Effective Visualization of Dynamic Twitter Feeds

Boaz Avital Akshay Kannan Jeff Patzer

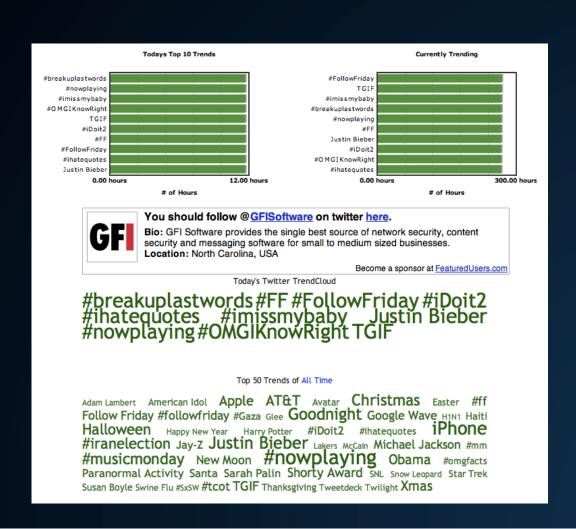
Information Domain

Focused on Twitter Trending Topics

- System allows for users to monitor most popular topics
- Allowed us to pull in quickly changing data
- Has properties that can be extrapolated to other quickly changing domains.

Existing Systems

http://tweetstats.com/trends



Existing Systems

http://trendistic.com/



System Design

-Data pulled using PHP. Windowing system implemented entirely in Javascript

- Bell and Feiner: Overlap minimization
- Tiling/treemap approach (area)
- Avoid aspect ratio distortion
- $$\begin{split} \|Importance\|_f &= \frac{Importance_f}{\Sigma Importance} \\ |columns| &= \left[\sqrt{|boxes|}\right] \\ width_{col} &= \frac{\Sigma Importance_{col}}{\Sigma Importance} * width_{scr} \\ height_{feed} &= \frac{importance_{f}}{\Sigma Importance_{col}} * height_{col} \end{split}$$
- Renormalized and recomputed each time new box arrives, importance changes, or window size/orientation is modified

Advantages of System

Does it help manage multiple streams of data?

- Provides a quick overview of many trending topics
- Provides a quick look into individual tweets
- Alternative to Word Cloud system (if data domain permits)
- Utilizes the length and size of a box to indicate change of a stream (easily recognized and understood)

Disadvantages of System

- Movement of windows makes it difficult at times to read individual tweets
- Occludes less popular trending topics
- Does not provide a trending topic history, only an instant peek
- Large Data-Ink ratio

Something we kind of found out....

