Multipeer Connectivity

Cutting through the hype

What the press is saying

- hotel basement
- cave
- rural areas where cell tower connections are nonexistent
- ultramarathon: 30 mile trail through giant redwood forests
- disaster area where cell towers have been knocked out

What is it actually good for?

- Zero-config connectivity
- Realtime/Low-latency apps
- Proximity-based apps
- Connectivity in any environment
- No user permission required

OK, ok, but give me examples!

- In-person games: board games, card games, realtime multiplayer games
- In-person sharing: conference app to share contact info, media browser app to quickly share pictures
- Local triggers: remote camera trigger
- Push-To-Talk: walkie-talkies are fun

Demo Time!

Downsides

- iOS 7 only
- No OSX support
- No support for Android/Windows/Windows Phone/ etc.
- Nascent tech, rough edges
- Performance starts to degrade with # of connected clients
- Clients can take a long time to "disconnect"

Resources

- wired.com/2014/03/apple-multipeer-connectivity
- nshipster.com/multipeer-connectivity
- cultofmac.com/271225/appreciated-ios-7feature-will-change-world
- bgr.com/2014/03/20/firechat-messaging-app-internet

Resources (cont'd)

- MPCMultipeerClient and remote camera demo: github.com/jpsim/MPCMultipeerClient
- liftoff: github.com/thoughtbot/liftoff
- Deckset: decksetapp.com