

## Final Mediated Assignment

Hands down this was my most enjoyed class of this semester, and in the top 3 for my academics so far at ASU. I've always loved the digital art form and making pieces of a whole. This class taught me how to use countless programs and systems that have prepared me so well for the future. My favorite module was the audio editing. This is what I want to one day be paid for, producing music. I remember distinctly paying attention to the in class lecture, I was very excited for this lesson. Although we only used audacity, it was still fun to tinker around in an audio editing program. My mashup that we made in class can be viewed here: <http://soundcloud.com/jake-florian/kicks-low-tide-clancy-mashup>.

In close second with the audio module, the video editing caught my attention as well. For the project I inserted text into a song I found on youtube. In class we were asked to select and feature an artist we found interesting. We watched a video by Chris Cunningham with the song Come to Daddy by Aphex Twin, and this is the video I chose. You can watch it here: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Az\\_7U0-ck0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Az_7U0-ck0). I saw this video a few years ago but can't remember where or why, I was just thinking how new it seemed to me, knowing what I do now about video and sound production, knowing how hard it was to create such a masterpiece.

A big part of this class for me believe it or not was using a PC versus a mac. In the classroom on every seat is a mac. I've never really liked mac's and the only thing from apple I own is an Ipod. Growing up using a PC and always having it available to me, I never thought to switch to a different operating system. Why should I? Because it's new and apple made it? That doesn't seem like a viable reason to me. This often was more difficult than it should have been seeing as I had to download new programs every class. I had no problem with it because I did enjoy the programs that were used, but

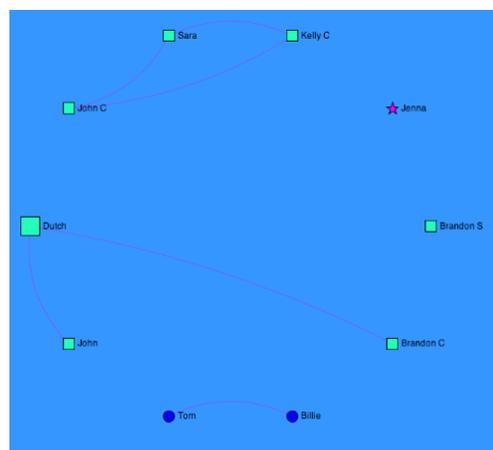
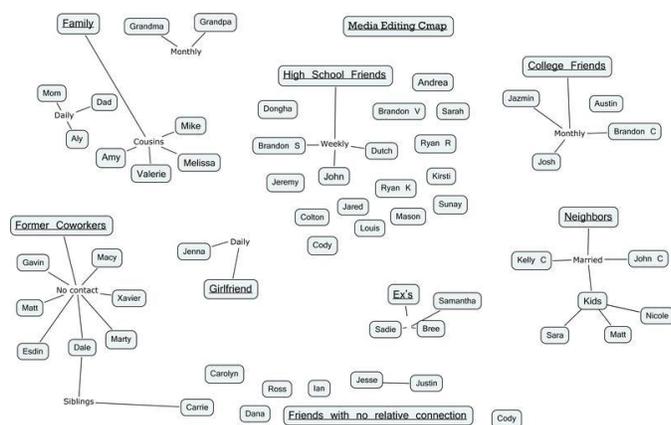
sometimes they were meant for a mac and had to be translated onto Windows, which sometimes made it a little hard to access it in a few minutes' notice before the lesson. Other than this, Media Editing from start to finish was an amazing journey of learning and a peek into what really is possible in Digital Culture.

I also enjoyed how this class touched on social issues like networking and awareness of problems that arise with it. Social networks are new to us, but for younger generations they know nothing else. This creates a sort of wall between older people and younger because of all that is possible with technology and it's exponential growth in the last 20 years. Politics, law enforcement, and society in general are all affected by new things that come around every corner. Coming back to social networks, they are not all bad. In fact many groups and assemblies have been possible thanks to the ability to spread information across thousands of people, sometimes millions, in a mere day. In class we assessed a statement by President Crow suggesting social networking as a means of spreading awareness:

### **Group assessment on Crow's Statement**

We could develop a video of [college campus](#) gun shootings such as Virginia Tech, Texas Tech, and even more recently Northern Illinois University. Showing this video in a protest can cause a movement and get the people to possibly obtain the same views. We could also start a social networking group to raise awareness on the issue at hand. Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter provide the perfect medium for this use. All we need to do is gain enough followers in protest and eventually there will be a tipping point where voices will start to be heard. It does not matter whether a group is for or against this policy. All that matters is that both parties effectively express their views.

In addition to social networking, we even touched on individual networking, something the entire planet uses on a daily basis; cell phones. We mapped out a network of many contacts and developed relationships of each contact. The purpose of this assignment was to take a look at just how spread out one person's information can be



Even with fewer contacts, using the Cmap program you could map out relationships using a program instead of by hand (upper-right).

The last unit of this class was very particular, and looking at the word life to describe the module, not knowing all semester would could our professor possibly be teaching us about life-was literally the “editing of a person’s life.” We watched the entire movie The Final Cut with Robin Williams. I had never seen it before, and it was such an awesome movie. It intertwined exactly with what this course was meant to teach us. We are at the stage in technology where something like this could happen. The only problem with the real world is the ethics of it all-having another person have access to your entire life and pick out how the world will remember you. It’s a little creepy to think about it in truth. I don’t personally agree with the concept, and I also believe our society will never let technology go that far, but who knows? After the movie when our professor told us there was an actual program that Daragh Byrne created himself got me so intrigued. However instead of in the movie where you’re born with the implant, Daragh carried a camera attached to him for many months, and the program captured messages(tweets), locations, etc about where and what he was doing. Our instruction was to make a mini-album from a small collection of data in the program.

The program itself was not too bad, and for being handmade it was quite intricate.

In conclusion the curriculum for this class was fantastic, and in my review I said I would not change a thing. I hope to see more courses like this in the rest of my academics.