

Proposal: Always-on-screen extension to widget API

Problem

Widgets can provide video calls or potentially other functionality where, sometimes, it is desirable for the widget to remain on screen even if the user switches to a different room. Widgets will generally know if they should remain on screen or not, so they can give data to make this happen automatically, rather than the user having to request it explicitly.

Proposal

Add new capability: `m.always_on_screen`

Add new fromWidget message: `set_always_on_screen`

Additional fields:

`value`: [true|false] - true if the widget should always be on screen, false if it should not.

Example request:

```
{
  api: "fromWidget",
  action: "set_always_on_screen",
  value: true,
}
```

Response:

```
{
  success: "true"
}
```

The response will contain 'success' true if the widget will now always be shown. The request will be unsuccessful if the `m.always_on_screen` capability has not been granted to the widget. Only one widget may be always-on-screen at any one time, so the request will return false if another widget is currently always-on-screen.

Tradeoffs

None I can think of right now

Issues

It may make sense to have multiple widgets on screen in a client at once in certain cases. We could introduce 'classes' or similar, eg. widgets with class 'call' would go in an area for video calls, but other widgets could go in some other area of the screen for whatever other room widget wanted to always be on screen. I can't think of a plausible example though.

Conclusion

None as yet