loogie.net NEWS

Title:	Loogie.net NEWS
Date of premiere:	October 16, 2003
Author:	Marc Lee
Internet:	www.loogie.net

Annette Schindler, [plug.in] Kunst und neune Medien, Basil, 11.11.03

Loogie.net News is a personalized real-time online news magazine: the user chooses a keyword and within seconds receives a tailor-made cutting-edge News program. In a hip, but reliable design, using the proven interaction structures of well-known news agencies, the news articles arrange themselves by headlines, leads and contents, audiovisual material, and links to related news.
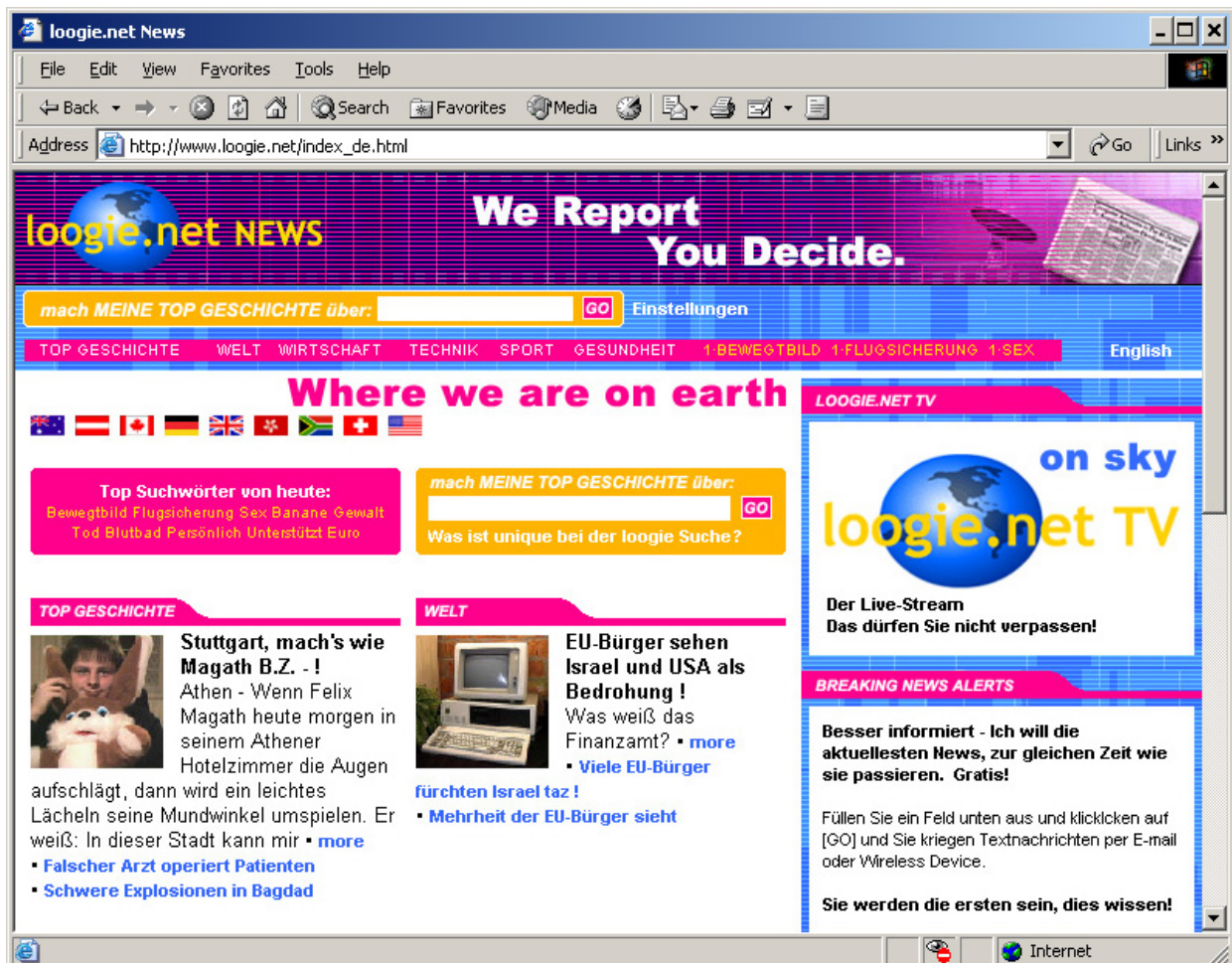
Loogie.net uses common search engines to search for texts, pictures and videos related to the desired subject. The results are saved in a database, analyzed by a text classification system and then ranked according to meaningfulness. The program establishes terms related to the subject and only the data marked as relevant by a computer algorithm will be used and automatically put together to form a news Page. Thus the loogie.net news will not be produced by people, but by computer generated reporters or respectively by intelligent software. They are, therefore, not subject to screening by party-opinion or special interests, but instead to the selection of the machine, feeding on the more democratic but also arbitrary information pool of the Internet. Since the artist delegates the power of choice back to the machine, he throws an ambivalent as well as critical glance at the unabated apparent belief in the technology of our society.

