The Ebb & Flow of Activity Streams

Investigating the user experience
of stream-based interfaces.

CHIFOO - Wed, Oct 7, 2009

Home **Profile** **Friends** **Inbox** 41

Joshua Porter Settings Logout

Search

Joshua Porter

Wall | Info | Photos | Family | Relatives | +

What's on your mind?

Attach: ▾

Share

🔍 Options

Lisa Hall Westrate
🏷 In these photos: Joshua Porter

Harvest Party 2009
4 new photos
📷 September 19 at 9:02pm · View album

Chris Brawn
🏷 In this photo: Joshua Porter

Remove

my pics
Gtown buddies and the mini's...

📷 September 8 at 4:46pm · View album

Christian Crumlish
🏷 In this note: Joshua Porter

Good day for Twitter favorites
MaryHodder: RT @zephoria: "Are You F*cking Kidding Me?" is a hysterical song about
Facebook/Twitter by Kate Miller-Heidke http://bit.ly/nU5Ve steveportigal: Delish:
Sherry Turkle is Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology at MIT and
a sociologi... ht...

View Photos of Me (11)
Edit My Profile

Find me at
http://bokardo.com

Information

Current City:
Boston, MA

Hometown:
Newburyport, MA

Website:
http://bokardo.com

Friends

236 friends   See All

Facebook, Summer 2006

Jim   Jill   Joe   Jenny   Jack

Josh
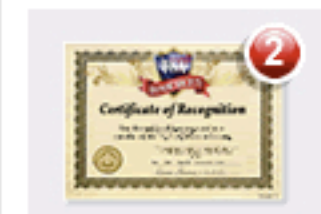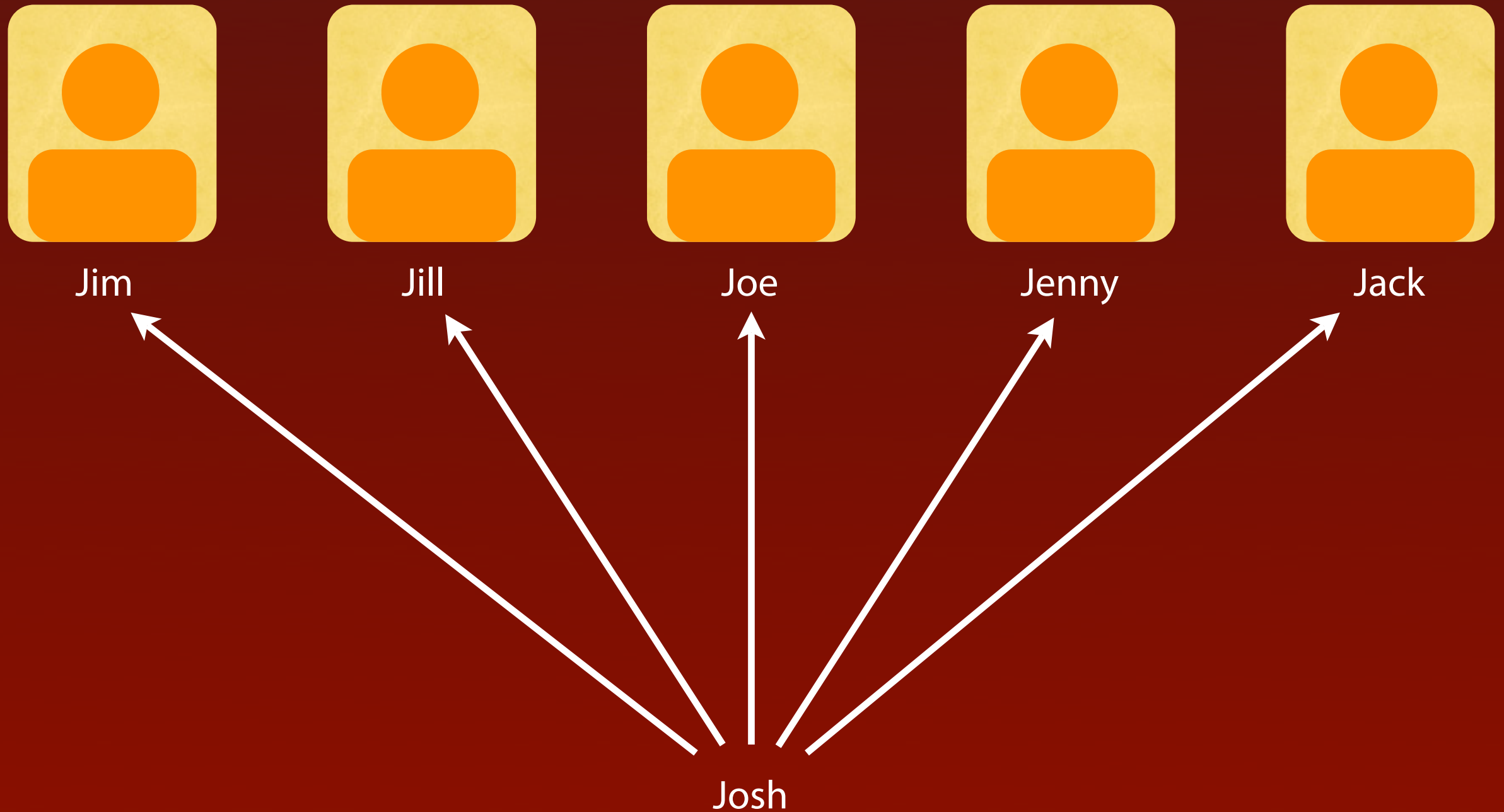
To view activity, I had to go to and view each profile in turn.

