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1. Mobile Reporter How To

The following chapters show you how to install, use and administrate the Mobile Reporter server and mobile application (MIDlet).

1.1. Server

This chapter teaches you everything that you need to know about the use of the Mobile Reporter server.

1.1.1. Installation

1.1.1.1. Quick Installation

If you have experience using FTP and PHP scripts and little knowledge about servers, you can just use these short steps to install Mobile Reporter. Otherwise just skip the quick installation and jump to the chapter 6.1.1.2. for a detailed explanation.

1. Decompress the Mobile Reporter zip archive to any directory.
2. If your server or web space requires another file extension for PHP 5 files then „.php“ you have to rename some of the files and change the extension in the file extension.inc. For a detailed description see the next chapter.
3. Upload all the files extracted to any directory on your server or web hosting account. You may not change the directory structure.
4. Set the following permissions:
 - config.php: 666.
 - /media/: 777
 - /media/temp/: 777
 - /smarty/templates_c/: 777
5. Now use your browser to navigate to the directory where you installed Mobile Reporter + „/install/install.php“ to start the installaton routine.
6. Select a language.
7. Fill out the required fields.
8. Select a start configuration for the server.
9. Delete the install folder which you can find in the main folder of Mobile Reporter.

1.1.1.2. Installation

1.1.1.2.1 Decompressing

After downloading Mobile Reporter you should have a file on your hard drive called mrep.zip or similar. Decompress this file for example using winzip to any folder you like.

1.1.1.2.2 Changing File Extensions (Optional)

This step is only needed if your web server or webspace requires another PHP 5 file extension then „.php“.

Open the file „extension.inc“ from the main folder with any text editor you like and replace the value „.php“ from the line „\$php_extension = „.php“;“ with the required file extension.

Example: If your server requires PHP 5 files to be named with „.php5“ then change the line to „\$php_extension = „.php5“;“.

Some of the files in the Mobile Reporter folder have to be renamed now. You have to replace the file extension „.php“ of these files with your extension. Only rename the files ending with „.php“ from the following list.

- Main Folder: all files except for config.php

- /admin: all files
- /install: install.php

1.1.1.2.3 Upload

Upload all the files and directories to your web server. Be sure to absolutely retain the file structure and all file names as they are. Image files should be uploaded in BINARY mode, all other files in ASCII mode. Usually your FTP software will do this automatically for you.

1.1.1.2.4 Permissions

Setting permissions is very important not only for security reasons. Permissions can for example be set using a FTP client like SmartFTP. Just right click on the file or directory and choose permissions. A menu similar to picture 1.1 will be displayed.

Only the permissions for the file config.php and the folder „/media/“, „/media/temp/“ and the folder /smarty/templates_c/ have to be changed. For the file config.php writable for all (666) like in picture 1.1 has to be set. For the folder „/media/“ and „/media/temp/“ as well as for the folder „/smarty/templates_c/“ write and read for all (777) is needed.

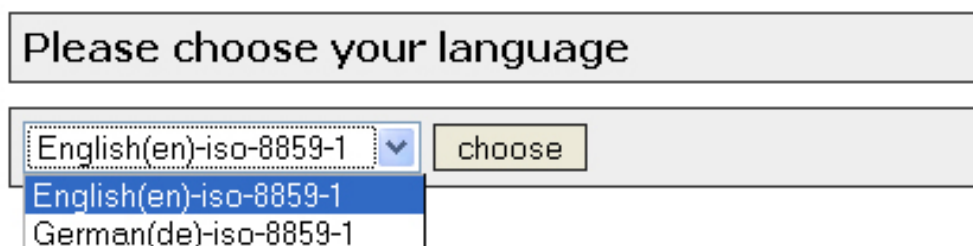


Picture 1.1: Permissions using SmartFTP

1.1.1.2.5 Installation Routine

Now use your browser to visit the location where you installed and add the path „install/install.php“ to it. For example if you uploaded it to <http://www.yourhost.com/mrep/> then the path should look like this <http://www.yourhost.com/mrep/install/install.php>. The installation routine will be started.

At first you will be asked to select a language, the websites will be shown in. Depending on the numbers of languages installed with the Mobile Reporter server, different numbers of languages will be choosable. If for example an english and german language pack are installed, the menu will look like in picture 1.2. Choose any language and press the button.



Picture 1.2: Languages

The second form consists of various input fields that you need to fill out. Depending on your server configuration, some of them may already have been filled out for you. These data are categorized and not all of them are required.

Database Data

As mentioned before, the Mobile Reporter server needs a MySQL database to run properly. In the first part of the form, you need to enter the data that will be used to access this database. This part is shown in picture 1.3.

In the first field, enter the host name, which is the server, where the database is running. If you are using a web hosting account, this is normally „localhost“ but it can be any IP-address or URL. If your database is not running on the default port, add it to the host name. For example: the host name is localhost but your port is 8080, then the entry should be „localhost:8080“.

In the fields „user name“ and „password“ you need to enter the data of a user, that has access to the database. If you don't know them, contact your web hosting provider. It is possible, that the user has no password. Many MySQL databases have a root user without a password, which can be a security risk.

In the last required field enter the name of the database. This information should also be provided by your web host.

The last field, which is labeled „Prefix“ can be left empty. The prefix, which can consist of several characters is only important if there are other applications besides Mobile Reporter, which are using this database. The prefix prevents errors that can occur if a database is shared between different applications. The standard prefix „irep_“ should always be fine.

Database Data	
Host Name*:	localhost
User Name:	
Password:	
Database Name*:	
Prefix:	irep_
Test:	db data not tested

Picture 1.3: Database Data

Location Data

The next category is the location data of picture 1.4. It consists of two fields. The „Absolute Path“ and the „Project Url“. The installation routine could have filled in the fields automatically. But depending on the configuration of the server your website is running on, this automatic filling could be skipped or wrong. So don't forget to check them.

The absolute path is the path starting at your root directory and ending with the name of the directory you uploaded Mobile Reporter to. If you don't know the absolute path please contact your web hosting provider.

The project url consists of your domain and the path to the folder where you uploaded Mobile Reporter. An example: If you uploaded Mobile Reporter to <http://www.yourhost.com/mrep/>, then this has to be entered to the input field. The string „http://“ must be attached to the url.

