



WHITHERVANE:

a neurotic, early worrying system

<http://rootoftwo.com/>

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WEATHERVANES

A weathervane is often considered a nostalgia object, bringing with it connotations of a simpler time. With Whithervane we want to bring the weathervane into the 21st Century in a way that asks visitors to consider the role that fear plays in how we perceive the here and now and the future.



Whithervane: a neurotic, early worrying system

5 networked, 21st Century
weathervanes – headless chickens
that rotate away from fear hotspots.

These 21st Century weathervanes
are controlled by the climate of fear
on the Internet. They will be
presented on the highest points of
five buildings.



CHICKEN LICKEN (OR CHICKEN LITTLE)

A folk tale with a moral in the form of a cumulative tale about a chicken who believes the sky is falling when an acorn falls on its head.

The chick decides to tell the King and on its journey meets other animals (mostly other fowl) which join it in the quest.

A Fox invites them to shelter in its lair and eats them all.

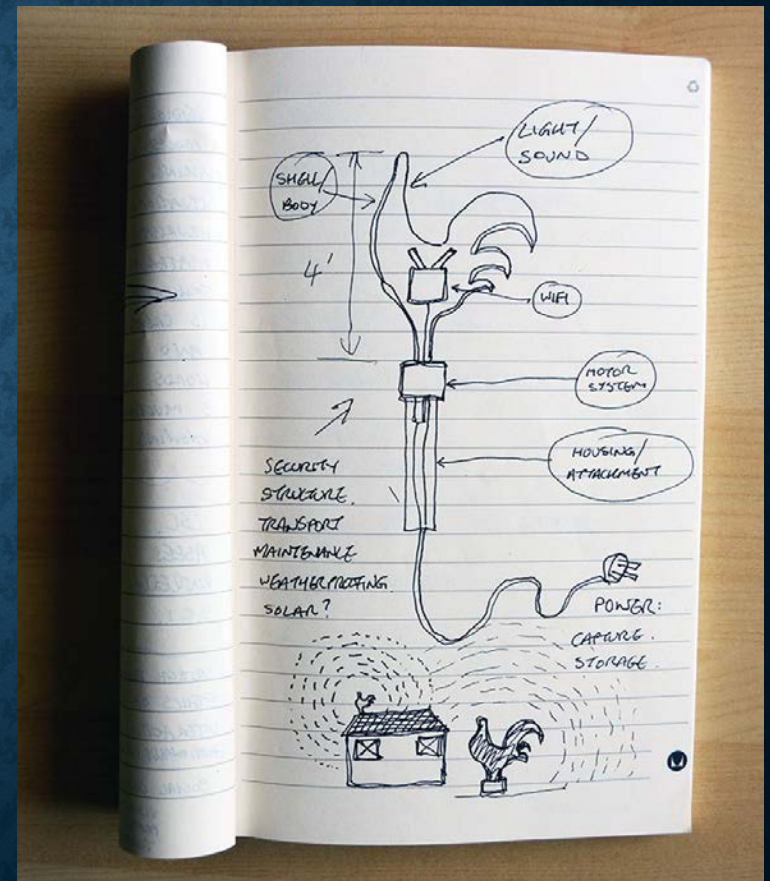
Chicken Licken thought that the sky was falling down. So he ran off to tell the King.



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The project consists of three major parts:

- the acquisition and interpretation of data
- translating that data into a desired behavior
- and the implementation of that behavior through mechanical and electrical systems in a weatherized, high endurance, cute and funny package.



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The Whithervanes parse newsfeeds looking for predetermined keywords related to fear (e.g. natural disaster, economic collapse, war, immigration, etc.)

When fear is encountered the chickens respond by rotating away at increasing speeds from fear hotspots and illuminating different colors triggered by specific levels of fear.

**“THE SKY IS
FALLING...”**



**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER
MEDIA MONITORING CAPABILITY
DESKTOP REFERENCE BINDER - 2011**

“This is a current list of terms
that will be used by the NOC
when monitoring social
media sites”

**Domestic
Security**

Assassination
National preparedness
Dirty bomb
Militia
Shooting
Lockdown
Bomb



**Weather/Disaster/
Emergency**

Erosion
Power outage
Brown out
Warning
Watch
Lightening (sic)
Twister

<http://feeds.reuters.com/reuters/worldNews?format=xml>

<p>

BAGHDAD

“(Reuters) - An Iraqi electoral official was **killed** in a roadside **bombing** on Thursday, police said, as two Sunni Muslim-dominated provinces went to the polls under tight security.”