News Feed
Boston, MA
Chi.mp
Status Updates
Photos
Links
More

What's on your mind?

Attach: 📷 🎬 📅 😊 ▼   **Share**

Peter Bordes

Fly Fishing Adventure
9 new photos
2 minutes ago · Comment · Like · Share

Alex Iskold The A Visual History of Web Browsers. Great visualization. http://bit.ly/10AVCf (via @SteffanAntonas)
4 minutes ago · Comment · Like

Alex de Carvalho I'm humbled by those who went out on a line for me. Teaching is a privilege. And teaching clarifies ideas and focuses the mind.
4 minutes ago · Comment · Like

Will Pate http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONS2ptAR4mo http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONS2ptAR4mo

The Case for Separated Bike Lanes
Source: www.youtube.com

9 minutes ago · Comment · Like · Share
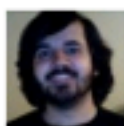
Muhammad Saleem Amazon lowers Kindle price again! From $299 to $249: http://ow.ly/taCc
9 minutes ago · Comment · Like

Requests   See All
👥 **62 friend requests**
📅 **3 event invitations**
➥ **1 friend suggestion**
📋 **116 other requests**

Suggestions   See All
Where the Wild Things Are   ✕
2 friends are fans.
Become a Fan

Sponsored
Old Spice   ✕
Turn up your man-smell.

58,348 people are fans of Old Spice.
📇 Become a Fan
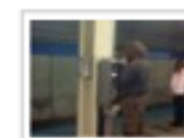
Highlights
Posterous Photos
Tricia Wurster commented on this.

Mobile Uploads
Kevin Coombs commented on this.
👍 5
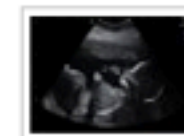
Wall Photos
Camie Wiles likes this.
💬 14

LivingSocial
2 friends use this

Facebook News Feed, Fall 2006

Jim   Jill   Joe   Jenny   Jack

Josh's News Feed
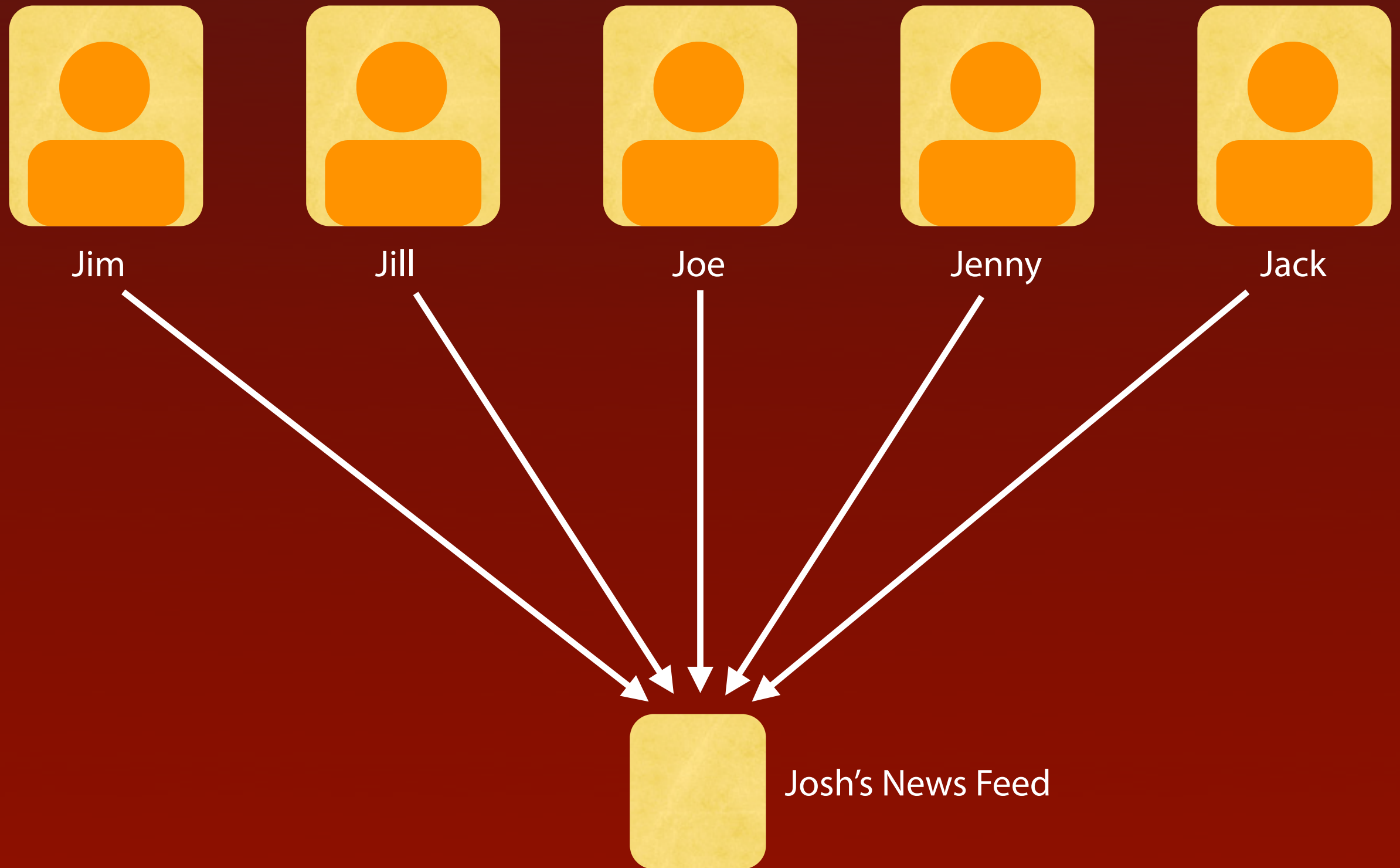
Instead of visiting profiles, I could simply visit a single page (my news feed)

