Wakabi
Providing an on-demand ride service for rural Uganda

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Introduction

- Problem: Lack of communication between drivers and riders, leaving riders idle and drivers immobile.
- Solution: A system that provides riders and drivers with a way to communicate.
- Since cellular phones are common in rural Uganda, but access to data is not, our system uses SMS to connect drivers with riders.
- Our system uses a numbered list of regions because GPS information is not always available.
- Riders text to ask for a ride. Registered drivers nearby receive an SMS message. The system provides the selected driver with the rider's phone number for communication.
- The drivers pay a monthly fee to be registered, and they charge the riders directly per trip.
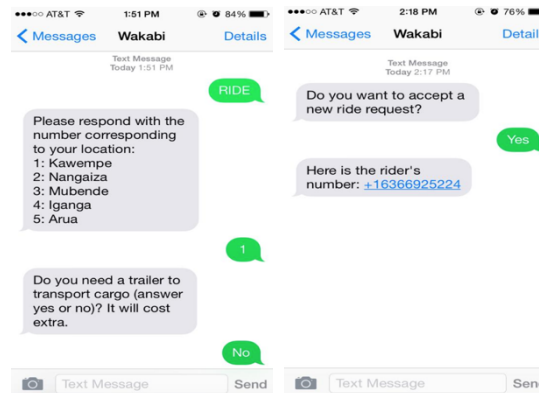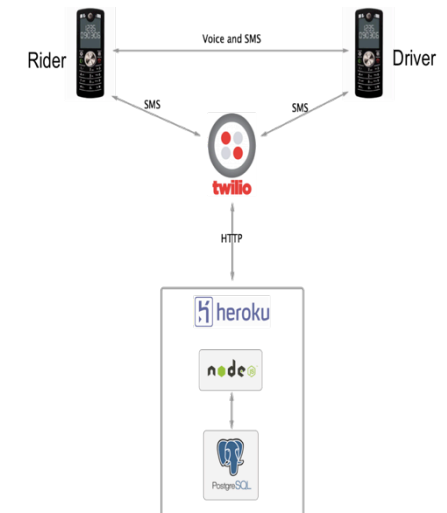
The System

Web Portal
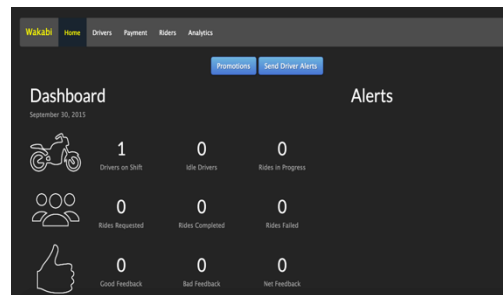
SMS Communication

Tech Stack

Using commercial cloud and text services simplified the deployment process, but these services were ultimately too expensive for rural Uganda.

Current Status

Our system has been tested in a community in rural Uganda and is now being adapted by local developers to use local services.