

# Using SMS in the Developing World

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# RapidSMS

<http://www.rapidsms.org/>

<http://github.com/rapidsms/rapidsms/>

# Part 1: My story with RapidSMS



Can you go to Kenya and  
support this project?



...on Sunday?



# Project to be deployed



# Millenium villages project

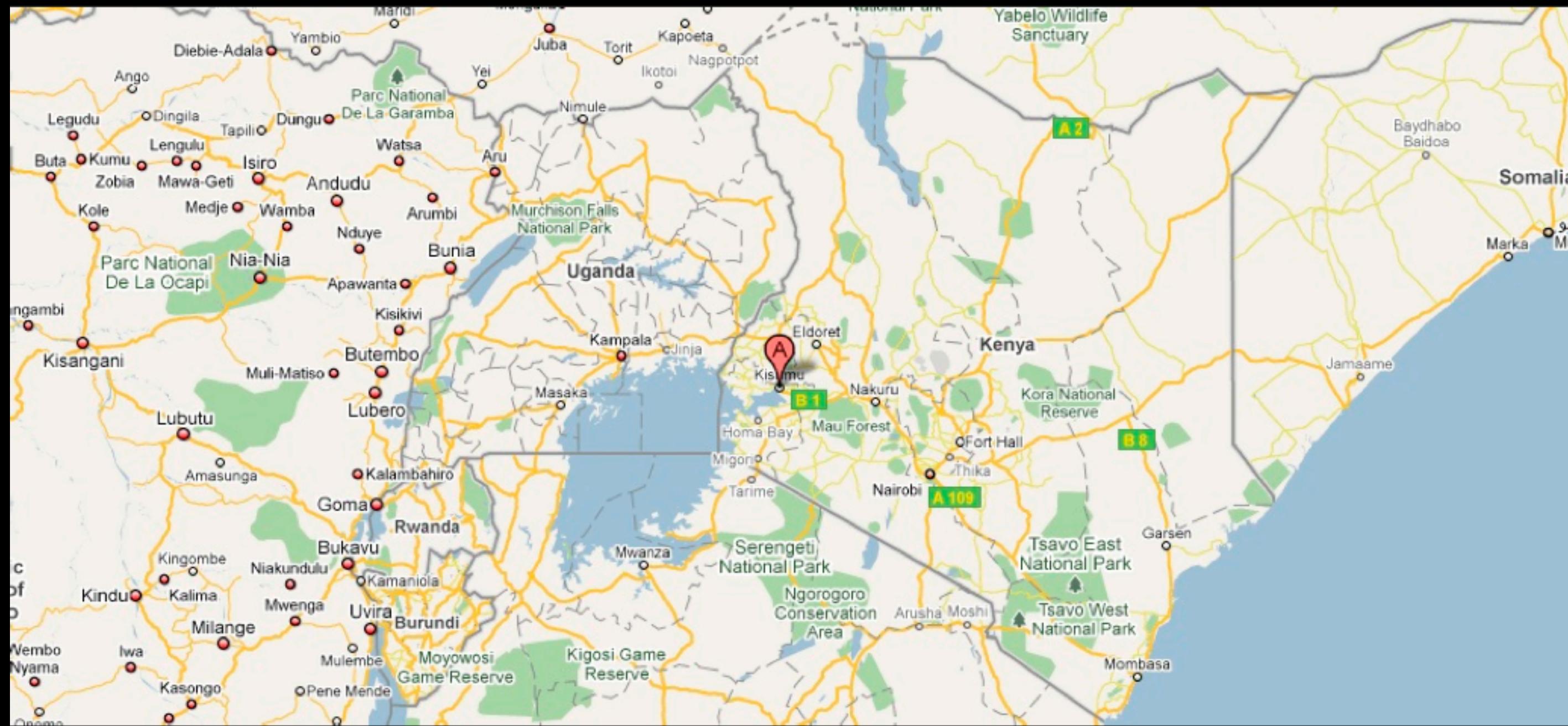
<http://www.millenniumvillages.org/>

Django  
Python web Framework  
