SightChat Usage

April 14th 2008

GIGA-DATA Systems Inc.

Table of contents

1.What is SightChat?

SightChat is IM(Instant Messenger) client application work with GPS location-based service function.

Former messenger apps could only send and receive letter messages or contents, and couldn't contribute to the users' sense of reality, at most they could only map the location of the partner.

Because an image of the location of the partner is displayed in SightChat as a background of Avatar of the chat partner and displayed message, users can feel the sense of reality while they are doing chat by SightChat.

This background image changes according to the location of the partner dynamically, and you will feel pleasure while you are solely looking at the screen without sending a message.

The background image displayed to the partners screen can be the image that you registered at "My Location" when you are in the corresponding area, or can be the imgae that someone had uploaded for that place when that place has not been registered for your "My Loaction".

The former way gives you the way to determine the background image displayed to the partner's screen by yourself. And the latter way gives the fun to your partner when you are on a sightseeing tour for example.

Below is the flow of the views in SightChat.

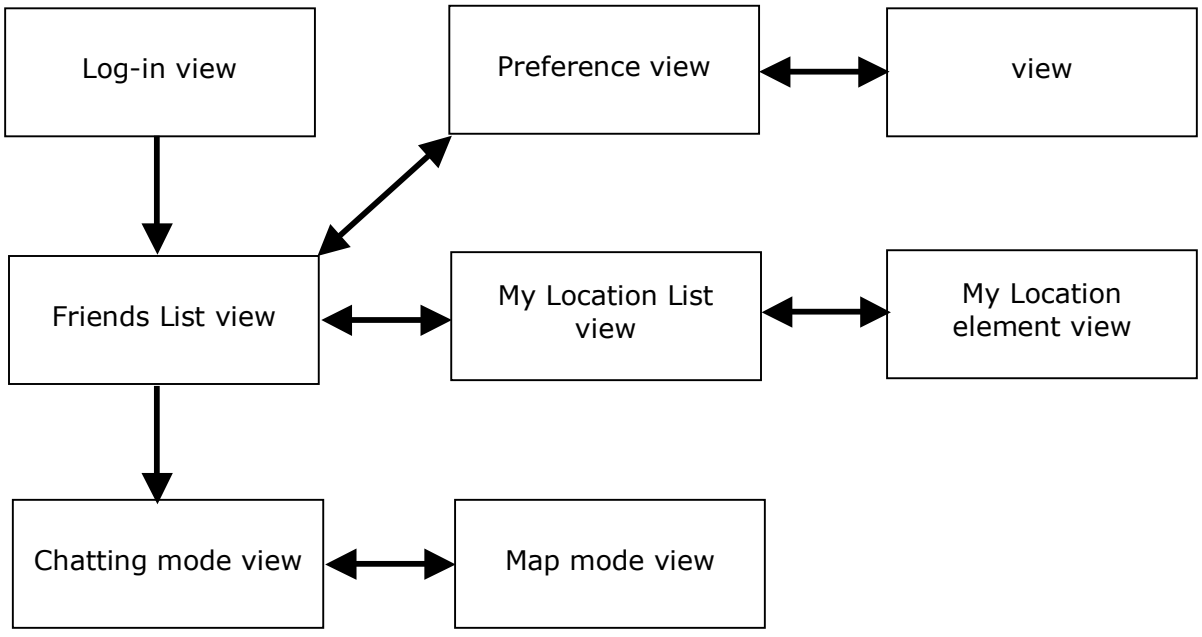

Fig.1
Flow of the view

2.Preparing the SightChat evaluating environment

1. Prepare two Google Talk accounts, their images had been registered each, and they have been added to Friends List mutually.
   Registering image for each account is not essential, but doing this will increase the sense of realities of the chat screen.
   SightChat uses the registered imgae of the Google Talk as avatar of that account in SightChat application.

2. Prepare two sets of PC for the Android emulater and install SightChat to each.
   Both environment had to be connectd to the internet.

3. For the usability, HVGA-P is recommended for the emulator's skin.
   Just leave the default setting as it is.

I hope Panoramio server will not be out of order or not be in maintenance period when SightChat app is being tested.

Please refer the image of the evaluation environment(Fig.2).

