



ATENEO DE DAVAO UNIVERSITY
Computer Studies Division

Senior Project II

e-buddy
Implementing a Social Network Service Application with Video Sharing
Capabilities

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Course:	Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
School Year:	SY. 2007-2008

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An Independent Research Presented to
The Faculty of the Computer Studies Division
Ateneo De Davao University

In Partial Fulfilment
Of the Requirements for the Degree
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

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MAY 2008

Table of Contents

Abstract	1
Chapter I – Introduction.....	2
1.1 Background of the Study	2
1.2 Technology Application Context.....	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	3
1.4 Significance of the Study.....	4
1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study.....	4
1.6 Definition of Terms	5
Chapter II – Review of Related Works/Technology Application.....	9
2.1 Review of Related Works, Literature, Technologies.....	9
Chapter III – Operational Framework and Methodologies	17
3.1 Operational Framework.....	17
3.2 Methodology.....	25
Chapter IV –Technology Background.....	27
Chapter V – Results and Discussion	41
Chapter VI – Conclusion and Recommendations.....	73
Bibliography.....	75

Abstract

Social Network Service, one of the very popular keywords that are being searched and visited in the internet. This, commonly known as networking site like Friendster, Multiply and Orkut, to name a few, has amassed very large followers and more people are getting hooked by it. Sites such as these offer users with tons of features such as video-sharing, chatting, personal messaging, viewing other user's photos and profiles and the like. These features are making SNS sites quite popular among the youth nowadays. Furthermore, the improvement and discovery of new technologies and techniques makes these sites even better. With the use of PHP and MySQL, sites like these can do amazing things but with the addition of new techniques such as Ajax, these sites can even become better and more interactive.

Keywords: Social Network Service, video-sharing, chatting, personal messaging, viewing, PHP, MySQL, Ajax, interactive.

Chapter I: Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Since the turn of the century, social networking service sites have become very popular in the internet and one of the most visited kinds of websites today. SNS sites such as Friendster, MySpace, Multiply and Orkut have acquired a large number of followers because of the current trend in internet usage. Growing at such a rate, SNS sites have been developing more and more interactive features to include in their sites. From personal messaging to blogging, photo sharing to other video sharing, chatting to buddy commenting and a lot more other features, SNS functionalities have steadily increased over the past few years.

Sites that have SNS implementation with an additional feature like video-sharing such as YouTube and CrunchyRoll are also growing in popularity. These sites, like SNS sites, allow users to add friends and create their private networks. However, these kinds of sites usually focus on the video-sharing functionality and like YouTube which provide users with accounts to add up other users, they also allow users to upload videos and share it with other users. These sites allow users to share their videos with other people who might be interested in a particular kind of video.

1.2 Technology Application Context

Social Network Service websites are currently growing in popularity and the masses that make use of these kinds of site are ever growing in numbers. Everyday website traffic for SNS sites is reaching the millions if not billions and a lot of companies are looking to associate their websites with SNS implementation so as to

ride on with the current trend. SNS sites such as Friendster and Multiply are created mainly for people to interact with other people and knowingly that humans are sociable beings, these sites would most certainly appeal to the masses which is why the group is going to create a Social Network Service website with video sharing capabilities. Video sharing is also another current trend as many users are very fond of watching videos such as movies, documentaries, animes, and cartoons which makes it very much popular the likes of YouTube and CrunchyRoll. Combining these two kinds of web services, users will not only be able to enjoy interacting with other people through means of chatting, messaging or viewing but also be able to enjoy watching videos and share them with other friends that they have.

1.3 Objectives

In order to create this Social Network Service website with video sharing capabilities the following objectives are created:

1. Learn Ajax
 - a. Connecting Ajax to PHP and then to MySQL and back
 - b. Passing parameters from PHP to Ajax
2. Learn PHP
 - a. Creating functions
 - b. Passing parameter
 - c. Connecting to MySQL
3. Learn MySQL
 - a. Creating database tables for the project
 - b. Manipulating database using PHP

4. Understand the critical components in an SNS site
 - a. Compare and contrast several SNS sites
 - b. Adding of friends, messaging, blogging and so on
5. Make use of an existing embedded Flash player for video playback
 - a. Find out how to manipulate Flow Player
 - b. Discover the ways to embed Flow Player into the HTML page

1.4 Significance of the Study

This web project would be significant in two positions. First, this web project being an SNS site would greatly help users to interact with other people. This site would give them the freedom to get to know other people and interact with them either through chatting or personal messaging. Users would be able to see what other people might look like and can get to know other people through their interests and hobbies. Second, this web project would enable users to enjoy videos that are free. Users can upload videos that they want to post on the web and share with other friends. They can also download videos which they want to watch and keep a copy of from their friends.