<http://djangoproject.com>

Provide deployment support

Already written by:  
Matt Berg, Schuyler Erle,  
Adam McKaig and others

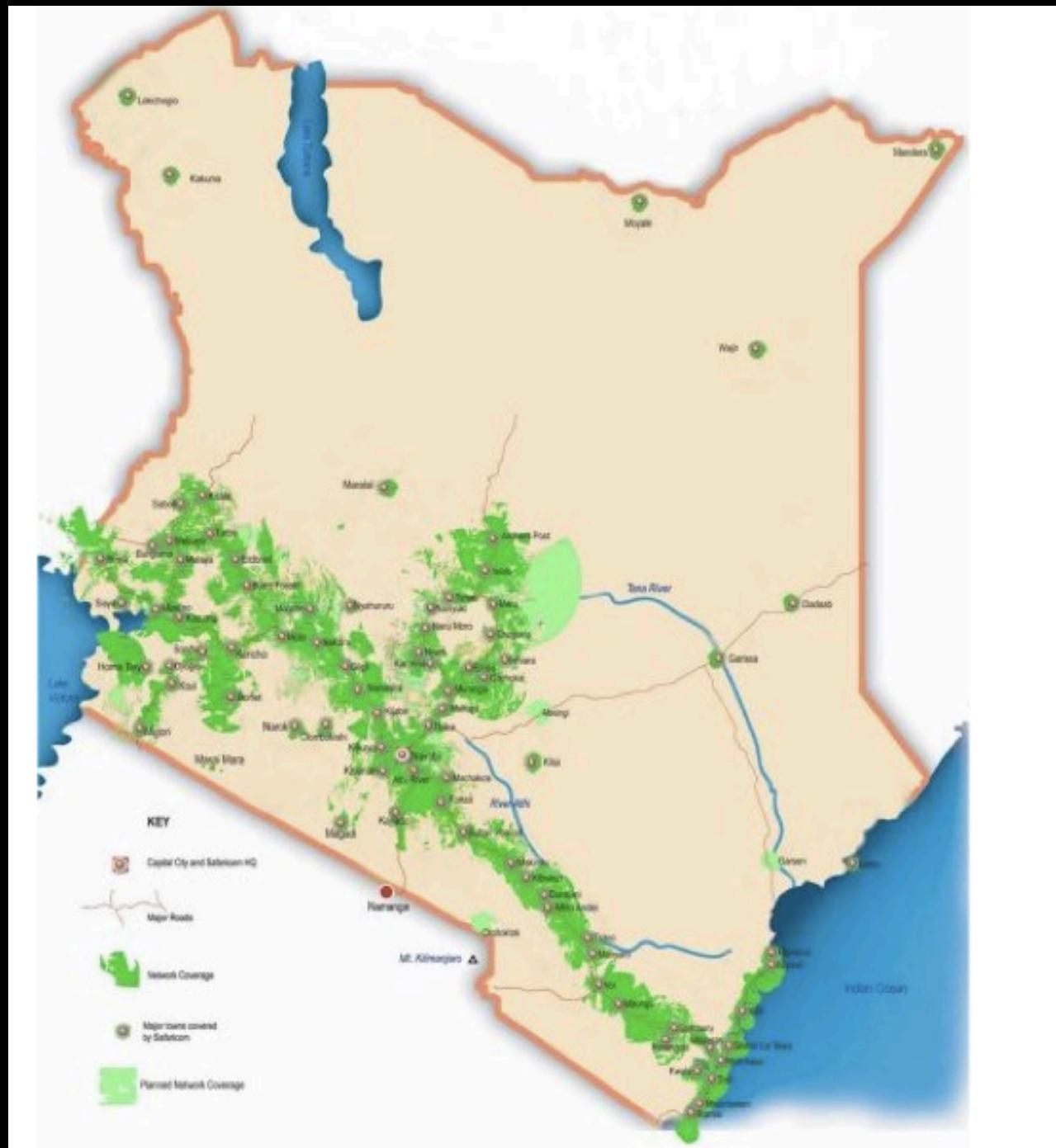
4 days, 32 hours of flights





