

GROUP CHAT METHOD AND DEVICE

TECHNICAL FIELD

[1] The present application relates to the field of communications, and in particular, to a group chat method and device.

BACKGROUND

[2] With the development of Internet technologies, popularization of instant messaging technologies brings various conveniences to work and life of ordinary users. Currently, most instant messaging software (such as Alitalk and MiTalk) supports a group chat function. A group chat may allow some users who are concerned about a common topic to gather together to exchange and share information.

[3] However, a feature of a group chat application is that a lot of users need to participate in a common topic and event. Therefore, in a user group with a lot of group members or a user group with many active group members, a large quantity of group chat messages may be generated. As a result, in a group chat among users, rapid refresh of group chat messages may make it inconvenient for the users to view the messages.

SUMMARY

[4] Accordingly, the present application provides a group chat method, applied to a terminal, the method including:

[5] outputting a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface, where the selection interface is used for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member;

[6] acquiring a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface; and

[7] displaying, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID.

[8] Optionally, the outputting a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface includes:

[9] outputting the selection interface to the user through the group chat interface when an operation instruction of the user for a follow option that is provided in the group chat interface in advance is received.

[10] Optionally, the displaying, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID includes:

[11] highlighting, in the group chat interface, the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID, and hiding user avatars of group members other than the group member corresponding to the group member ID.

[12] Optionally, the highlighting, in the group chat interface, the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID includes:

[13] highlighting, in the group chat interface, a group chat message that is among locally loaded group chat messages and corresponds to the group member ID; and

[14] highlighting, in the group chat interface, a group chat message that is among group chat messages received from a server and corresponds to the group member ID.

[15] Optionally, the method further includes:

[16] sequentially centering the highlighted group chat messages in the group chat interface when the operation instruction of the user for the follow option is received again after the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID are highlighted in the group chat interface.

[17] Optionally, the method further includes:

[18] outputting a recovery option to the user through the group chat interface after the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID are highlighted in the group chat interface, where the recovery option is used for prompting the user to recover the group chat messages in the group chat interface to a default display manner; and

[19] recovering the highlighted group chat messages in the group chat interface to the default display manner when an operation instruction of the user for the recovery option is received, and unhiding the user avatars of other group members.

[20] The present application further provides a group chat device, applied to a terminal, the device including:

[21] an output module configured to output a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface, where the selection interface is used for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member;

[22] an acquisition module configured to acquire a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface; and

[23] a display module configured to display, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID.

[24] Optionally, the output module is specifically configured to:

[25] output the selection interface to the user through the group chat interface when an operation instruction of the user for a follow option that is provided in the group chat interface in advance is received.

[26] Optionally, the display module is specifically configured to:

[27] highlight, in the group chat interface, the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID, and hide user avatars of group members other than the group member corresponding to the group member ID.

[28] Optionally, the display module is further configured to:

[29] highlight, in the group chat interface, a group chat message that is among locally loaded group chat messages and corresponds to the group member ID; and

[30] highlight, in the group chat interface, a group chat message that is among group chat messages received from a server and corresponds to the group member ID.

[31] Optionally, the display module is further configured to:

[32] sequentially center the highlighted group chat messages in the group chat interface when the operation instruction of the user for the follow option is received again after the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID are highlighted in the group chat interface.

[33] Optionally, the output module is further configured to:

[34] output a recovery option to the user through the group chat interface after the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID are highlighted in the group chat interface, where the recovery option is used for prompting the user to recover the group chat messages in the group chat interface to a default display manner; and

[35] the device further includes:

[36] a recovery module configured to recover the highlighted group chat messages in the group chat interface to the default display manner when an operation instruction of the user for the recovery option is received, and unhide the user avatars of other group members.

[37] The present application further provides a group chat device, including:

[38] a processor; and a memory configured to store an instruction executable by the processor;

[39] where the processor is configured to:

[40] output a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface, where the selection interface is used for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member;

[41] acquire a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface; and

[42] display, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID.

