What technologies do the frontline protestors in Hong Kong use?

Understanding the Value of Technologies in Politics
CALD, Taipei
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Content

- Umbrella Movement
- Anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill (ELAB) Movement

Umbrella Movement

- Leaders based movement
  - Umbrella Trio vs Student leaders
- Stay at fixed locations: Admiralty, Mongkok & Causeway Bay
- Tools used
  - Facebook
  - HKGolden – Discussion Forum
    - Based in HK
    - Surrender upon court warrants
    - Easily infiltrated by opposite camp
    - Insecure
- Result
  - Demands NOT accepted
  - Leaders jailed

Umbrella Movement

Umbrella Movement

Anti-ELAB Movement

Prepared by Office of CK Sin

Anti-ELAB Movement

- Leaderless movement
  - Brothers climb the mountains according to your own ability 兄弟爬山各自努力
  - Some could not afford being arrested but they can do something less risky
- Without dedicated locations for occupation and remain anonymous avoiding unfair prosecution
- Tools used
  - LIHKG 連登
  - Telegram
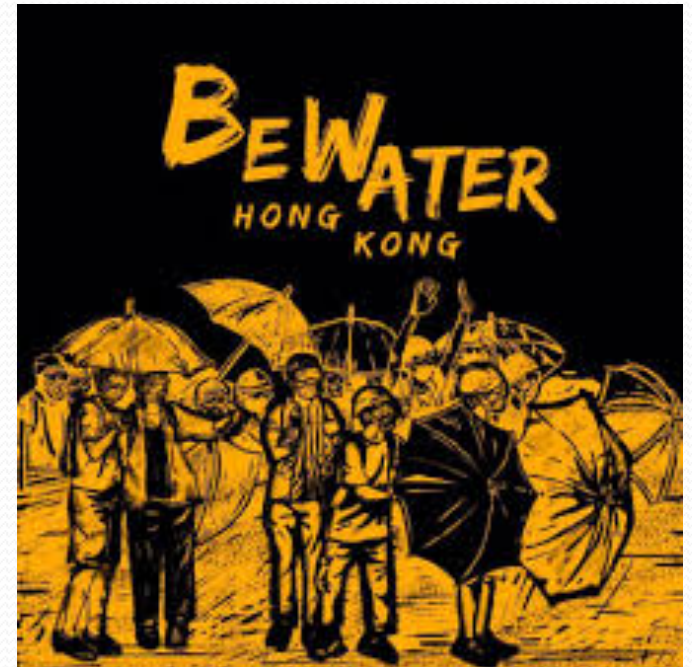 - Crowdfunding
  - HKmap

"Empty Your Mind.
Be Formless, Shapeless
Like Water.
You Put Water Into a Cup,
It Becomes the Cup.
Put it in a Teapot,
It Becomes the Teapot.
Water Can Flow
Or Creep or Drip or Crash.
Be Water My Friend."

- Bruce Lee

ThinkNice
Interesting Stuff to Brighten Your Day

Anti-ELAB Movement

- Learn the lesson of Umbrella Movement
  - Staying at one place is risky and resources demanding
  - Back home after demonstrations to reduce the chance of being arrested
  - Move like water: unpredictable

LIHKG

- https://lihkg.com/category/1
- Founded in 2016
  - Originally a third-party app for accessing Golden
  - Later barred and became an independent forum
- Membership restricted to those with an email address of a Hong Kong ISP or a higher educational institution in Hong Kong
- Open to public for reading
- Restricted to members for posting

LIHKG

- For discussing strategies
  - Ideas with strong support become hot topics
- Leaderless Vs Decentralized leaders
- Key Opinion Leaders Groups
- Anonymous
  - Avoid being arrested

LIHKG – Importance in the Movement

- Allow discussion and "voting" on strategies and ideas
  - Popular strategies become hot topics, meaning with public support
  - Popular ideas developed into separate campaigns: advertisement campaign, help to frontline protestors
- Self-correction mechanism: poor acts were criticized and activists quickly responded
- US based behind Cloudflare
  - Cloudflare – sustain national class DDOS attack
  - US based – no enforceable warrants by Court

Telegram

Whatsapp	Telegram
Owned by Facebook	Founded by Russian but banned by Russian Government
No Channel	Channel for reading allows unlimited subscribers
Group for discussion allows up to 256 members	Group for discussion allows up to 200,000 members
Desktop version	Desktop version

