Prototype Manual

This manual will describe the features and capabilities of the Bottle prototype and teach you how to use it. For the most effective use of this manual, please have the prototype installed and ready to use as you read the following information.

Main Features

In the context of this prototype, a "bottle" refers to a recorded audio message. There are two main features supported by the prototype:

(1) Sending out a bottle- this feature allows you to record an audio message, add some tags to it, and anonymously share it with other users.
(2) Picking up a bottle- this feature allows you to find an audio message shared by another user and listen to it.

Starting Point

When the application is launched, the first screen you see is the home screen, and there are two buttons on it:

1) The button on the left is "I want to send out a bottle" - this button allows you to use feature (1), which is to send out a bottle.
2) The button on the right is "I want to pick up a bottle" - this button allows you to use feature (2), which is to send out a bottle.

How to send out a bottle?

On the home screen, click on the button on the left called "I want to send out a Bottle". This takes you to the next screen where you can record a bottle.

To return to the home screen, click on the "Back" button on the bottom left. To start recording, click on the "Start Recording" button. Now say something out loud that you want to share. To stop recording, click on the "Stop Recording" button.

As soon as you have stopped recording, you will be taken to the next screen where you can play the message you have just recorded. (Note: At this stage of prototyping, we are unable to implement audio recording and playback. See note about Wizard of Oz technique in the Usability Test Plan document). To play the bottle, click on the play icon on the audio player on the center of the screen. To pause the bottle, click on the pause icon on the audio player on the center of the screen. To cancel sending out a bottle, click on the "Cancel" button on the bottom left and you will return to the home screen. If you want to redo the recording, click on the "Redo" button on the bottom center, and you will be returned to the previous screen and allowed to repeat the recording process. If you are satisfied with the bottle you have recorded, click on the "Next" button at the bottom right.

You will now be taken to the tag selection screen. Click on the drop down menu. Click on any one of the 7 tags. Choose a tag that best fits the mood and feeling of the bottle you just recorded. (Note: below the drop down menu, you will see a "+" button. This button does not do anything for now, but had we implemented it, clicking on this button would create another dropdown menu below the first one, therefore allowing you to select multiple tags for your bottle. However at this point, you can only select one tag.) Once you have selected a tag, click on the "Send" button on the bottom right to share the bottle, and then you will be automatically redirected to the home screen. Alternatively, you could press on the "Back" button on the bottom left to return to the previous screen.

How to pick up a bottle?

On the home screen, click on the button on the right called "I want to pick up a Bottle". This takes you to the next screen where you are prompted to select one or more "tags". You are shown a list of 7 tags. Choose one or more tags by checking the box next to a tag. Once you have selected at least one tag, click on the "Next" button to proceed to the next step. Alternatively, at this point, you may choose to press the "Back" button to return to the home page.

Once you click the "Next" button, you are moved to the next screen where a bottle is available for you to listen to. (Note: At this stage, playing a bottle based on the chosen tag has not been fully implemented, so you might find that you chose the "sad" tag but are hearing a bottle that is not sad. For now, we recommend selecting the "happy" and/or "silly" tags.) Press the button at the bottom center to play the bottle, and click on it again to pause. To listen to another bottle based on the tag(s) you have already chosen, click on the "Next Bottle" button on the bottom right. To change your selection of tags (for example, you are currently listening to a happy bottle, but now you want to listen to an angry bottle), click on the "Back" button on the bottom left to return to the previous screen. To return to the home screen, click on the button on the top left corner.