SMS Conversation Explorer

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Early Ideas

News Stories.
D3 Vis Annotation Library.
Behavioral Change.
Sports: Player/Team Performance.
Refined Map Interactions.
Armed Conflict Deaths/Locations.
But then we thought...
...texting?
TEXTING!
Why are SMS texts interesting?
Because...

privacy +
portability +
low friction +
certain collegiate activities =
MANY FREAKISHLY HONEST MESSAGES
Our Goal

Allow SMS users to explore their own message history.

Haystack (Big Picture) & Needle (Individual Messages)
Sketches
Concept UI

SMS Activity by Area Code

This visualization shows the number of messages you have exchanged with phone numbers in each Area Code of the United States. The darker an area is, the more messages you have exchanged with phone numbers in that area code.

Scroll upward or downward to zoom in or out on the map, respectively.

Click and drag to move the map around.

Click particular areas to select them and hide contributions from all other areas.

Timeline (Select a Range)

Monday, November 26, 12
Some Tricky Parts

• Get users’ SMS data into the webapp
  – Already have a script to do it for iPhone, but user must run it locally
  – Use FB messages instead?

• Show multiple visualizations at once
  – Should we allow this?

• Prevent user from feeling overwhelmed with options
Questions?