StoneSoup

The best way to share information with your nearby friends.

BACKGROUND

How do people use technology to energize a physical space?
Usually: A public display
We Propose: A proactive public display
Why: Proactive displays show personalized content to nearby users

Who puts content on public displays?
Usually: A central organization
We Propose: The people
Why: People know what they want to see on the display

What content shows up on the display?
Usually: Static content
We Propose: Social media feeds
Why: Social media feeds maintain freshness of content
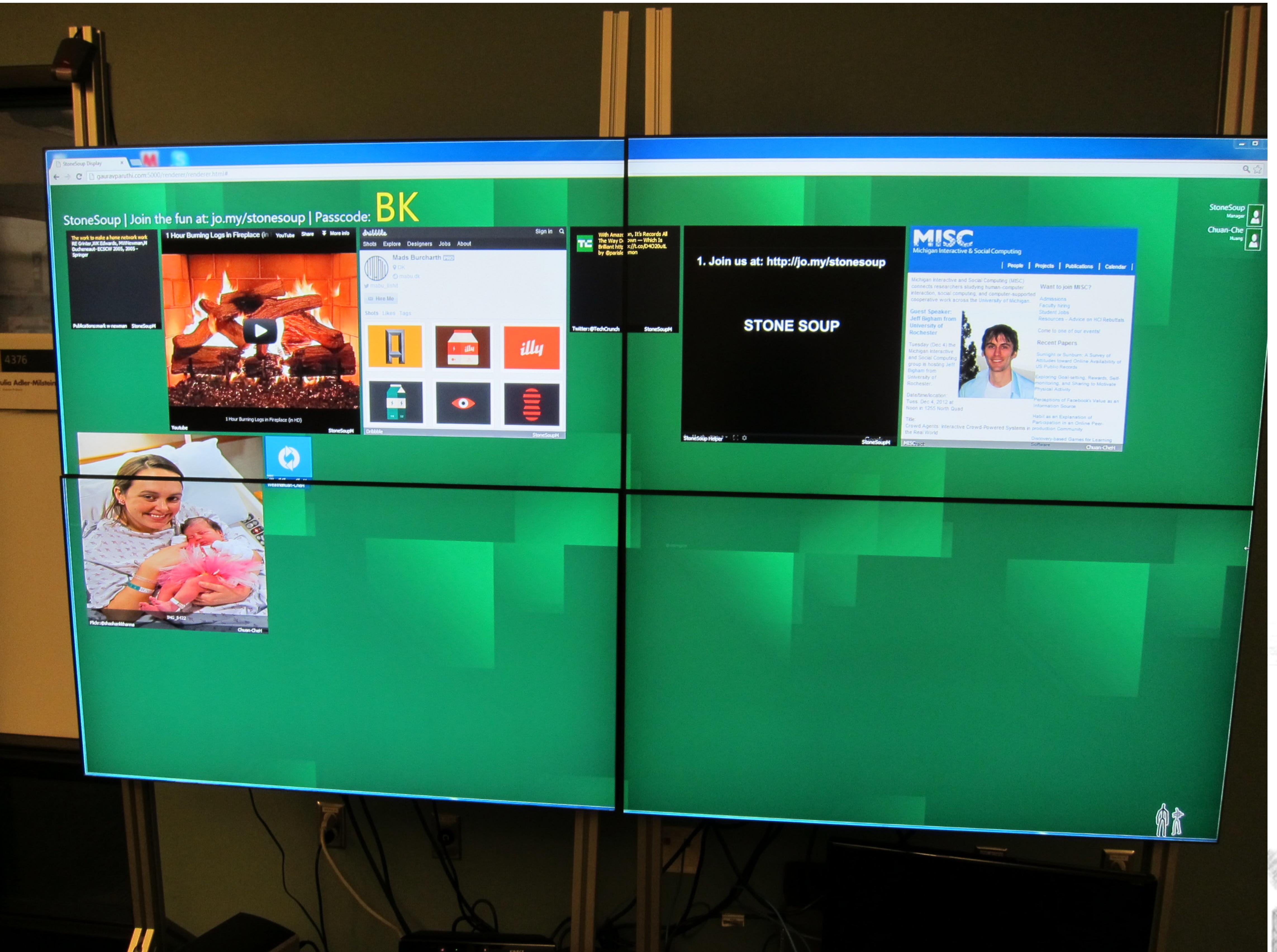
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How can we build a public display system that enables community members to collectively configure their situated information environment?

