

# **ReddPaper**

## **The Digital Newspaper**

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## **ReddPaper: An Overview**

ReddPaper is a proposed application for android-based mobile phones that uses the website Reddit's API tools to create a personalized feed of news headlines for the user. This document covers the specifics of the implementation timeline, the basic design of the final product, the features therein, and the marketing specifics of such an application.

ReddPaper's main draw will be the simplicity of its design, along with the minimalistic setup for personal tuning of news feeds. The user will be able to specify which "subreddits" (sections of the Reddit website about certain topics) they wish to receive news from, as well as preferred sources for said articles. While the application will ship with recommended subreddit and source settings, it is encouraged that the user tailor the application to their own needs.

## **The Marketing Specifics**

ReddPaper is an excellent project to back because of the already large user base Reddit has. Since Reddit has about 231 million monthly unique visits, it would be a great target for an application that offers quick access to its content. Reddit has options for on-site advertising, so marketing the application could primarily be done on the Reddit website itself. It could also be advertised by posting on the site itself and self-promoting the application.

The return on investment desired could easily be achieved through the classic method of in-application advertising, as well as a one-time fee to remove ads and possibly add more features for power-users in the future.

## **Why A Mobile App?**

A mobile application is a great choice for this project because it would emulate an actual newspaper that someone could read while eating breakfast at the living room table. No one wants to sit at a computer and eat breakfast when they can just use their mobile device at the living room table, and one of the best places to get news from around the world is Reddit. The robust nature of Reddit's API tools would allow the user to fully customize the experience to make the most of the spatial limitations of a mobile screen.

## **Basic Features**

Features ReddPaper is planned to ship with are, but not limited to:

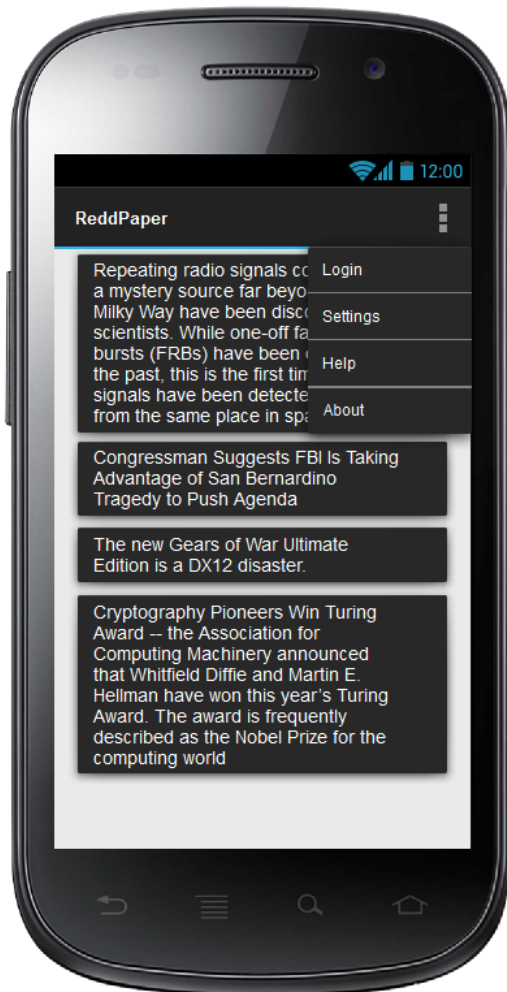
- View top news stories in a modular, minimal, text-based format.
- Allow user to select and deselect subreddit sources to pull news from.
- Allow user to set preferences for source sites (i.e. preferably pull stories from CBC.com as opposed to another news site).
- Basic login to allow the user to comment on stories.
- Tapping will open the story's source, in the appropriate application. Holding tap will allow the user to comment in-application.

## **User Base**

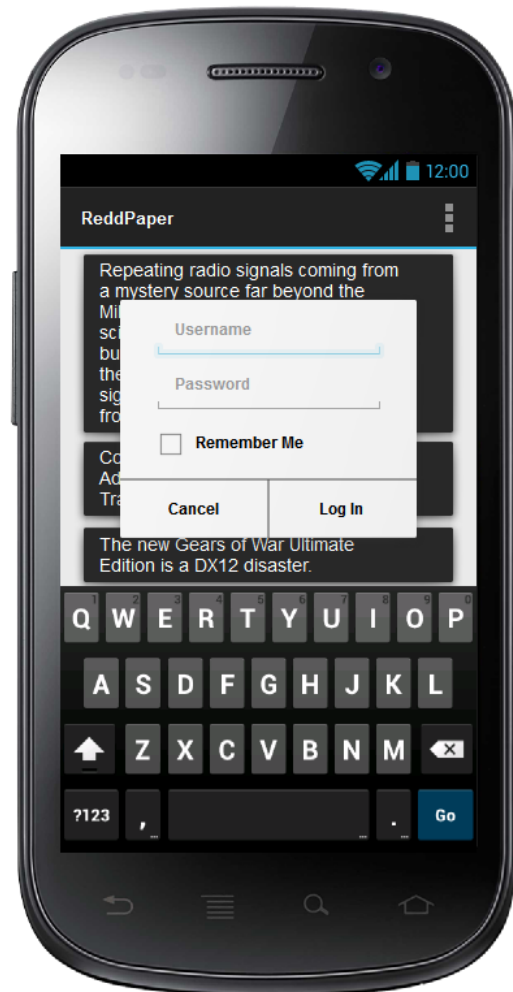
This application is aimed at the market of android users that do not have the time or patience to search through hundreds of stories on the internet to find news relevant to them, and do not want to be on a laptop or desktop while doing so. ReddPaper will have a simplistic interface that is easy to customize with features focused on showing specific information the user wants to see and from where. This will eliminate extraneous fluff from a similar mobile Reddit experience, which users would appreciate.