# Health Care worker support

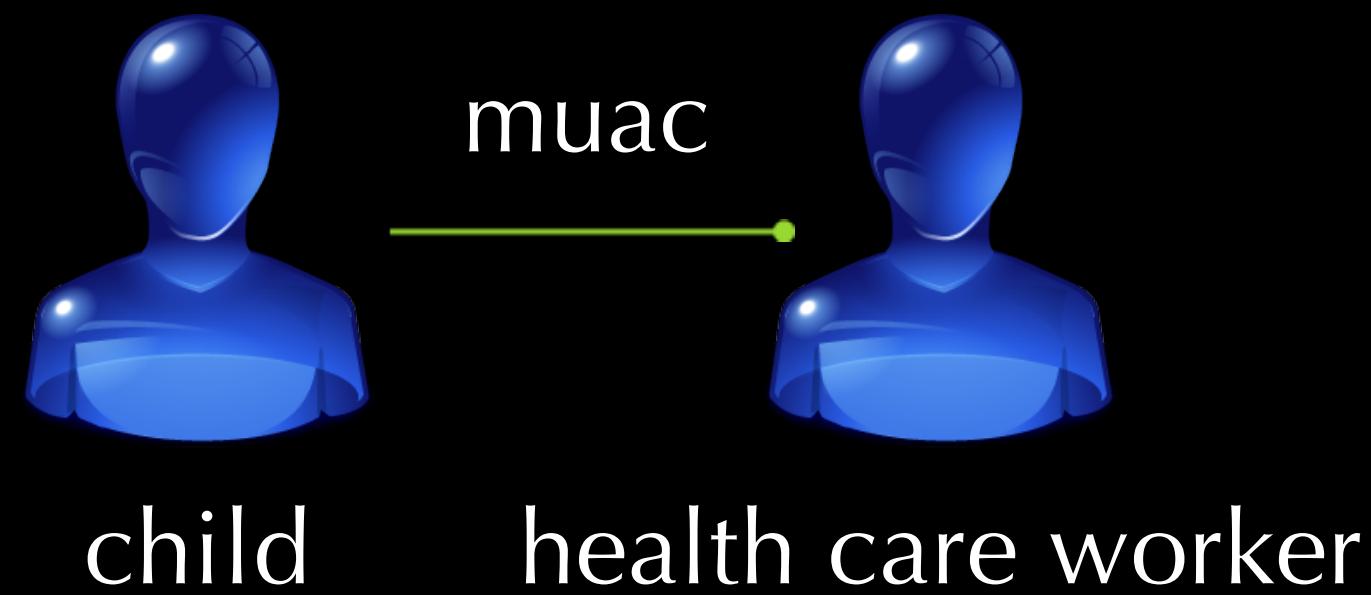
# Health Care worker support ...via SMS



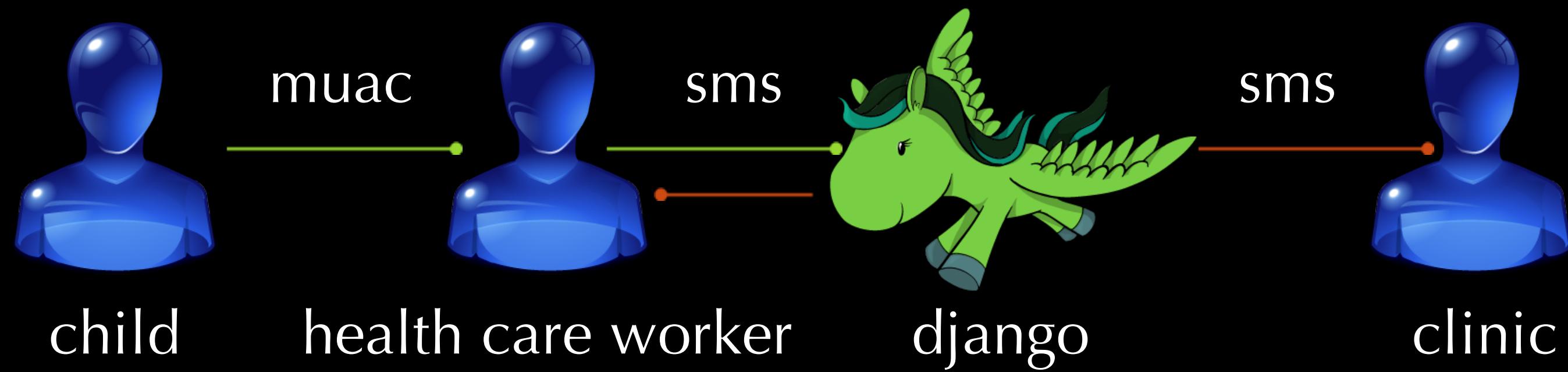
Pretty good  
coverage

# Disclaimer

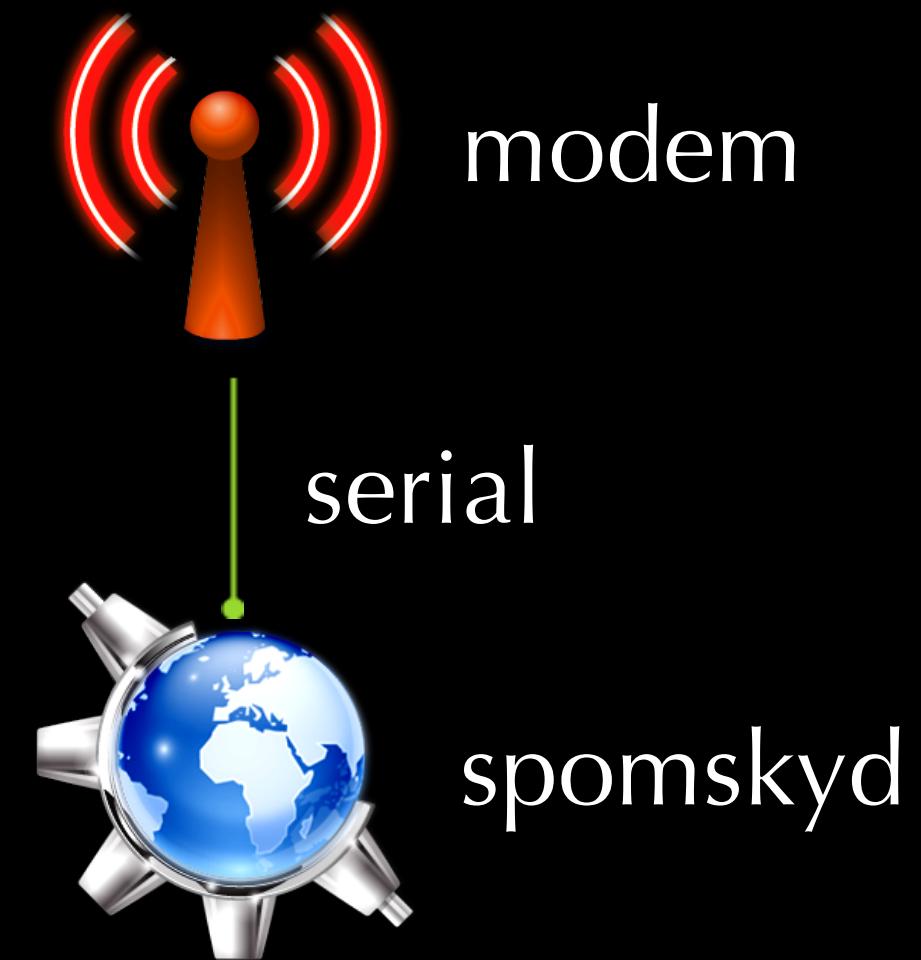


