I³ - The Incredible Information Investigators

BABES: Brushing+Linking, Attributes, and Blobs Extension to Storyboard

Project 4: Final Implementation

Information Visualization
Fall 2007

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In our final implementation, everything that we had decided to implement in the initial design document has been successfully implemented. Among the features implemented are attributes for each note, brushing and linking, touch screens, blobs, unconnected data bins, unsorted data bin, minimized blobs and PDA based interactions.

Each note has attributes (which are parsed in the VAST data set). The attributes are color coded to match one of the five attribute categories (figure 1). When an attribute is selected, the note is selected as well (figure 2).

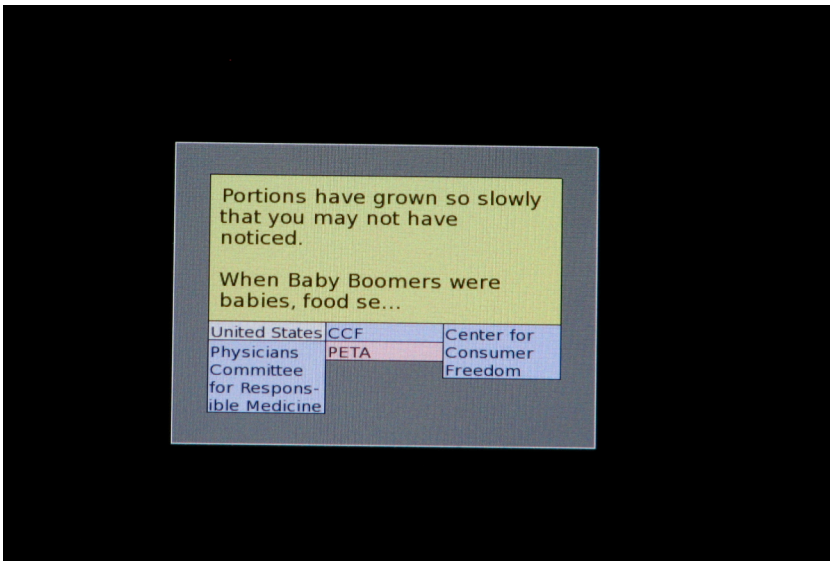

Figure 1 Attributes are color coded.

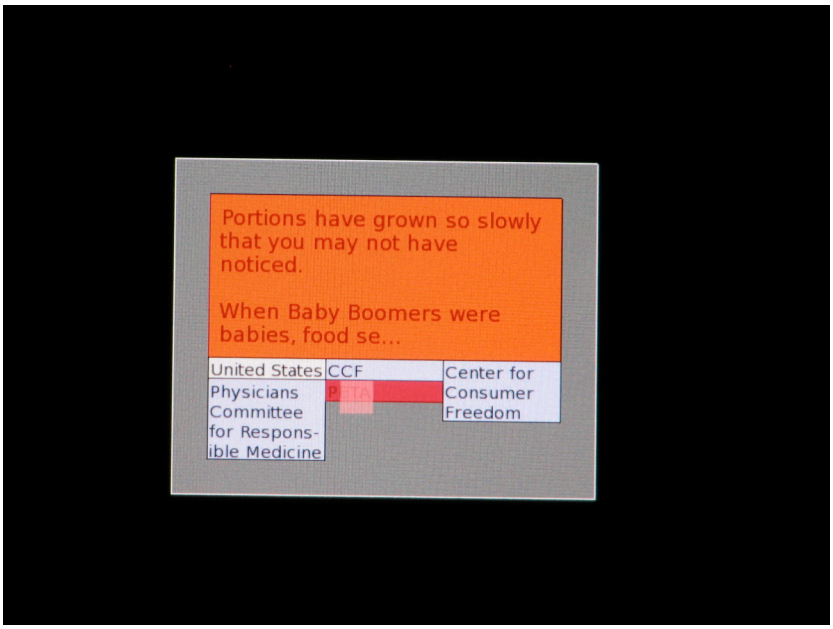

Figure 2 Selected attribute and note.

Brushing and linking is performed by selecting an attribute in a note. This causes other notes that contain the attribute to be highlighted (figure 3).

Figure 3 Brushing and Linking.

Figure 4 Another image of Brushing and Linking.

Touch screens are in place to enhance user interaction. A user can select a note (figure 5) or its attribute using the touch screen. A selected note can be moved to a new position. When a note is

selected, it is expanded to its full size to show the whole news item (figure 6). One slight problem that we are facing is that some of the touch screens on the gigapixel are not working.