Facebook News Feed, Fall 2006

1. Same information as always.

2. Only a change to the interface.

3. Aggregation made all the difference.

4. People starting thinking about privacy differently.

5. Security by obscurity is taken for granted.

6. Overall activity increased dramatically.

By showing new activity in a single screen, Facebook changed everything.

twitter

What are you doing?   140

[   ]

Latest: I find it interesting that Restoration Hardware sends me
countless emails but I buy furniture at IKEA, who sends me none.
41 minutes ago

update

Home

dharmesh "Video is the most effective form of content
because it "humanizes" the message and can strongly
engage" #ims09
less than 20 seconds ago from TweetDeck

cathcam 🔒 delighted with the progress the Dell UI team are
making on new thinking with http://script.aculo.us/ and our
management UI framework
1 minute ago from web

noahmittman Wow, nice move: PSN opens up DLC purchases
to Amazon so you can buy your add-ons/dl games there as
well http://bit.ly/NTWJJ
1 minute ago from EventBox
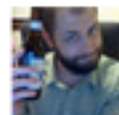
adamconnor It's an extremely quiet and uneventful day. I
don't know if that is contributing to my glum mood, or
helping to keep it from getting worse.
1 minute ago from Echofon
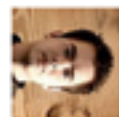
craighenry Diet Pepsi is not as good as Diet Coke. DEAL.
2 minutes ago from Echofon

circa1977 OK, Basecamp talk over. Can't find emails and
open site up to projects, not Dashboard. Wherever it was,
didn't register. Thanks, everyone.
2 minutes ago from Tweetie

zerobearing2 great biscuits and gravy — at Allen's Alley

bokardo

612   **9,272**   **4,724**
following   followers   tweets

Snap·tu
n. a social app for your
phone.

Home

@bokardo

Direct Messages   **2,154**

Favorites

[Search   🔍]

Trending Topics   ⊙

Braylon Edwards

#braylongottradedfor

Hump

Halloween

Google Street View

Jets

LeBron

Crabtree

Cleveland

Kindle

Following   ⊙

🔶 RSS feed

friendfeed

Search   Advanced search
          Tools

Home   Email / IM ▾ ⏸

Add: Photos - Files   Post

leisa
storyboarding three different approaches to 'on ramp' design for prototyping and testing. yay!
20 seconds ago from Twitter - Comment - Like - Share - Hide

Alex Iskold
The A Visual History of Web Browsers. Great visualization. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki... (via
@SteffanAntonas)
1 minute ago from Twitter - Comment - Like - Share - Hide

dave mcclure
RT @danolsen @Scobleizer intvw real-time discovery http://YourVersion.com (#TC50 Peoples
Choice Winner) http://www.ticketweb.com/t3...
11 minutes ago from Twitter - Comment - Like - Share - Hide

Paul Buchheit
shedskin - An experimental (restricted) Python-to-C++ compiler - http://code.google.com/p...
2 hours ago from Bookmarklet - Comment - Like - Share - Hide

☺ Ertuğ Karamatlı and Space Cowboy liked this

💬 "Shed Skin is an experimental compiler, that can translate pure, but implicitly statically typed Python
programs into optimized C++. It can generate stand-alone programs or extension modules that can be
imported and used from larger Python programs. Besides the typing restriction, programs cannot freely
use the Python standard library (although about 17 common modules, such as random and re, are
currently supported). Also, not all Python features, such as nested functions and variable numbers of
arguments, are supported. For a set of 40 non-trivial test programs (at over 12,000 lines in total; see the
shedskin-examples-0.2.tgz download), measurements show a typical speedup of 2-40 times over Psyco,
and 2-220 times over CPython. Because Shed Skin is still in an early stage of development, however,
many other programs will not compile out-of-the-box." - Paul Buchheit from Bookmarklet

Friends

Home
Direct messages
My discussions
Best of day

Favorites
Personal
Professional

Browse/edit friends

Groups

Social Design
July 7, 2008

Browse/edit groups

← → C ☆ http://wave.google.com/

Google wave ✓

Navigation ▬

🖶 **Inbox**
📷 **Active**
🖼 **All**
✏️ **By Me**
🕐 **History**
✉️ **Spam**
🔧 **Settings**
🗑 **Trash**

