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## Week 3 Updates: New Features

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As promised, this week brought a few new features in my MySpaceIM Protocol Plugin for Pidgin (msimprpl):

- Typing notifications
- Removing buddies
- Adding buddies
- Show buddy information (including the all-important a/s/l) in tooltip text
- Allow offline messages (untested)
- Allow "Get Info" on buddies on your buddy list
- Fix the long-standing bug [#193](#), and other bug fixes

Typing notifications were relatively simple to add with the new message preprocessing infrastructure. Also known as Mini-Typing Notifications (MTN, not to be confused with Monotone) in AIM, typing notifications inform you when your buddy is typing or has stopped typing. Msim implements these as a buddy message, type 121 (an "action" message, also used for zaps), with the text `%typing%` or `%stoptyping%`. As with most protocol messages, the user is referred to by numeric userid instead of username--but the buddy lists are built from usernames, not userids. But now that we have `msim_preprocess_incoming()`, `msim_incoming_action()` has to have no knowledge of this fact. This makes the code much cleaner and easier to maintain. Both sending and receiving of typing notifications are supported.

Adding and removing buddies seems like a simple operation, but a lot goes on behind the scenes. When you say you want to add a buddy, for example "msimprpl", msimprpl first has to resolve the username to the numeric userid, 180301984. Fortunately, this part is handled transparently by `msim_postprocess_outgoing()`, so `msim_add_buddy()` can remain largely ignorant of it. (I'd consider `uid<=>username` resolving complete for the most part, so you won't be hearing about it much anymore!) Next, the official client sends three commands: `addbuddy`, `update blacklist`, and `update the server-side buddy list`. Msimprpl currently only does the first for adding buddies, but does all three for deleting buddies. Adding a buddy allows you to be notified of their status information, so being able to have this functionality makes using MySpaceIM on Pidgin much more usable.

I redid the tooltip text that appears when you hover over a buddy, adapting it to the new infrastructure and improving the fields displayed. The old tooltip text displayed three of the four "names" each friend can have, but the new tooltips display more useful information - age, gender, location, song, etc. It didn't make it into msimprpl 0.7, but I also added two preference options to control the display of the status text. The official client allows buddy entries to be shown by username, or display name. Msimprpl has something similar: it allows the status text to optionally show the display name, and/or also the headline text. For example, [Tom](#) has userid 6221, username "tom", display name "Tom", and (currently) headline ":-)". This is all configurable, so you can have msimprpl only show the headline, only the display name, both, or neither, as you prefer. "Get Info" is similar to the tooltip text, but is more verbose about showing the information (including the userid, which is normally not needed).

I uploaded the latest screenshot, showing some of the features I've been discussing, at <http://xyzyy.freeshell.org/gsoc/msimprpl-20070617.png>.

I've fixed a handful of bugs in my code, most significant being [#193](#). I also found and fixed a few other bugs I discovered in my new MsimMessage infrastructure, which I wrote about earlier.

I am getting close to a usable msimprpl ready for wider usage (perhaps a beta). Most of the basic features you would expect from a simple IM plugin are there. I talked to my mentor Sean Egan using msimprpl without any problems on my side (though he reported crashes, although he had an older version--we haven't yet found out what was going on.) I also received a few unsolicited messages from various MySpaceIM users. In talking to them, they had no idea I was using a third party client - always a good sign.

You can try the improved msimprpl by [installing msimprpl 0.7](#).

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