

Trakr

Major Project Proposal

WEB3007 - Independent Practice

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Summary

This document contains a proposal for creating a dynamic web site to keep track of what your friends are doing on other web sites such Flickr, YouTube, Digg and similar sites.

Alternative interfaces will be available in the form of an interactive timeline to be created using Adobe Flash and an Adobe AIR application so data can be accessed on the desktop, whether it is a Windows, Mac or Linux machine.

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1. Abstract

As an internet user, you probably have many user accounts on different web sites and many friends on each one. What if you could keep track of what all your friends are up to on all these sites in just one place? The solution will be Trakr.

Users will sign in using an OpenID or be prompted to create one. OpenID is an open and decentralised framework for user identity which means that users can sign in to a variety of different web sites using the same login details. This is much like Window Live ID which you can use to log in to Windows Live Mail (Hotmail), Windows Live Messenger and various other Microsoft web sites, except that an OpenID isn't limited to one company's web sites and can be used at any supported web site on the internet.

Once logged in users will be able to add what sites they use to their account and add any friends they have so they can keep track of them. Users will be able to decide what web sites they want to keep track of per friend. For example, if you just wanted to keep track of new YouTube videos from someone, you could exclude all updates from other web sites from appearing just for that user.

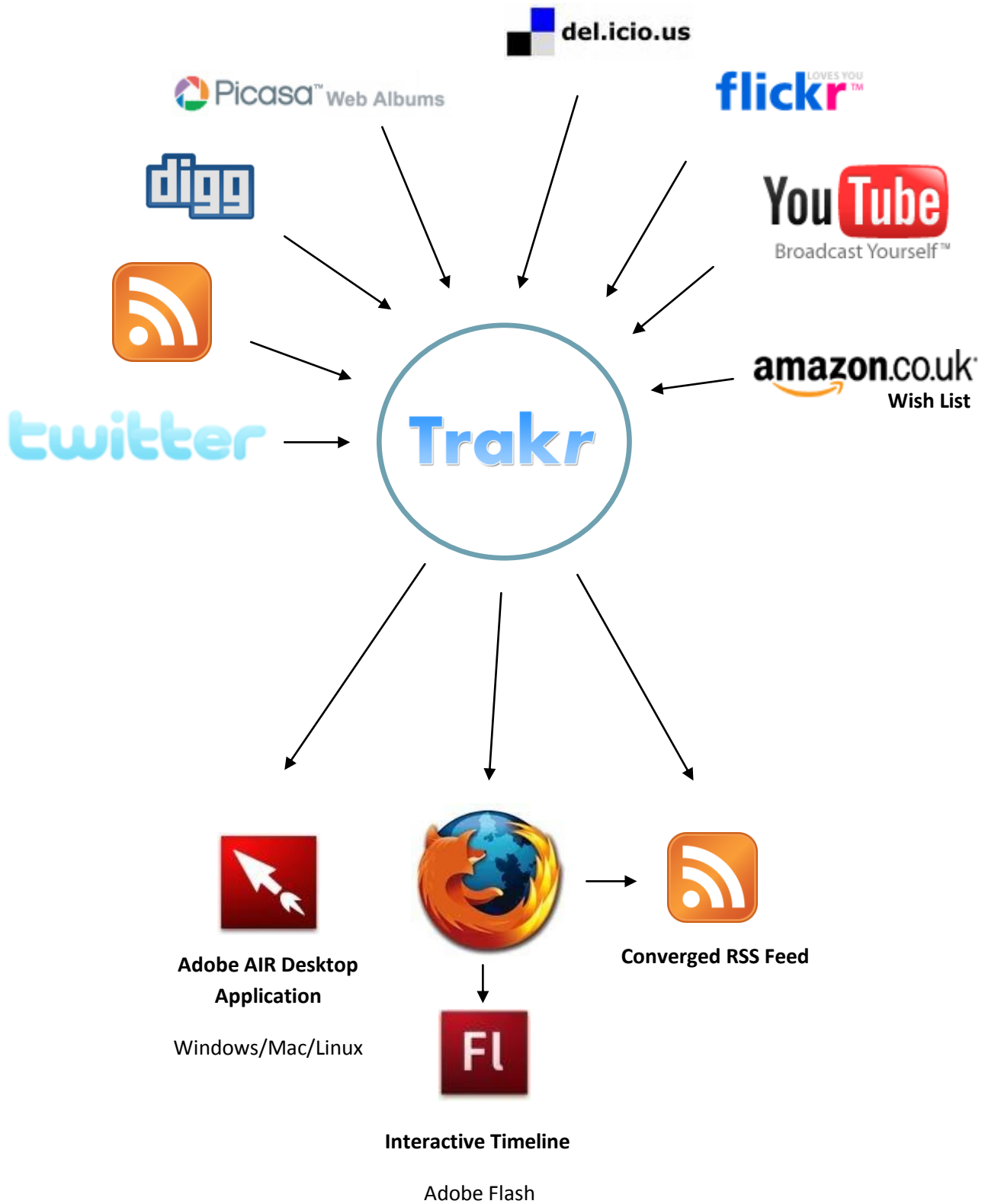
Data from external web sites will be accessed via RSS or an API (Application Programming Interface) that the web site provides, depending on which is more appropriate to each specific web site.

This data will be presented using a variety of different interfaces:

- **HTML based** – A simple list of updates organised by date with the ability to view video and picture content inline, e.g. Flickr photos and YouTube videos.
- **Interactive timeline** – A more interactive graphical way of showing recent updates which will be built using Adobe Flash. Interaction is likely to be via the user's mouse and scroll wheel to scroll through updates.
- **Cross platform desktop application** – Built using Adobe AIR (Adobe Integrated Runtime) data will be available on a user's desktop whether it is a Windows, Mac or Linux machine. This is also likely to be more graphical than the HTML based interface.
- **Converged RSS feed** – An RSS feed will be available which you can use to view updates in external feed readers such as Google Reader, Outlook, Thunderbird, etc.

The diagram on the next page (*Figure 1.1*) shows a non-technical overview of how the web site will work including possible data sources and the above output interfaces.

Figure 1.1 – Diagram showing possible data sources and output interfaces



2. Goals

The main aim of Trakr is to make it easy to keep track of what your friends are doing on other web sites. It should include the ability to create a list of friends and the option to customize what updates you want to receive from each of your friends.

The web site should be able to syndicate data from a good range of different web sites.

Updates should be viewable via several different interfaces as outlined in the abstract.

It should be simple, but modern and sophisticated in appearance to match the styles of the web sites it will be syndicating.

In summary the web site should be:

- Easy to use and navigate
- Be simple, but modern and sophisticated in appearance
- Provide a good range of web sites as data sources
- Available via various different interfaces

3. User Experience

3.1 Audience

The intended audience of Trakr falls mainly into two groups:

- People who have lots of friends on many different web sites that they want to keep track of.
- People who want to have a central place to keep a log of what they've been doing on the internet. An internet life blog so to speak.

The age range of users is likely to be quite young (16-26) as these are people who are most likely to use the web sites which Trakr will support. However, it could also appeal to older users who may be confused about all the different web sites out there. It would be an easy way to keep track of what their family or friends have posted without having to visit each web site.

3.2 Scenarios

The following pages will discuss the key components of the web site and the processes that the user will undertake in order to fulfil certain actions.

3.2.1 Sign up/in

To use Trakr, users will need an OpenID which is one account with one login that you can use on many web sites. I have chosen this method as while it may initially be slightly confusing for the user if it is the first time they have encountered OpenID, it should soon become clear to them the benefits it provides. The process of creating an OpenID and logging into Trakr is documented below.