Location Data	
Absolute Path*:	/htdocs/mrep
Project URL*:	http://www.yourhost.com/r
Test:	Path not tested

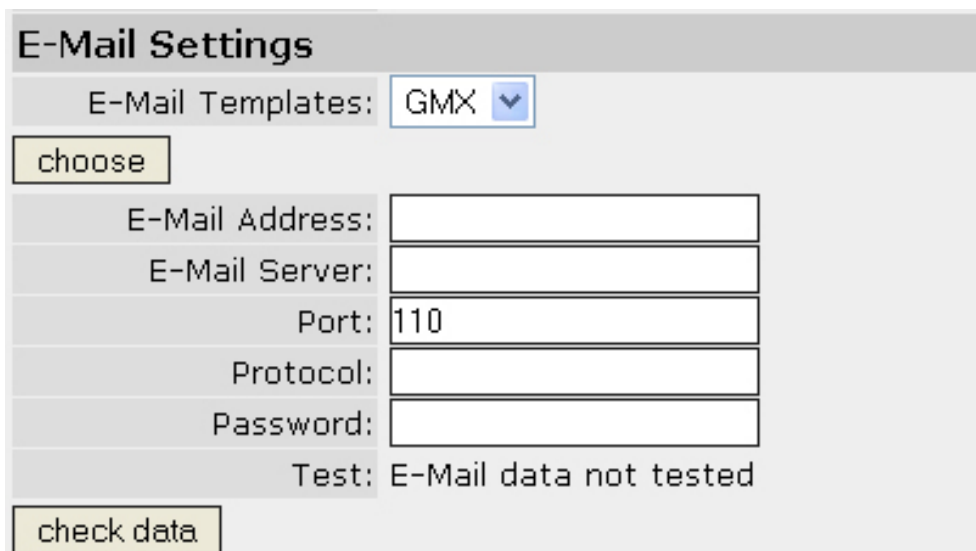
Picture 1.4: Location Data

E-Mail Data

The e-mail settings category is not required. You can specify an e-mail address and its data to check a mailbox for new mails. The Mobile Reporter system supports sending Items in the e-mail format. This can be done by using any e-mail client or for example sending an MMS to this e-mail address. If you want these features to be enabled, then you have to fill out these fields.

The first field is a little tool that might help you to enter your settings. Templates for different freemail providers are available. Select the e-mail provider out of the list and press the choose button. The fields server, port and protocol will be filled out. If your provider isn't in the list, you have to specify every data by yourself. If you don't know them contact your provider read its manuals.

In the field „E-Mail Address“ just enter your exact e-mail address and its password in the field „Password“. The „E-Mail Server“ field need to be filled out with the address of the e-mail server. You will also have to enter the port, the e-mail server is running on. For pop3 servers the default value is 110. The last field „Protocol“ is either pop3 or imap.

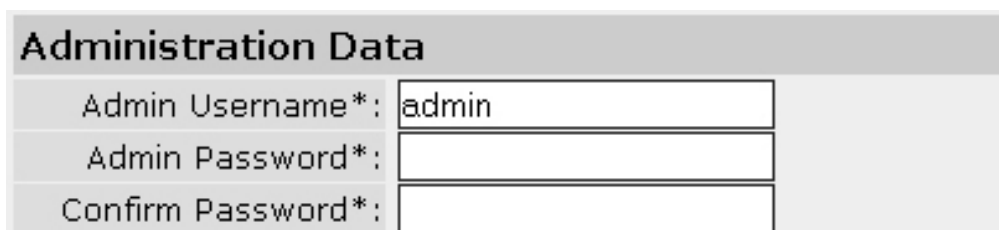


E-Mail Settings	
E-Mail Templates:	GMX ▼
<input type="button" value="choose"/>	
E-Mail Address:	<input type="text"/>
E-Mail Server:	<input type="text"/>
Port:	110
Protocol:	<input type="text"/>
Password:	<input type="text"/>
Test:	E-Mail data not tested
<input type="button" value="check data"/>	

Picture 1.5: E-Mail Settings

Administration Data

The last thing you have to fill out is the administration data. This will create the first user account for the Mobile Reporter server with full admin rights. Just choose any name and password you like. After finishing the installation you can specify or change your data when you are logged in.



Administration Data	
Admin Username*:	admin
Admin Password*:	<input type="text"/>
Confirm Password*:	<input type="text"/>

Picture 1.6: Administration Data

Check Data

You can't press the „create database“ button as long as the entered data is not checked. After the e-mail data fields there is a button labelled „check data“. Press it and the data will be validated. If the check is passed, the install button will be clickable. If not, the errors will be displayed and you need to change the data. If only the E-Mail data check fails, installation can progress because these data are not required.

If everything is fine press „create database“ to save all the settings.

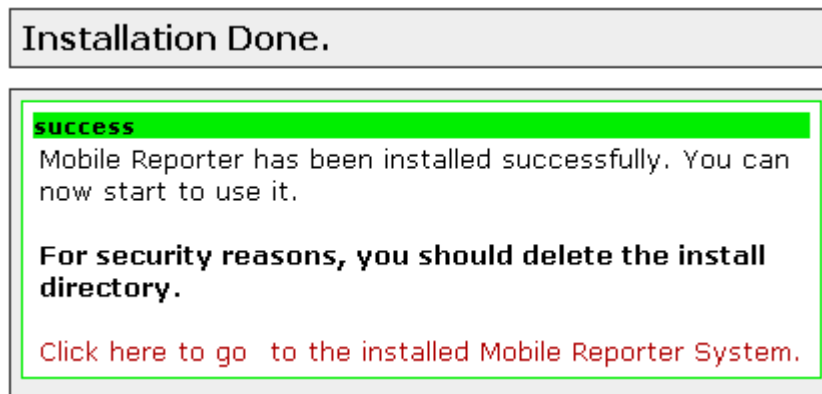
Choose Configuration

The Mobile Reporter server provides at least two start configurations. The last form let's you choose between them. The preinstalled configurations are:

- Multi User News Blog which supports unlimited users but has restrictions in the file size of the uploaded data and more.
- And Private News Blog which doesn't support registration of multiple users but provides more liberty for the user.

The configurations are just build in to ease the first start. By changing the options manually in the admin menu, you can define any configuration you like.

If you finished all the steps above, the Mobile Reporter server should be installed. If you see the message like in picture 1.7 you can be sure that the Mobile Reporter server was installed successfully and is running properly.



Picture 1.7: Installation Done

Additional Security Steps

After the installation you can increase the security of the server by the following steps.

- Delete the install folder. You can find the Install folder in the main folder where you installed Mobile Reporter. This will prevent other persons from changing any settings.

1.1.2. Administration

This chapter should give an introduction to administrate the Mobile Reporter system. To administrate the server you should login with the account you specified at the installation. At the beginning only this account has the rights to enter the administration area. If necessary you can give other users the admin rank to grant access for him.

