Twooter: Designing a Musical Expression Tool for use in Social Networks

Asmi Joshi, Greg Walsh

Design Session

. Child designers were paired with at least one adult and played with the initial prototype app
. After interaction with the app, we asked them what changes they would make to make to better suit how they express themselves
. We used "Big Pieces of Paper" where designers use a piece of paper to express their ideas
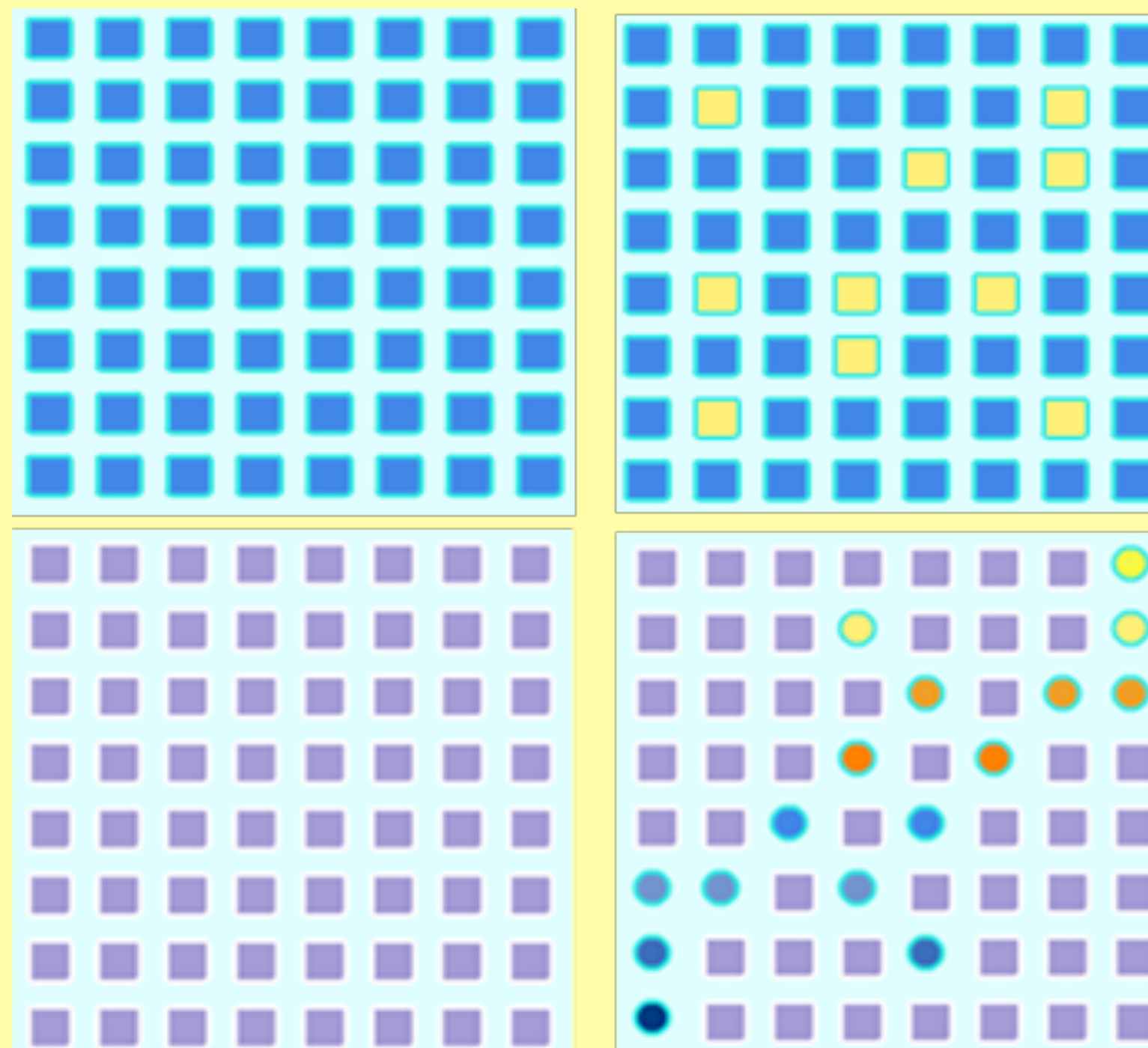
Design Ideas

