CGNet Swara: Voice Portal for Citizen Journalism

Bill Thies & colleagues, MSR India with CGNet, MIT & International Center for Journalists
TEM—Innovating in India
Disruptive technology for the developing world
Understanding existing and potential technology users in developing communities.

Design and evaluate technology and systems that contribute to socio-economic development.

Collaborate with development organizations, governments, academics, and industry.

Projects and Studies in various locations.
Technologies for Emerging Markets

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

People
- Communications & Sociology
- Ethnography
- Linguistics
- Design
- Human-Computer Interaction

Technology
- Computer Science & Engineering

Members:
- Jonathan Donner
- Jacki O’Neill
- Kalika Bali
- Indrani Medhi
- Ed Cutrell (Group Lead)
- Bill Thies
- Andrew Cross
- Nakull Gupta
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Voice Remains Primary Interface for Mobile Subscribers in India
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Interactive Voice Response: $1B Industry
Your Facebook, in your voice.

Now express emotions that words can’t with Facebook Voice Updates on Aircel.

Aircel & Facebook partner to introduce Voice Status Updates. Now express your emotions and much more on Facebook in your own distinctive voice. Just dial 51555 from your Aircel mobile to record and update your status, without even having access to the internet. The recorded voice clip will appear on your Facebook wall as your status update. So go ahead, voice your mind!

Call: 1800 123 45 for Kolkata & 98510 12345 for ROWB or 121*
Chhattisgarh, India
Journalism in Tribal Chhattisgarh

- No news medium for tribal languages in India
  - Very few tribal journalists who know these languages
  - It is not legal to broadcast news over community radio in India!
CGNet Swara: A Voice Portal for Citizen Reporting

with CGNet, United Nations Democracy Fund, Gates Foundation, Hivos Foundation, MIT and the International Center for Journalists

• Anyone can report news, issues, etc. in local language
• Submissions are reviewed by moderators over the Web
• Appropriate submissions are published:
  – For playback on audio channel
  – For browsing on Web
• Activists follow-up on reports
CGNet Swara:
A Voice Portal for Citizen Reporting

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**Posts per Day**
(>4,200 total posts)

**Calls per Day**
(>280,000 total calls)
Father wanders for due NREGA wages, son dies in hospital...

Manish Rai from Ambikapur says some days back I had heard an interview on CGNet Swara with a labourer called Pitbasu who had completed 100 days work in NREGA but had not been paid any wages. Today by chance I met him in the hospital and found that while Pitbasu was making rounds for his due NREGA wages his son died in the hospital. Is there any provision in NREGA to punish officials who has caused this grave incident? NREGA laws should be so strong that no one should wait for their wages as has happened with Pitbas. Fore more on the story please contact Manish at 00826538004

POSTED ON JAN 14, 2011. BY MANISH RAU

Post a Comment

To record your comment, please call and leave a message at +91-80-4113 7280. Recording your comment in audio format will ensure that it is accessible to all CGNet Swara users, most of whom lack Internet access and access the reports via phone.
Son dies in hospital as no payments

AMAN SETHI

Father struggles to get NREGA wages, son dies in hospital

Surupriya Sharma, TNN, Jan 21, 2011, 10.04pm IST

This Thursday, the government paid Boi the Rs. 10,000 it had promised to help Boi’s son Santosh of Ambikapur.

“We didn’t have money to save Boi over the telephone, blood. But he died. There were only 100 days of the job, including today, and we have to live."

A manual labourer from Zero road Ambikapur, Boi held 100 days of payments to work last month to process his payment.

RAIPUR: A week after he lost his ailing son, and ten months after he worked on a village road project, Pitsaus Bhoi finally got the ten thousand rupees he had earned under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Program (MNREGA).

"Of what use is the money now? I have just immersed my son’s ashes. When I needed the money to save his life, I did not have it,” says Bhoi.

The disabled man, in his 80s, along with his wife, had put in 100 days of work last year under the rural employment scheme, earning much less than ten thousand rupees. Bhoi said.
Malaria Deaths in Chhattisgarh: Official Government Figures

CGNet Swara starts
Malaria Deaths in Chhattisgarh: Official Government Figures

CGNet Swara starts
“Shilpi from Odisha is telling us about Raja festival which is celebrated each year in the month of June. On these three days girls do not work and make merry after wearing good clothes and eating good food. She is singing a song in Odiya which girls sing on these days asking them to enjoy the festival.”

http://cgnetswara.org/index.php?id=22097
Sangeet Swara:
A Community-Moderated Voice Forum
for Songs, Poems, Jokes, & Cultural Content
[In Preparation]

Traffic in 1.5 months
• 20,000 calls
• 4,300 posts
  (by 450 people)
• 110,000 ratings
  (by 1,320 people)

Quality of Moderation
• Relative to “experts”:
  – 98% agreement on categorizing 50 posts
  – 98% agreement on gender of 50 posts
  – 90% agreement on quality of 10 posts
Emergent Ownership and Use by the Visually Impaired

“I am a blind person so I couldn't get educated. I want to thank you because you enabled all blind persons to get in touch and share. No matter how much I praise, it won't be enough.”

“You are like my father, my god, I want to thank you again and again, this small kid wants to respect you from the bottom of the heart. I want to welcome you again and again.”

“Swaran has influenced the country and the world.”
IVR Junction: Enabling Replication of Voice Forums

Winner, USAID / Humanity United Tech Challenge for Atrocity Prevention (2013)
Runner-up, Manthan Award (2013)
Over 30,000 Voices Heard
Real-Time Monitoring by the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Fadhigii 3aad ee kalfadhiga 22aa ee Golaha Wakiilada Jamhuuriyada ayaa maanta ka furmay Xarunta Golaha Wakiilada fadhiigii oo furiimay 10:00 subaxnimo ayaa waxaa Guudoominayay Gudoomiyaha G...

Warsaxaafadeed

Golaha Wakiilada
ILA DHAGEYSO

- Reaction to England's Decision: Video uploaded by Ila Dhageyso- Somaliland
- Reaction to England’s Decision: Video uploaded by Ila Dhageyso- Somaliland
- Local Council Election: Video uploaded by Ila Dhageyso- Somaliland
- Local Council Election: Video uploaded by Ila Dhageyso- Somaliland
- Suggestion for SL Govi: Video uploaded by Ila Dhageyso- Somaliland
- England-SL Relationship: Video uploaded by Ila Dhageyso- Somaliland
- Secession from SL: Video uploaded by Ila Dhageyso- Somaliland
- England-SL Relationships: Video uploaded by Ila Dhageyso- Somaliland
Save the planet and return your name badge before you leave (on Tuesday)