

Circle Rev Zero Brainstorming Details

MB: Now we're going to talk about Rev0 constraints. I will upload a preliminary spec for the limited set of features and you can ask questions about them.

C: Thanks for sharing the spec! Based on the preliminary description, it looks like you're designing a call screening application with a focus on three levels of access for inbound calls.

Here are a few questions that could help clarify the functionality and features of Rev0:

1. **Text Messaging:** It mentions “calls and text messages” in the context of the circles. Does this mean that C1, C2, and C3 also apply to text messages, or is this feature limited to phone calls only?
2. **Do Not Disturb (DND) Mode:** For Circle 2 (C2), where calls will be put through unless the phone is in DND mode—does this mean calls in C2 will always ring unless DND is active, even if the phone is in some other silent mode?
3. **Granular Contact Categorization:** Can users categorize contacts themselves into these circles (C1, C2, C3)? Will the categorization be dynamic based on user input, or is it pre-configured?
4. **Circle Controls UI:** What kind of graphical interface do you envision for these three circles? Will it be something users can interact with, adjusting which contacts belong to which circle, or is it more of an “on/off” toggle for each circle?
5. **Spam Detection:** Will the app have a feature to detect spam or telemarketing calls outside of what iOS natively provides? Will users have any influence over how spam is handled (e.g., block lists or reports)?

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1. Yes this can apply to text messages, and it is selective by Circle rather than blanket for all text messages.
 2. We will ask users to leave DND off and use the Circle to make it apply more selectively than otherwise would be possible.
 3. Depending on the difficulty of getting access to call history, the Circle interface will make suggestions, or use the known Favorites to select the first C2 entries. The application will never place any contact / agent into C1 without the user doing so manually, however the interface will indicate suggestions.
 4. This is the most involved aspect. I will try to describe it in terms of a mode we will call the Daily Drag. A small selection of circular icons will be placed at the top of the Daily Drag screen. For the purposes of our example let us imagine that there are four such icons, all of

which represent contacts / agents taken at random from the user's Contacts. These are said to be in 'limbo'. The rest of the screen will have four sections representing C4 down to C1. At the bottom of the screen is (ME) which represents the user's self or C0. It is within the C1 band. Paradigmatically if we looked at this as the Solar System, C0 would be the Sun, C1 would be bounded by the orbit of Mercury, C2 by the orbit of Venus and C3 by the orbit of Earth. Additionally, there is in the C4 band an area that represents 'Pluto' for contacts / agents that are essentially blocked.

The entire screen can be zoomed with haptic detents to include more or fewer bands. The user simply drags one of the icons in limbo down into the appropriate band. Since each band is color coded along a spectrum (colors depending on the paradigm (user selectable)) the application may give suggestions by giving those circles in limbo a highlight matching the suggested circle.

1. Spam detection. None outside. Unless there is a FOSS API that can reply rapidly against the national Do Not Call registry.
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Thanks for the detailed explanations! Based on your clarifications, here are a few follow-up questions and observations:

3. **Do Not Disturb (DND) and Circle Control:** Since users are encouraged to leave DND off and control it through the Circle functionality, will there be any “smart” adjustments based on the time of day or user behavior? For example, would the app suggest activating C3 (voicemail) for calls after hours or when it detects the user is at work?
4. **Access to Call History:** If you’re looking to access call history to assist in automatically populating the circles (especially C2), are there any specific APIs or permissions you’re planning to use to gather that history? Is there a potential limitation here from iOS that might prevent full access?
5. **Suggestions for Circle Assignments:** The app will suggest contacts for C2 based on Favorites or call history. How robust will this suggestion engine be? Will users be able to refine or adjust the suggestions before accepting them?
6. **Limbo State for Contacts:** The idea of “limbo” is interesting, especially as it gives users more control over their organization. How long will contacts stay in limbo, or is this more of an ongoing “waiting” state until the user manually assigns them?
7. **Color Coding and Suggestions:** Since the color coding can be user-selectable, are there any default paradigms you’re considering for those who don’t want to customize? And, will the color suggestions be tied to the current Circle the contact is in, or will they adjust dynamically as the user interacts with the contacts?

Would love to know more about how the Daily Drag experience will feel for users in terms of interactions, as it seems to be a central aspect of the UI!

1. We are not clear at this point at the difficulty of interacting or modifying the iOS settings with DND, Sleep, Theatre Mode, etc. That is why we assume the normal operating mode.
2. We will look to existing programs to see how common or rare it is, how easy or difficult it is to override these modes and access call history within the iOS api set.
3. For the Rev0 the recommendation engine is simple and takes what the user has already specified in Favorites. The entire Circle Protocol will employ an advanced recommendation engine in future releases. This will include Yelp recommendations in the Commerce Circle (C5). It will also include FOAF recommendations and more detailed security permissions than simple call & message path access.
4. Limbo is the default for all non-assigned contacts / agents. The history of presentation of these contact / agents will recognize when all have been offered for selection. Obviously this number may run into the thousands. We will also, in future releases, offer bulk assignments and search capabilities based on attributes known to the Contacts application.
5. The default will be a proprietary selection of colors along a spectrum with red for higher (outer) circles down to green for lower (inner) circles. We will also in later versions evaluate our customer base and offer them various spectra. We expect, for example, that teens and tweens would enjoy and use spectra associated with favorite animated character themes. In any case, contacts will have a 'halo' of the suggested target circle. We expect something like an 80/20 rule on contacts not having a picture so we might alter the default color of such un-pictured contact according to the selected circle. This could become computationally expensive, but the possibility exists that we will become more popular than the Contacts app itself. This is also the case for contact / agent management in the context of salesforce automation.