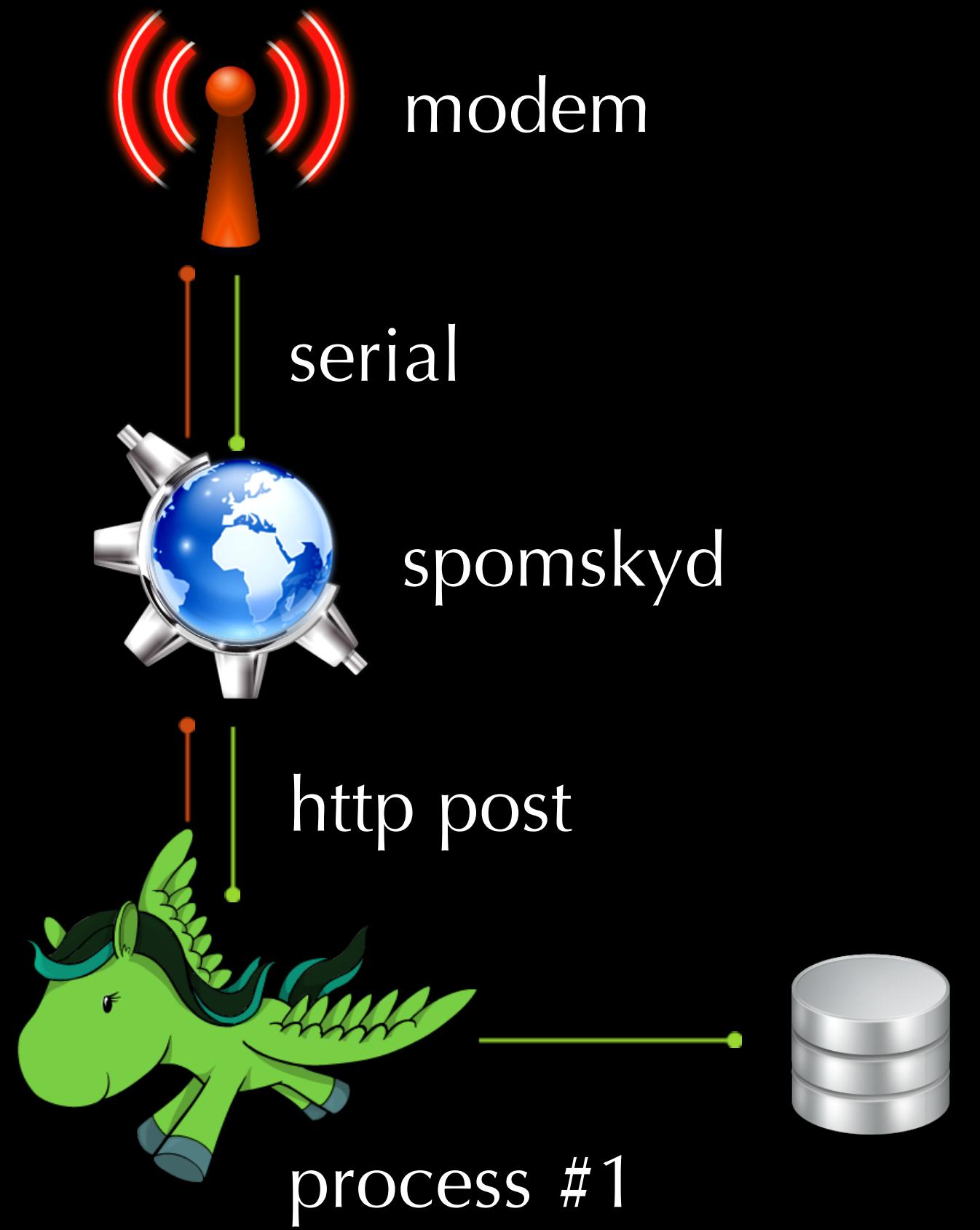


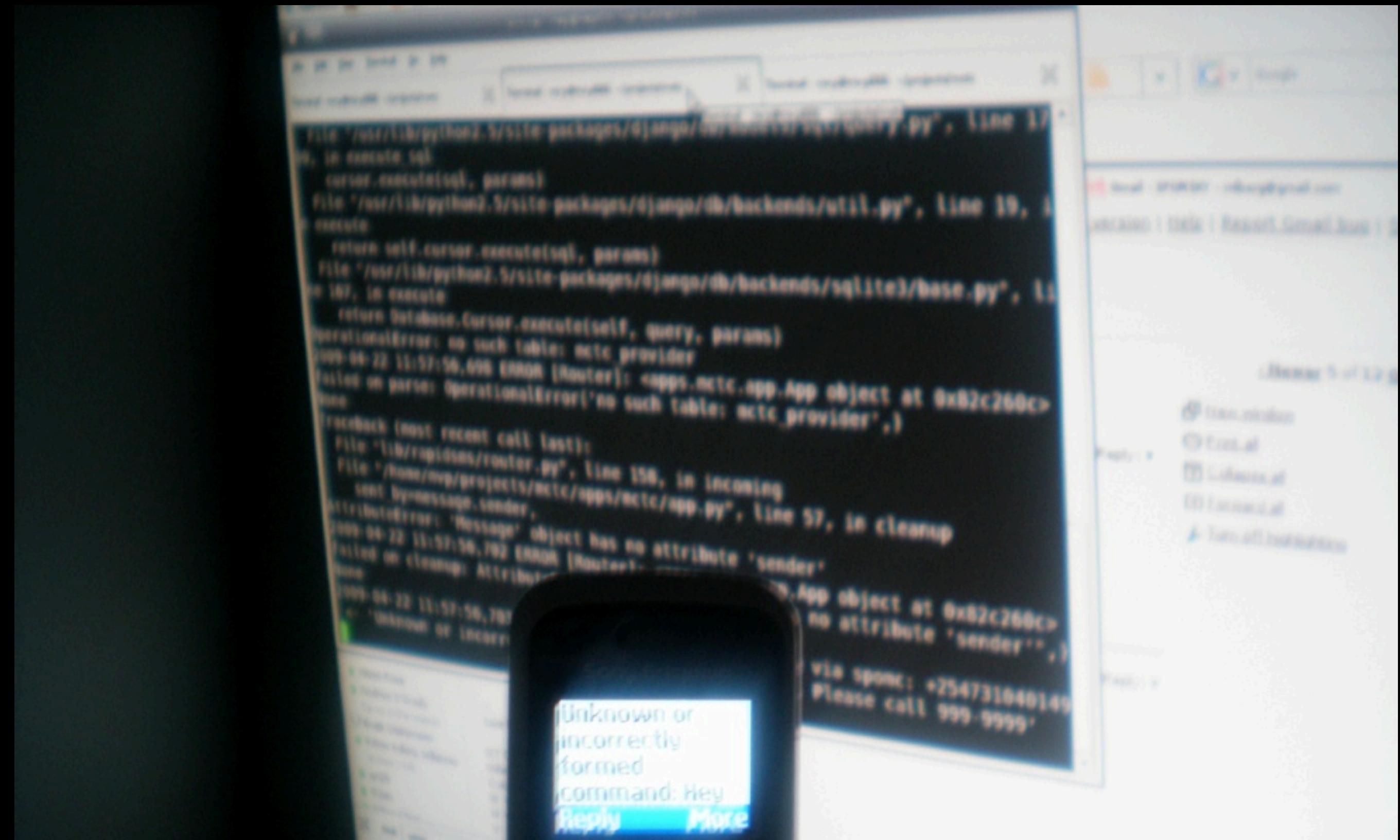


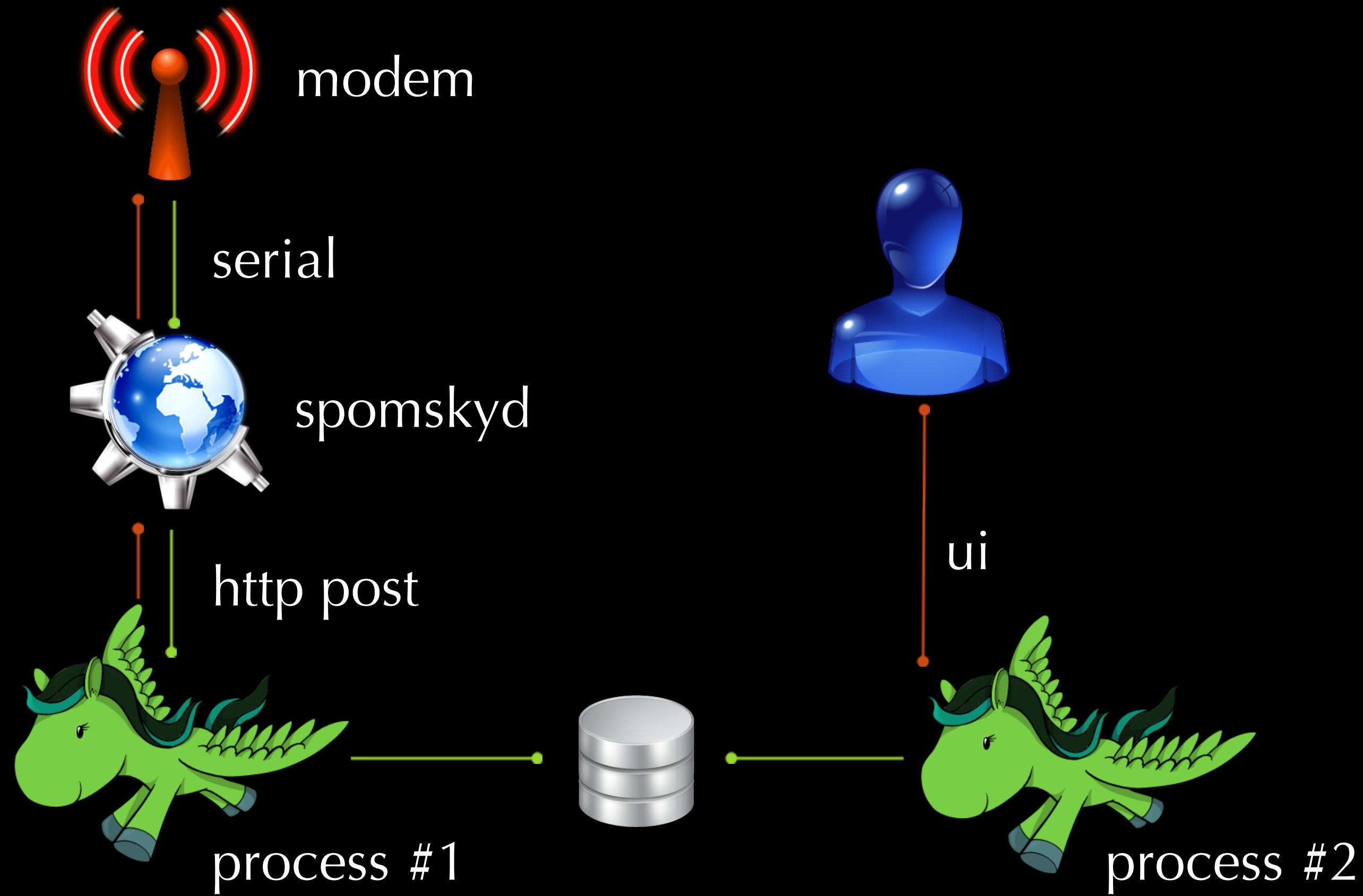












# RapidSMS

[National](#)[District](#)[GMC](#)[Child](#)[HSA](#)[Setup](#)[Logout](#)

