Transcription 1: Designer G Design Educator Standard Pattern

“Think Aloud”

Talk aloud on the 30th September 2009

Right. (Reads) Create a forum as a central place for communication in which all group members can discuss asynchronously by reading and writing messages. Keep forum messages persistent.

Persistent.

Create a FORUM a central server has to be set up that can easily be accessed by all users. Users must be able to create their own forums on the server. Server has to keep a directory of all the available forums and users must be able to browse this list. In an open discussion users must be able to access this forum via a central server. Post messages to the selected forum. Messages that are posted to this forum are kept persistent. Kept persistent. When a user accesses a forum the messages that were posted to it are displayed. Users must be able to view single messages. (indistinguishable)

So I guess like er. I’m supposed to write out some of the points I need to include in my design. So you’ve got one server, a central server. You’ve got the ability to branch off and create, In my hands, I wonder. Create separate, separate forums from the main forum. This is forum central, forum1 forum2 etc.

So best to keep a directory of all of our forums. Which could be represented as circles. To access the forums via a central server and post messages onto a forum. The messages that the person posts to a forum are kept persistent. Persistent. When a user accesses a forum the messages that were posted to it are displayed. So you access a forum you have a circle and click on that forum and you’d have a title. Title. And...So you’ve got display messages

Um okay. So each individual pod. I’m going to call them pods, forum pods. Has the total functionality of the forum and they're contained in the mother pod. The mother pod is a 3D space pod. Of course I would guess some of your thesis is based on the thought process I'm going through, not so much what I’m writing down. I know what you’re up to. Um. Okay.

Check that when you are applying this pattern you should answer the questions how are you going to let users access the forum, how are you categorize the available forums, how are you going to handle communications between the users and central server that has forums,
between the users and the central server that hosts the forum. Well that's just a clicking thing maybe, point and click. Will you allow strangers to read forum messages? Forums, messages.

Well not a big issue, you could have a privacy button. You could have a privacy button, p for privacy p for public. You could have that displayed in separate little circles off the um baby pods. Forum pods. So we're going for an organic, we're starting to look very organic ah. What's the word? Various starts of the word, ah no form, um circular, no hard edges. Kind a thing that under five year olds like.

Right danger spots. Spots in using this forum may be that the users might not check this forum frequently using the community system. The community system. Possible to allow the users to access the forum with their preferred tool such as an email client which automatically receives the newest messages.

Okay so you've got so you could have a monitor, so it's RSS feeds is it? RSS feeds. If any messages are posted on your forum the main server page will let you know. Does the main server page have to let you know or your individual forum could have that? But a possibility. So I'm going for buds, forum pod buds, little buds off the pod. Buds. (reads)

Okay like yahoo groups you could have I only want to receive special notices, I only want to receive only want to receive a diary. Um. Of small group of messages, maybe a diary of five messages. I might want to just know there's another email up there. So notification notified if post. Download five messages at a time, in chunks. Chunkable.

Might not want to use additional software. Instead they want to use their preferred email client. So how do you upload? How do you email the forum without going to the forum?

Threaded discussions, okay. So somehow you need to group the discussions. You could have some codes when you upload you can have some codes. So when you post a message you could click on some preset buds to initiate a header. So when you access the forum you click you go to the forum page.

Yes but if you want to see all of the messages say you would want all of the messages and not just the topic that you are interested in, you should be able to see them all displayed if you want to see the total response of all members of that forum. So you should have a choice. So you could actually initiate the category and you should have a button that shows all, of course.
Quality inspection. Quality inspection could be a human element maybe or a keyword search. Which would be a bit ambiguous, so. Some users might post contributions that do not fit into this topic of the forum. Into the topic to control the content of the forum using quality inspection. Well that’s most likely to be human, most likely human, so you’d have a moderator. In case you’d need a moderator so one member of the group appointed. I think it’s a good idea to have a human you need a moderator that's voted by the group appointed to respond to a topic if it’s not, to manage redistribution of that topic to another thread maybe.

