



mozilla LABS
ubiquity

Ubiquity: An Experiment into Connecting the Web with Language

Sophia Liu
December 10, 2008

The Problems

- The web is disconnected
- Information is far apart
- Too much clicking, typing, searching, copy/pasting
- We interact with web browsers by telling them **where we want to go** but not **what we want to do**
- Mashups are usually static, require Web development skills, largely site-centric not user-centered

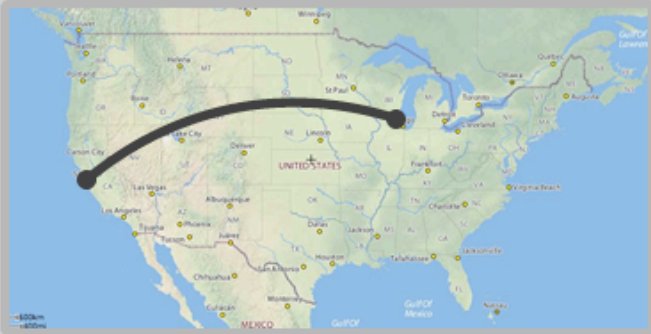
Their Goals

- Empower users to control the web browser with language-based instructions
- Enable on-demand, user-generated mashups with existing open Web APIs
- Use trust networks and social constructs to balance security with ease of extensibility
- Easily extend the browser functionality
- Do common Web tasks more quickly and easily

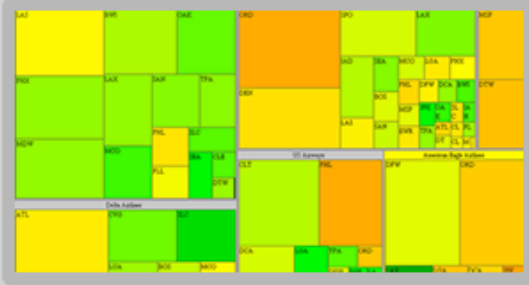
Their Goal

Aza's Thoughts - Mozilla Firefox (Build 2008061004)

Book a flight to a Chicago next Monday to Thrusday, no red-eyes, the cheapest. Then email my Chicago friends the itinerary, and add it to my calendar.



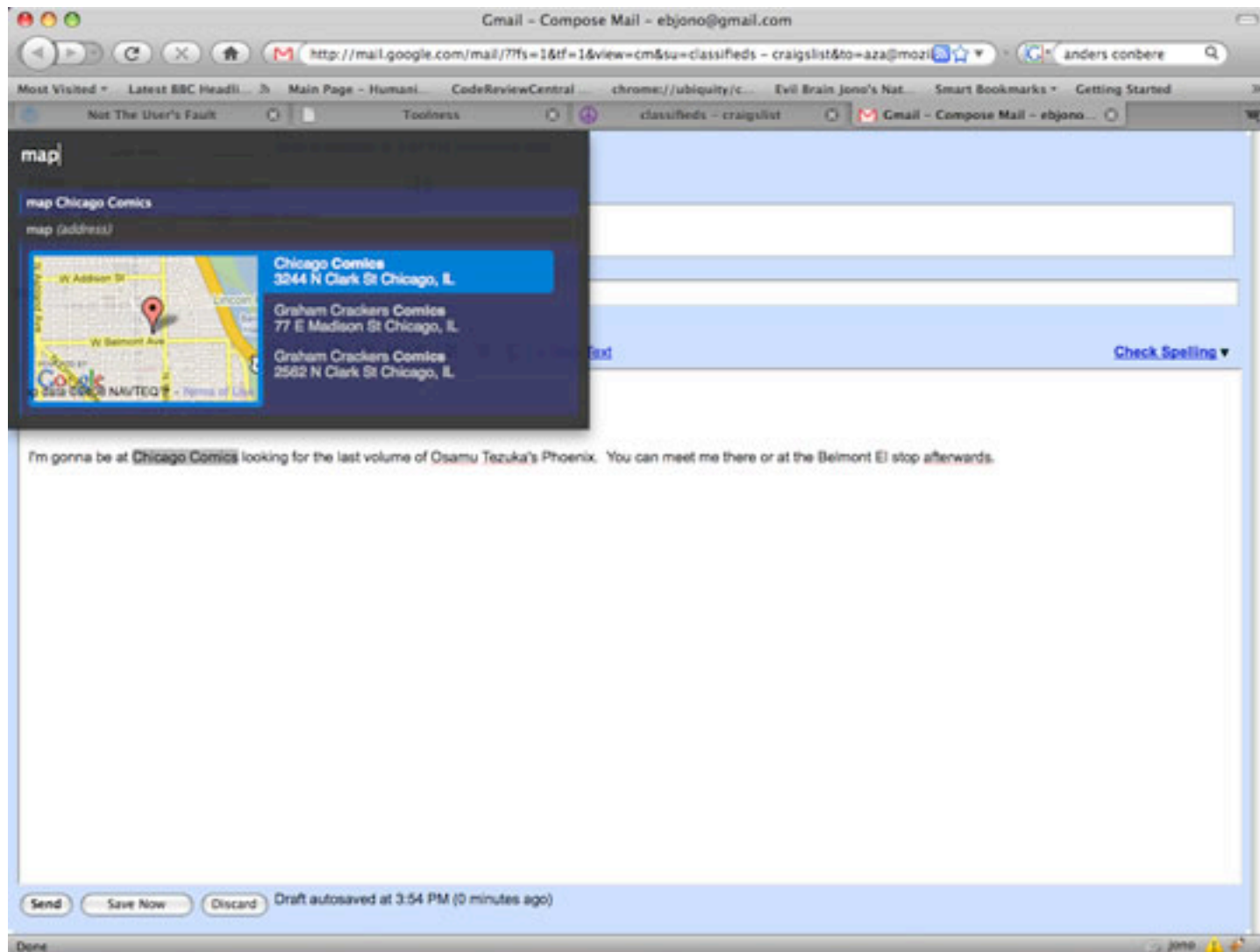
Pick a flight:



