Allison Lacker
Twitter Visualization

**Description**
My idea displays a map of the US showing twitter updates by location. There are two colors. Only posts where a location can be identified are shown. Posts that talk about a place are shown in green. This includes both twits like “I had a great time in Seattle!” and “I love Microsoft!.” Posts by a person who is from a recognizable location are in orange. Depending on bandwidth, algorithms, etc, this could be distinguished either by analyzing previous twitters, or from the name. For example “UIUC undergrad lib” could be plugged into google maps in order to return Champaign, IL. You can view by either color, or view both at once. When you select a circle, it becomes larger so you can read the message. Twits become more transparent as time passes. A constantly updating system would appear to be constantly in flux, like a faster version of chat circles.

**Motivation**
This visualization will give an idea of where most twitters come from, and where people talk about. This could also be useful if you want to know what is going on in a city. It would be interesting to have an analysis over time to see if people in one area tended to twitter later at night than others. For example, do people in Chicago IL, stay up later at night than people in Springfield? It is the same time zone, but cities have different cultures that could become apparent (for at least twitter users) through this interface. One city like Champaign may have more educational updates, while Los Angeles may have more entertainment related twits.
Microsoft sucks!
I can't use my favorite program with Vista!
-random twitterer

Pulitzer prize winner John Updike has passed away. Celebrate his genius, read one of his books http://tinyurl.com/c2rsxj -UIUC Undergrad Lib