COSC360 Client side experience documentation

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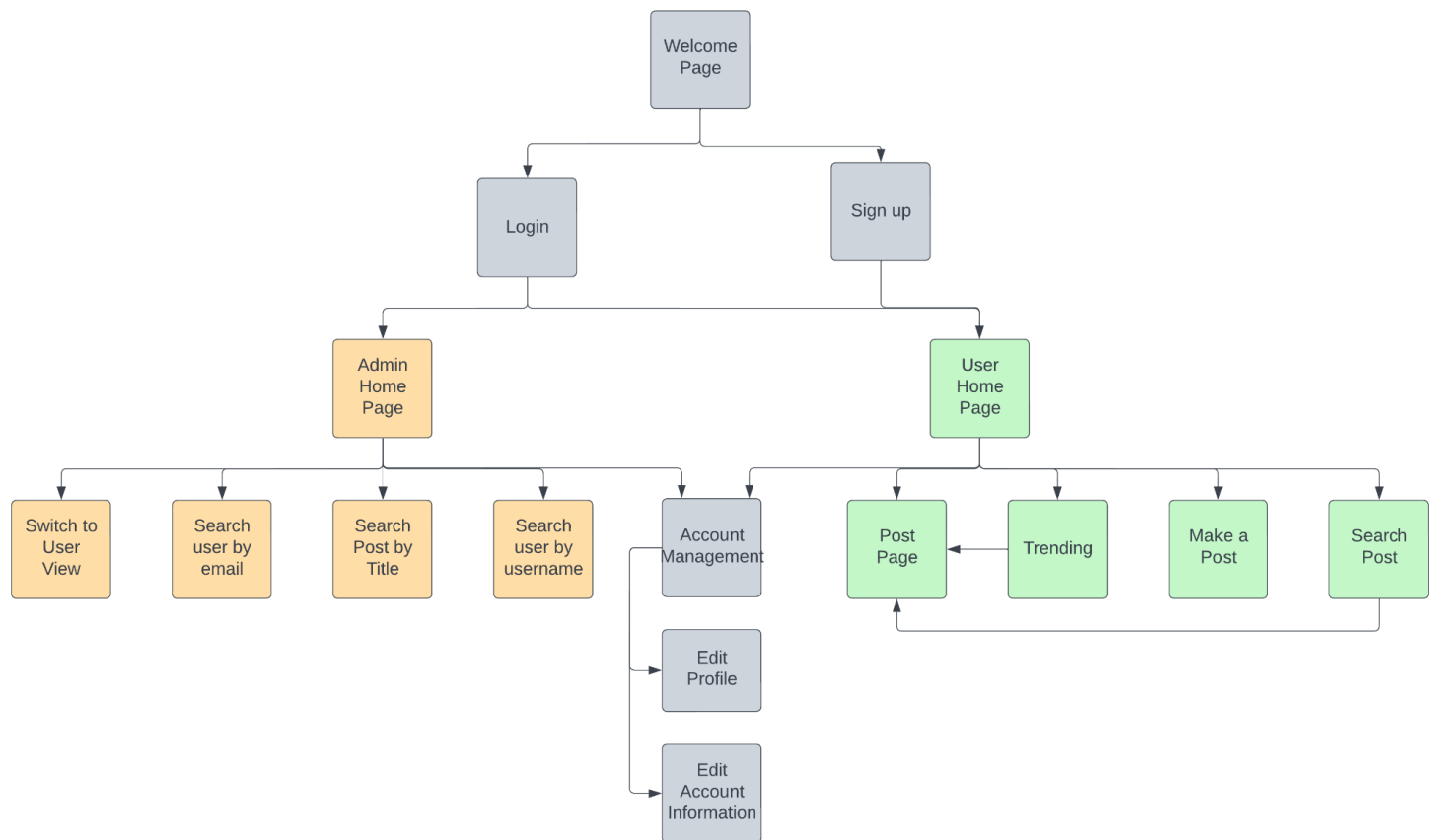
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Github repo: https://github.com/COSC360/project-AhmedAlRubaii.git

Layout Document:

https://www.figma.com/file/3q2VBxb9k5YU34dlZVeFXH/COSC360-project-plan?node-id=1%3A426&t=dXCD2HicPA72zL61-1

Organization of Pages:

Logic process:
For our website project, our blog post idea will follow similar gaming blog websites in terms of design and page flow.

User Experience:
Upon entering the website for the first time, the user is prompted with a choice of 3 options (login if already signed up, signed up if not, and continue as a guest with limited abilities). Selecting to login or sign up will take the user to different webpages with their respective forms. Moreover, we will also program the website to notice if a user was previously logged in so that they are not brought to the login page every time they wish to visit the website.

