Email Archives

Alexae Stone

This paper was all about changing the way we view our email. I think this is a great idea due to the poor interfaces that we currently experience. They plan on trying to make the mail easier to categorize, rather than having to put it in one particular folder. It talks about how there are many different approaches to viewing all of the data that email presents. It could be done through viewing it by time between each email or by seeing social networks that form between different mailers.

The approach of sorting emails seems like a possible problem. I see the issue with how current emails are sorted, but I feel like there are other solutions today to this issue. I do use folders/labels in gmail but I think the search function makes this easier. You can search by any kind of category you are looking for at the time. I do think though their feature could be useful in some situations. It could replace the folders like previously mentioned. The idea that you could search by some set features would definitely be better. Though great search sites like google I think will overtake the folder methods.

I like the idea of sorting email by time. If others are like me, then they will notice that they have forgotten to email people back by seeing the dot ending with the person emailing them and no response being sent back. But maybe for people with type A personalities you could see how often they email other people and see if they are over bugging them. I have had this happen to me several times. I think they pointed out this part of the problem, but the idea of not being able to see the subject is very bad for this visualization. Maybe you could do some color coding to see the subjects.

The social networking aspect sounds very interesting. It would be cool to see how people know each other. However, I think this brings up issues with privacy. People may not other people to know that they know other people. It could bring up relationships that you did not want others to know about ☹. The idea of the networking circles reminds me a lot of work that people are doing in class. I like the idea of these circles. I am always interested on Facebook to see who my friends have in common with me. I think this idea is very good and like the article says people are interested in this “fun” aspect.
Social Network Fragments

Alexae Stone

This paper touches on the different kinds of bonds people have within and outside of their groups, and how this can be shown through visualization. I think the idea of users changing how they behave due to seeing this kind of visualization is strange. The visualization being that of groups that you contact having lines between them and also what other groups contact. If you are a part of two different social groups, you will have lines going to each of these groups. I would have assumed that you would know previously which group you belonged to. I know what friends I hang out with and somewhat act differently depending on who I am around. I guess the visualization opened people’s eyes up to this more and they saw these different groups more clearly and acted like the group usually does when around each particular group.

I think when looking at the email aspect of comparing networks, it is essential that it does not reflect daily happenings. Like they said, not all conversations happen online. When Fernanda and I worked on our Facebook friends visualization, we found quickly that we do not interact on Facebook that often, but in real life we are very close friends and hang out quite often. I think the email application would represent the same thing; my mom and I rarely talk through email, so it would appear we have a poor friendship. But in real life, we talk a lot on the phone, which may be even a stronger bond than email, but would not be represented.

I like the idea they pulled together in their spring system. I originally thought they would have an issue with the objects in the middle being either really alike or nothing in common at all. But I think the thing that saves this is the idea that originally all of the names are randomly placed. However, I still am not sure that this will be accurate because some could be randomly pulled closer than others.

I think when it shows the history pane on the right, that it should be more intuitive. I think if there was a slide bar that allowed you to search through a history, this could be the intuitive part. Also, it might provide a quicker way to see the data, more seamless if you will. The part about the history pane that I do like is the ability to see the different colors. This gives you the idea of what kind of interactions you were having that year. Whether you were more social with friends through email or you were emailing work more, this could be seen through the right window pane.
Public Displays

Alexae Stone

This paper was all about how people interact on social networking sites and the trends that exist on these pages. It goes into detail of how people can try to deceive others, how this can be stopped and just in general how they function. I think this article is most interesting since it is old and we can now see how the social networks have changed.

I think first of all it is most interesting because the article had it totally right that people change their minds about what they think is cool. To begin with, people were on things like myspace but it became not cool and people wanted to move onto more “trendy” things. The article mentions how they think many of these social spaces will change, and they are correct. Though Orkut is still being used in many places, especially Brazil and India.

Myspace had also been run over with people pretending to be others and this relates to the article in how there are many issues surrounding people pretending to be others. I think this addition of fake users on Myspace made the space less cool and could have led to its loss of users. I think facebook could be following the same path by allowing everyone onto facebook, not just college students. Students don’t think its cool to have someone’s mom as a friend on facebook. They want to be able to openly share their stories and some things you just have to keep away from adults. In dealing with fake users, I was not aware that you could post things about a person’s credentials. That seems like it could have been a possible fix on Myspace, so you would know what users you should not include as your friend. There are so many creepy people on Myspace and this could also be a place for users to post how a person had bothered them in that manner. However, when it comes to Facebook, they have just let a lot of users on, not really having too many problems with fake users. It could be difficult to fix, unless people just accept it and start using privacy settings more often. In the paper this is shown as when the teacher started getting high school students adding her as a friend. It makes people feel uncomfortable and they feel like they can’t expose as much of their lives.

I think the paper is right on when it talks about how some people go through lists of people who went to X high school and how they try to add users. But I think some users try not to do this as often because those who were actually close friends with a person know if they are being just casual friends online and they didn’t really know each other before.

The author seems to have a good idea of social users when he states that users try to get as many friends as possible. It becomes a challenge somewhat between users to see who can have the most. When users reach a plateau of friends, I agree that it could be a time when others move to different social sites to start over.
In this book, the writer is talking about a study done to see how people recognize and interact with the spaces around them, especially urban. It deals with how people may see the same place everyday and relate to it just as others do, or some may see a totally different scene, when actually it’s the same thing.

I think it is interesting how they broke apart how people see an object: identity, structure and meaning. I believe this is accurate, identity being how you separate the buildings, structure for how it looks and meaning for what it means to you. I think the most important one is what it means to you. I feel like this is how a person relates to things and remembers them. It is that special tingling you get when you smell it or the memory you get from seeing it that makes it hold that special spot in your mind, just like a person.

It does not surprise me that when the author did a study on people from three different cities, that some of their favorite things dealt with how they liked open spaces, vegetation and visual contrasts. These are all things pleasing to the eye and not always something that you would see in a urban space. So when these places are seen, they stick out to a person. I think a person from the country might really remember things like a skyscraper, if I am understanding what the author is saying.

Also I think it makes sense that people notice the flow of a city and describe that as what the see. It is something you experience everyday and something they may have a problem with when commuting every day, back and forth to work. However, they may notice it too if lights are timed well and the flow of traffic pleases the users. Though I think people tend to focus on the negative when they have a chance to talk about anything.