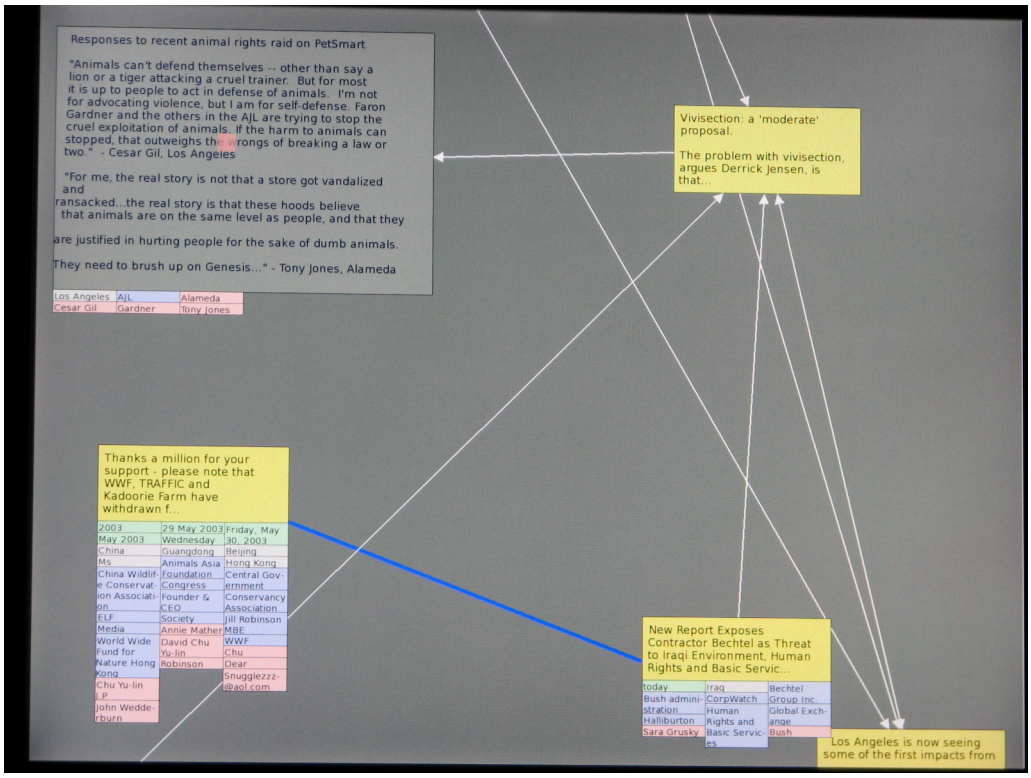

Figure 5 Note selected using the touch screen.

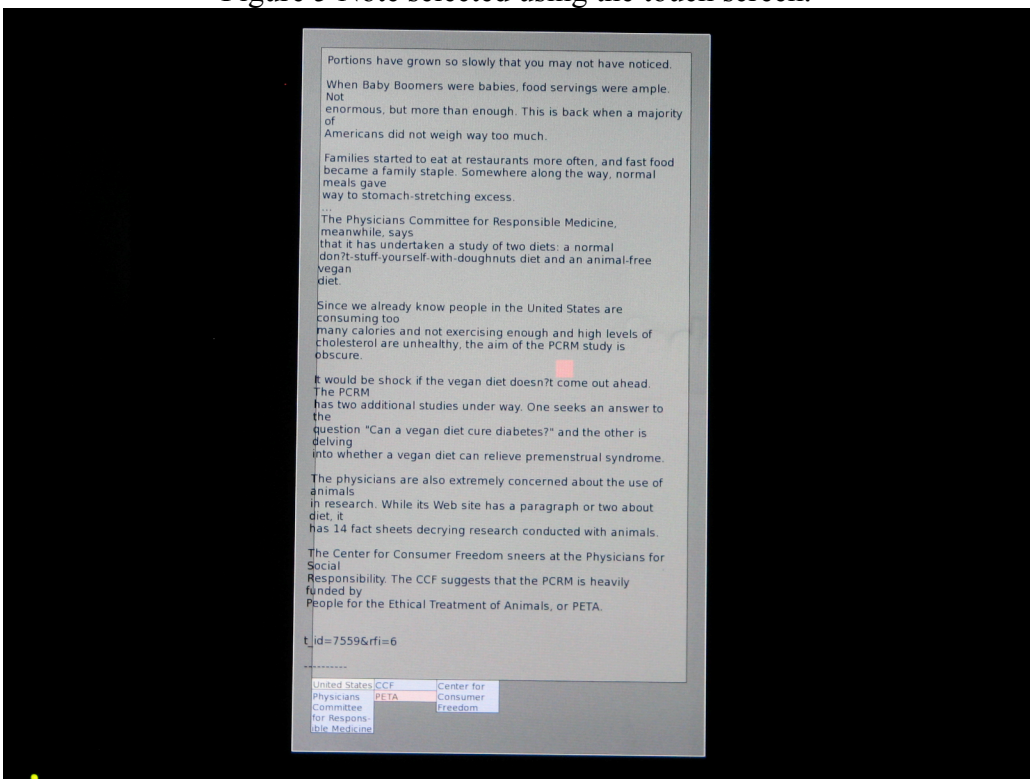

Figure 6 An expanded note.