How could a community-driven public display encourage interaction and collaboration in a community?

How could social configuration mechanisms facilitate members to express themselves and contribute to the community?
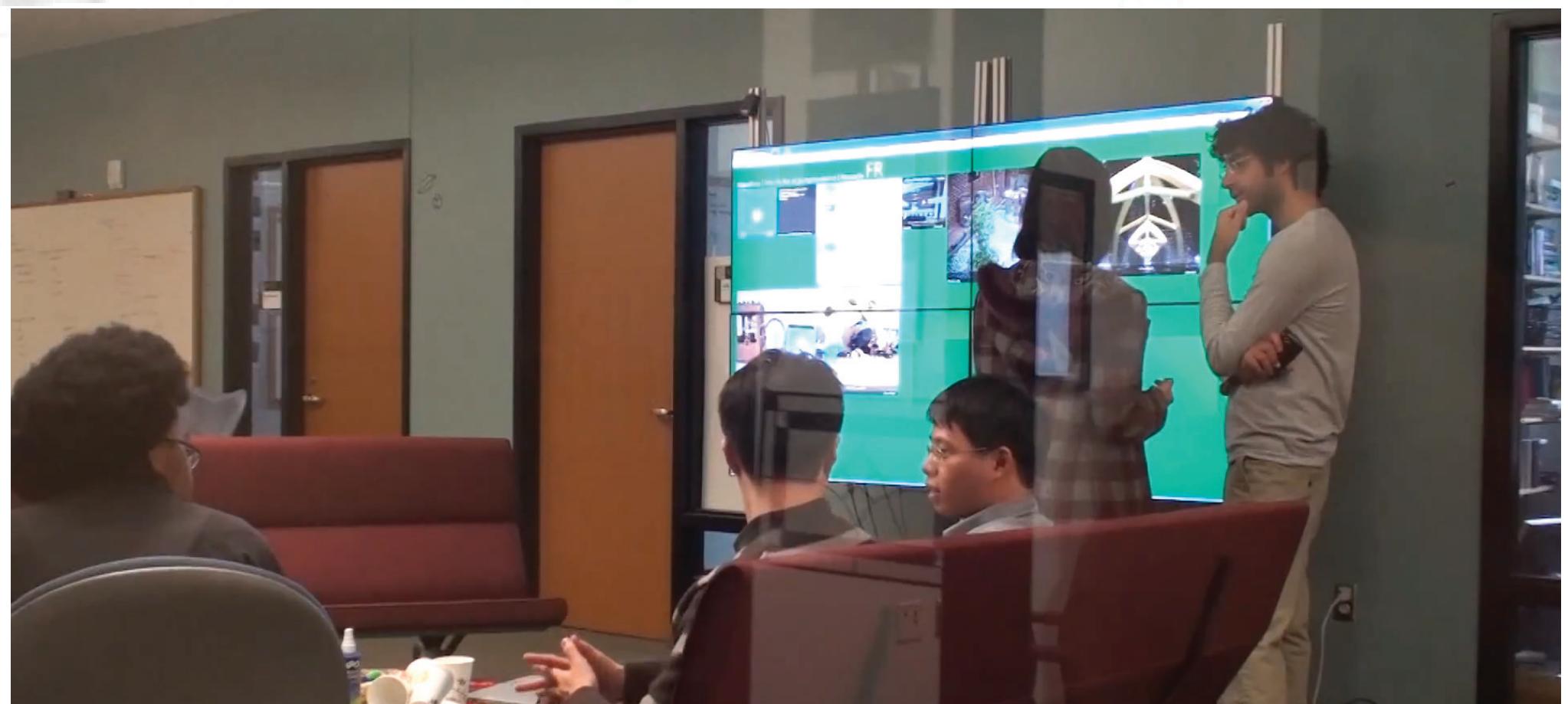
SOLUTION