1. *Visit Trakr*

User will visit Trakr and see they need an OpenID. The concept will be explained to them along with a list of places to get one. The user may even already have an OpenID and not know it; for example, all AOL accounts are already OpenID enabled.

2. *Sign up for an OpenID*

Signing up is a simple task and can be done via any OpenID provider. A few are listed below:

- ClaimID – <http://www.claimid.com/>
- myID.net – <http://www.myid.net/>
- myOpenID – <http://www.myopenid.com/>
- VeriSign's Personal Identity Provider – <https://pip.verisignlabs.com/>

3. *Log In*

Once the user has an OpenID, they enter their OpenID URL which identifies them and which OpenID provider they are with. They are then sent to their OpenID provider to which they enter their username and password. They are returned to Trakr and are now logged in.

This may sound quite complicated, but once they have an OpenID it is very simple. If the user already has one, all they have to do is log in with it and they have an account on Trakr instantly.

3.2.2 Display Picture

Users will be able to upload a display picture that their friends can identify them with. This will be shown on a users profile page and as a small icon next to any updates by them.

On the general settings page they will be able to see their display picture and change it if they wish. They will have the option of removing it and having a generic image of a person instead.

The following file types will be allowed:

- JPEG
- GIF
- PNG

Users will be able to upload any size image up to a maximum dimension of 500 x 500 pixels. This will then be resized automatically on the server to create the different sized icons used throughout the web site.

3.2.3 Friends

Friends are very important in Trakr as they are the ones who generate the content. Without friends, you can still keep a history of your internet life, but the main use of the web site will likely be for tracking friends.

There will be a menu link named *Friends* shown on every page when a user is signed in. Once clicked, they will see a list of all their friends. Some ideas of how this could be displayed can be found in the *Visual Design* section of this document.

From this list, a user can delete a friend by clicking a delete link and an edit link to choose what they want to track from them.

To add a friend, users will be able to search using their real name, e-mail address or OpenID username. Results will be displayed in a list with an add button next to each one to add them as a friend. The friend will then be sent an e-mail asking if they want to add them as a friend too. If they are both friends with each other they will be displayed as mutual friends on their friend lists.

There will also be a way to invite someone to become a member of Trakr if a user can't find them using the search feature. The user will simply enter their e-mail address and they will be sent an e-mail with an invitation link.

3.2.4 Sources

Sources are also an important part of Trakr as they are where update data will come from. There will be a settings page dedicated to configuring sources and the user will be required to enter their username for each source. The username will then be verified to make sure that data exists for that user on the source web site.

Each source will then be checked regularly to provide updates to friends.

3.2.5 Favourites

Each item on the update page will have a star icon next to it. Clicking it will save the item as a favourite using AJAX so the user doesn't have to refresh the page. A sketch of how this will look is located in the *Visual Design* section.

A *Favourites* page will also be available to view previous favourites.

3.2.6 Filters

On the update page, there will be the option to filter data by:

- Source
- Friend
- Time period

This will likely be done using a series of a drop down menus. Clicking one will only show data that matches the filter.

3.2.7 Contact us / Get in touch

A contact page link will always be visible. It will contain information on how to contact Trakr and a contact form which will include the following fields:

- Name
- E-mail
- Subject – A drop down list containing a common list of subjects
- Message

All fields will be required.

3.2.8 Interactive Timeline

The interactive timeline will be available for both updates from a user's friends and updates from a single user. There will be a link wherever there is an update list to view the data on the interactive timeline.

The user will likely interact with the timeline using their scroll wheel, but an alternative method of navigation will also be provided. Ideas for the presentation and interactions of the timeline can be found in the *Visual Design* section.

3.2.9 Desktop Application

To use the desktop application, users will need to download the Adobe AIR Runtime. If a user has Adobe Flash Player installed this can be installed automatically with the users permission without the need to run an external setup program.

3.3 Competitive Analysis

3.3.1 Plaxo Pulse

<http://pulse.plaxo.com/>

Plaxo is an online address book which synchronises with e-mail clients (Outlook, Thunderbird, etc) and mobile devices.

In June 2007 Plaxo launched a new beta version of their web site called Plaxo 3.0. One of the features they added in this version was Plaxo Pulse, which tracks what your friends are up to on other web sites.

It is similar to what I want to create, but I want to expand the idea by adding a favourites system and experimenting with different interfaces to display the same data.

The web site is attractive and functional, but its main focus is on its synchronisation abilities. I plan to keep the main focus of Trakr on tracking your friends rather than adding additional features such as address book synchronisation. This will also help to keep things simple for the user.

Figure 3.3.1.1 – Plaxo Pulse

The screenshot displays the Plaxo Pulse interface for a user named Jason Gillyon. The interface is divided into several sections:

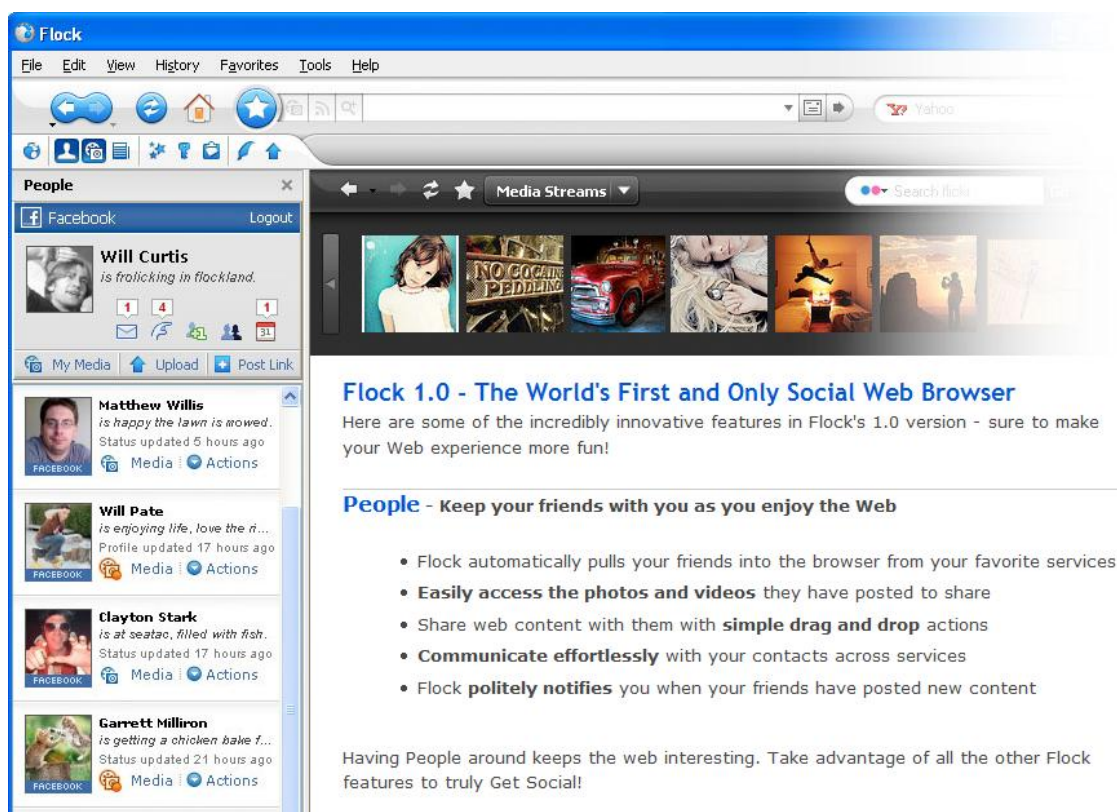
- Header:** Includes the Plaxo logo (beta), the user's name "Jason Gillyon", a profile picture, and navigation links for "Feedback", "Messages", "Settings", and "Sign out".
- Navigation:** A horizontal menu with tabs for "Pulse", "Connections", "Groups", "Address Book", "Calendar", "Tasks", and "Notes".
- Left Sidebar:** A navigation menu with "Everyone" selected, and sub-links for "Business Network", "Friends", "Family", and "Me".
- Main Content Area:** A feed of updates starting with a search bar "Share a message, link, or video with people..." and a "Share" button. The feed shows three items:
 - OCTOBER 7, 2007:** "Jason Gillyon posted a blog entry" titled "Trakr - Proposal presentation" dated Oct 8, 2007. The text reads: "Today I did a formal presentation of my major project proposal to my tutors and fellow students which went well. I have ..." with a "more >" link. Below the text are "0 comments", "Hide", and "Actions" options.
 - OCTOBER 6, 2007:** "Jason Gillyon bookmarked '3000k | Develop + Grow'" dated Oct 7, 2007. The text reads: "3000k | Develop + Grow" with a "View site >" link. Below are "0 comments", "Hide", and "Actions" options.
 - OCT 7, 2007:** "Jason Gillyon bookmarked 'unstructure ? || boston based web usability a...'" dated Oct 7, 2007. The text reads: "unstructure ? || boston based web usability and graphic design" with a "View site >" link. Below are "0 comments", "Hide", and "Actions" options.
- Right Sidebar:** Contains sections for "Find your friends" (with a link to "Import your address book"), "Share more" (with a link to "Hook up feeds"), and "Connections" (with a message: "You haven't connected with anyone yet!").

