

Tweetem: Combining a Social Network with Art

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Introduction

According to Dictionary.com, Social Networking is defined as “the use of a website to connect with people who share personal or professional interests, place of origin, education at a particular school, etc.” There are many ways to use Social Networks but some of the main reasons are to keep in touch with old friends, meet new people, and to get the latest news about friend’s wellbeing and activities, but perhaps there are uses that are being overlooked. Can a social network application such as twitter be used to create interactive artwork? This is what we wanted to find out. Enter Tweetem; a social network used to create an interactive poem via RSS feed where the goal is to make something new and interesting by people all over the country (starting with Vancouver, Wa). With the variety of knowledge the group held, the project would be seemingly realistic and without a doubt, something that truly interested the minds of each one of us. With the decision at hand on how to approach such an idea, we had to figure out exactly what we were doing. After brainstorming for awhile, the idea of creating a poem using RSS feeds came up. After that realization, our greatest obstacle was figuring out how the poem would get from point A to point B. What would be our medium, how would users contribute to the poem, what would be the method of transport?

What we eventually decided to do was to use the social network, Twitter, to allow people within our networks to post 140 characters worth of text that would (by RSS feed) be transferred to a website thus creating a poem written by multiple, unknown authors. The Twitter account would be the only necessary aspect to the project and a detailed description on how to contribute would be found on the website. The RSS feed is an XML based format used to notify subscribers of new or updated content (Brooks, 1) and

would be the key to formatting our project and creating the poem that would be completely made by subscribers who probably had no idea they were affiliated with one another. People would be required to “@ reply” to our Twitter team (wslutt) and then enter the next line of the poem. It didn’t matter what was contributed to the poem. The poem was to be the simple way of uniting everyone into creating something interactive and artistic. With the right marketing resources and dedication, the poem would hopefully reach 25 lines.

Marketing / Research

Part of the research required a good amount of liaison work, where multiple companies were contacted throughout the beginning stages of the experiment to provide hardware or software support in providing necessary equipment or constructive feedback for our project. Early in the project, we contacted companies that had created similar projects in hopes that we might receive useful information about how to proceed with ours. LED board proprietors were contacted to see if a bargain could be made in order to conduct our original experiment (which was using a LED board to display the RSS feed from a certain website). Since, most of the companies we contacted failed to respond, we abandoned the idea of using LED boards to display RSS feeds and decided to do a website instead. We then decided to contact the person who could give us permission to display the website.

We had to figure out how to display this website and who to ask for permission to display it. Wherever we decided to and were allowed to display the website it would have to be through a secured computer in a secure display case somewhere on campus. If that didn't work, then we would hope to project the website for a certain amount of time during the week of March 30th through April 3rd in the Firstenburg Student Commons (FSC). The first person we contacted was Erin, in charge of what is on display on WSUV campus. After an immediate reply, her suggestion was to try for the projectors in the FSC, since the display cases had no power source, nor real support for a computer. She directed us to Nicole Davis, who is the person in charge of the WSU-Vancouver Research Showcase and would be able to help us with any questions we may have. After discussing the mode of delivery of our website with Erin, our attention immediately

switched to the projection system in the FSC since that seemed to be our best bet and would probably reach a higher demographic.

We contacted the AV department to obtain permission to use the projectors. The AV openly offered the projectors in the FSC if they weren't already in use. Nicole then advised us to fill out an event request form to officially reserve the projectors when available. She said she would call Kim, with scheduling, to let her know our project would be coming through. We then had permission to display the website in the FSC from Tuesday, March 31st to Friday, April 3rd from 10:00am to 4:00pm, if it wasn't being used. Unfortunately the only time it wasn't being used was Tuesday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Once we had a location to display our experiment on campus, we next needed to create the website for presentation. Kerry researched the codes to extract RSS feeds from Twitter. While creating the website he kept in mind the brand image of our project that was developed as a team. Our brand image is discussed below.

The first step in creating our brand was finding a suitable name that would stick into other potential people's heads. Based on other social networking sites like Myspace, Facebook, and Twitter we decided to call our project "Tweetem." How we came up with the name was look at what Twitter calls their posts, "tweets," and combine it with the word poem in the form of Myspace and Facebook did, to get a new word Tweetem. Now that we had the word we needed to come up with an image for our Tweetem. It had to be a type of bird just like Twitter's unofficial brand image is. We decided on an Owl because we thought an image of an owl would be a sophisticated bird that would be a good brand image for Tweetem. We didn't incorporate the owl into our advertising

campaign because the picture of the owl wasn't completed in time. After Kerry coded the website with these specifications our group was ready to start advertising in classes.

