Project: Ushahidi
Team Name: Team 2-4-Now

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Class: CSCI 362-02

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Introduction

Ushahidi is a software platform that allows for quick collection and analysis of events collected via crowdsourcing. Developed in 2008 after post-election violence in Kenya, Ushahidi has been used to connect millions of people; living up to its translation in Swahili, "testimony". Ushahidi gathers submissions via a wide range of platforms including SMS, email, and Twitter; and Ushahidi app is coming soon for iOS and Android. Ushahidi is also developing custom alert capability to allow users to be notified when selected events occur. The event notifications that Ushahidi receives can be mapped in real time for the user though its build in Data Visualization module.

Chapter 1

James Keels

Building the Ushahidi application on my local machine has been a learning experience to say the least. This is my first experience using Git and building a application. It amazes me how much setup is required to get code to work on a computer. I am still trying to fine tune some things; thankfully the Ushahidi site has a lot of documentation available. The biggest hurdle I ran into was with my Linux setup. I initially set it up on my Virtual Machine with default settings for memory. Soon I figured out that I would need much more and had to scrap it and start over…"Live and Learn" I guess.

Hassam Solano

My experience compiling/building Ushahidi on my machine began smoothly with a straightforward clone of the platforms GitHub repository. Once it was completed I proceeded to read through the documentation and quickly realized I would need to pick up a few new skills in Terminal. Fortunately Ushahidi is very well documented and included an installation guide that is descriptive and concise. The guide helped me understand what the script lines I was writing were doing which I think will be helpful should a problem arise at a later time. I did encounter a few set backs especially when configuring certain dependencies and when working with Apache (no prior experience). To help resolve these issues I referred back to the available documentation and to online sources on StackOverflow. Overall the compiling/building process was challenging but I was able to gain new knowledge about using the Terminal command line.

Charlie Thiry

After cloning the repository into a folder in my linux VM and installing the necessary dependencies (Apache, PHP, MySQL), I feel a little bit better about working in the famous LAMP stack that I am not used to. As Hassam pointed out, Ushahidi is a large project that is contributed to by many developers and therefore has excellent documentation for the noob like myself looking to jump right in. Though I will need to dedicate more time and effort to understand the code base itself, I have an overall optimistic viewpoint towards the project.