Walkthrough

Definition of the problem to be solved

The flexibility of Internet Relay Chat has contributed to its status as one of the most influential features of the Internet. Its simplicity of use has allowed it to garner an impressive of audience of users over the many years since its conception in 1988; however, other forms of recently developed IP communications such as video chat have surpassed IRC in popularity. This solution aims to revitalise Internet Relay Chat through its provision of r.IRC, a revolutionary new IRC client with innovative features, unprecedented end user customisation and future support for third party add-on development.

Needs of the client

The 'client' in this scenario is your average Internet user, with an unparalleled thirst for new and innovative software in their never-ending quest for an improved user experience. 'Clients' require software which provides them a simple and easy-to-use interface without compromising on additional features for more advanced users.

Boundaries and scope

r.IRC aims to:

- Provide an interface for group communication via the IRC protocol
- Do so through the provision of an attractive and featured user interface

r.IRC DOES NOT aim to:

- Serve as a complete replacement of large scale official communications for businesses, organisations, and governments
- Provide a guaranteed secure medium in which users can communicate
- Facilitate the transfer of data wherein the data type is of another nature than text i.e. image, video

Outline of the method of solving the problem

r.IRC will be developed using the structured development approach, allowing for a highly refined end product as well as comprehensive documentation during each step of the process, which will aid future third party add-on development.

In order to provide users with the best possible experience whilst maintaining ease of development and deployment of future updates and add-ons, version 1.9.3 of the Ruby programming language has been selected for use in this solution. Several language frameworks will be utilised in the development of r.IRC, including Shoes, a graphical user interface framework, and Ruby-IRC, a Ruby library acting as an interface between the client software and the computer's network input/output.