The network is Twittering

Joe Pruitt, 2007-15-05

One of the major social aspects of Mix this year was interacting with everyone via Twitter. For those who haven't heard about it (where have you been), here's an excerpt from it's Wikipedia page:

> *Twitter is a social networking and micro-blogging service that allows users to send "updates" (text-based posts, up to 140 characters long) via SMS, instant messaging, the Twitter website, or an application such as Twitterrific. Twitter was founded in October 2006 by San Francisco start-up company Obvious Corp.*
>
> *Updates are displayed on the user's profile page and also instantly delivered to other users who have signed up to receive them. The sender can restrict delivery to those in his or her circle of friends (delivery to everyone is the default). Users can receive updates via the Twitter website, instant messaging, SMS, RSS, or through an application*

Think of it as a micro-blog with built-in "friends" features. This works very well in a conference setting where the conference had a feed and attendees would become friends with the conference feed and receive notifications from either just the conference or everyone else. Notifcations can be setup to send on either SMS, IM or web.

What makes this service interesting is that they have exposed control via an API. From this, some interesting client applications have arisen. Om Malik has assembed a list of a couple of them. Twittervision is a particularly fun Google Maps mashup that you should check out when you've got a few spare cycles.

So, now that the background is over with, maybe I should get to my post topic! In the past, I've been challenged in the past to extend our networking technologies into new mediums. I already responded with a RSS feed to essentially make any BIG-IP a real-time blogger. So, I figured Twitter was ripe for the picking... Wouldn't it be slick if the BIG-IP could send out some tweets (cool-kid lingo for status messages) when things went downhill (servers going down, etc). Then, once you "follow" your BIG-IP'S tweets, you can get SMS or IM messages when anything in the network goes down!

With the iControl EventNotification Service, I wrote a little event listener that will monitor change notifications on the BIG-IP and when something like a server is marked down, will send out a tweet vie the Twitter API to that effect. If you ever want to know what's up with my BIG-IP, checkout it's Twitter feed.   Heck, the've even got some badges if you want to integrate my BIG-IP directly into your homepage!

follow joesbigip at http://twitter.com

If there is any interest, I'll clean up the code and submit it to CodeShare.

Oh, and in case you care, my personal Twitter feed is here.

Technorati tags: Twitter, iControl, BIG-IP, RSS, SMS, IM, Twittervision, API
[Listening to: Ohio (Come Back To Texas) by Bowling For Soup]

-Joe