(reads) Teaching strategies. Related patterns, feedback loop. So users can connect other users if they do not completely understand what another users message. Interaction directory. Other forums of which they might be interested. FAQs.

Right I think I've got the overall idea. So we’d have the central server so we’d need a main page. Main page. And the first thought I had was something hexagonal. May be too mandala-ish. Right by showing me something old makes me think of old like Archimedes and people like that who were into interesting patterns. Physics and mathematics. So we could try something like that. We could think of a star pattern to make it a little bit more exciting rather than pods. Ah.

And then um. They kind of, try that again. So maybe if I just draw it in lines, I guess. I have a problem with crossing lines in the middle. Okay so. We could take out the centre and section off. I was actually thinking of a rotating wheel with each forum listed. Could be alphabetical, the topics could be alphabetical. So we take out the centre, I don’t have an eraser. Take out the centre here and with the circles go with stars. A star pattern that rotates. A rotation. And each new bud, each new point that’s created adds to the forum.

Of course we could also add another point behind so we could get a flower effect. Ah this would be interesting. So a close-up. This is the star pattern right here. Star pattern. I’m just going to go with the star pattern for a minute and just get back to the circular idea. And I need a pencil sharpener. I’ll just use a pen.

Just so you get the idea really. So a close up will be a close up will be. (draws)

So forum 1 forum 2 forum 3. Okay do we need to represent the list of forums like this graphically? Well it will look very pretty. So we have forum forum forum forum forum. So we could have rollovers saying what forums they are but that would be very tedious. Doing a um. So we'd actually have to have a rotating, stop. So we’d have to do a search. I guess you could do a keyword search. You'd probably have a search function. Although it could look ugly. So you search for forums on. Samba Deer.
The outside rotates, and Samba Deer, the pointer would come forward. Why not just click. Why not just click. You need something to click on so it could come up. It just kind of more interesting. It could be a lot of fun to play with. Samba Deer, submit, search. Samba Deer rotates, Samba Deer a ref pointer pops up. A rotation that you would click on the Samba dear pointer and it would take you to the screen. Well.

You would click and you would come to the Samba dear page forum which, would want to be a triangle. I might start with a triangle. Mm. Okay what do we need on the screen space we need the list of information, of threads. Which usually is in a column. We could represent the different possibilities.

We could have the same pattern again for the different, for the different forums it could be the same pattern for the different threads. As long as you knew what page you were in. So you’d need some orientation about where you’re at. So we could reproduce, reproduce the same pattern or we could expand, mountain pegs, mountain of knowledge.

How are you going to allow users to access the forum?

Hello, how are you going, any questions?

I look you know I’ve decided to go on this kind of path, but I don’t know whether it’s the right path or not.

Well there’s no right or wrong, there’s just design.

There’s just design. Yeah. Um.

I’m loving what I’m seeing. Yeah. So any confusions or questions or we all good.

Well if you look at this and you think I’m on the right path, then, fine. If there’s no right or wrong path, then fine.

That’s pretty much it. Alrighty. Cool. Okay I’ll pop back in half an hour.

Alright. Danger spots in using this forum is that users might not check the forum frequently using their community system. Using their community system. If possible users may access the system using their preferred tool such as their email client which automatically receives. Okay so they automate it.

They should be able to post to the forum and receive a reply without actually going up to the forum. It’s just a matter of adding extra functionality. So what are we left with? Those people
who want to go up to the forum and read messages on the forum, they can. And you’ve gotta make it kind of nice for them to look at. Individual forum central. Those people who don't want to go up to the forum they can have email and access the forum and send posts and access information. Forum central A and B.

A Screen. Two. A. Okay.

I’m not happy with the screen that you go to for the individual forum. I think I’ll take that aside for a minute. Initial. Idea. And pencil.

