MEDIA SHARING REQUEST AND GRANT MECHANISM

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ABSTRACT

A system and application is disclosed that enables photo sharing among a group of users that match specified time, location or other characteristics. The system requires a server to process requests received from various users and mediates between requestors and request recipients. The system allows the requestor to select the request recipient from a preset list, while the application allows the request recipient to specify when or under what condition the photos/media may be released/shared. The request recipient then decides whether to grant access to the set of photos or to selected photos from the set or deny access. Upon grant of access, the photos can be shared effortlessly. This application provides a frictionless and quick technique for sharing photos of interest.

BACKGROUND

While on vacation, one may be interested in a set of photos taken by another. There is a possibility of the other person taking photos one would like, which are difficult to retrieve. The other person may not find time to upload or share the photos or procrastinates sharing with others. Some may also procrastinate backing up their photos to a cloud server. Even if the user chooses to share the entire group of photos numbering say, 1000, it becomes tedious for the recipient to filter them to arrive at the desired set of photos. On the other hand, the sender may not want to share the entire album or may not have the time to filter out and share the specific photos of interest, thus delaying the act of photo sharing among the group. A system is proposed here to enable quick and seamless sharing of desired photos amongst people while providing proper transparency and fine-grained access control.
DESCRIPTION

This disclosure presents a system and an application for sharing photos among a group of users that match specified time, subjects in the photo, location or other characteristics. The system may require a server to process requests received from various users and to mediate between requestors and request recipients. The system allows users to specify a time or location or other characteristics of photos and send a request for sharing photos that match said characteristics. A request recipient, who may be an owner of photos, receives a request with information such as who requested, characteristics of the media requested, thumbnails of photos matching the characteristics, context for the media requested based on other people in the group, location, time, etc. The system may extract metadata from the requested media files or from other sources such as a user’s location history through the user’s cell phone, and presents the information to the request recipient. The request recipient then decides whether to grant access to some or all of the photos or deny access. The system may allow filtering of photos to allow access thereto.

The application may allow the request recipient to specify when the photos may be released or under what conditions the media may be released/shared. For example: a request recipient may wish to share smaller photo quantities via cellular network while selecting Wi-Fi as the preferred network for larger quantities. A request for sharing can be made anytime - a requestor can initiate a request for photos taken in a specified time by activating the application. For example, a user involved in a group photo session may make a gesture on his phone that translates to initiating a request for photos taken within the next 3 minutes. The system may allow the requestor to select the request recipient from their contacts, or from a social network or calendar event attendee list. The system may additionally allow use of shared location in
combination with the selection options. The system may also allow the user to take a photo of the
photo taker and use facial recognition to help find the request recipient.

The application may allow the requestor to edit previously stored requests to send automatic request to request recipients based on previous inputs. The request recipient may receive a notification for the request at the time of request or when the person gets to a specific location, for example, a hotel/home/perceived downtime location or a time or a time period. The notification may be provided via text message, email, or any other notification method. Notification receipt time and method may be set by the user.

For scenarios where the photo owner is traveling on an expensive roaming plan, the notification can even come with a reimbursement of network cost for the upload that would be charged to the photo requestor if photo share is granted, provided the photo requestor enables the option. This is helpful if the person with the photos is traveling and may not get to Wi-Fi for quite some time.

In one implementation, the application may allow the requestor to use voice commands for sending automated requests to people listed in contacts or social network or calendar attendees. The application can provide an option to the requestor to approve the list before sending them to request recipients. Upon grant of access, the photos can be shared via social network automatically where the photos are access-control listed to the requestor or to a broader group of users.

This application provides a frictionless and quick technique for sharing photos of interest. It allows all people involved to stay in the moment by queuing up requests on the creation as
well as notification path. It also provides a way to quickly share images while considering constraints such as cellular vs. Wi-Fi bandwidth.