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Mobile phone based Emergency Help System for Sri Lanka

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Important information is needed when stranded. For example, it may be the contact details of the closest doctor to treat the passenger who has suddenly developed chest pains while travelling or it may be to get the contact details of the closest mechanic to start a stalled vehicle in a remote place in Sri Lanka in the middle of the night. We have developed such a system in MobileHelp. This system has been developed for the degree of Master of Computer Science in University of Colombo School of Computing under supervision of Mr. M.K. Silva as the supervisor of the system. MobileHelp has been successfully developed and has much potential to be implemented in Sri Lanka.

MobileHelp system was designed in three stages. The first stage was the MobileHelp application which runs on the mobile phone. This application was developed using Java 2 Micro Edition (J2ME) platform. The second stage was SMS and map communication between user of the system and the server. To send and receive SMSs and maps, GSM/GPRS modems is first connected to the computer and then AT commands are used to instruct the GSM/GPRS modems to send and receive SMS message and map. Final stage was the MobileHelp database which is implemented using MySQL Server.

The developed MobileHelp system can be successfully used to obtain contact numbers of the nearest motor mechanics, police stations, hospitals, pharmacies, laboratories and doctors with maps showing directions to them. The system also provides emergency telephone numbers of the fire brigade, bomb disposal squad and ambulance services etc. while also indicating the nearest ATM locations and the fuel stations.

The system has been successfully tested on a Java-based mobile phone. At present the MobileHelp application is deployed on the mobile phone using Bluetooth technology but in future, a web site could be easily developed to download this application to the mobile phone from anywhere in Sri Lanka. All mobile phone users in Sri Lanka could benefit from this system.

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