Supporting Selective Information Sharing with People-tagging

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Motivation:

• Access control in social software is often defined in terms of “network of friends” relationship
  ➢ All “friends” are created equal
  ➢ All relationships are reciprocal

We Need:

• Support for user-defined relationships
• Support for dynamic relationships
• Support for a variety of kinds of relationships, some of which are one-sided

Solution:

• Enabling creation of ego-centric groups through tagging people
• Each new tag applied to a person has a distinctly specifiable visibility
• People tagged with the same key word form a relationship group that can be used as an access control option for each piece of information

Features:

• Outgoing tag cloud: how others have classified this user
• Tags are typographically modulated based on frequency
• Tags may signal relationship (advisor) or assessment (ruby expert)
• Different color-codes represent various visibility levels:
  ➢ A group-visible tag
  ➢ A public tag
  ➢ A private tag

Benefits:

• No confirmation required: lightweight, flexible, dynamic, and user-controlled
• Visibility options make it safe to opinion-tag for self reference
• Built-in control against antisocial tagging: no way to expose a non-private tag to a group that does not include the taggee him/herself