Users can let their personalized news be read to them by online-newscasters, print out the whole story, forward it per e-mail or give the "reporter" feedback on the text in the form of an evaluation and commentary. Finally, the user can get right into the contents by replacing words: For a more generally positive tone "bad" can be replaced with "not so good", or going even farther "George W. Bush" replaced with "Britney Spears" and make the pop-icon a world power.

The claims („loogie.net is the most trusted organization in the world." „We Report - You Decide!" „When News breaks - Loogie.net is there.") are derived from the copy-paste principle as well as the staff - an army of editors and reporters, supervisors and subordinates from every country with a name and portrait: Here also, the artist holds up a mirror to the need for self-portrait and the hierarchal structure of the media as well as to everyone who accepts these mechanisms without scrutinizing them.

The arguably most subversive part of the work is, however, the fashion in which they use the functionality of the Internet and make it useful: Every news report is linked and archived. This rapidly growing archive will be perpetually indexed by search engines. Since so many new pages will be coming in daily, the importance of loogie.net news

sites will consequently increase. This results in a higher ranking and the probability steadily increases that when surfing for news, using a search engine, you end up at a loogie.net generated site instead of well-known news site. Such "found" sites can cause confusion because the misinformation which they contain contrasts with that of the biggies, and the latter can also be thereby exposed.

The Loogie.net NEWS-Website: www.loogie.net

Computer generated Loogie.net NEWS report to the Subject "Iraq".
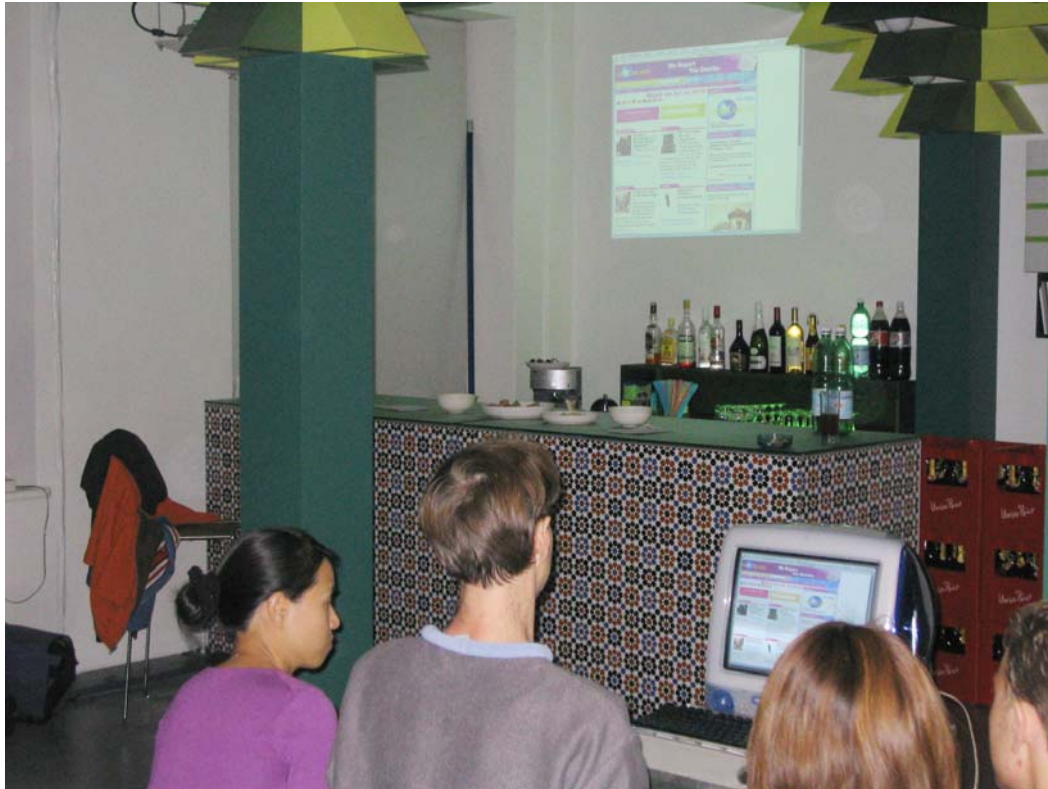
Loogie.net Exhibition, Plugin Basel, 16. October – 27. November 2003

