**What is this supposed to be?**

To put it simply, this is a program that puts together a visualization of any instant messaging logs, as long as there is some sort of date or time it can read.

**Why did you decide to make something like this?**

Have you ever noticed how different people online have their own ways of talking? One person you talk to may send links to websites often, while another always adds in emoticons. It would be interesting to see how often they insert these links and emoticons into their responses. Our friends have also complained to us that we never talk much when we’re online, so we wanted to see the difference between how much they and we talk online.
**Who do you expect to use this?**

Probably casual users who are curious to see the distribution between how much they talk and how much their friends talk. Although researchers aren’t the focus of this project, we believe they may also benefit from our project.

**Alright, explain to me what I’m seeing here.**

There are two lines (or more, depending on the chat) seen in the picture, each representing a person. The arrows point downward to show the progression of time. The solid orange and sky blue waveforms represent the amount of messages sent in a period of time, so the more one talks in a few minutes, the greater the waveform would be. The yellow and dark blue waveforms seen inside the brighter waveforms are different attributes seen in each message, such as hyperlinks and emoticons.

The box seen in the picture can be focused on an area of the waveform and zoom in to show the actual messages that were sent in that period. The glowing colors behind the lines and waveforms show much the person talked during the entire conversation (or for what is displayed on the screen at the time). The brighter and larger the glowing color gets, the more the person talked in the conversation.