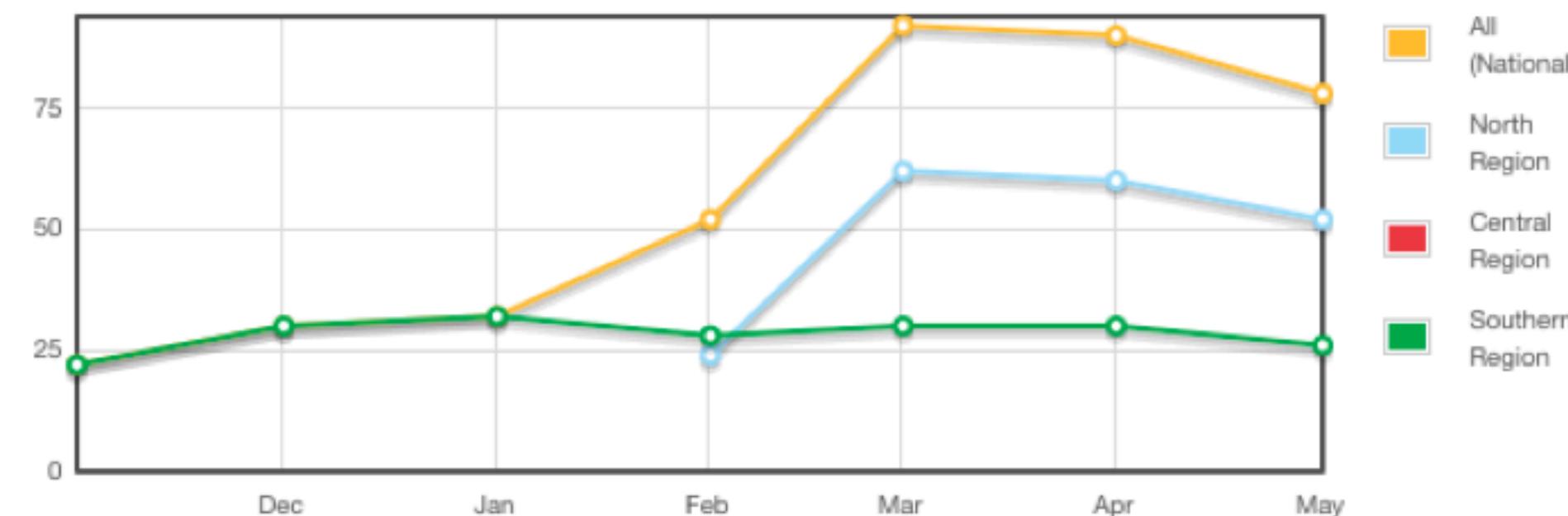
National

Search this site

Last month	Reports	Moderate	Severe	Stunting	Oedema	Diarrhea
All (National)	78.00	11.54	21.79	83.33	0.00	100.00
Central Region		11.54	21.79			
North Region	52.00	11.54	21.79	100.00	0.00	100.00
Southern Region	26.00	11.54	21.79	50.00	0.00	100.00

**Filter**[All \(Reset\)](#)[Central Region](#)[North Region](#)[Southern Region](#)**Drill down**[Central Region](#)[North Region](#)[Southern Region](#)

## Unique SMS Reports



# RapidSMS

[National](#) [District](#) [GMC](#) [Child](#) [HSA](#) [Setup](#) [Logout](#)

