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Commodity Tracker: A Mobile Tool to Collect Regional Food Prices across Haiti

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Commodity Tracker: A Mobile Tool to Collect Regional Food Prices across Haiti

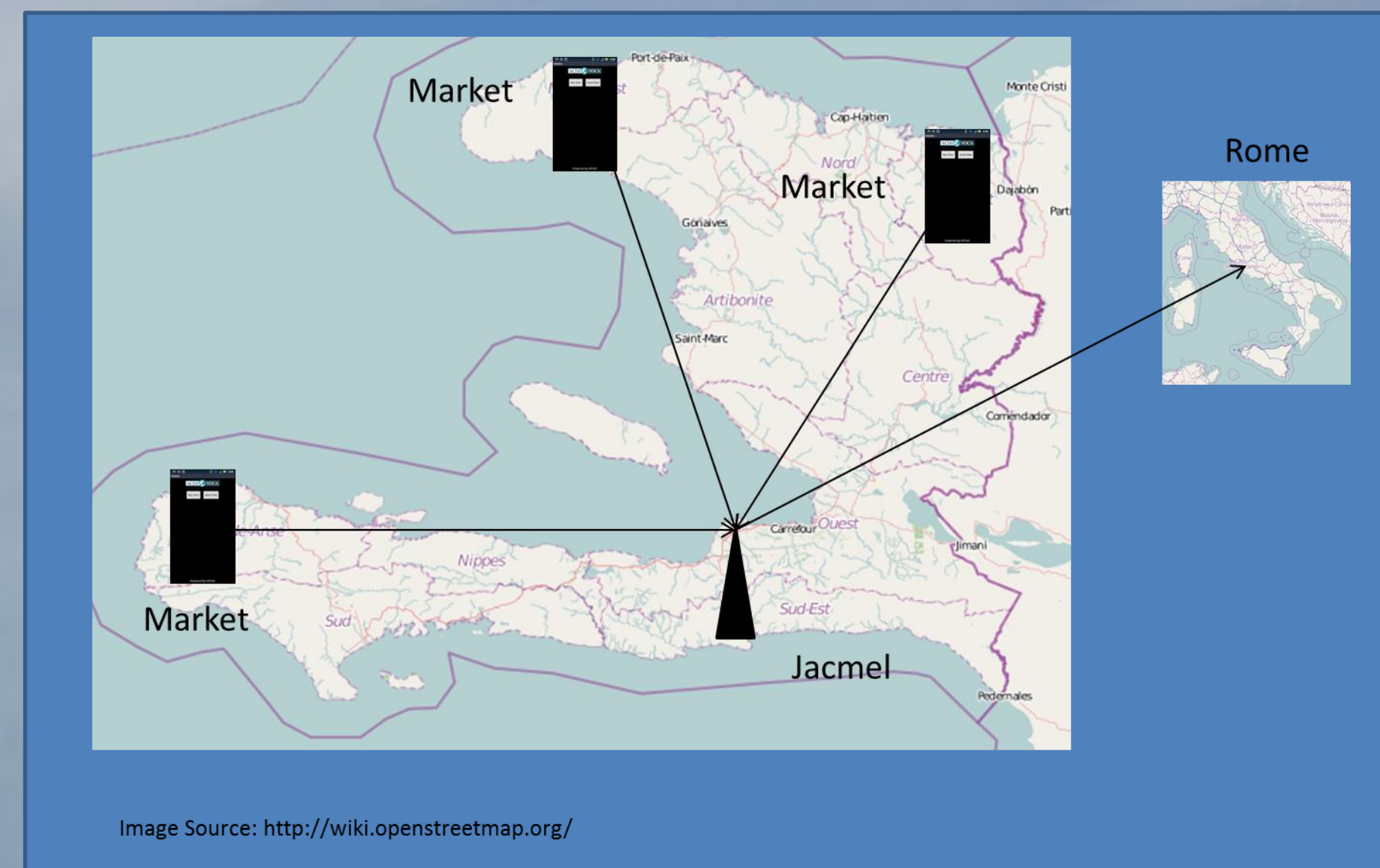
Abstract

The Commodity Tracker is an Android Application developed on Trinity's Portable Open Search and Identification Tool (POSIT). It is designed for users to collect pricing information primarily on food prices in field conditions in Haiti. The ACDI/VOCA organization sends field agents into the rural areas of Haiti regularly to collect data on the prices of local food items. This data is used to determine the distribution of food items through the USAID organization, using price to measure scarcity. Infrastructural issues make this a time consuming process, especially with regards to sending data from the field to the central servers in Jacmel. This Android application can collect and send this data via SMS (or text messaging), reducing the amount of time and cost required to retrieve information from the field, thus enabling ACDI/VOCA to efficiently allocate its resources to where they are most needed.