3.3.2 Flock Web Browser

Flock is the world's first and only social web browser which allows users to interact with web sites such as Flickr and del.icio.us using tools integrated within the browser itself. It is currently at a pre-1.0 release, with a beta of the 1.0 release coming soon. One of the features planned for the 1.0 release is a sidebar which tracks what your friends are doing on the web. As the beta of 1.0 is not yet out, the details of this feature are limited. The only details are those on the web site shown in *Figure 3.3.2.1* below.

This is a very interesting concept which looks to be nicely implemented from what can be gathered from the screen shot below. I plan to create a desktop application to supplement the Trakr web site so a user can access their friend's updates even if they don't have their web browser open.

Figure 3.3.2.1 – Flock 1.0 Web Site (<http://www.flock.com/privatebeta/>)



4. Critical Analysis

4.1 Framework

This section contains a critical and analytical insight into the background of my project idea.

4.1.1 Introduction

Over the past 2 years the internet has come into its own. Lots of new and innovative web sites and web applications are being released all the time which help you do just about anything from creating to do lists (Remember The Milk¹) to managing projects (Basecamp²). These types of web applications come under the umbrella of Web 2.0; a term which was created to describe how the web is evolving and how we are seeing it more as a platform for applications rather than just an information resource.

With this evolution of the internet, web sites have become more interactive allowing users to generate much of the content found on them. For example, YouTube³'s content is entirely user generated; videos come from users who upload them, users can comment and rate videos and share them with friends. Users are the most important part of a web site and by giving them power to create content for them and interact with them they have more reason to stay.

Other web sites such as social networks allow users to keep in touch with their friends and track what they are up to. Users can see photos, videos, comments and personal information about their friends on sites such as MySpace⁴ and Facebook⁵.

4.1.2 Information Overload

There are thousands of community web sites like this each providing lot's of information, perhaps even too much. Take a look at the screen shot of my Facebook news feed on the next page (*Figure 4.1.2.1*), there are perhaps 25 items on the page and that's just from today. Even though most of the updates are related to third party applications (which don't really tell you anything useful), it's still hard to keep track of what you're friends are actually up to. Updates you are actually interested in seem to get lost within all the application related items.

To combat this problem, I came up with the idea of Trakr. Trakr will take data from the web sites which you and your friends use, but be limited to web sites which mostly only do one thing. E.g. Flickr⁶ does photos, YouTube does videos and del.icio.us⁷ stores bookmarks. By cutting out web sites like Facebook which attempt to do everything and by only using these one purpose web sites, it cuts out the clutter that no-one's really interested in.

If a user only wants to view photos from a friend and exclude all other updates on Trakr, they will be able to. This will give the user more control, allowing them to see only what they want to see.

¹ <http://rememberthemilk.com/>

² <http://basecamphq.com/>

³ <http://www.youtube.com/>

⁴ <http://www.myspace.com/>

⁵ <http://www.facebook.com/>

⁶ <http://www.flickr.com/>

⁷ <http://del.icio.us/>

Figure 4.1.2.1 – Facebook news feed



4.1.3 Presentation & Usability

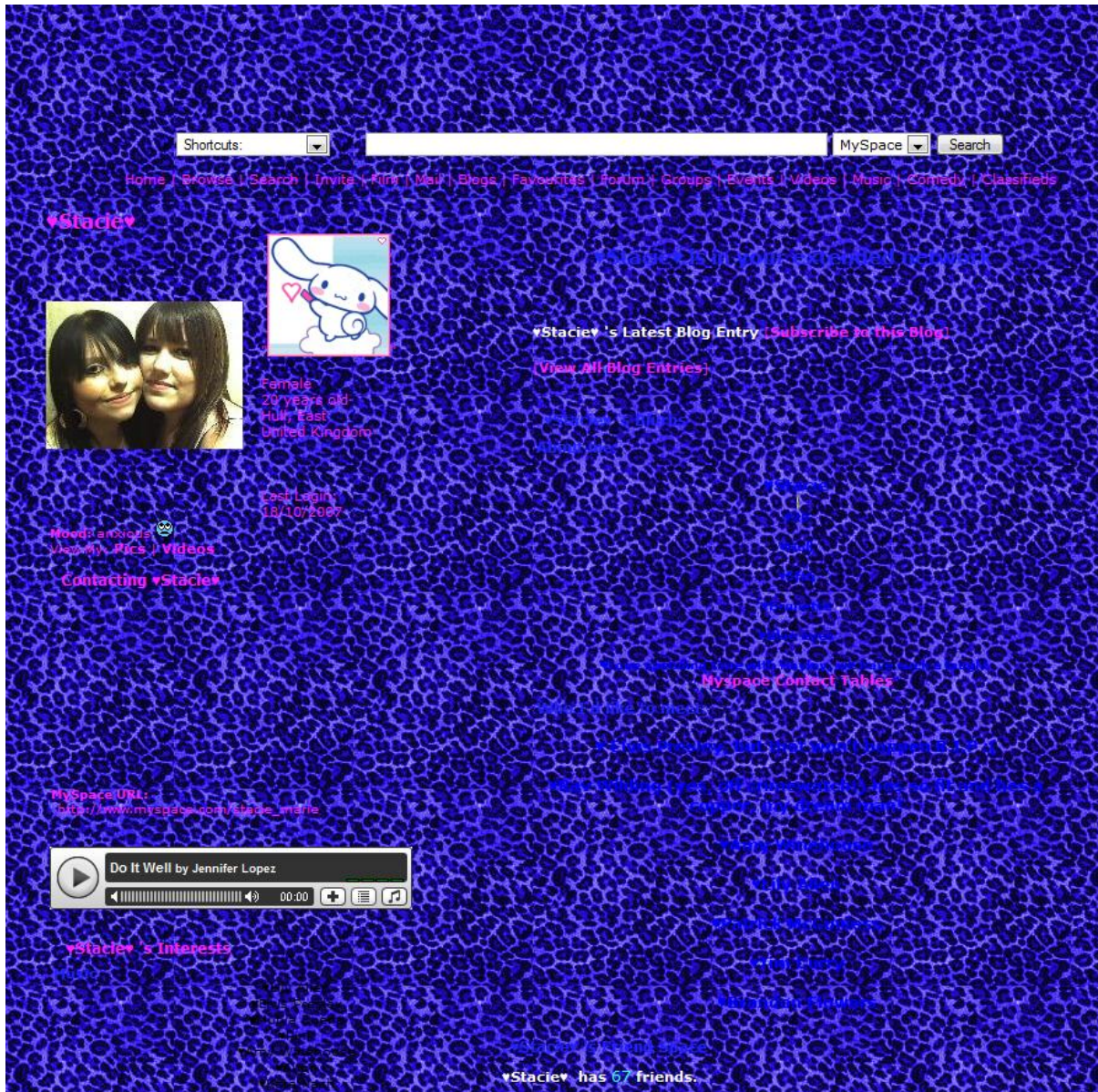
Many of these Web 2.0 applications have gone back to basics in terms of presentation. Everything is clean and simple; gradients and smooth lines are common place and most web sites are generally easier to use now. By keeping the presentation of a web site simple, it makes the content easier to understand and more pleasant to view.

