

Show All Bios

Saturday, December 20, 2008

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- 1. Get all 2500+ bio files attached to TheBrain.
 - a. Get several volunteers to attach bios via TheBrain's Add weblink attachment UI.

Add Attachment

Type Web link
 File

Name

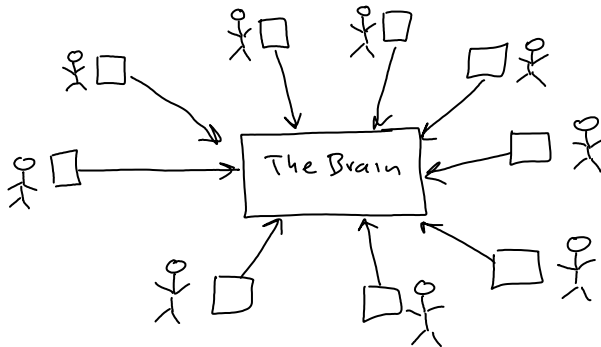
Address (URL)

Display attachment in new window
 Primary attachment

URL of kweb XML to HTML Servlet + the bio filename

Add as a primary attachment so the bio appears in the same page as the graph UI.

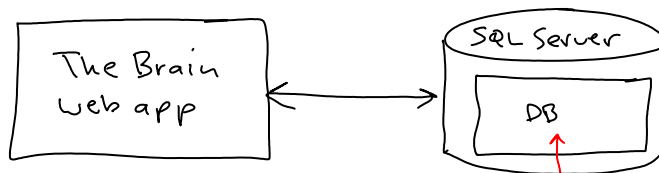
If we can get 25 volunteers to add 100 bios each, the job would be done in no time.



1. Enlist volunteers
2. Provide Brain logins
3. Provide Add Attachment Instructions.
4. Assign each volunteer a set of bios to attach
5. Do it!

No programming required and it's safe.

- b. If we can't get enough volunteers, we could attempt to add the attachments by modifying TheBrain DB directly via an SQL script. **However, this runs the risk of corrupting the DB in ways that may not be immediately apparent and cause TheBrain to become unstable. TheBrain folks strongly advise against this.**



The Brain docs do NOT explain the DB schema in detail, so we are on our own.

SQL Script

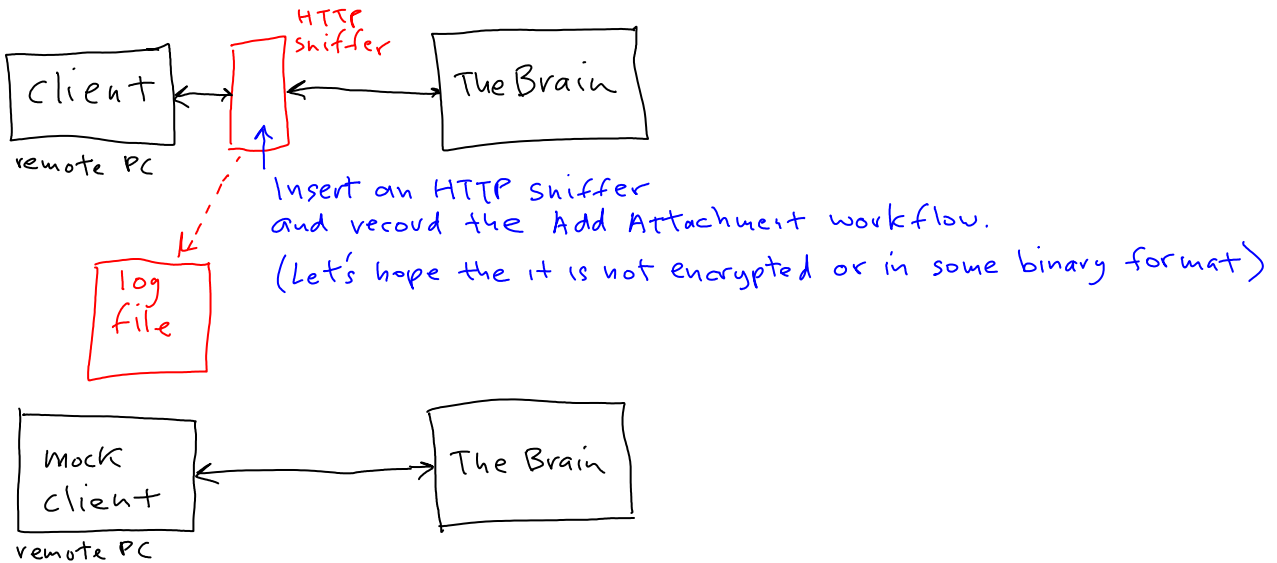
Several tables must be updated together.