Each note is initially assumed to be a plot. It has a grey area surrounding it. Using the PDA, the user can move a note into an existing plot hence creating a blob. Users can connect notes in a blob using directed (figure 7) and undirected links and create hypothesis notes (figure 8). Unconnected notes can also be a part of the blob. Users can also delete a note from a plot or merge plots.

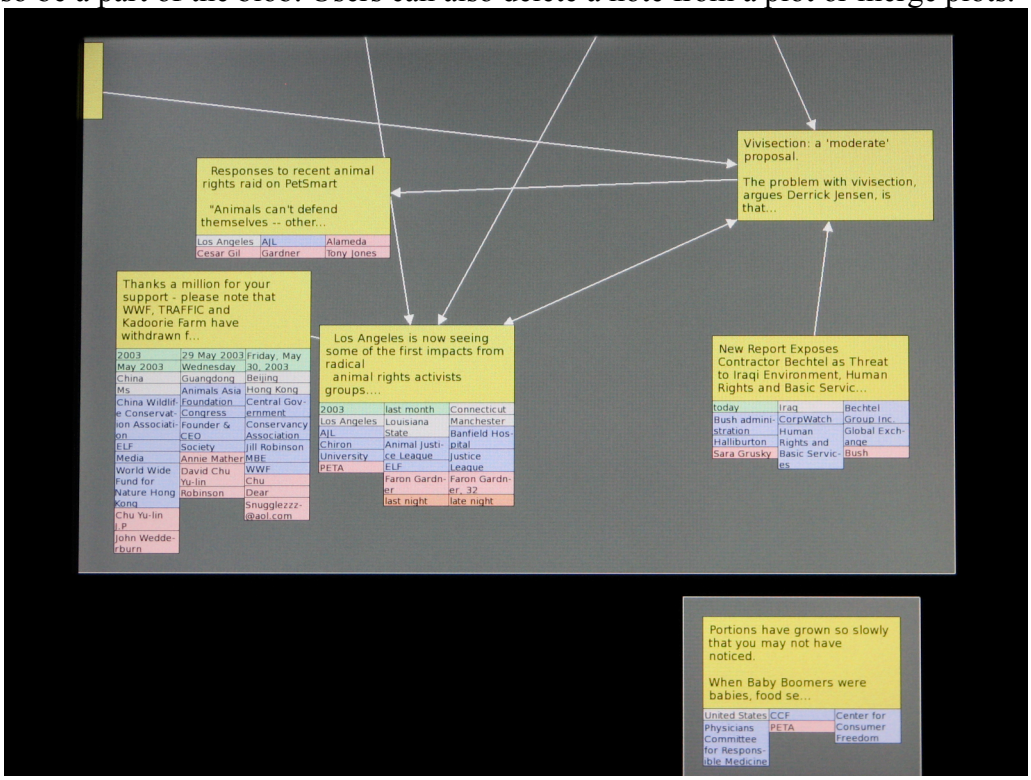

Figure 7 Directed Links in a blob.