Pre-web 2.0 web sites such as MySpace which let users modify the look of pages with no way of viewing them without the customisations is atrocious. *Figure 4.1.2.2* on the next page shows a customised profile page. Who would be able to read what it says with blue text on a blue background? I can't. Imagine when someone with a visual impairment visits a site like MySpace and tries to read what people have put on their profiles without using a screen reader, they wouldn't be able to.

Trakr will not have user customised styles for this very reason. If things are kept simple and consistent they are instantly more usable and useful. However, user customisation can be a good

thing if it is limited, perhaps by allowing users to only change certain colours or allowing them to pick from pre-built themes. This gives the user more power which gives them a sense that their page on a web site is really their own and belongs to them without making it unusable for anyone else who wants to view it.

Figure 4.1.2.2 – A MySpace profile page



4.1.4 Summary

In this section, I have highlighted a few common issues surrounding Web 2.0 applications, specifically social networks. Although Trakr is not a social network in the sense that it doesn't create any original content, only syndicates content from other web sites, these issues are still relevant and I will try to avoid them where possible and stick to the goal of Trakr being an easy to use web site with a simple, but modern appearance.

5. Project Content

5.1 Content

Within this section are descriptions of each page that will be part of the web site and what can be expected from each of them. For visual ideas for these pages, see the *Visual Design* section.

5.1.1 Home

The home page will be the first page a user sees when they visit Trakr. It is important that first time users who visit the web site can quickly understand what it's about and how it can benefit them.

It will contain a large image or photo at the top with a brief overview of Trakr and what it does. Beneath this, there will be an overview of how to register along with a supplemental page giving more help to those who need it. There will also be a log in form next to the registration instructions.

I plan to have the latest updates from users displayed on the home page also, so new users can get a good idea of what updates look like and what information they provide. This area will be updated automatically using AJAX to show the latest updates without the user having to refresh the page.

5.1.2 Overview

When a user has logged in, the first page the user will see is the overview page. This will contain the latest updates from a user's friends in a Facebook style format with inline pictures and videos.

Users will be able to filter data by friend, source or date using a series of drop down menus located at the top of the page.

Next to each update will be a star which users can click to save an update as a favourite for future reference. This will be done using AJAX.

This page will also display new friend requests and any other important notices that Trakr needs to send out to users.

5.1.3 Favourites

Past updates that users have chosen as favourites will be displayed on this page. The same filter controls as the overview page will be available on this page too.

5.1.4 Profile

The profile page will contain basic information about a user such as username, location, display picture and friends. Beneath this will be the latest updates from that user.

5.1.5 Settings

The settings page will be broken into two sections; general and sources.

5.1.5.1 General

The general settings will contain option for change profile information and uploading/deleting their display picture.

5.1.5.2 Sources

Sources will be a list of the web sites available that Trakr can retrieve data from. Next to each source there will be an input box for their username. When this page is submitted, each source will be

checked to ensure the user has provided a valid username. If they haven't, they will be notified about it.

5.1.6 Friends

The friends section will contain 3 different pages; view, edit and a search page to search for friends to add.

5.1.6.1 View

When the user clicks the friend link, they will be shown a list of friends that they have added to their account. This list will contain usernames and display pictures and possibly other data like latest updates for example. If users have added each other as friends, they will be identified as mutual friends with a special icon. If a user has added someone and the other user hasn't added them in return, no mutual friend's icon will be displayed.

Next to each friend there will be an icon to edit and delete them. Editing a friend will take the user to a separate page, while deleting will just remove that friend from the current page.

5.1.6.2 Edit

There will be an option to change which sources you subscribe to for specific friends which will be configured on this page using a series of checkboxes. For example, if you only want to track videos uploaded to YouTube for a certain user, you could exclude all their other activity from being shown. By default, all updates for all friends will be displayed.

5.1.6.3 Search

To add a new friend, users will need to search for them either by username, real name or e-mail address. A list of users matching the query will be displayed with the option of adding them.

If no users are found, or the friend you are looking for isn't listed, you will be able to send them an invite to join Trakr from the same page.

5.1.7 Contact us/Get in touch

This page will contain contact information for Trakr along with a simple form for getting in touch. More details about the form can be found in the *Scenarios* section.

5.1.8 Interactive Timeline

The interactive timeline will be on its own page and constructed using Adobe Flash. There will be links to the timeline wherever update data is displayed, e.g. overview page, profile page and home page. This will be a more visual way of displaying friend update data

5.1.9 Desktop Application

The desktop application will likely be similar to the interactive timeline in the way it displays friend updates. Users may be able to use other features of the Trakr such as managing friends, etc from within the application, but this has not yet been finalised yet.

5.2 Functional Requirements

5.2.1 Development

Trakr will be developed using Adobe Dreamweaver CS3 for coding, Adobe Photoshop CS3 for graphics and Adobe Flash CS3 for Flash development and ActionScript coding.

The backend will be powered by PHP & MySQL and the frontend will be created using XHTML, CSS and JavaScript.

The web site will be hosted on a Linux server running Apache.

5.2.2 End User

To view the web site, users will need:

- A web browser, such as:
 - Internet Explorer 6 (or greater)
 - Firefox
 - Safari
 - Opera
- An internet connection (256kbps or higher is recommended)
- Screen resolution of 800x600 (or greater)

To view the interactive timeline, users will need Adobe Flash Player 9 or above as I will be using ActionScript 3.0 which is only supported by version 9 onwards. If a user doesn't have Adobe Flash Player installed or doesn't have the correct version, they will be prompted to install/update it.

The desktop application will require the Adobe AIR Runtime. As this is still in beta testing at the time of writing, system requirements could not be found.

