

Criterion E: Evaluation

Product Evaluation

The product meets the criterion for success developed in Part A to a great extent. The essentials were met: the user has the ability to select their interest(s), a news feed is displayed based on this choice, the auto-posting process chooses and auto-generates a message with the link to the article based on the two most common topics (or random if there is not a trending topic), and it is able to post to Twitter and Facebook. I had originally intended to generate a sentiment-based message in the auto-posting window, but realized it would be extremely difficult and potentially very embarrassing for the user if the program made a mistake with a sensitive article. I decided that including a link would be enough and that human ability to determine the article's mood and write a genuine message is more reliable. In addition to the posting windows, error messages (message length or social media configuration errors) are displayed under certain conditions.

Client-requested features were met to a large extent. The user can change their interests, configuration, and frequency settings, and post an individual article. The news feed auto-refreshes (in addition to a refresh button), and in the auto-posting window it auto-checks the platform to post to. The program does not allow an article to be auto-posted twice, but does not keep the user from manually posting about an article twice. When the application is exited, the settings are saved to a file. However, it does not save the most recent articles because when the program is re-opened, these articles will be out of date and new articles will be retrieved. Encryption of this information when it is saved has not been developed yet.

Client Feedback

Overall, my client Chris Bowers was very satisfied with this product and impressed with its ability to post to twitter and Facebook. He did recommend a few additions and modifications though, including a progress bar window between the submission of settings and the opening of the home window containing the news feed, as it currently may appear to the user that the program has simply stopped running. He also suggested to include a message when credentials are saved correctly (his settings did not save when he forgot to input in one of the fields), and possibly validate those with the api's/libraries that I'm using as the credentials are being saved.

Recommendations for Further Development

There are many possible enhancements of this product, in addition to the progress bar and earlier credential check that my client suggested. One has already been mentioned- the encryption of credentials as they are saved. The current lack of encryption poses a security threat if someone came into possession of them and had the right program to access your account. This could be easily done with javax.crypto.Cipher. Another security measure could be a password requirement as the user opens this application (which has the ability to post to their social media accounts). This password could be stored in the UserSettings.txt file, and could be encrypted as well. Another enhancement could be the addition of another social media platform, such as Google+. If it were well-developed and very reliable, sentiment analysis in auto-generation of messages would be a pleasant add-on to increase the user's image as someone (a real person, and not a computer program) who is deliberately posting to their social media accounts.