



Remote Work Extreme Edition

JONATHAN "J." TOWER

Grand Tetons National Park

Hello!

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Glacier National Park

Overview

- ▶ Working Remotely
- ▶ Our 48 States Project
- ▶ Trip Logistics & Extreme Remote Working
- ▶ Lessons Learned
- ▶ Questions

(Oh, and pictures!)

Let's Get Started, But First...

If You Give \$50, So Will I!

bit.ly/stirtrek-gives

“charity:water is a non-profit organization that provides clean and safe drinking water to people in developing nations. The organization was founded in 2006 and has helped fund 13,641 projects in 22 countries, benefiting over 4.6 million people.” - Wikipedia

“97.1/100”

- CharityNavigator.org



charity: water

A wide-angle photograph of a rugged coastline. On the left, large, layered rock formations rise from the water. A dense forest of green coniferous trees covers a hillside in the background. The ocean is a deep blue, with white-capped waves crashing against the rocks in the foreground and middle ground.

Working Remotely
...SUCCESSFULLY

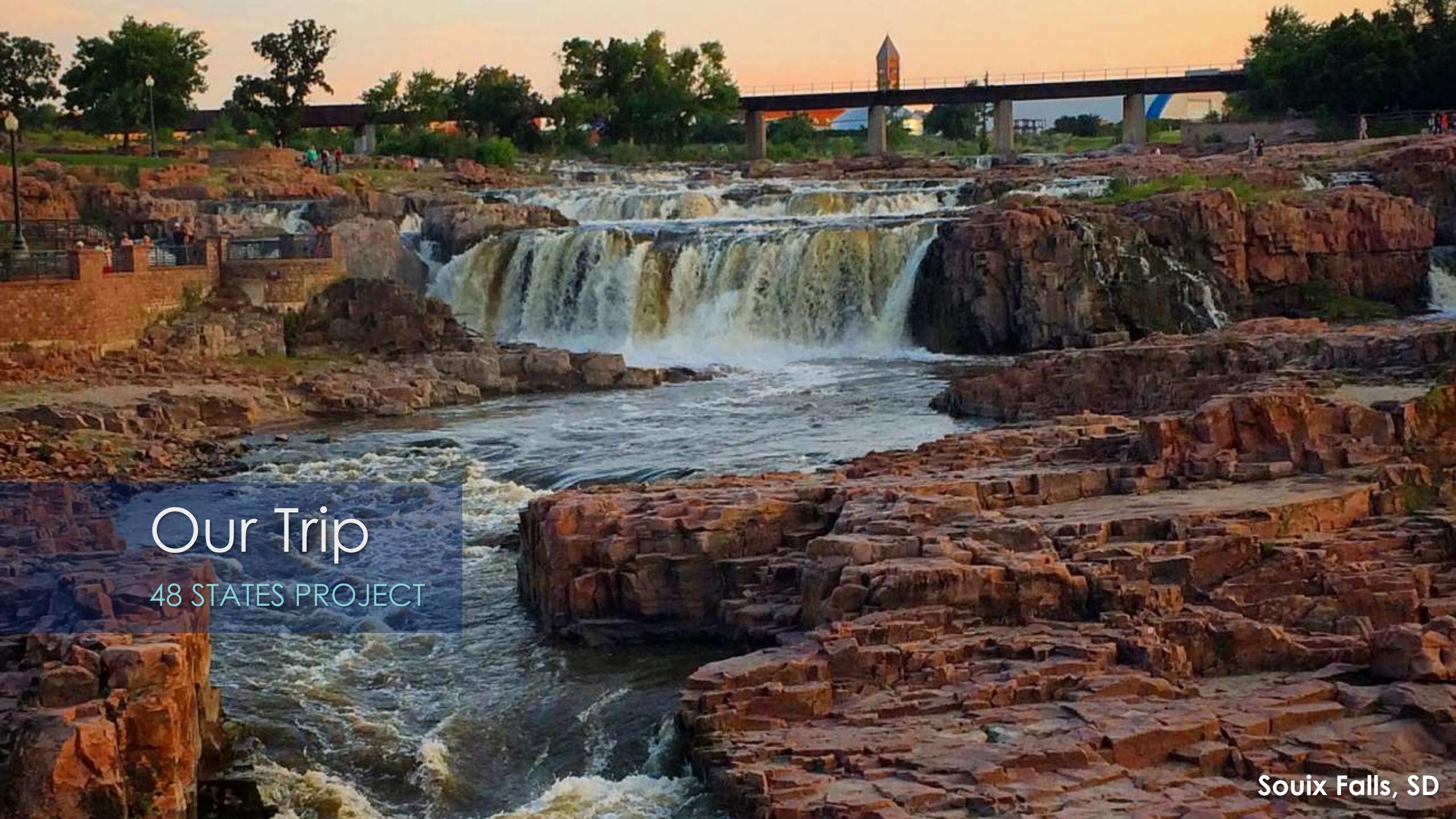
Acadia National Park, ME

What Makes a Good Remote Worker?

- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Knowing how you work
- ▶ Eliminating distractions
- ▶ Working around roommates/family members
- ▶ Get out / see humans
- ▶ Get involved in some form of community
- ▶ Find ways to separate home/work life

My Story of Working Remotely

- ▶ Worked remotely for about 7 years from 2009 to now
- ▶ Originally turned down the offer
- ▶ Double-edged sword



Our Trip

48 STATES PROJECT

Souix Falls, SD



48StatesProject.com

The Idea

- ▶ Like National Parks
- ▶ Like exploring new places
- ▶ Guys backcountry camping trips
- ▶ Working from Chicago
- ▶ User group talk

The background image shows a vast, undulating landscape of white sand dunes under a clear, pale blue sky. The dunes are numerous and vary in size, creating a rhythmic pattern across the frame. The lighting suggests a bright, possibly midday sun.

Planning the Trip

White Sands National Monument, NM

Lots to Think About

- ▶ Brooke working more
- ▶ Saving, saving, saving
- ▶ Internet options
- ▶ Becoming landlords
- ▶ RV Dealers and Shows
- ▶ Truck shopping
- ▶ Our “hook”

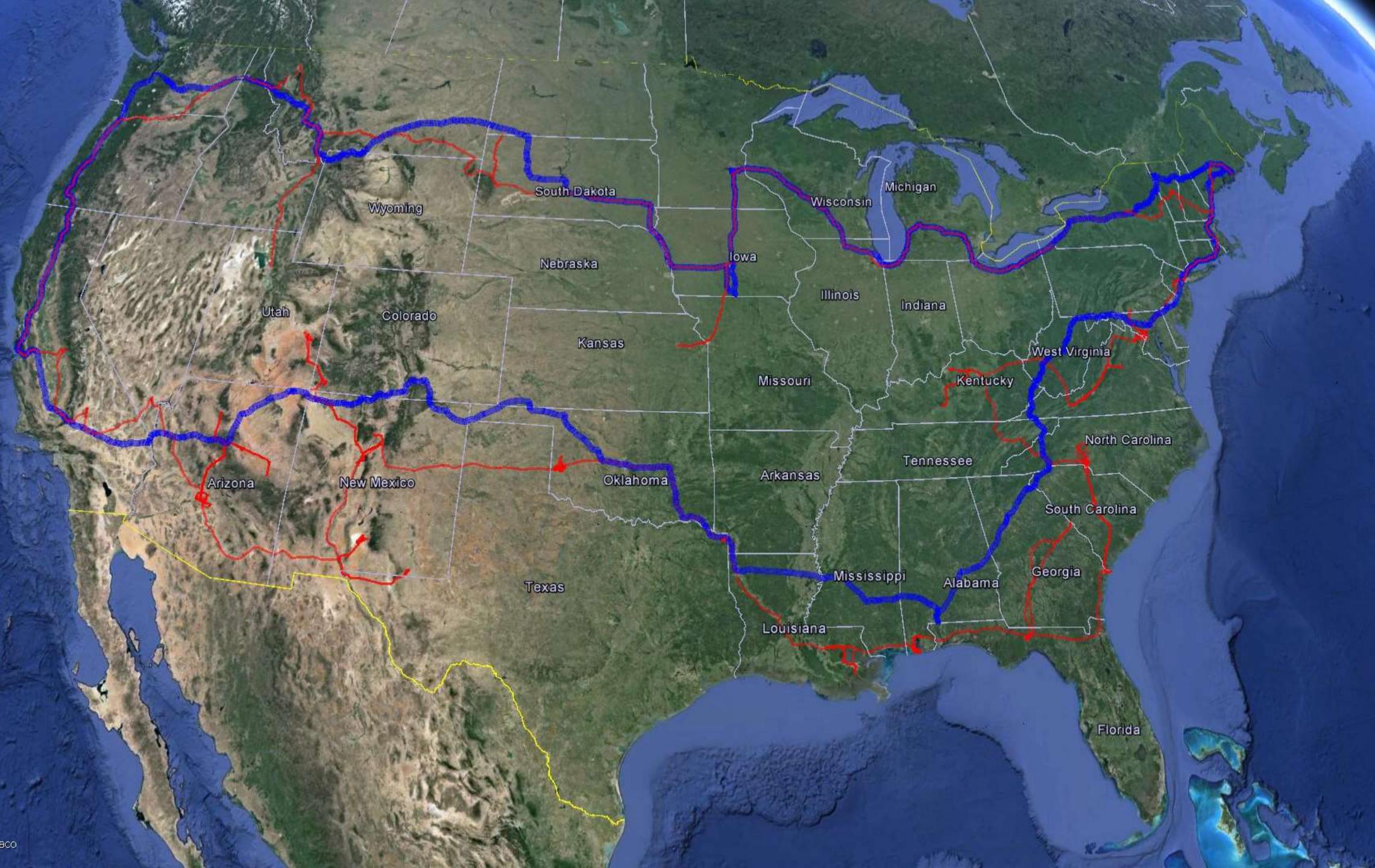


Grand Rapids, MI



Our Route

Forsythe Park, Savannah, GA



Google earth

© 2016 Google
Image Landsat

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
US Dept of State Geographer



Logistics

Devil's Tower, WY

School

- ▶ Kids attended public elementary school
- ▶ Brooke left her nursing career
- ▶ Homeschooled only for 1 year
- ▶ Back in public school this year
- ▶ Borrowed curriculum, used common core standards
- ▶ No time to apply lessons-learned
- ▶ No books written for our situation

Work

- ▶ Time zone
- ▶ Quiet
- ▶ The coffee shop problem
- ▶ My mobile office
- ▶ My everyday “office”





