

CISC 3120 Fall 2012 Homework 5

Instructions

- This assignment **is due by midnight on Wednesday October 24th** and you will submit this online — instructions below.
- **Follow these submission instructions:**
 1. Go to:
`http://agents.sci.brooklyn.cuny.edu/parsons/cisc3120/`
 2. Login and submit the document you have prepared.
 3. You can submit as many times as you like before the deadline—only the final version of the homework will be graded.
 4. Failure to follow these instructions will result in points being taken away from your grade.
The number of points will be in proportion to the extent to which you did not follow instructions.

1 Exploring interfaces

Pretend that a family member has asked you to recommend software to help them organize, label and share their millions of digital photos. This family member is technically competent and discerning, so you will have to provide a thorough and reasoned recommendation.

- Go to <http://www.photomesa.com> and run a demo.
- Go to <http://flickr.com> and take the tour.
- Go to <http://www.dropshots.com> and click on Sample Site.
- Go to <http://www.webshots.com> and browse any album.

2 Create a recommendation

Now create your recommendation. Critique and compare each of the four photo sharing systems, focusing on *interface features*, as follows:

1. What are the positive features of each? What are the negative features of each? What are the features that stand out? Are there features that some sites have that others don't have?
2. How are photos organized in the interface? How do users find photos?
3. Where does the software run — on your local machine or on a server, i.e. do you have to download software to use the system, other than the demo, or does it run in a browser? If the software runs locally, what are the system requirements?
4. How are the photos stored — locally or on a server somewhere? If they are stored on a server, what is the capacity — how many images/bytes can you store?
5. Are there aspects you can customize?
6. Do you use a different photo organizing program and/or photo sharing system? If yes, what do you use? If not, browse the web and find such a system. Compare and contrast the program you use/found with the ones listed above.

3 What to hand in

1. You should submit a single document which contains the answers to the above questions.
2. I will accept documents in one of the following formats:
 - A Word .doc
 - A PDF file.
3. Submit this through the website in the usual way.