## The Design

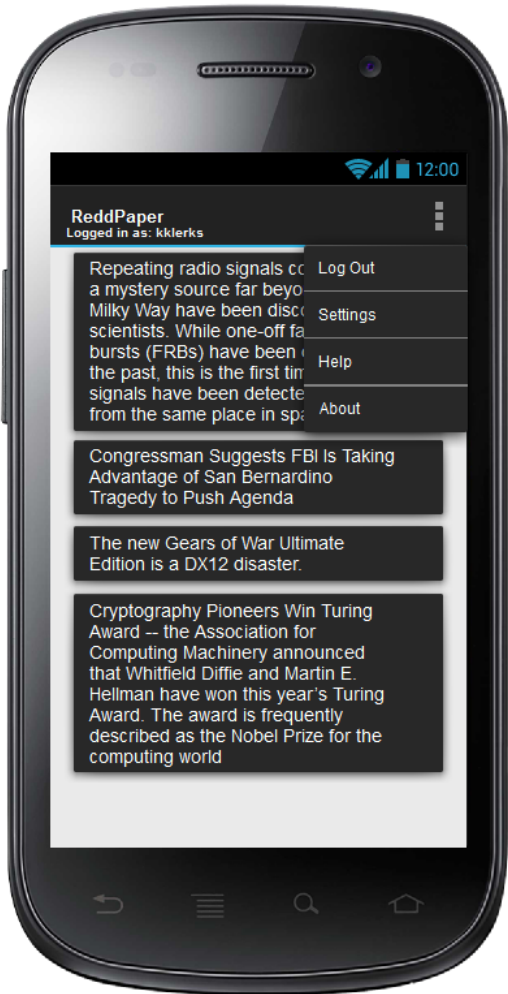
**Mock-up A1: Main Screen (Default)**



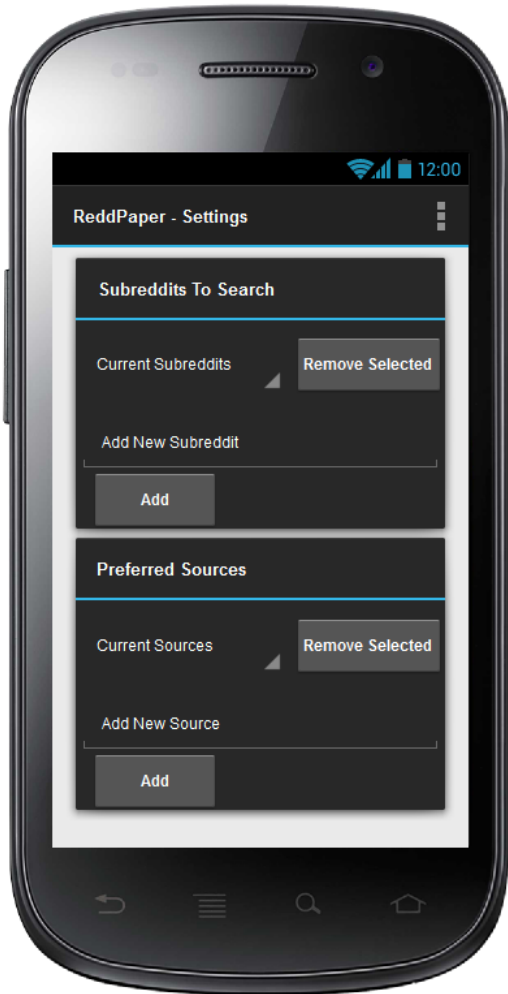
**Mock-up A2: Login Dialog Screen**



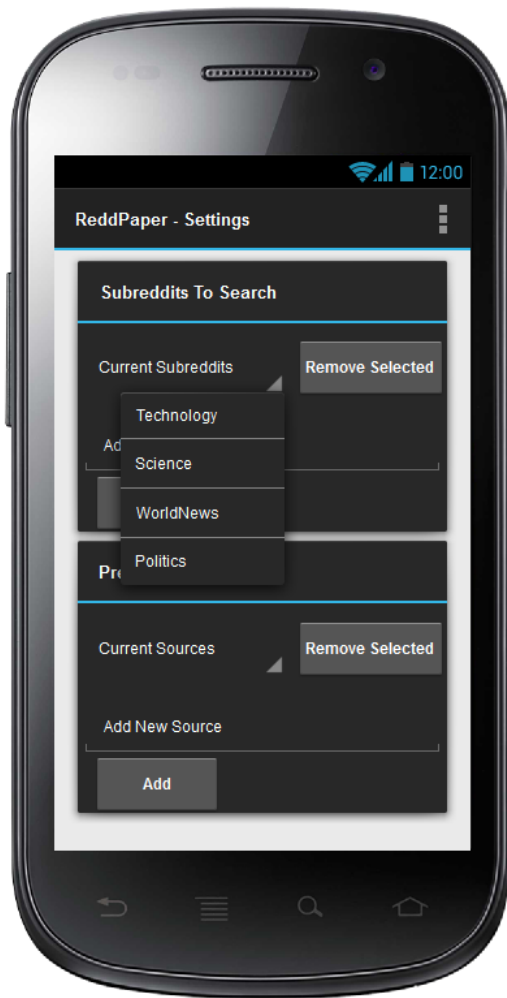
**Mock-up A3: Main Screen (Logged In)**



**Mock-up A4: Settings Screen**



**Mock-up A5: Settings Screen (Menu Extended)**



## Main Use Cases

<b>Use Case Name</b>	View News Source
<b>Reference</b>	A1: Main Screen
<b>Trigger</b>	User taps on the box of a news story
<b>Precondition</b>	User has the application open, is on the main screen, and is not currently attempting to log in
<b>Basic Path</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) User taps the box of the news story</li><li>2) The application will attempt to load the news story source page in the appropriate format (i.e. news website like CNN defaulting to Google Chrome app)</li></ol>
<b>Alternative Paths</b>	
<b>Postcondition</b>	User is shown the source news page to view the story in detail.
<b>Exception Paths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- User can close the app entirely</li></ul>

<b>Use Case Name</b>	Comment On News Source
<b>Reference</b>	A1: Main Screen
<b>Trigger</b>	User Holds a tap on the box of a news story
<b>Precondition</b>	User has the application open, is on the main screen, and is currently logged in under their Redding account username
<b>Basic Path</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) User holds a tap on the box of the news story</li><li>2) User selected "Comment" from the context menu</li><li>3) The application will open a simple dialog box to enter the comment</li><li>4) The user enters their comment</li><li>5) The user presses the "Submit" button</li></ol>
<b>Alternative Paths</b>	
<b>Postcondition</b>	Comment is posted to the Reddit thread for the news story
<b>Exception Paths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- User can close the app entirely</li><li>- User can click "Cancel" to discard the comment</li><li>- User is logged out in the process of commenting (unlikely)</li></ul>

<b>Use Case Name</b>	Log In
<b>Reference</b>	A2: Login Dialog Screen
<b>Trigger</b>	User clicks the “Login” button on the dropdown menu in the action bar
<b>Precondition</b>	User is not currently logged in
<b>Basic Path</b>	6) User taps the username textbox and types in their Reddit account username 7) User taps the password textbox and types in their Reddit account password 8) User taps the “Log In” button