[43] By outputting, to a user through a group chat interface, a selection interface for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member, acquiring a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface, and then displaying, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID, the present application can highlight, in the group chat interface during a group chat, the group chat messages of the to-be-followed group member selected by the user, which can improve group chat experience of the user.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[44] FIG. 1 is a flowchart of a group chat method according to an embodiment of the present application;

[45] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of a group chat interface according to an embodiment of the present application;

[46] FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of a selection interface according to an embodiment of the present application;

[47] FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of highlighting a group chat message in a group chat interface according to an embodiment of the present application;

[48] FIG. 5 is a logic block diagram of a group chat device according to an embodiment of the present application; and

[49] FIG. 6 is a hardware structural diagram of a terminal that carries the group chat device according to an embodiment of the present application.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[50] Exemplary embodiments will be described in detail herein, and examples thereof are shown in the accompanying drawings. When the following description involves the accompanying drawings, the same numerals in different accompanying drawings denote the same or similar elements, unless specified otherwise. Implementations described in the following exemplary embodiments do not represent all implementations consistent with the present application. On the contrary, they are merely examples of devices and methods consistent with some aspects of the present application as described in detail in the appended claims.

[51] Terms used in the present application are merely for describing specific embodiments, instead of limiting the present application. Singular forms “a(n)”, “said”, and “the” used in the present application and the appended claims are also intended to include plural forms, unless other meanings are clearly specified in the context. It should be further understood that, the term “and/or” used in this text refers to and includes any or all possible combinations of one or more associated items listed.

[52] It should be understood that, although terms such as “first”, “second”, and “third” may be used to describe various kinds of information in the present application, these kinds of information should not be limited to the terms. These terms are merely used to distinguish information of the same type from each other. For example, without departing from the scope of the present application, the first information may also be referred to as second information, and similarly, the second information may also be referred to as first

information. Depending on the context, for example, the word “if” used herein may be interpreted as “when...”, “as...”, or “in response to the determination”.

[53] The present application is described below by specific embodiments in combination with specific application scenarios.

[54] Referring to FIG. 1, FIG. 1 is a group chat method according to an embodiment of the present application. The method may be performed by a terminal, and the terminal may be a smart phone, a tablet computer, a PC, or the like installed with an instant chat client (which is referred to as client for short hereinafter) supporting a group chat function. The method includes the following steps:

[55] Step 101: outputting a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface, where the selection interface is used for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member;

[56] In this embodiment, a function switch may be provided for a user in the group chat interface in advance, to implement outputting a selection interface to the user through a group chat interface of a terminal.

[57] Referring to FIG. 2, FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of a group chat interface shown in this embodiment.

[58] During implementation, a follow option for prompting the user to set a to-be-followed group member may be provided for the user in the group chat interface in advance, and the user may click or touch the follow option to set the to-be-followed group member. An eye icon shown in FIG. 2 is the follow option. After the user clicks or touches the follow option, the icon of the follow option may be transformed for differentiation. For example, the icon of the follow option may be changed to a check icon shown in FIG. 3.

[59] For example, a touch screen mobile phone is used as an example of the terminal, and the user may touch a region where the follow option is located with a finger, to

enable a function of setting a to-be-followed group member. When a client monitors, in the back-end, a touch event of the user for the region where the follow option is located, it is triggered in the back-end to deliver an instruction for outputting the selection interface to the user through the group chat interface. And after receiving the instruction, the client outputs the selection interface in the group chat interface.

[60] For the selection interface output in the group chat interface, the user may select, by operating the selection interface, a group chat message of the to-be-followed group member according to the prompt of the selection interface, and click or touch the follow option again after completing the selection, to confirm the selection result.

[61] Referring to FIG. 3, FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of a selection interface shown in this embodiment.

[62] During implementation, the selection interface may include several group chat messages. There is a selection region in front of each group chat message. When selecting the to-be-followed group member, the user may click or touch the selection region in the selection interface to select one or more group chat messages.

[63] For example, a touch screen mobile phone is still used as an example of the terminal. When selecting the to-be-followed group member, the user may touch a selection region in front of a group message of the group member in the selection interface with a hand, and when the client monitors, in the back-end, a touch event of the user on the region, it is triggered in the back-end to deliver an instruction for adding a selected tag for the group chat message in the selection region (for example, adding a check mark in front of the group chat message). After receiving the instruction, the client adds a selected tag for the group chat message. After completing the selection, the user may click the follow option again to confirm the selection result. The group chat message added with the selected tag is already in

a selected state at this point, and a group member corresponding to the selected group chat message is the group member to be followed by the user.

[64] Step 102: acquiring a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface.

