**GeoPost**

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GeoPost is an Android application that lets users post and view messages left at specific locations. By utilizing the GPS capabilities of mobile phones, users will be able to leave messages, either public messages or messages for friends only, at locations that can only be accessed by others that eventually visit that same location. While there is no inherent problem that GeoPost attempts to solve, we believe our application will appeal to two main sets of users – travelers who wish to share and connect with others who have visited the same interesting landmark and everyday users who wish to interact with their friends in a unique way by leaving interesting, funny, or helpful messages at more commonplace locations.

As far as competitors and alternatives, there are a few previous apps who have attempted to utilize the phone’s GPS in order to leave items, both material and/or immaterial, at particular locations for other users to search for and eventually find. For instance, one IOS application called Dropp features a similar feature set to what we are proposing – allowing users to interact with a map to post and view messages that are tied to an actual geographical location and to specify whether to make the posts public or private. Furthermore, some of its strengths include a very clean and understandable user interface and a notification system that alerts users when they come within range of a post. While GeoPost will strive to emulate these positive aspects of Dropp, there will be some noticeable differences and improvements. Two of the biggest changes with GeoPost are that user accounts will be tied to Facebook to make it easier to connect to your friends and that users will only be able to post messages in a location if they are physically present there. Another interesting competitor is Wallit which essentially creates a message board tied to a particular landmark and allows users to post and interact with it when they are physically there. While this has a strength in that it allows users to dynamically interact while at the location (such as fans posting/messaging while at a sports stadium), Wallit fails to allow users the ability to post wherever they want – there are only pre-designated areas where users can post. GeoPost is more flexible because the locations will be specified by GPS coordinates and not necessarily tied to a particular landmark like a stadium or tourist spot.

As we begin building GeoPost, the main features we want to provide are posting text at a location, viewing posts around your current GPS location, use the Google Maps API to views posts on the map, view a list of your previous posts and posts you have already visited, and provide user verification through Facebook. We believe that it is essential to provide the core functionality of viewing/posting on a map and having an account associated with each user and that these major features will provide this functionality. After we implement these basic features, there are a number of “stretch” features that we think will have a positive impact on the user. Instead of just allowing the user to only post a text message, we want to allow the user to post a picture or short video (capped for time like a Vine). Also, we want to provide users the option of viewing either public posts or posts by their Facebook friends; this will allow users the flexibility to leave more individualized messages depending on the audience. Finally, we are thinking about incorporating some aspect of rating posts so that users can look for higher rated posts that are more interesting, especially if there are many different posts at a very popular location.

There are also several nonfunctional requirements for this application. The application should be usable in all regions of the globe, regardless of which country you are in. Furthermore, user information should not be disclosed to non-friends. For legality, users will be informed that they must not post illegal and/or illicit text or pictures. For reliability, posts should remain visible at a location for at least a month after it was posted (unless the user chooses to delete the post beforehand).

For external documentation for the users to understand the product, we have a simple website that users can visit if they have questions about what each button does or how to perform a particular action. This website is currently located [here](https://sites.google.com/a/uw.edu/team-hermes-geopost/?pli=1), and should be considered a work in progress for the time being.