Leaving from **SF** to **Chicago** on **March 20th** at **9am**. Returning on **March 24th** at **7pm**. Itinerary will be sent to **Andrew, Margret, and Josh**.

The image shows a screenshot of a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The title bar reads "Aza's Thoughts - Mozilla Firefox (Build 2008061004)". The address bar contains the text "Book a flight to a Chicago next Monday to Thrusday, no red-eyes, the cheapest. Then email my Chicago friends the itinerary, and add it to my calendar." Below the address bar, there is a large white ampersand logo on the left. The main content area is divided into two sections. The left section features a map of the United States with a black curved line indicating a flight path from San Francisco (SF) on the West Coast to Chicago in the Midwest. The right section is titled "Pick a flight:" and displays a grid of colored squares in shades of yellow, green, and orange, representing different flight options. Below these sections, a text box contains the following information: "Leaving from **SF** to **Chicago** on **March 20th** at **9am**. Returning on **March 24th** at **7pm**. Itinerary will be sent to **Andrew, Margret, and Josh**." The browser's sidebar on the right shows a "Thoughts" panel with a search icon and a blue scrollbar.

Current Functionality



Some Commands

- Browser Commands
 - Tab, close-tab, close-related tabs, zoom, tag
- Web Search Commands
 - Search, wikipedia, yelp, weather, define
- Map Commands
 - Map, map-these
- Social Networking Commands
 - Twitter, digg, tinyurl

More Commands

- Developer Commands
 - Syntax-highlight, convert, escape-html-entities, view-source
- Page Editing Commands
 - Delete, undelete, edit-page, stop-editing page, save, remove-annotations
- General Utility Commands
 - Word-count, calculate, sparkline, translate, bold, italic, underline, undo, redo, highlight

Other Commands

- Email Commands
 - Email, last-email, get-email-address
- Calendar Commands
 - Add-to-calendar, check-calender

Updating Twitter

```
// max of 140 chars is recommended, but it really allows 160
const TWITTER_STATUS_MAXLEN = 160;

CmdUtils.CreateCommand({
  name: "twitter",
  takes: {status: noun_arb_text},

  homepage: "http://theunfocused.net/moz/ubiquity/verbs/",
  author: {name: "Blair McBride", homepage: "http://theunfocused.net/"},
  license: "MPL",
```

Updating Twitter

```
preview: function(previewBlock, statusText) {
  var previewTemplate = "Updates your Twitter status to: <br/>" +
    "<b>${status}</b><br /><br />" +
    "Characters remaining: <b>${chars}</b>";
  var truncateTemplate = "<br />The last <b>${truncate}</b> " +
    "characters will be truncated!";

  var previewData = {
    status: statusText.text,
    chars: TWITTER_STATUS_MAXLEN - statusText.text.length
  };

  var previewHTML = CmdUtils.renderTemplate(previewTemplate,
    previewData);

  if(previewData.chars < 0) {
    var truncateData = {
      truncate: 0 - previewData.chars
    };

    previewHTML += CmdUtils.renderTemplate(truncateTemplate,
      truncateData);
  }

  previewBlock.innerHTML = previewHTML;
},
```

Updating Twitter

```
execute: function(statusText) {
  if(statusText.text.length < 1) {
    displayMessage("Twitter requires a status to be entered");
    return;
  }

  var updateUrl = "https://twitter.com/statuses/update.json";
  var updateParams = {
    source: "ubiquity",
    status: statusText.text
  };

  jQuery.ajax({
    type: "POST",
    url: updateUrl,
    data: updateParams,
    dataType: "json",
    error: function() {
      displayMessage("Twitter error - status not updated");
    },
    success: function() {
      displayMessage("Twitter status updated");
    }
  });
}
```

Ubiquity Demo

[I added screenshots but it is more interesting to see this in action.]

