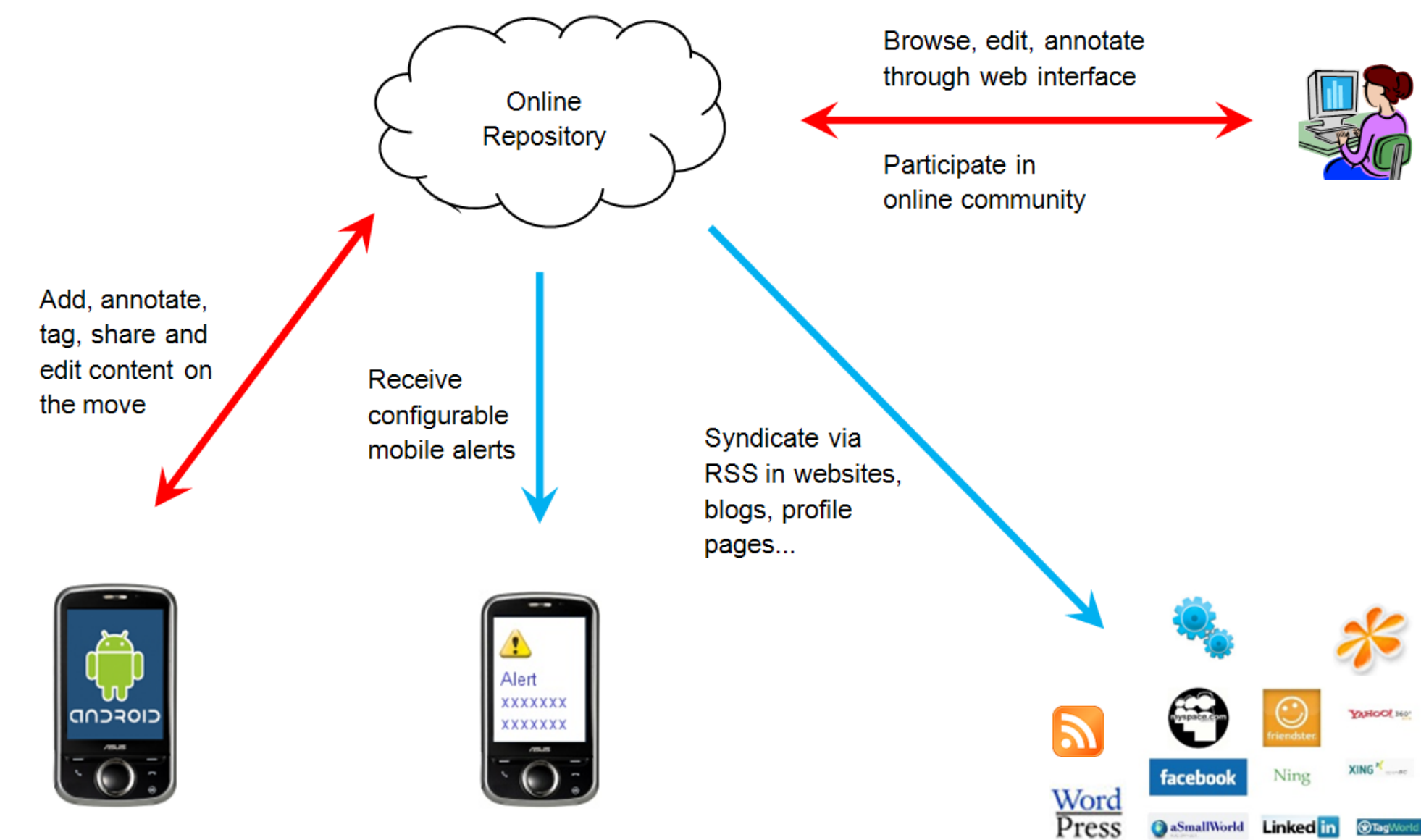


CloudBank

Mobile Knowledge Sharing for Advanced Language Learners

International students in the UK typically have a high level of competence in English language, but they are still concerned with improving their facility in the language and with the native culture. In fact, advanced learners often find themselves unable to progress to native-like levels of language competence, a phenomenon known as reaching a plateau. The CloudBank project aims to support students in this situation.



CloudBank allows students to collect, annotate and tag interesting or intriguing language- and culture-related content found in everyday life, including text, images, audio snippets and web links.