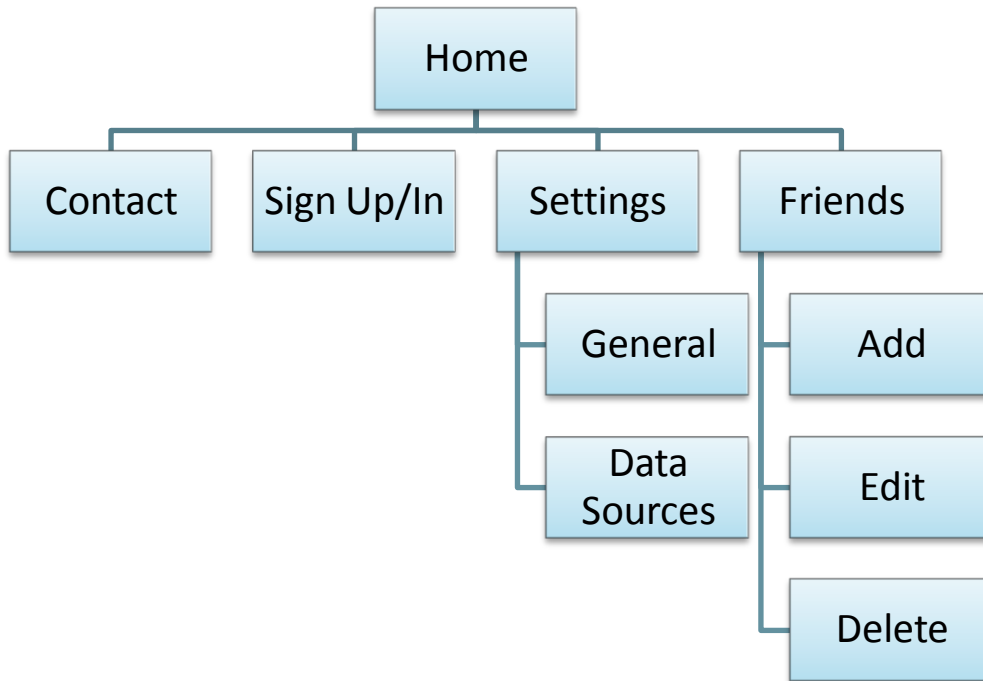
If a user doesn't wish to install/update Flash or the Adobe AIR Runtime for whatever reason, they will still be able to use the web site, but will only be able to view the html version of their updates.

6. Project Structure

6.1 Architectural Blueprints

Below is what the structure of the web site will be.

Figure 6.1.1 – Architectural Blueprint



6.2 Global & Local Navigation

There are two types of navigation on a web site; global and local. Global navigation is that which is accessible on every page, where as local navigation is for navigation within a specific section of the web site. The table below shows the navigation elements the web site will have.

Figure 6.2.1 – Global & Local Navigation

Global	Local	Comment
Home		
Contact		
Sign Up/In		Only shown if <i>not</i> signed in
Settings	General	Only shown if signed in
	Data Sources	
Friends	Add	
	Edit	
	Delete	

6.3 Database Structure

An initial table structure for the Trakr database is detailed below. These tables will likely be refined over time as the project progresses.

6.3.1 Users Table

Figure 6.3.1.1 – Users Table

Field	Data Type	Comment
userID	INT(11)	User ID
openID	VARCHAR(50)	OpenID URL – Identifies user
email	VARCHAR(50)	E-mail address
fullname	VARCHAR(50)	Full name
dob	DATE	Date of Birth
gender	ENUM('m', 'f')	Gender
postcode	VARCHAR(10)	Post code (optional) – Would be used for statistical purposes or for locating users near to them.
country	VARCHAR(50)	Data type/lengths may change depending on the values returned by OpenID providers
language	VARCHAR(30)	
timezone	VARCHAR(50)	
timestamp	DATETIME	When row last updated

6.3.2 Sources Table

Figure 6.3.2.1 – Sources Table

Field	Data Type	Comment
sourceID	INT(11)	Source ID
active	TINYINT(1)	Whether source is available to users
name	VARCHAR(50)	Name of source, e.g. Flickr
iconPath	VARCHAR(50)	Path to stored icon
timestamp	DATETIME	When row last updated

6.3.3 Updates Table

Figure 6.3.3.1 – Updates Table

Field	Data Type	Comment
updateID	INT(11)	Update ID
sourceID	INT(11)	Source ID
userID	INT(11)	User ID
data	VARCHAR(255)	Data returned from source during update
timestamp	DATETIME	When row last updated

6.3.4 Friends Table

Figure 6.3.4.1 – Friends Table

Field	Data Type	Comment
friendsID	INT(11)	Friends ID
userID	INT(11)	User ID
friendID	INT(11)	ID of friend user added
timestamp	DATETIME	When row last updated

6.3.5 Friend Settings Table

Figure 6.3.5.1 – Friend Settings Table

Field	Data Type	Comment
friendSettingsID	INT(11)	Friend Settings ID
active	TINYINT(1)	Whether user is tracking this source for this friend
userID	INT(11)	User ID
friendID	INT(11)	ID of friend row relates to
sourceID	INT(11)	Source ID
timestamp	DATETIME	When row last updated

7. Visual Design

7.1 Logo

The logo for any web site is essential in creating an online memorable brand. Many of the services that Trakr will track have very simple logos that are easily identifiable. I decided to go with a similar style and created the logo shown in *Figure 7.1.1* below. It is clean, simple and attractive and fits with the styling of other Web 2.0 web sites.

Figure 7.1.1 – Trakr Logo



While developing a logo I came up with two other ideas as shown in *Figure 7.1.2* below.

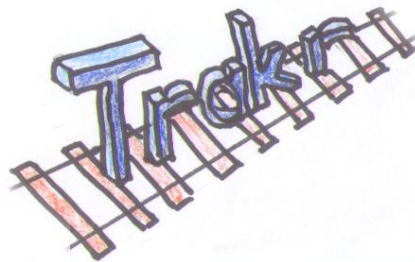
- A. This was my first attempt at a logo. The paw print represents the idea of tracking something. However, the problem with this logo is that it looks like it should belong to some sort of animal related web site.
- B. My second idea was having Trakr sat on set of a set of tracks going out into the distance. This logo would look better if it was created in Photoshop, however I decided not to continue with the idea as I felt it was overly complicated compared to other Web 2.0 web sites.

Figure 7.1.2 – Other Logo Ideas

A.



B.

