone for a few meters and wasn't alerted. Why?
A: The application will only alert the user and caregiver when it feels positive that the user has actually left/entered the safe zone.
If you only leave the safety area for a few meters, accuracy margins may not allow the application to be sure so it won't immediately send the alerts until it narrows these margins down.

8. I have text-to-speech enabled in the settings, but I don't hear anything?
A: This is usually because language data isn't available. The application will automatically try to find out the cause for this when you enter the settings screen and re-direct you to the market
if there's content missing which is freely available. If your language isn't supported by Android's default TTS engine, you can always obtain a different one which does and set it as your default.
Also, make sure your device's multimedia volume isn't set to silent.

9. I added a contact to the quick contacts list but its photo doesn't show up. Why?
A: AlzNav tries to use the contact's main photo. This works fine most of the times, but certain photos can't be accessed by applications. This is the case of, for example, Facebook contact photos, so if you have a Facebook photo set as your contact's main photo, it may not show up on AlzNav.