⊟ SEARCHES ➕Add
　To Do's
　Triathlon

⊟ FOLDERS ➕Add
　Apartment

Contacts ▬

Anna-Christina
drinkin' coffee

🔍 Search...
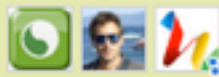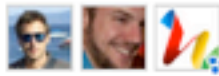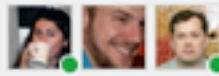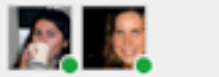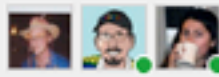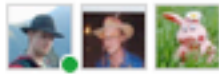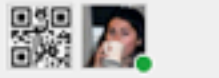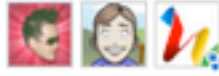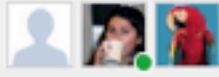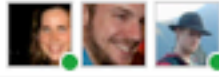
👤 Gregory
👤 Jens My jet-lag has jet-lag...
👤 Lars Making Waves since 2007
👤 Narelle
👤 Steph
👤 Alec Fluffy, destroyer.
👤 Andrew M hello world
👤 Ben
👤 Casey

Inbox 1 - 17 of 27 ▬

[New Wave] | in:inbox 🔍 |

📧 Archive | 🔇 Mute | 👁 Read | 🔄 Unread | 📁 Folder | ✉️ Spam!

Dinner and board games — Who's up for dinner and board games next week? I'm thinking	**3:43 pm** 1 msg	1
Snapshots! – I'm really impressed with all the nature shots we've put together! Desert 📎	3:39 pm 4 msgs	
BBQ on Sunday! — Our house, 6pm Let us know if you can come! What can I bring? Just 🧩	**3:22 pm** 3 msgs	2
Sushi time? – Hey Dan and Jens, I think its time for our monthy sushi -tasting dinner Tough	3:19 pm 1 msg	
Hey Steph, – Wanna get coffee tomorrow? We can met by the palm trees	3:16 pm 1 msg	
Wayward music player? – Looking to return Hey, I think your music player ended up left on my desk	1:13 pm 1 msg	
See what turned up on my front lawn yesterday! – It's fairly late in the season to be 📎	**1:05 pm** 1 msg	1
It's Movie Time!!!! – ... Wheee - the 80's are cool again! what about "Confessions of a Shopaholic"?	**12:22 pm** 9 msgs	5
Pics from a walk in Sydney... – Just from walking around in Kirribilli / Milsons Point, 📎	**8:05 am** 1 msg	1
Gallery opening this Thursday – Hey everyone, my show is finall going up and I would love if your	May 26 1 msg	
Any tips for combating jet-lag? – Please share! For the first day, stay up as long as possible. Get	**May 26** 5 msgs	5
The Castle (Mandatory Fun) – Speaking of movies, who hasn't seen "The Castle"? Such	**May 26** 2 msgs	1
Say, here are some photos from the Kokoda track. – Check out the broken wrist! At the 📎	May 26 1 msg	
Favorite Place to Travel -- Poll – Where do you like to go when you have time off? Brazil India	May 25 1 msg	
Who wants to see transformers?! – 🧩	**May 25** 1 msg	1
Offsite pics! – Check out the photos from our offsite Vista Goofy Helmet So fast Hikes SF 📎	May 25 1 msg	

☰ ☷ ⊟ | [Save search] | Day: ⬆ ⬇ Week: ⬆ ⬇

Snapshots! ▬

🟢 🌊 👤👶 👨 👩☕ 😎 👩 👨 ➕Add
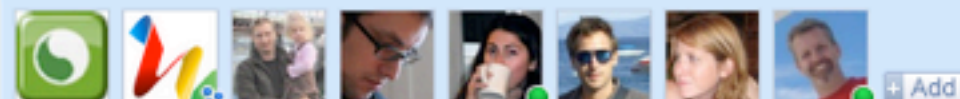
↩ Reply | ▶ Playback | 📧 Archive | 🔇 Mute | 👁 Read | 🔄 Unread

Noel (and me, Emily):
Snapshots!

I'm really impressed with all the nature shots we've put together! 💬

　👩 Emily: They make me want to go on vacation
　
　👤 me: Seriously, what a well traveled bunch. Lars, what kind did you use? 💬

　　👨 Lars: Canon: Canon D50 - Canon Digital Photograph

I'm in the market for a new one. and these look so good. Really p

Desert Antelope
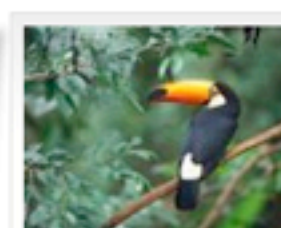
Toucan Too
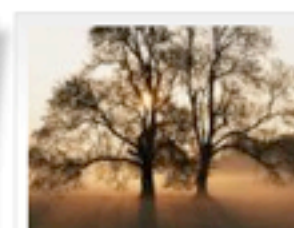
Dawn Trees

Winter Leaf

Autumn Arvo

Old Creek

Tags: ➕

Recent Activity

All | Activity on my photos | Replies to my comments | Messages | Custom view

You are StevenAMoore's newest contact!

👤 If you don't know StevenAMoore, StevenAMoore is probably a fan of your photostream or wants a bookmark so they can find you again. There is no obligation for you to reciprocate, unless you want to.

77 minutes ago

View StevenAMoore's profile, photos, contacts, or add StevenAMoore as a contact, too.