Loogie.net Exhibition, Plugin Basel, 16. October – 27. November 2003

Links

http://www.loogie.net
http://welcome.weallplugin.org/calendar/exhibition.03111247
http://www.regioartline.de/regioartline/aktuell/archiv/oktober03/loogienet.htm

Title:	loogie.net TV
Autor:	Marc Lee in cooperation with Christoph Ganser
Date of premiere:	June 27. 2003
Contact:	marc.lee@gmx.net
Internet:	www.loogie.net/tv.html

Contents:

1a. Abstract:

loogie.net TV shows you the latest world news about the subjects you choose. By putting in keywords with a special remote control you can determine which subjects will be shown on television and you will be presented with news fit to your specifications. Additionally, in a second step your TV program can be narrowed down and focused on your own main areas of interest. The content of the broadcast is searched in real-time on the internet and is seamlessly transitioned by the loogie.net software.

loogie.net TV is highly unusual in that it offers broadcasts compiled solely by computer algorithms without human intervention.

The information about a subject found on the rich archives of the Internet vary in perspectives and editorial approaches. It may lead to some occasionally unusual and contradictory statements. It is exactly this variety that makes loogie.net TV a valuable source of information on the issues you have chosen and tries to satisfy the wants and needs of the TV viewer even better than before.

1b. tpc creaTVty award 2003

Laudatio for Loogie.net TV from Martin Roth
Translated by Michael O'Dell

Imagine for a moment that you are sitting in front of the television and instead of choosing a channel, you choose a topic. National Council elections, starvation or beauty queens, for example. You enter these or any other keywords with the remote control into Loogie.net TV and promptly your personal news show begins.

Are we witnessing the much hailed birth of interactive television here? Probably not, since what you are experiencing with Loogie.net TV can be described more closely as "interpassivity" than interactivity. Marc Lee's work, therefore, fits in more closely with the habits of today's viewers than the media hyped interactive TV.

So what happens with loogie.net TV? The contents (text, pictures, videos) defined by the keywords will be searched for on the Internet in real time and then coalesced by the custom made software. Familiar faces from CNN and other news channels appear on the screen and, in a monotone digital voice, present the findings from the Internet. In other words, the Internet contents are shoved into the mouths of TV stars. What they announce wavers between coherence, variety, and arbitrariness: In this way, Loogie.net certainly imitates well known news shows while at the same time caricaturing them.

The jury was convinced of loogie.net TV for many different reasons.
The project is fundamental research, media satire and art installation, all at the same time. Not only does it descriptively and exemplarily convey how complex contents can be processed in a user-friendly and software-controlled fashion, it also reflects the visions and limits of our information society in an intelligent manner. It was an easy choice to present Marc Lee the CreaTVty Award for New Media. We are dealing with an exponent of that scene of young designers and developers who, in a radical way, exhaust the possibilities of the Internet. As such, they extend the discussion of the new media much like video art did in the late 80's. Thus loogie.net TV stands trendsetting and exemplary for new areas of study at our schools of Art and Design.

2. How loogie.net TV Works:

The visitor inputs one or more keywords via the remote control. These immediately appear on the TV as topics for shows and the current show is interrupted. At the same time, a search for relevant data will be started in the background (with Google and AltaVista.) The loogie.net software tries to sniff out fitting data with a systematic discovery of Internet structures, save these in a database and then classify and compact these using statistical and lexical methods. The resulting data will automatically be processed and the data most relevant to the show's topic will be properly prepared for television.

