Loci Android App Development

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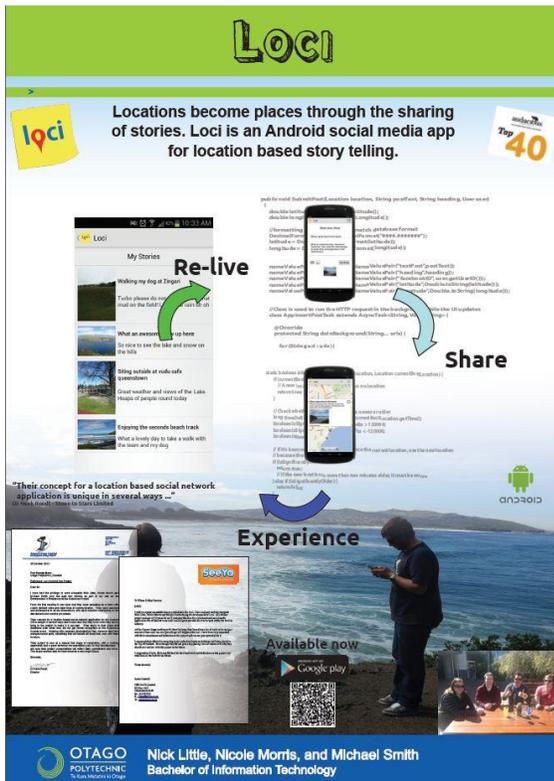Otago Polytechnic

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Abstract

Locations become places through the sharing of stories. Loci is an Android social media app for location based story telling.

Keywords

Location, mobile, story, capstone

1. INTRODUCTION

In this report, an Android mobile application is presented. The key features are that people can visit any location world-wide and tell their stories and share their experience with anyone. Users must physically be at the location to share their story or to experience other stories. We feel we have worked hard to try and meet the metrics defined in our value proposition. People can now use our app to visit a location and tell their story, or people can go and experience other stories at the location. This really shows the

ability for location based story telling. We have downloads on the Google Play store, with stories told world-wide. This demonstrates the value that our app can bring to the community. With Loci, locations are now places.

A table giving an assessment of the deployed system against functional requirements is shown below.

Number	Requirement - The system shall	Description
FR1	Provide user post locations	The user will need to know their post locations
FR2	Provide a way to post text based messages	The user will be able to use the phones keyboard to input text based messages
FR3	Provide previous post locations	The users will be able to find where previous posts are using a map
FR4	Provide mobility	The user will be able to use the system anywhere with maximum portability
FR5	Provide a way to post drawings	The user will be able to draw pictures on their screen and then post that picture
FR6	Provide a way to upload pictures to a post	The user will be able to upload pictures
FR7	Provide a way for users to login	The user will be ale to login to the system, or use facebook or twitter to login to the system
FR8	Provide a way to update account details	The user will be able to update their personal details
FR9	Provide a way to share post locations via social media	The user will be able to share post locations via facebook or twitter
FR10	Provide an alternative to physical graffiti.	The users will be able to use the system to perform virtual graffiti

Figure 1: Paper-based prototype (top left), Loci main screen (top centre), location based story (top right), user testing (lower left), story from Korea (lower right).

1.3 Technical Highlights

*API-*We have created a solid infrastructure for our system written in PHP and using JSON as the data interchange format. Our API is well documented and scalable enabling any future development with ease.

Library Uses – Facebook SSO for logging in, making a seamless experience and a good technical skill demonstration. We are adding other log in options for the future. Actionbar Sherlock for the consistent Google Design Guidelines to flow natively across all versions of Android. Google Maps integration to display our stories, with images in a balloon style overlay.

Web Portal – For initial testing of our application and current administrative purposes and features, we have an online interface to insert data into our application. We can add users, stories, locations and edit all of these. This is useful in moderation as we can delete or edit objectionable stories that are told. Our moderation system for the future will coincide with this. Users can now go to our website to view all the stories being told without the need for a mobile device.

Locations become places through the sharing of stories. Loci is an Android social media app for location based story telling. We are addressing the opportunity of letting people tell stories and share experiences around the globe. Loci is an Android app which is available for free download from the Google Play Store. Since our release we have attracted users from all over the world, from Korea, USA, and China to name a few. This shows the use and potential that this app can bring to the community.

There are millions of places, with stories waiting to be told. Share your experiences, and leave only footprints. Loci is a sustainable and clean option to leaving behind your memories. Our app has extensive library use and support to maintain a consistent standard across all Android devices. We have worked hard to ensure a good and seamless user experience. Our API is built to scale, which opens the potential for further platforms or devices such as the Google Glass Project.