NuYu: Promoting Mobile Discovery of New Activities

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OVERVIEW

NuYu is a mobile application that encourages people to break old routines and add spontaneity to their lives through the discovery of new activities. Based on the user's history and current location, NuYu presents a set of new activities that are available nearby. The user can share completed activities and browse the recent activities of friends.

ACTIVITY SERVICE & FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

NuYu queries *Activity Service* with an *activities request*, submitting the user's current latitude and longitude and a user-defined radius parameter. The *activities response* returns a set of activities within the radius of the user's location. Each activity is compared against the user's history. Activities with matched verb-noun pairs are filtered out while partially matched activities (with only a matched verb or noun) are ranked below unmatched activities. For example, if the user has completed "eat a cheeseburger" in the past, then no "eat a cheeseburger" activities will be listed, while "eat a hot dog" and "grill a cheeseburger" are ranked lower than "ride a motorcycle." As the user changes location, NuYu sends additional *activities requests* and updates itself with new activities.

The user can check in to an activity, with the option to document it with a photograph. Users can share their activities with friends and browse their friends' recent activities.

INTERFACE DESCRIPTION

NuYu offers three primary modes: Nearby, Friend Feed, and Account. The interface is designed to make interactions with the application simple and accessible.

Nearby Mode

On startup, NuYu displays Nearby mode (Figure 1), a list of new activities within the user's proximity. Selecting an activity presents additional details, including directions to its location and a check-in button.

Friend Feed Mode

Friend Feed mode (Figure 2) provides a chronological list of activities that the user's friends have recently completed. Beside each name is a badge that indicates the total number of unique activities completed by that friend. Tapping a friend's name brings up a full history of their completed activities, with ones the user and friend have in common highlighted.

Account Mode

In Account mode, the user can add and remove friends, customize the radius for finding nearby activities, and configure privacy settings.
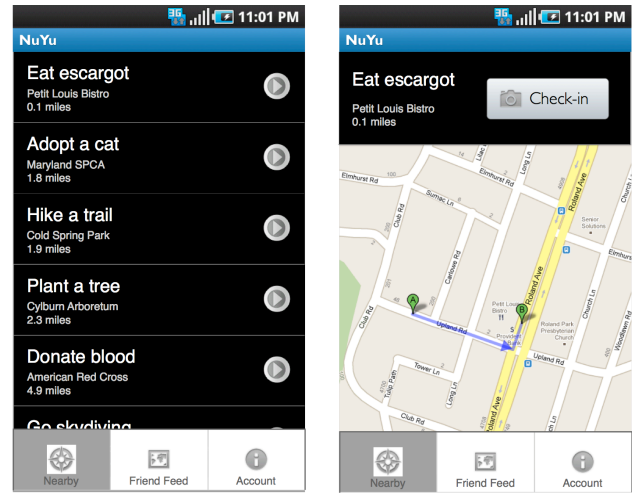

Figure 1. Nearby mode, with a list of new activities (left) and a detailed view of one activity (right).
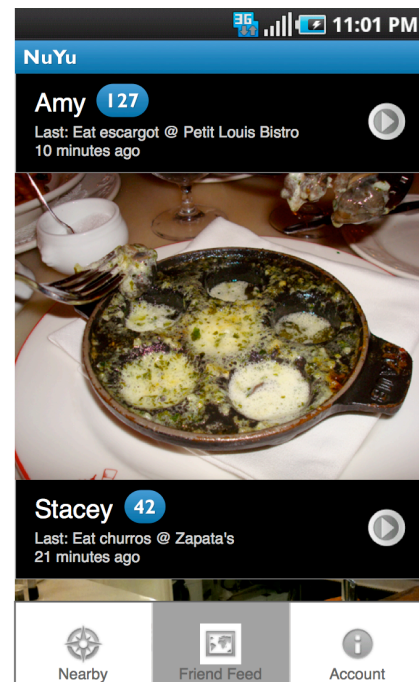

Figure 2. Friend Feed mode, displaying a list of recent activities with accompanying photographs.