Christopher Nobile '12

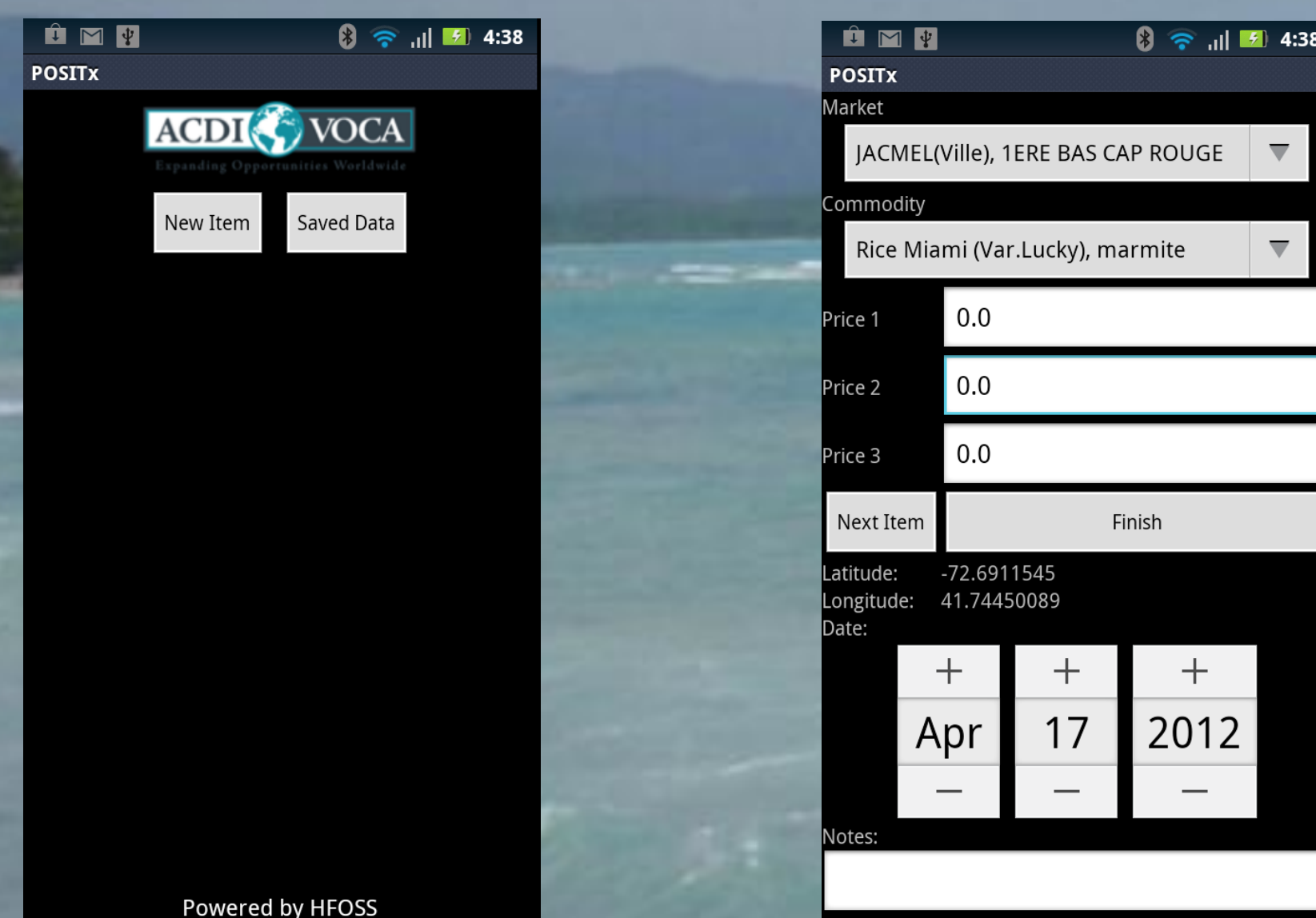
Faculty advisor: Ralph Morelli

Non-Trinity Sponsors: ACDI/VOCA, USAID



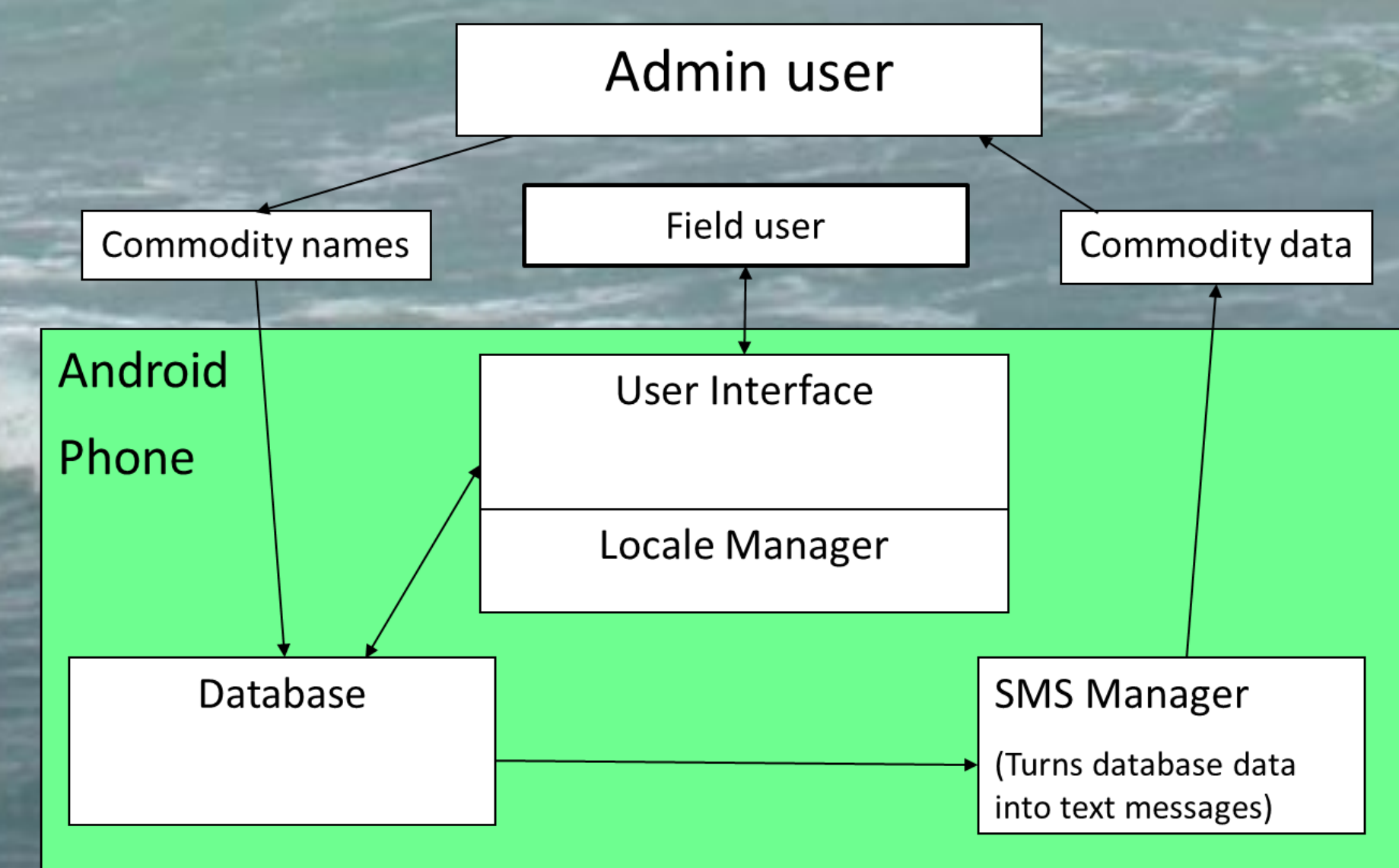
Technologies

- Built on Android SDK
- FrontlineSMS Gateway
- Java Swing GUI API
- Eclipse Development Environment
- Utilizes the POSIT structure



Information Flow

- Commodities to be tracked are identified
- Users in the field collect commodity price data
- Data is stored on the phone for review
- Data transported to central location via text messaging



Challenges

- Language barrier
- Poor communication between all participating parties
- Lack of infrastructure
- Adjusting the program to unique environmental factors