Throughout the show the moderators will announce/present customer topics, videos and correspondents (live via telephone (Text To Speech.)) At the same time, a news ticker shows the current stock information and further current events, which are suited to the exhibition (see picture 8.) Resulting buffer time will be filled with current weather, stock market news and commercials.

The script, order of events, text, sound, picture, and editing as well as the length of each scene are selected entirely by a computer algorithm, based on many factors including the amount, quality and the point of time of the finding of the processed data from the Internet.

Text replacements can be accomplished with the remote control. For example, instead of "news", "propaganda" can be spoken of, and instead of "drinker" you get "good consumer." This should go further towards fulfilling the expectations and wants of the viewer.

When you put in your own name, you will be able to see your own digital information on the TV. This is put together from all of the available data on the Internet. It is possible to misuse loogie.net TV for propaganda in a publicly visible place by playing a show about yourself over and over again and so becoming an exhibition object yourself.

Every show will be saved and can then later be recalled from the loogie.net TV archive.

Just as with television, the quite complicated technical part of the production is hidden from the viewer. What will be seen and heard is an entertaining, contagious, not perfect, rather weird and trashy show which has a lot of room for surprises.

3. Background:

3a. Current Development of Televised News Formats:

Televised news is becoming more and more extensive. Quite often the news will display three or four different information channels at the same time. In the classical news show there was only one picture: The newsperson is seen, and then there is the video, then the newsperson, then a video or display, etc… Technical developments in the studio as well as new modes of transfer and a plethora of information, shown on individual Internet sites have also led to a new development in television. Multiple information channels and multiple information levels are all presented at the same time: the main program and parallel to that the ticker with stock information and the ticker with extra news and then any possible inserts, where extra videos and photos with further text information can be seen. This complexity is added so that it compliments the main program and so that you can get the important information which you really want, when in the main program there is something that is not in

your area of interest. Today's news format is setup so that different needs can be fulfilled at the same time.
The future of televised news may be that you will be able to choose which subjects and areas of interest will be focused on.

Another development is the increasing reduction in sound, picture and video sequences. In classical news shows a news video would last between 30 sec – 4 min. and a fixed image between 2 - 4 sec. In today's news a video is rarely longer than 15 sec. and fixed images change in a fraction of a second. The editing and placement of pictures and sound has also moved dramatically towards television music programs.

Are news shows orienting themselves more and more like music shows?
Kalle Lasn writes in the book "Culture Jam - The Uncooling of America" that news in the papers and on television only offer pure entertainment. Don't these somehow belong together?

3b. Transfer of Media:

What is the point of incorporating information from the Internet, which is sometimes not current, into a television show, which is current? When you watch CNN, the topicality of the current events shown is implied. You see what is current, as specified by CNN. However, if I can choose for myself what subjects are shown, then I get just what I want, but I have to accept that there will also be older news and content, which might not be current, but will be much closer to my expectations. In order to specialize more on an area of interest you have to make a tradeoff with how up to date the news is. The transfer of media from the Internet to the television induces a slowdown in regard to the topicality.

3c. Interpassivity:

Interactive means that there is always a direct correspondence between what I do and the reaction of the machine. The principle of Interpassivity (Robert Pfaller) says that the user must do or wants to do as little as possible in the human-machine interaction and the machine takes over as much of this as possible (not only the production but also the reception of the information.) For example, the photocopier copies and reads the book and the video recorder copies and visualizes the video. loogie.net can be labeled as an interpassive program because you only have to choose once what the subject is and what interests you. The program will then run on its own for hours. As much of the media consumption as possible will be delegated to the machine and only a fraction of the processed data will become hearable and viewable. The search for information, its classification by relevance as well as the further search for similar topics will be done entirely by the machine. The search engine searches for the television and, at the same time, makes the television show for the search engine, which the rapidly growing loogie.net indexes.

3d. Associations of the Observer:

The observer watches actively and formulates a meaning out of the information that is offered. The choice of subject and areas of interest are compacted from the information flowing past you. You take what information you are given and compose out of that what you want to know.

