MW4ALL - identity-free file transfer needs finding study

[Least Authority team members]

Background

With Magic Wormhole for All (MW4ALL), we are investigating the potential of a large-scale deployment of Magic Wormhole: identity-free file transfer. As part of the project, we aim to learn what use cases benefit the most from Magic Wormhole's value propositions. In our hypothesis, these value propositions include: enhanced security, not needing to know a sender/recipient identity, and ease of use. By looking at how people use applications or technologies that employ *some of* Magic Wormhole's benefits/features, we intend to examine what gaps or usability challenges may exist that Magic Wormhole could address. To this end we will conduct a survey. The use cases surfaced there and in team discussions held earlier, or a specifically relevant technology, can become the focus of follow-up in-depth interviews to hone in on specific opportunities for Magic Wormhole.

Goals

- Describing file transfer experiences of people when they have not previously established a connection with an intended partner ('stranger use case')
- Describing file transfer experiences of people when they do have a previous connection connection with an intended partner ('friend/colleague use case')
- Describing file transfer experiences of people when they transfer information to themselves ('same device owner use case')
- Describing people's experiences to connect multiple devices/applications for future use ('device/application verification use case')

Research questions

1. In what circumstances (purpose/context/content) do people transfer files to people in their physical proximity (both new and old connections)?
2. In what circumstances do people transfer files to people not in the same space (both new and old connections)?
3. In what circumstances do people transfer files between devices that they own?
4. In what circumstances do people introduce a connection between two devices/applications?
5. What applications/technologies do people use to take the above actions?
6. What do people use specific file transfer technologies for (per technology)?
7. What are the main challenges people are experiencing when transferring files or when connecting devices/applications?
8. What are the main delights people are experiencing when transferring files or when connecting devices/applications?

Methodology

- Survey, using a test participant vendor and, if they do not have an integrated survey tool, LimeSurvey.
- Potentially, further interviews, to be recruited based on survey findings:
    - focusing on particularly relevant use cases;
    - or focusing on a particular technology (such as AirDrop, or a QR code) that overlaps with key benefits that Magic Wormhole provides.

Design materials needed

- (Potentially web wormhole)

Participants

- Decide on profile and on number of participants (~100)
- Potential 5 further participants for in-depth interviews.

Schedule [dates removed]

- Finalize study plan and research guide:
- Conduct survey:
- Survey analysis:
- Potentially further interviews:
- Findings presentation & discussion:

Research guide and script

- ...