We design and built a system called Stone Soup. StoneSoup aims to decentralize the control in the increasingly ubiquitous information displays to the general public and to empower end-users to be able to easily contribute, share, and exchange the digital information on the public displays around them.
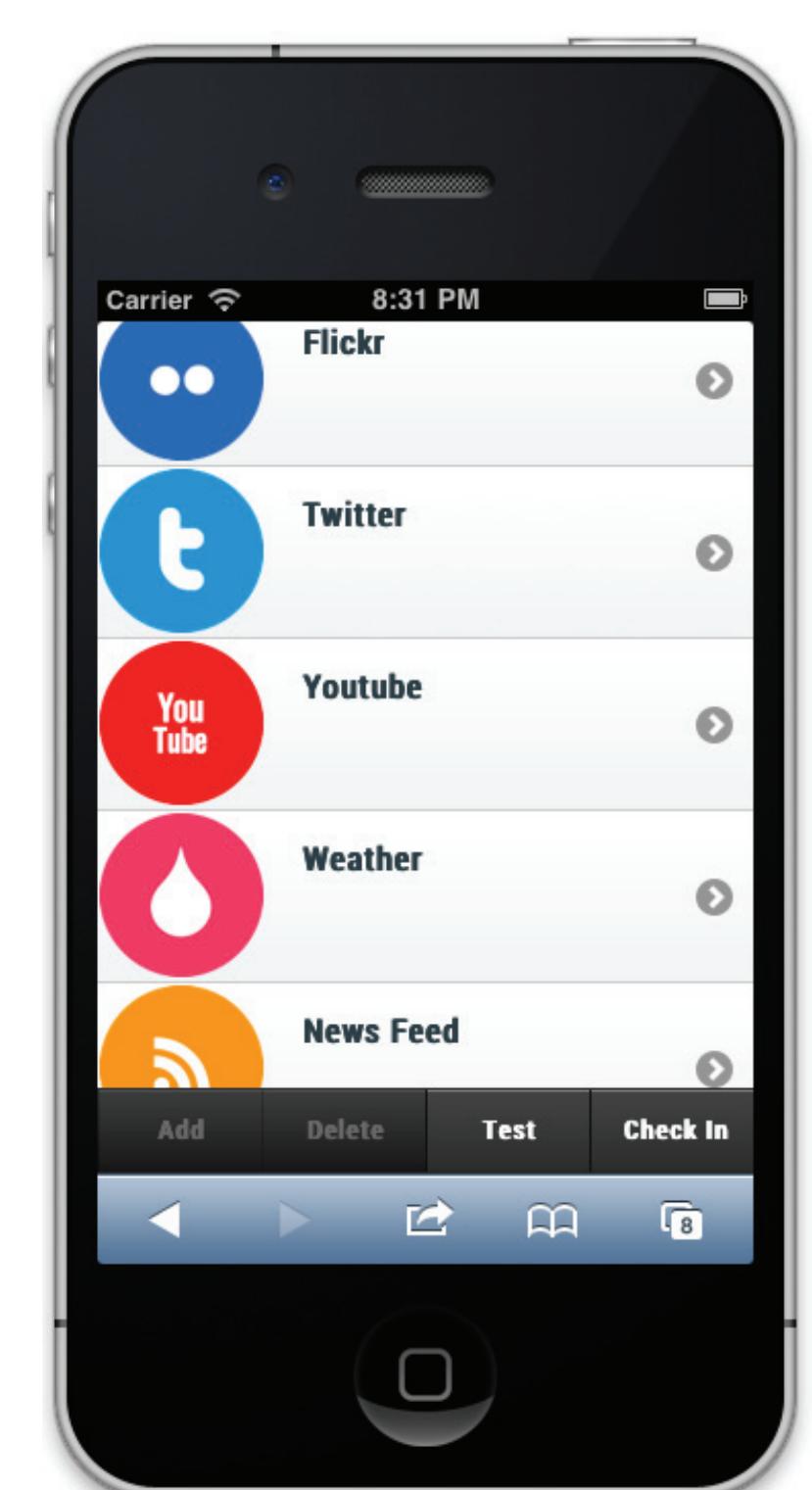