So you’ve got screen 2. Double. Here’s a black pen. So this design will be in two. You could nearly with a circle here. Except it should be smaller, not so much a large one for the search. To create a forum, so we’d need a little star down here. And ...

To create a forum search a forum. So this can be search. So I’m thinking of stars because FAQs, this pops up. Search create a forum. Pop up. Stars I’m thinking just as many ideas or possible things to talk about as there are stars in the universe. So the actual um. New forum. New forum. It’s not going to have as many points as it could have as the main central server. But it could turn out to be like a new forum with a central server because from that one it could branch, why not branch off other forums when it gets too big. So we’d get a fractionalization get divergence of philosophy. So it starts off as a new forum. Which would be a infantile as much as a possible way infantile birth of a new. New ideas, new topic. String string string the information. Birth of the new. Then we have.

Stars get a little bit kind of. Stars seem a little bit childish. Orphus is the word I was looking for organic orphus. Well we’re not getting very orphus, we’re getting quite. Orphus. Orphus. We’re getting quite fanciful here. Okay so threads.

Threads.

Master. Well you could have a master. Master scroll in the middle. Master scroll in the middle with, could do inverted points here inside of the circle. With Privacy buttons. Well when you set it up it goes private. Create a pop up. Create a forum. Tick the points for privacy. You’d have to go back and edit that through. You should be able to come back into here, privacy. Name. RSS. Okay RSS. Okay so.

You can still make it private, I mean. That could be a button here that says quality assurance and you could click that to see what’s been picked up. Mod by the mediator. Thread thread thread. Into you could have a thread search. Thread search. So we’ve got the star. We’ve got the internal points.
A bit like teeth. A bit Scary. You could still have the rotating threads they could just, as you get more threads. Ah ah. Data visualization. The more threads the more. So that's quite nice. So even if you can't read them you know the presence of the all the threads you'd be able to see multiple threads.

As it built up. Give you a bit of an idea. Better way to look at a list, is to see it as a conglomerate, one glance. Um. The copyrighting side I did too by the way. Just written it down. Did I sign over my rights to this? I hope not. Um. Designing under pressure.

Okay. How are you going to let users access the forum? (indistinguishable) Answer the following questions how are you going use, how am I going to let you access this forum?

Am I going to make it private or public? I'll have a white one, thank you. If you don't mind.

Okay I’m developing a really interesting design here that I want copyrighted for me now.

It’s alright we can use it for research. Alright so the representation of the actual information's odd. It's a square. Bit of an issue, but I could have the points moving into it a little to break it up a little. These points are like teeth. Um. They're biting into the information that’s what a forum is all about isn’t it. To hand your opinion. So we'll just kick that around in the TV safe area and the main text can be in the middle just scrolling up and down. Now.

One of these buttons could be for single thread information, double thread or multiple threads which could be colour coded. Thread 3. Thread 4 etc. Gees I got stuck on the stars, stuck on the stars. Danger spots. In a community system they may not check the forum frequently using a community system. It is possible also to access the forum with their preferred tools such as email. Accessing by email I don't see how that comes into the design. It’s just a more of a functional programming issue. But they could select whether they want to access it by email or not. So we could just set up email/RSS feed. To turn it off turn it on. It could be colour coded on or off and for each person if they put these on their machine they could change the colours. If they’re on and green if it’s on and green if it’s off.

My stars are all kind of blue sky. Dark blue sky. Yeah and a button for animals it’s just too it’s just too it sounds strange talking to the camera if David’s sitting next to me. Simplify. Mail. Mail list. Hello grape child if you’re watching this video. Don't play too many games on the Internet. It’s bad for your eyes.

Okay there’s certainly a lot of information here, technical information. Which I don't really know if it’s that important. It’s just basically adding another button. So let’s just try another design. I’m caught up with this one. Back to the original one with the pods.

