

# Horizon Scanning Mobile Devices

**IRAHSS08**

# Flashmobs

Quick organization

# Riots and violence in Australia

## 2005 Race Riots

- Started on the beaches between Australians and non-Australians
- Gathered 5,000 people for a protest that eventually turned violent

# Riots and violence in Australia

## 2005 Race Riots

- The next day, more random violence against non-Australians.
- Random shots fired at cars and other property damage
- Just five people have been arrested

# Riots and violence in Australia

## 2005 Race Riots

- The next day, a church was burned to the ground
- Hateful text messages are showing up around Australia in other states

# Riots and violence in Australia

## 2005 Race Riots

- Two days later, the police issue warnings to steer clear of certain beaches and areas
- 1,500-2,000 additional police officers are put on patrol to curb the violence

# Riots and violence in Australia

## 2005 Race Riots

- Two days later, anti-racism demonstrations begin drawing 2,000 people

# Riots and violence in Australia

## 2005 Race Riots

- Two days later, foreign embassies start to warn their citizens to stay away from certain Australian states



# Riots and violence in Australia

## 2005 Race Riots

- The next day, the the first charges are brought against someone for forwarding a hateful text message
- Three months later, just 66 people have been arrested or charged

# Riots and violence in Australia

## 2005 Race Riots

- Email and one radio station also played a role in organizing violent acts

# Fun and harmless organization

## Flashmob birth

- The first ever recorded flashmob happened in a New York City department store
- Just for fun

# Fun and harmless organization

## Flashmob variations

- Zombie mobs
- Pillow fight mobs
- Other harmless variations

# Protesting about protesting

## Belarus

- In Belarus, people cannot gather publicly to protest
- Young people gathered in a public square and all ate ice cream together
- Plain clothed police officers tried to dispel the crowd
- Entirely organized via a website and SMS

# Politics and SMS

Quick organization

# Politics and SMS

## Kenyans for Peace

- Used SMS to get their message to the masses
- They assembled a list of elected representatives mobile numbers

# Politics and SMS

## Voters

- Candidates sending messages to voters
- Potential voters willingly sign-up
- Services like Twitter broadcast messages
- Reminders to vote



# Politics and SMS

## South Korea

- In 2002, a last minute campaign sent 800,000 SMSs and emails to young voters
- They reminded people to vote
- The unlikely candidate won by a margin of 2%

# Politics and SMS

## Lebanon

- Use of email and SMS gathered 1 million demonstrators demanding the withdrawal of Syrian troops
- 14,000 troops finally pulled out

**What are the implications**

The background is a solid blue color. In the lower half, there are several thin, white, curved lines that sweep across the frame from the bottom left towards the top right, creating a sense of motion and depth.

# What are the implications

## Software development

- As a mobile provider, what requirements should I have of mobile developers?
- Barack Obama supporters developed a call-people application for the iPhone

# What are the implications

- As a regulator, what policies can be put in place to
  - a) control the instantaneous flow of information
  - b) monitor messaging
  - c) act accordingly