The first and only class we went into was Dene Grigar, DTC 336 – Composition & Design class. Most of us had taken this particular class in previous semesters, so we were well aware of the fact the majority of the class would have a Twitter account (which is a requirement to add to the poem), since Dene has a Twitter-specific assignment in that class.

Our other main source of advertising is the basis to which the whole project came to be: social networks. We figured it would be the best to promote the project via Twitter and Facebook, since that is probably where most people would be.

Literary Review

Really Simple Syndicate (RSS) (Gill 1) technology is nothing new. It has been around since Netscape created the first RSS specifications, .90 and .91 in 1999 (Gill, 2). Since then RSS technology has become increasingly popular with time. One main use of RSS technology is to update news feed headlines on websites, along with blogs (Gill 2). RSS technology started becoming really popular when RSS 2.0.1 came out and became standardized in 2003 by UserLand, a blogging software developer. (Gill 2) Since then the specifications have not changed, which has allowed software developers to build better RSS readers, and tools, because they were no longer developing for a moving target (Gill 2).

In the newspaper industry RSS feeds is a way to get news to its website automatically with just updating a file instead their whole website with every news story. Since 2003, most all newspapers have adopted RSS feeds in order to do this. Out of the top 15 urbanized areas that hold 65% of the population only four newspapers out of 18 did not have some sort of RSS feed updating consumers with news stories. The papers that don't use RSS feeds to update its readers about the news might use email to communicate with subscribers. (Gill 5) Bill gates characterized this relationship excellently by saying RSS feeds allow users to avoid the drawbacks of email- "that it's too imposing" – and yet the drawbacks of the Web site – that the user does not know when it has been updated, {RSS feed readers} are about solving that (Gill 5). RSS readers and feeds are helping increase the speed and flow of information around the world.

There are many ways to read RSS feeds: on the website that hosts the RSS feeds and by subscribing to an RSS feed reader website in order that a person can manage and

read all of one's subscriptions from one place. Yahoo was one of the first websites to provide this service. In 2004, Yahoo launched a beta version of MyYahoo in which you could subscribe to a limited number of RSS feeds (Gill 4). Since then Yahoo has expanded the service to serve more than 7,000 RSS feeds from its MyYahoo site. Jeremy Zawodny, a Yahoo developer and RSS evangelist, described this service as helping make Yahoo relevant in today's news syndication market, and helps bring RSS feeds to the masses (Gill 4¹). Other sites and PDA's have since adopted this model of syndication to make themselves relevant in the market place.

Twitter is a social networking site that allows users to post 140 characters, the Short Message System (SMS) Text standard, of "what is going on". Twitter is one of those sites that are starting to gain momentum in the Social Networking realm. One main way they're doing this is by the way Twitter is being used by companies and other users. Twitter has proven to be a good source of information in the news syndication market. Some people that had an RSS reader before Twitter was formed are starting to replace their RSS reader in favor of Twitter. (Reisinger) Businesses now update employees, readers, and other users about important events, meetings, conference proceedings, and decisions via twitter (Reisinger).

In some cases Twitter is faster than news outlets, as shown with "US Airways flight 1549 landing safely in the Hudson River, Don Reisinger didn't hear about it in my RSS reader and I didn't even see it on TV. No, first he heard about it from folks on Twitter." (Reisinger)² Since you can check Twitter on your cell phone, your PDA, a

¹ <http://www.blogpulse.com/papers/2005/gill.pdf> by gill

² http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-10185182-2.html written by Dan Reisinger on Webware.

regular RSS reader, anywhere with an internet connection basically you can stay connected everywhere you go which really makes it a good website to get news from.

When it comes to big business, RSS feeds and social networks are the first two steps to achieving this. In the article, “Know what’s in your toolbox, then build” by Christian Trejbal the “future tools” of America are revealed and Trejbal feels for any business to become successful over the Internet, RSS feeds & social networks are the key to making it them work. He states, “Internet users today look for live content” (Trejbal, 1), which shows the desire for the public to access something immediately and without much work. The benefits of an RSS feed is that this kind of news and information can be streamed live, giving the public the news without any delay. Say for example there was an accident on the freeway, users would want to know what happened, if there is traffic, and possible ways to avoid said situation. RSS feeds are the way for any business to run, if they want to keep up-to-date with the growing need for instant gratification the world is constantly looking for. Trejbal suggests any business owner to take a look at Google Reader for an “easy introduction” on how to make this turn into something they can benefit from.

