

Class Notes

What is the project going to be and how are the pieces going to fit together?
Should everyone to participate on same project but different pieces?

Stelios

- Site architecture, user interface.
- slashdot.com
- Pros
 - bi-directional communication with users.
 - filtering capabilities
- Cons
 - design – falls into ‘digital newspaper’ (bad)
 - doesn’t handle complexity well
- the brain
- Pros
 - good overall visual info
 - constant frame of reference
- Cons
 - unbalanced – upper part gets too much attention
 - not dynamic – can’t create own links? (not true?)
 - limited game play factor
- -source forge.net
- Pros
 - similar – all members working on same project
 - something for all users – low or high tech
 - any user can post project idea, others join in
- Cons
 - bad interface design – lost in information in seconds
- smart money.com
- Pros
 - global data visualization
- Cons
 - soon lost in details – not supported
- starry night
- Pros
 - transforms info into visual patterns (constellations)
 - like brain – shows links globally
- Cons
 - non-functional – cannot find information
 - no search capability

- what kind of model to use? Community model or business model?
- is there ‘gravity’ to the conversation or just ‘talk’?
- sacred obligation or they do it for themselves?

- how many clicks can lead to chaos?
- how to linearize the complexity (instead of rising quickly – exponentially)?
- form vs. function in the design?
- communication scheme? Synchronous – same space but different time.
- (Dan – answers to some extent depend on the specific context that software is used. Start with group that already has the ability (or obligation) to make decisions.)
- Characteristics of nodes, pts on a constellation, etc.:
- Position, size, color, texture, movement.
- Sawako
- <http://www.theyrule.net>
 - corporate managers – where the donate etc.
- sony bank?
- starry night – type of constellations – create icon for yourself and drag/drop to different groups – different colors of people for different groups
- Donald
- think about home users – have 17” monitor – how to reduce visual clutter?
- (will present next week)
- (Dan – different interfaces for different parts of the site?)
- Class – Oct 22 – with Bill Mitchell, refine into presentation to be presented on laptop – any format – html, powerpoint, jpg, etc. Send Greg files a couple days prior – upload to a site.
- Mitch
- amazon.com – books to interest you. ‘Filter of reason’ – not relationship filters, but personal issues.
- mimesis – act of mimicry ex. Chameleon
- doppelganger – twinning, similar to clone
- simulacra – copy of a copy
- World Trade Center charrette (<http://www.archinode.com/WTC.html>)– may not be one database but draws upon the plurality of information already ‘out there’ on the web.
- How do you address those realms of identity in a system?
- Esra
- how are we going to answer mitch’s questions? What is being forced on people and what is being made invisible?
- interested in users – how info sharing processes work in physical world? What do user see themselves as? What roles? What identities? How to prepare a

questionnaire? Interested in Town Meeting. Graduate Students in Housing is another possibility (Graduate Student Council).

Johanne

Media – potential for communication. Aesthetics – design aspect – visual aspect – wants to continue to work on Town Meeting.
(will present next week)

Jeremy

(will present next week)