Queen Mary, University of London
School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science

MSc in Software Engineering

MSc Project: News Aggregation and Content Curation
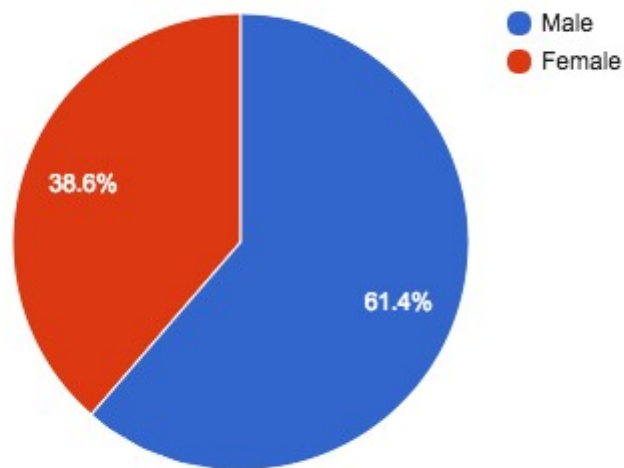
User Requirements Report

Rafael Alves Sa
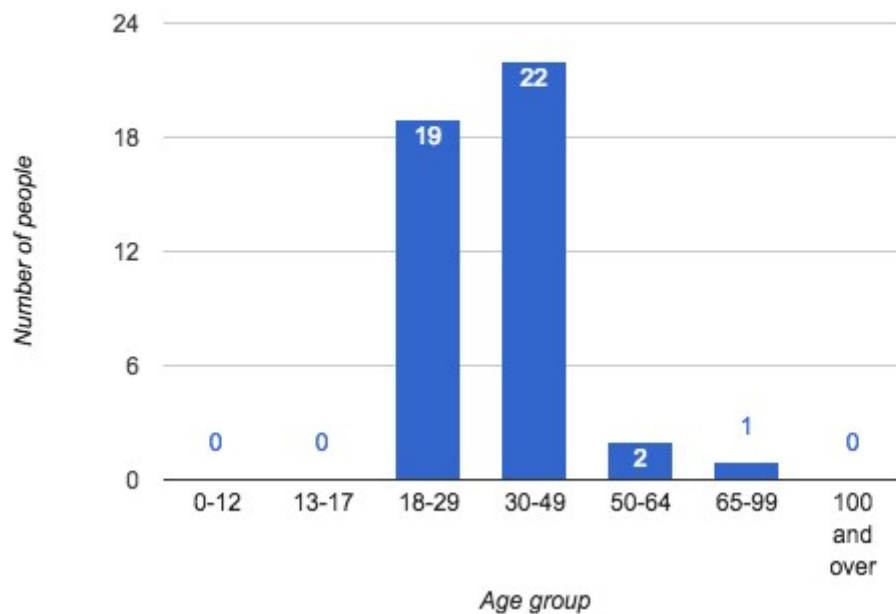8 July 2015

Demographic Data

Number of participants in the survey: 44 people.

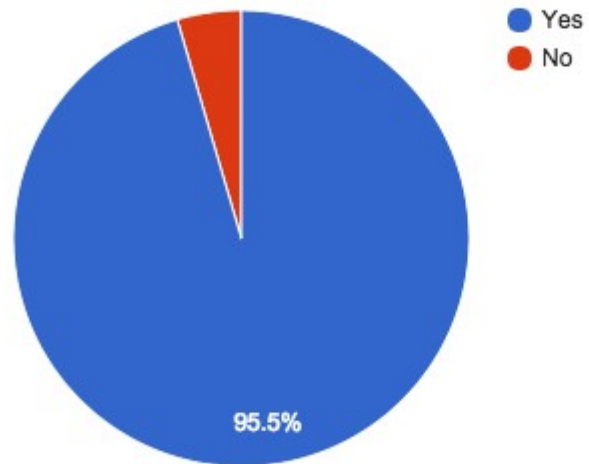**Duration:** All the answers were collected between 29 June and 7 July 2015.