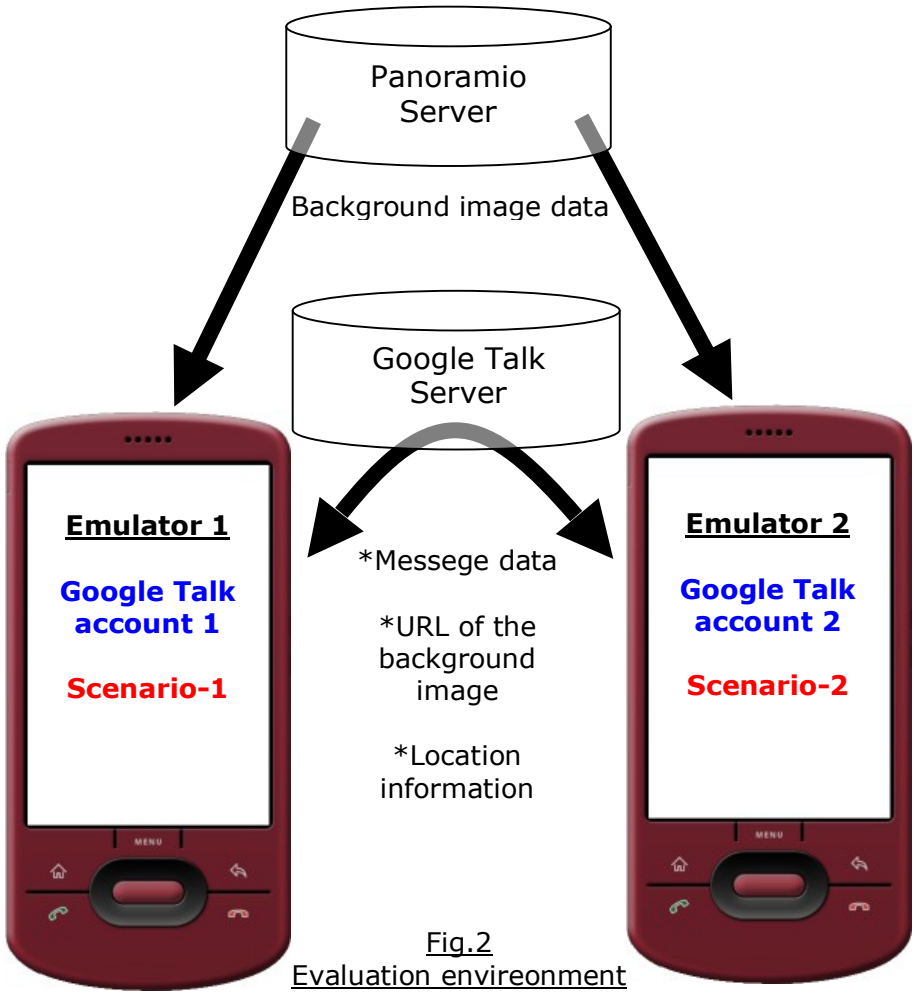

Fig.2
Evaluation envireonment

3.How to use

As mentioned above, SightChat is a IM application. So two Android emulator environments are needed to evaluate SightChat.

Because the Android SDK's emulator has the limitation(see the section "5.Notes,Limitations") on the LBS(Location-based service), we had prepared two sets of location data for the SightChat demonstration.

We call this set of data as "sceneario", and these two scenarios are distinguished as follows.

- Scenario-1:
  Sightseeing of Rome, Italy. From Termini station, through Trevi fountain, Colloseo, Vatican museum etc., returning to Termini station. Takes 95 minutes course.
- Scenario-2:
  Ordinary day of a working person in Japan. Leaves his home for his office by train and walk. On the way, there is a Japanese traditional streetside shrine, spend time at there for a while, and arrives at his office. After a while, takes a break at Mcdonald's, etc.
  Takes 70 minutes.

Evaluation version SightChat uses these location data as if those had been got from LBS.

3.1. Invoke SightChat

Invoke SightChat application in both Emulator environment.

3.2. Log-in

After invoking SightChat for the first time after the emulator is invoked, you will see the log-in view.

Enter the correct Google Talk account(Gmail address) and password, and push the Login button. Then you will see the Log-in dialog, this will disappears automatically when you successfully logged into the Google Talk server, and then you will see the Friends list view appears.

If you failed in Logging-in, check your account and password, and try again.

3.3. Confirming Friends list

If there was no error during previous process, you will see the Friends list, and you will find there pertner's account, with whom you will make a chat after this.

If you logged in earlier than your partner, there will be no account displayed in the list except yourself at the top of the list. In this case wait until your partner logs in, and the partner's account comes to appear in the Friends list.

3.4. Setting Preferences(Selecting scenario)

As mentioned above, two emulators have to choose different scenario each other.

You have to select different scenario each other from the setting menu described below.

Push menu button at the Friend list view, and then push the "Preference" button form the poped up menu. Then Preference view will be displayed.

Fig.3
Preference view

Select the scenario you are going to use, and push OK key. Then the selected scenario will be used for location data.

3.5. Start chatting

By tapping the row of a friend, who you want to chat with (or pushing the center key after selecting the row), you will enter the Chatting mode and you will see the view changes to the Chatting view.

When you received the message from the other side, the view automatically canges to the Chatting mode view.

3.6. Send and receive messages freely

This is the main state of SightChat.

You can send your messages and can see messages sent to you, like ordinary IM apps.

But, here is a significant difference between SightChat and other IM apps. SightChat can display various images as a background, that is collected by way of Panoramio API sending query to the Panoramio server with the parameter of location information got by the way of Android's LBS.

Image below is the Chatting mode view of SightChat.
The view is divided into three parts.