Yay! dcancel has marked you as a contact too.

👤 View dcancel's profile, photos, contacts, or change your relationship with dcancel.

2 days ago

You are broken4good's newest contact!

👤 If you don't know broken4good, broken4good is probably a fan of your photostream or wants a bookmark so they can find you again. There is no obligation for you to reciprocate, unless you want to.

5 days ago

View broken4good's profile, photos, contacts, or add broken4good as a contact, too.
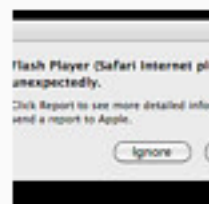
Flash Player quit unexpectedly

52 views | 1 comment | 0 favorites

💬 megafill - [now deemed as 'safe' again!!] said:
i'm getting the same message when i try to upload photos to Flickr or Picnik...

2 weeks ago

do you have a solution?

You are viewing all activity

| since the beginning ▾ |

including activity on your photos, replies to comments you've made on others' photos, and other messages.

You can save this view to your homepage:

SAVE

» **View all muted items**

▾ **Your Stats**

Most views yesterday

Recursion - Google Search	21
Monotask	2
Monotask Survey	2
Usage Lifecycle	1
Competitive Spectrum	1

More...

What is an activity stream?

1. A temporally-based interface/screen showing a flow of information

2. Consists of many kinds of activity-objects

3. Often shows newest items at the top

4. Vertical flow

5. Based on subscription or follow model

6. Displays both personal and social information

What objects are in activity streams?

1. Status updates

2. Bookmarks, favorites, likes

3. Blog posts

4. Tweets

5. Pictures & videos

6. Movie recommendations

7. Reviews

8. Purchases

9. Alerts, notifications, announcements

(Basically anything)

Joshua Porter › Services

Your feed includes the items you have shared from the sites below. Learn more

Blogging
- Ameba
- Blog
- LiveJournal
- Skyrock
- Tumblr
- 百度空间

Bookmarking
- delicious
- Diigo
- Furl
- Ma.gnolia
- Mister Wong
- StumbleUpon
- Twine
- はてな

Books
- Goodreads
- LibraryThing

News
- Digg
- Google Reader
- menéame
- Mixx
- Reddit

Photos
- Flickr
- Fotolog
- Photobucket
- Picasa Web Albums
- SmugMug
- Zooomr

Status
- brightkite.com
- Facebook
- Gmail/Google Talk
- identi.ca
- Plurk
- Twitter

Music
- iLike
- Last.fm
- Pandora

Comments
- Backtype
- Disqus
- Intense Debate

Video
- 12seconds
- Dailymotion
- Joost
- Seesmic
- Smotri.com
- Vimeo
- YouTube

Miscellaneous
- Custom RSS/Atom
- Amazon.com
- LinkedIn
- Netflix
- Netvibes
- Polyvore
- SlideShare
- tipjoy
- Upcoming
- Wakoopa
- Yelp

The Fire-hose feeling

Characterized by a feeling of being overwhelmed with content.

People don't feel in control.

Too much content to process.

newmediapete: Just discovered new version of TweetDeck and am finding it easier to drink from the **twitter firehose**!

