

# Focus

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# Exams?

We understand. Come back when you're done! We're moving quickly.

# Today

- Focusing in our visions for foundations
- #infra

# Focusing our foundations

Getting concrete about designs

# Where we're going

- We want to get these foundations concrete enough to prototype.
- We'll create and test these prototypes next week, then use them to iterate and start moving toward code.
- Goal: alpha by the beginning of Stanford's summer (mid-June)

# What we did

- I took your submissions for the foundations...
- Combined a few ideas...
- And tweaked ideas that resonated with me.
  
- The result: my synthesis of where I think our collective consciousness is heading.

# Micro+macrotask: reminder

- How do we ensure high-quality results? Do you let an expert work for hours and submit? That seems risky. Should there be intermediate feedback mechanisms?
- How do you trust that someone is an expert?
- Does this look like AMT where any expert certified in an area can accept the task? Or like an oDesk negotiation?

# Micro+macrotask: suggestion

- All tasks can be taken up without negotiation by anyone who qualifies, and worked on immediately
- For all task submissions on our marketplace, we require at least one milestone.
- That milestone serves as a checkpoint:
  - If it's a microtask, it can be after 5% of tasks are complete
  - If it's a macrotask, it might be a description of what they should do first



# Micro+macrotask: suggestion

- The results of that milestone can be used to select specific workers to qualify to work on the rest of the task, or just to launch the rest of the tasks with no qualification.
- The requester can add as many milestones along the way as they want; we suggest one every couple days.

# I/O transducers: reminder

- Cost: who pays for this? In other words, can this be done without hugely increasing the cost of crowdsourcing?
- Speed: is it possible to do this quickly enough to give near-immediate feedback to requesters? Like, 2–4 minutes?
  - Spangirl: “The #1 thing that requesters love about AMT from her recent survey of requesters, is that the moment that I post tasks, they start getting done”

# I/O transducers: suggestion

- I don't buy using automatic transformers here yet; they're too noisy. Let's work on them afterwards.
- Suggestion for input transducer:
  - While the task is in the first milestone stage, workers can leave feedback on the design of the task publically.
  - That feedback gets returned to the requester when the milestone completes.
  - The requester can use that feedback to iterate on the task before launching.

# I/O transducers: suggestion

- Suggestion for output transducer:
  - By default, the platform checks a box that sends all work for review to a worker who is one (or two) levels more advanced than the worker before publishing it back to the requester.
  - It is done by publishing a new task back to the marketplace with the right qualifications.
  - This default adds cost and time, but addresses quality control.
- (Can we do this without adding significant time/cost?)

# External reputation: reminder

- Is this a group/authority? For example, Wikipedia reviews are subjective and based on voting. Or is it an algorithm?
- If it's a group, who pays for their time to review you?
- From Anand: "How do you do skills-based ratings, etc., without hindering tasks with a requirement to categorize them?"

# External reputation: suggestion

- We can't base it entirely on accept/rejects or 1-5 stars, since there's a major positive bias in these scores on oDesk and AMT.
  - I think the core insight of TrustRank is to utilize a trusted third party, since both sides will speak honestly to it.
- Interesting suggestion was to make it like AirBnB, where feedback cannot be later linked to a single job.

# External reputation: suggestion

- Promotion tiers for skill areas (e.g., Photoshop 1-6)
  - After each task, we ask the requester for feedback: for example, if they're Photoshop Level 3, we can ask: "given what you've seen, is this a) below, b) at, or c) above the level of a Photoshop Level 3?"
  - The results are delayed to be shown in batches of, say, 5 jobs.
  - Once you get enough upvotes to the next level from trusted requesters, Photoshop Level 4s (or 5s?) can look at your portfolio of past work and vote whether to promote you. (Volunteer for now?)
- Similar ranking levels for requesters

# Governance: reminder

- Is it direct voting on everything? Or representative democracy?
- How exactly will this work?
- Can the research group have a hand here?
- If there are changes that require engineering effort, who executes that? Us? Other volunteers?



# Governance: suggestion

- Most people seemed to be suggesting that we elect representatives, with the ability to put things to an everybody-ballot when necessary
- Participants elect three worker reps and three requester reps on a yearly basis to make decisions for the platform. To pass rules, it requires four votes.

# Milestone 9

# Prototype!

- Pick one of the four foundations, and create a rapid prototype of our suggestion (or riff on an alternative vision of it)
  - Paper prototype
  - Wizard-of-oz prototype
  - Quick front-end HTML prototype
- Get people to use it! Show it to others in Slack, go to Turker forums for feedback.
- Record the feedback

# Let's write a work- in-progress paper

Target: UIST 2015, deadline first week of July

# Infrastructure advance team

Updates!