Students use StoneSoup to play a youtube video
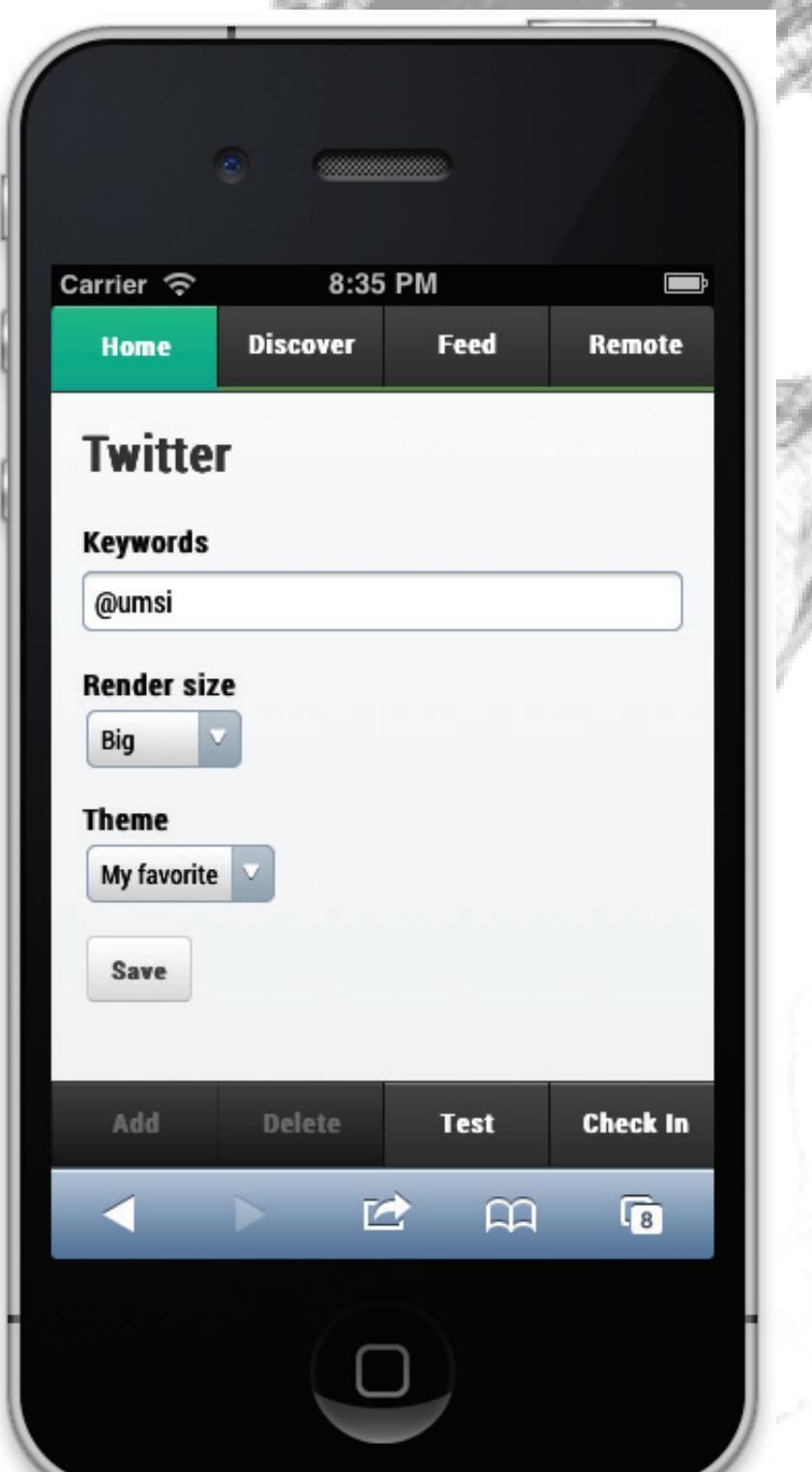
A conversation triggered by the content on the display

Content Streams

StoneSoup is designed for sharing the most interesting social media content

Social Configuration

Allows users to easily add, configure and appropriate content

The widgets are configured on multiple dimensions of content, time, layout and social context

StoneSoup continuously aggregates each user's preferences to generate the content on the display

Presence Matter

Users checkin automatically using bluetooth. They can also manually checkin using the web interface

Increases visibility of people in their community

Facilitates face-to-face communication

Realtime Interaction

Mobile Phone
–Add or change content
–Play/Pause videos
–Make widgets fullscreen

Kinect
–Swipe gestures to browse content
–Right hand "hi" gesture to freeze current frame for reading
–Left hand "hi" gesture for show the information screen

Gaurav Paruthi, Chuan-Che (Jeff) Huang, Mark W. Newman. University of Michigan. School of Information. Interaction Ecologies Group. 2013