2 days ago from *TweetDeck* · Reply · View Tweet

MinimalMeredith: Drinking from the **firehose** today

about 15 hours ago from *TwitterBerry* · Reply · View Tweet

Amplifying

Save, share, favorite, more like this

Damping

Damping

Smart Algorithm

Two types of filtering: Implicit vs. Explicit

Explicit

Implicit
(mostly)
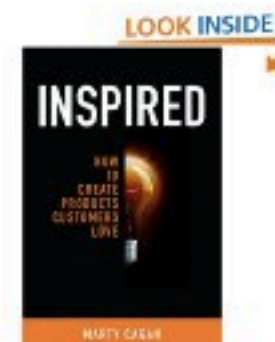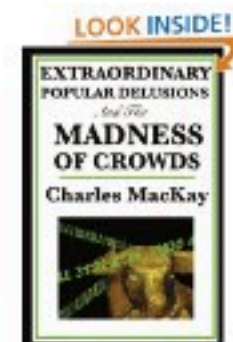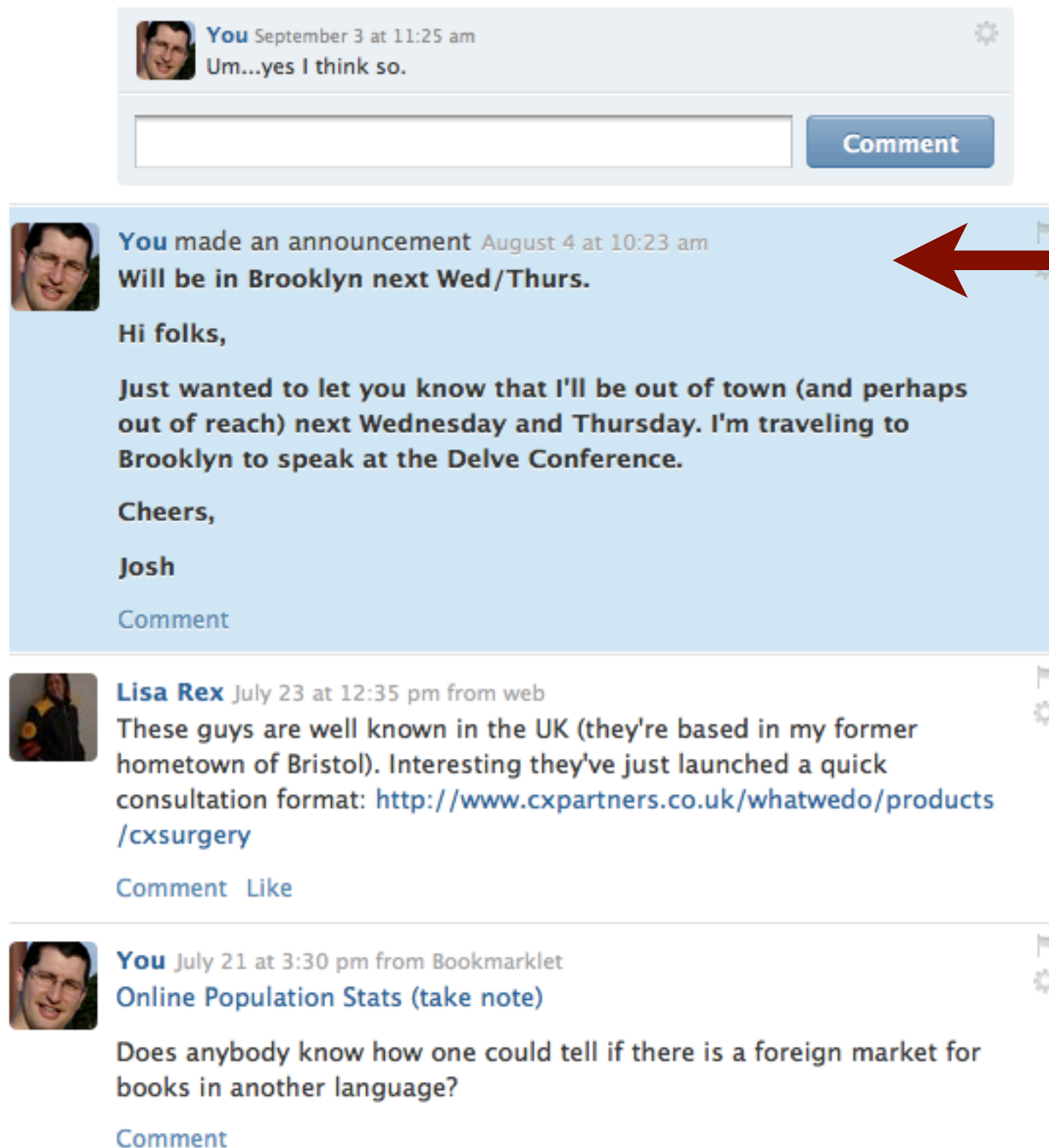
Streams in the Enterprise

1. Sometimes people can't miss stuff.

2. All content is not created equal.

3. It very much matters who shared what.

4. Privacy is just as important (groups, etc)

5. Overall security is important.

6. Projects and other groupings become more important

Case Study: Broadcast Messages in Socialcast

Visually distinctive
Breaks following rules
Messages seen by everyone
Otherwise the same

Idea generated after observing
current practices and use cases.

Trends in Streams

Avatars

Services as logos

Implicit assumption of posts

Conversions in aggregate/threaded

Real-time

Single, persistent open share field

Private group-like functionality

Streams as APIs (imported content)

Statistics/Metrics

Ad-hoc sharing activities (one-time streams, etc)

Stream as sharable object

Email digests

Alerts and notifications within the stream

Outside objects in stream (ads, news, etc)

Ratings, reviews, and other signalling objects

Everything in the stream

Trending Topics & Tracking

Trending Topics

startups

python

programming

development

django

View community tag cloud

Trending Topics

#outrageous

#takemehome

#cpc09

GoodMorning

#hhl09

PhotoSketch

Flash

Nobel Prize

Hotmail

Halloween

Highlights

Mobile Uploads
by Dave Nelson
1

Wall Photos
by Myles Weissleder
30

Wall Photos
by Darron Wayne Norrad

Mobile Uploads
by Chris McLaughlin
3

Your Google Alerts

Sending **HTML emails**. Switch to **text emails**.

Search terms	Type	Deliver to	How often	
"bokardo"	Comprehensive	Email	as-it-happens	edit
"josh porter"	Comprehensive	Email	as-it-happens	edit
"joshua porter"	Comprehensive	Email	as-it-happens	edit

IxDA.org

Active Discussion Threads

Where bounce off design concepts?