1.1.2.1. Options

When you enter the administration area you will be directed to the basic options page. Except for some expert options all the other options should be quite self explaining. For the sake of completeness even the self explaining options will be described shortly:

Standard Settings



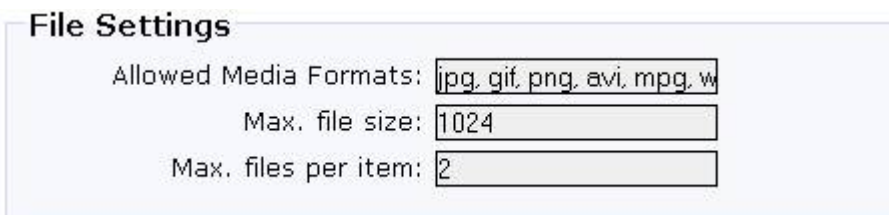
The screenshot shows a configuration panel titled "Standard Settings" with the following fields:

- Language: English(en)-iso-8859-1 (dropdown menu)
- Template: IReporter 1.0 (dropdown menu)
- Default category: News (1) (dropdown menu)
- Items per page displayed: 5 (text input field)
- Registration allowed: Yes (dropdown menu)

Picture 1.8: Standard Settings

The standard settings allow you to configure the basic behavior of the system. For example the language and the template as well as the default category can be set. The default category is the category that will be chosen if there's no category specified in an Item or if the specified category is not existing. The number in brackets behind the category name declares the number of Items that exist in this category. The next option Items per page displayed defines how many items are displayed at one overview page. The last point of the standard settings is the setting registration allowed. As you may think this setting decides whether new users are allowed to register or not.

File Settings



The screenshot shows a configuration panel titled "File Settings" with the following fields:

- Allowed Media Formats: jpg, gif, png, avi, mpg, w (text input field)
- Max. file size: 1024 (text input field)
- Max. files per item: 2 (text input field)

Picture 1.9: File Settings

In this section you can define settings that concern the multimedia files attached to an Item. With a comma separated list you have the possibility to explicitly allow some file formats. If the user wants to upload a multimedia file format that isn't specified here, then the file will be rejected and the error will be reported to the user. To expand the list above simply go to the last entry and add a comma immediately after it. The comma should be followed by a space and then the desired file extension. For security reasons you should never add the „exe“ file extension, because that can cause users with malicious intentions to do damage to the webserver where the Mobile Reporter system is running. Of course you can also remove a file extension from the list, but please make sure, that each file extension is separated by a comma and a space.

The option maximum file size describes how large the file size of an attached multimedia file may be at most. The unit for this number is kilobyte. In the picture above like in the settings from beginning the maximum file size is set to 1024 kb which corresponds to one megabyte. Please notice that each webserver at its own has a restriction for uploading file sizes called `upload_max_filesize` (with root access to the server it can be defined in the `php.ini` file) which is set to 2 mb by default, but it depends on your web hoster.

In the field maximum files per item you can enter a limit how much files can be attached to one single Item at most.

Item Settings



The screenshot shows a configuration box titled "Item Settings" with four rows of settings, each with a label and a dropdown menu:

- Allow HTML in items: No
- Allow comments: Yes
- Rating allowed: Yes
- Automatic item-ranking activated: Yes

Picture 1.10: Item Settings

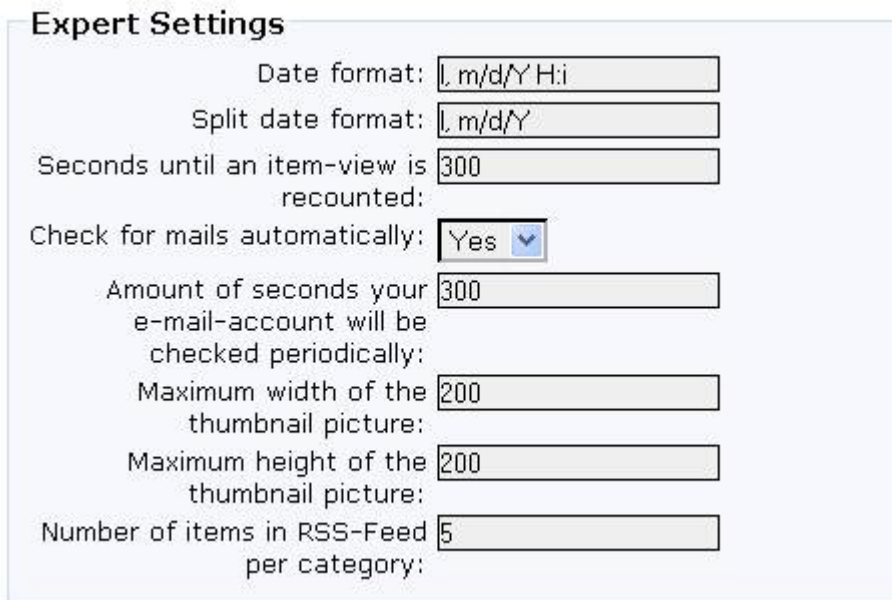
In this box you can define settings that immediately affect the Item itself. For instance here you can decide whether users can use HTML code in their item text or not. From the technical view this option should not be active, because if you allow users to use HTML code then they can integrate malicious code in their item text.

The next option specifies if the user is allowed to post comments to existing Items or not.

If the setting rating allowed is active a logged in user has the possibility to rate an Item positive or negative. But he only has one vote.

The option automatic item-ranking means to weight items statistically with certain criteria. This way ensures that the most informative and high quality Items are placed in a higher position on overview pages like the homepage of the Mobile Reporter. So if this option is active the Mobile Reporter server is responsible for bringing the Items in a order comparable with a search engine algorithm. If this option is not active then the Items will appear on the overview page in order of their item timestamp when they were sent in. Whereas the most actual Item is positioned on top of the page.

Expert Settings



The screenshot shows a configuration box titled "Expert Settings" with several settings:

- Date format: l, m/d/Y H:i
- Split date format: l, m/d/Y
- Seconds until an item-view is recounted: 300
- Check for mails automatically: Yes
- Amount of seconds your e-mail-account will be checked periodically: 300
- Maximum width of the thumbnail picture: 200
- Maximum height of the thumbnail picture: 200
- Number of items in RSS-Feed per category: 5

Picture 1.11: Expert Settings

The expert settings provide options, that can be left unchanged, but for expert users they provide helpful functionalities.

The date format field for example specifies the date format that is used for displaying the item timestamp when the item was created. Just like the expected parameter of the php function date the required value in

this field is a set of characters that specify how the date should be displayed. Each single character has a different meaning. For instance the first character „l“ (lowercase L) stands for the full textual representation of the day of the week, the „m“ means the month as a number with a leading zero, the „d“ displays the day of the month with a leading zero. The „Y“ specifies the 4-digit representation of the year, the „H“ stands for the 24-Hours format of an hour with a leading zero and the „i“ represents the number of minutes with leading zeros. You can find more possible characters and their meanings if you search for „php date“ in a search engine.

