

Crosshatch: A Web Application for Crossword Collaboration

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1 Motivation and Vision

When doing a crossword puzzle from a physical newspaper, it is easy for a few people to gather around and work on solving it together. This is because all of the clues are visible at once, so each person can scan around for clues they know the answer to. However, this technique for crossword collaboration does not extend well into the digital world. Most major websites that host interactive crosswords only show a small subset of clues (e.g. The LA Times [1]) at a time, forcing all collaborators to focus on the same small portion of the clues. In the authors' personal experience, this is an inferior way to collaborate on a crossword: a lot of the fun of joint crosswords is rapidly going back and forth in different areas of the grid, calling out newly discovered answers.

To solve this problem, this paper proposes Crosshatch: a web application for crossword collaboration. Crosshatch will allow multiple participants to work on the *same* crossword from their own personal devices (in a way similar to document-sharing services, but for crosswords instead of general documents). To make finding and solving crosswords easy, Crosshatch will provide access to multiple free daily crosswords from around the US (LA Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, etc.) and feature a convenient user interface for solving.

The ultimate aim of Crosshatch is to provide a crossword collaboration experience that is superior to all other online options.

1.1 Related Work

2 Proposed Work

2.1 System Architecture

2.2 Deliverables

3 Timeline

3.1 Stretch Goals and Future Work

References

- [1] LA Times. Daily Crossword. <https://www.latimes.com/games/daily-crossword>, 2015. Accessed: 2020-09-23.