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- c. As a safer alternative, we might be able to create a mock client that automates the Add Weblink Attachment workflow. **This requires reverse engineering enough of TheBrain proprietary client-server protocol so that we can mimic the Add Attachment workflow.**



1. Temporarily modify TheBrain HTML pages to load the mock client instead of the real client.
2. Create a mock client, hopefully in JavaScript, but a mock client.jar Java applet could be used if necessary.
3. Get TheBrain to load and run the mock client in place of TheBrain client which automates the Add Attachment workflow.
4. After all the bios are attached, undo the changes so the real client is again loaded.

Show All Bios 3

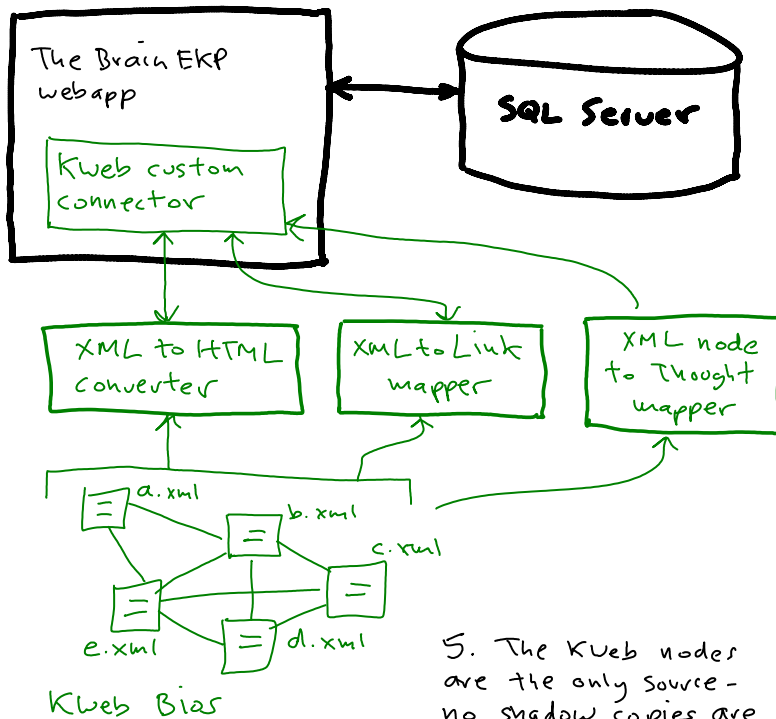
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d. Use TheBrain Custom Connector API to link in the Bios directly to TheBrain. This would provide the tightest coupling with TheBrain but, requires the most skilled development effort.

1. Developers need to install SQL server 2005 or SQL Server Express on their own PC's (Windows is required. Sorry Mac users.)
2. Developers must install the Java 1.5 JDK, Eclipse and Ant.
3. Need to download, install and configure TheBrainEKP on their own PC. This package includes the Apache 2 HTTPD, JRE 1.5 and Tomcat 5.5. The configuration is not simple. (Also includes the JDBC DB Drivers.)
4. Developers need to obtain a license file from The Brain Corp. to run The Brain EKP.
5. Developers need to download TheBrain SDK that provides the Connector and Trigger JARs.
6. Developers need to come up to speed on TheBrain terminology (which is quite different) and on the Connector and Trigger APIs.

Once these preliminaries are in place, we can create a custom connector to access the the Kweb bios directly:



This is a lot of development work but provides several advantages.

1. This is the "approved" way to get existing document structures added to TheBrain.
2. The kweb nodes define everything including the link structure. JB's personal Brain import is not required
3. We have direct access TheBrain's Thought IDs which allows us to embed Thought links directly into the generated bio HTML pages.
4. Makes two-way syncing easier for tighter coupling between TheBrain and 3rd party web apps such as timelines and map displays.

5. The Kweb nodes are the only source - no shadow copies are required.

Fix the HTML Bio rendering

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- 2. Many of the XML bios will not render in HTML well due to the loose XML structure of the Kweb bios.

We will either need to fix the XML bio structure of several bios; or, update the XML-to-HTML converter code to handle these variations in XML structure. This will be an ongoing process as we touch each and every bio.

