

Facebook as a research tool

Singapore

Documenting the evolution of mobile phone applications since 2011

In this project, two key elements of the development of technology, Facebook, a social media tool, and mobile phones, a portable communication/connectivity tool is brought together in an experiment that was started in 2009 as pilot and full scale since 2011 which continues to date.

The objective of this research is document in real-time, how actual and possible uses of mobile phones, which has transcended from the rubber keypad versions to the smartphones of today, is extending beyond its first intentions. The idea came about on reading that people residing abroad bypass stringent laws, national and international, to transfer money to their homes in Africa through the purchase of prepaid cards and offering the ‘pre-paid’ time as ‘money equivalent’ to traders back home who then deliver real money to people in Africa. Today, there are official versions of this such as ‘Sente’ in that continent.

With news and clippings appearing across the internet, through various means such as blogs, websites, news-sites, etc., the author realised that all the information, news and bits about the emergence of new uses of mobile phones could be documented and chronicled through a simple Facebook page.

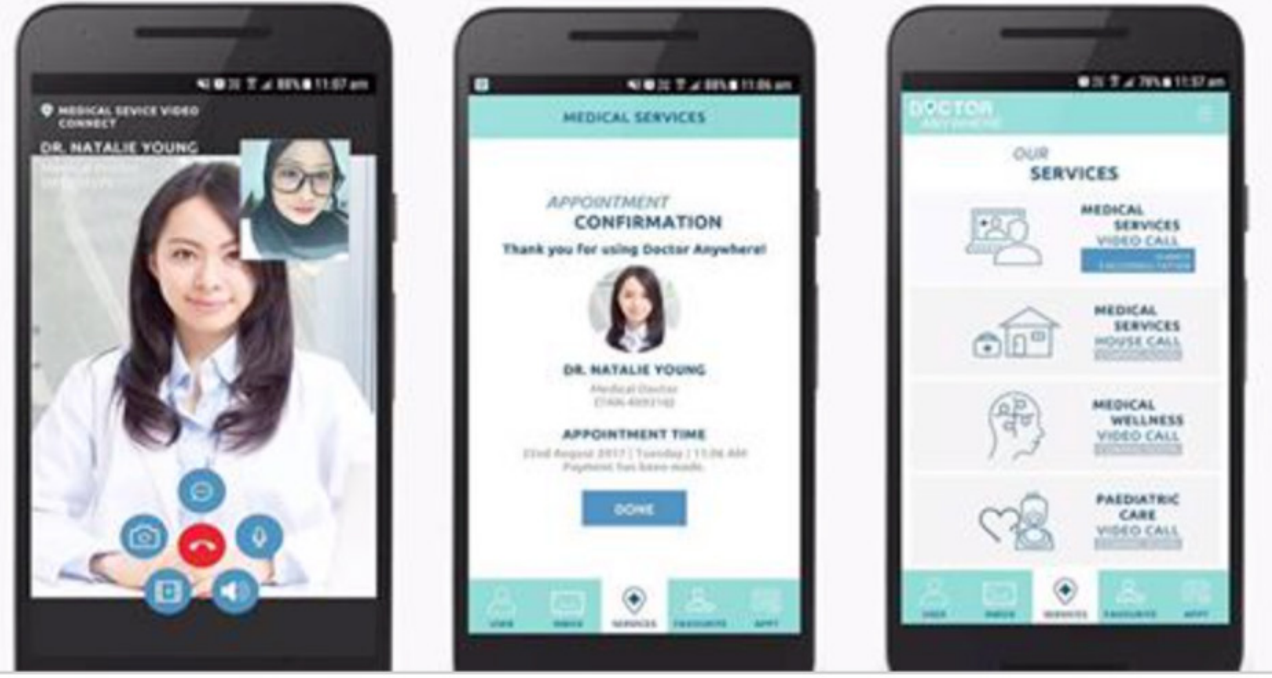
Titled ‘Unique Uses of the Mobile Phones’ the author has been collating information and news about the various ways and means by which smart phones have gone beyond their first incarnation as mobile or cell phones. As an on-going project, the author intends to harvest the data to present the findings in research papers and articles.