Just I guess I’m trying to work out how to accommodate lists, but visually instead of straight lists. Which is pretty boring and left brained. Make it a bit more virile. Virile? Virile. So I’ll just cut those outside circles in half. See the full circles and see a close-up circle on the screen. Close-up close-up. Okay.

Rolling hills, good idea. Rolling hills. Distance education. Seeing it to the horizon. Rather than the stars, the stars are looking up, which is a good thing. Seeing into the distance is a good thing. Good for your eyes, good for your head. Being up high is a good thing. Getting an overview. And the rounded idea is good because it takes you back to your childhood when everything was totally new.

Nothing scary. Nothing should be scary. It should be benefiting you. Okay so that’s the idea behind that. To round it.

Okay so internally this is the outside of the screen. It rotates still. I don’t see why it can’t rotate. Symbolically, and the forum comes forward. So I think with the 3d software the 3d interface, 3d 2d interface. Um.

We could have very simple. Could have intersecting circles. What’s that called? Call that mini-intersect circles. Subsets. Subsets. Intersecting circles that are linked. SO that’s an interesting idea. Screen, screen 1 scenario. Circles just try that again. One circle here.

What does this intersect? One circle here and one circle here. What is it called when you have intersecting circles and you shade the intersection – a Venn Diagram? Venn diagram. So we could have information could be like that. Interacting information could be that.

You could have stuff that’s common to all in the middle. Eyes will be drawn towards the centre. That could be information. Ah, and to a lesser extent. Ah we could have all the next hierarchy of information one out. And then feed out from there. (draws)

Could do colours but it takes too much time so I’m using shading. Okay. So each one of these more towards the centre is information about the whole, and each one could be a category of the whole. The second, the second tier could be setting up a forum. Say for instance the middle one could be FAQs and FAQs and contacts. Setting up a forum could be the second panel out. Next panel out could be. The outside panels could be.
Setting up the forum could have forum topics, references, this could be what could that be? The outside panel could be. I was going to say. Lost my train of thought there.

Where’s that list of things we have to take into account.

This could be the same as the. The forum in the centre. Then we radiate out and then we've got. We've got a series of lists. Okay. Search, search function for categories for categories of search. Maybe break the search down into four categories, animal vegetable, mineral. Animal, vegetable, mineral, don't know if anyone likes that one. Fire earth, wind and air. Four, fire earth wind and air or a little bit of a reference to classical. Animal vegetable mineral categories of politics.

Politics, economics. General general headings before they’re subdivided into more specific searches into category searches. Politics economics, what else is there? Gone blank. Okay. So sub searches. Categories. And then finally on the outside. That can rotate. Rotate. Rotate. Which is slightly...

I’m just going to have some food. Can’t talk with my mouth full.

Central server. Screen 1a, screen 1b. Screen 1c. Okay so we’ve explored the themes of the star pattern. Screen 1b 2a. 1b. Screen 1b screen 1a. It’s your idea. Sure.

Okay. Let’s go over this. Let’s go over this let’s this overview with these two designs. Just quickly look at the problem users want to communicate with a specific topic without knowing anyone interested in the same topic. Messages from many communities.


Could drag. Could actually drag another petal or pod into your discussion. Into your email list. Thanks, great coffee. Looks like let people out. It’s not very comfortable.

Open discussion, circular design, open discussion like an um. What’s it called what’s it called the um amphitheatre. Amphitheatre. So I’m going back over and just kind of cross checking
what I’ve done into some sort of make sure that this is. What I should be doing. Users can configure the information for group member and recipients. If everyone’s signed up onto each thread then it’s up to them. What you need to do is grab that thread and drop it then you should be able to do it by doing that function you should be able to include all those members. Because they’ve already pre-registered. So they should pre-register their email addresses which they do.

Users want to communicate about a specific topic. Without knowing other users interested in the same topic, this is difficult.

Could have a um. Could have a glowing scale. Depending on, glowing scale depending on traffic. Traffic for each thread. Bud. Pod. Point.

Great, thank you very much.