Project Update

by Team LegIM

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Introduction

Project: Analysis of Instant Messengers and their Evolution

Current Progress:

1. Finished the survey and conducted research on the 5 most popular IMs from the survey.
2. Finished the preliminary experiments and case studies.
3. Completed 70% of sub-reports.
4. Final Versions of Project Proposal and Ethics Document.

Main Problems:

1. Technical Issues
2. Small size of samples

Zhuoli on WeChat

Progress

- Have finished a controlled experiment over 5 groups on 3 tasks

- Almost finished the sub-report

- Have ideas about what features to include in our new IM

Problems

- Sample Bias: Only 5 groups, all Chinese
- Many features are disabled outside of China

Kush on MSN Messenger

Progress

- Data collected/analysed from survey (along with Keith and Josh)
- Research on MSN almost complete
- Proceeding to the design of a low-fidelity UI

Problems

- Survey had a few open-ended questions (solved)
- Not many resources on how MSN was developed

Keith On MOC

Progress

- Working on report
- Maintaining github repo
- Field research for UI

Problems

- No experience with the program
- Hard to find information

Josh on FB Messenger

Advantages

- Massive user base thanks to Facebook (currently 700+ million)
- Chat Heads
- Large number of features, while not cluttering the UI
- MQTT Protocol used to keep a constant connection with servers

Disadvantages

- Lack of team-driven tools
- No "tagging" like in Slack

Problems

- Lack of information on technologies Facebook Messenger uses.
- Messenger is only four years old, so it is still being updated and evolving

Adithya on WhatsApp

Progress:

- Technical details of WhatsApp is being analysed

- Ex:What happens with the server and database of whatsapp (generic) is being analysed

- Forensic analysis (research paper) of WhatsApp has revealed in depth details

Problems:

- No problems faced yet, but more literature review is needed.

Conclusion

Thanks for your help and advice!

 "Apart from this we are looking for collaboration with other teams."

We are already halfway through our project. Though we have encountered some problems in our current research, we are confident that we will make our project a success.

Please look forward to our exciting final presentation.