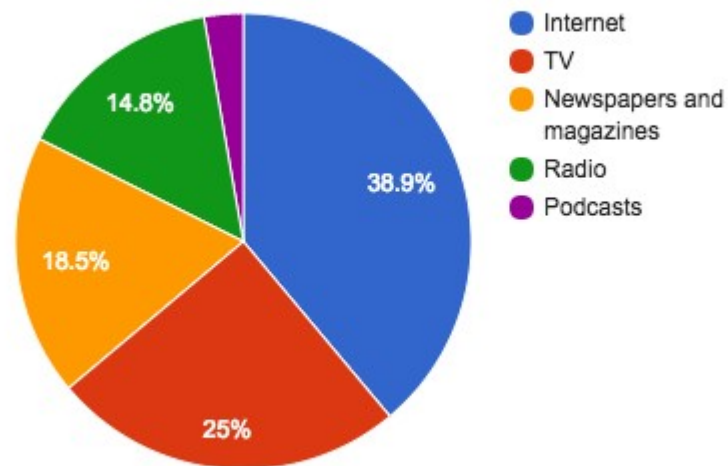**What is your gender?**

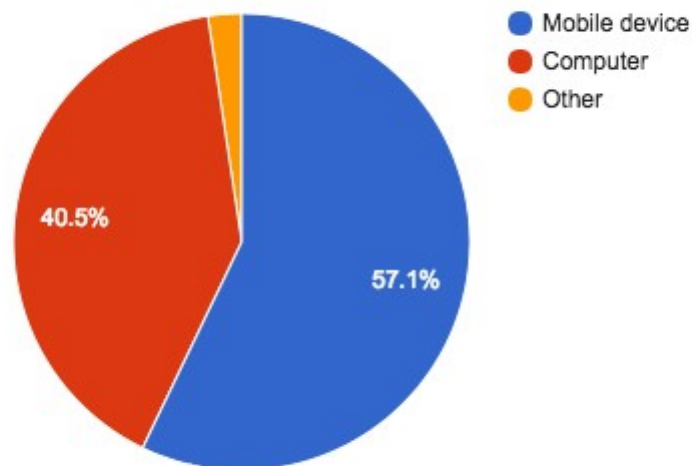**What is your age group?**

Do you usually follow the news?

Survey Responses

1. How do you normally follow the news?

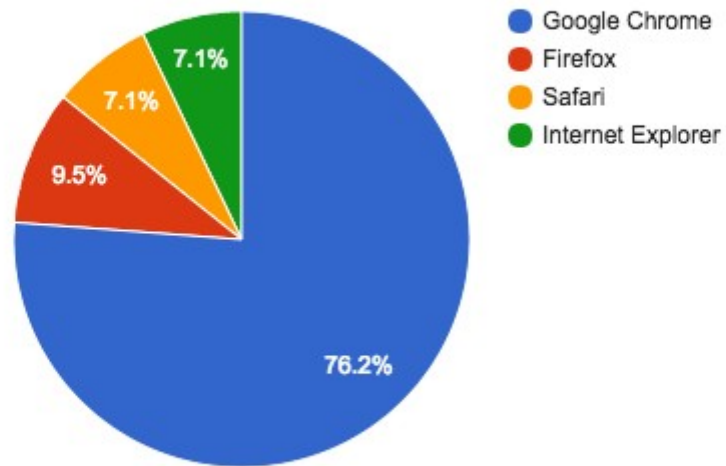**2. What is your favourite device to follow the news on the Internet?**

Others: Kindle.