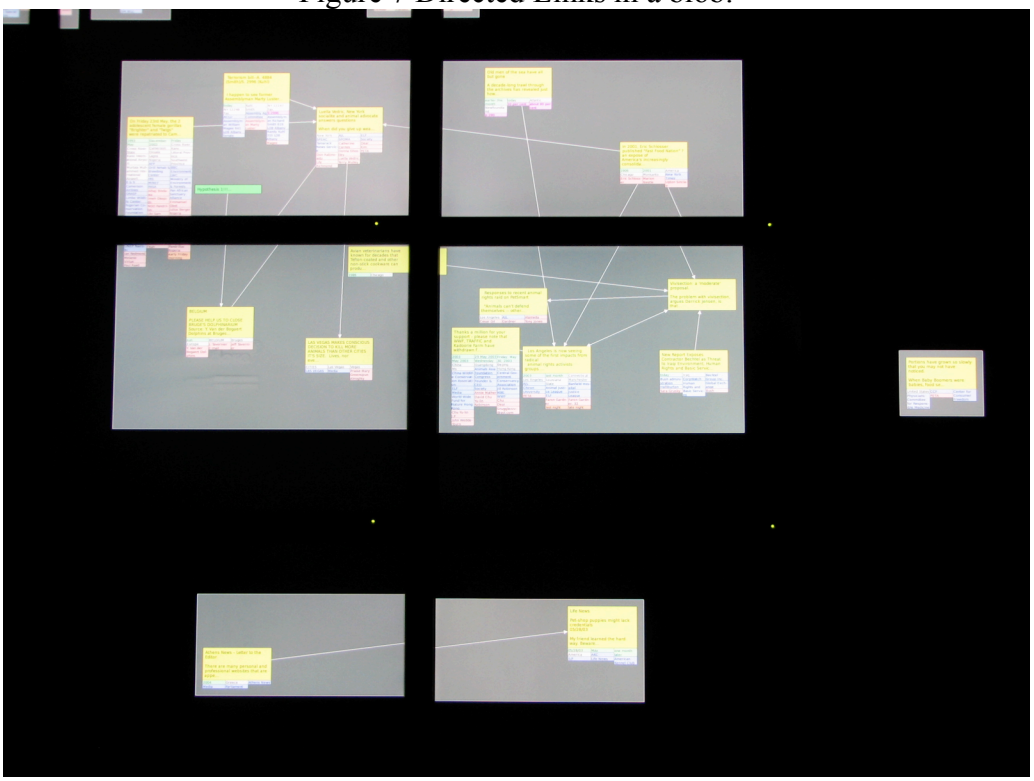

Figure 8 The creation of a hypothesis. Hypotheses are color coded to green.

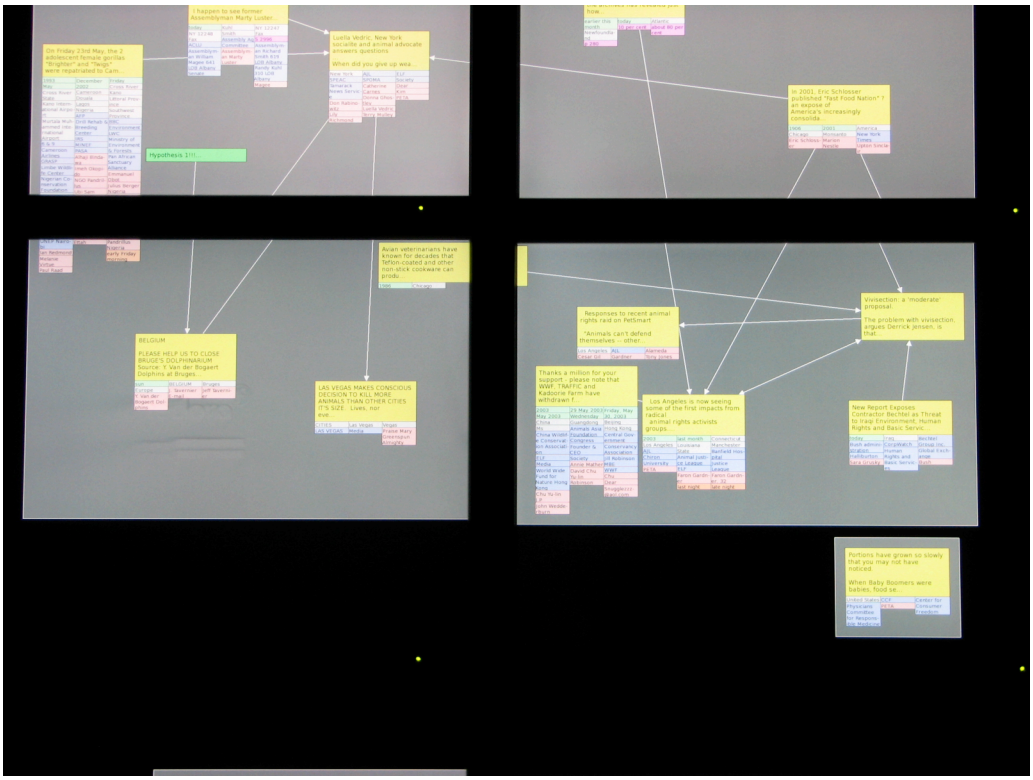

Figure 9 Plots, blobs, hypothesis, directed links, undirected links.

The unconnected data bin stores notes that are not part of any plot. These notes can be added to the workspace at any time.

Notes that have not been sorted are stored in the unsorted data bins. When a bin is opened, notes are displayed on the workspace and are arranged based on a timeline.

Once plots are created they can be minimized and will show up as icons at the bottom of the screen.