Project Goals

Project Imacs is a software application that provides users with a more natural way of taking and organizing notes on their computer. Specifically, Project Imacs will provide users with an end-to-end solution for note taking, note management, and searching across notes. Existing solutions for note taking and management rely on abstractions provided by the underlying operating system's file system - namely, users are forced to organize their notes hierarchically making it awkward to visualize non-linear relationships between files. Project Imacs take a different approach to organizing notes: instead of files hierarchies, the user will be presented with a graph-like interface where they will be able to create, edit, move and perform other note management tasks without worrying about the underlying file structure. Removing the notion of file hierarchies allows for a more natural note management experience as graphs better mimic natural human thought, and provides additional capabilities and visualizatinos affored by the graph.

Goals

1. Create a non-linear means of file traversal along a hierarchial file system.

Current means of file traversal requires users to think linearly. The system proposed will allow users the freedom to manage and produce cyclical or hierarchical relationships between files, categorize files, add or delete relationships between files, restructure categories of files and conduct other file management tasks quickly without worrying about the underlying structure of their data.

2. Create and edit files with text, images, and handwritten input.

The system needs to be able to accept the information the user wants to enter into it. The primary methods of input are texual input from the keyboard, as well as handwritten notes on tablet surfaces. The user also needs to be able to take screenshots of their lecture notes or scanned assignments/documents and store those in the system.

3. Provide an intuitive user experience for note-taking and file organization.

Note and file management applications often provide the user with a myriad of state altering options that often make is difficult for users to focus on completing tasks with a large collection of files such as organization. This project endeavours to reduce the amount of training a user will require to effectively manage their files by simplifying and providing the most effective human centered interfacing means by which a user intent is accomplished.

4. Allow users to search for files given graph-centric search criteria.

Applications in this category often provide limited in-file search functionality such as word match leaving users to rely on the operating system to search across their file hierarchies. This system will allow users to construct both infile search criterion in addition to providing users the ability to create custom search filters that will allow them to search through their files without exiting their application.