BBC Box – Photo App

The BBC Box Photos App is a photo compilation service which allows the user to connect with Flickr and Instagram to display their photos securely in one place.

Installing the application

In order to install the app, the manifest file (available from the GitHub repository), needs to be uploaded to the App Store settings page.

The app will then be displayed within the App Store and can be installed in the same way as any other driver/app.

The GitHub repository is linked to Docker Hub and is configured to automatically build when the repository is updated. When the app is reinstalled, the latest version is pulled from Docker Hub.

Drivers and requirements

For the Photos app to work, the Flickr and Instagram drivers must also be installed on databox which are available here:

- Instagram Driver (https://github.com/me-box/driver-Instagram)
- Flickr Driver (https://github.com/bbc/bbc-box-flickr-driver)

How the application works

The application is installed and built within the Dockerfile, which creates a new build directory containing all the client-side code.

The application runs the server.js file at start-up which initialises the express router to point at build directory for the main user interface to be accessible. The Instagram and Flickr key value stores are read, if available, and are accessible by two end-points at /loadflickr and /loadinsta.

The React app contains three main pages, a welcome page, manage services page and gallery page. The Flickr and Instagram API can be accessed and authorised through the 'Manage services' page. Once this is complete, images from any authorised services will be available in the 'Photo Gallery'.

There is a helpers.js file in the source directory, which contains functions to send post requests to the server end-points and return relevant photo data from Instagram/Flickr.

Endpoints

/ui	Welcome page
/manage-services	Manage service page with links to Flickr and Instagram drivers
/gallery	Gallery page which displays photos, retrieved from the drivers
/loadflickr	A request can be posted to these end-points to return the value contained within the relevant KVC. For Flickr, this is an array containing the URL's of the authenticated user's images.
/loadinsta	For Instagram, this is metadata for each image containing a display_url tag which is used for displaying the image within the gallery.

Stores

The stores which are accessed in order to use this application are provided by the Flickr and Instagram drivers.

DataSourceType	flickr::photodata
DataSourceID	FlickrDataStore
Store Type	Key Value

DataSourceType	Instagram::photoData
DataSourceID	InstagramDatastore
Store Type	Key Value