Bridging the Gap: A Genre Analysis of Weblogs

This paper was quite interesting but because this paper is written around 2003, the information they collected from coding they did with 203 blogs are somewhat outdated so that some of the data they collected are not the same in these days I would say. Of course, lots of data is supposed to be the same as these days and those data helped me to know more about blogs since I never actually made a blog for myself. However, some of the data they were driven is possible to be quite different to current statue of blogs on the web so that I would like to go over them.

First of all, the data collecting the purpose of each blog is quite reasonable for the time of 2003 but it is not anymore; other personal homepage style, facebook occurred recently (not that recently, but newer than 2003 I believe), and this is not really categorized as blog even though there is facebook blog. As you know, many Americans including internationals are using facebook as their personal journals so that usage of blog as a personal journal is quite decreased and many of them are not actively staying. There is several advantages of using facebook as a personal journal comparing to weblogs. Not HTML is required on facebook so that more customers can try facebook when they were afraid of knowing HTML. Also, because almost everything is implemented already, it is easier to update posts, images and profile which make users to be attracted. These days, I believe blogs are used to share their interests other than showing personal profile to others. If someone using a blog is interested in animations, they can upload some sample animation to share interest with others; comparing to 2003, the internet connectivity to each house and data can be transferred within significant time period has increased a lot so that it is not hard to upload a video with low quality (In Korea, my native country, has such a good internet cable connection setup so that watching high quality video through blog is not that hard thing to do).

As computer hardware develops, software itself is developed a lot in its quality and diversity of function. Interpretation of Graphic is much often than before in blogs I believe, and most of people (at least in my country, Korea) has there blogs decorated with images and some short emotional figure that actually moves with particular pattern. I myself visit a lot on some particular blogs that updates some funny cartoons, and everytime I enter to their first page, they show me some cartoon character moving with short time pattern like moving their hands to say hello or some other random motions. They are pretty fun and I like this kind of thing going on in blogs because there is nothing like that in facebook.

And about number of comments, I want to strongly disagree that the mean of comment for each entry is less than 1 which is 0.3. I really can’t say this is also true for current time. I saw some post with about 50 comments saying the how good the post is or gossiping one another in comment line. It is true that some of personal stuff entry doesn’t really have many comments but because a lot of people are using blogs to express their personal interest these days, there are more images or informative textures in blogs so that many people who sees those post or entries have opportunity to argue one another which makes more comments on each entry.
CodeSaw: A Social Visualization of Distributed Software Development

There are a lot of businesses going on in this world and this world is changing with online communication developed by the world-wide web. Instead of having many experts on some specific area of earning money in company, those experts are substituted with volunteers around the world communicated with online communication. It is true that some companies had succeeded in their business using world-wide resources instead of paying money to experts that are the members of the company. I don’t exactly remember what the company’s name was, but I remember this company had really hard time to manage because it was hard to find gold around the world after lots of known areas of mining gold are already empty. A lot of experts in that company tried to locate where the gold is, but solution didn’t show itself to them. So the manager of the company decided to ask for help to volunteers around the world using online communication, and the company returned to millionaire by finding several locations of mining gold area.

This research paper is aiming to improve this kind of sharing environment and I am pretty much impressed on such a way to motivate developers around the world. The purpose of volunteering software developers is basically to improve their coding skills by joining this free opportunity of developing software. However, it is true that many people are lack of motivation when they feel like others are not participating in this software development. I also though this side effect of open source software development can limit its potential of improving dramatic amount of production. CodeSaw mainly solves this problem by showing other participants of the software development. I pretty much like this way of implementing CodeSaw program because of its simplicity and sufficient amount of information given to users about participation rating of other users. However, I see CodeSaw as helping developers’ motivation on developing open source code but not major solution that the open source movement encounters.

As you can see, CodeSaw shows quite simple but enough detail information of interaction among software developers who are developing same software but did not meet face to face because of their living distance, etc. They know how each developer participate on this project well without attacking each other’s privacy. However, this information can lead to loneliness of each developer who turns out to be the only volunteer of the particular project. The worst case is failing finishing project because of complete absence of software programmer at that particular project; volunteers who had a slight hope of having other volunteers that are working with them turns out to be none after analyzing data that is retrieved by CodeSaw. I argue some certain amount of payment is required. By rating how well each developer implemented the code, certain rewards should be given to those developers in order to motivate them to participate more actively.

I think this software CodeSaw should be used not only in open source projects but also in projects that certain companies working on. This will show such great information on how each member of company participates and this will result in fair amount of payment or bonus payment of each member measured in degree of participation of company’s project.
Flash Forums and ForumReader: Navigating a New Kind of Large-scale Online Discussion

Flash forum seems like newsgroup of websites like gizmodo.com that has a specific topic discussed by lots of people. This ForumReader shows quite advanced technology to analyze the flash forum at those days. However, some of the features need to have some modification to make the user interface part much facile. Purpose of visualizing something is to make users feel much comfortable in working on or looking so that more users can be attracted to make social activity much more active. However, comparing to Mozilla thunderbird or other visualization tools, this seems to need more improvements.

First of all, visualizing all the posts in particular flash forum at once seems quite unnecessary. If you see the newsgroup postings, it is quite unnecessary to look over some old posting because postings that are outdated are mostly lost its value; news about president election is already useless information since Obama is the president of United States of America. If all the postings are necessary to be visualized, I think the technique of scrolling would help instead of trying to show all the postings at once. Also, instead of coloring and showing what color is the best rating, I think it is much easier to show how many stars each posting has; we all know more stars mean better rating.

Also, highlight selection seems unreasonable to exist. Instead of giving options to search for author, topic, etc, it might be much easier to just use search box or tags upon each category so that as we click the tag of each category, whatever is most or first comes first; for instance, title or writer’s name can be alphabetically ordered or most stars about moderation level can come first. Highlight might give more advantage to users than search box at some moment, but I think search box will give enough use to users.

So instead of this combination of thumbnail visualization and highlight selection, this can be simplified into thunderbird news group layout (title, writer and scrolling technique) and small search box that makes rating of each posting differed into words that typed into that search box. Some people might say that will take too much time for ForumReader to rate each posting corresponding to words that entered in search box, but our computer became far more faster and stronger than few years before (we all know what is quad core), and I think it is possible to challenge this to our strong computers. Most computers run such great games like gears of war, call of duty, etc; why not this?

I thought of implementing some sort of graphical flash forum distributor to make users more attracted. Instead of having readers like Mozilla Thunderbird or Microsoft outlook, I could think of something like RPG look that has big castle designed the way of topic that the newsgroup has (for instance, newsgroup about Greek culture has a castle with Greek design and newsgroup about computer will have a castle composed of transistors and registers), and each users will have his/her own house in that castle with bunch of messages they wrote. Each user of newsgroup can have his/her own avatar so that they can decorate themselves. This idea is basically like RPG fantasy games and I am sure these graphical images will inspire users to download and install it with much of enjoyment! And I don’t think this is impossible to run since computer hardware showed dramatic improvement in its quality and speed.