



Trusted Status

It's in everyone's interest to maintain the quality of Java ME applications, whilst keeping the cost to the developer as low as possible.

For this reason we've introduced a new, Trusted Status. We want as many developers as possible to gain Trusted Status – irrespective of the size or capacity of the developer. It's in everyone's interest to make this happen.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Trusted Status project either directly or through the Java Verified blog. We've taken into consideration all of your comments, and have changed things around accordingly. We think you'll be happy with the outcome.

It's all explained in the questions and answers below, so please read about it, and - if you're an existing Java Verified developer - apply now.

Q. Remind me – before Trusted Status, how did all developers gain the Java Verified endorsement for their apps?

A. Developers submitted their Publisher ID-signed Java ME apps through the Java Verified Submission Portal, got them tested against the Unified Testing Criteria (UTC) by one of three accredited Java Verified test houses, and paid for the tests (and any re-tests) direct to the test house. Once the test house had confirmed that an app had passed the UTC tests, the app was then signed through the Java Verified Submission Portal with the Java Verified Signature.

Although there are different tests for different types of apps ('complex' apps and 'simple' apps) each developer was treated the same way through this one process, irrespective of a developer's history of submitting and testing apps for Java Verified approval, and irrespective of the quantity and pass rate of their apps.

Q. Trusted Status: what is it?

A. It's a privileged status to be granted to developers who have proven that the quality of their Java ME apps is of a consistently high standard. These are developers who have earned the trust of Java Verified by demonstrating unfailingly that testing to the UTC standard is a crucial part of their product development activity.

Java Verified developers who are awarded Trusted Status will **no longer** need to use one of the three accredited test houses to test their applications, and will **no longer** need to provide documentation to Java Verified that this is the case. They will have gained the trust of Java Verified that their apps will consistently pass the criteria.

Q. What are the reasons for introducing Trusted Status?

To reduce significantly the cost for Java ME application developers in gaining the Java Verified accreditation for their apps, whilst maintaining the consistent high quality of those apps.

To increase the number of Java Verified-approved apps in the market place (i.e. apps that have successfully passed the appropriate tests laid out in the UTC). By making the Java Verified accreditation more accessible to developers, the number of Java Verified-approved apps out there should increase.

Q. How can a developer achieve Trusted Status?

Application stage

Any developer currently using the Java Verified Submission Portal can apply for Trusted Status by providing key information about themselves and their apps at <http://javaverified.com/trusted-status-application-form>. The Java Verified team will then look at each applicant individually based on a number of key factors.

Qualification Stage and period

If the developer is successful, they will be invited to enter a Qualification Stage, in which they will need to prove at a minimum that 90% of their apps are passing the UTC over a certain, agreed period first time, and that the remaining 10% are passing second time.

This Qualification Stage will last for a defined period of time (to be determined on a case-by-case basis), during which the developer will submit and test their apps as normal (using their preferred Java Verified test house), with the results coming out of the Submission Portal as normal, and the test house providing test results as normal.

The results will be analysed by Java Verified at the end of the period, and of course there will be plenty of communication between Java Verified and the developer during this time. Remember – the idea is to reward as many developers as possible with Trusted Status, and so if a developer proves that they take the UTC seriously, we're very much in favour of granting them the status and saving them money and time.

Probationary Stage and period

If a developer passes the Qualification Stage, they will be granted Trusted Status for a probationary period, and will enter the Probationary Stage.

They will be given Trusted Status rights and full access to the Trusted Status section of the Java Verified Submission Portal.

The Probationary Stage will last for a pre-agreed amount of time, as agreed with the developer on a case-by-case basis.

During this stage, the developer will not have to use one of the three accredited test houses to test their applications, and will not have to declare the test results. Their apps will be automatically signed with the Java Verified signature when they developer says they have met the criteria outlined in the UTC document. It is required that 100% of these apps will

have met the criteria., For this Probationary Period, it will have been agreed between Java Verified and the developer that a pre-defined number of apps will be tested by the Java Verified Audit Test House to ensure that they have, indeed, met the criteria outlined in the UTC document.

The developer will pay Java Verified a set fee per app so that the apps can be audited. The fee structure will be the same for each developer (with a price for a simple app, a complex app and a reduced test), and will reflect the market conditions at the time. This fee will be paid to Java Verified by the developer. Java Verified will pass the apps to be audited to the Java Verified Audit Test House for testing and will be the sole contact for the developer for each app audited.

The results of each audited app will be shared and discussed between Java Verified and the developer as the test results become available, and action taken as decided by Java Verified.

Important: it is expected that 100% of all of the audited apps will have passed the UTC as it was on this basis that the developer was awarded Trusted Status in the first place. If they don't pass, then we'll address this with the developer immediately, as part of the close working relationship, and a plan will be suggested by the developer, and put into place, to rectify the situation.

The developer will need to produce and submit tangible proof that they understand and have resolved the problems.

However, if it's felt that the issues are too serious, or the developer isn't remedying them, or the relationship is draining Java Verified resource (which is very limited) then we'll possibly need to suspend or remove the Trusted Status privilege for that developer.

That's why it's important for a good, close working relationship based on trust to be built up between Java Verified and the developer, to make sure issues are discussed and resolved sensibly: please remember that it's in the interest of the whole industry for the costs to developers to be as low as possible and the quality of apps to be as high as possible. Therefore Java Verified is interested in as many developers being awarded Trusted Status as possible.

