

Executive Summary

Application: Karma Tracker for Reddit

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Summary

The iOS App Store boasts many excellent Reddit clients, but none of them are very illuminating about a user's points history. As a Reddit account ages, interesting patterns may arise with regard to the account's usage history. Intervals of fervent commenting and submissions may be found, or perhaps long dry spells of Reddit participation. Existing clients simply reduce this potentially rich history into two numbers: total comment karma and total post karma.

Karma Tracker for Reddit is unique in the App Store landscape. Although not a Reddit client, except in the loosest of terms, it performs a function that none of the clients currently provide. Namely, a user's post history is gathered from Reddit and used to generate beautiful animated charts for visualization. Three main types of charts are shown:

- (1) The line chart shows the change of the account's cumulative comment and post scores over time. Although the Reddit karma algorithm is a black box and is not defined by a simple cumulative score, the displayed chart provides a reasonable portrayal of account performance over time.
- (2) The pie chart shows the number of comments and the number posts. This is a simple piece of information that is surprisingly omitted from abovementioned clients, which instead show the total points but not the number of entries used to get those points.
- (3) The bar chart shows sorted bars representing total karma from each of the account's top five subreddits. In conjunction with the pie chart, which shows the types of entries that produce karma, this chart gives insight into where specifically those entries were made.

Technical Overview

Karma Tracker for Reddit makes a chain of API calls to the Reddit API. Each call yields one 'slice' of the account's post or comment history, along with a value for the 'after' key to specify the next slice to retrieve.

After the requisite data has been received and parsed, the various different metrics are calculated for the data set and fed into charts created using the iOS Charts library. Charts support varying degrees of user interaction. For instance, the bar chart will update a label to show which subreddit bar is currently selected when the user taps on one. On the other hand, the pie chart simply animates expansion of the selected portion when the user taps on it, with no further functionality.