The split date format is a way of summarizing several Items together under one headline for example all the items that were sent on the same day. The split date format option defines the output of this headline.

As already mentioned above for reasons of ranking and statistics every view on an Item is counted. To avoid cheaters to click many times on their own items to improve their view statistics the IP address of the user is registered at every item view. This field let's you specify the time in seconds after that an item view from the same IP address is counted again.

The option check for mails automatically can be activated to enable the process of automatically fetching email from the defined email address and thereafter parse the incoming mails to Items. If this option is deactivated the email address will not be checked and therefore no incoming mails are parsed to become Items.

The next option also has to do with the checking of the specified mailbox. Here you can enter a number of seconds after that the emails will be checked automatically. This value should not be too small because sometimes, depending on your freemail provider, there is a connection error if you check your mailbox every 30 seconds.

For the category overview as well as for the homepage the Mobile Reporter server will create thumbnails of the images that are attached to Items. In the options maximum width / height of the thumbnail picture you can enter the width / height in pixel that the image should not exceed.



The last entry in the expert settings specifies the default value of the number of Items in a RSS feed. Remember that this value is only the default that is preset when you create a new category, but can be changed for each category individually.

Important: Don't forget to click the button „change options“ to save your edited settings

1.1.2.2. Rank Administration

The ranks are a good concept to realize different rights for different groups of users. In the ranks section of the administration area you can view the existing ranks, edit them or create new ranks.

Picture 1.12 shows the overview of all existing ranks when you install the Mobile Reporter. Additionally the admin rank exists but it's kept invisible because you shouldn't change it. The ranks are listed vertically and the attributes of the ranks are displayed horizontally. Since the attributes are all self explaining there's no need to explain the single functions of each attribute. By clicking on the pen symbol of a rank you can edit each single attribute as well as the name of the rank.

name	senior user	user
add entry	allowed	allowed
edit own entries	allowed	allowed
edit all entries	forbidden	forbidden
delete own entries	allowed	forbidden
delete all entries	forbidden	forbidden
add category	allowed	forbidden
edit category	forbidden	forbidden
delete category	forbidden	forbidden
add comment	allowed	allowed
delete own comments	allowed	allowed
delete all comments	forbidden	forbidden
edit		

Picture 1.12: Administration, Show ranks

If you want to create a new rank just click on „Add rank“ in the menu. Then the form like in picture 1.13 will appear. Fill out the name field and set the appropriate attributes to allowed or leave them forbidden. Finally press the button „add rank“ and your newly created rank will be stored to the database and is available in the rank overview. After creating a rank you can assign it to an user in the user administration.

Create Rank

name:

add entry:

edit own entries:

edit all entries:

delete own entries:

delete all entries:

add category:

edit category:

delete category:

add comment:

delete own comments:





delete all comments:

Picture 1.13: Administration, Create rank

1.1.2.3. User Administration

In this section you will learn how to create, edit and delete users.

User administration

Username	Firstname	Lastname	Rank	Edit	Delete
admin	---	---	admin		
test	Thomas	Muster	user		

Picture 1.14: Administration, user overview

Picture 1.14 shows the user overview list with two registered users together with the rank assigned to the user. To edit the rank of an user just click on the pen symbol in his row. After that the form like in picture 1.15 will appear. There choose an existing rank from the pull down menu and submit changes to update the rank of this user.

User administration [test]

[back to user overview](#)

Username	Firstname	Lastname	Rank
test	Thomas	Muster	<input type="text" value="user"/>

- admin
- senior user
- user

Picture 1.15: Administration, edit user

To delete an user simply press on the trash symbol in the accordant row. If you press yes in the appearing confirm dialog the user will be deleted. As the user with the admin rank is the only user that has access to the administration area, he can't be deleted.

To create a new user simply click on „Add user“ and fill out all the fields like in the normal registration form. By default the newly created or registered users are all assigned to the rank user.

1.1.2.4. Email Settings

In the email administration you can specify or edit the data for the mailbox where users can send their Items to. If your email provider is listed in the E-Mail Templates pull down, select it and you just have to enter the email address and the adequate password. If not you have to find out the address of the email server and the used protocol. This data can often be found in the FAQ of your mail provider.

1.1.2.5. Database Settings

If you have to change your database connection data you can edit the required fields in the form of the database administration. After saving this data it will be directly written to the file config.php, because it makes no sense to save the data that is needed to connect to the database in the database itself. So, if an error occurs you can easily open the file config.php in the main folder where you installed the Mobile Reporter server and edit the attributes of the database.

1.1.2.6. Spam list Settings

If the administrator has specified an email address and activated the option to fetch emails automatically from the email server, there's always the risk that spam mails flood the mailbox. For that reason you can define email addresses in the spam list section of the administration area. If there's an email in the mailbox from a sender that is on your spam list, the email will be rejected. Especially when you registered your email address at a freemail provider, you will receive spam mail at regular intervals. Just find out the senders email address and enter this data to your spam list.

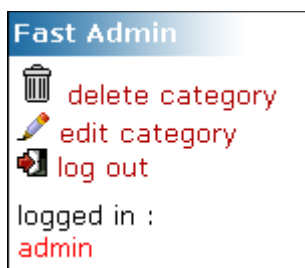
Existing entries of your spam list can be deleted by clicking on the trash symbol beside of the email address you want to delete.

1.1.2.7. **Fast Admin Tool**

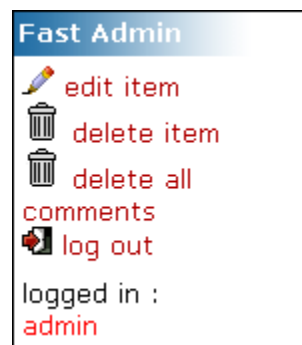
To administrate the basic Mobile Reporter system you have to leave the normal frontend website with all the categories and items on it. For the administration of the Items and categories itself it would be an advantage not to leave these websites to the administration area, but to edit and delete the Items and categories directly on the relevant websites. To realizethis advantage the Fast Admin Tool was created and placed under the navigation box on the Mobile Reporter website. It allows the admin user to edit and delete Items, categories and comments straight on the overview website. Every user that is logged in can see the Fast Admin box. Depending on the displayed page the Fast Admin changes its menu items.

On the category overview the Fast Admin, provided that you are logged in as a user with the adequate rights, let's you edit or delete the displayed categories. See picture 1.17.

For example if you are in the overview of the category „News“ then you have the possibility to delete this category or edit its name or the number of items in the RSS feed with just a few clicks in the Fast Admin Tool. Please note that deleting a category also deletes all the Items stored in this category.