Internet

Delicate Arch, Arches National Park, UT

Internet Equipment

- ▶ MiFi Hotspot
- ▶ Phone
- ▶ Laptop stand
- ▶ Battery
- ▶ Mifi
- ▶ WifiRanger





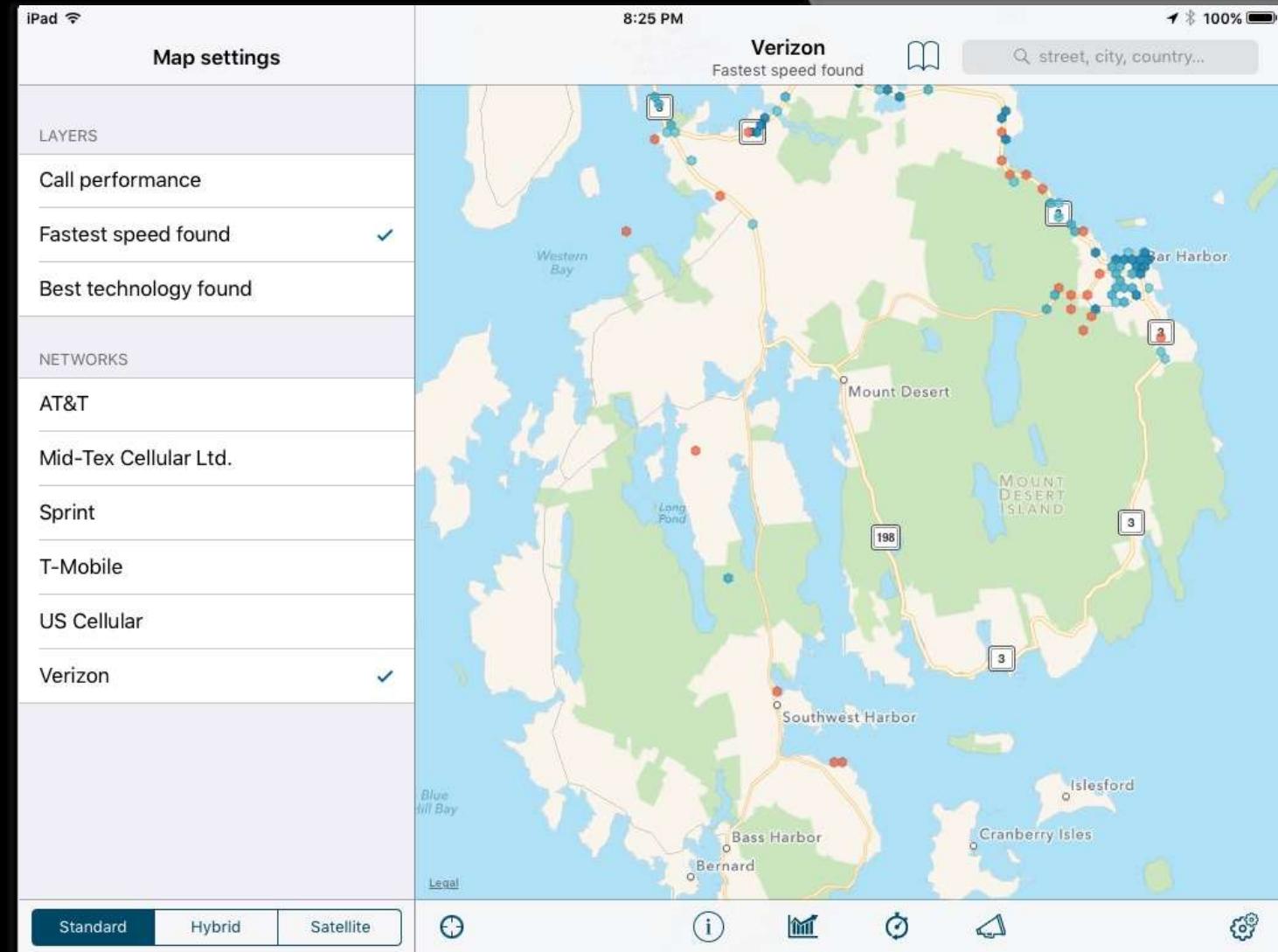


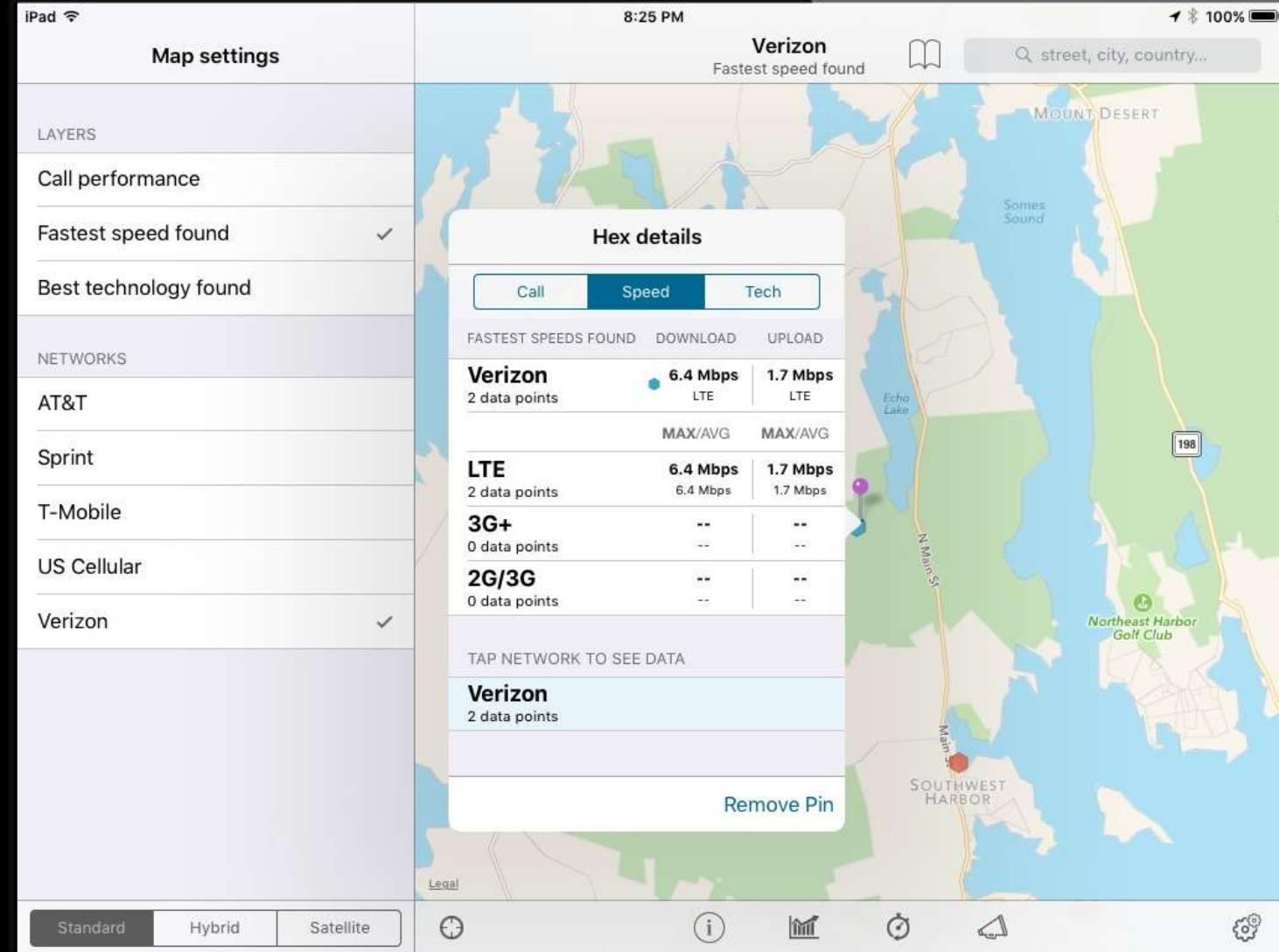
Internet Options

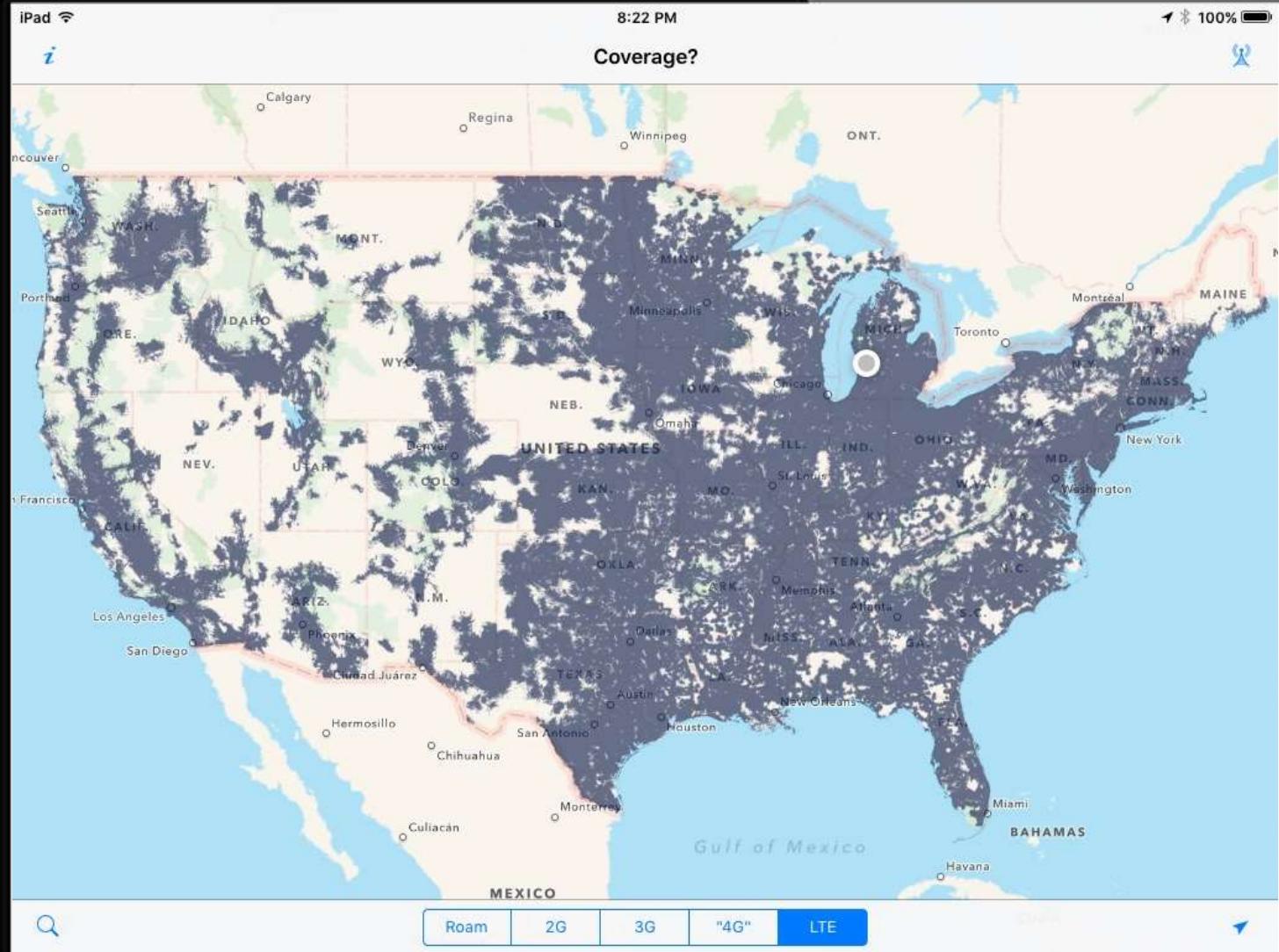
- ▶ Park/Public Wifi
 - ▶ Unreliable, < 5%
- ▶ 4G – Tethered iPhone
 - ▶ “Grandfathered” unlimited Verizon plan, \$ = a lot
- ▶ 4G – MiFi device
 - ▶ Millenicom, \$90 for 20GB
 - ▶ Bought by Verizon