Trejbal moves on to social networking as the next step to achieving popularity. The social network sites used as an example include; Facebook, MySpace, & Twitter among the few popular sites people can join and use on a daily basis. These social networks are of key importance because, as Trejbal states, “if editorial pages are not available there [social networks], young readers in particular will never hear us” (Trejbal, 11). In order to reach the young demographic, social networks are key to introducing such business and product to them. The teenagers today are those that will make what the

market will look like tomorrow, and Trejbal feels to combine RSS feeds with social networking, the mass amount of people that can be reached is greater than it normally would be. This article brings about a sense of how to reach people the fastest and easiest way and to us, that was the most important aspect of marketing our project.

Technical Perspective

Kerry Mraz, our web design specialist has researched everything it took to make our website: from the code it took to pull “tweets” from Twitter directly into our website, the code to directly input “tweets” into the website, and the general look of the website itself. By profession, He is a website designer and has worked extensively with HTML, XHTML and CSS. He has worked with some JavaScript and PHP, but could not sit down and write this specific code by himself.

As someone that works around software, he knew that pretty much anything that can be imagined could be done in software, especially something as simple as ‘grabbing’ and ‘placing’ data from one server to another. He started off his research by seeing if a project like ours has already been done. If there were one such project that could be used as a model, he would decide based on this which social networking site was to be used as a basis of our project.

Kerry wanted to find out all the specifics of what had been done and if it correlated to our project or would sway any of our techniques before we continued. He was unable to locate any projects that were identical to ours, but was able to locate a couple of projects that were similar. One in particular caught my interest and inspired him to learn more about using the Twitter social network application. This application was created by the company Slash7 (<http://slash7.com/company>) that created a project called South by Southwest (SxSW: <http://pepsicozeitgeist.com/>) for the Pepsico Company. The project was to bring real-time updates about a conference via Twitter chatter to a website. Kerry contacted their staff to let them know about our project, how it related to their project, and to request advice on how to proceed with concerns we had

come across, including: bad word filtering and user access. Their response was very useful, in that it helped me to focus on the things I could easily control and not worry about the issues that would force the project past the deadline.

His next hurdle was to select a social networking application to use with this project. After researching the different social networks and projects used, Twitter came out as the clear winner. Twitter already manipulated the user data in several formats that would work well for our project. Twitter accepted input from several methods, including text messaging via cell phone, website and desktop applications. The drawbacks or constraints provided by Twitter included:

- The user must have a Twitter account
- 140 character limit
- A limit of 1000 requests per hour for Twitter content
- The content would include the username '@wsultt' at the beginning of each user submitted line

Since Twitter did most of the work of creating the data in a useable format, Kerry could then focus on gathering the data and translating it to a web based format for later use. The data being gathered was behind a HTML Basic Authorization wall, and after research Kerry located the PHP code for logging in and mining the required data. Two websites were instrumental in understanding what we needed to do and providing the starting code for performing this task. The first (Hecke) dealt with Basic HTML Authentication and fortunately specifically with retrieving content from Twitter. Although, this is exactly what we wanted to do, it grabbed the wrong content. Further research provided a second source that dealt with grabbing content specific information from Twitter and provided the content in a format that was useable for viewing on a

website. (Reynolds)(Appendix A) After modifying the code to retrieve the correct content and how the output data was formatted, we could start building the website. (Appendix B) Three files were needed to complete the task. The first was a PHP file called getFavorites.php. This file was modified to include the Twitter account information and to retrieve the replies instead of the user's favorites. The changes can be seen in Appendix A and Appendix B with the actual username and password omitted. The second file was controller.js that was used to manipulate the results into useful information. The original file (Appendix C) and the modified (Appendix D) version are available in the Appendix. The final file that was required to complete the retrieve task was the HTML output file. This only included a HTML division called "container" where the output data was placed. This file would later be modified with the rest of the presentation website located at <http://wsupoem.com>.

Since the website was now able to complete the required tasks, Kerry wanted to add a component to the website that would facilitate the viewer that already had a Twitter account and wanted to post the next line directly from a form provided on the project website. After researching, Kerry located a site that discussed this and provided the basic code. (Brown)(Appendix F) In order to post a 'tweet' from the website, we required two files. First the HTML (Appendix E) form to request the information from the user, the second file, modified from Brown's code, (Appendix G) to post the information to Twitter.