</p>

feedparser

feedparser is a Python library that parses feeds in all known formats, including Atom, RSS, and RDF.

<https://code.google.com/p/feedparser/>

geo.py

geo.py makes it easy for developers to locate the coordinates of addresses, cities, countries, and landmarks across the globe using third-party geocoders and other data sources, such as wikis.

geo.py currently includes support for six geocoders: Google Maps, Yahoo! Maps, Windows Local Live (Virtual Earth), geocoder.us, GeoNames, MediaWiki pages (with the GIS extension), and Semantic MediaWiki pages

<https://code.google.com/p/geopy/>


```
webide@raspberrypi /usr/share/adafruit/webide/repositories/my-pi-projects/Whithervane $ sudo
python combined.py
Folkestone, Kent, UK
51.081397
1.169456
-----
ENTRY:
1
Beirut, Lebanon: 33.88863, 35.49548
BEARING: 26

DISTANCE(miles):
2087.92869492

MILD MATCHES:
1
STRONG MATCHES:
1
0.131308674971

TITLE:
Syria and Iran condemn U.S. plan to aid anti-Assad rebels

DESCRIPTION:
Syria and Iran joined forces on Saturday to condemn moves by Western powers to aid rebels
fighters for President Bashar al-Assad, with the Syrian leader singling out Britain as a
"shallow and immature" power
```

THREAT LEVEL

Level of fear

Distance from danger

Output as stepper motor pulse

+

RGB color value for LEDs

-
- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strength and frequency of keyword matches• 'Ambient' Item of Interest (IOI) Severity Level• User Input | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bearing• Rate of rate of change• Rotational velocity• Duration of rotation• Color |
|--|---|

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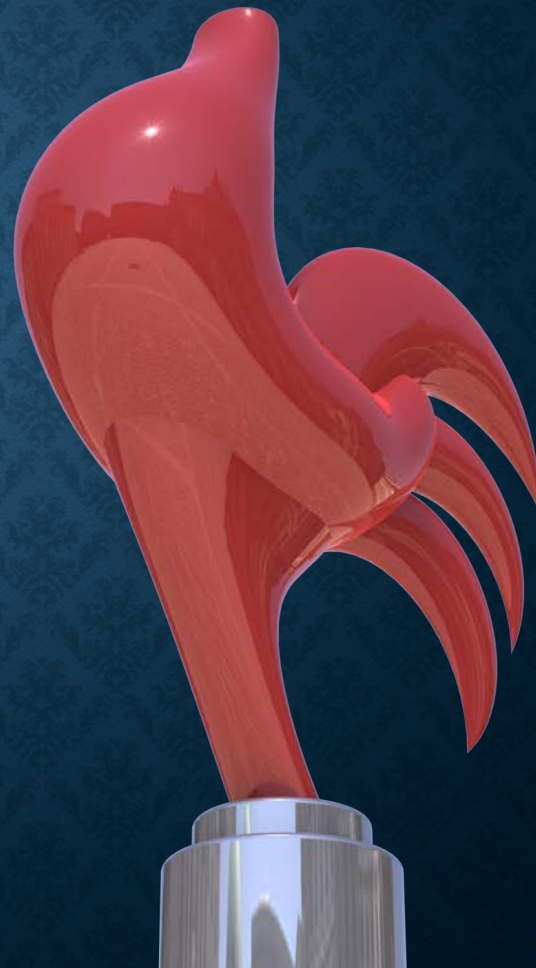
Whithervane illumination consists of five
color-coded fear levels:

- **Severe (red)**
- **High (orange)**
- **Elevated (yellow)**
- **Guarded (blue)**
- **Low (green)**



Item of Interest (IOI) Severity Level

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Worrying System
(N.E.W.S.)



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The public can influence the individual Whithervanes by interacting with them via a smartphone app or Twitter. They can add to the escalation of fear or attempt to counteract it by sending the messages:

“The sky is falling!” or “Keep Calm and Carry On.”