Picture 1.17: Fast Admin Tool, category overview



Picture 1.16: Fast Admin Tool, Item detail view

If you are on an Item detail page where the complete item is shown, then the Fast Admin Tool provides the functions as you can see in picture 1.16. If you click on edit item then you will just be directed to the Item Editor where you can edit this Items with all its attachments. The delete Item function let's you delete an Item very quickly and at the same time it deletes the attached multimedia files from the server.

Depending on the settings and the rights of the user that is logged in you can also delete any existing comments with the Fast Admin Tool. Of course this function only exists if there is at least one comment composed. Logged in as a normal user the Fast Admin Tool makes available less functions. By default the rank user allows to delete your own comments. A single comment can be deleted by clicking on the button with the trash symbol just below the comment.

No matter what rank the logged in user has, the Fast Admin always provides the functionality to quit this session by logging out of the page.

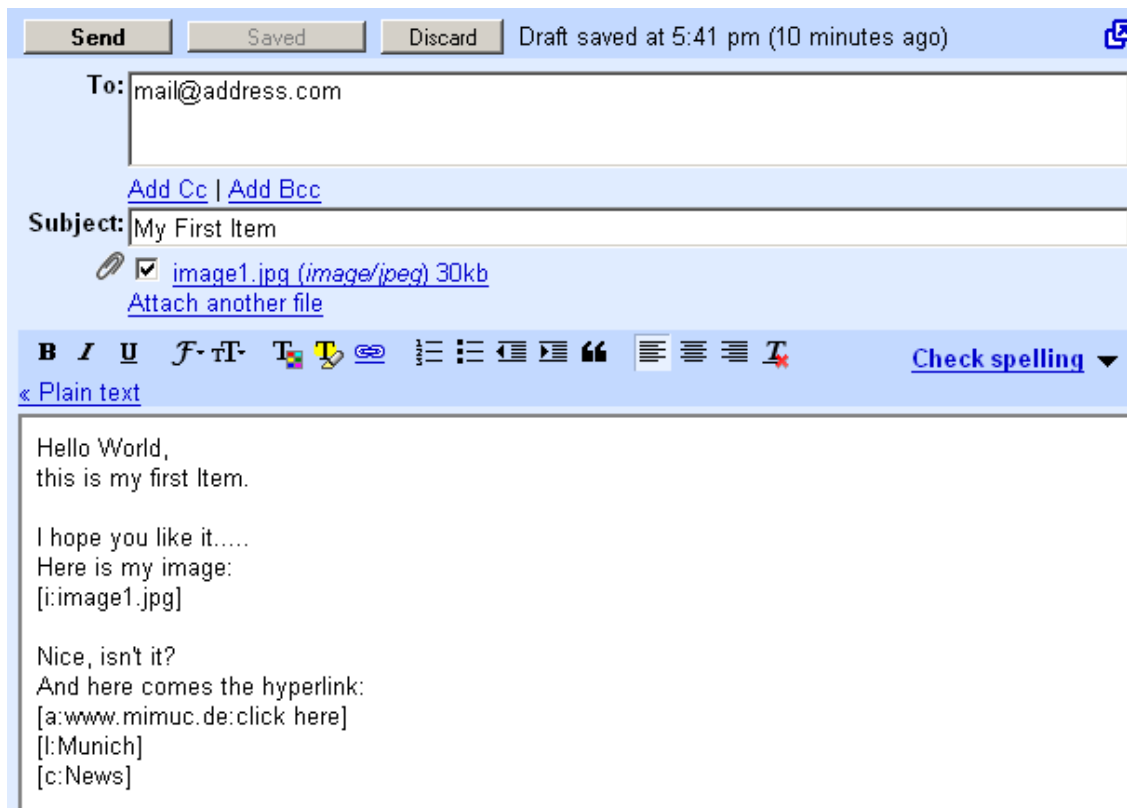
1.1.3. Usage

1.1.3.1. **Compose and edit Items**

As you have four different possibilities to send an item the procedure to create a new Item differs depending on which sender you choose. For the MIDlet as sender from the mobile phone the chapter 6.2.4. will give a detailed explanation how to compose Items. But for the senders via the web form and via email and via MMS you will find a description right here.

Compose Items via email

Starting with the composing of Items via email the picture 1.18 will give you a short instruction how to create Items by sending an email to the email address that the administrator of the Mobile Reporter system specified.



Picture 1.18: Compose an Item via email

As you can see the Special Syntax is used in the email text. This is necessary, because in the email you have no specific fields for the category or the location for example. So this is a way to tell the Mobile Reporter server in which category this Item should be saved and where he has to insert the attached image in the text. To learn more about the Special Syntax read the next chapter.

The process of composing an Item via email should be quite self explaining. You just have to compose an email with a subject that represents the title and with a text that represents the item text and can additionally contain Special Syntax. If you want to attach an image or any other allowed multimedia file you have to attach this file to your email. Using Special Syntax you can then place the attached file in the Item text where you want.

The result after sending this email can be seen in picture 1.19

The screenshot displays a web interface for a mobile reporter. At the top left, the logo "mobile Reporter" features a globe icon. The main content area shows an item titled "My First Item" by "admin" on Wednesday, 11/30/2005 at 18:11. The text of the item reads: "Hello World, this is my first Item. I hope you like it..... Here is my image:". Below the text is a small image of a gorilla's face. The text continues: "Nice, isnt it? And here comes the hyperlink: [click here](#)". A file upload indicator shows "image1.jpg". To the right of the item is a "Rate this item" button with a dropdown arrow and a red "x" icon. Below the item, it says "comments (0)".

categories 1/1
News (48)
more...

menu
create entry
create category
edit data
how to

Administration
admin area

Fast Admin
edit item
delete item
log out
logged in :
admin

Picture 1.19: Detail view of the composed Item

Compose Items in the Item Editor on the website

The picture 1.20 will show you how the creation of an Item may look like if you use the Item Editor directly on the Mobile Reporter website.

On top of the Item Editor you find three input fields that should be quite easy to understand and fill. The title field represents the title of your Item and therefore this is a required field that you always have to fill. Whereas the field location is not required. You can fill it if you want with the location from where you wrote this Item. The category pull down menu specifies in what category your Item should be saved and displayed. In the beginning the default category is set to „News“, but if there exist other categories, you can select them by clicking on the pull down menu and choosing the category you want.

Create Item

Title:

Location:

Category:

[Style] [Font] [Size]

B *I* U | | |

Hello World,
this is my first Item.
I hope you like the **Mobile Reporter**.

Files

marker.jpg

Choose file (max. 1024 KB):

Picture 1.20: Create an Item over the Item Editor on the website

After doing this you can now compose your Item text in the Item Editor. The Item Editor is a comfortable way to create your Item text as it provides many functions that you should know from standard office software like OpenOffice or Microsoft Word for example. If you ever wrote a document with such an office application you should be familiar with most of the symbols shown in the menu bar of the Item Editor.