Results

We started asking for people's contribution on Wednesday, March 25th at 8 pm. In a perfect world we would have had a longer time period to collect lines for this Tweetem but we needed to stop the experiment on April 4th at 10 am in order to analyze the Tweetem and come up with a consensus of how well our experiment went. The Tweetem at that point in time is presented below:

If roses were red, and violets were blue
Then I believe also all oceans are another hue
 The waves bring the ocean
 Away, and then back once more to you
 You can't have your cake and eat it, too
We rise above these bones and sticks and stones we sometimes dwell, far from
 hearths so seldom lit. We do not know what draw ...
 Waves beat down on the stacks, the cliffs.
 Forming memories in their wake

Memories that swirl and live then drift off, away
Leaving a small remembrance etched into the stone. To trace longingly with
 your fingers, while staring at the current...
Now follow the wave and drift away. Into the ocean, out to space. But don't
 forget. The memory etched away.
Memories to be captured nevermore, drift away to the long forgotten shore.
If you lost your time. Please remember to retrace your steps in the wind.
 The Creator of the Universe and everything in it, is bringing us to the
 appointed time and place... see you in space!
 Our spaces are all different, we get lost in them
 Our spaces are all different, we get lost in them

As a whole, the Tweetem makes a fair amount of sense and has a logical flow to it. Even the ending is a good ending with the two repeating lines giving a sense of confusion and contemplation which are not uncommon to the poetry world. As a group we decided on the theme that was created were the memories in a person's past. Throughout this poem there are lines that allude to the fact that there was something that happened in the past that the person writing it can't forget about and it haunts them. Not

all lines allude to that but enough do that it makes sense that this poem is all about a person's past: The first verse in a figurative way and the second verse in a more literal and straight forward way.

The collaborative aspect of the Tweetem seems to have gone well with every line from start to finish. For the exception of one, the line "you can't have your cake and eat it too" seems to be out of place in this poem. This is a problem that we anticipated when we first started the experiment. No one can be controlled and not all people like to fit in the rules of society and sometimes try disrupt the norm. Sarah pointed out that this did not fit and maybe this is the reason that the person posted that to try and make a statement that they thought our experiment was not valid.

The length of the Tweetem was not what we expected. We were expecting 25 or more tweets to be added in the 11 days that we had. This can be attributed to the lack of advertising. There were many attempts to make people aware of the Tweetem: like going into one of Dene Grigar's classes, posting Facebook notes or changing our Facebook status's, and projecting the website where the Tweetem was being housed in the FSC between 10 am and 2 pm on March 30th.

The lack of posts could also be attributed to the shortened time period that we had to collect posts. We had a total of 11 days to gather the posts. We averaged 1.5 posts per day which is not what we were expecting but still good considering we only had 11 days to advertise this experiment. This is to be expected, the adoption curve of a new idea is often slow at first. The curve represents a bell curve with innovators adopting it first³. It very well could be the people that posted on our website were early adopters of technology or an idea. One reason for the adoption rate being the way is the word of the

³ http://www.valuebasedmanagement.net/methods_rogers_innovation_adoption_curve.html

product or service is not instantaneous. It takes time to adopt a new technology or idea and 11 days isn't good enough for that interaction to take place.

Word of mouth is the main form of marketing that we were depending on. A study showed in 1999 that 57% of the reason people visit a website was because they were told about it by a friend of theirs⁴. One reason we couldn't drive people to our website as we didn't have enough people not associated with the project telling people about it. We act like the business advertising this website so our word of mouth doesn't work as well as others would have done

A social collaboration on a poem is hard to do but it was done well in this instance and we were able to get an interesting poem at the end of this experiment. With more time and more advertising we would expect a longer poem. In the future this concept could take off and become the most popular idea since Twitter itself, but it could not do it in the 11 days that was available. If this idea is to succeed and become as popular as Twitter or Facebook, it will need to be more specialized with poems dedicated solely to certain genres of poems so that poets could pick and choose which poems to contribute to. There also needs to be a way to directly contribute to the poem without going away from the poem nor having to login to twitter to contribute. We had comments from people that did not have twitter that complained about not being able to contribute to the Tweetem without having an account. If we did all of these recommendation and had better marketing, Tweetem be a great way to collaborate on a poem in the future.

