

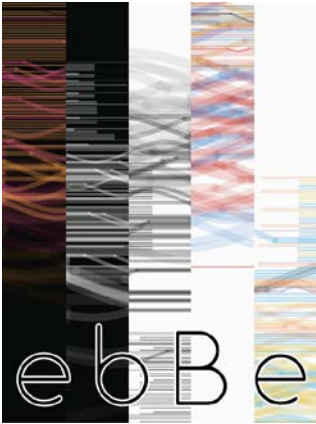
ebBe (artwork)

Chin-En Keith Soo

New Zealand, University of Waikato, Department of Design
<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/staff-profiles/people/ceks>

Rowan Simmons

New Zealand, University of Waikato, Department of Design
www.waikato.ac.nz



Abstract

ebBe is a visualisation of tweets in real-time.

ebBe uses word frequency to express the notion and motion of an ebb by contracting lines representing creation and decay. The created lines in different qualities will mimic and manifest a live visual artwork.

ebBe aims to use any sentence from its user to create a live visualisation by converting word count into lines and movement on-screen, wave-like, as a

metaphor for life and death expressing the effect of word used in our lives.

eBbe connects to the twitter API and captures live tweets and searches them for keywords in a string contributed by the user. Once it finds an instance of one of the keywords, it creates a "wave" that grows across the screen.

Once the "wave" has travelled the entire width of the screen, it starts to recede back to its starting point. It then determines the position at which to create a "drip" which begins to grow and sag as the wave fades away.

The speed at which each wave grows, decays, the starting position of the drip, width of the drip, and the opacity of the wave is determined by the length of the keyword.

The growth speed is determined through the length of the keyword, whereas the decay speed is calculated by taking the time it took to grow and dividing this by the length of the keyword.

The overall movement is designed to be reminiscent of a conversation as the information flows from one side to the other, the next wave in sequence steps

down until there is no more room and it must "bounce" back up.

At this bounce, the conversation swaps to the other conversant and the waves flow from right to left, ebbing, and flowing.

The colour of the waves is determined by letter frequency. The most common letters found in texts are assigned in the ROYGBIV colour order and are based on this chart of frequencies from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letter_frequency

email/address
ceks@waikato.ac.nz

Key words:
real-time visualisation, colour, words, ebb, wave