If - at the end of the Probationary Stage - both parties feel happy with the outcome, the developer will pass the Probationary Stage.

Full Trusted Status

If a developer passes the Probationary Stage, they will be granted full Trusted Status. A reduced, ongoing audit quantity and period will be agreed. The developer will agree to pay for the audits in the same way as they will have done for the Probationary Stage.

The criteria for increasing audits and revoking Trusted Status privileges will be exactly the same as in the Probationary Stage, with each developer's position reviewed and discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Q. If a developer fails a stage, will he have to go back to the beginning?

A. Not necessarily. As mentioned above, it's in everyone's interest for this to work.

Put bluntly: we're not going to just throw a Trusted Status developer out because some of his apps have minor problems which the developer has assured us are now being addressed and will not feature in any other app going forward. We might increase the number of applications audited for a while, and make sure the apps pass every test, but we probably wouldn't go as far as to revoke the status.

However, if the developer continues to fail audits because of these or other problems, then we would obviously have to consider revoking his status.

We need to develop and nurture good working relationships with all Trusted Status developers and take a realistic view of what's happening.

Q. Please can you explain a bit more about the audit process?

A.

- The developer will pay a fee per-app for each of an agreed number of apps to be tested during the Probationary Stage, and thereafter on an ongoing basis.
- This set fee per app will be paid direct to Java Verified by the developer and will be at a cost to reflect market conditions at the time.
- Java Verified will select the apps to be tested once the apps have been signed by Java Verified within the Submission Portal.
- Each app will be passed to the Java Verified Audit Test House and be tested against the UTC.
- The results of each audited app will be shared between Java Verified and the developer as the test results are available.

Q. What is the Audit Test House?

A. To ensure that all of the apps that are audited are audited in the same way, Java Verified is working with a Java ME test house to act as the as the Audit Test House for Trusted Developers. However, all communication will be between Java Verified and the developer.

Q. What costs will be involved for the Trusted Status developers?

- A fee for the auditing of each application. This fee will reflect the cost of testing.
- A Content ID for each app to cover the cost of the Java Verified app signing. One Content ID will cost \$20 and will sign 20 applications within a title. Content IDs will be purchased in batches by the developer via the Submission Portal.

As long as there are enough Content IDs in the developer's account before an app is signed, the app will be signed. (This cost is normally included in the cost of testing, so a developer wouldn't normally see it. However, as testing will no longer be conducted via the Java Verified Submission Portal, the cost of a Content ID needs to be paid separately).

The Content ID fee bypasses Java Verified and goes straight to the people who run the Java Verified Submission Portal.

Q. Will Trusted Developers go through a different submission process or will they still use the Submission Portal?

A. They'll still use the Submission Portal but will have a different type of account. The functionality will be the same as before apart from the following:

- Instead of submitting the apps for testing via the Submission Portal and waiting for the results to come back from the test house, the developer will submit the apps as normal, and then send it for signing when ready.
- The Submission Portal system will then check that the developer has purchased enough Content IDs to sign the applications.
- If there are not enough Content IDs in the developer's account, the developer will be asked to purchase enough to enable the apps to be signed by Java Verified.
- The app signing will then happen, taking a few minutes depending on the number of apps involved.

Q. Who will be eligible to apply for Trusted Status?

A. Any developer whose applications have gained the Java Verified signature. These will be applications that have been all the way through the Java Verified Submission Portal, from submission to signing.

It doesn't matter how many apps the developer has submitted: a developer submitting a small number of quality apps will be just as eligible to apply as one submitting hundreds.

Q. Will only large developers and publishing houses be considered?

A. No. Any developer who is currently submitting apps and can prove that they take their QA seriously will be considered.

Q. How will Java Verified select the developers to go through the Qualification Stage?

A. We'll be interested in looking at the quality of a developer's applications to-date, the types of failures against the UTC to-date, the existing and future QA process implemented by the developer, and a few other things. But the reason we'll put every selected developer through the Qualification Stage is to allow them to prove the quality of their apps is very high:

an agreed number of apps will be tested by the test house in the normal way over an agreed period, and if they pass the UTC first time, this will be a good indication that the developer takes quality very seriously and is therefore eligible for Trusted Status.

Q. Will developers be able to apply for Trusted Status all the time or only at certain times?

A. It's difficult to say at the moment because we don't know what the take-up is going to be. We need to see how it goes before we decide on any rules. We suggest developers apply as soon as possible though, because if we decide to handle the applications in batches and your application isn't considered immediately, we'll have it on-file to consider next time. Please bear with us on this and we'll announce some more time frames once we've gained a feel for how it's going.

Q. What about bringing developers through into the Probationary Stage. How often and how many will be brought through?

A. Again, it's difficult to know at this stage, as it partly depends on the take-up, and partly on the length of the Qualification Period for each developer. We need to ensure that we can handle all of the relationships effectively within the resource we have within Java Verified, so will take a view on all of this once we've seen the initial applications.

Q. How will customers know that the apps submitted by Trusted Developers have been signed by Java Verified?

A. Because the signing process is exactly the same: the JAD file will be changed in the same way as normal, to reflect that the app has been signed by Java Verified.

In addition, Java Verified is keen to promote developers who have gained Trusted Status. Names of Trusted Status developers will be highlighted on the Java Verified website at least, and we are keen to promote them far-and-wide! If you have any suggestions as to how we can do this, we're very open to hear them. Thanks.