

cis20.1-fall2007-sklar, assignment I, part 1

instructions

- This is the first part of the assignment for unit I.
- The entire assignment is worth 14 points.
- The first part is worth 4 points and will be distributed and worked on in class on Thursday August 30.
- Additional parts worth the remaining 10 points and will be distributed and worked on in class on Thursday September 6, Thursday September 20 and Thursday September 27 (you can also use that time to finish this part).
- **All parts together are due on Monday October 1** and must be submitted by email (as below). Please WAIT and send ALL PARTS TOGETHER, not one at a time as they are completed.
- **Follow these emailing instructions:**
 1. Create a mail message addressed to *sklar@sci.brooklyn.cuny.edu* with the subject line **cis20.1 hw1**.
 2. Attach ONLY PLAIN TEXT (source code) or PDF files. So if you are using Word or some other word processing software to write your answers, convert your file to plain text or PDF before you submit it please!
 3. CLEARLY label the parts of your assignment, for example **assignment I, part 1, question 1.1**.
 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... (which can make it a lot harder for me to grade your work — grrrr!)

1 exploring interfaces

(2 points)

Pretend a family member 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 **View Sample Site**
- Go to <http://www.webshots.com/> and **browse** any album

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

1. What are positive features of each? What are negative features of each? What are features that stand out? Are there features that some sites have and others don't?
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, e.g., Windows XP, Mac OS X, etc.?
4. How are photos stored—locally or on a server somewhere? If they are stored on a server, what is the capacity, i.e., 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 any other such system. Compare and contrast the program you use/found with the ones listed above.

2 participatory labeling

(1 point)

Go to <http://images.google.com/imagelabeler/>, click on **begin as a guest** and play a few rounds.

Now tell me what you think:

1. What do you think about the **imagelabeler**?
2. Would you want to integrate features of the imagelabeler into a personal photo organizing/sharing system?
3. Why or why not?
4. How would you integrate them, i.e., how would your integrated interface work?

3 just-in-time labeling

(1 point)

Read the paper posted at

<http://www.sci.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~sklar/cis20.1/papers/wilhelm-chi2004.pdf>

A hardcopy will also be available in class.

Now tell me what you think:

1. How does Wilhelm *et al.*'s method of image annotation compare with those used in the systems you reviewed in section 1, above? How does it compare with Google's imagelabeler?
2. How would you design a photo annotation system—which features of each would you use? which features would you not use? why?