This project would not only create a common-place for people of different background to get together but also allow users to share with other people their opinions, ideas and of course, videos.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The project is a social networking site which will enable users to create an account wherein they can create their profiles, add photos, add another user as friend, send messages to another user, give another user a comment and create and comment

blogs. Aside from the usual social networking features, the site will enable users to chat with other online users with the use of an Ajax-implemented chatterbox, upload and download a video or just watch them online through an embedded video player and create reviews for videos. The project will be created using Ajax and PHP and MySQL to handle the database.

1.6 Definition of Terms

Ajax

Ajax stands for Asynchronous JavaScript and XML, is a group of inter-related web development techniques used for creating interactive web applications.

Chatterbox

Chatterbox is a chat-like feature of some websites that allows people to quickly leave messages on the website, generally without any form of user registration. In their simplest form, shoutboxes are simply lists of short messages, possibly with information about their authors. The page may be automatically refreshed after a certain interval, or polled dynamically in order to keep new messages visible. Older posts are often deleted after a certain number of messages have been written in order to preserve space on the server.

Document Object Model (DOM)

A description of how an HTML or XML document is represented in a tree structure. DOM provides an object oriented application programming interface that allows parsing HTML or XML into a well defined tree structure and operating on its contents. DOM Events allow event-driven programming languages like JavaScript, JScript, ECMAScript.

Embedded Systems

Embedded Systems is a special-purpose computer system designed to perform one or a few dedicated functions, often with real-time computing constraints.

JavaScript

A scripting language developed by Netscape to enable Web authors to design interactive sites. Although it shares many of the features and structures of the full Java language, it was developed independently. Javascript can interact with HTML source code, enabling Web authors to spice up their sites with dynamic content. JavaScript is endorsed by a number of software companies and is an open language that anyone can use without purchasing a license.

Online

Being online is a state wherein an object is connected to a computer or computer network or is accessible via a computer or a computer network.

PHP

PHP is a computer scripting language, originally designed for producing dynamic web pages. It is mainly used in server-side scripting, but can be used from a command line interface or in standalone graphical applications.

Social Network Service

Social Network Service uses software to build online social networks for communities of people who share interests and activities or who are interested in exploring the interests and activities of others. Social Network Service sites are created in order for people to find people who are like them and have the same

interests as them and from this build a larger network with other people even from the other side of the world.

Streaming

Streaming is multimedia that is constantly received by, and normally displayed to, the end-user while it is being delivered by the provider. The name refers to the delivery method of the medium rather than to the medium itself. The distinction is usually applied to media that are distributed over telecommunications networks, as most other delivery systems are either inherently streaming (e.g. radio, television) or inherently non-streaming (e.g. books, video cassettes, audio CDs). The verb 'to stream' is also derived from this term, meaning to deliver media in this manner.

Video Sharing or Hosting

A video hosting service or video sharing website allows individuals to upload video clips to an Internet website. The video host will then store the video on its server, and show the individual different types of code to allow others to view this video. Because many users do not have personal web space, either as a paid service, or through an ISP offering, video hosting services are becoming increasingly popular, especially with the explosion in popularity of blogs, forums, and other interactive pages. The website, mainly used as the video hosting service, is usually said the video sharing website.

WAMP

WAMP which stands for Windows, Apache, MySQL and PHP is a package of independently-created programs installed on computers that use a Microsoft Windows operating system. The interaction of these programs enables dynamic web

pages to be served over a computer network, such as the internet or a private network. The WAMP serves an application for handling the server within a local host or through a dedicated remote server.

XML

The Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a W3C-recommended general-purpose markup language for creating special-purpose markup languages, capable of describing many different kinds of data. In other words, XML is a way of describing data.