Newsletter 31 October 2021

Dropbox

The Dropbox screen in the Android client app stopped working, some time between 26th of October (see below) and 30th of October. Now it blows up, as soon as the user tries to authenticate his device. It is still possible to backup and restore the database locally, which is of limited use, but none of the other features are working.

An email from Dropbox indicated that this might happen, but also gave me the false hope that for once I may have dodged a bullet. Apps connecting to Dropbox now receive short term tokens instead of long term ones, but needless to say the complications do not end there. They never do.

Dropbox produces by far the worst documentation that I have ever come across, in my very long career as a developer. If my previous experience with them is anything to go by, it will take me at least a week to come up with a fix. I will let everyone know as soon as I have done so.

In-App Purchases

All in-app purchases have been removed in version 7.3.1 of the Android client app, released on the 26th of October. As a consequence, the Store screen has also been removed. This was done in order to make the app more future proof. Plans to implement the Review API have been scrapped for the same reason.

I also plan to remove all in-app purchases from the iOS client. Apart from that, I have no plans to develop the app further. It was written in Objective-C, which receives little support from Apple.

FTP

My long term goal is to offer FTP as an alternative to Dropbox. This will involve adding both client and server side features, and may be limited to the download of product images. Work is still at the design stage, but it would at least avoid the endless cycle of Dropbox updates.

Importing Customers

The Android client has a feature that allows the user to import customer data from Google Contacts. To use it:

1. Select **Customers** from the main menu.
2. Choose a customer.
3. Select the **Edit** command from the action bar.
4. Select the **Import** command from the action bar.
5. Choose a contact.

I have no plans to modify this, but I will be changing the way that the permission to access contacts is granted. Instead of granting it permanently at the start of the app, the user will have the choice of granting it temporarily or permanently, when he uses the feature.