iFlix

is246 Multimedia Metadata Final Project
Supplement on User Feedback Sessions
Cecilia Kim, Nick Reid, Rebecca Shapley
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Interviews with Users

In December, 2004, we showed screenshots of iFlix to potential users, and asked them to think aloud, describing what they thought any given screen widget was for, and how they might use such an application. Our potential users are residents of Coyne Hall, a 150 person community house with an active media-sharing community over the local LAN. Names have been changed to protect the innocent.

Conclusions

Much of the search, browse, network/share, mediaplayer, and keyframe functionality is intuitive to potential users. They are able to translate effectively from their experience with iTunes and movie editing software.

The static keyframe summary seemed to be a natural entity, and something many could enjoy “consuming”, and a few might enjoy creating. Sharing them would be an essential part of the point of making them.

The keyframe summary would be a nifty way of navigating through a flick.

Collections of highly-specific custom keyframe summaries could be a way for fans to record their preferred combinations of TV series moments.

The music-recognition and purchasing feature is exciting to users, but not intuitively presented yet in the Dec. 6 version of the Summary mode screen.

The Stain Glass is not named correctly, and although it seems cool, doesn’t seem to have as much motivation to be created as the keyframe summary does. This could be an artifact of the absence of having a screenshot for it for these interviews, however.

The iPhoto and Homepage features have potential; people have ideas about what they might be, although those ideas aren’t as clearly formed as the keyframe summary.
These interviews were not a good test of the proposed interaction for actually editing keyframe summaries. Future interviews should give users a sense of how OCR and speech-to-text would help generate comments for keyframes.

**Transcripts**

**Nick Reid**  
Dec. 5, 2004  
[Reflections after doing a keyframe summary to gather the images and data for the screen mock up]

Good scrubbing interaction (a la iMovie) would be key for searching for keyframes.

I’d like to use the keyframes to navigate through the flick! Kinda like DVD chapters.

Browsing by people’s names – irregardless of their role in the movie’s production - is *really cool* the more I think about it.
George & Eric
Dec. 5, 2004

[Eric recently got a mac, just starting to use it. Not terribly familiar with the iLife applications. But both familiar with iTunes]

[Looking at the left panel] so I'd be able to go to Cecilia's flicks & play them off her computer like iTunes works? yeah, that's cool.

And maybe eventually the stores will let you go & buy the movies through here.

Is Stores saying you'd purchase the movie? cause I can't imagine having that many full length movies on my computer...

[trying to figure out what the Stain Glass mode might be] Stain glass.. - a lot of little pictures for multiple movies ...showing all the movies windows that are open? by genre?

Are they [the thumbnails in each row of the catalog listing] screenshots? or videos?  I would like them to be the videos playing, but don't think the computers could handle doing all that work.

Maybe if you clicked on [the thumbnail] it would play a few seconds preview. Maybe you can select which keyframe should be representing a movie.

I’d want to be able to change the data. Need to be able to change the name! If I’ve got lots of episodes of the same show, I’d need to be able to change the names to distinguish them. And if you get various copies off the internet, people will give them all sorts of horrible names.

would be cool to be able to open multiple play windows at the same time - see what's happening simultaneously - maybe compare versions...

[What does the spectrum do?] Enlarges the keyframe...eventually it would be so large it would just be the keyframe taking up the entire window.

[what does the iPhoto button do?] to bring photos in to use as keyframes. Like when you make your own movies.

[Considering what the Names feature might be? Needed to know it is people names, not movie names] so if a movie had id3 tags with like 5 main actors...they would show up here. I’d put the "roles" first, [he obviously felt the search would cascade, and he’d like to search first on role]
[what type of searches might you do with this feature?
when I forget the movie name, & want to show someone, but can remember the guy in it. I like to look things up by studio - at least, PIxar.

[What might “Summary” button do?]
Bring up your summary of what the movie is about, so you can change it.

[Would you prefer a static keyframe summary, or a fast-forward/timelapse style summary of a movie?]
static would be better - if it's being played out [timelapse-style] you don't know what the hell is going on. If I bought a movie I'd want the store to provide a plot summary & the official movie website & stuff.