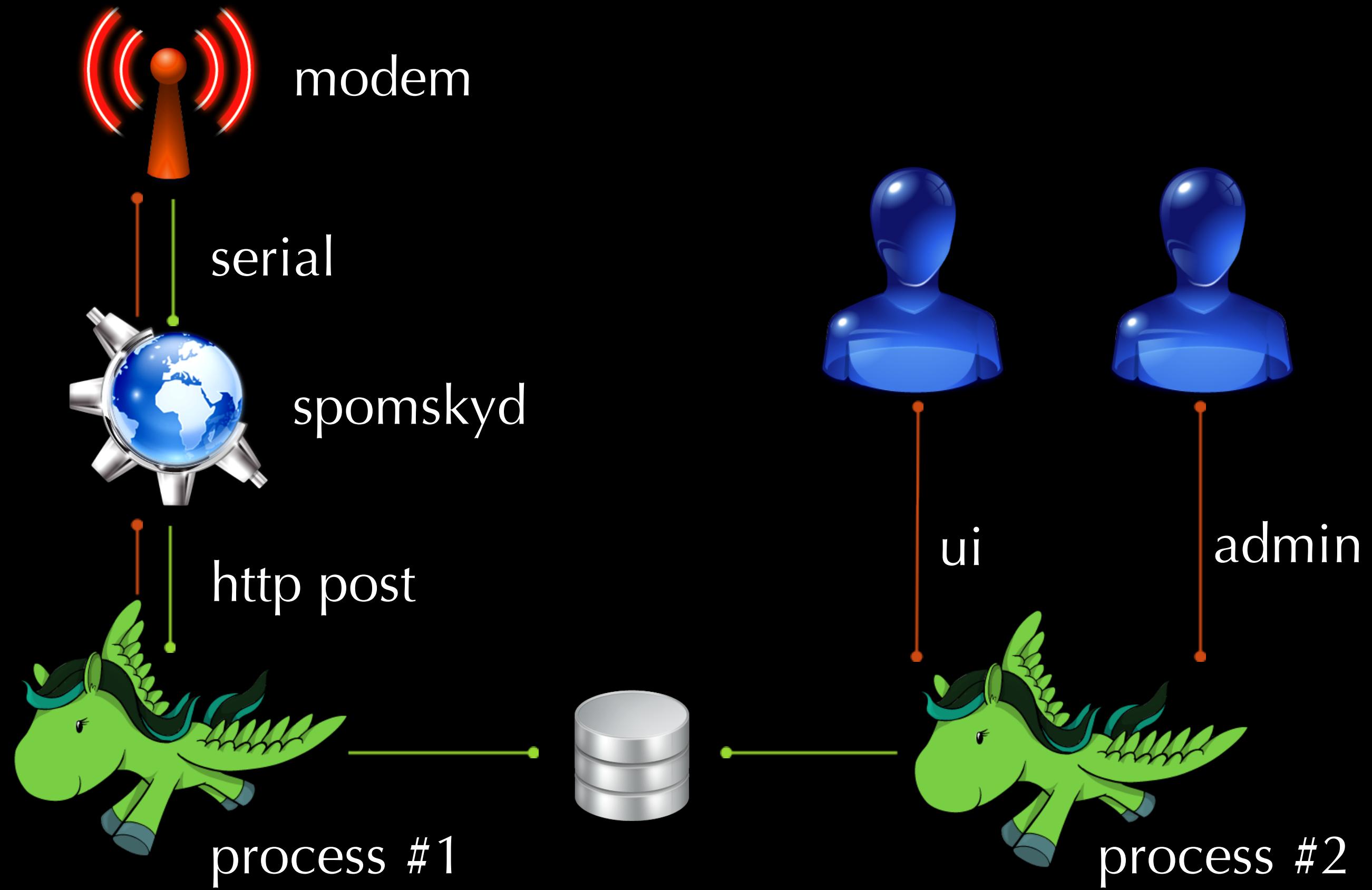

## Active children

<u>District</u>	<u>GMC</u>	<u>Child#</u>	<u>Age (months)</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Date registered</u>	<u>Current Nutritional Status</u>	<u>Last Date of Child Visit</u>
Karonga	Ngana	50	7	m		27 May 2009	None	26 May 2009
Karonga	Kaporø	51	7	m		27 May 2009	MAM	26 May 2009
Blantyre	Lundu	70	7	m		27 May 2009	None	25 May 2009
Blantyre	Lirangwe	71	7	m		27 May 2009	None	25 May 2009

[csv](#) - [pdf](#) - 02:05:36 p.m.

## Reports from

<u>District</u>	<u>GMC</u>	<u>Reporter</u>	<u>Child#</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>MUAC</u>	<u>Oedema</u>	<u>Diarrhea</u>	<u>Recieved</u>	<u>Status</u>
Karonga	Kaporø	1234560	51	89.0	21.2	118			26 May 2009	MAM
Karonga	Ngana	1234567	50	99.0	28.2	1280			26 May 2009	
Blantyre	Lirangwe	999299	71	95.5	25.2	147			25 May 2009	
Blantyre	Lundu	999999	70	9.5	24.2	148			25 May 2009	
Karonga	Kaporø	1234560	51	88.5	21.2	117			25 May 2009	MAM
Karonga	Ngana	1234567	50	98.5	28.2	1270			25 May 2009	
Karonga	Kaporø	1234560	51	88.0	21.2	116			24 May 2009	MAM
Karonga	Ngana	1234567	50	98.0	28.2	1260			24 May 2009	
Blantyre	Lirangwe	999299	71	95.5	25.2	146			23 May 2009	



7654321 > +26 105 d v f

7654321 > +26 105 d v f

7654321 < MUAC> SAM+ Patient requires  
IMMEDIATE inpatient care. +26 MADISON, M, F/4  
(Sally). MUAC 105 mm, Diarrhea, Fever, Vomiting

7654321 > +26 105 d v f

7654321 < MUAC> SAM+ Patient requires  
IMMEDIATE inpatient care. +26 MADISON, M, F/4