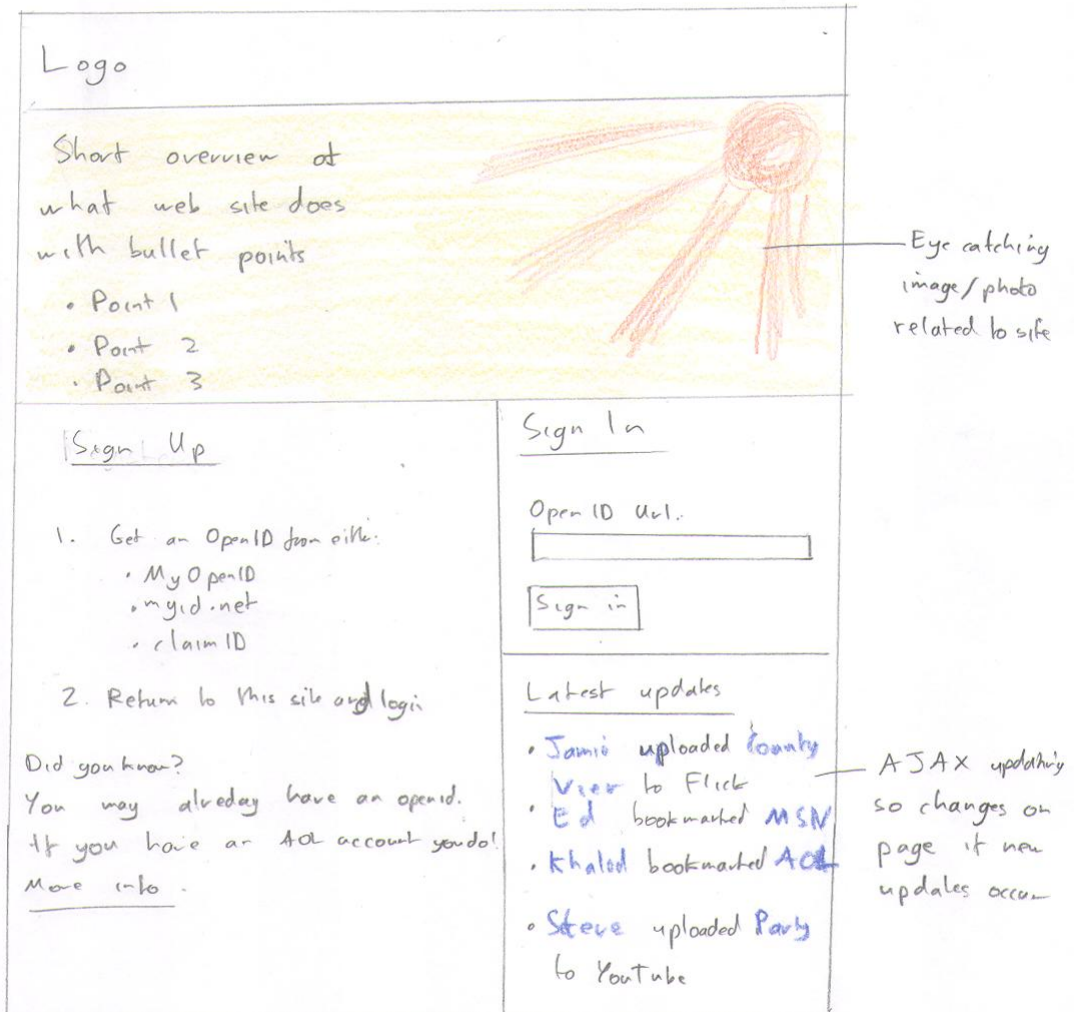


7.2 Design Sketches

7.2.1 Home

Figure 7.2.1.1 – Home page

Home



7.2.2 Overview

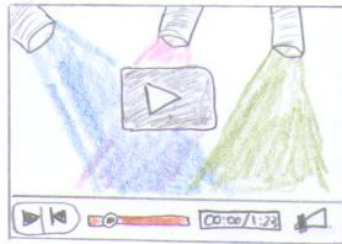
Figure 7.2.2.1 – Overview page with inline photos and videos

Today

3:22pm ● Jamie Wright uploaded Country View to Flickr



10:43am you Rebecca Walker uploaded Funky Disco to Youtube



Yesterday

7:01pm 📌 Tom Walters bookmarked SeoMoz on del.icio.us

2:57pm 📌 Khalid Mehmood added Apple 4GB Ipad to his Amazon.co.uk wishlist

10:07am 📌 Ed Symington wrote Flash Origami on his blog

“ Just been having a peek at what people are up to with **papervision3D**, an open source 3d engine for flash which is currently in beta... ”

