Mobile technology empowering grassroots NGOs

Challenges, barriers and opportunities

Ken Banks
Founder

kiwanja.net
ACTIVISM
EMPOWERMENT
Government

Private sector

NGO

Individual
SOCIAL MOBILE’S LONG TAIL

“Mega”-platforms and high investment one-off’s

Mid-complexity systems and custom solutions

Simple, low-cost implementations

Complexity and cost vs. Chance of replicability

HIGH  LOW
The majority of reports on the use of mobile phones for positive social and environmental change fail to report what application is being used to provide the service, or how other NGOs can start running similar projects of their own.
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Health
Alerts
Jobs
Prices

Radio
Monitoring
Surveys

FRONTLINE SMS
ROOTS IN
CONSERVATION
NOT
ACTIVISM
(although the problems are not too dissimilar)
COMMUNICATION!
“FrontlineSMS provides the tools necessary for people to create their own projects that make a difference. It empowers innovators and organisers in the developing world to achieve their full potential through their own ingenuity.”

Africa Journal:
“ICT infrastructure – Meet the innovators”
Fall 2007
Texts monitor Nigerian elections

Anyone trying to rig or tamper with Saturday's presidential elections in Nigeria could be caught out by a team of volunteers armed with mobile phones.

The Network of Mobile Election Monitors (NMEM) will use SMS to feedback their observations to a central computer hub.

The collected text messages will then be passed on to other monitoring groups and authorities including the EU.

NMEM hopes the system will stop fraud, especially in areas considered too dangerous for other groups to enter.

"We want to set a precedent," said Emauwa Nelson of the Human Emancipation Lead Project, a Nigerian NGO that helped set up the project.

"We want people to know that if they are trying to rig the election, there could be someone behind them and that person may send a text message saying what happened."
Zimbabwe

Texting it in - what we want in a new Zimbabwe

In addition to inviting email contributions, we also asked our many SMS subscribers what a new Zimbabwe looks like to them. Read some of their ideas below, and text your dreams for a new Zimbabwe to +263912452201

- I desire everything to be in order - no corruption
- Want stable currency and return to real money - not bearer cheques
- First essential is freedom of expression and assembly so we can tell government what the people want and don't want.
- To quickly remove POSA and AIPPA.
- Freedom of expression & association. Observation of human rights. Impartial judiciary, economic emancipation etc
- Transparency, health and education delivery, a new constitution, non-partisan police and army, accountable leadership and good economy
- We need fuel to be available in service stations, to access forex in the banks, free primary education, affordable health delivery system and cheap food for all
- Mainly I am concerned with return of the environment of happiness we used to have
- New Zimbabwe - new constitution by the people for the people.
- A new people driven constitution
- Good international relations then total globalization
- Well in free Zim fist we want a rule of law and availability of basic commodities inputs & jobs
- I wish want a new constitution that doesn’t give 2 much political power to an individual. There should be guaranteed freedoms 4 citizens.
- Changes (1) Re-currency(coins&notes) (2) Stop paying war vets (3) Reduce gvt ministries (4) promote industrial &agric investment
- Reduced tax
- Racial integration - equal opportunities 4 blacks and whites etc eg cricket team, sustainable labour laws, respect 4 property rights, free market, free media, just want more!
- We should never again leave power in the hands of one man.
- In a new zim we want freedom to exercise our rights and police brutality stop corruption ban all the fake police (neighbourhood police)
- Want affordable tertiary education and respect of the rights of students and all citizens. Accommodation of youth in decision making
Pakistan

Blog: Democracy in America
Potluck discussions on America

Read more:
To and fro and back to home
Huckabee hunkers down
Tue, 05 Feb 2008 02:39

International

Mobile phones and protest
Cats, mice and handsets
Nov 29th 2007 | SÃO PAULO
From The Economist print edition

Protesters and governments are mastering the tricks of the mobile trade

BACK in September, protesters from many parts of the United States poured into the small town of Jena, Louisiana, to express their anger over the over-zealous prosecution (as they saw it) of six young African-Americans on charges of assault. Mobile-phone text messages played an important role in pulling in the crowd.

But for pioneers of mobile telephony and texts as tools of protest and dissent, simply summoning people to demonstrations—a technique first deployed in the Philippines as long ago as 2001—is old hat. The search is on for ever more creative ways to use this.
Afghanistan
“During a recent security alert, FrontlineSMS was essential for us getting the word out quickly. E-mail was down, voice was spotty but SMS still worked.

We had female staff at a school near a major incident and were able to tell them to stay put till things quietened down. All my staff made it home safe today.”
ميثاق الجامعة العربية والسيستاني ببحث فضية المنطقة النجف / أصوات العراق: بحث ممثل الأمين العام للجامعة العربية هاني خلف.... أقرأ المزيد »

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الساعة الآن في بغداد 02:42:04 PM

أتمت ميثاق الجامعة العربية والسيستاني ببحث فضية المنطقة النجف / أصوات العراق: بحث ممثل الأمين العام للجامعة العربية هاني خلف.... أقرأ المزيد »

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Azerbaijan
Sa oras na kailangan mo ito, may mahihingan ka ng tulong kahit saan ka man sa mundo. Magtext lang sa OFW SOS Hotline at ipapaabot namin ang panawagan mo sa wastong tanggapan para agad-agad itong maaksyunan.

PARA MAGTEXT SA OFW SOS HOTLINE:
I-text ang SOS <space> <name> <message> sa

+63 9209 OFW SOS
(+63 9209 639 767)

* Mahigit na ipinagbabawal ang pagpapadala ng prank text. Ang mga numero ng mga manileño ay tilista ng aming sistema. Angunang mensaje mula sa mga numero ito ay hindi na tatanapin ng CMA.
Community

Frontline SMS allows you to text message with large groups of people anywhere there is a mobile signal.

Members

Ken Banks
- Online

Mike Blyth

Latest Activity

Ken Banks replied to the discussion Motorola RAZR V3 11 seconds ago

Mike Blyth replied to the discussion Modem and Clickatell both (separately) stop responding at random times 35 minutes ago

Mike Blyth replied to the discussion Modem and Clickatell both (separately) stop responding at random times 45 minutes ago

Carlos Eduardo replied to the discussion Modem and Clickatell both (separately) stop responding at random times 1 hour ago

Jonathan replied to the discussion Motorola RAZR V3 2 hours ago

Mike Blyth replied to the discussion Modem and Clickatell both (separately) stop responding at random times 4 hours ago

Ken Banks replied to the discussion Frontline with Skype 4 hours ago

Marco Bardus replied to the discussion Frontline with Skype 5 hours ago
Why FrontlineSMS works

- Local ownership (of tool, project, data)
- Builds on local awareness
- Platform is free and works on available hardware
- Highly replicable and scalable
- No need for the internet
- Easy to use
- Responds to ‘their’ need (bottom up)
Lowering the bar...
الديوانية, الرياض,
السليمانية, العراق,
القاهرة, الكويت,
المشي, ال

Sender:
FrontlineSMS
+447866
Patient Data
Please enter the details of your patient, and his phone number if he has one.

Name: Jason Orange

Date of birth: [ ] / [ ] / [ ]

Appointment Time: [ ] : [ ]

Would you like to send all data to the FrontlineSMS server?
THANK YOU