3. What is your default web browser on the desktop?

Legend:
- Google Chrome
- Firefox
- Safari
- Internet Explorer

7.1%
7.1%
9.5%
76.2%

4. If you have a mobile device, which operating system do you use?

Legend:
- Android
- iOS
- Windows Phone

7.3%
31.7%
61%
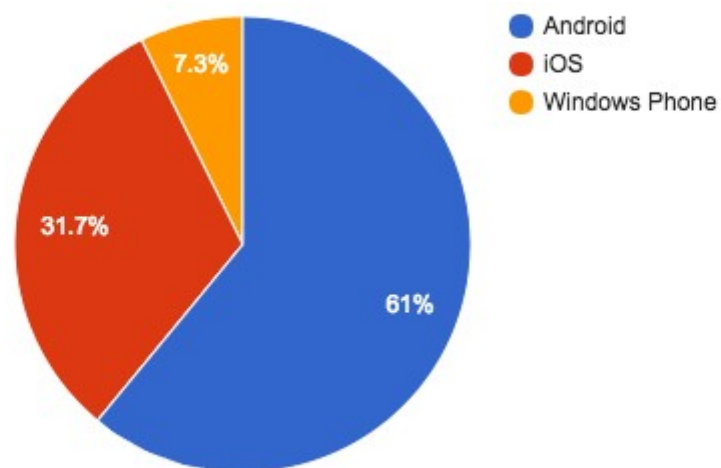
5. What is your default web browser on your mobile device?
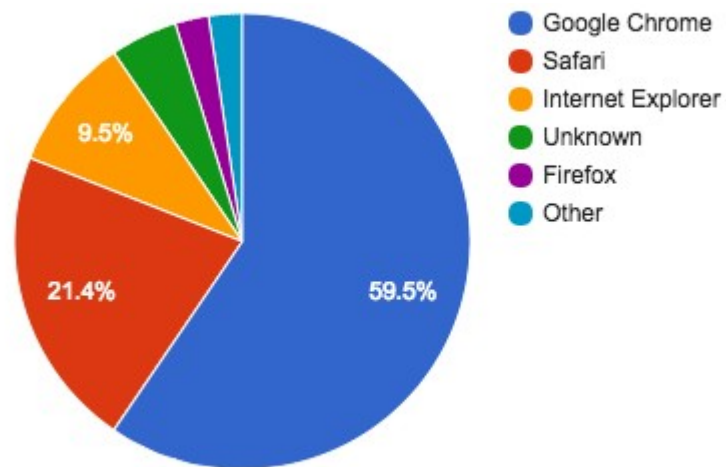
Others: UC Browser.

6. What services do you use to follow the news?
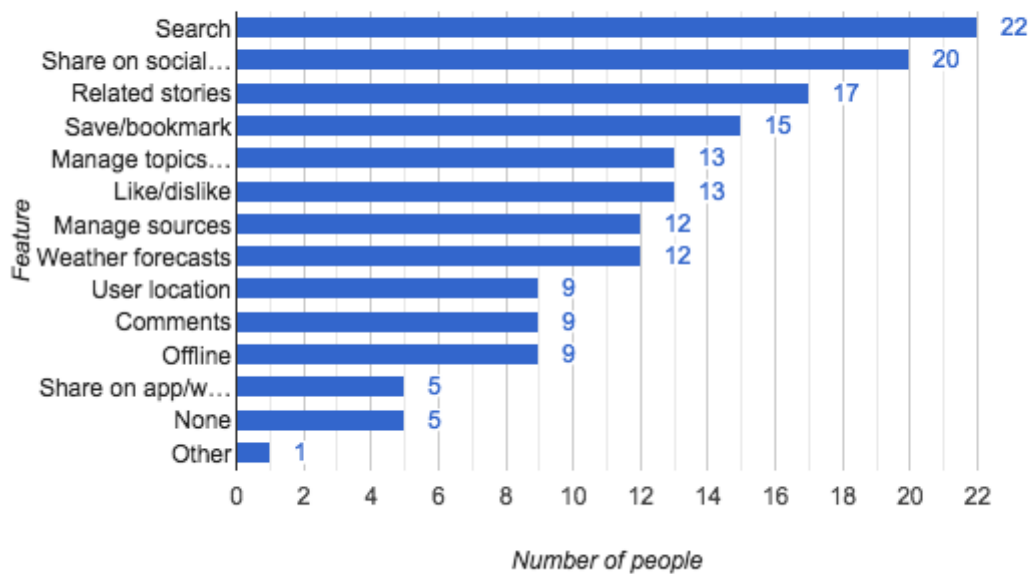
Others: Reddit, Hacker News, Slashdot and Samsung My Magazine.