Started Today at 5:25am via web

> Dominic Willems
> Fredrik Matheson
> Martin
> dave malouf
> Den Serras

\"Download Adobe Acrobat\" for PDFs

Started Today at 10:15am via e-mail

> Jamie Bresner
> James Page
> Caroline Jarrett
> James Page
> David Cortright
> Christopher Rider
> David Little
> James Page

Aggregating activity in sidebar
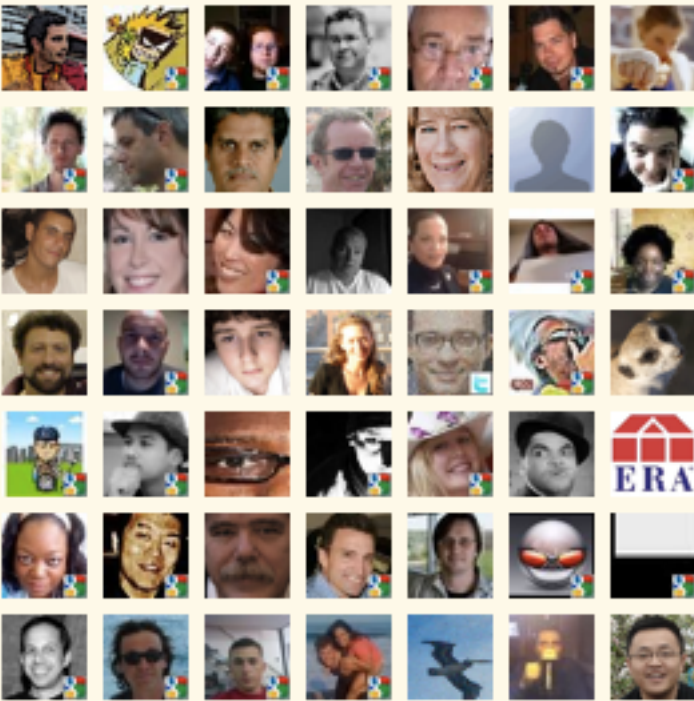
Focused on who said what (identity)

Let's people track conversations

Trend: Stream of visitors

Join this site
with Google Friend Connect

Members (572) More »

Already a member? Sign in

Comments(24)

Want to contribute?
Join or Sign In

Kevin, thanks for the fun and insightful running commentary today on the Altimeter Group webinar! Jo... More »
Joy 9/10

Great post, great comedy audio!
@olivermarks 8/18

Loic says we need a status update for Fiend Connect in blogs
Kevin Marks 3/16

Agreed, that would be great.
Ken 8/7

Absolutely.
Unknown 6/22 *All 3 replies*

Translate »   Next »

Recent Reader

Dilmon
2 hrs 53 mins

Alper Yazgan
32 hrs 51 mins

Spcmnspf
42 hrs 57 mins

Sandy
151 hrs 6 mins

michaelocc
166 hrs 52 mins

Today Users: 1

Recent Visitors

You!
Join Now.

Daniel L

awaldstein

kfeighery

Fergus Burns

Trend: Inline getting started

Trend: Seeding the stream

Trend: Aggregate/Threaded Conversations

roonoid The PBS series 'Craft In America' is fabulous.
less than a minute ago from UberTwitter

russu @billder make sure he includes selections from the sweet new mixtape I made him!
1 minute ago from Twitterrific in reply to billder

JohnAByrne Great performance from Derek Jeter (two-run homer, single, pair of walks) as Yanks take first game 7-2 over Twins.
2 minutes ago from TweetDeck

Jason RT @KellerII: @Jason Paying for Angels – It's extortion and victimization all wrapped in the guise of help and a handshake: snake oil=pa …
2 minutes ago from UberTwitter

fling tempted to go to the cowboy bar on the corner, but unfortunately the bull is out of order.
2 minutes ago from Birdfeed

Annaleen Have consumed types of molecules necessary to help me enjoy Paranormal Activity.
3 minutes ago from twidroid

docbaty @jmspool Hopefully not the ones to do with a catastrophic death
5 minutes ago from TweetDeck in reply to jmspool

atomiota Why Gourmet is down and Saveur is up http://bit.ly/2Z7UXp
5 minutes ago from Seesmic

billder @fred_beecher Then you're the DJ in Savannah.
7 minutes ago from TweetDeck in reply to fred_beecher

Trending Topics

Glee

#ghosthunters

#davidcookbarbasol

Lonely Cheating

A-Rod

Yankees

Modern Family

#coinstar

BlackBerry Messenger

Halloween

Following

RSS feed

RSS feed for this query

Trend: Aggregate/Threaded Conversations

Trend: Getting Started Inline

You May 18 at 4:20 pm
Usability.Edu: 25 Incredibly Useful Usability Cheat Sheets & Checklists —
Best Web Design Schools

#usability-audits

Comment

Load More Messages

My Live Stream is where you'll see messages directly related to you – direct
replies, updates from the people you follow, messages that you have "liked,"
and comments you have made.

Start sharing with your team to get the most out of Socialcast:

Share what you're working on

Create a custom real-time stream to follow subjects or people

Update your profile with a photo, contact information and expertise

Join or start a group

Trend: Stream as Sharable Object

Trend: Pre-selected following options

Trend: Friendfeed's Use of Avatars over time

Richard posted three messages on Twitter

""you are 10th in the queue, your call will be answered in approx 16 mins". 16 mins of reggae music. great."
2 minutes ago - Comment - Like - Hide - More▾

"not that I have anything against reggae, it's just not my choice of music at 6 in the morning, when I'm trying to wake up."
4 seconds ago - Comment - Like - Hide - More▾

"listening to reggae music at 6.30am in the morning while on hold with web host. weird."
3 minutes ago - Comment - Like - Hide - More▾

Andy Baio posted a message on Twitter

"Game Neverending is shutting down in one hour. Last chance! http://gne.flickr.com/"
38 minutes ago - Comment - Like - Hide - More▾

Robert Scoble added an event on Upcoming

Apr 23, 2008: Ecocity World Summit at Nob Hill Masonic Center
3 hours ago - Comment - Like - Hide - More▾