⁴Using Online Conversations to Study Word-of-Mouth Communication Source: Marketing Science, Vol. 23, No. 4 (Fall, 2004), pp. 545-560 Found in Jstor page 545

Conclusion

In the end, the project was a success, however not the outcome we had expected. Though we had hoped for at least 25 lines, we weren't quite able to achieve that goal. We had been forewarned of the repercussions of needing to do a project requiring a good amount of marketing. The moral of that story: people simply don't respond. The majority of the marketing was done through Nickie Davis, who was the project coordinator for the Research Showcase. The many options we used were reserving the Firstenberg Student Commons for a few hours and displaying the website to hopefully get a few students to contribute. Unfortunately, with the overwhelming amount of events occurring in the FSC during the week that we needed it, only one day was available to us. The idea of "tabling" was also offered, where we could set up a table with a computer in a high traffic area (such as the cafeteria) and try to motivate people to go through that. The next marketing resource was Dene Grigar, who had offered her classes for us to come visit and have her students participate in the project. However, with her busy schedule and the need to educate her students, the time was quickly passed and possibly slipped her mind. Finally, our highest hope for gaining people to contribute and to advertise was via Facebook through status updates requesting help on the project. Still, with the intense amount of marketing we did and effort to get more people to participate, the disappointing factor a mere seven people entering lines hit us hard. After that first week, we upped the ante and really focused our attention on marketing with posters, more tabling, and more Facebook updates, until we were satisfied with the amount of lines we had gathered from our participants.

The project took a lot of work out of the five people involved. With every little contribution each group member made, the project became more and more of a success. The first week was rough, because the project had not been marketed enough or been seen by enough people to be successful. Once we really got things moving, the responses became more frequent. The project never would have been a success without the aid of each person in the group. If we could do it all over again (and had millions of dollars to spend), I'm sure we would have gone a different route. The set-up would allow for students passing by to contribute immediately, rather than having to set-up a Twitter account (if they didn't have one) and go through loopholes to participate. If we had LED boards and better ways to advertise, I'm sure we would have too. By the time everything seemed to come to an end though, the project had an outcome that pleased everyone in the group. Sure, we wish the feed was collecting poem lines every five minutes, but with the amount of time we had and lack of resources we just couldn't seem to grasp, we never could reach our dream goal. However, it is enough to say that we are satisfied with the outcome and have found that a poem can be created through the Twittering minds of different all kinds of different people.

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Appendix A: Basic Access Authentication to retrieve Twitter favorites by Steve Reynolds

getFavorites.php (original file)– Basic Access Authentication to retrieve Twitter favorites by Steve Reynolds

```
01.<?php
02.
03.$username = "yourusername";
04.$password = "yourpassword";
05.$twitterHost = "http://twitter.com/favorites.xml";
06.$curl;
07.
08.$curl = curl_init();
09.
10.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_CONNECTTIMEOUT, 2);
11.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_HEADER, false);
12.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_HTTPAUTH, CURLAUTH_BASIC);
13.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_RETURNTRANSFER, 1);
14.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_USERPWD, "$username:$password");
15.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_HTTP_VERSION, CURL_HTTP_VERSION_1_1);
16.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_URL, $twitterHost);
17.
18.$result = curl_exec($curl);
19.curl_close($curl);
20.
21.header('Content-Type: application/xml; charset=ISO-8859-1');
22.
23.print $result;
24.
25.?.>
```

Appendix B: Basic Access Authentication to retrieve Twitter replies

getFavorites.php (modified file)– Basic Access Authentication to retrieve Twitter replies

```
01.<?php
02.
03.$username = "<actual twitter name>";
04.$password = "<actual twitter password>";
05.$twitterHost = "http://twitter.com/results.xml";
06.$curl;
07.
08.$curl = curl_init();
09.
10.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_CONNECTTIMEOUT, 2);
11.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_HEADER, false);
12.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_HTTPAUTH, CURLAUTH_BASIC);
13.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_RETURNTRANSFER, 1);
14.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_USERPWD, "$username:$password");
15.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_HTTP_VERSION, CURL_HTTP_VERSION_1_1);
16.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_URL, $twitterHost);
17.
18.$result = curl_exec($curl);
19.curl_close($curl);
20.
21.header('Content-Type: application/xml; charset=ISO-8859-1');
22.
23.print $result;
24.
25.??>
```