7. What features do you use in these apps or websites?
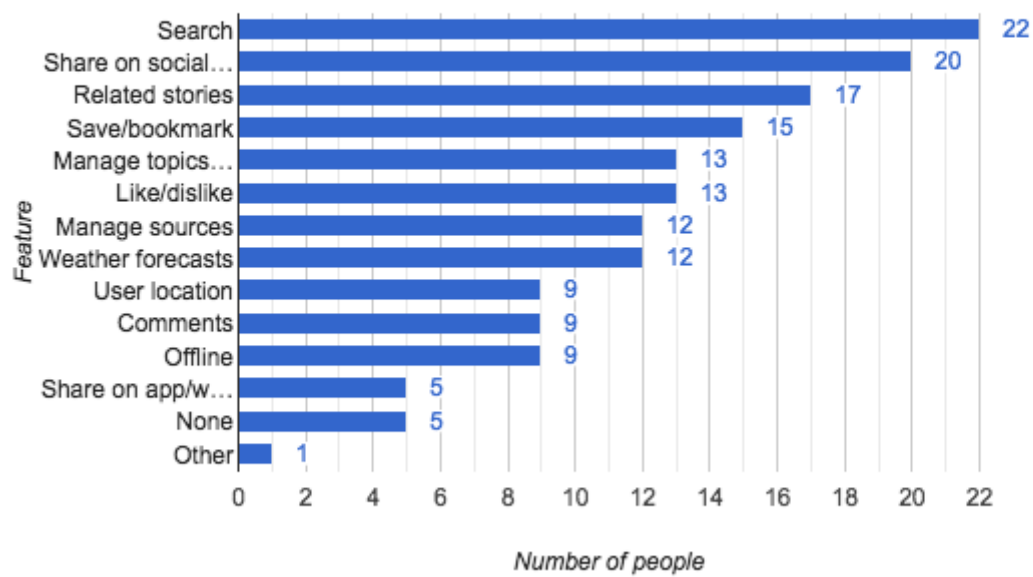
Others: Filter stories by criteria such as tags, title or author.