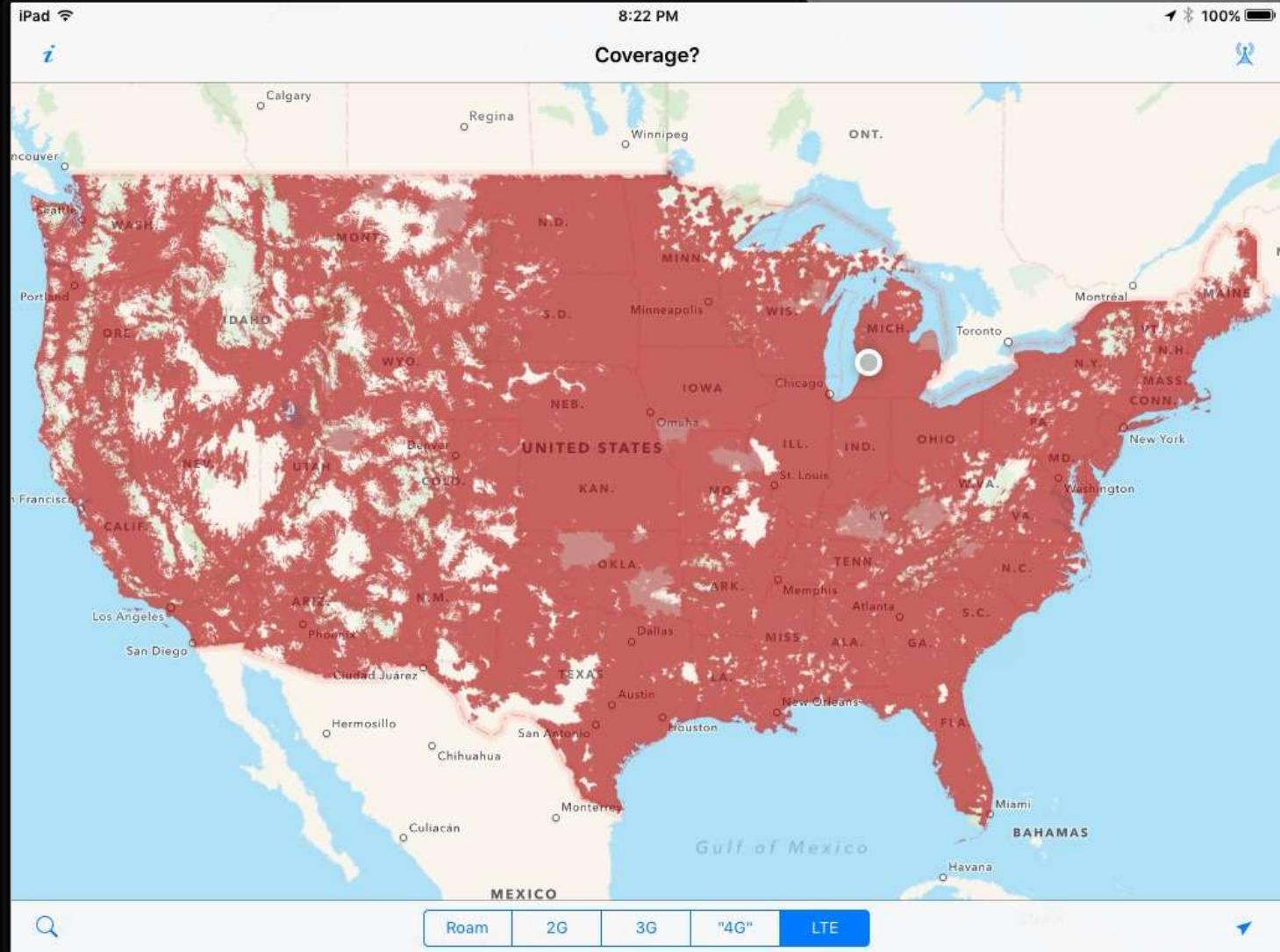
Internet Apps