Upon a successful login or choosing to continue as a guest, they are welcomed with the home page. The home page is a 2 column layout webpage where the left hand side block contains the latest blog post made to the website, and the right hand side contains featured gaming news that contain links to their respective articles and upcoming games that are making buzz in the community which the user could be interested in (they can also be links to the trailers for these games). The top left of the page is reserved for our website logo and the website name, The Gamer's Den. Below the logo will be a masthead that contains links to fundamental features of the website, those being a link to the home page, a link to the trending page, a link that takes the user to a page where they are able to make a post, and a link to the account management page. Above the masthead is a search bar in which the user can search blog posts by their titles, this will also be implemented using MySQL as each blog post made will be stored on the database. Right below the masthead are navigation breadcrumbs which will help users identify which page they are in and how they got there. These elements mentioned will be present in almost every page of our website as they allow for fluid navigation other than using the browser's forward and back buttons.

Admin experience:
As for the admin user experience, they will be welcomed to the same login portal and normal users but will login with their admin credentials that are given to them and generated by the website owners. However, upon successful admin login, they are redirected to the admin home page where they can perform admin-level tasks. These tasks include searching a user by their username, searching a user by their email address and searching a post by its title. Each of these actions will have their own webpage with a dedicated search bar and the results of the search right below. Upon successfully finding a user or a post, they can click on them which will be a link to either the user profile page or the post page respectively. Once they are on said page, they will have specific actions visible only to the admins which would include deleting the post, restricting users and banning users. Admins will also have the capability to view the website as a normal user. Doing so will grant the admin the same capabilities as normal users such as browsing the website, making posts and commenting on other posts, although again, they will have the increased privileges of being able to remove undesirable posts, comments and users from the website.

Discussion of design and styles:

The design implemented in the majority of the website features a 2 column layout. This will create a simplistic and clutter free experience while also having potential to be aesthetically pleasing. Additionally, we will try our best to adhere to the design principles of simplicity, flexibility and control and freedom. Examples where we will be implementing such design principles would be the inclusion of a simple masthead which will provide the user with the freedom to jump around pages however they please, navigation breadcrumbs to ensure that a user is always aware of where they are on the website and that they check the path they used to get to where they are.

When deciding on the style for the website, we opted for a theme that will appeal to the gaming community. We observed that darker colors that evoke a 'cool' feeling and are generally very popular among the gaming community. We picked a color pallet that will feature the following colors:

#0B0C10
#1F2833
#C5C6C7
#66FCF1
#45A29E

Note: Our layout document does not feature the design/styles that will be implemented.

Client-side validation
In order to ensure that our website will run without any errors, we will have multiple checks and verification points from the client side. For the login, there will be server-side verification that the user is indeed registered on the website. This can be done using the MySQL with a simple select query to check if the user's username is indeed in the database. Similarly, the password will also go through the same verification process but will be blanked out when the user is entering it (ie: it will appear as *****) for security purposes.

If the user has not registered yet, they can use the sign-up form to do so. First name, email, username, password and confirm password would be set up as required fields that must be filled out for the user to continue and sign up. There will also be verification done on the user's entered data. For first and last name, they are left open, email will need to be in the format of xxx@xxx.xxx, for simplicity, the date can be a date selection drop-down rather than a text entry field so as the user does not make mistakes and also because it is easier to manage from our side.

We are also thinking of checking if the username entered by the user contains any profanity. This may be implemented by running the entered username by an array of profanity words upon clicking the submit button. For the password, it will also be masked by **** and the confirm password will need to be the same exactly as the string entered in the password field. The profile photo is an optional addition that the user can make by uploading an image from their computer that will be displayed next to their name in their account name when they make a blog post. The bio is also an optional field where the user may enter any sort of interesting information or cool fact about themselves which would also appear below their username when they make a blog post.

Static Design and styles of pages:
Along with items that will be retrieved from the server such as posts, account and user information and other things that may require a database and PHP, there will also be static elements to our webpage. These include the upcoming games and featured news that are to be updated by the admins bi-weekly, the website logo, title and masthead and generally the navigation elements on the top quarter of the webpage.

The Gamers' Den + Logo

Search post

Home   Trending   Make a Post   Account Management

> Home

The footer will also be a static element within our website which will contain links to webpages with specific site information such as the terms and conditions and copyright notice. Note that these webpages will also be static. Furthermore, along with the proposed color pallet chosen, we will try to incorporate some RGB animation elements as highlights in certain locations around the page. These highlights will be animations that cycle through all the colors of the RGB spectrum; we are thinking of incorporating these as they appeal to the gamer audience and community in general.

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