Telegram

- Channel
  - For information dissemination only
  - Hundreds of thousands viewers
- Group
  - Could be open or closed group
  - Update information, exchange details on how and where they should protest, as well as request additional supplies.
  - Some groups had tens of thousands of members
  - Dedicated groups for each event

Prepared by Office of CK Sin

Telegram – Importance in the Movement

- Not popular in HK before
- Allow anonymous communications and discussions
  - No need to disclose telephone numbers
- Wide range of information and coordination
  - Instant police deployment, public transport, promotional materials, intelligence such as car plate numbers of suspected police cars, and on-site situation
  - Voluntary "parents" giving rides to protesters back home, provide accommodation and financial assistance to those in need

Other Messaging Technologies

- AirDrop Broadcast
  - Send promotional graphics on crowded places anonymously
  - Help access to those not on LIHKG and Telegram but having an iPhone
- Peer to peer Mesh Broadcast
- App Bridgefy

Crowd-Funding

- Various Crowd-Funding Activities
  - advertisement campaign during G20 and Oct 1
  - Funding online media – provide resources for live broadcast by online media
  - For supporting legal and medical expenditure of citizens (612 Humanitarian Relief Fund)
  - For trips to overseas promotions by universities' students and Demosisto
  - For making a documentary
  - For making status

GoGetFunding

FUND SOMEONE   START FUNDRAISING

香港被送中誓要成G20話題 眾籌《金融時報》及日德法英等各國報章頭版公開信 Hong Kong G20 Open Letter Initiative: Make the Anti-Extradition Bill an Issue for the G20 Summit! Crowdfunding Campaign for a Front-Page Open Letter Advertisement on the Financial Times and Other International Newspapers

Fundraising campaign by **Freedom Hongkonger**

| Story | Updates 4 | Backers & Comments 22131 | Followers 11610 |

Compilation of Reporters being attacked by the Hon...
Watch later   Share

22067
Backers

HK$5,484,799
Donated of $3,000,000.00

G20 Advertising Campaign
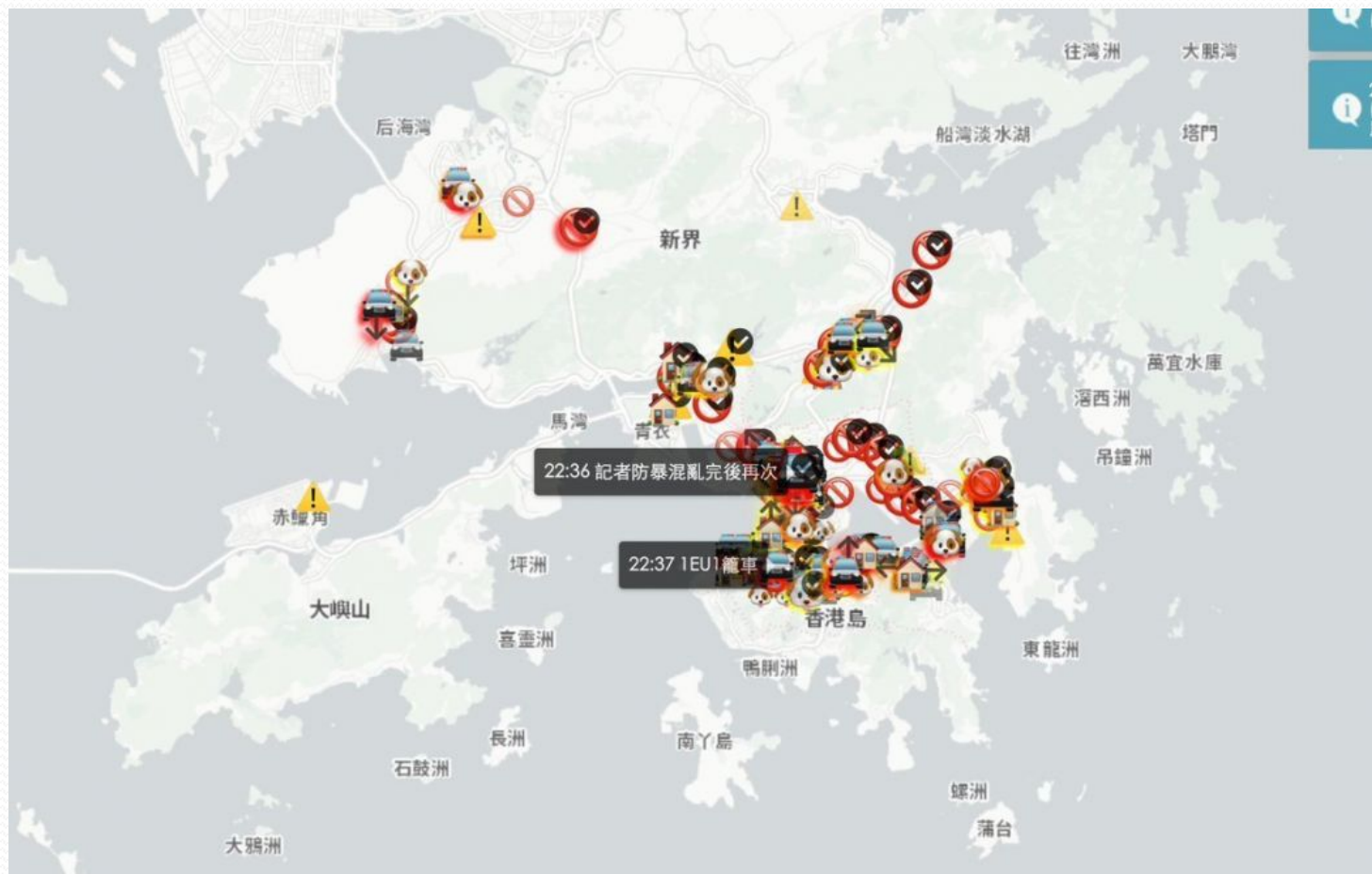
Hong Kong Free Press

