EECE 310 Open Source Project Report

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# The Project

We worked on RedReader, an unofficial Reddit client for Android. The various issues were split up so that we each individually worked on some issues.

The original project can be found at <https://github.com/QuantumBadger/RedReader>.

Our forked repository can be found at <https://github.com/NoNeedToBail/RedReader>.

Note: as we worked on several separate features, we will be submitting them individually to the original repo in different pull requests.

# Our Contributions

We implemented solutions to the following issues:

#168 – offline refreshing

[EXPLANATION - KEVIN]

#162 – message notifications: Dylan

This feature was more complex than anticipated, as there was nothing similar to this implemented in the app.

In the onCreate function of MainActivity, which is run when the app starts, I added a call to create an Android alarm that triggers every hour.

I then created a BroadcastReceiver that receives the alarm and checks for new messages on Reddit. It does this by making a call to Reddit’s API for unread messages. Once it receives them, it parses the received messages and compares the newest message to the newest message from the previous check (which is saved in system preferences storage). If the new one is different, then the user has received a new message and a notification is broadcast to the user.

When the user taps this notification, it starts the app (once again in MainActivity) and there is a check to the Intent created by the activity to find out whether it is from a new message notification. If so, the inbox is opened for the user to view the new message they received.

Finally, there is an app setting to enable/disable notifications, and I used Google Translate to provide translations for all languages supported by the application.

#159 – main menu on app open

[EXPLANATION - TANNER]

We found that several of the issues involved a lot more work than we originally anticipated, and significantly shrunk our project’s scope in order to deliver code that is high enough quality to be used by the apps 10,000+ users.

We failed to complete the following items from our proposal:

#167 – swiping comments to up/downvote

[EXPLANATION - TANNER]

#166 – support for shortlinks

[EXPLANATION - KEVIN]

#143 – browser night mode: Dylan

I was working on both this and the message notifications. I started with the message notifications, as I found it to be a more interesting and important feature, and the amount of work for it ended up being quite substantial. As a result, I dropped work on the browser night mode in favour of fleshing out the message notifications.