

Social-Inspired Aspects in Information Systems *Information Systems with Social Networks*

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CHALLENGE

Although there has been much work done in the industry and academia on developing social networks, the interest in this area remains still high. The main idea of a social network is quite simple. The social networks have recently become more and more important element of information society [1, 4]. The main idea of a social network is simple. It is the set of actors i.e. group of people or organizations, which are the nodes of the network, and ties, called also relationships that link the nodes [1, 3]. Social network indicates the ways in which actors are related. The nodes and ties between them are usually presented by graphs (sociograms) or matrices [4]. The evolution of the social network depends on the mutual experience, knowledge, relative interpersonal interests, and trust of human beings [2]. One of the categories of social networks are the computer supported social networks (CSSN) [5]. CSSN links people via computer networks. These kinds of networks are very important bases of virtual communities, computer-supported cooperative work as well as telework [5].

The continuously evolving relationships between people and the development of the information society create the greater need of communication. This necessity makes not only the development of social network systems like Friendster or LinkedIn, but it also increases the popularity of typical communication services like instant messengers, web conferences, VoIP systems, etc. Therefore, social networks support both the interpersonal communication and creation as well as evolution of the human communities.

Slightly different kinds of systems that support the cooperation of people are collaborative systems called also Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW). However, the aim of these systems is to help people to work together and be more effective in their work.

We believe that research on social networks and information systems as well as combination of these two types of systems will very likely provide deeper insights into these research areas, which then promote research on theoretical framework.

The initiative, analyzing and developing this area of information systems provides the opportunity to create new direction in the social-inspired information systems. The main idea is to join information systems with social networks i.e. social elements that always exist within the group of people working and even living together. People who use the same information systems within one organization can cooperate based on common interests, problems that they have in life, backgrounds that they come from, etc. They communicate with each other not only to support their individual tasks but also to keep some relationships with other human beings.

The ways in which the analysis, stimulation, and support of the relationships will be done, depends on the policy of the information system. Coexistence of the information systems and social networks in one coherent framework would help the users of information system both to work and to feel a member of the certain community. On one hand the utilization of the social networks in the information systems leads to very close collaboration between the users

and even groups of users. On the other hand, the knowledge derived from information systems supports the creation and maintenance of the social networks.

Firstly, we will consider all possible ideas supporting the development of social networks that enable to use information systems in a more effective way. Information systems with social network ought to support not only the cooperative work, but also enable to discover and maintain the social relationships between people. After that, we propose to create the list of the requirements for the general framework that would join information systems and social networks. One of the biggest challenges during this research will be to cope with the limited social presence that occurs when people have limited possibility to meet in person.

KEYWORDS

Social networks, Information systems, Collaborative systems

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