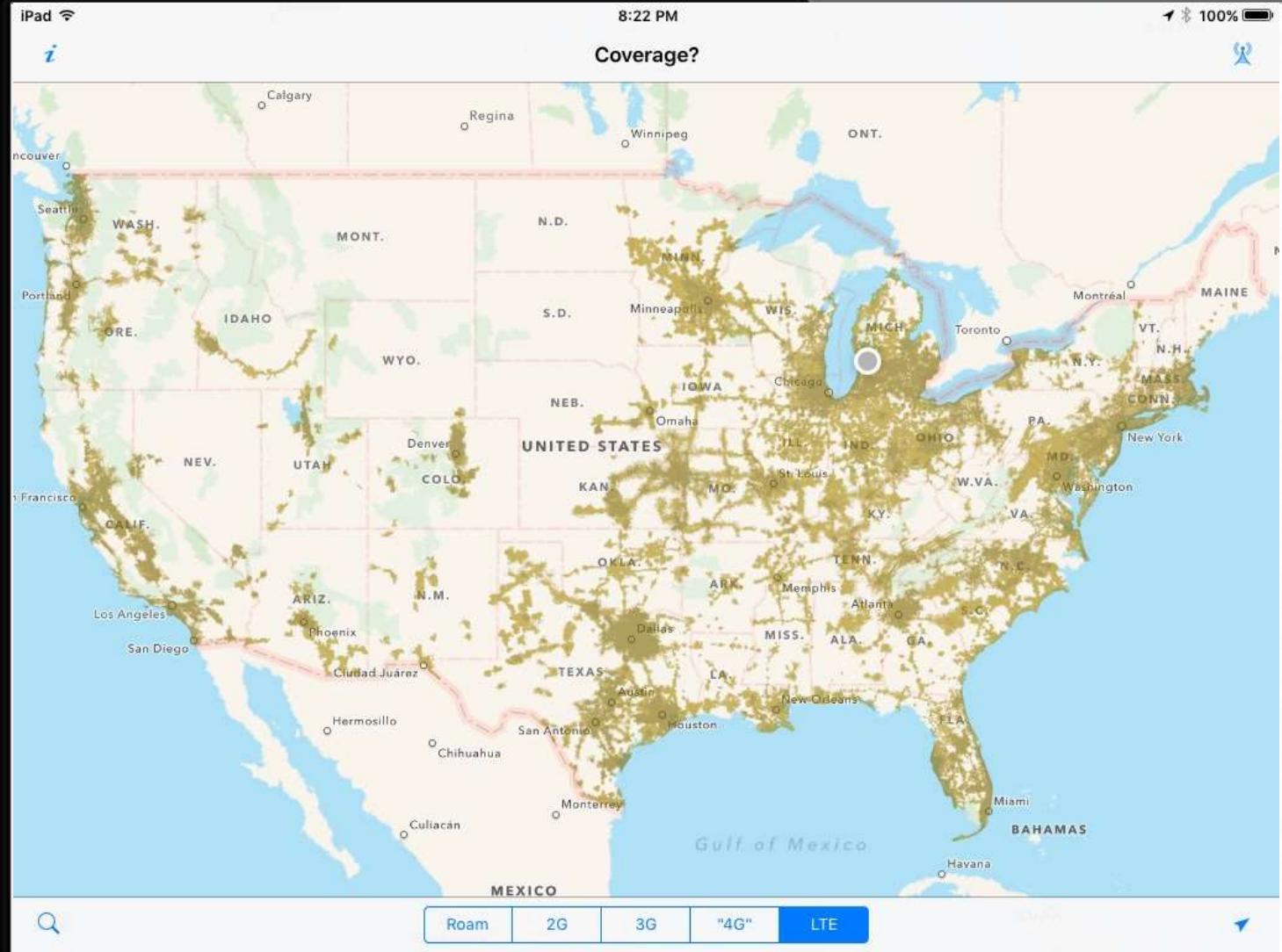
- ▶ WifiFinder
- ▶ CoverageMap
- ▶ Coverage?

