

# HOW DO WE COLLECT INFORMATION?

Sometimes we need information to help us take the right decisions and carry out tasks successfully. But, how do we obtain the information in the first place?

## THE FIRST CENSUS

One ancient example of information gathering is the first census dating back to the Babylonians in 4000 BC.

They used a census as an essential guide to know **how much food they needed** to find for each member of the population.



## PRE-DIGITAL ERA

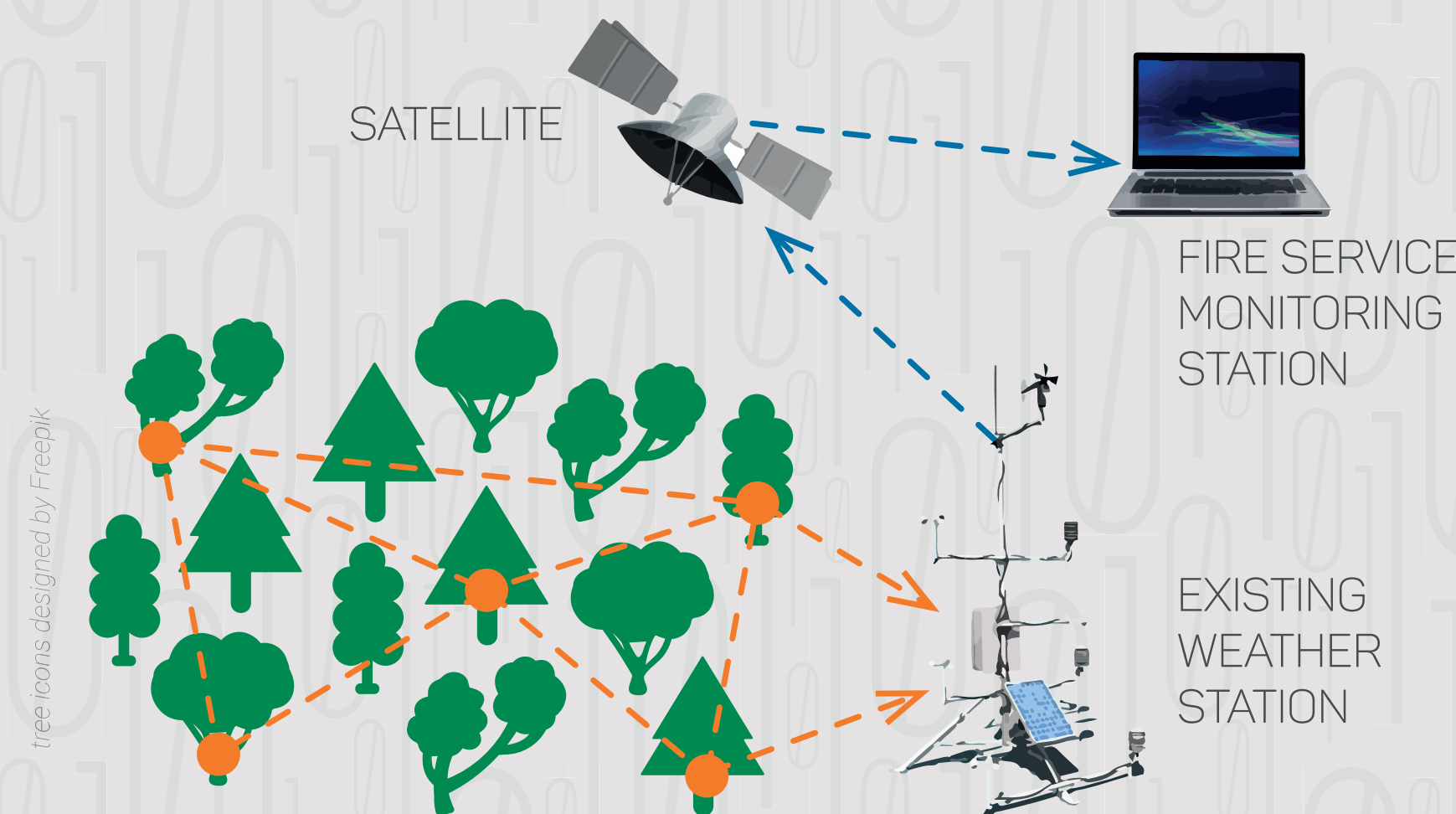


<http://imageweb.cdn.magicalsoft.net/corbis/supersize/42-2004/416.jpg>

- Information was collected **by hand**
- Prone to **human errors** when gathering, copying or analyzing the data
- Merging data from several distant sources incurred **significant delay** due to transport of paper notes or analog telecommunications
- Analyzing lots of data was a **complex and long process**

## WIRELESS SENSOR NETWORKS

- Nowadays, we can **automate** the process of collecting information with **electronic devices**.
- A wireless sensor network, for example, is comprised of multiple devices that send measurements to a central control unit.



