

# The Functions to be Prepared for SNS

Masahiko ISHIKAWA  
*Software Research Associates, Inc.*  
*masahiko[at]sra.co.jp*

## 1. Backbone

I have two characters of backbone on writing this position paper. The one is the backbone as software developer, and the other is the user's side of Social Networking System(SNS). It may be important that software developer's side of view on this workshop. However I found it interesting that SNS user's point of view after a little bit of consideration.

## 2. Why SNS is so comfortable to users?

At first, suppose that using internet, one can search about a theme using search engines on internet, and as a result, the person may find a web page of corporations, individuals, or governments. The pages may be a leaf page that is far from top page, or an isolates page that is unlinked from main page tree. In short, the content searched on internet has various granularity, and consequently it cause annoyance and anxiety on the person, internet users.

On the contrary, how about SNS? In case of a SNS system that I've familiar, the unit of browsing is basically either "person" or "community". For example, one can see the diary of others, browse book review, or make a response for others writings. All of these behaviors is toward either the person or the community. The unification of granularity makes users comfortable, and then it is remarkable characteristics of SNS that contrasts with internet contents.

## 3. What is lack of SNS ?

SNS is far from internet in spite of this based on internet connectivity. If a SNS will be superior to internet, the SNS is to have function to connecting other SNS. In other word, that is the Inter-SNS function.

I hope all of the SNS should have **Inter-SNS** function, and that is what I want.

## 4. Backbone as software developer

For a few years, I've developed and released several communication support systems, such as interactive editorial system, question-and-answer system, incident response tracking system, and so on.

And now, I started developing a kind of social networking system for a organization. All of the systems is www-based.

## 5. What is lack of SNS development ?

At first, I investigate CMS(Contents Management System), especially, several Open source CMS systems. But after the investigation, I gave up using OSS CMS system. Because I suspect these system can give us complete flexibility for our needs. And besides, I never find the theoretical backbone of the system. Though any other system seems to be lack of the theoretical backbone, that should be prepared on every SNS.

## 6. Classification of SNS participant

Every SNS systems has function of grouping users by its own policies. In general, a SNS participant will join the group actively. Every members in the group may feel a sense of comfortable by belonging the group that they decided to join. But after joining the group, many people keep staying read only person.

As far as my survey, the members may classified below. (The discussion about the validity of this classification may be significant, if any objection.)

### - core member

the person that positively express opinion, and make effective response to others' question. Besides, the person commits the maintaining the group in addition to being active member,

### - active member

the person that positively express opinion, and make effective response to others' question.

**- gallery**

the person that sometimes make use of functions that the group provides, but that behavior conform few intellectual resources. For example, the person chiming in, chatting, interrupting main subject.

**- taker**

the person that often make use of function that the group provides, and this profit the person themselves, but the person never profit others. For example, the person only ask question and never response to others question

**- ghost member**

the person that have no contribution for a given period.

Even though SNS is sure to provide participants the function of voluntary joining the group , it never provides the function of dynamically pointing out the activity level of the members.

And also, no SNS provide the function of automatically quitting the group if the person remains the ghost member for a given period.

But I insist that kind of function is to be needed for the SNS.