8. In which media formats do you access the news?

9. How satisfied are you with the apps and websites that you currently use to follow the news?

10. Would you be willing to use a new app or website to follow the news?

11. Would you be interested if it had a social network where you could add comments and share stories with other users?

12. What features would you like to have in an app or website to follow the news?

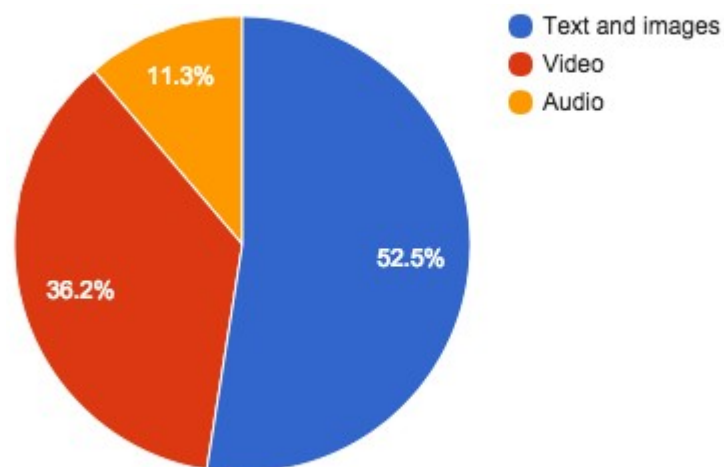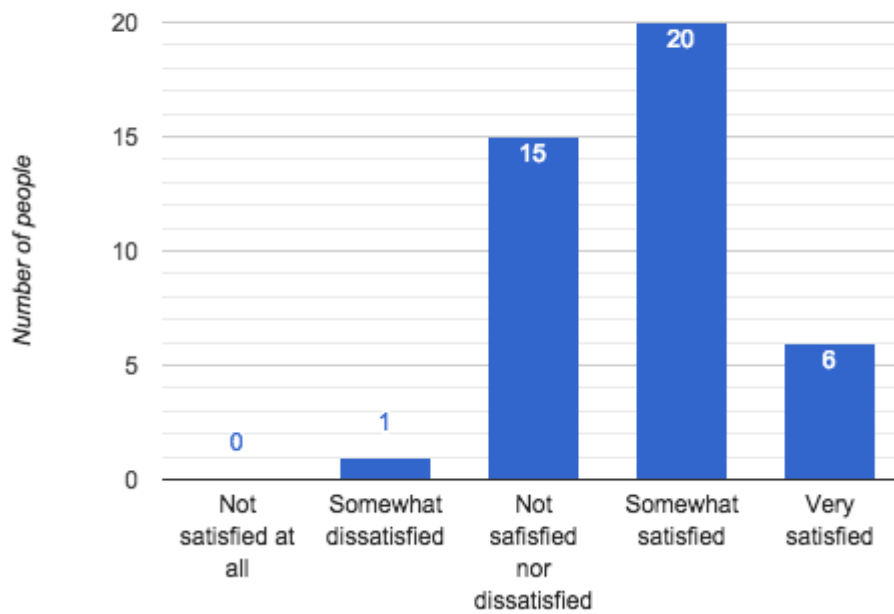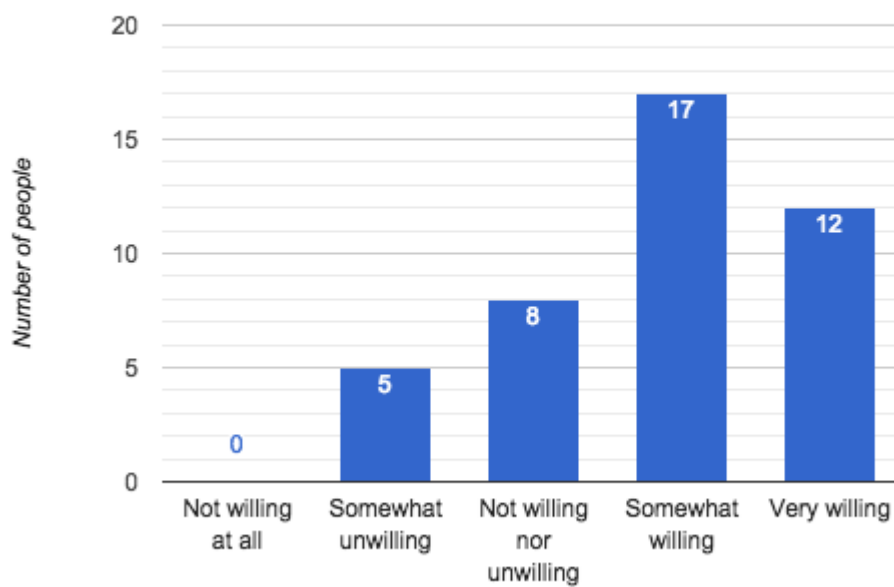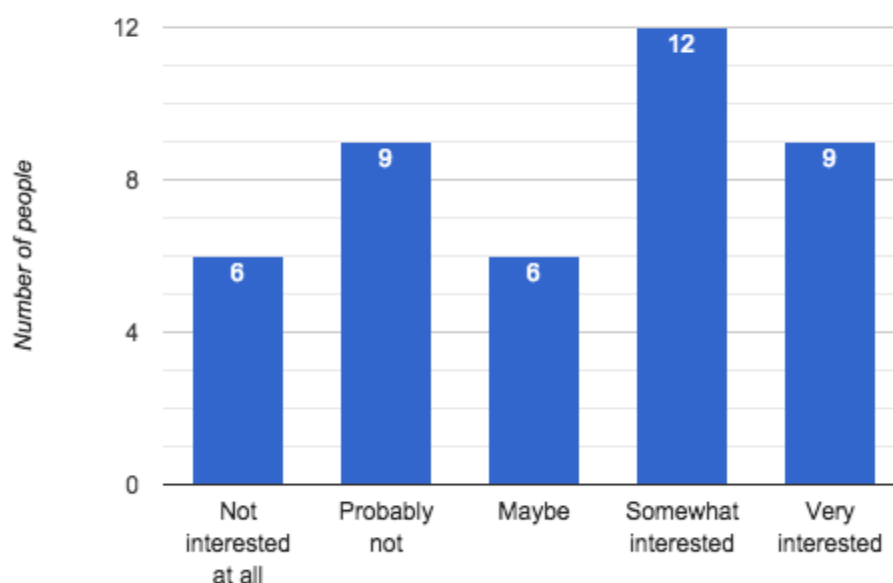| |
|---|
| If the "social network" feature exists, it would be good if it could be set to only show shares, comments, likes and other interactions from my group of "friends". Another interesting feature would be a news source discovery by thematic, as many news sources are very specialised. |
| You could do a custom platform news, i.e. when a tragedy happens like in Nepal, I don't want to see more news about it because it doesn't interest me, and so I unfollow those news, and in the next 60 (X) days for example I won't see any news about Nepal. On the other hand if a story interests me enough (sports betting, schemes, frauds) I want to see more similar news in the next days even though they aren't usually popular news. |
| I think my favourite news apps are intuitive to use - the guardian for example. Other news apps I like are for the content, and are very simple. I like vice news for the content but hate that it tries to recommend other stories halfway through the current one. |
| Aggregation. |
| Notifications about breaking news worldwide and local (based on my location). No ads or heavy graphics so that the news loads quickly. Well formatted for mobile devices i.e. screens smaller than a pc. A section for short interesting news e.g. an interesting picture with short summary as caption. |
| Quick to refresh, clean layout, no ads. |
| Smart and able to tailor the news to what I like and dislike. I should be able to say the keywords I don't like to read about. For example I don't like news about games so if I am |