*Temperature sensors in a forest could help prevent fires.*

*Seismic sensors located on an active volcano may help predict eruptions.*

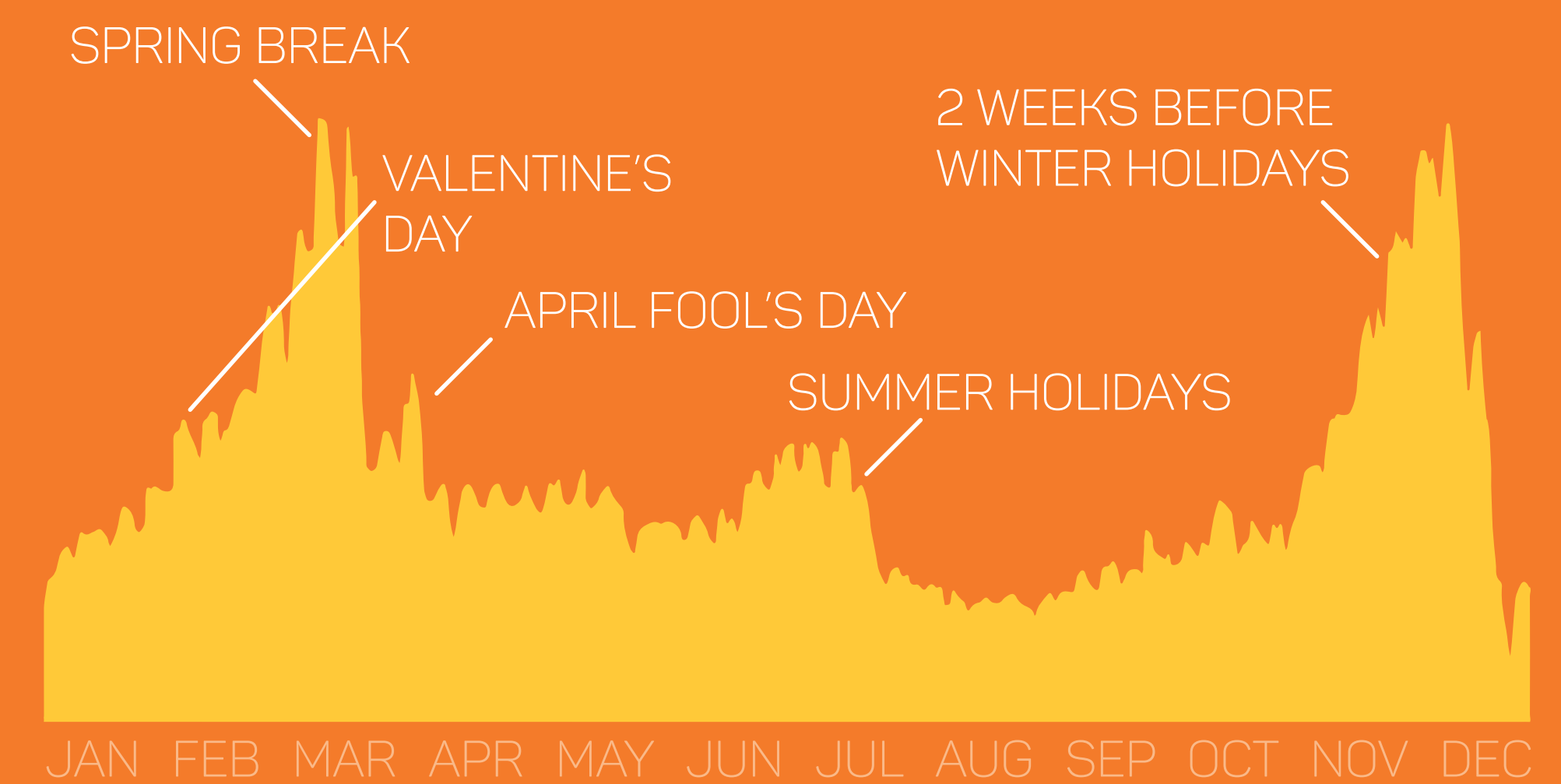


## NASA - RADAR WAVES

In the next mission, the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter will seek liquid or frozen water in the first few hundreds of feet of Mars' crust. It will probe the subsurface using radar waves using a 15-25 megahertz frequency band in order to get the desired high-depth resolution.

## INTERNET

- There is a lot of available information on the Internet
- Social networks are also a source of abundant data for **social analysis**.



JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

*Peak break-up times according to Facebook status updates*

## ANTENNA ARRAYS

By **mixing signals** from a cluster of comparatively **small telescopes** rather than a single very expensive monolithic telescope, astronomical interferometers achieve high-resolution observations.



<http://www.scientificamerican.com/blog/technology/2012/07/radio-telescopes-as-rarely/>

## SMART METERS

A smart meter is an electronic device that records electricity consumption in time and sends this information back to the utility provider for monitoring and billing.

## WHAT IS NEXT?

- Use of sensors for monitoring different aspects of human life
- **Smart houses** with sensors in every appliance
- Body wireless sensor networks for **healthcare monitoring**



<https://communitynews.victoriafiles.wordpress.com/2015/06/digital-media.jpg>

## BIG DATA

- How will we store the amounts of information we collect in the future?  
Today, within **the last 200 seconds** this is what happened on social medias:

1 140 000 Tweets	77 200 Hours Watched	2 314 800 Files Uploaded	462 800 Hours Watched
1 620 400 Messages Sent	43 981 400 Messages Sent	10 995 200 New Posts	138 800 Picture Uploaded

... and more than **4 500 000 GB** of data was transferred over the internet!  
Go check the numbers in real time on <http://pennystocks.la/internet-in-real-time/>

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