4. Exhibition Scenarios:

The exhibition consists of a television (sitting on a pedestal or table), which is suited to the room as well as the context of the exhibition. In addition, there are an appropriate and comfortable place to sit, possibly a sofa or beanbag chair, and a loogie.net Butler (special remote control).

Diploma exhibition "Heimapparat", Neue Medien, Galerie Binz 39, Zürich, June 27 - July 10, 2003

Exhibition "CODE Campus", Ars Electronica, Kunstuniversität Linz, September 6-11, 2003

5. Design:

We tried to develop a stand-alone loogie.net TV design which accommodates the concepts and strategies of traditional TV shows and at the same time further enhance them. Formal and editorial like news programs (BBC, NTV, CNN, EURONEWS), but colorful rather like music television programs

(MTV, VIVA). This combination touches on the assumption that news programs are developing towards music television programs (see also 4a. Current Development of Televised News Formats.)

It needs to be emphasized, as already mentioned, that the script, order of events, text, sound, picture, and editing as well as the length of each scene is very dependent upon the amount, quality and the point of time of the finding of the processed data from the Internet.

6. Technology

6a. Diagram:
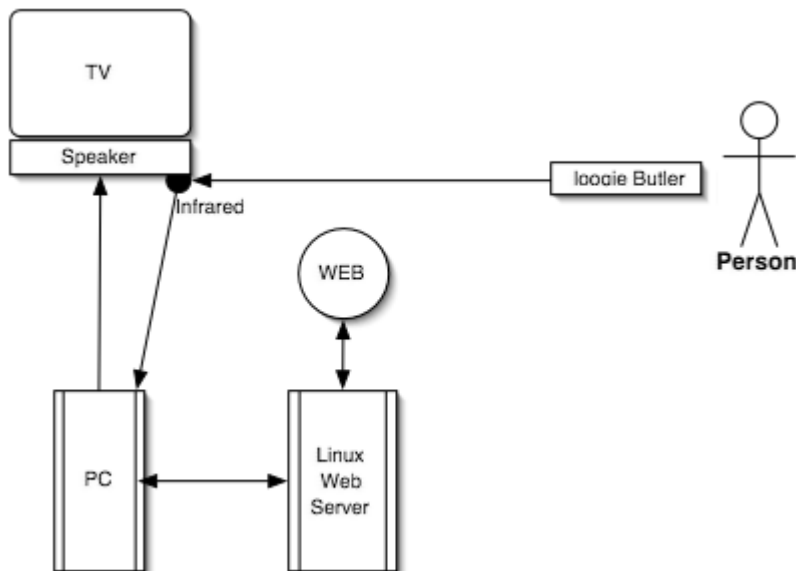
6b.File Formats Searched on the Internet:

Texte: .asp, .doc, .htm, .html, .php, .rtf und .txt Dateien
Pictures: .jpg
Videos: Avi, MPEG , Quicktime, Windows Media und Real Videos

6c. System Requirements:

TV:
Color Television

Loogie.net Butler:
Remote control and infrared receiver on the serial port of the Pinnacle PCTV Pro System.

Client PC:
Processor: Pentium 3, 1 GHz
Memory: 512 MB RAM
Software:
Operating system: Windows 2000
Infrared receiver: uICE for controlling the Window Systems via remote control (loogie Butler)
Browser: Mozilla 1.3, with Flash 5.0, RealOne Player
Videos Codexe: DivX503Bundle, ffdshow, nimo50build8, XviD

Server PC:
Processor: Pentium 4, 2.4 GHz
Memory: 512 MB RAM
Software:
The loogie engine is written with open source software.
Operating System: RedHat Linux 8.0
Web server: Apache 1.3.27
Script language: PHP version 4.3
awk, bash, bow, cat, echo, festival, find, grep, lame, let, lynx, mbrola, mencoder,print, puf, read, screen, sed, text2wave ,wget

Network:
512KBit connection between Client PC und Server PC.
1MBit Internet connection for the Server PC to download media..

7. Help Services

Conceptual Aid:
LAN, Christian Hübler, Andreas Broeckmann, Aleksandar Cetkovic, Chris Kummerer, Christoph Ganser, Margarete Jahrmann und Yvonne Wilhelm

Technological Aid:
LAN, Christoph Ganser, Ramon Cahenzli, Xa Schuppisser, Chris Kummerer.

