Supporting Synchronous Groupware on Google and i-Phones: A Mobile Version of PowerMeeting Framework

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Abstract

Brainstorming is a powerful tool used by teams and businesses around the world for finding effective solutions for problems at hand and generating creative ideas. Coined by Alex Osborne in the 1930’s the typical session of brainstorming did not involve any software. However, empirical evidences have shown that brainstorming in groups without software may not be as effective as originally suggested.

Groupware systems have been supporting group activities of individuals that are part of multiple teams within as well as between organizations; with a primary focus of the system being support of “Web-Computing” i.e. support access through desktop based web browsers. The PowerMeeting framework is one such groupware service that helps in real-time collaboration activity. The aim of the project is to increase the availability of the PowerMeeting system to support real-time collaboration services using mobile based browsers on Android based Phones and Apple i-Phone. The idea behind the project is to present the users with a customized view [i.e. Mobile web-application] that supports rich native graphical widgets. Based on the user’s source of accessing the Web-based application (i.e. separate interfaces for desktop and mobile based devices) the view is presented. For the purpose of this project; we primarily focus on supporting the Brainstorming with Voting plug-in through the web-based PowerMeeting framework on mobile devices.