given the option to filter out news about Xbox I'll be delighted.
It would be interesting to use my mobile device location to show me news that happened nearby me. All the other features already exists on other platforms.. so the option here is to do it BETTER than the others and add new features like the one I mentioned.
The app should learn what kind of news I'm interested, and afterwards show only relevant news corresponding to my interests. This process should be continuous so that it reflects the change of my interests.
The ability to push breaking news headlines through as a notification based on the user's preferences and not just based on what something, like the BBC, think is important.
The ability to comment on news stories. The ability to link to related stories.
Option to select news in selected genres.
To be able to comment on all stories not just selected ones as currently on the Guardian app.
Text, pictures & video.
I'd love to be able to turn off user comments. Sometimes I just don't want to look, then I do, and I am disgusted with ignorant people. I'd also love full-text traditionally written stories. I get irritated by this millennial-style writing–incomplete, un-referenced, incorrect. Sadly a lot of Internet writing lacks proper "who, what, when, where and why"'s.
Less advertisements through and around the articles.
I like to follow the latest news, though I never really use an app, but I always visit the websites of several newspapers. Now that I'm thinking, a nice thing would be to have several columns grouped by subject (imagining a desktop environment) although in an app it would not work as well.
Display of news summary.
Custom topics according to user settings.
Clean interface with easy to read and easy to scroll through the news.
I'd like an app that was simplistic but still had various options to comment, like, dislike, follow, unfollow, block, hide, ignore...
Country wise news sections as well as offline reading facility.
Stock price lookup, localization, balanced news sources and coverage of same event from all angles, share to social media.
Easy sharing to Facebook, links to news conferences or interviews.
I want constantly refreshed updates. Frankly, Twitter does everything that I want from a news service.
The ability to read a story as it is covered by different media outlets.

I would like to have news delivered to me without opinions or bias.
Easy navigation.
It would be great to be able to have a filter for positive news! I don't mean just articles from http://positivenews.org.uk/, but happy news stories. Reading offline would be cool, I don't know of any app where I can do that.
Mechanism to send me the most important news to my email.
One app that could be used to view all others.
A link to older news stories involving the same or similar topics, the people involved. Basically an archived stories button that would pull news that relates directly to the news at hand.
Text alerts.
Sharing capabilities.