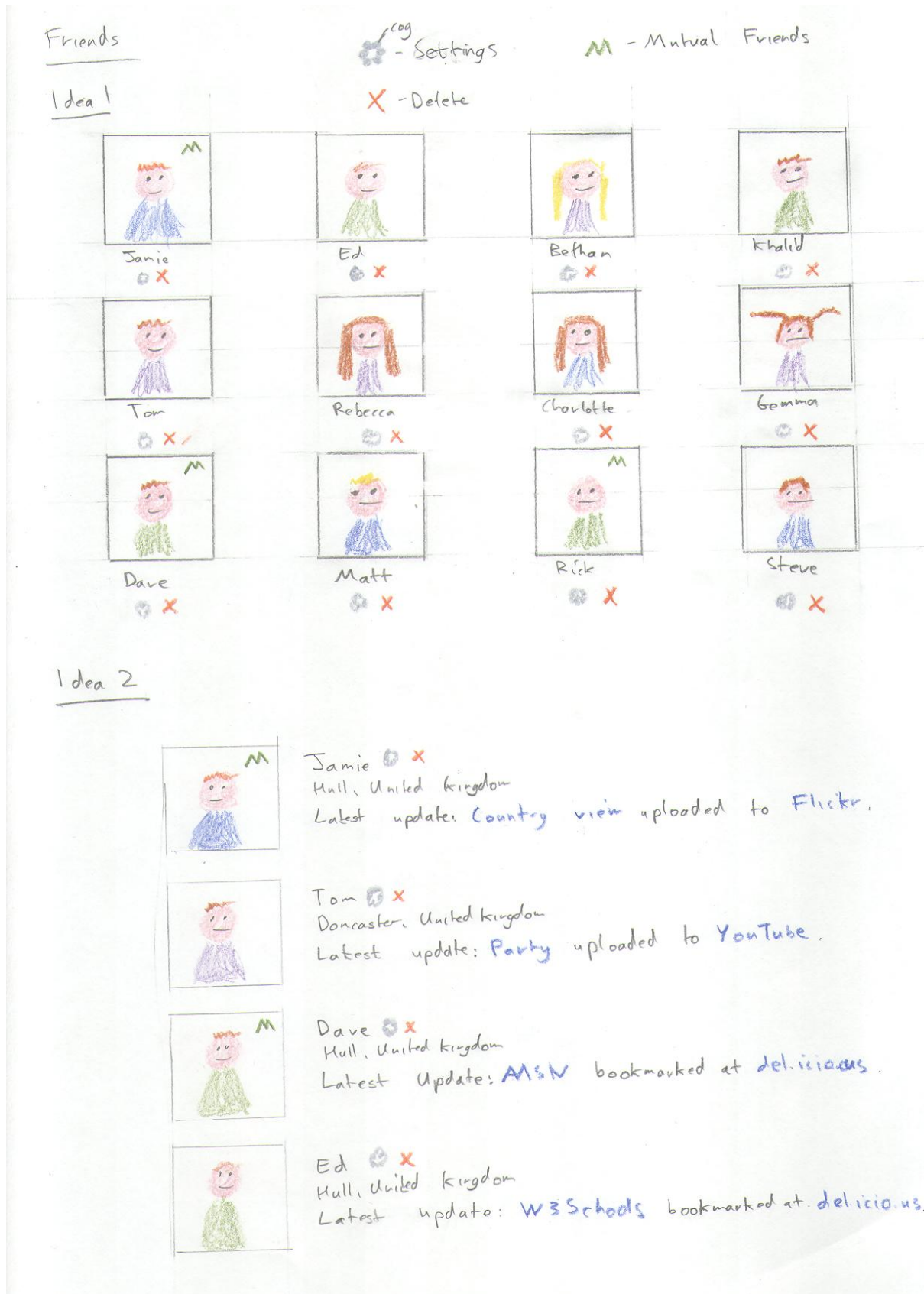
24th September

1:30am 📌 Jamie Wright dugg Five PC Gaming Myths on Digg



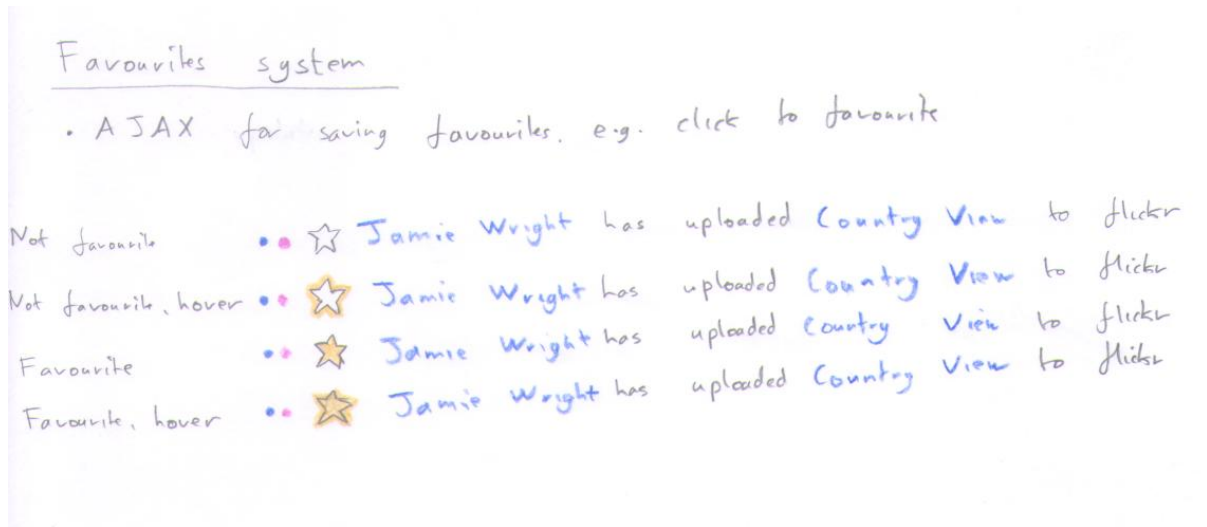
7.2.3 Friends

Figure 7.2.3.1 – Friends main page ideas



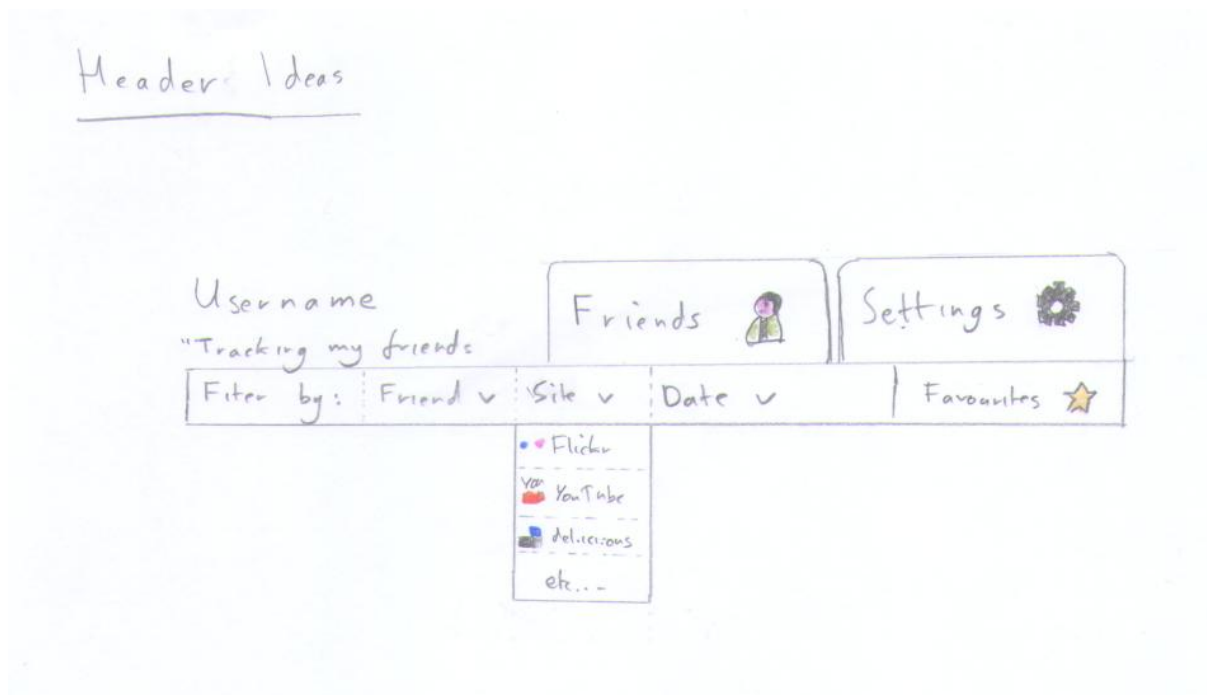
7.2.4 Favourites

Figure 7.2.4.1 – Overview of favourites system



7.2.5 Header/Filter Menus

Figure 7.2.5.1 – Header idea with filter menus

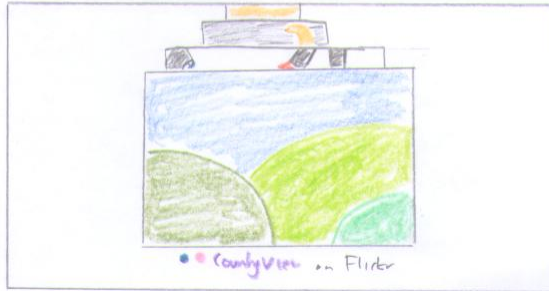


7.2.6 Interactive Timeline

Figure 7.2.6.1 – Concept ideas for the interactive timeline

Flash Timeline Interface Ideas

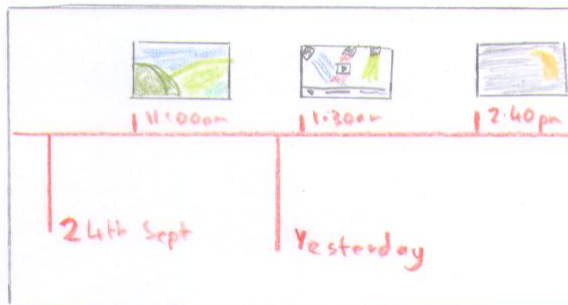
- Apple Leopard "Time Machine" style:



- Scroll wheel to move back and forth
- Alternative method for those without scroll wheel
- Play videos directly within movie

Video: <http://www.apple.com/macosx/leopard/features/timemachine.html>

- Horizontal Timeline:



