On the Frontline: Technology, Design and Social Change

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SMS on the **frontline**

Photo: Josh Nesbit
African entrepreneurship

Photo: Ken Banks, kiwanja.net
Mobile adoption by users drives SMS adoption by local NGOs which is increasingly driven by a range of formal and informal economic activity, without which little would be possible.
Photo: Ken Banks, kiwanja.net
Photo: Ken Banks, kiwanja.net
“The impact that mobile phones have on the developing world is as revolutionary as roads, railways and ports, increasing social cohesion and releasing the entrepreneurial spirit that stimulates trade and creates jobs”

Professor Leonard Waverman
London Business School
February 2007
Expensive
Highly technical
Infrastructure-heavy
Lead time/training
For-profit

Cheap or free
Easy to implement
Infrastructure-light
Fast adoption/learning
Non-profit

Our mobile solutions ecosystem
Image: Ken Banks, kiwanja.net
It’s about control and ownership

Photo: National Geographic
“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 wld 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
Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia

Image: Stop Stockouts
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.”
المسمى العربي للΈπιστευμένης Επιστήμης και Τεχνολογίας

Selecciona

ال万平方米 في بغداد في عداد 02:42 PM

ممثل الجامعة العربية والسياسيين يختار قضايا

المنطقة

النحو / أصوات العراق: يختار ممثل الأمن العام للجامعة العربية خلافاً، السيد

الأمر

وزير الدفاع يصل إلى العراق للاطلاع على الواقع الأمني

适量

مجلس الوزراء يصادق على قانون انتخابات

المالية يبايعون 12 رئيساً للمنظمات

مهم علاج: القضايا الكبرى أكمل على معالجة

مسؤول كبير: زيارة وزير الدفاع الكوري لاربيل

أعلن: مثنى وجرج سميحة حقيقة العنف حتى عصر
Vietnam, Cameroon, Nepal
Malawi

Photo: Josh Nesbit
Impact after first six months of operation:

Fuel saving: **$3,500**

Travel time saving: **1,000 hours**

Annual running costs: **$500**

Implementation costs: **$3,000**

Data: Josh Nesbit
Afghanistan
FRONTLINESMS IS EMPOWERING NGOs AROUND THE WORLD.
Community

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

Latest Activity:
- Paulo Hartmann left a comment for Fernanda Martins 4 hours ago
- kiwanja replied to the discussion Recorded voice - sending it to many cell phones 8 hours ago
- Gayatri started a discussion called Recorded voice - sending it to many cell phones 8 hours ago
- Fernanda Martins left a comment for Paulo Hartmann 17 hours ago
- Carmen started a discussion called Call for Experts in NY, NY 23 hours ago
- Carmen joined FrontlineSMS. Leave a Comment for Carmen. 1 day ago
- shriyananda joined FrontlineSMS. Leave a Comment for shriyananda. 1 day ago
- Wol’s profile changed 1 day ago
Baking the empowerment cake

Image: videojug.com
The **hardware** overhead

Image: http://www.write-your-short-story.com
Ready to assemble, no tools needed

The IKEA test

Image: http://www.springwise.com
Pegging the price

Photo: NutsyFagan on Flickr
Go forth and **multiply**

Image: kiwanja.net
The connection conundrum

Image: kiwanja.net
Connected **community**?

Image: http://www.networkweaving.com/blog
The multi-disciplinary mix

Image: Gary Larson. The Far Side
Thinking appropriately

Image: Amazon.com
Collaboration, **not** competition

Photo: Ken Banks, kiwanja.net

Photo: Erik Hersman, White African