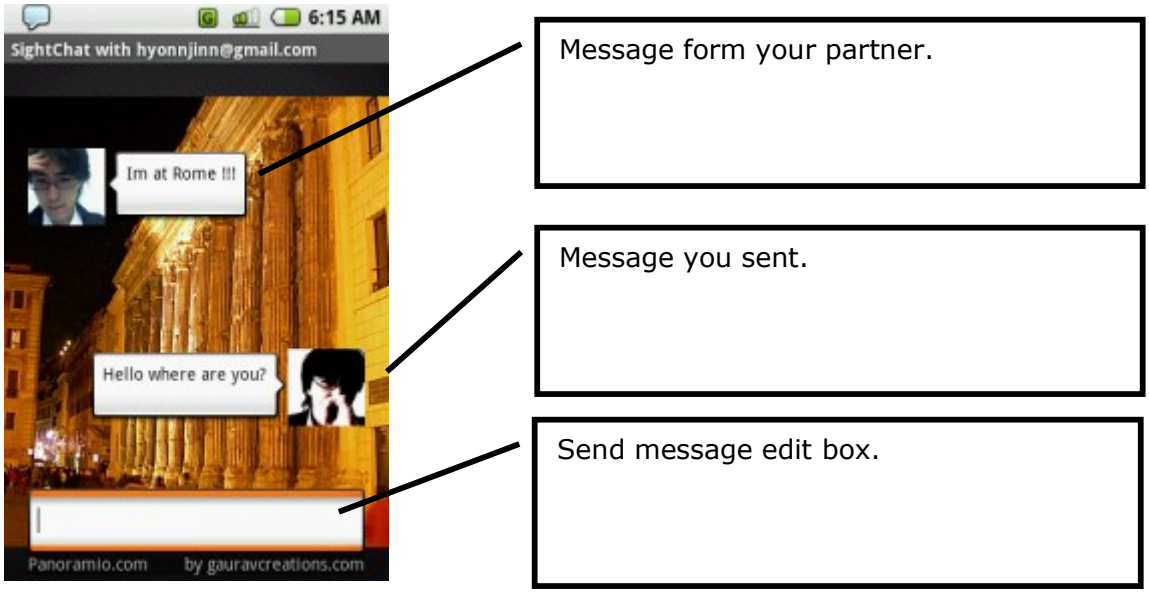

Fig.4
Chatting mode view

3.7. Confirming location on the Map

When you feel like checking the location of the partner, you can do that by pushing menu key and selecting "Show Map" key.
View will change to the Map mode and your partner is located on the Map.

I'm sorry but you can't send or receive messages in this Map mode view currently. To return to the Chatting mode view, you have only to push back key.

3.8. Adding and Editing "My Location"

When you are near aroud the point regigsterd to your "My Location" point, the image you had registered is displayed to your partner's chatting mode view as a background image of you.

For more information about "My Location", please refer to the Chapter 1.

3.8.1.Adding "My Location"

At the Friends list view, you can add "My Location" point.

Enter the name of that "My Location" point.

Choose the image for that point selecting from the image list. These images are collected from Panaramio by querying with the location data for its parameter.

There is a limitation concerning this function, please refer to the section 5.2.

Fig.5
Adding "My Location"

3.8.2.Editing "My Loacation"

You can change the image and the name of the "My Location" points that had already been registered.

To do this, select the row from the My Location list, or simply pat the element.

Fig.6
Editing "My Location"

4.Technical elements used in SightChat

Following is an example of technical elements used within SightChat.

- Location-based service
  Always acquire current location of itself and send it to the partner side during the chat. Then partner side can make it use for mapping the location on the Google Map.

- Interaction with Panoramio
  Background images are acquired form Panoramio server, querying images registered near the current location.

- XMPP, always-on networking
  SightChat uses XMPP for its messaging protocol, so it can connect to other IMs based on XMPP. (In case, SightChat can only send/receive text messages like other IMs.)

- Google Map
  User can change from Background image mode to Map mode anytime and confirm the location of the partner.

5.Notes, Limitations

There are several limitations for the current version of SightChat as follows.

5.1.Location-based service

Obtaining the location data is mandatory for SightChat. But Location-based service available on Android Emulator is a "mock", and SightChat can't get location data appropriate for the demo.

Futhermore, it is impossible for us to locate the demo perpose LocationProvider at the directory /data/misc/location/ of the emulator by the rule of ADC(Android Developer Challenge), we have no way but to make NMEA data locally and build it into the app's code.

Evaluation version SightChat uses these location data as if those had been got from LBS.

5.2.Uploading images for My Location

Images for MyLocation can be selected not only from among the images that had already been uploaded by other people and exist in Panoramio server for that location, but also from the image files exist in the actual Android terminal, mainly taken by the built-in camera.

Because of the current version of Adnroid SDK have no way to manage such photo files, like former cell phone's Datafolder, current version of SightChat can't browse and then can't upload image files resident inside the phone to the server.

5.3.Predefining My Location

We prepared scenario-2 to show you the effect of setting My Location.

By doing this, images to get from Panoramio server for that region is fixed, even though many images' URLs have been returned from Panoramio server as the reply for the query for that region.

And we thought we can show you the pin-pointed image selection as the location data in scenario-2 changes, those are the images we intended. And

But… we realized at the very last moment, My Location data could not be included in the APK file. Those are saved into the SQLite DB…

We are very sorry that we can't show you the My Location registration effect.