Updating Twitter

twitter this is a demo of how to update twitter

 **twitter this is a demo of how to update twitter**

Updates your Twitter status to:
this is a demo of how to update twitter

Characters remaining: 101

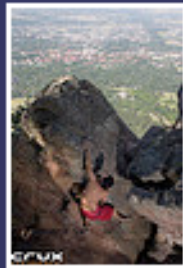
tip: tweet @mozillaubiquity for help

Searching for Flickr Photos

flickr boulder

● flickr boulder

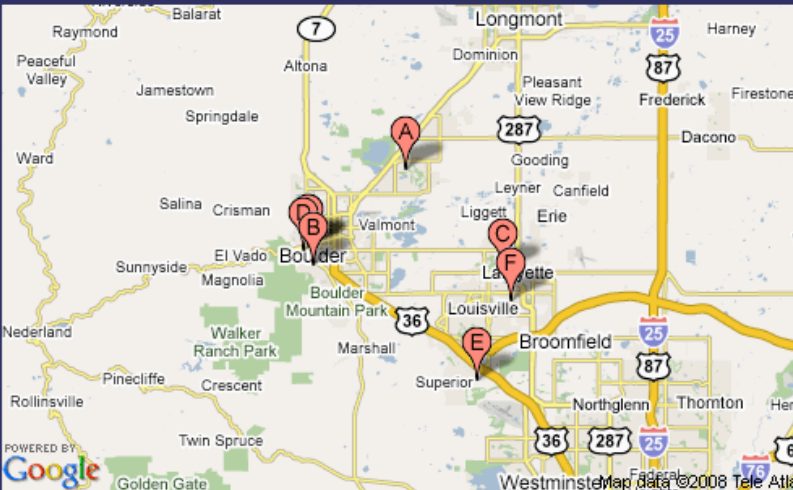
269801 photos were found on Flickr.



Mapping Rentals in Craigslist

map-these

map-these your selection ("\$690 / 1br - Very Nice One Bedroom Apartment Avail...")



POWERED BY Google

A: Absolutely fabulous three bedrooms!
B: Perfect One bedroom single unit Apt.
C: Adorable 2 Bedroom 2 Bathroom House with 1 Car Garage
D: Great 2 BR cottage - perfect location, walk to Pearl St and the Hill!
E: Incredible apartments at The Summit at Flatirons! ~ Flexible pricing!!
F: Nice 3 bedroom with garage backs to open space
G: Very Nice One Bedroom Apartment Available
H: Large Two Bedrooms For Rent

Boulder) pic

pricing!! - (Broomfield/Boulder/Superior) img

the Hill! - (9th and Arapahoe)

pic


- (Lafayette, CO) pic


pic

North Boulder) pic

Looking Up a Word in Wikipedia


wikipedia web 2.0|

 [wikipedia web 2.0](#) *(in language)*

 [link-to-wikipedia web 2.0](#)

Wikipedia articles found matching **web 2.0**:

Web 2.0

 The term "Web 2.0" describes the changing trends in the use of World Wide Web technology and web design that aim to enhance creativity, communications, secure information sharing, collaboration and functionality of the web. Web 2.0 concepts have led to the development and evolution of web culture communities and hosted services, such as social-networking sites, video sharing sites, wikis, blogs, and folksonomies. The term became notable after the first O'Reilly Media Web 2.0 conference in 2004. Although the term suggests a new version of the World Wide Web, it does not refer to an update to any technical specifications, but rather to changes in the ways software developers and end-users utilize the Web. According to Tim O'Reilly:

