# Tips to Succeed in Mobile Competitions

Christelle Scharff
US Fulbright Scholar
Associate Professor of Computer Science at
Pace University, NY, USA
MobileSenegal
http://mobilesenegal.org
http://facebook.com/mobilesenegal



### Start with reading and ideation

- Still need to read the guidelines, rules, eligibility...
- Start with brainstorming and iterate









## Do the research and use mobile apps

- Research what's on the market!
- If you do not use apps, why would others do?







# Choose your team carefully and manage your time

- Use collaborative tools to work efficiently
  - E.g., Github http://github.com and Google Apps http://docs.google.com



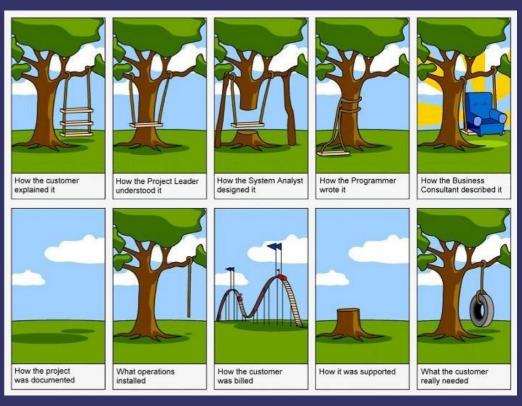


Choose an interdisciplinary team



# Mobile app development is still software development

- Process
- Documentation
- Requirements
- Design
- Programming
- Testing
- Maintenance & evolution





## Be user-centric and not self-centric!

- Get off the computer and work with your intended users, especially when creating mobile for development apps
- Involve users from day ONE
- Use agile methodologies







## Stay on topic!

- A mobile app does a very specific number of tasks (scope)
- Less features that work perfectly and beautifully is better than lots of features that do not work



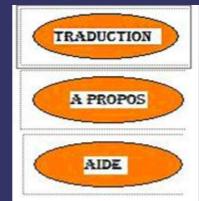


#### Art is crucial

- Use (high resolution) images and a good image editor (e.g, GIMP or PhotoShop)
- Design a unique icon
- Follow the standard of your platform,
- Do not use copyrighted art (see http://openclipart.org or similar for free art)









Before / After













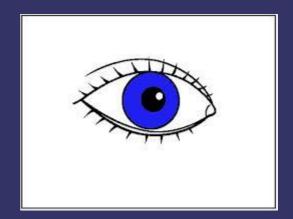




#### Ask for feedback

- Ask your potential users
- Ask your friends
- Just ask... it is better to find problems early...





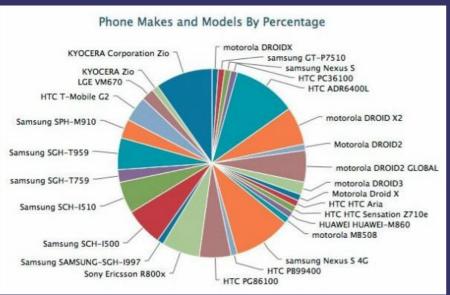


## Did you QA enough?

What is QA anyway? (It includes functionnal and non functionnal testing)

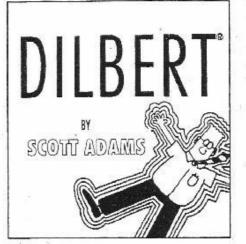
QA your app on different emulators, cloud emulators and

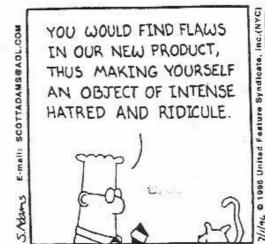
real devices











BUT THEN YOU'D FIX
THOSE FLAWS... AND
YOUR RESPECT FOR ME
WOULD GROW INTO
A SPECIAL BOND OF
FRIENDSHIP,
RIGHT?!

NO, THEN
WE SHIP.

### It's the whole package that counts

- The name of the app is important
- Write an appealing description (Use spell checker!)
- Do a video of the app, the app and its context only!
  - Camstudio http://camstudio.org
  - No "About" please!





### **Summary**

- 1. Start with reading and ideation
- 2. Do the research and use mobile apps
- 3. Choose your team right and manage your time
- 4. Mobile app development is still software development
- 5. Be user-centric and not self-centric!
- 6. Stay on topic!
- 7. Art is crucial
- 8. Ask for feedback
- 9. Did you QA enough?
- → 10. It's the whole package that counts



## « L'important c'est de participer » Pierre de Coubertin



### **Ericsson Application Awards**

http://www.ericssonapplicationawards.com/





#### References

I used lots of pictures from the web without citing the sources.

This presentation was realized for education purpose only.