The Daily Drag will be less difficult to use than Pokemon Go. But a successful categorization can result in animations and sound effects. For matters of more significant security we expect that the same swiping down of a contact into a Circle can be used to assign permissions. As well, even within a Circle we can manage granting attributes through a similar interface. We also can consider (with Pokemon Go in mind) that some users might prefer to invert the direction of promotion and demotion.

Thanks for the additional details! Based on what you've shared, here are some further questions and considerations:

1. **Interacting with iOS Settings:** It seems like you're still investigating how much control the app can have over iOS settings (like DND, Sleep, and Theatre Mode). If that becomes a

barrier, would you consider integrating notifications or alerts within the app that guide users to change their settings manually, or would you prefer to keep the app strictly within its own ecosystem?

2. **Recommendation Engine Expansion:** I see that you're planning for a more advanced recommendation engine in future releases. Do you envision that engine incorporating other factors (e.g., time of day, user behavior patterns, location, or previous interactions) to enhance its suggestions, especially as it expands into things like Yelp recommendations?
 3. **Bulk Assignment:** In terms of bulk assignments, do you have any particular user interface or interaction model in mind (like a batch-select feature) to make this process easier for users with large contact lists?
 4. **Color Spectrum for Circles:** The proprietary color spectrum sounds like a unique feature! For users who may prefer more subtle designs, would there be an option to switch to simpler or more neutral colors (like grayscale) for the color bands, especially if they're less focused on the visual elements?
 5. **Swiping to Assign Permissions:** The idea of swiping to assign permissions within circles is intriguing. Will permissions be hierarchical (e.g., granting more power the closer the circle is to C1), or will each circle have distinct permissions (e.g., C1 = full access, C2 = limited, C3 = minimal)?
 6. **Customization and User Experience:** With the possibility of more gamified elements (animations, sound effects, etc.), are you thinking about how these might appeal to different user groups? For example, would there be customization options for different age groups or usage preferences (e.g., turning off sound effects for more professional environments)?
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1. Absolutely. But for now these are not primary considerations.
2. The original concept for the Circle Protocol envisioned the first three circles to be lightly populated with no more than 150 individuals. The outer circles would have additional specific kinds of permissions which would be more explicit. But there is a limit on the number and types of permissions & recommendations we would offer automatically - as such things are generally what 'The Algorithm' does in social media today. Our aim to to make such ratings and gradings and attributes much more under the user's control.
3. Yes a kind of tinted greyscale / single color intensity is what we have in mind for professionals. I can imagine a slider control that dynamically allows customization of color saturation for our branded colors.
4. This is something I'm thinking would work better in a desktop application. This counts as well for salesforce automation and any end user that deals with thousands of contacts. We are also considering Commercial Bullseye as a separate project, agains we are establishing something along the lines of DID controls in the hand of end users.

5. For the initial Circle Protocol we are only thinking about FOAF recommendations and some affinity attribute stuff for the inner circles. For example two users might decide, since they are both C2s to share contacts and thus discover mutual C2s. But recall that for these inner circles, we want to the end user to grant trust for people they have met face to face.
 6. Unknown. Once we get an IOS developer onboard, this will be part of our questions.
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Great insights! Based on your direction, it seems like the Circle Protocol is leaning heavily into user autonomy, particularly around trust and permissions. A few more considerations:

1. **User Trust for Inner Circles:** The focus on face-to-face interaction for granting trust in the inner circles is an interesting and personalized approach. Do you foresee any potential challenges or friction in convincing users to rely on this face-to-face trust model, especially as digital relationships and interactions grow?
2. **Desktop vs. Mobile Use:** Since bulk assignments and certain features seem better suited for a desktop environment, will there be a seamless integration between the mobile app and a possible desktop version? Would users be able to sync their settings and preferences across both platforms?
3. **Commercial Bullseye Project:** For the Commercial Bullseye project and the possibility of DID (Direct Inward Dialing) controls, how do you envision the end user interacting with such a feature? Will this be more about privacy and controlling who can contact them, or does it have a broader scope (e.g., integrating business workflows)?
4. **Color Customization for Professionals:** The idea of providing a slider for color saturation customization is neat—would this extend to the entire user interface, or just the Circle representation? Would users also have the option to switch between different modes (e.g., light/dark mode)?

Looking forward to hearing more as these features take shape! Let me know if you'd like to dive deeper into any specific part of the design.