Unique Uses of the Mobile Phone

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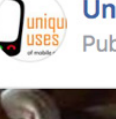
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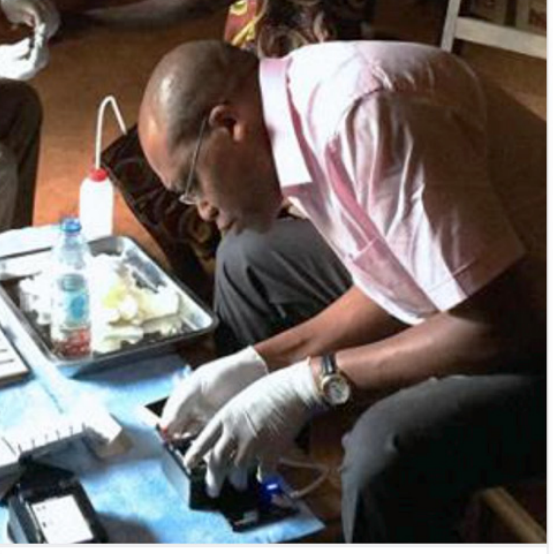
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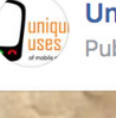


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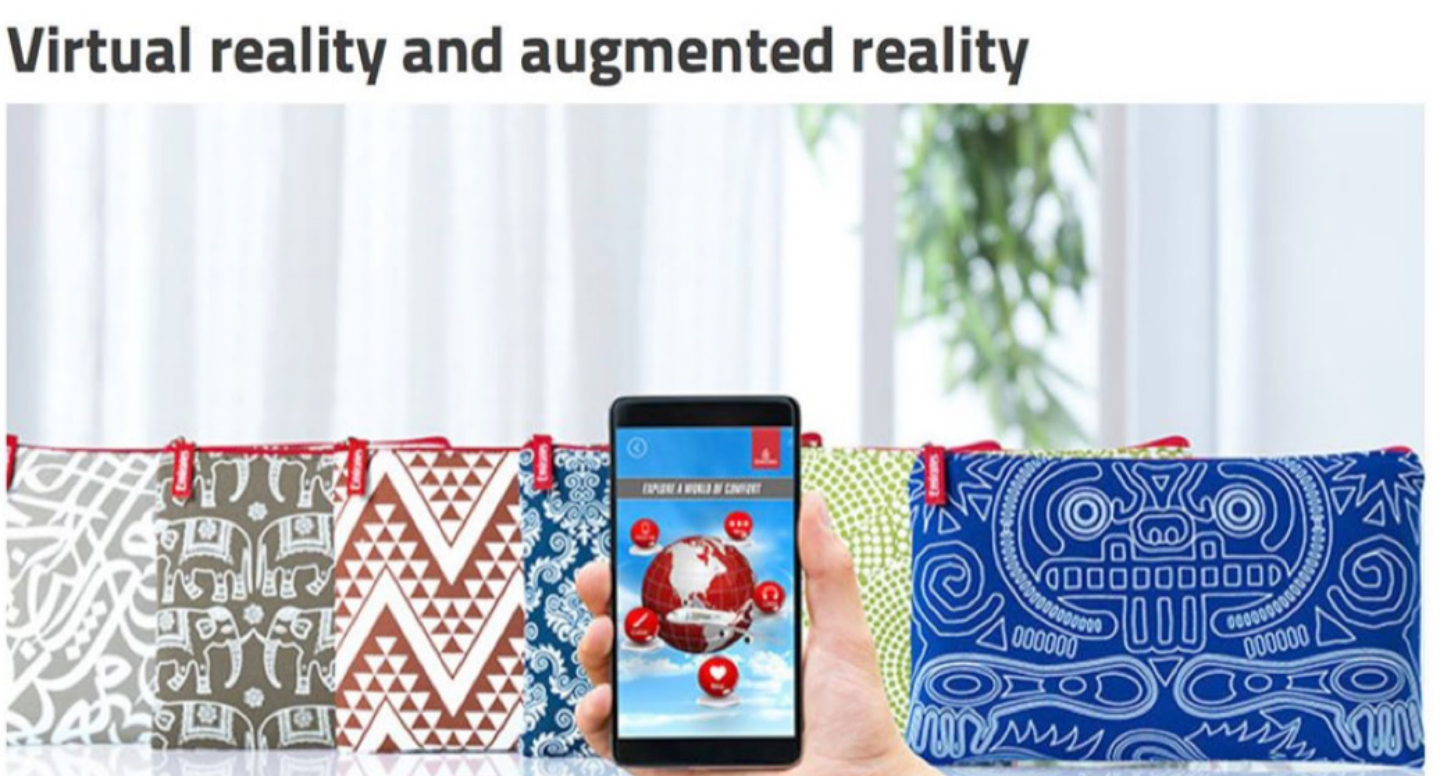
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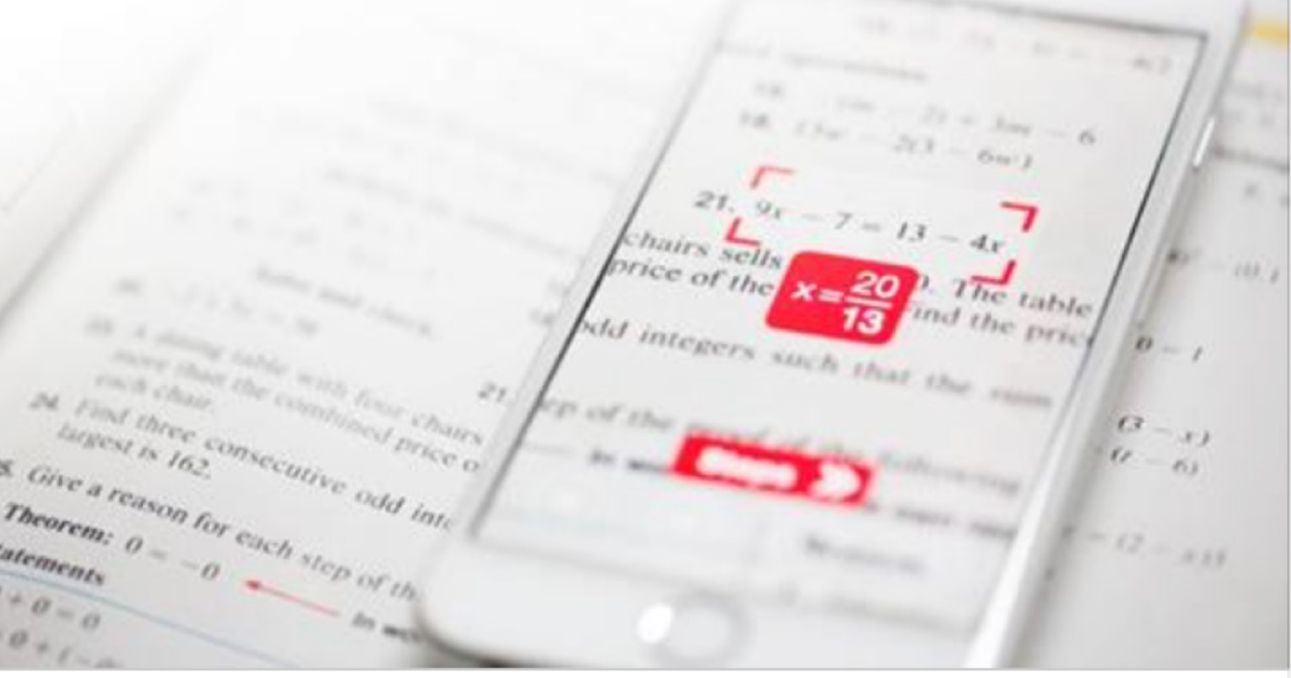
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The start of a new school year is a hectic time, but app developers have busy students' and families' backs. Here, we've rounded up top mobile apps for...

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Expanding use for mobile phones + Facebook + documentation = data for research

There are three distinct points to in this on-going research project. The first point is the need to document and archive the development and trends in the use of mobile phone, while the second, is the case for Facebook as a vehicle in this research. The third point is how this project uses Facebook to chronologically preserve the news and information on how mobile phones are/could be used, as well as the clippings and visuals of new methods and applications for/of the mobile phones

Early into this project, the author realised that gathering information on new ways that the mobile phone was being used comes from several sources, including traditional newspaper and magazines, on-line magazines, news sites and dedicated websites that post information from various websites.

Initial attempt to document the information/data in pdf files from these sources proved to be too cumbersome. Moreover, the author felt that this research is not about collecting data for own consumption, but should be shared with as many people as possible across the world. Tedious computer based information storage and retrieval meant several layers of navigation before anyone could reach to the location that they were searching for. An avid user of Facebook since 2007, the author decided to experiment with Facebook as a potential vehicle for storing and retrieval of information and data as they arrive