<b>Alternative Paths</b>	The user might enter invalid username or password. In this case, the application will display an error and prompt the user to try again.
<b>Postcondition</b>	User is logged into their Reddit account through the app and can now comment on stories.
<b>Exception Paths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- User can click the cancel button to exit the login dialog</li> <li>- User can close the app entirely</li> </ul>

<b>Use Case Name</b>	Add A Preferred Subreddit/Source Site
<b>Reference</b>	A4: Settings Screen
<b>Trigger</b>	User opens the settings page from the drop-down menu in the action bar
<b>Precondition</b>	User has the application open and is on the settings screen
<b>Basic Path</b>	1) User taps the textbox in either the subreddits section or source sites section. 2) User types the name of the site or subreddit. A limited list of autofill options may appear. 3) User taps the “Add” button.
<b>Alternative Paths</b>	The user might enter invalid subreddit or source website. The user will be informed via error dialog and the addition to the list will not be made.
<b>Postcondition</b>	The specified subreddit or source site is successfully added to the news generator to be shown as a preference on the main screen.
<b>Exception Paths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- User can tap the back button and close the settings view.</li> <li>- User can close the app entirely.</li> <li>- User can click an option in the menu.</li> </ul>



## **Projected Implementation Schedule**

- Week 1: Implement Reddit API hooks – Approx. **5-8** hours.
- Week 2: Implement main screen and settings designs – Approx. **5-8** hours.
- Week 3: Implement user login system, and comment functionality – Approx. **4** hours.
- Week 4: Implement database support for storing preferred subreddits and sources – Approx. **4** hours.
- Week 5: Implement search functions to display news stories on main screen - Approx. **7** hours.

**TOTAL APPROXIMATE DEVELOPMENT TIME: 25 – 31 HOURS.**

**Note:** These estimated hours and overall timeline are not final and are subject to change with setbacks (lost time) or breakthroughs (simple implementation, less time than estimated). Overall weekly breakdown may change in reaction to circumstances beyond control.