[65] In this embodiment, after the user selects the group chat message of the to-be-followed group member through the selection interface, the client may identify a group member ID corresponding to the selected group message in the back-end, wherein the group member ID may be account information of a group member when using the client.

[66] During implementation, all group chat messages selected by the user through the selection interface at this point are messages that have been loaded locally by the client. As a group chat message is generally pushed by a server cooperating with the client, and the group chat message generally carries a group member ID of a sender of the message. When receiving the group message pushed by the server, the client may generally locally save a corresponding relationship between the group message and the group member ID of the sender of the message, so that the received group chat message is correctly rendered into the group chat interface conveniently during a user group chat. Therefore, the client may directly search the saved corresponding relationship, and then can identify the group member ID corresponding to the selected group message in the back-end.

[67] Step 103: highlighting group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID in the group chat interface.

[68] In this embodiment, after the client successfully acquires the group member ID corresponding to the selected group chat message, the group member corresponding to the group member ID is the group member to be followed by the user during a group chat. For the group member to be followed by the user, in the subsequent group chat, group chat messages sent by the group member may be displayed in a preset manner in the group chat

interface. For example, in a preferred implementation, the group chat messages may be highlighted in the group chat interface, to achieve the purpose of prompting the user.

[69] A detailed description is provided below by using highlighting the group chat messages in the group chat interface as an example.

[70] During implementation, group chat messages in a group chat generally include group chat messages that have been loaded locally by the client and received latest group chat messages pushed by the server. Therefore, when the group chat messages of the group member to be followed by the user are highlighted in the group chat interface, finally highlighted group chat messages include group chat messages of the to-be-followed group member that have been loaded locally by the client and received latest group chat messages, pushed by the server, of the to-be-followed group member.

[71] For group chat messages that have been loaded locally by the client, when receiving a group message pushed by the server, the client may generally locally save a corresponding relationship between the group message and a group member ID of a sender of the message. Therefore, the client may directly query the saved corresponding relationship, and can screen out a group chat message of the to-be-followed group member from the locally loaded group chat messages according to the acquired group member ID corresponding to the selected group chat message, and then highlight the group chat message.

[72] For latest group chat messages, which are pushed by the server, received by the client, the client may match a group member ID in the group chat message with the group member ID of the to-be-followed group member after receiving a group chat message pushed by the server. If the group member ID in the group chat message matches the group member ID of the to-be-followed group member, the client may directly highlight the group chat message in the group chat interface.

[73] In this embodiment, during a group chat, a group chat message of a group member and an avatar of the group member are generally displayed in an associated manner in the group chat interface. Therefore, to achieve a better prompt effect, when the group chat message of the to-be-followed group member is highlighted in the group chat interface, avatars of group members other than the to-be-followed group member may be hidden in the current group chat interface.

[74] For example, referring to FIG. 4, the group chat interface shown in FIG. 4 includes five group chat messages, wherein the third group chat message is a group chat message of the group member to be followed by the user. Therefore, to achieve a better prompt effect, the third group chat message may be highlighted, and user avatars displayed in a manner associated with other group chat messages are hidden, thereby achieving a strong contrast effect, thus emphasizing the group chat message of the to-be-followed group member in the group chat interface.

[75] Certainly, during implementation, when the group chat message of the followed group member is highlighted in the group chat interface, avatars of group members other than the to-be-followed group member may not be hidden, which is not specifically limited in this embodiment.

[76] After the group chat message of the group member to be followed by the user is highlighted in the group chat interface, the user may scroll the current group chat interface, to view historical group chat messages sent by the group member. In addition, to make it more convenient for the user to view historical group chat messages of the to-be-followed group member, in addition to scrolling the current group chat interface, the user may also view the historical group chat messages by means of jumping.

[77] During implementation, the follow option that is provided for the user in the group chat interface may be used as a function option for jumping to the previous highlighted

historical message. For example, a touch screen mobile phone is still used as an example of the terminal. The user may touch the region where the follow option is located with a finger, to enable a function of jumping to the previous highlighted historical message, and when the client monitors, in the back-end, a touch event of the user for the region where the follow option is located, it is triggered in the back-end to deliver an instruction for jumping to the previous highlighted historical message. After receiving the instruction, the client may acquire coordinates of a center position in the current group chat interface, and display the previous highlighted historical message at the center position of the group chat interface by means of jumping. Similarly, when the client monitors again, in the back-end, the touch event of the user for the region where the follow option is located, jumping may be performed again in the foregoing manner, and finally, the user may touch the follow option to sequentially display the highlighted historical messages at the center position of the group chat interface by means of jumping. In this way, the user may continuously touch the region where the follow option is located, to view the highlighted historical messages one by one.