Based on the design ideas from our design session we identified the common "Big Ideas":
• Changes in colour according to the emotion of the sound being played and more shapes
• Adding more sounds such as real instruments rather than just computer generated tones.
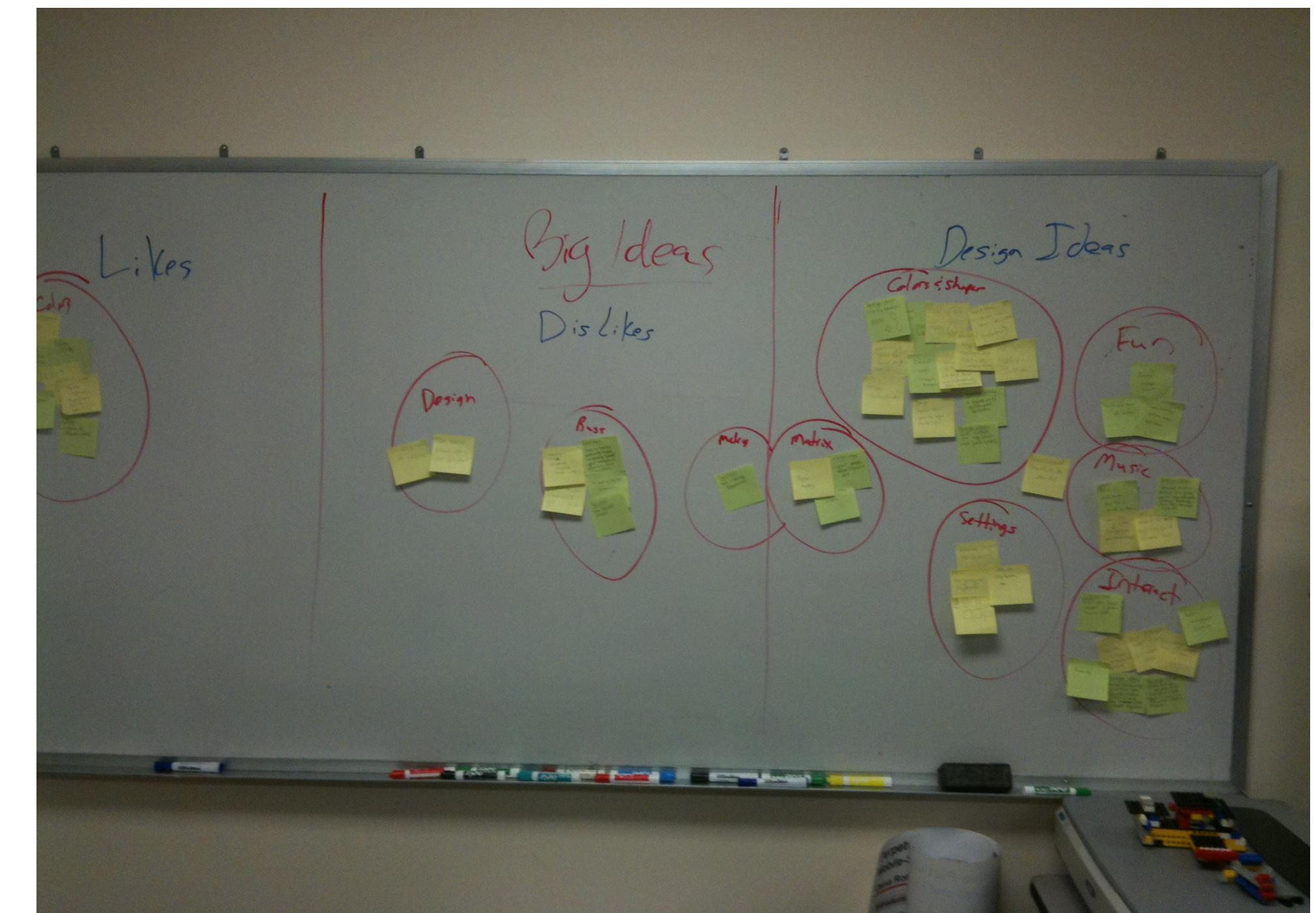
Overview

We are building a tool for non-verbal, music-based expression in an online social network. Borrowing ideas from popular social networks and influenced through recent educational endeavors by a large cultural institution, Twooter is being designed with the hope of bridging the gap between the ease of updating one's status in a profile and the difficulty in content creation. Twooter is being designed through the Cooperative Inquiry method. Adults and children are working together to design this technology for use in an online, educational environment.

Twooter

A visual musical design area where each button represents a note (each row represents the pentatonic scale). The buttons are played in a loop form left to right, with each selected button changing shape.

Free Download at
Is this part required?

. After making adjustments to the prototype, we had the design partners interact with the app again. We used a sticky note technique to gather feedback, where each group of designers provides one piece of feedback - "Like", "Dislike" or "Design Idea" which are sorted accordingly.
. The design ideas corresponded to our initial objective of this research project – combining visualisation and interaction when composing short music pieces to express feelings

Next Design Iteration

Based on our design sessions, our next prototype would have the following characteristics:
• The matrix will now be a musical design area
• It will be larger in size than the ones shown in previous iterations
• Have the ability to create more complex musical pieces