Advanced Web Technologies (SET09103)

Coursework 2

Snapgram (photo-sharing service)

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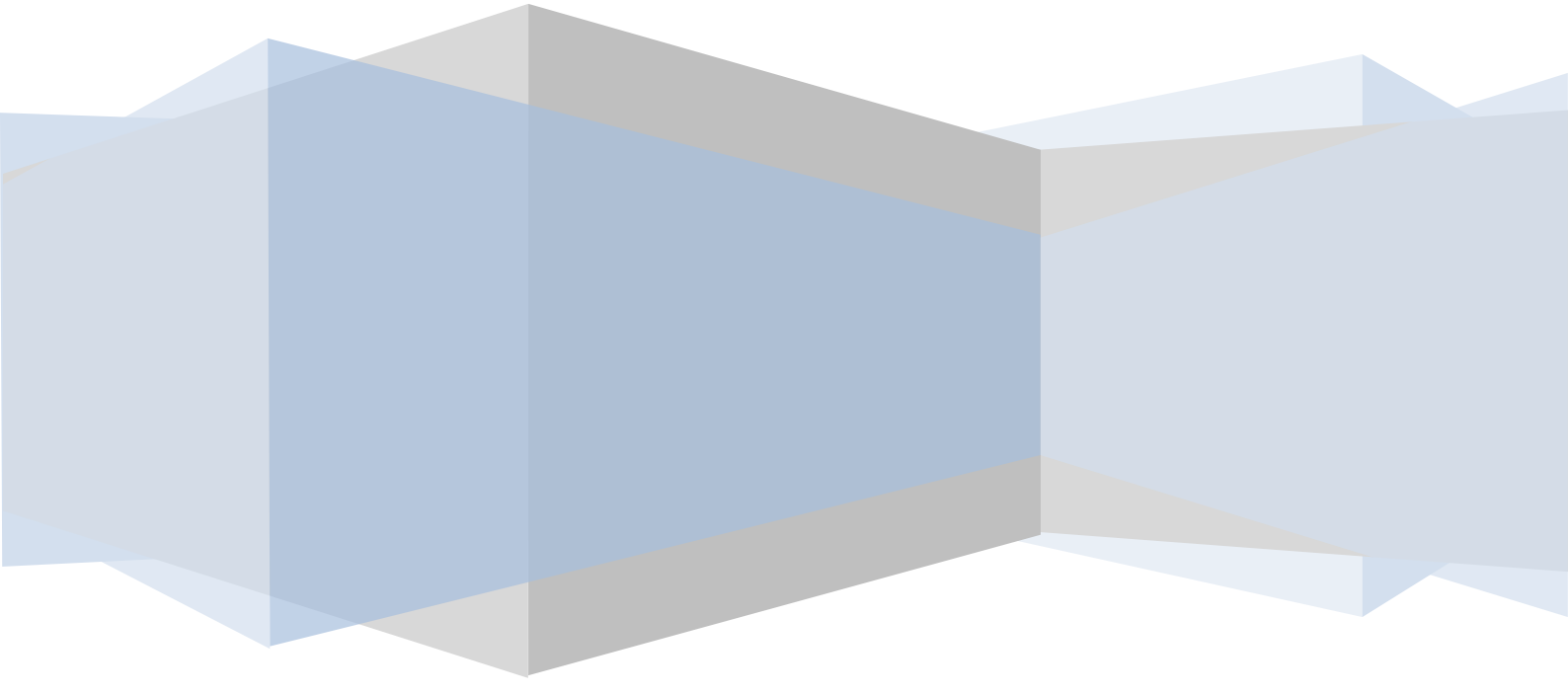

INTRODUCTION

The web-app developed is a photo-sharing social network, where the users can upload their photos. The technologies used for the development of the web were: Python, Flask, Jinja2, html, css, bootstrap, sqlite3 and javascript.

The first time we access the website, it redirects you to the search, where you can look for the user you want. We can search both for personal name and username, since the system searches both of them and displays.

Profiles are public, so anyone can access them without having to register, either knowing their username or searching it.

For the web graphic design I based on a free web, which I have subsequently modified to that would fit the needs of the project. The only requirement to use this template was to keep the line at the end of it with the link to their website.

DESIGN

Regarding the web design it consists of different pages.

First, in each of the pages there is a navigation bar at the top that consists of the page logo and the main menus. If we are not logged in yet, we can see 'Search', 'Sign up' and 'Login' buttons. But if we are logged in, we will see 'Upload', 'Search', 'Logout' and '<username>' buttons.

The first thing that appears when you access the web-app is a search box. If we know the username, we can look for it or put it directly in the address in this way '/user/<username>/'. If the username is not known, we can use the search box to find his name. Thus, we can find our friends or acquaintances without having to know their username, which can be completely arbitrary.

In the sign up section we will have to input our data. Specifically we have to put our name, username, email and password. So, we will be already registered and the web automatically redirected us to the login page so that we can access. To do this, we write our username and password, and the web redirects to our profile page.

In our profile we can see all the pictures that we have uploaded. In addition, a description of each picture and the date on which it was published also appears. All users have the same page.

If we want to upload a picture, we will click on the upload section. The web gives us the option of 'Choose file' so we can choose what picture of our computer we want to upload. Only '.jpg', 'jpeg', '.png' and '.gif' formats are admitted. If you try to upload a file with another extension, a flash message appears warning us that it is not possible to upload. Once we have chosen the image and we have written the description we want, we can click on 'Upload' and the image will be added to our profile. The web then redirects to our site and we can see the photo together with the others.

Finally, if we go to the 'Logout' section, we can leave the web and we will be redirected to the search section.

ENHANCEMENTS

The first feature that I would add to the project would be the option to upload videos. Thus, the user could upload as the same way upload an image. By clicking on the video it would appear full screen, with the possibility of pause and raise or lower the volume.

A new feature that the web might have is a Home section, in which appeared the latest images uploaded by all users. In this way the user would be informed of the latest news upon entering the web.

Another improvement would be the option of liking a picture. In each picture there would be a button, and when you click on it, 'like' count would increase. On the main page the most popular images of the day, week or month may also appear. Similarly, it would be useful to comment on a photo.

Finally, a private messaging system would be an improvement that would make the user experience more satisfying. So, users could communicate between them.

CRITICAL EVALUATION

Overall I think that the web application is pretty good, because the web is functional and has a very attractive and intuitive interface. On the negative side I would say perhaps the lack of content or additional functions (to like a picture, to comment, to upload videos, etc.).

If any aspect of the Web application stand out it is its usability and ease of use. Any user with little computer knowledge can use the website correctly, with satisfactory results.

I think if the improvements mentioned in the previous section shall apply, the web itself would improve enough and would become a very complete and useful web application.

PERSONAL EVALUATION

The realization of this project has allowed me to deepen my knowledge of python, since to date I had not developed any real project using this technology. In the same way I learned about the functioning and virtues of Flask for developing web pages.

Using a database has been very satisfactory. I found it very interesting to learn to manage a user base and how passwords are encrypted so that the administrator of a site cannot obtain them.

Another problem that I have had to face has been HTML. Despite having knowledge, it is never enough, and I had to look for information of some aspects. In addition, it is the first time I worked with Bootstrap, so I also had to investigate.

SUMMARY

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