[Comments while looking at Summary page.]
So, this is like a summary of the movie.

Allowing you to keyframe it - you're editing it. click the keyframe to see that bit.

wait, is this all from the same movie?
I can set where these keyframes are? yes. good. I can see doing this for my own movies. I can't see doing this for other movies. But, so if I bring in a film I can set places where I would want to jump to.

[Considering function of buttons on the right]
Source - find out who makes the movie
Buy – to buy it!
[ie, the buttons appeared to apply to the entire movie, not to music]

[after explaining the music soundtrack feature]
soundtrack song? That's really cool, b/c some movies have like amazing soundtracks...

I don't think I'd use the comments [text box], but I'd definitely use the keyframe thing.

[after explaining the Version widget allows keeping different versions of summaries]
Cool to show your friends things that are part of Harvey Birdman. Maybe use it to point to funny oneliners all by one character in a collection of episodes of it. I could imagine making a playlist to share.

[Reflecting on how people might use iFlix, what is cool]
1st, people will use it like a media player.
2nd cool: sharing files.
3rd: the keyframing thing.
beyond that, many won't use it.
I could imagine exploring other people's movies & see what they've annotated. Like if someone has created a short summary, like a 30 second trailer, so you know what's good in their collection.

What I wish iTunes would do, is tell you who's watching & what they've watched. Some sort of report of who's watching what now, AND a log of what has happened. So you know what's popular in your collection, and so maybe you know if by shutting down your streaming you're about to kick someone off just before the end. Maybe integrate a chat feature in….tell them, don’t you dare shut down, I’m in the middle of this movie! nah! That’s too much.

[Would you want the last played by date to reflect what you played, or perhaps when anyone played a flick over the network?]
last played by me, AND last played by others over sharing. two columns.
Patrick

[Has used iTunes. Not a big fan of it. A PC person.
[Looking at the Organize screen]

what is “names”? [people’s names…]
yes, have used the browse feature of iTunes...so if I clicked on one of the names then all
of the movies they've been in would come up.

search - so it would be like iTunes, where if you want to find a particular movie you type
in the name & it shows up.

[What sense do you make of the panel on the left?] That’s for networking… click & see someone's movies.
[What about the Stores?] I've never used that before. I'd assume it would be shopping
for movies.

[What sense do you make of the buttons across the bottom?]
E-mail - send it to someone else - send them the stats of this movie.
Homepage - I don't know...where you access your movies? or where you find your
movies? or the movies you yourself have made?
iPhoto - movie shots?
burn - yeah, burn your ripped movies you shouldn't be burning...

[What sense of the mode buttons?] stain glass - a windowblinds feature?
[a single image to represent a movie..] Like a collage to make a poster - yeah cool - b/c of
course college students needing to procrastinate would never do that!
play - like a media player.
Summary - IMDB database stuff - plot summary - this is what happens.. I expect text,
with a photo or two.

[What sense do you make of the slider thingy? ]
time slider - scrub bar - when you hit play, you can jump b/t points in time…

[what columns do you like? ]
First few good, good.
don't care much about last played.
My rating is useful if you're taking it off some other source ...looking at so else's catalog.
size is good - let you know if the network will get bogged down...

[and the status icons?]
source - yeah - good to know if you could copy them over so you don't get cut off mid-
movie...
[Now looking at the summary screen?]
I'm confused about these lines [on the movie’s timeline bar] - are they like scene breaks? [yeah!]
[looking at the buttons to the upper right]
Source - where the movie came from - buy - where you can purchase it.

[What do you make of the stuff across the bottom?]
the keyframes? Allows you to choose your scene. Bit like DVD chapters.
you could bookmark a bit.
yeah I could see people using it to make summaries. Phil would use it more than I would.
[Maybe you wouldn’t make them…but would you download other people’s, if they had made summaries?]
yeah I could imagine using other people's summaries. It's cool to see what other people think are good scenes.
This is like iTunes - when it came out I didn't really think there was anything I needed it for. But like yeah, It's handy...