    😊 Neal liked this

Chris Messina posted a message on Twitter

"I'm getting better at assertiveness. Sales dude just called and he's like "Can I tell you about..." and I'm all like "Nope, no thanks. Cya.""
32 minutes ago - Comment - Like - Hide - More▾

    💬 empowering, no? :) - Brett Kelly
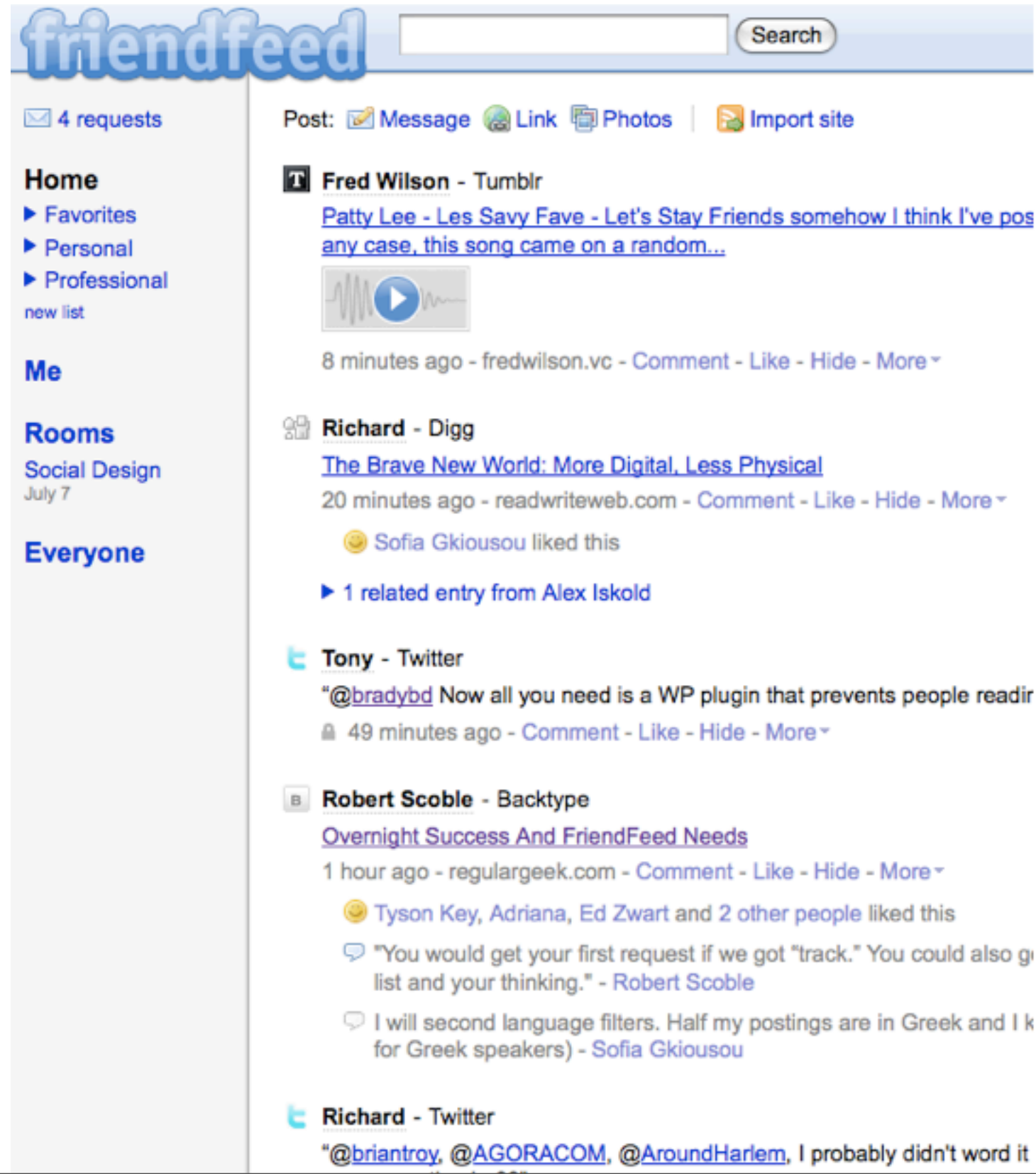
You posted two messages on Twitter

"the problem with spam is a lack of identity...in systems where identity is tied to behavior social norms moderate activity over time."
40 minutes ago - Comment - Hide - More▾

"getting hammered by 3 types of blog spam simultaneously, comment, header, and footer insertions. No

Trend: Friendfeed's Use of Avatars over time

Trend: Friendfeed's Use of Avatars over time

Evidence of the Power of Avatars

Rypple BETA ™

(client)

1. After Rypple added avatars to emails, response rate improved between 15 and 20%.

2. "Organizations running Rypple Enterprise who branded Rypple with their corporate logo and colors saw a 22% increase in response rates over those who had not!"

http://rypple.com/blog/2009/09/21/uploading-your-logo/

Avatars are powerful presence indicators that drive activity.

"

People just love to look at pictures...that's the killer app of all online social networks. Seventy percent of all actions are related to viewing pictures or viewing other people's profiles.

Jan Pikorski - Harvard Business School
http://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/6156.html

Thank you!

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