[78] Certainly, during specific implementation, it is also possible to add a new function option, instead of using the follow option as a function option for enabling a jump to the previous highlighted historical message. This is not specifically limited in this embodiment.

[79] After the group chat messages of the group member to be followed by the user are highlighted in the group chat interface, a recovery option for prompting the user to recover the group chat messages in the group chat interface to a default display manner may further be provided for the user in the group chat interface. The user may recover the highlighted group chat messages to the default display manner by operating the recovery option, and unhide the avatars of the group members in the group chat interface.

[80] For example, continue to refer to FIG. 4. A touch screen mobile phone is still used as an example the terminal. After the group chat messages of the group member to be followed by the user are highlighted in the group chat interface, a recovery option “click here to normally display all information” may be output at the top of the group chat interface. The user may touch a region where the recovery option is located with a finger, to recover the highlighted group chat messages to a default display manner, and unhide the avatars of other group members in the group chat interface. When the client monitors, in the back-end, a touch event of the user for the region where the recovery option is located, it is triggered in the back-end to deliver an instruction for recovering the highlighted group chat messages to the default display manner and unhiding the avatars of the group members in the group chat interface. After receiving the instruction, the client recovers the highlighted group chat messages to the default display manner, and unhides the avatars of other group members in the group chat interface. At this point, the group chat messages in the group chat interface are recovered to the default display manner.

[81] In the above embodiment, by outputting, to a user through a group chat interface, a selection interface for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member, acquiring a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface, and then highlighting, in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID, the group chat messages of the to-be-followed group member selected by the user can be highlighted in the group chat interface during a group chat, which can improve group chat experience of the user.

[82] Corresponding to the foregoing method embodiment, the present application further provides an embodiment of an device.

[83] Referring to FIG. 5, the present application provides a group chat device 50 applied to a terminal. The terminal may be a smart phone, a tablet computer, a PC, or the like installed with instant chat software supporting a group chat function. The group chat device 50 may be construed as instant chat software supporting a group chat function and installed on the terminal. Referring to FIG. 6, a hardware architecture related to a terminal carrying the group chat device 50 generally includes a CPU, a memory, a non-volatile memory, a network interface, an internal bus, and the like. Using software implementation as an example, the group chat device 50 may be generally construed as a software-hardware combined logic device formed after a computer program loaded in the memory is run by the CPU. The device 50 includes:

[84] an output module 501 used to output a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface, wherein the selection interface is used for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member;

[85] an acquisition module 502 used to acquire a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface; and

[86] a display module 503 used to display, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID.

[87] In this embodiment, the output module 501 is specifically configured to:

[88] output the selection interface to the user through the group chat interface when an operation instruction of the user for a follow option that is provided in the group chat interface in advance is received.

[89] In this embodiment, the display module 503 is specifically configured to:

[90] highlight, in the group chat interface, the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID, and hide user avatars of group members other than the group member corresponding to the group member ID.

[91] In this embodiment, the display module 503 is further configured to:

[92] highlight, in the group chat interface, a group chat message that is among locally loaded group chat messages and corresponds to the group member ID; and

[93] highlight, in the group chat interface, a group chat message that is among group chat messages received from a server and corresponds to the group member ID.

[94] In this embodiment, the display module 503 is further configured to:

[95] sequentially center the highlighted group chat messages in the group chat interface when the operation instruction of the user for the follow option is received again after the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID are highlighted in the group chat interface.

[96] In this embodiment, the output module 501 is further configured to:

[97] output a recovery option to the user through the group chat interface after the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID are highlighted in the group chat interface, where the recovery option is used for prompting the user to recover the group chat messages in the group chat interface to a default display manner; and

[98] The device further includes:

[99] a recovery module 504 configured to recover the highlighted group chat messages in the group chat interface to the default display manner when an operation instruction of the user for the recovery option is received, and unhide the user avatars of other group members.

[100] The present application further provides an embodiment of a group chat device.

