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## Automatic creation of photo albums from group conversations

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## **Automatic creation of photo albums from group conversations**

### **ABSTRACT**

Online photo sharing is a popular activity. However, users may share images via a photo sharing application or website, or via different messaging applications. When different users share photos with the same group via different mechanisms, the photos are not available to users in a single, convenient location. This disclosure describes a chat bot that can be invited to join a chat conversation conducted via different messaging applications. With user permission, the chat bot automatically retrieves images (photos and videos) shared in a messaging conversation and adds the images to a shared album or folder in a photo sharing application. Members of the conversation group are provided access to the shared album.

### **KEYWORDS**

messaging application; group chat; photo sharing; shared photo album; photo messaging

### **BACKGROUND**

Online photo sharing is a popular activity. For example, multiple individuals in a group that participated in an event, often share with photos and videos from the event. Based on individual preferences, different members of the group may share the photos using different mechanisms, e.g., via a photo sharing website or application, in a group chat conversation via different messaging applications, etc. directly within a group chat instead of uploading them to a photo application. Users that want to collect images from an event in a single location, e.g., a photo library or album, need to manually gather the shared image from the different sources. Some online photo applications automatically store images shared via messaging applications, e.g., via automatic backup, if enabled by the user. However, the uploaded images are not organized based on the group that they were shared with.