The most important functions are the ones to format text like the bold, the italic or the underline tool. But also the functions to align the text to the left, the center and to the right or to force the text to align justified are helpful to create nice Items. The three right most symbols provide really useful functions like inserting links, images or tables. Please note that in the link form, that appears when you click on the symbol with the globe, you have to enter your absolute url with an „http://“ at the beginning. The same applies to inserting an image from a url that you can enter in the form when you click on the image symbol. By the way you can also insert links or images by adding the Special Syntax that was created for the Mobile Reporter project to the Item Editor. To learn more about the Special Syntax read the next chapter. To insert a table click on the

rightmost symbol and after specifying some values a table will appear in the Item Editor.

A tremendous advantage of the Item Editor is that you can upload any multimedia file format that was allowed by the administrator in the options. To upload a file just click on the search button, select the file on your hard disk and after that press the button „add file“ to upload the file to the Item Editor. Be careful that the file doesn't exceed the maximum file size that is set by the administrator. By default this value is set to 1 mb and the actual value is always shown in the file upload box of the Item Editor.

It is very important that all the files that you upload don't have any kind of special characters in its filenames. It might work on some webservers if you upload such a file, but it's recommended to avoid special characters in filenames. Furthermore such filenames can cause problems on the client side depending on the webbrowser and the specific version.

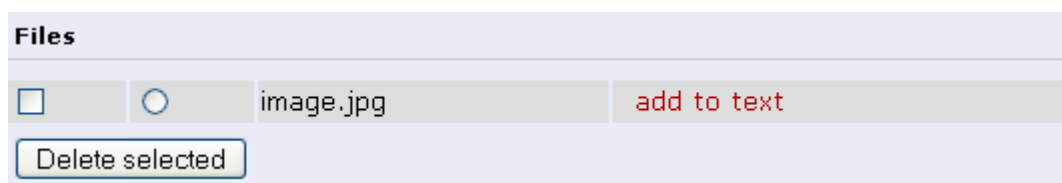
If the file format as well as the filename and the file size are all right, then the file will be uploaded to the Mobile Reporter server. If the upload fails the adequate error message will be displayed, else an entry in the file upload box of the Item Editor will show the newly uploaded file (see picture 1.21). Every uploaded file is displayed in a single line with its filenames and different buttons or functions that you can click.

If you want to delete an uploaded file you just have to select the checkbox at the left of this entry and click on the button „Delete selected“.

The radio button next to the checkbox has the function to mark the main image that is showed in the Item overview. By default the first uploaded image is chosen for the overview page, but if you uploaded more than one image you can just set any other image as main image by activating the radio button of the adequate image. Of course the functionality to set the main image is only possible if the uploaded file is an image. If you uploaded a sound file for example the radio button will not be there.

With the function add to text you can easily insert the uploaded file to the text in the Item Editor right after the cursor's position. In case of any image file, the image will be displayed exactly at this position. The displayed image can afterwards be scaled to the desired size or be moved in the text per drag and drop. In case of any other multimedia files like sound or video files the function add to text creates a link to the file so that the user can open it quickly.

To finally upload your Item you just have to press the „create“ button and your Item will be saved to the database.



Picture 1.21: Item Editor, uploaded file

The same functionality is also available for mobile phone browser. Picture 1.1 illustrates how websites are reduced by these browser to fit on small screens.

Create Item

Title:

Location:

Category:
 News ▾

Create

Files

header.gif
[add to text](#)

Delete selected

Choose file (max. 1024 KB):

Add file

Title
 Enter the title of this entry.

Location
 This field is not required. You can enter a location here. This is the place where you are or a place that is related to the entry like a stadium.

Category
 The category where this entry will be stored in.

Choose file
 This allows you to upload files that will be stored together with your entry.

Abbildung 1.1: Item Editor on a Mobile Phone Browser

Compose Items via MMS

Similar to composing Items via email you can compose Items by writing an MMS to the email address that the administrator specified. Picture 1.22 shows an example dialog on a Nokia mobile phone. To insert an email address into the field it is necessary to switch the input mode of your keypad from numbers to text. Then you can enter the email address. After that you can add a multimedia file to your multimedia message by selecting the adequate option on your mobile phone. Afterwards you can enter text which represents the Item text. Here you can use the Special Syntax by inserting it into your message. As you can't specify a subject in your message like in emails for setting the title of your Item it is necessary that you use the Special Syntax construct [t:My title]. All other Special Syntax constructs explained in the next chapter can be applied.



Picture 1.22: Create an Item via MMS

Edit Items

If you have the rights to edit an Item then in your Fast Admin Tool the menu option „edit item“ will appear if you enter the detail view of any Item. If you click on it, the Item Editor will open filled with all the data from the existing Item. Then you have the possibility to change the Item text, delete uploaded files or to add new files and more. In short you have all the functions that the Item Editor provides to ease the composing of Items.

1.1.3.2. Special Syntax

As already mentioned you don't have the possibility to add for example images to the text if you use the other submission ways like email or MMS. To assure this feature to every possible submission way the Special Syntax was created. With it you can display images or links or set the title or the location of an Item without having explicit fields in the form that the user has to fill out. He just writes a short special construct in his Item text and then the server interpretes this token and replaces it with the relevant HTML code.

As the Special Syntax needs to be entered not only over a normal computer keyboard but also over a mobile phone keypad it is kept as simple as possible. Basically you need an open and a closing bracket and a colon as special characters to use the Special Syntax.

With the knowledge how the Special Syntax should be used you can then control five different aspects of the Item:

- Title: [t:<title>] example: [t:My first Item]
- Category: [c:<category name>] or [c:<category ID>] example: [c:News] or [c:4]
- Location: [l:<location>] (lower case 'L') example: [l:Munich]
- Link: [a:<url>] or [a:<url>:<linktext>] example: [a:www.google.com] or [a:www.google.com:search engine Google]
- Image: [i:<filename of the uploaded image>] example: [i:image.jpg]

The title is quite easy to set. You just write down squared bracket open followed by a 't' and a colon and then your desired title followed by squared bracket close.

Setting the category for your item you have two different options. Either you enter the category name or to avoid long keyboard input on mobile phones you can enter the category ID. In both cases if the entered value doesn't exist in the database then the default category is chosen. For instance if you make a typing error in the category name, then this category won't be found in the database so that your Item will be stored in the default category.

You set the location of your Item by writing the squared bracket open, the letter l (lower case L) followed by a colon and then your location and finally the squared bracket close.

