REAL-TIME VISUALIZATION OF REDDIT

Matthew Dickson
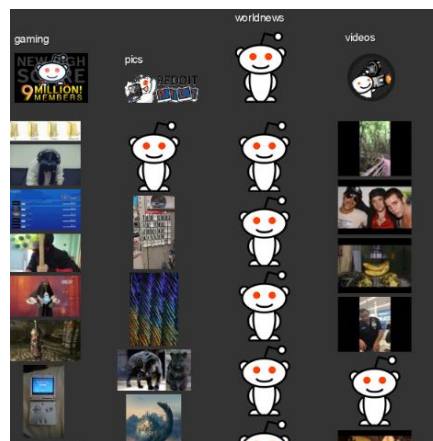
BSc Computer Science, yd012150@reading.ac.uk

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the most original feature of the project 'Real-Time Visualization of Reddit'. That is, the conversion of a regular static web API (Application Programming Interface) into a real time version of the API. The paper investigates the issues with static web API's in the context of reddit's web API. An important issue when using reddit's static API is the fluctuating popularity of posts, resulting in users receiving different snapshots of what posts are currently popular. The proposed solution is a real-time version of reddit's web API, with novel implementation features described. Generating a visualization from the retrieved real-time data is also outlined. The results of the paper found that real-time API's can provide a useful and relevant visualization when compared to a visualization generated from a static API. The usage of real-time API's solves the investigated issues, and also opens up other potential applications for real-time API's, such as virtual reality.

Table 1. Table output of the comparison array

subreddit	Array Output					
gaming	-1	-1	18	17	-1	-2
worldnews	-1	-1	-1	19	18	-1
videos	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
pictures	-1	-1	23	22	-1	-1

Figure 4. Implemented visualization segment