Other Aid:
Michael O'Dell for translations,
NTV, EURONEWS, CNN, TV9 for making available picture, video and sound data. Thanks also go to TV Studio SFDRS for the utilization of video editing rooms.

8. Pictures:
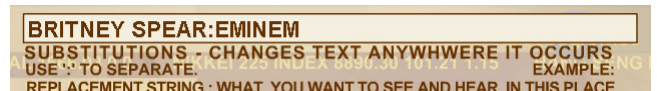
Word inputs:

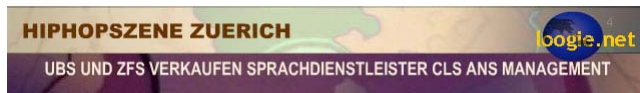loogie Butler

Start A New Broadcast [push 1]

Modify My Broadcast [push 2]

Make Text Substitutions [push 3]

News Ticker:

Input String and News Ticker. Hourly updates of the News from Swissinfo.ch
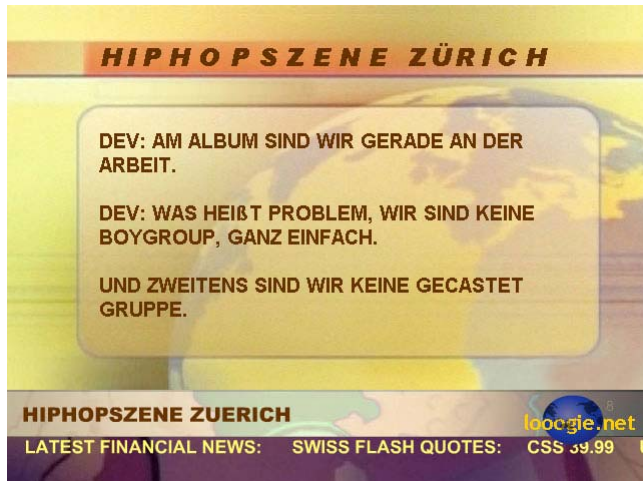

Video announcements

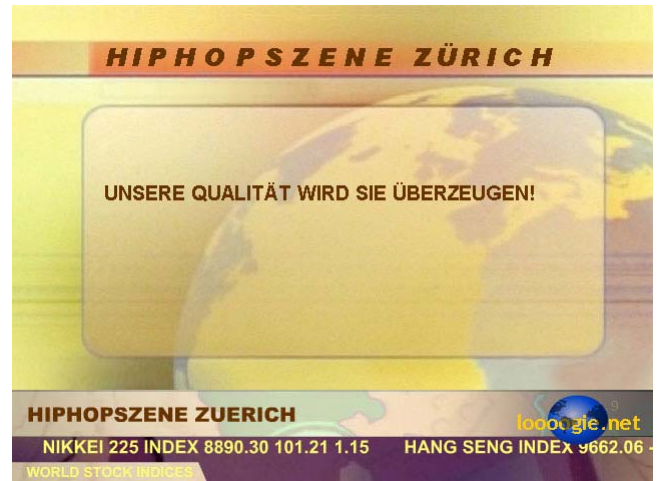Hourly updates of the World Stock Indices from Reuters.com

Hourly updates of the World- Und Swiss Flash Quotes obtained from Nasdaq.com

Screenshots from the Television:

Scrolling text shows sentences found on the Internet that end in '.' .

Teleporter text shows sentences found on the Internet that end in '!' .

Moderators from the loogie.net center present pictures found on the Internet.

Moderators from the loogie.net center present videos found on the Internet.

loogie.net correspondents from diverse locales report on topics of interest, which you can choose yourself.
They speak the text found on the Internet. (Text To Speech)

9. Links:

- http://www.loogie.net/tv.html
- http://www.regioartline.de/regioartline/aktuell/archiv/oktober03/loogienet.htm
- http://www.transmediale.de/page/detail/detail.1.projects.49.html
- RealVideo Stream , Uncutted part of a Broatcast. Entered keywords are: "Day Labour"
  rtsp://194.6.181.110:554/sfdrs/vod/loogie/video1.rm