Verification: Methodology vs. Technology

Emmanuel Kala – Ushahidi
Who are we?

A platform, a community and a movement
Важная информация

Спасибо всем за помощь! Проблемы с картой сейчас устраняем.
Добавляйте все информацию о пожарах (форма отправить сообщение). Какого рода помощь нужна? О добровольцах, о потребностях и помощи. Также нужны фото и видео. Огромное спасибо всем, кто отклинулся и помогает вести проект.

Как Сообщить
1. Отправьте email на rусский.fires@gmail.com
2. Загрузите форму на сайте

Фильтр категорий
- ВСЕ КАТЕГОРИИ
- ПОЖАРЫ
- БЛОКИРОВАННЫЕ ДОРОГИ
- ХОЧУ ПОМОЧЬ
- ЦЕНТРЫ ПОМОЩИ
- ЧТО НУЖНО
- МЕСТА РАЗМЕЩЕНИЯ ЛЮДЕЙ.
De-mystifying Verification

“The process of making sure or demonstrating that something is true, accurate or justified” – Oxford English Dictionary
Considerations

• Anonymity & Privacy
• Trustworthiness
• Triangulation
• Stakeholders
• Motivation of the authors
The Ushahidi Model

• A “yes” or “no” answer
• Much of the work happens outside the application – phoning people on the ground near reported incidents, checking media reports...
**Project 4636**

How a simple SMS sent from Haiti can be transformed into a powerful tool that fuels the crisis response and recovery effort.

1. A Haitian with a need sends an SMS to the 4636 shortcode.
2. The SMS is routed through the Nuntium SMS gateway and onto the Emergency Information Service (EIS).
3. Once at EIS, the information in the SMS is analyzed, tracked, and then forwarded to the crowdflower.com website.
4. A Haitian volunteer or staff member logs onto the website and transmits the SMS, adding names and geospatial information.
5. After translation, the information is turned into a report that goes out to multiple organizations involved in the crisis response and recovery effort.

**Ushahidi Labs**

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Challenges

- Overly simplistic and an area of contestation where different stakeholders with varying levels of reputation and risk are involved
- Verification workflow
- Doesn’t scale where there is a large volume of reports.
Christchurch Earthquake – NZ

Christchurch Recovery Map
Community information for the Christchurch Earthquake of 22 Feb 2011.

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL 111. The Quake helpline is 0800 779 997
If you are in Christchurch, you can contribute information via email (eqnzfeb@gmail.com) or free TXT 5627.

Where are you?
Locating where you are on the map helps identify what reports are most relevant to you.
I am in... Go

Submit a report
Submitting a report helps others identify hazards/solutions in your area.
SUBMIT A REPORT

Request help
Clicking on this button requests help from the Student Volunteer Army.
REQUEST HELP

Click on map icons to see local reports

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Lessons

- Design methodology outside the technology
- Design for verification
- Occam’s Razor
- “A map is only as useful as the process and the people to make it happen” – George Chamales, Rogue Genius
Collaborate

- Open Street Map
- FrontlineSMS
- Standby Task Force
- SODNET
Finally...

**Allocation of Time**

in an Ushahidi deployment

**Ushahidi Setup**

takes some tech skills, training, but really not much work:

setup a server, run the installer, poke around.

**All the Other Stuff**

you need to do to make the project successful:

outreach, branding, translation, annotation, verification, documentation, integration with other systems, SMS debugging, taxonomy development...
www.ushahidi.com

www.crowdmap.com