CS 498 Social Visualization
Final Project Proposal
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Instant messenger user Interface

Purpose: I wish there’s a better interface to reveal every users’ pattern when they using the
instant messenger software. In the same time, I wish to improve the environment so that
people may have more real-time conversations rather than only using it as an online text
system. To achieve these goals, I would focus on analyze patterns for the different group of
people users connected to and use that information to give each connection different degree of
importance. Then, users may give out different information (status…etc.) based on history
interaction. The other usage of collecting status of connections is to provide a sketch for the
users to decide the right time to talk with them.

Idea: There would be two interface provide: one is a more general view for a specific user to
know the pattern he/she interacts with all the connectors. The other provides a detailed
information of their history interaction and the user habit of each connectors. The information
would be showed when the user considered having a conversation with his/her connection.

Description of the interface
(1)The overview of all the connections:
Represent each contact by a circle and the circle grows bigger when you spend longer time
talking to this contact (in an accumulate way). And, all the circles are floating around you near
the side of one of status and the distance between a specific circle and you indicate the
frequency of your conversations.
(2)The detailed view of each connection:
Using different horizontal color bars to indicate the history status of the connection and thus
formed a picture of weekly pattern or monthly pattern. Indicating the history messages by
using thin vertical bar according to the text length so that shows the type of conversation they
had before

Problems: Since the messenger software I ‘m using is not provided with the function
of either record user’s status when they using it or the connectors’ status. Also, it’s
hard to keep up with all the connectors I have right now when I change to other
software. I would try to use another method to record this information to be used in
stead of changing to another system. Although in this way the interface may make the
system difficult to present synchronously.