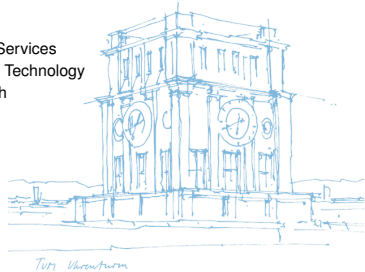


# Bridging the Gap: Decentralized Grassroots Networks for Disaster Relief and Education

**Dan Bachar**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Chair of Network Architectures and Services  
School of Computation, Information, and Technology  
Technical University of Munich



## Motivation

- Lacking internet infrastructure in disaster zones

## Motivation

- Lacking internet infrastructure in disaster zones
- Censorship restricts Self-organized, egalitarian and democratic communication

## Motivation

- Lacking internet infrastructure in disaster zones
- Censorship restricts Self-organized, egalitarian and democratic communication
- Keep schedule for children despite chaos

## Motivation

- Lacking internet infrastructure in disaster zones
- Censorship restricts Self-organized, egalitarian and democratic communication
- Keep schedule for children despite chaos
- Provide a way to communicate with loved ones

## Motivation

- Lacking internet infrastructure in disaster zones
- Censorship restricts Self-organized, egalitarian and democratic communication
- Keep schedule for children despite chaos
- Provide a way to communicate with loved ones

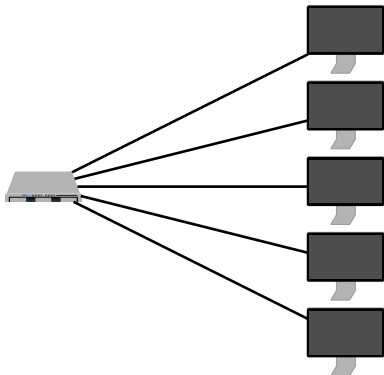


Figure 1: Client-Server

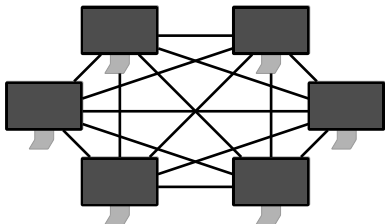


Figure 2: Distributed Grassroots Network

- Wireless mesh networks

- Wireless mesh networks
- Grassroots networking (SPANs, multi-hop, p2p)



- Wireless mesh networks
- Grassroots networking (SPANs, multi-hop, p2p)
- OLSR, B.A.T.M.A.N, Babel

- Wireless mesh networks
- Grassroots networking (SPANs, multi-hop, p2p)
- OLSR, B.A.T.M.A.N, Babel
- CRDTs

- Wireless mesh networks
- Grassroots networking (SPANs, multi-hop, p2p)
- OLSR, B.A.T.M.A.N, Babel
- CRDTs
- Cordial dissemination

Author	Year	Title
Project SPAN	2017	Smart Phone Ad-hoc networking

Author	Year	Title
Project SPAN	2017	Smart Phone Ad-hoc networking
Project Briar	2018	Briar

Author	Year	Title
Project SPAN	2017	Smart Phone Ad-hoc networking
Project Briar	2018	Briar
M.R. Albrecht, J. Blasco, R.B. Jensen, L. Mareková	2021	Mesh Messaging

Author	Year	Title
Project SPAN	2017	Smart Phone Ad-hoc networking
Project Briar	2018	Briar
M.R. Albrecht, J. Blasco, R.B. Jensen, L. Mareková	2021	Mesh Messaging
P.S. Almeida, E. Shapiro	2024	The Blocklace

Author	Year	Title
Project SPAN	2017	Smart Phone Ad-hoc networking
Project Briar	2018	Briar
M.R. Albrecht, J. Blasco, R.B. Jensen, L. Mareková	2021	Mesh Messaging
P.S. Almeida, E. Shapiro	2024	The Blocklace
E. Shapiro	2024	Grassrots Systems: Concept, Ex Applications



Author	Year	Title
Project SPAN	2017	Smart Phone Ad-hoc networking
Project Briar	2018	Briar
M.R. Albrecht, J. Blasco, R.B. Jensen, L. Mareková	2021	Mesh Messaging
P.S. Almeida, E. Shapiro	2024	The Blocklace
E. Shapiro	2024	Grassrots Systems: Concept, Ex Applications
I. Keidar, O. Naor, E. Shapiro	2022	Cordial Miners

1. Use SPAN to realize grassroots distributed system based on mobile hotspots

1. Use SPAN to realize grassroots distributed system based on mobile hotspots
2. Communicate with network peers

1. Use SPAN to realize grassroots distributed system based on mobile hotspots
2. Communicate with network peers
3. Access content from peers within the network

1. Use SPAN to realize grassroots distributed system based on mobile hotspots
2. Communicate with network peers
3. Access content from peers within the network
4. Optionally, enable external connectivity when available

1. **RQ1** How do blocklace-based CRDTs degrade on (offline) wireless mesh networks as a function of peer density?

1. **RQ1** How do blocklace-based CRDTs degrade on (offline) wireless mesh networks as a function of peer density?
2. **RQ2** What are the key factors that influence the goodput of a grassroots social network implemented using the blocklace?

# Architecture

## Key components

- **Protocol** Smartphone-compatible mesh protocol (optionally supported by both iOS and Android)
- **Content Distribution** Propagate content and routing info using cordial dissemination, enabling self-healing and (valid) data recovery
- **UI**: tools to access network peers (optional)



- **Protocols** Use networking testbed to test ad-hoc wireless protocols
- **Storage** Use Blocklace-supported storage to store network information and content
- **Prototyping** Develop a prototype app to set up and test the mesh network
- **Testing** Test in a controlled environment, conduct field tests
- **Evaluation** Measure latency, throughput, reliability, node discovery time and power consumption

- Create infrastructure for grassroots, information-centric networking

- Create infrastructure for grassroots, information-centric networking
- Enable large-scale offline communication

- Create infrastructure for grassroots, information-centric networking
- Enable large-scale offline communication
- Facilitate access to education contents in areas without centralized infrastructure

That's it!

Questions?