Appendix C: Manipulation file that took Twitter data and provided HTML output with a chronologic hierarchy by Steve Reynolds

controller.js (original) – Manipulation file that took Twitter data and provided HTML output with a chronologic hierarchy by Steve Reynolds

```
01. $(document).ready(function() {
02.
03. getFavorites();
04.
05. });
06.
07. function getFavorites()
08. {
09. var results;
10.
11. $.get("/getFavorites.php", function(xml) {
12. $('status',xml).each(function(i) {
13. var title = $(this).find("text").text();
14. results = title + "<BR>";
15. });
16. $("#container").html(results);
17. });
18.
19. }
```

Appendix D: Manipulation file that took Twitter data and provided HTML output with a reverse chronologic hierarchy

controller.js (modified) – Manipulation file that took Twitter data and provided HTML output with a reverse chronologic hierarchy

```
01.$(document).ready(function() {  
02.  
03.getFavorites();  
04.  
05.});  
06.  
07.function getFavorites()  
08.{  
09.var results;  
10.  
11.$.get("/getFavorites.php", function(xml) {  
12.$('status',xml).each(function(i) {  
13.var title = $(this).find("text").text();  
14.results = title + "<BR>" + results;  
15.});  
16.$("#container").html(results);  
17.});  
18.  
19.}
```

Appendix E: HTML Form to retrieve user data to be posted to Twitter

HTML Form to retrieve user data to be posted to Twitter

```
01.<form method="post" action="postTweet.php" style="background-color:#aed673; border:1px
solid; padding:10px 20px; width:230px;">
02.
03.<h3>Post here via Twitter</h3>
04.<p>Twitter Username:<br />
05.<input type="text" name="username" style="border:1px solid;" size="33" /></p>
06.<p>Twitter Password:<br />
07.<input type="password" name="password" style="border:1px solid;" size="33" /></p>
08.<p>Add to the Poem: <br />
09.(please be respectful with your post)</p>
10.<p>(140 characters max )<br />
11.<textarea name="new_tweet" cols="27" rows="7" style="border:1px solid;"
maxlength:"maxlength:"></textarea>
12.</p>
13.<input type="submit" name="tweet_submit" value="Submit" />
14.</form>
```

Appendix F: Basic Access Authentication file that would post non-dynamic data to Twitter by Douglas Brown

getTweet.php (original) – Basic Access Authentication file that would post non-dynamic data to Twitter by Douglas Brown

```
01.$username = 'myUserName';
02.$password = 'myPassword';
03.$status = 'This is a new Tweet!';
04.
05.if ($status) {
06.$tweetUrl = 'http://www.twitter.com/statuses/update.xml';
07.
08.$curl = curl_init();
09.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_URL, "$tweetUrl");
10.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_CONNECTTIMEOUT, 2);
11.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_RETURNTRANSFER, 1);
12.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_POST, 1);
13.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_POSTFIELDS, "status=$status");
14.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_USERPWD, "$username:$password");
15.
16.$result = curl_exec($curl);
17.$resultArray = curl_getinfo($curl);
18.
19.if ($resultArray['http_code'] == 200)
20.echo 'Tweet Posted';
21.else
22.echo 'Could not post Tweet to Twitter right now. Try again later.';
23.
24.curl_close($curl);
25.}
```

Appendix G: Basic Access Authentication file that would post dynamic data from HTML form to Twitter

getTweet.php (modified) – Basic Access Authentication file that would post dynamic data from HTML form to Twitter

```
01. <?php
02.$username = $_POST['username'];
03.$password = $_POST['password'];
04.$status = "@wsultt ".$_POST['new_tweet'];
05.
06.if ($status) {
07.$tweetUrl = 'http://www.twitter.com/statuses/update.xml';
08.
09.$curl = curl_init();
10.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_URL, "$tweetUrl");
11.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_CONNECTTIMEOUT, 2);
12.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_RETURNTRANSFER, 1);
13.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_POST, 1);
14.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_POSTFIELDS, "status=$status");
15.curl_setopt($curl, CURLOPT_USERPWD, "$username:$password");
16.
17.$result = curl_exec($curl);
18.$resultArray = curl_getinfo($curl);
19.
20.if ($resultArray['http_code'] == 200)
21.echo "Submitted successfully. You may need to close your browser and reopen to see it.
This is due to cached website content. <a href='http://www.wsupoem.com'>Click here to
return.</a> - Thanks, Tweetem Staff";
22.else
23.echo "Could not post Tweet to Twitter right now. Try again later. <a
href='http://www.wsupoem.com'>Click here to return.</a> - Thanks, Tweetem Staff";
24.
25.curl_close($curl);
26.}
27.??>
```