

mozilla

Snowl

messaging in the browser

Presentation:

<http://people.mozilla.com/~myk/snowl/snowl.pdf>

Prototype:

<http://people.mozilla.com/~myk/snowl/snowl.xpi>



Origins

- grew out of conversations around messaging last summer
- diverse sources (email, newsgroups, feeds, social networks, web discussion forums, IM, etc.)
- similar structure (author, subject, date, etc.)
- interaction models (casual browsing, active participation) cut across sources
- browser provides tools for content management (tabs, bookmarks, history, etc.)

Question

Should messaging be integrated into the browser?

The Experiment

- prototype Firefox extension that integrates messaging into the browser
- unified message store
- two different message sources (feeds, Twitter)
- two different message views (list, river)

Demo

- first run
- subscribing to a feed
- subscribing to Twitter
- importing OPML
- the list view
- the river view
- searching

What's Missing?

- support for other common sources of messages (email, NNTP, Facebook, etc.)
- two-way communication (composition/sending)
- threading, notifications, unread counts, deletion
- remote storage (IMAP? Weave?)
- attribute-specific search (Google-style name:value pairs, Ubiquity?)
- browser feed integration (livemarks, frequently accessed sites)
- lots of other things (it's an experimental prototype!)

What's Next?

- You tell me.
- Is this useful and worth pursuing further?
- What makes sense?
- What should change?

Questions, Comments, Code?

- Check out the prototype:
 - <http://people.mozilla.com/~myk/snowl/snowl.xpi>
- Check out the source:
 - <http://hg.mozilla.org/labs/snowl/>
- Discuss:
 - #labs on irc.mozilla.org
- Contact me!
 - myk@mozilla.org