(Sally). MUAC 105 mm, Diarrhea, Fever, Vomiting

7654322 < @jdoe reports +26: SAM+, MUAC 105  
mm, Diarrhea, Fever, Vomiting

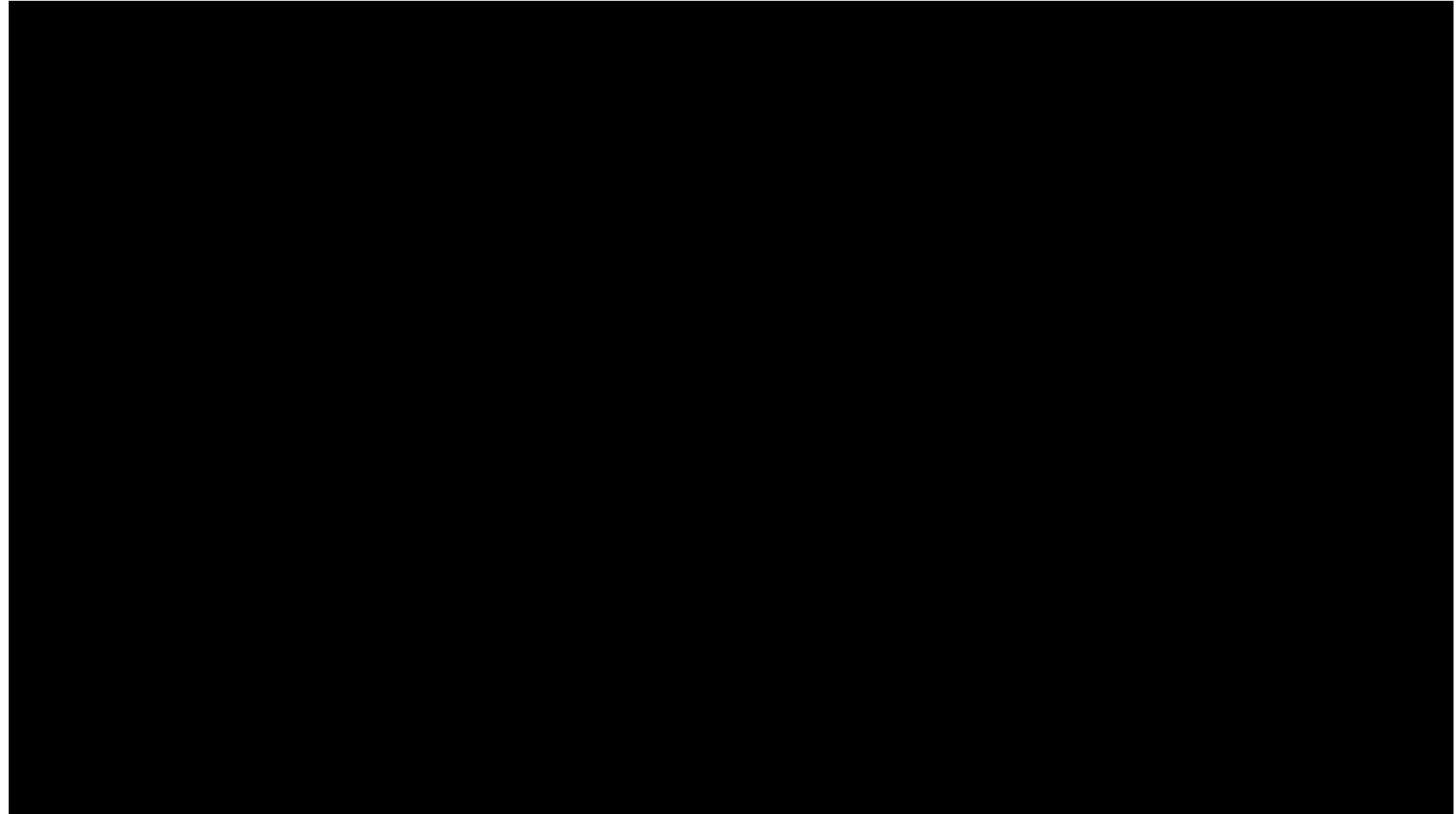
# Malaria

7654321 > mrdt +34 y n f

7654321 > mrdt +34 y n f

7654321 < MRDT> Child +34, MADISON, Molly,  
F/12m has MALARIA. Child is less than 3. Please  
provide 1 tab of Coartem (ACT) twice a day for 3 days







Flew back

clearwind consulting





*We have over 5000 kids in the system now and counting. It's been used to catch over 100 kids with malnutrition and about 400 with malaria.*

Matt Berg (last year)

TIME



## The World's Most Influential People

In our annual TIME 100 issue we name the people who most affect our world  
[More »](#)



*...reported more than 20,000  
nutrition screenings, 500 cases of  
malnutrition and 2,000 of malaria*

<http://bit.ly/matt-time>

# Part 2: RapidSMS now

# Other projects

# Malawi Nutritional Surveillance <http://bit.ly/rapidSMS-malawi>



# Testing and unit tests

```
if not self.form.clean.reason.data  
    or self.form.clean.reason.data.lower()  
not in ["d", "dm", "do", "m"]:  
    raise FormFailed("No reason given  
                      must be  
one of: D (death),  
                      DM  
(death malnutrition), DO (dropout),  
                      M  
(mistake).")
```

```
if not self.form.clean.reason.data  
    or self.form.clean.reason.data.lower()  
not in ["d", "dm", "do", "m"]:  
    raise FormFailed("No reason given  
                      must be  
one of: D (death),  
                  DM  
(death malnutrition), DO (dropout),  
                  M  
(mistake).")
```

Testing and unit tests  
really matter

Nigeria  
Monitoring supplies  
<http://bit.ly/rapidSMS-nigeria>

Ethiopia  
Supply chain management  
<http://bit.ly/rapidSMS-Ethiopia>



Rwanda  
Helping pregnancies  
<http://twitter.com/seanblaschke>



*since Rapid SMS launched in August 2009, his hospital has had no maternal deaths, compared to 10 the previous year.*

<http://nyti.ms/rapidsms-rwanda>

# Challenges





Infrastructure  
is a problem

Not enough time

Thank you, Python and Django

Volunteers wanted

# RapidSMS and UNICEF

<http://unicefinnovation.org/mobile-and-sms.php>

<http://www.rapidsms.org/>



<http://www.rapidsms.org>  
<http://github.com/rapidsms/rapidsms/>  
[mberg@ei.columbia.edu](mailto:mberg@ei.columbia.edu)

# Questions