If you want to insert a link into your Item text you write squared bracket open the character 'a' followed by a colon and then your url where the user should be directed to if he clicks on the link. Note that you can enter the absolute url with 'http://' at the beginning or you can just write 'www.link.com'. You also have the possibility to set relative links for example to another Item or category page of the Mobile Reporter. For that you should enter the relative url (e.g. [a:item.php?itemID=2]) beginning from the path where the Mobile Reporter server is installed. To make it easier to read you can optionally specify a linktext that is displayed as link for the user. To do this you just place another colon after your url and then you write your linktext followed by squared bracket close. With this additional option you can prevent the user from the often cryptic and long url of a website.

To place an image among your Item text you first of all need to upload or attach an image to your Item. You should keep in mind the filename of your uploaded or attached file. Then you go to the position where you want your image to be displayed in the Item text and insert squared bracket open, the character 'i' followed by a colon and then the filename of the uploaded or attached file including the file extension followed by squared bracket close. If the filename that you specified here doesn't exist on the server then the Special Syntax construct is removed out of your Item text. But if the specified file exists, then the Mobile Reporter System converts the Special Syntax to HTML code and your image will be displayed.

1.1.3.3. Create and delete comments

As the Mobile Reporter system should be an interactive platform where users should give feedback to Items published by other users it is possible to comment an Item. Even unregistered users can leave their comments. To do this you simply have to click on the link „comments“ when you are in the category overview or in the detail view of a single Item. Then you'll be able to comment this Item. If you are not logged in you have to enter an username which will be displayed with your comment. The email field is optional. If you specify an email address here other users can contact you over a web form, but your email address is hidden.

In contrast if you are logged in there's just one text field where you can enter your comment and submit it.

To delete a single comment there will be a small trash symbol below every entry. If you press on it the comment will be deleted after you confirm your intention. To delete all comments of a single Item you just have to click on the „delete all comments“ menu point of your Fast Admin Tool. Note that only administrators or users with a special rank can delete all comments of an Item and in consequence only if you have the accordant rights the menu point will appear.

1.1.3.4. Rate Items

As the Mobile Reporter system should generate a kind of automatic item ranking for the Item overview page it is important that the user community contributes to this ranking process by rating Items. Thus every user that is logged in can rate every Item once. But to keep it simple you can just rate the Item positive or negative without any steps in between. As every user can rate an Item only once the rating form is not shown if the user already rated this Item.

To rate an Item simply go to the detail view of this Item and there you'll find a pull down menu to rate this Item. Choose your desired rating and then press the small submit icon on the right to finally rate this Item.

1.2. Mobile Phone Application

In this chapter you will learn, how to edit, install and use the midlet, that was made to submit Items in an easy way via your mobile phone.

1.2.1. Preparation by the Administrator

For correct functionality, the mobile reporter MIDlet needs to know the url, where the mobile reporter server was installed. Normally the user will be asked to enter this url at the first start of the midlet. To ease the installation for the users, it is possible to predefine the url in the following way. Also the maximum number of files that are allowed to attach to an Item can be defined that way.

1.2.1.1. Rename the midlet

The mobile application is called mrep.jar. After installing the mobile reporter server, you will find it in the folder „./download/“. You will find this folder relative to your install directory.

If you for example installed mobile reporter into <http://www.yourhost.com/mrep/> then you will find the file at <http://www.yourhost.com/mrep/download/mrep.jar>.

Download this file and rename it to mrep.zip.

1.2.1.2. Unzip the file

Now unzip the file to any folder you like. In the unzipped folder you will find 3 subfolders. Ireporter, org and META-INF. Inside the folder META-INF, there should be only one file, named MANIFEST.MF.

1.2.1.3. Change the file

Open this file with any text editor you like. The data should look similar to text 1.1.

```
Manifest-Version: 1.0
Ant-Version: Apache Ant 1.6.2
Created-By: 1.4.2_08-b03 (Sun Microsystems Inc.)
MIDlet-1: ItemMidlet,,ireporter.ItemMidlet
MY-URL: http://www.myhost.com/mrep/
MY-MAX-FILES: -1
MY-RSS-ON: 1
MY-PHP-EXT: php
MIDlet-Vendor: mrep Team
MIDlet-Version: 1.0
MIDlet-Name: mrep
MicroEdition-Configuration: CLDC-1.1
MicroEdition-Profile: MIDP-2.0

Text 1.1: MANIFEST.MF
```

In this text file there are 4 lines, that you can modify. MY-URL, MY-MAX-FILES, MY-RSS-ON and MY-PHP-EXT. If one of these lines is missing, just add it.

The line that starts with MY-URL represents the URL of your website. Replace its value with the url where you installed the mobile reporter server. If you, for example installed the mobile reporter system to <http://www.yourserver.com/mrep/> then the line should look like MY-URL: <http://www.yourserver.com/mrep/>.

MY-MAX-FILES indicates how many files users can attach to an Item. You can choose any number you like. Choose the value -1 to define the number of attached files not limited to a maximum. That means that users can attach as many files as they want to. This parameter should be equivalent to the settings of the mobile reporter server.

The line that starts with MY-RSS-ON and enables to switch the midlets RSS reader on and off. The reader is part of the midlet and enables the user to use the midlet to view the newest Items on the webpage. If the value equals 1, then it is switched on, if it is 0, it is switched off. In case it is switched off, the midlet doesn't display the button to start the RSS reader.

The last line is labelled MY-PHP-EXT and should only be modified if you changed the file extensions on the server (see chapter 6.1.1.2.2.). Just place the original value with the new extension. If you changed it on the server to „php5“ then do the same here. If this line should be missing in the file, you can just add it.

After changing it, save the file.

1.2.1.4. Zip the folder

Now zip the folder again. The new .zip file must contain the 3 folders ireporter, META-INF and org, just like the original mrep.jar file.

At the end rename the file to mrep.jar and replace the old mrep.jar in the download folder on your server.

1.2.2. Installation

Depending on your cell phone there are different ways to install the midlet. This is only supposed to be a brief description of the possibilities. For further information please consult the instructions of your mobile phone.

1.2.2.1. Download via mobile phone

One possibility is to download the application with your mobile phones browser. You just need to enter the url as you will find it on the web page and confirm the download. After that you will be asked if you want to install the application.

The advantage of this approach is, that it is very easy. The disadvantage is that you will be charged by your mobile phone provider.

1.2.2.2. Download via Personal Computer

You can also download the application via your pc which will be much cheaper or even for free, depending on your internet access contract.

After downloading it, you have to transfer the application to your mobile phone. Most mobile phones are sold including a cable to connect the mobile phone with your pc but you can also use a bluetooth connection to transfer the data.

After the transfer the mobile phone will display an installation dialog. Follow the instructions on the screen to finish the installation.

