Daniel Stair
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Mist Connections Site Documentation

Mist Connections is a web site designed to bring people together by allowing them to view and share location based posts with each other. Did someone appreciate that you picked up their hat for them? Maybe you'll see a post they wrote. Did you regret not asking the contact info of someone you met? Maybe Mist provides you with the chance to realize that missed opportunity. The Mist site is simple in concept but empowers you to filter the world you see into a world you have never seen.

To start using Mist, simply go to MistConnections.com. Since Google Chrome on a laptop was used to test this site, I recommend using it when possible. If you would like to run Mist locally on the CS50 Appliance, please see the file "Setup Mist on Appliance," which contains instructions for replicating the exact folder structure used, and the exact file/folder permissions used.

Mist offers users two primary functions: the ability to generate posts and the ability to view posts. We will start with creating a new post. After arriving at MistConnections.com, if you are not already logged in you will be presented with the option to "Log in with Facebook to Post." Pressing this button will bring you to the Facebook page; after correctly entering your Facebook credentials you will be brought back to the main Mist page, which offers a "New Post" button.

Press the "New Post" button. If asked if Mist can use your current location, click "allow." You are brought to a form that allows you to enter the contents of the new post. Note that the field "Display Name" has already been automatically been filled in for you using your Facebook first name and the first letter of your last name. Under "Message," enter the message you would like to post. Select a category for your posts, using "Random Thoughts" for those not easily categorized. Scroll down further, and note that a map rests at the bottom of this page and shows your current location. You may drag the marker showing your location to a different location if you would like to associate your post with a different location. Once you are satisfied with your post, press "Submit Post." If any part of your post is blank, you may see error messages and need to re-try. If all went well, you should see a page confirming successful submission. Press "Continue."

At this point, you should be back on the page with "New Post" and "View Posts" options; this time click the latter. Select a category to filter posts if desired. The site should again automatically detect your location, provided you have allowed it to do so (click "allow" if prompted about this). If you scroll down, you will again see a map with your current location marked. You may drag and drop this marker to change the location of your posts. Press "View Nearby Posts."

You should see a map with up to 10 markers, and a table of posts below it. The numbers above the markers correspond to the numbers in the table; the color of each row in the table represents a specific category. Your first name and the first letter of your last name are associated with each post; the time the post was submitted is shown; and the distance from your current location (or the location you specified) is shown. When ready to move on, press "Continue" near the top of the page.

When done using Mist, simply click "Log Out" to log out. Thanks for visiting!