Weather Apps, Crowdsourcing and other tendencies.

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Mobile Application (Apps) plays an important role in the daily lives of smartphone users all around the World. Knowing the weather is something that users pretty much need to know. Weather Apps have been progressively gaining prominence and wide acceptance during those last years as they have been steadily improving and working better. Today they have more detailed and accurate information and its use is broadly extended being one of the main sources of weather information for many users.

In this paper we present an analysis of this type of mobile applications, taking into account different aspects regarding its usability, approaches to present information, data sources, monetization strategies and others characteristics. Apps from both official National Weather Services Apps and other Weather Services are included in the study, highlighting the features of the most popular, high rated and interesting ones. We also analyzed different trends that are being incorporated in diverse smartphone′s applications such as crowdsourcing, understood in this context as some kind of collaborative implicit or explicit user contribution to improve a particular functionality. The data collection from different user′s smartphones can be passive (even totally implicit) with citizen′s equipment automatically submitting data without any specific user action. Or can be explicit and active, with different degree on participation in the data acquisition/measurement process, with participants following a formal procedure. In a world with billions of connected mobile phones, the Apps with some degree of participatory-sensing pose plenty of challenges and opportunities for weather and big data business.