Trowel

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I've been using Trowel for a month now and still like it very much, even if I do say so myself. Trowel is a Perl script I wrote – based on Richard Stelling's original implementation – that uses the Growl framework on OS X to smoothly pop up the tweets that appear in a Twitter timeline. There's probably a ton of applications that offer similar functionality, but this offers the full power of the Practical Extracting and Reporting Language – a.k.a. Perl – to quickly adapt it to keep the timeline usable and keep Trowel from clogging up the entire screen with tweets.

My context is that I use it on an iBook with a 1024x786 screen and I follow about 70 people almost 24/7, which gives me with an update interval of two minutes a couple of tweets once in a while. Since clicking on links in quickly vanishing Growls wasn't feasable I opted to just open the links in the tweets automatically. This can also be filtered because I'm not interested in every single program on Arte, or every foursquare check–in, but I don't mind collecting a bunch of tabs in my browser with funny youtubes. Trowel also notifies when you lose or gain followers, and it keeps a cache of avatars it displays with alpha–transparancy in the Growls, just to keep it as smooth as Growl intended.

by Roland van Ipenburg http://www.xs4all.nl/~ipenburg/blog/posts/work/2010/01/22/trowel/