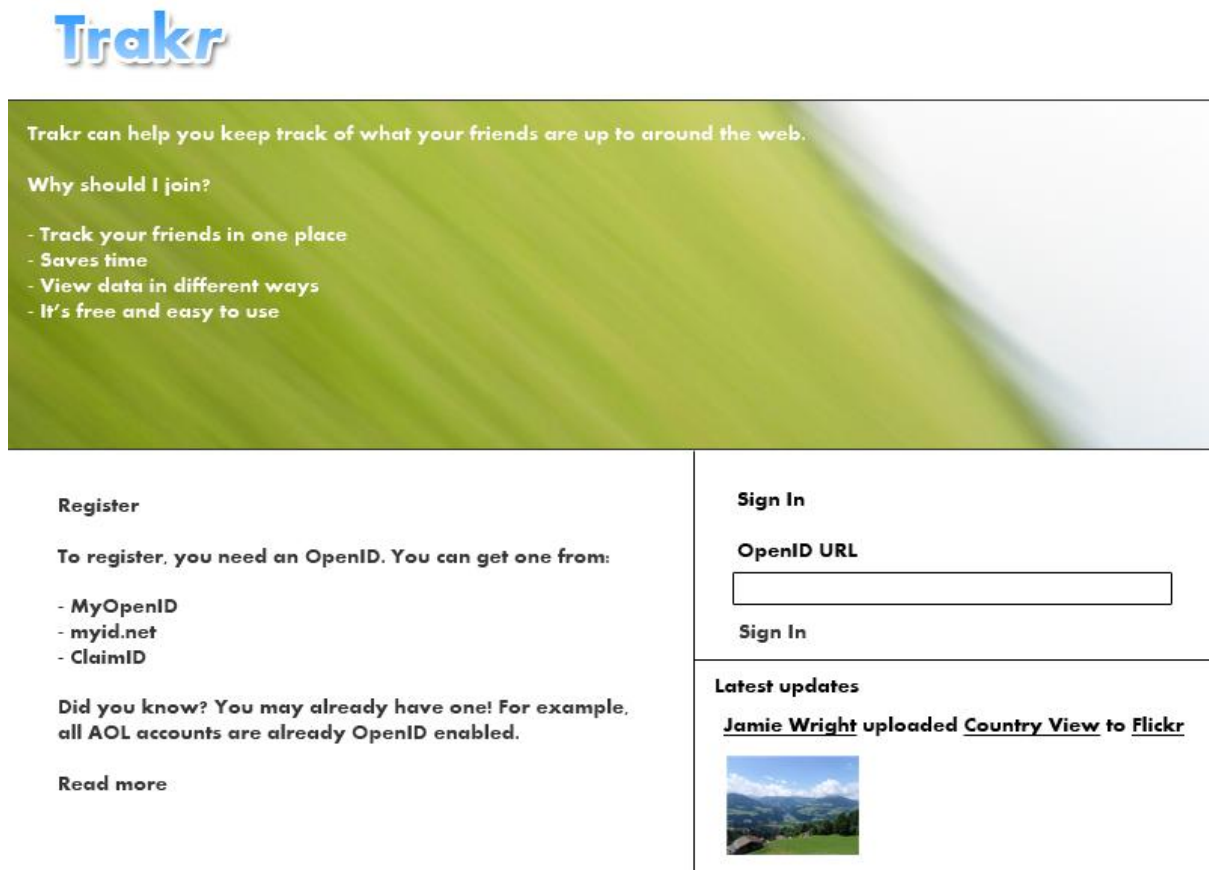
- Scrollable left to right
- Click an item to view larger within movie

7.3 Screen Mock-ups/Wireframes

This section contains some early screen mock-ups/wireframes of what the layout of Trakr could look like. These will be refined over time in response to user feedback and technical limitations.

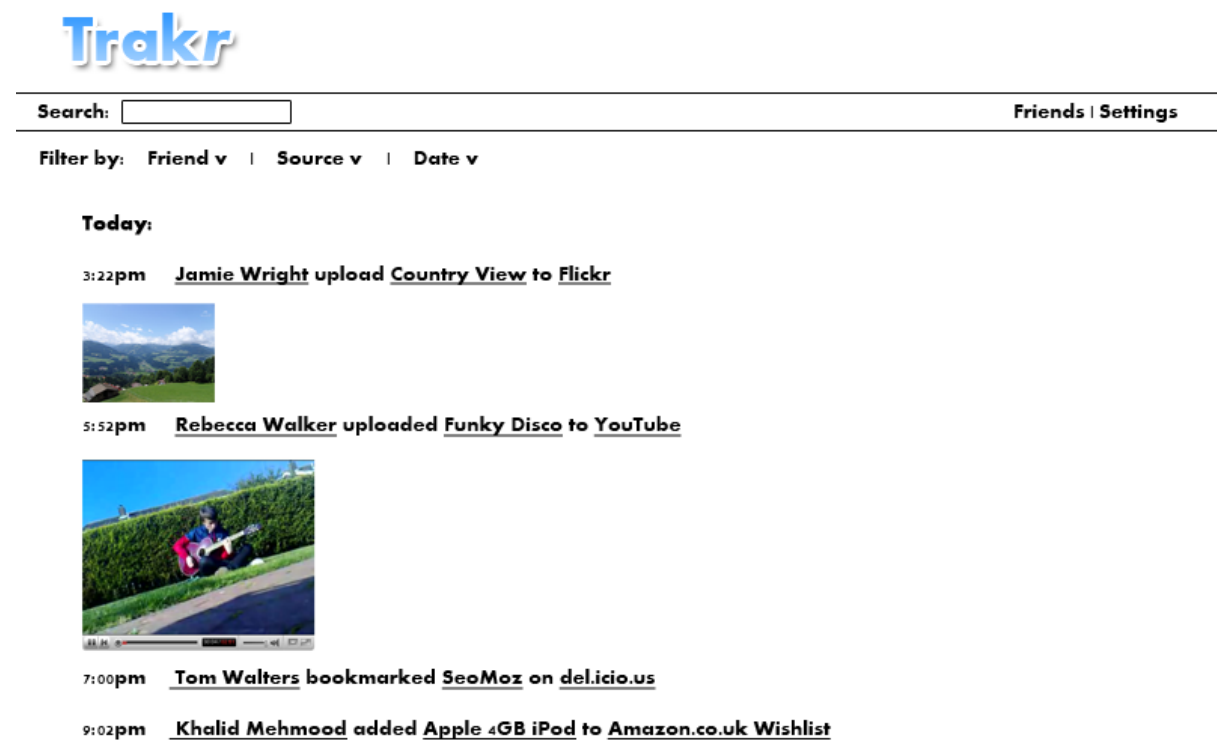
7.3.1 Home

Figure 7.3.1.1 – Mock-up of home page



7.3.2 Overview

Figure 7.3.2.1 – Mock-up of overview page showing user updates



8. Appendix

8.1 Reference and Research Materials

8.1.1 Web Sites

- SitePoint – <http://www.sitepoint.com/>
- A List Apart – <http://www.alistapart.com/>
- Digital Web – <http://www.digital-web.com/>
- PHP Classes – <http://www.phpclasses.org/>
- OpenID – <http://www.openid.net/>
- Learning jQuery - <http://www.learningjquery.com/>

8.1.2 Books and Magazines

- .net magazine
- The PHP Anthology: Object Oriented PHP Solutions published by SitePoint (2005), written by Harry Fuecks (ISBN: 0-9579218-5-3 [Volume 1], 0-9579218-4-5 [Volume 2])

8.1.3 Software / Technology

- Adobe Dreamweaver CS3
- Adobe Flash CS3
- Adobe Photoshop CS3
- PHP & MySQL
- XHTML & CSS
- JavaScript

8.2 Development Schedule

Month (End of)	Tasks
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on project and develop ideas • Work on proposal document • Create blog to post project updates
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare proposal presentation • Finish proposal document • Initial tests with retrieving data from sources • Create prototype of design
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working on data retrieval • Set up user sign up/sign in using OpenID • Work on friends system and test with data retrieval system
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine user and friends systems • Work on scheduling of updates • Incorporate design into what done so far
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more sources • Launch initial version of Trakr to get feedback from users • Start work on interactive timeline and desktop application
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue work on interactive timeline and desktop application • Refine web site in response to user feedback
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch interactive timeline and desktop application to get feedback from users • Work on evaluation document
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine interactive timeline and desktop application • Continue work on evaluation document
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand in evaluation document and project