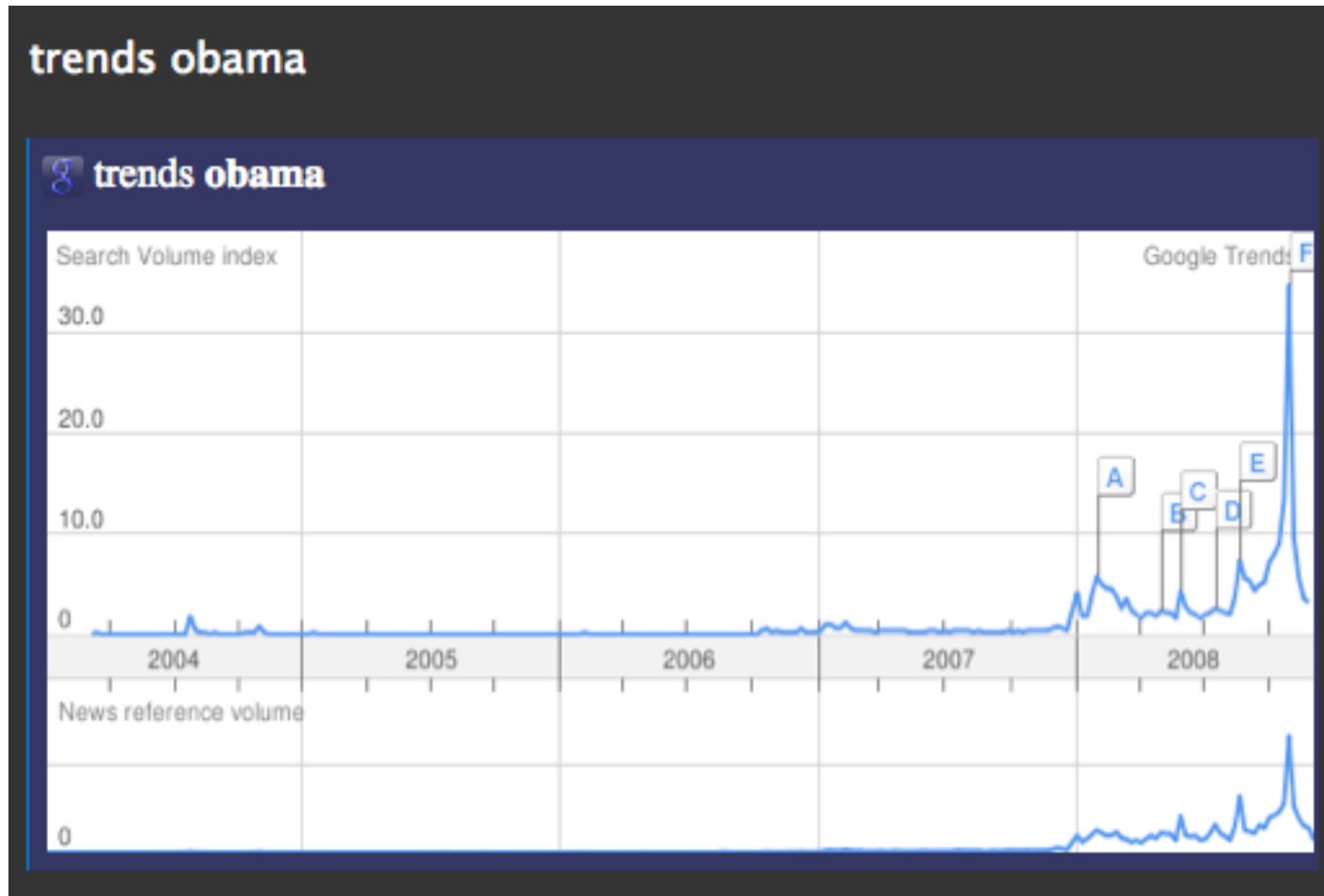
Web 2.0 Conference
Web 2.0 Conference could refer to:

Web 2.0 Conference (2005)
The Web 2.0 Conference (2005) was a conference held in 2005 about the transition from the world wide web, or Web 1.0, to the emerging Web 2.0.

Web 2.0 Conference (2004)
The first Web 2.0 conference was held October 5-7, 2004 at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco, and is believed to be the point at which the term Web 2.0 came into popular usage.

Web 3.0
Web 3.0 is one of the terms used to describe the evolutionary stage of the Web that follows Web 2.0. Given that technical and social possibilities identified in this latter term are yet to be fully realised the nature of defining Web 3.0 is highly speculative. In general it refers to aspects of the internet which, though potentially possible, are not technically or practically feasible at this time.

Doing a Google Trend



Writing Ubiquity Commands

UBIQUITY COMMAND EDITOR

Enter new commands in the area below. They will automatically be saved as you type, and will be able to be instantly used from the command entry mode.

Read the [command authoring tutorial](#) to learn more. For examples of built-in commands, look [here](#), for information on available utility functions for use in commands, look [here](#).

Get involved. Learn how by visiting the [Ubiquity Wiki](#).

Your external editor is

Reviews

- Terminal for your browser
- Save a few clicks, less switching btw windows
- Centralized interface for basic tasks
- Open-ended platform with high goals
- Still some bugs
- Doesn't work for all locations, languages, etc.
- Does not search / suggest intelligently

Thanks...Any Questions ?

<http://labs.mozilla.com/2008/08/introducing-ubiquity/>

https://wiki.mozilla.org/Labs/Ubiquity/Ubiquity_0.1_User_Tutorial

<https://wiki.mozilla.org/Labs/Ubiquity>

https://wiki.mozilla.org/Labs/Ubiquity/Commands_In_The_Wild