These content items are saved to an online repository, from where they can be syndicated in various ways. RSS feeds allow the content to be included in almost any website, including blogs and profile pages. Mobile alerts notify students when new content is uploaded to the repository by their peers.

In addition to syndication, the repository offers a web interface for adding, editing and discussing content in an online community.

The project employs a user-centred, iterative design methodology. Scenarios are used throughout the process to ensure that developers share the same vision of the system, and to ground the design in the reality of its potential users:

1 Explore scenarios and functionality with target users



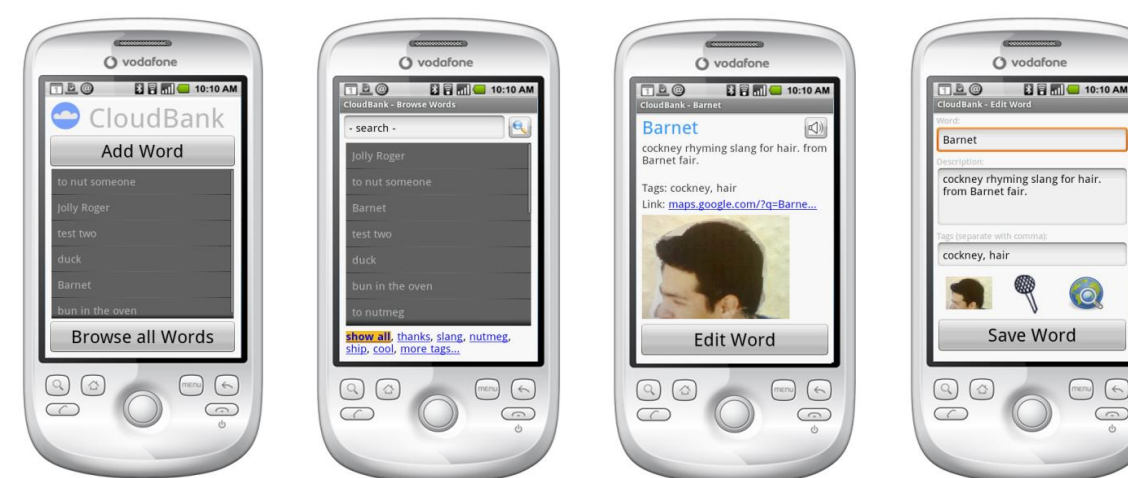
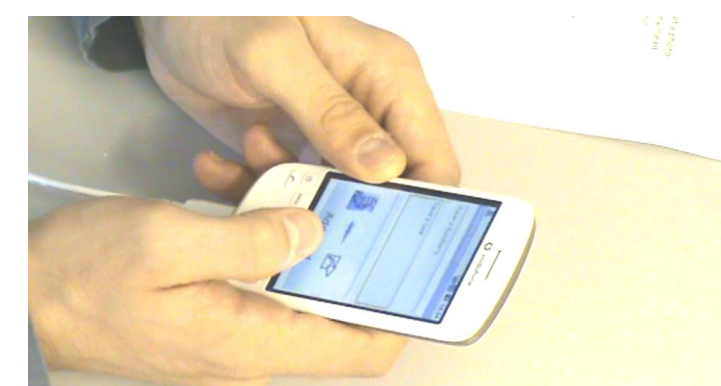
Scenario *Khaili is Jordanian student at the University of Brighton. He is in the Student Union watching a football game with some English friends. A goal is scored and there is much hilarity over the goalkeeper being namegged. Khaili cannot make sense of this: there's not much connection with the nutmegs of his experience, which are used in cooking. He asks his UK friends what it means to be namegged. They explain that it means the striker played the ball through the keeper's legs. Khaili thinks other non-native speakers may be interested in this new nugget of knowledge. He gets out his Android G1 phone, starts the CloudBank app and keys in "to nameg: in football, to play through an opponent's legs", tagging the entry with nameg and football. For good measure he also records an English friend pronouncing the word, and adds the recording to the entry, before sending it to the CloudBank cloud.*

This same evening, Keichi, a Japanese student, reads the new item about the term to nameg through the CloudBank RSS feed on his profile page. By chance he's just been watching a video clip of the goal from tonight's match. He clicks through to the nameg entry on the CloudBank community portal and adds a link to the video clip, so that others can get a better understanding of what it means to be namegged.

2 Discuss paper prototype with the core user group



3 Test and refine functionality and interface with users



n The process continues until functional specifications are met and users are satisfied with the application. Design guidelines for similar applications on mobile phones are derived from the experience.

