One-Post - Aggregating social updates to common social media websites, using open source methodologies on an android platform.

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Project description

Background

In todays age, being online is everything, and that is no longer limited to the young and hip. Of the people who have access to the internet, many of them have at least 1 account on a social website e.g. Facebook, Linked-in, Flickr. Being on one of these sites is almost a social symbol with companies coming up with new ones on a regular basis. "Keeping up with the Jones"' has left many people with accounts on several and in some cases all of these sites.

There are many different social sites available, with some offering a unique experience and others having a very similar purpose.

With Google and Facebook offering a very similar experience they are now beginning to fight for pretty much the same user base. With this overlap in functionality many users are already asking "What's the point?"

Some users are ignoring Google+ because it does the same as Facebook or because they already have "too many" accounts. Updating all of them takes too long and with not all their friends in once place its becoming hard to keep up to date with everyone.

With many of these social sites providing the same services, who can argue with the users. Some users will stick with what they know and others will try out the latest gadget.

But what if you could go to one place and update everything? What if you could have the new social experience but still keep in contact with your friends no matter what social site they use?

Proposal

One-Post aims to with one click to update the users social networks and show the content from each site in one stream. One-Post will be an Android application, that links the most popular of these social sites in one place. One-Post will take the content that the user provides and publish it to the social sites that the user frequents. With one click Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and others can be updated. One-Post will take streams from these sites, e.g. Facebook's news feed and Google+'s stream and display them in one combined stream, allowing the user to click on a post and be taken to the web page originally hosting the content, allowing the user to comment directly on the content.

One-Post could also be used for sharing photos, with single photos or albums being uploaded with One-Post doing all the hard work by putting these photos or albums to Flickr, Deviant Art, Facebook, Google+, Tumblr. One-Post could also be user to uploaded blogs and more in-depth posts to Live Journal, Reddit and or a personal web site, as well as sites like Facebook and Twitter showing a preview with a link to the full blog post.

An example of One-Post behaviour:

A One-Post user arrives at London Euston station, they are visiting friends for the weekend and are really looking forward to it, they want to let all their friends know they have arrived safe. They take a photo of them at the station and want to check into Foursquare. The user writes their status update, tagging the friends that they are meeting.

One-Post would take this information and post the users update to Facebook, Twitter and Google+. The Google+ and Facebook status update would tag the friends and the Twitter update would contain relevant #tags . One-Post would check the user in on Foursquare at London Euston station and upload the photo to that location. With one click the user will have updated 4 social networks.

Work to be tackled

One-Post will need to integrate with multiple APIs and be able to run on multiple Android driven devices. For the project I have decided that one post will integrate with Facebook, Google+, Twitter, LinkedIn, AudioBoo, Flikr, TwitPic and Wordpress. The example above does list FourSquare and this could be implemented later on, but for the project will not be included.

One-Post will have to cleverly aggregate the content to each site, based on the size and length. It will also have to access Network, sound recording, photo recording and SD capabilities on the android devices.

The project is broken down into small sections with each section generating a useful project release (see Project Deliverables). This also fits into the idea of release early and often. Each section covers a different area of the application eg text, audio and photographic. Breaking the project down like this gives a clear direction to the project.

Project deliverables

The compiled One-Post Android application will be delivered in 4 main iterations. Each iteration will add a new layer of functionality, each iteration will also be accompanied by the Source code.

- Aggregating text based updates
- Providing a searchable feed of updates
- Aggregating Audio updates
- Aggregating visual (photographic) updates

In addition to the above deliverables, core deliverables as specified in the CS394 induction lecture will also form part of the project deliverables. Other deliverables will include:

- Project requirement specification,
- Work flow plan in the form of a Gantt chart and an accompanying table listing work package details and acceptance tests.
- Design Specification
- Test Specification
- User Guide
- Maintenance schedule and Bug Report table
- Test Documentation

Initial bibliography

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