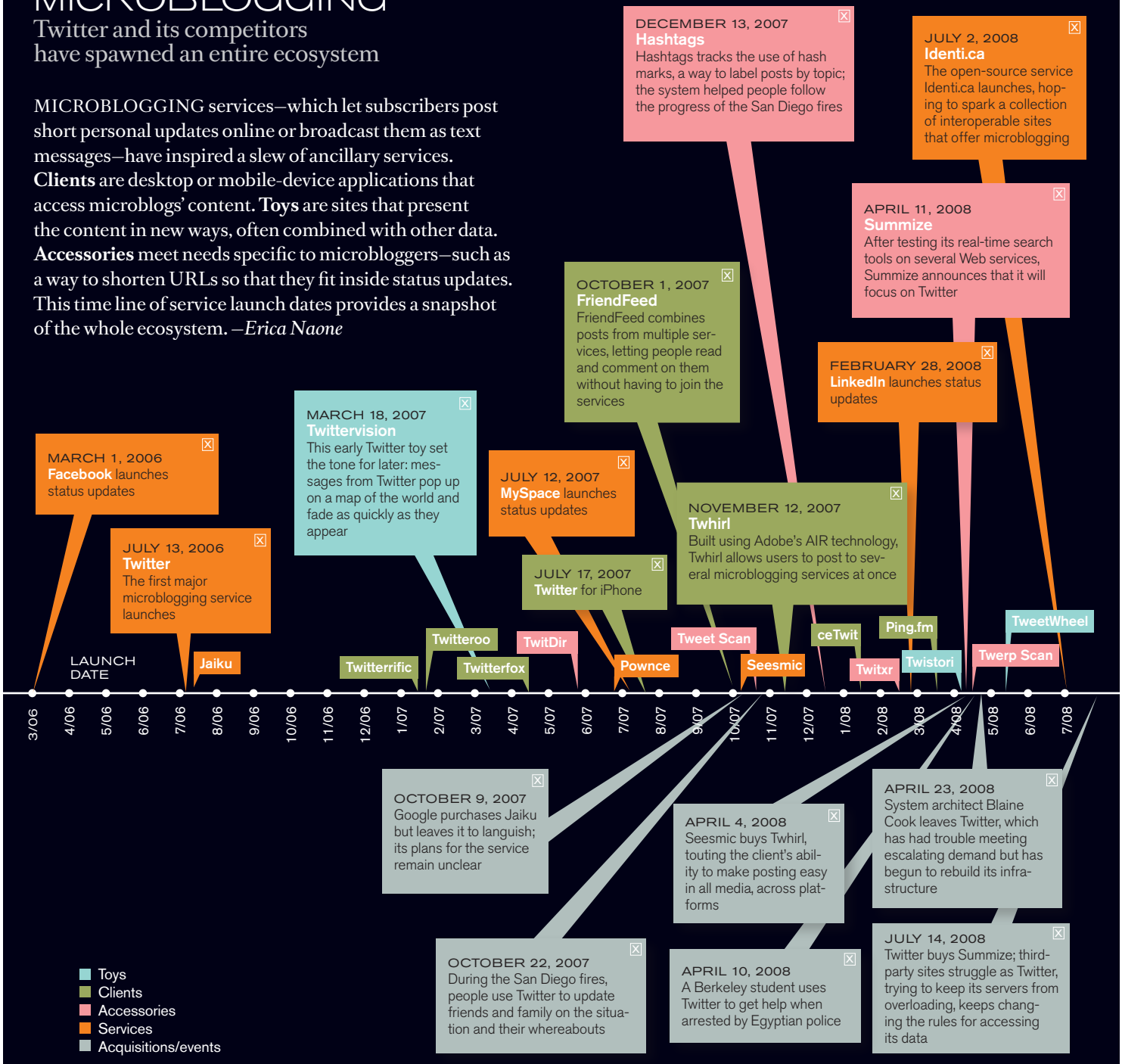
WEB SERVICES

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MICROBLOGGING

Twitter and its competitors have spawned an entire ecosystem

MICROBLOGGING services—which let subscribers post short personal updates online or broadcast them as text messages—have inspired a slew of ancillary services. **Clients** are desktop or mobile-device applications that access microblogs' content. **Toys** are sites that present the content in new ways, often combined with other data. **Accessories** meet needs specific to microbloggers—such as a way to shorten URLs so that they fit inside status updates. This time line of service launch dates provides a snapshot of the whole ecosystem. *—Erica Naone*