[101] The device includes:

[102] a processor; and

[103] a memory configured to store an instruction executable by the processor;

[104] Further, the device may further include an input/output interface, a network interface, various kinds of hardware, and the like.

[105] The processor is configured to:

[106] output a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface, where the selection interface is used for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member;

[107] acquire a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface; and

[108] display, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID.

[109] Those skilled in the art can easily derive other implementations of the present application after considering the specification and practicing the invention disclosed herein. The present application is intended to cover any variations, applications, or adaptive changes of the present application, and these variations, applications or adaptive changes follow general principles of the present application and include common general knowledge or conventional technical measures in the technical field that are not disclosed in the present application. The specification and embodiments are considered as merely exemplary, and the real scope and spirit of the present application are indicated by the following claims.

[110] It should be understood that the present application is not limited to precise structures that have been described above and shown in the accompanying drawings, and can have various modifications and variations without departing from the spirit thereof. The scope of the present application is merely limited by the appended claims.

[111] The above descriptions are merely preferred embodiments of the present application, and are not intended to limit the present application. Any modification, equivalent replacement and improvement made without departing from the spirit and

principle of the present application shall fall within the protection scope of the present application.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A group chat method, applied to a terminal, wherein the method comprises:

outputting a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface, wherein the selection interface is used for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member;

acquiring a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface; and

displaying, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the outputting a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface comprises:

outputting the selection interface to the user through the group chat interface when an operation instruction of the user for a follow option that is provided in the group chat interface in advance is received.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the displaying, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID comprises:

highlighting, in the group chat interface, the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID, and hiding user avatars of group members other than the group member corresponding to the group member ID.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the highlighting, in the group chat interface, the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID comprises:

highlighting, in the group chat interface, a group chat message that is among locally loaded group chat messages and corresponds to the group member ID; and

highlighting, in the group chat interface, a group chat message that is among group chat messages received from a server and corresponds to the group member ID.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the method further comprises:

sequentially centering the highlighted group chat messages in the group chat interface when the operation instruction of the user for the follow option is received again after the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID are highlighted in the group chat interface.

6. The method according to claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:

outputting a recovery option to the user through the group chat interface after the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID are highlighted in the group chat interface, wherein the recovery option is used for prompting the user to recover the group chat messages in the group chat interface to a default display manner; and

recovering the highlighted group chat messages in the group chat interface to the default display manner when an operation instruction of the user for the recovery option is received, and unhiding the user avatars of other group members.

7. A group chat device, applied to a terminal, wherein the device comprises:

an output module configured to output a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface, wherein the selection interface is used for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member;

an acquisition module configured to acquire a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface; and

a display module configured to display, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID.

8. The device according to claim 7, wherein the output module is specifically configured to:

output the selection interface to the user through the group chat interface when an operation instruction of the user for a follow option that is provided in the group chat interface in advance is received.

9. The device according to claim 7, wherein the display module is specifically configured to:
highlight, in the group chat interface, the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID, and hide user avatars of group members other than the group member corresponding to the group member ID.

10. The device according to claim 9, wherein the display module is further configured to:
highlight, in the group chat interface, a group chat message that is among locally loaded group chat messages and corresponds to the group member ID; and
highlight, in the group chat interface, a group chat message that is among group chat messages received from a server and corresponds to the group member ID.

11. The device according to claim 10, wherein the display module is further configured to:
sequentially center the highlighted group chat messages in the group chat interface when the operation instruction of the user for the follow option is received again after the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID are highlighted in the group chat interface.

12. The device according to claim 9, wherein the output module is further configured to:
output a recovery option to the user through the group chat interface after the group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID are highlighted in the group chat interface, wherein the recovery option is used for prompting the user to recover the group chat messages in the group chat interface to a default display manner; and

the device further comprises:

a recovery module configured to recover the highlighted group chat messages in the group chat interface to the default display manner when an operation instruction of the user for the recovery option is received, and unhide the user avatars of other group members.

13. A group chat device, comprising:

a processor; and a memory configured to store an instruction executable by the processor;

wherein the processor is configured to:

output a selection interface to a user through a group chat interface, wherein the selection interface is used for prompting the user to select, in the group chat interface, a group chat message of a to-be-followed group member;

acquire a group member ID of the group chat message selected by the user through the selection interface; and

display, in a preset manner in the group chat interface, group chat messages corresponding to the group member ID.