I’m hand-waving – NEED HELP HERE!

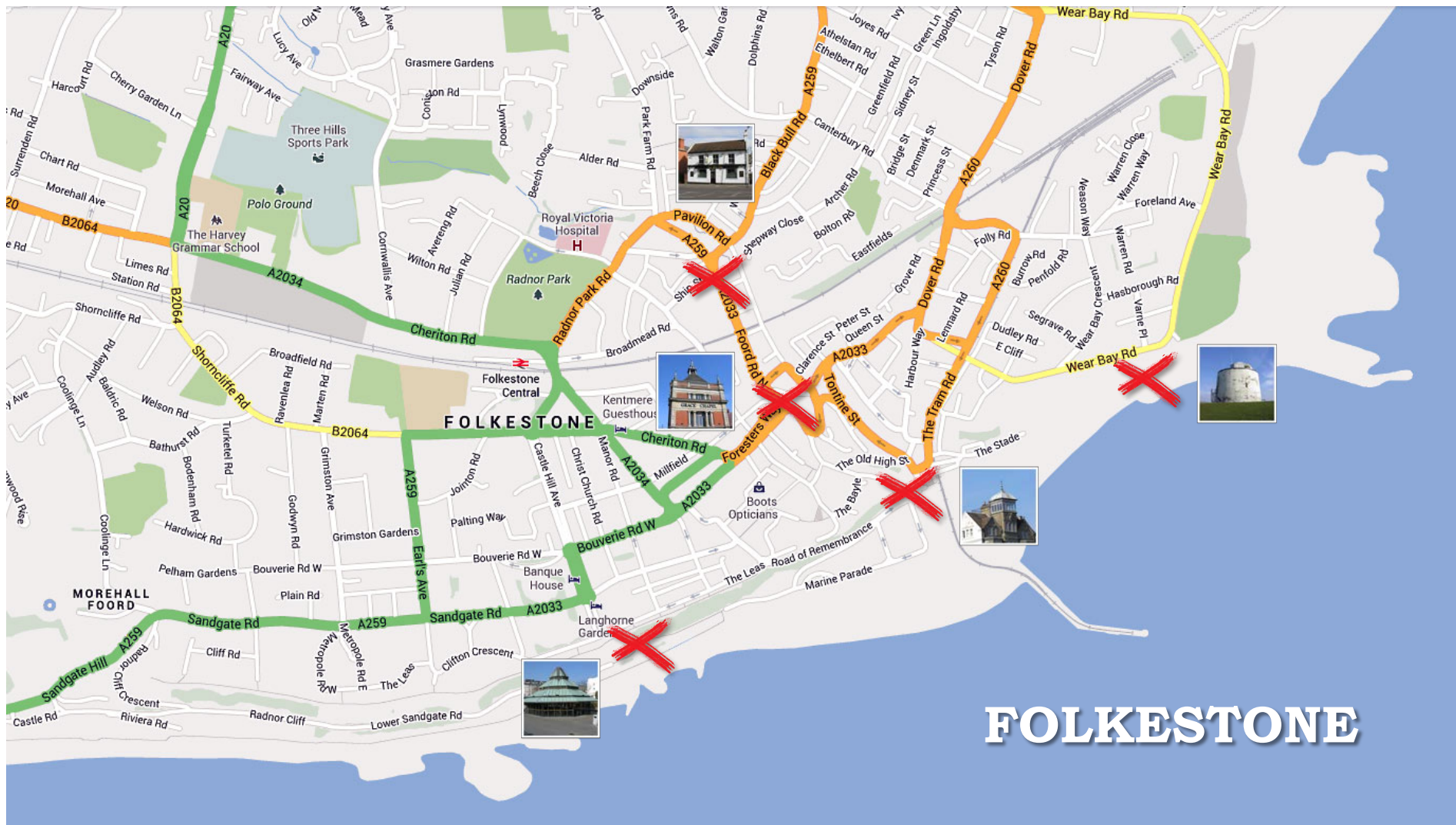




**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON***

* OR RUN AROUND LIKE A HEADLESS CHICKEN





FOLKESTONE





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rootoftwo is one word, all lowercase, with no spaces.

Alternatively, you can spell it:

1.41421356237309504880168872420969807856967187537694807317667973799...