The Babbling Brook

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with

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The Babbling Brook continuously measures water quality parameters such as temperature, conductivity, and depth. It combines that with microclimatic data. It then proceeds to tell bad jokes about that data to anyone who will listen.
Members of the public, particularly youth participants, develop comedic material via web and mobile interfaces. We envision a regular program of water science comedy workshops where participants learn enough about the site, the water quality parameters and the climate to be able to write jokes that Babbling Brook will speak in real-time.

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Project Status

Working out fabrication and materials
Prototyping Hardware

• Temperature
• Conductivity
• Working on depth
• Temperature

Question: Are there other parameters that would be particularly useful to measure?
Prototyping Joke Engine

Note: Integrating with Wunderground Weather API.

Would be great if weather stations at Tidmarsh could be part of the Wunderground network.
• Site at Tidmarsh selected but won’t be ready until at least Fall 2015

• We will do a parallel, temporary installation at MIT

• Have applied for funding to Google, Creative Capital and MIT funds.

Project Status cont’d
Needs/Discuss

Financial: Seeking more funding so that the project can move through development more rapidly. Would love to hear any leads people know of.

Educational: Would love to run a pilot “Environmental Data Comedy” workshop with youth in Summer 2015. Would just be testing the software side of things so it doesn’t need to be on-site at Tidmarsh. Do folks know a group we could partner with?

Technical: Can we get weather stations at Tidmarsh to put their data into Wunderground API? Any advantage to BB to use the CHAIN API to store data instead of just dumping it into MongoDB? One backend need we have is the ability to store, search and aggregate large amounts of environmental data so that people can tell historical jokes (e.g. “last year at this time I was x degrees”). Does CHAIN provide this infrastructure or is it just an input/output mechanism?

Scientific: What else should BB be measuring to be useful to the scientists and ecologists on site?

Financial:

Educational:

Technical:

Scientific:

Partner with?

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