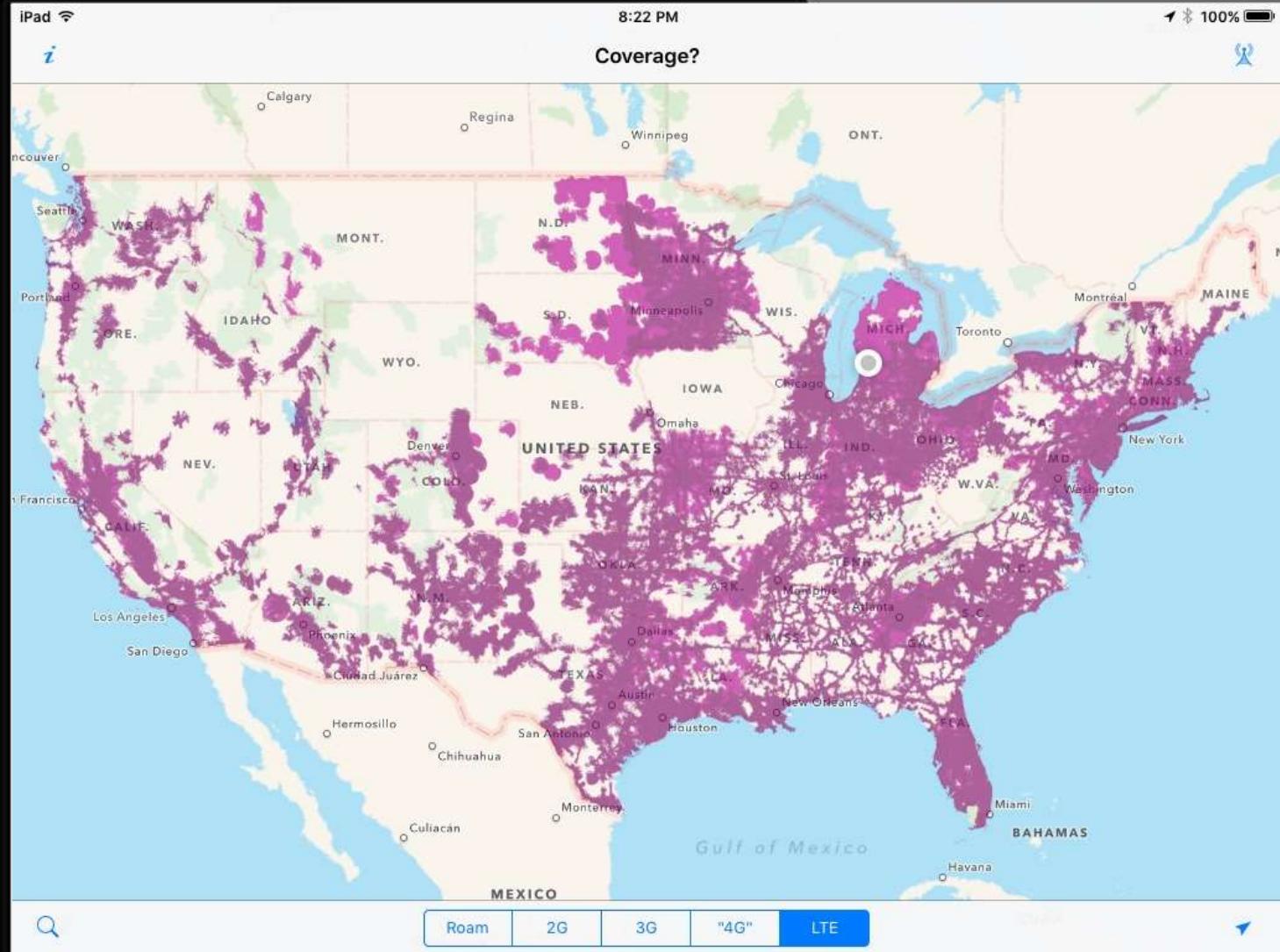














Moving Day Logistics

Jersey City, NJ

Moving Days

- ▶ Worked M-F
- ▶ We usually move Sat and/or Sun
- ▶ Stays measured in weeks
- ▶ Limited to about 5-7 hours travel-time
- ▶ 1.5x travel-time multiplier

Moving Day Apps

- ▶ iExit
- ▶ Google Maps
- ▶ State Lines
- ▶ Good Sam Camping





Trip Stats

- ▶ Visited 48 states
- ▶ Lived 37 places in 34 states
- ▶ 74 museums
- ▶ 28 national parks/monuments
- ▶ 21 state parks
- ▶ 17 military sites
- ▶ 187 “unique experiences”



Custer State Park, SD

Favorites

- ▶ Place: Glacier National Park
- ▶ State: California / Oregon
- ▶ Surprise: Mardi Gras in New Orleans
- ▶ Museum: OMSI and Musical Instrument Museum
- ▶ RV Park: Black Canyon City, AZ

Others:

Crater lake, Boston, MA, Portland, OR, Carlsbad
Caverns, Yosemite, Arches, Savannah, GA,
Rapid City, SD, Acadia, and on, and on...



Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, WY

A wide-angle photograph of a serene lake scene. In the foreground, a wooden dock extends from the bottom left towards the center of the frame. A small red motorboat with a black top is moored near the dock's end. The lake is a deep blue, with gentle ripples on the surface. In the background, a range of majestic, rugged mountains with dark peaks and some snow patches stretches across the horizon under a clear, light blue sky.

Lessons Learned

Lake McDonald, Glacier National Park, MT



- 
- ▶ More stuff = more problems
 - ▶ Our national parks are exceptional, and the NPS is so amazing
 - ▶ People are the same everywhere
 - ▶ Terroir
 - ▶ Take some risks
 - ▶ Follow the rule of anecdotal value
 - ▶ Flexible
 - ▶ Low expectations
 - ▶ Being a local tourist
 - ▶ RVs are built poorly, and RV dealers are the worst
 - ▶ The west is best



Backcountry, Glacier National Park, MT

Henry David Thoreau

Walden

“Pray, for what do we move ever
but to get rid of our furniture”

Jill Briscoe

"I must have things, but
things must not have me."



Fort Stevens State Park, OR



John Muir
The Yosemite

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.”

Half Dome, Yosemite Nation Park, CA

W. H. Murray

The Scottish Himalayan Expedition (1951)

"Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt would have come his way."



Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse, Acadia Nation Park, ME

Thanks! Questions?

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Great Salt Lake, UT

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