Here's a typical XML bio:

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='windows-1252'?>
<kweb-node owner='balbus' id='Johnson%2C+Dr+Samuel' version='0.6'
  type='person' is-gateway='false'
  creationDate='2/17/04 2:38 PM' contentStatus='promote'>
  <common-name>Dr Samuel Johnson</common-name>
  <orderby-name>Johnson, Dr Samuel</orderby-name>
  <other-name>None</other-name>
  <one-liner>
    Dr Samuel Johnson, great English man of letters and
    lexicographer
  </one-liner>
  <timespan>
    <birth-start>
      <day>18</day>
      <month>September</month>
      <year>1709</year>
      <place country='England'
        location='Litchfield, Staffordshire, England' />
    </birth-start>
    <death-end>
      <day>13</day>
      <month>December</month>
      <year>1784</year>
      <place country='England' location='London, England. Aged 75' />
    </death-end>
  </timespan>
  <category id='Literature' discipline='Writer and lexicographer' />
  <assessment>
    Johnson is regarded as one of the greatest men of letters in
    English history and he produced the first modern dictionary of the
    English language.
  </assessment>
  <language>English</language>
```

Timeline info

Geographic
Map info

Continued on next page...

Fix the HTML Bio rendering

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```
<education>
  Lichfield Grammar School Pembroke College, Oxford
  University
</education>
<achievements>Literary criticism, essays, lexicography </achievements>
<major-works>
  "Dictionary of the English Language" (1752) "Lives of the
  Poets" (15)
</major-works>
<parents>Father: Michael Johnson Mother: Sarah </parents>
<spouse>Elizabeth Porter</spouse>
<siblings>None </siblings>
<children>None </children>
<details>
  Johnson had poor health as a child, which left him with deficient
  eyesight and facial tics. In 1735 he
  married a widow twenty years older than himself and used her small
  dowry to open a school near Lichfield the following year. The school
  failed and in 1737 Johnson left for London with
  <link idref='Garrick%2C+David' trans='taught'
  oneLiner='David Garrick, great English actor-manager'>Garrick</link>,
  one of his pupils. He contributed poetry and prose, short biographies,
  and also a series of satirical pieces in which he attacked the
  government of the day (led by
  <link idref='Walpole%2C+Robert' trans='attacked'
  oneLiner='No Description Available'>Robert walpole</link>)
  and the monarchy. [rest of details deleted.]
</details>
<extra-connections>None </extra-connections>
<bibliography>
  <bib-entry>
    Bate, W Jackson, Samuel Johnson, Chatto & Windus, London, 1978

    Hibbert, Christopher, The Personal History of Samuel Johnson, Penguin
    Books, Middlesex, England, 1984

    Lane, Margaret, Samuel Johnson and His World, Hamish Hamilton Ltd., London,
    1975

    Wain, John, Samuel Johnson, Papermac, London, 1980
  </bib-entry>
</bibliography>
</kweb-node>
```

