Emerge: The Story of How We Built an App “in a Day”

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The Goal of Emerge

• Improve situational awareness
• Minimum viable product
• Manage large storm events that cause traffic blockages
  • Displaying picture and video
  • Field crews can enter info directly
• Strong El Niño was predicted
Locked in a Room...

- December 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2015
- Public Works and DOT trapped together
- A \textit{Landslide} of Ideas
- Cannot “emerge” from the room, until...
DOT Took Over Maintenance of App

- We could use it immediately!
- Far less cost than developer
- We added icons, other features
- We called it a win-win!
  - Wrote about it in the newsletter
  - Received commendation from city council
  - Made a movie with Emerge
  - Got submitted to ESRI Conference
- Time passed, no rain... *El Niño Triste*
Winter of 2017: La Niña

- January 8th, 2017 – the first big storm
- Lots of calls from dispatch
- All hands on deck weekend
- Everybody went home Sunday night
- But at 11pm on Sunday...
Between the Storms

• Looked at other websites
  • Weather and Hazards Viewer
  • Google Earth
  • Local agency apps
• Hacked APIs
• Streamlined use of app
• Again, watching the storms, watching the app…
Jan 20\textsuperscript{th} Storm

- 1\textsuperscript{st} real use
The February Storm

• Feb 17th Trees
• Feb 18th Floodgates open
• Feb 20th THE FLOOD!

Anderson Dam Spillway
Emerge Goes Viral

- EOC/DOC Declared
- Long nights and days
- Evacuation orders go onto Emerge
- 50,000 hits in the first day
- Esri called us, offered help
- Quick change to editability
- Two versions
Lessons Learned

• Web App Builder is easy: app in a day!
• Protect your edits!
• Be prepared to scale
• Think about it like a manager
  • IT manager
  • Director of operations
• How will your users and your staff use it?
The End

Thanks!