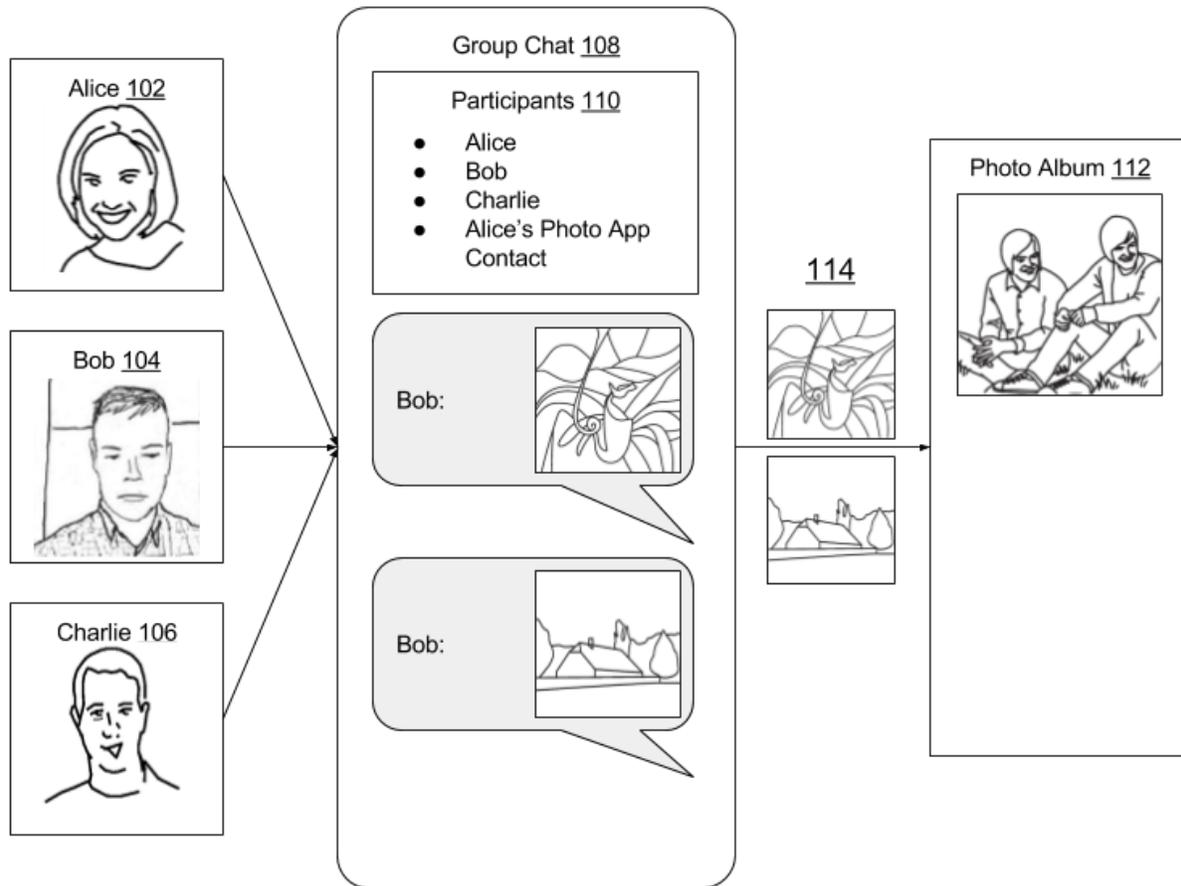
## DESCRIPTION

This disclosure describes a chat bot that can be invited to join a chat conversation conducted via different messaging applications. With user permission, the chat bot automatically retrieves images (photos and videos) shared in a messaging conversation and adds the images to a shared album or folder in a photo sharing application. Members of the conversation group are provided access to the shared album.

For example, the chat bot is associated with a unique identifier, e.g., a personalized number, for every user of the photo sharing application. Users can add the chat bot to a contact that can be added to a messaging conversation conducted via a messaging platform or application. With permission from participants, the chat bot automatically identifies images shared within the messaging conversation, e.g., still photos, bursts of photos, GIFs, video clips, etc.

The chat bot automatically adds the images to an album or folder in the photo sharing application. The chat bot provides a link to the shared album or folder in the messaging conversation and adds the album to a photo library of the user. For example, the album is labeled after the group chat. The chat bot effectively facilitates adding images from group chats into shared photo albums or folders.

Further, a virtual assistant or photo sharing application can analyze group conversations across different messaging applications, with the permission and express consent of the corresponding users, to identify overlap in audience or content. If there is significant overlap between the group conversations, creation of a merged album that includes images from the relevant group conversations conducted via the different messaging applications is suggested to the user.

*Example of use*

**Fig. 1: Generation of photo album from photos shared within a group chat**

Fig. 1 shows a group chat (108) among users Alice (102), Bob (104), and Charlie (106), e.g., conducted using a messaging application. Alice, Bob and Charlie plan a hike using the group chat to coordinate the event. During the hike, each user takes pictures. However, different users have different preferences to share the pictures with other users. For example, Alice shares pictures via a photo sharing application while Bob sends the pictures directly to Alice and Charlie in the group chat in the messaging application.

Alice adds the chat bot (e.g., stored as “Photo App contact”) as a participant (110) in the chat. Alice also adds a photo from the hike in a photo album (112) As shown in Fig. 1, Bob

sends two photos (“Pic 1” and “Pic 2”) in the group chat. The chat bot detects the images and automatically uploads (114) the images to the photo album. The photo album now includes three images, one image added directly by Alice, and two images from the messaging application that the chat bot uploaded to the album.

The chat bot (or contact) can be added to a conversation conducted via any messaging application. The automatic creation and sharing of photo albums allows images shared by the group to be added to a single place, e.g., in the photo sharing application where the chat bot creates the album, irrespective of the messaging application used to share the images. The present techniques can be used in any messaging or photo sharing application. The techniques enable automatic gathering of photos shared by users that may prefer different messaging applications, and users who prefer to share photos via the photo sharing application

In situations in which certain implementations discussed herein may collect or use personal information about users (e.g., user data, information about a user’s social network, user's location and time at the location, user's biometric information, user's activities and demographic information), users are provided with one or more opportunities to control whether information is collected, whether the personal information is stored, whether the personal information is used, and how the information is collected about the user, stored and used. That is, the techniques discussed herein collect, store and/or use user personal information specifically upon receiving explicit authorization from the relevant users to do so.

For example, a user is provided with control over whether programs or features collect user information about that particular user or other users relevant to the program or feature. Each user for which personal information is to be collected is presented with one or more options to allow control over the information collection relevant to that user, to provide permission or

authorization as to whether the information is collected and as to which portions of the information are to be collected. For example, users can be provided with one or more such control options over a communication network. In addition, certain data may be treated in one or more ways before it is stored or used so that personally identifiable information is removed. As one example, a user's identity may be treated so that no personally identifiable information can be determined. As another example, a user's geographic location may be generalized to a larger region so that the user's particular location cannot be determined.

## CONCLUSION

This disclosure describes a chat bot that can be invited to join a chat conversation conducted via different messaging applications. With user permission, the chat bot automatically retrieves images (photos and videos) shared in a messaging conversation and adds the images to a shared album or folder in a photo sharing application. Members of the conversation group are provided access to the shared album.