Brianna Gainley, Nick St. Pierre, Alan Estrada

brdsi Alpha Memo:

A Review of Our Project Status and Goals

Table of Contents

Goal Review

Our project brdsi aims to create a more user-friendly and feature rich version of the Twitter platform, with an emphasis on current trends and a robust filtering process that allows users to generate a highly customizable "newsfeed" of tweets and trends that they're interested in. Based on our current project status and stated goals, we believe that we are well on our way to not only fulfilling our projected features, but to incorporating even more features than we thought we would have time for.

Current vs. Projected Features

Based on our project's proposal guideline, we are well on our way to meeting all of our desired features. By the alpha release, we committed to having a fully functional front-end, with a close-to-polished final look on its own subdomain of bricreates.com. We also committed to having a functional version of Twitter's Streaming API, with access to these streaming tweets available to our app. We have successfully achieved both of these goals. Additionally, we went beyond these commitments and were able to add geolocation filtering based on WoeID or latitude and longitude coordinates, which was not supposed to be completed until the beta version of our site in a month. Beyond this, we also have the beginning version of a physical map filter, in which the user is able to click on a point on a Google Map view and retrieve the latitude and longitude coordinates directly from their map request, which in turn returns tweets from that area. Based on these early extensions of our project that have gone beyond our predicted capabilities, we believe that we will easily fulfill the rest of our commitments and potentially exceed them by the final version of our app.

Hurdles and Going Forward

When we began this project, one of our concerns was regarding the number of requests we could perform on Twitter's servers per hour – per authentication, it was only 90 requests an hour, which would have greatly limited our ability to query and keep the site live, as we intended. We were excited to find that this limitation is exactly what it sounds like – a limitation per *authentication*. This means that once we incorporate user logins, each request made under an authenticated user is a request on their behalf and not against the number of requests our site itself can make. Essentially, this means that each user will be able to make their requests as needed, greatly increasing how much data we are able to poll over all. We will begin to experiment with what this means to our app leading up to the beta and final versions.

A different hurdle we didn't consider when planning brdsi initially was how we would filter and search through tweets coming from countries with other languages. This would be difficult for the current implementation of our system, because we can only currently parse Roman characters. Due to this, we have decided that for the scope of this project, we are only going to allow queries within the United States. Not only will this streamline our parsing and filtering features, it will allow us to much more effectively create our regional mood maps since we can focus on a much more small area density.

We will generally be sticking to our proposed timeline for the next few weeks leading up to the beta release. The most pertinent item on our agenda is incorporating all of our disparate features into the front end in the next week or so, so that users may be able to experience our app as a cohesive whole next time. Because of the success we saw in meeting our goals for the alpha, we believe that we will also be able to live up to our goals for the beta, as well as potentially have time to begin incorporating some of the additional features we wanted. Our focus once our base goals are met again

will be the regional mood map, friend trends, and user analysis statistics, to show what each user is most interested in querying. We are very enthusiastic about our progress and are excited to demonstrate an even more robust system for the beta presentation.