↑ links to other bios

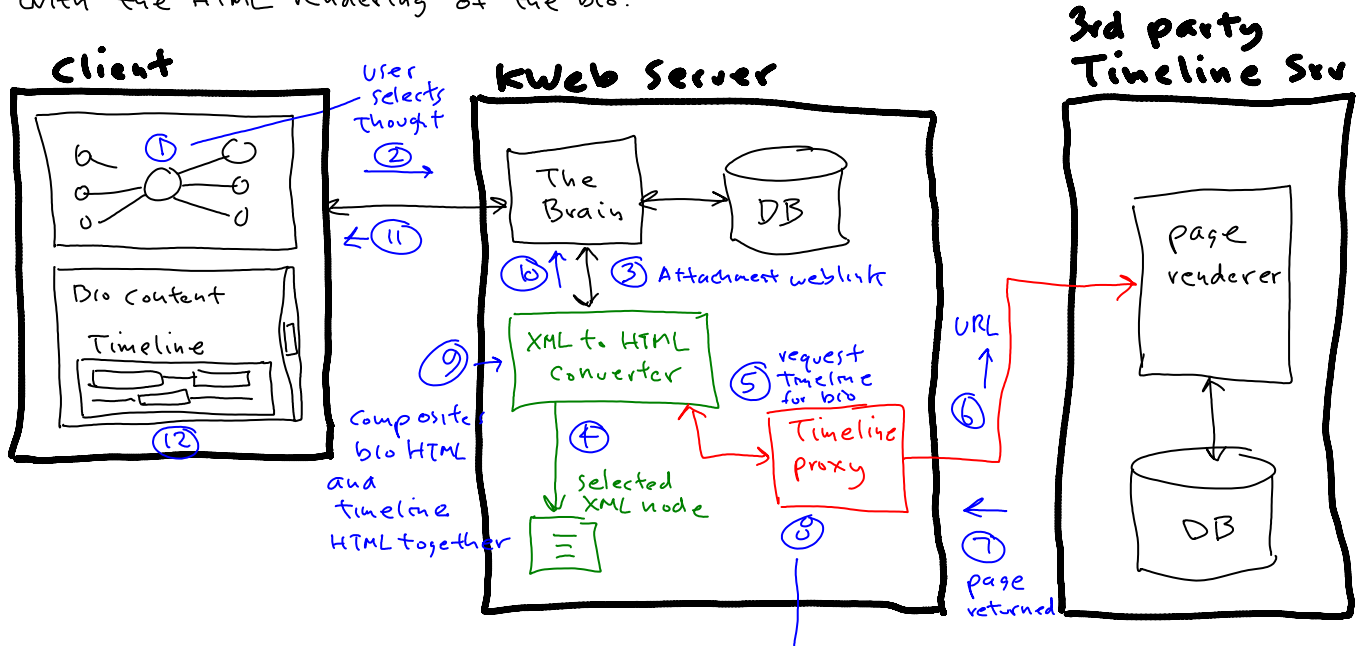
Add Timeline

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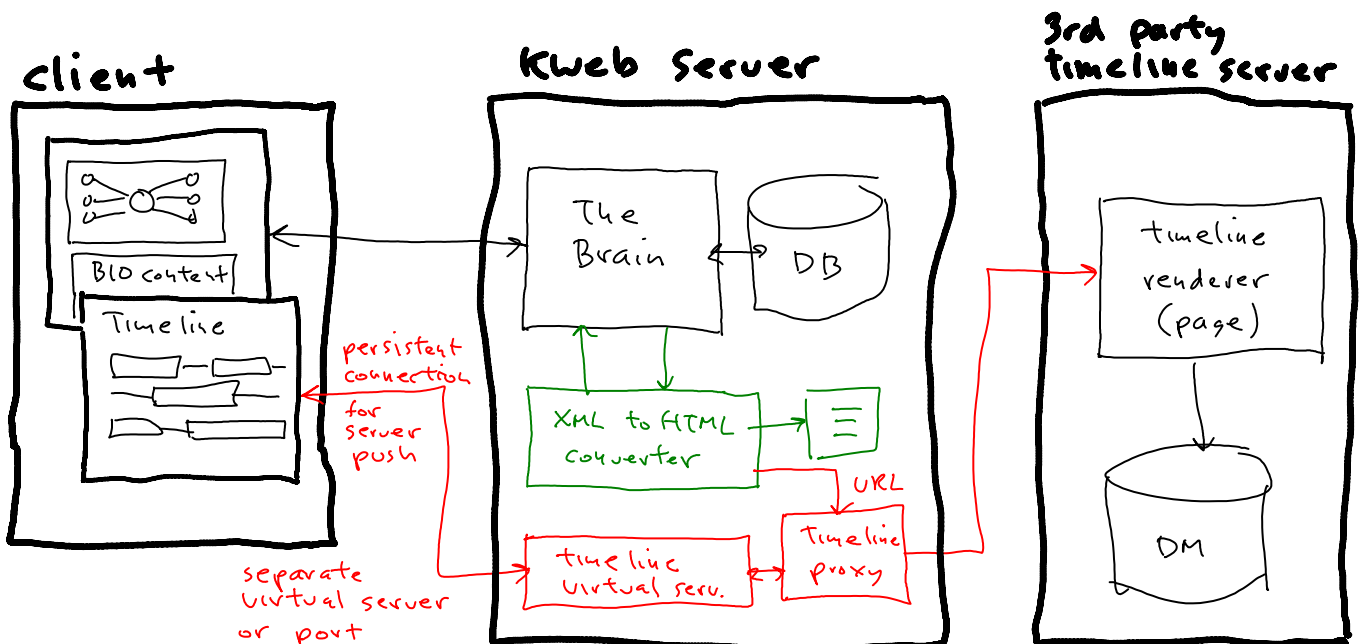
- 1. Add a Timeline that stays in sync with TheBrain such that selecting a new thought also updates the Timeline at nearly the same instance.

Probably the easiest way to provide a synchronized timeline is to embed it with the HTML rendering of the bio.



Another way would be to put the timeline into a separate window and have it auto update as Brain Thoughts are selected. This is much harder to implement.

this either converts the timeline page into a static image; or, creates a <div> or <iframe> and embeds the timeline page into bio HTML rendering



Add Map

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1. Add a map presentation.

Two-way Sync

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1. Change TheBrain selected thought from the Timeline so, TheBrain stays in sync with Timeline selections.