

Circle Rev Zero

The first MVP for the Circle Protocol is conceived as a simple application for a fine grained set of controls for iPhone. That is to say we intend to make an IOS application that allows three ranges of access to inbound calls. These will be graphically represented by three circles of trust.

IOS Default

he current IOS call screening works as follows. When the selection is made, only calls that correspond to the phone numbers in the user's Contacts are allowed to ring the phone and thereby alert the user. All others are kept silent and sent to voice mail. Also there is some native ability within the iPhone that identifies potential spam and telemarketing.

Plan A - Contact Categorization + Phone Control

The Circle Protocol R1 will have three circles

- C1 will be for calls and text messages(?) that will always be put through. This is the inner circle. These are 'VIPs'
- C2 will be for calls that will be put through unless the phone is in a DND mode.
- C3 will not ring the phone and incoming calls will be sent to voice mail.

This is a more constrained version of call control than IOS offers which is binary on whether or not someone is in your Contacts or not. Of course the entire package can be disabled.

Certainly! Below is a summary of the discussion, structured in a way that can help you write a technical specification while also appealing to potential funders:

Circle Protocol - Rev0: Call Screening MVP

Objective:

The initial version of the Circle Protocol (Rev0) is a call screening application designed for iOS, allowing users to categorize their contacts into different circles (C0-C4). This provides fine-grained control over inbound calls, enhancing privacy and user control compared to native iOS call management. The user interface, called the "Daily Drag," lets users visually organize contacts into trust-based categories, empowering them to control who can reach them and when.

Key Features:

1. Call & Text Message Control by Circle:

- **C1 (VIPs):** Always allowed through (i.e., important contacts).
- **C2 (Secondary Contacts):** Calls allowed unless the phone is in DND mode (calls go through unless actively silenced).
- **C3 (Limited Contacts):** Calls are silenced and sent to voicemail.
- **C4 (Blocked Contacts):** These contacts are fully blocked.

2. User Interface: Daily Drag:

- A visual interface where users can drag and drop contact icons into specific circles.
- **C0:** Represents the user and is within the C1 circle (innermost).
- **Limbo:** Contacts not yet assigned to a circle are placed in “limbo” and can be easily categorized.
- The interface will be zoomable, offering flexibility and control, with color-coded bands to represent the different circles, and haptic feedback for better interaction.
- **Halo Highlighting:** Contacts will have a halo suggesting the recommended circle they should be moved to.

3. Color Spectrum:

- **Default Spectrum:** A color gradient, ranging from red for the outer circles (C3, C4) to green for the innermost circles (C1).
- Customizable by the user, with a slider to adjust color intensity and saturation, especially for professional users who might prefer more neutral or grayscale modes.

4. Permissions and Trust:

- Users can assign permissions by swiping a contact into a circle, which could also grant specific access rights (e.g., phone call access, message permissions).
- Trust is an essential aspect, particularly for C2, where the user is expected to manually approve contacts they have met face-to-face.

5. Recommendation Engine (Future Plans):

- The first release (Rev0) will have a basic recommendation system that leverages the user's **Favorites** for contact suggestions.
- Future versions will incorporate advanced recommendation engines, such as FOAF (Friends of a Friend) and affinity-based recommendations, as well as location-based suggestions.
- **Commerce Circle (C5)** will introduce Yelp-based recommendations for business-related circles.

6. Bulk Assignment & Search Capabilities:

- For users with large contact lists (e.g., salesforce automation), bulk assignment will be a feature available primarily in desktop versions.
- Contacts can be sorted and searched based on attributes from the Contacts app, streamlining the categorization process.

7. Contact History & Interaction with iOS:

- For contact categorization, the app will utilize Favorites and potentially call history data (pending access to iOS APIs).
- Users will be able to manually categorize contacts, with the app suggesting contacts for C2 based on prior interactions (though C1 will always require manual approval).

8. Scalability and Future Vision:

- The Circle Protocol is designed to be scalable, with future releases adding more sophisticated features like bulk assignment, advanced recommendations, and refined privacy controls.
- The app will allow users to customize their experience with different color schemes, especially to accommodate different user groups (e.g., professional, youth, etc.).

Target Audience & Use Cases:

- **Everyday Consumers:** Those who want better control over their privacy and who can contact them on their phone.
- **Business Users (e.g., Salesforce Automation):** Managing large contact lists with finer control over who can contact them and when.
- **Mobile Privacy Enthusiasts:** Users seeking more granular control over their calls and messages than what iOS currently offers.

Funders' Perspective:

- **User Empowerment:** This app gives users greater control over their personal data and communication, filling a gap in the iOS ecosystem by providing a customizable experience for inbound calls.
- **Scalable Design:** The app's architecture is designed with scalability in mind, allowing for advanced features in future releases such as more complex recommendation systems, bulk assignment features, and commercial applications.
- **Privacy and Security:** The app empowers users to define their privacy boundaries in a visually intuitive and user-controlled way, offering granular permissions and trust-based categorization that aligns with modern privacy concerns.

This summary should provide a strong foundation for both technical documentation and investor communications. Let me know if you need to adjust or expand on any aspect!