612 Humanitarian Relief Fund

Crowd-Funding – importance in the Movement

- Online Media
  - Allow them to have resources for doing live broadcast
    - StandNews, Hong Kong Free Press
  - Counter lies told by the Police and the Govt
- 612 Fund
  - Overcome the difficulties for protestors to bear the full financial consequences of protesting
- Advertisement campaign
  - Allow people in the world to know what have happened

HKMap.Live

HKMap.live

- https://hkmap.live/
- Show live locations of police deployment and streets closures during ongoing pro-democracy protests
- Apple's action
  - Apple initially [rejected](https://hkmap.live/) HKmap.live from the App Store earlier this month, then [reversed](https://hkmap.live/) its decision a few days later. Now it has reversed its reversal.

Apple Statement

- *"We created the App Store to be a safe and trusted place to discover apps. We have learned that an app, HKmap.live, has been used in ways that endanger law enforcement and residents in Hong Kong. Many concerned customers in Hong Kong have contacted us about this app and we immediately began investigating it. The app displays police locations and we have verified with the Hong Kong Cybersecurity and Technology Crime Bureau that the app has been used to target and ambush police, threaten public safety, and criminals have used it to victimize residents in areas where they know there is no law enforcement. This app violates our guidelines and local laws, and we have removed it from the App Store."*

Others

- People collect information about restaurants supporting the movement, and invite more people to visit them
  - https://www.facebook.com/whatsgaphk/
  - https://www.leungsumshops.com/
  - https://www.restart-hk.com/ShopList.html
  - https://www.instagram.com/goodwest_standwithhk/

Importance

- Allow users to know the political stands of shops especially restaurants: some people do not want to visit those pro-establishment shops
- Supporters increase visiting restaurants supporting the movement

Rumor of Ban of LIHKG & Telegram

- Rumors that HK Govt wanted to ban LIHKG & Telegram through Emergence Regulation Ordinance
  - The two seen as main tools for protestors to coordinate
- Not possible technically
  - LIHKG behind Cloudflare
    - Many other applications are behind Cloudfalre too
  - Telegram
    - Cloud at Google and Amazon
    - Russia had tried but failed

Rumor of ban of LIHKG & Telegram

- Even if the Govt risk to ban LIHKG and Telegram, together with other innocent sites, users can still get around it by using VPN
- Not possible to ban VPN in Hong Kong or it is the end of the financial hub

Lesson learnt

- In places where internet access is still available, proper use of internet tools helps a lot

  - Get around controlled media
  - Disclose truth against dictators' will

- Need to first ensure IT literacy

  - Hong Kong has one of the highest penetration of mobile services

- Then, when time comes...

Thank you

- Photos from Internet