1.2.3. Settings

On some mobile phones (e.g. Nokia 6630, Nokia 6600) untrusted java applications require a confirmation by the user for every action that needs access to external resources. This is the case for using the build in camera, the microphone and internet connections.

For the mrep midlet, this behaviour is not wished. Therefore it is highly recommended to turn this behaviour off. The procedure differs from manufacturer to manufacturer. If you don't want to edit the settings just skip this chapter. Your mobile application will also work without any modifications on it.

Here are exemplary descriptions how to proceed on specific Nokia and Siemens phones. For other phones please consult the instructions of your mobile phone.

1.2.3.1. Nokia

On Nokia series 60 mobile phones like the Nokia 6630, the Nokia N90 and the Nokia 6600 you can modify the installed midlet so that it will only ask your confirmation once for every action. You can do this by opening the manager. This is an application that manages every installed software. Normally you will find it at main menu > Tools > Manager. The location may differ on some mobile phones.

In the manager search for an application called mobile reporter and open the options menu. Search the list for a command called „Suite settings“ and choose it. You will see a menu with many different options similar to picture 1.23.

Change the settings for „Network Access“, „Connectivity“ and „Multimedia“ to „ask first time“.



Picture 1.23: Settings on Nokia

1.2.3.2. Siemens

On Siemens mobile phones like the S60, you can't edit the settings, but you can edit the behaviour in a different way. Just start the mobile reporter midlet. The first time you will perform an action that requires authorisation, the mobile phone will give you multiple choices. Choose „allow for the whole session“ and you won't be asked again.

1.2.4. Usage

Depending on the settings done by the administrator, some functionalities may be enabled or disabled. If some of the features described in this chapter are missing in your installation, the administrator probably disabled them.

1.2.4.1. First Start

The first time you start the midlet, you will see a screen similar to picture 1.24. If the administrator specified a homepage url, the third enter field won't be displayed.

In the fields „User Name“ and „Password“ enter the user name and the password, that you got either during the registration or that was send to you by the administrator.

If there is a field „Homepage“, type in the URL where the mobile reporter serveURL <http://www.some-server.com/mrep/>, then this is the URL you have to enter in this field.

This data will be used to verify that you have the rights to add Items to the server. You have to enter this data only once, because it will be saved on your mobile phone.



Picture 1.24: Start screen

1.2.4.2. Change User Data

If you want to change the user data, choose edit data from the main menu. This will open the same form that you've seen on the first start. Just change the data and press save.

1.2.4.3. Create an Item

To create an Item, choose the button „Write News“ from the main menu (see picture 1.25). Click it and a form will be displayed on the screen.

The form contains 4 different enter fields. You can see three of them in picture 1.26. Two of these fields are required and marked with a „*“. The first one is the title field. Enter the title for the Item there. The second is the text to be displayed as the Items text.

The optional fields are called place and category. The place stands for the location where the Item was created or the event, that is part of the Items story, happened. The category field indicates the category on the server where the Item will be saved in. It can be the name of the category or its id. If this field is left empty or there is no category with this value, then the standard category will be chosen. If there is for instance only one category on the server, this category will always be chosen.



Picture 1.25: Main Menu



Picture 1.26: Create Item

1.2.4.4. Add Files

The midlet enables you to add audio files and pictures to an Item. If the administrator set the maximum files to 0, the following features won't be available in the midlet.



Picture 1.27: Item Options

1.2.4.5. Add Photos

In the item form, open the options menu from picture 1.27. Choose the option „Add Photo“ and click it. This will start the camera. Choose the motiv you want to record and press „Shoot Photo“ from the options menu. After that, you have to name the file. Just type in any name you like into the input field like in picture 1.28 and press „ok“.



Picture 1.28: Saving a Photo

1.2.4.6. Add Audio Files

To add an audio file, choose „Record Audio“ from the item form's options menu from picture 1.27 and click it. This will display a timer and an option menu. The timer displays the seconds recorded. Choose „Start Recording“ from the options menu to start and „Stop Recording“ to stop the record (see picture 1.29). Also an audio file has to be named. Choose any name and press „Save Audio“.



Picture 1.29: Record Audio

1.2.4.7. Show and Delete Attachments

If one or more files are attached to an item. There will be a new option in the item form's option menu. It is called „Show Attachements“. Click it, and a new menu will be displayed. Choose a file and press options. A menu similar to picture 1.30 will be displayed.

For every file „Delete“ and „Add to Text“ will be displayed. Press „Delete“ to delete the file. „Add to Text“ will automatically add a special syntax to your text. This special syntax is interpreted by the server to display either the image at the specific position in the text, or a link to the file if it is not an image. Picture 1.31 shows an example of the special syntax. [i:Pi2.png] means, that at this position, picture 2, that will be uploaded together with this item should be displayed.



Picture 1.30: Attachments



Picture 1.31: Special Syntax

Depending on the type of the file either „Show“ or „Play“ will be displayed in the menu. For image files there will be „Show“. If you press it, the image will be displayed. For audio files there will be „Play“ instead of „Show“. Pressing it starts to play the audio file.

1.2.4.8. Upload Items

To publish the Item you need to upload it. Choose „Upload“ from the Item's options and click it. The menu from picture 1.32 will be displayed. Press „Start“ from the options menu. If this is the first upload in this session, you will be asked to confirm the connection to the internet. After that you have to choose the internet gateway out of your cell phones list.

You can stop the upload at any time you want by pressing „Cancel“ and restart the upload another time. If you press cancel, the upload will be stopped and the Item will be saved.

If an error should occur during the upload, you can either go back to the Item form or save the item.



Picture 1.32: Upload

1.2.4.9. 5.2.4.7. Save and Load Items

Under specific circumstances it can be necessary to save an Item. If you for example can't connect to the mobile phone network you can save the Item and send it later.

While creating an Item, you can save it at any time by pressing „Save Item“ in the options menu (see picture 1.27). The Item will be saved and the main menu will be displayed. If there are saved Items, there will be a new button in the main menu labeled „Saved Items“ like in picture 1.33. Press it and a menu will be displayed containing all saved Items. For every Item you can either choose to delete or show it (see picture 1.34). „Show“ will open the Item form where you can edit the Item and upload it. You can also just change and resave it.



Picture 1.33: Extended Main Menu



Picture 1.34: Saved Items

1.2.4.10. RSS Reader

If it is enabled by the user, you will find a button for the RSS Reader in the main menu like in picture 1.25. The RSS Reader enables you to view the newest Items that were submitted to the mobile reporter server. Press the button in the main menu. After that all the categories that exist on the server will be displayed.

Choose one of the categories and the newest Items will be displayed on the screen.

For using the RSS Reader you need to connect to the internet. Therefore your mobile phone will display all the possible gateways in a list for you. Choose one of them and the connection will be established.