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COSC 360 - Project Proposal

Project Description

BlogAlert! is a public website that allows users to spontaneously post blogs when they are alerted. Based off of the trending app “BeReal”, our website allows registered users to post blogs, add their friends, and leave quick-comments, all in the moment of exactly what they are doing or feeling. BlogAlert! also contains a *boost* function, which allows users to “like” their favorite blog posts of the day. The highest rated blog posts will be featured on the Now Trending page, which will ideally be a separate page on the navigation bar. The account function will allow for personalization, as users will be able to add a profile photo, short bio description, and a link to their favorite social media account. Unregistered users can view the Now Trending page which contains the most boosted blogs of that day. Once they create an account, users will be able to search and follow their friends who also have an account. The blog posts from the accounts that the user follows will be pushed to the top of their feed, allowing them to view their friends' posts first, followed by global posts in a random order.

Requirements List

To successfully have a functional website, we must have the following:

- A responsive design that follows closely the design principles discussed in class.
- Pages should follow a 2 or 3 column layout to adhere to design heuristics.
- The site should dynamically change in regards to the actions performed by users. For example, if a blog post is posted, the dashboard should be updated. Additionally, users should always be able to tell where they are on the website with ease, such as, if they are on the dashboard or on the trending page.
- The server-side scripting will be performed with PHP
- The user’s state must be constant. For example, once logged on, they must remain so until logged out.
- The site should perform form validation through JavaScript
- The site should be able to execute asynchronous updates.
- Discussion posts within the blog should be displayed effectively and perform grouping. Grouping will operate through *friends* posts appearing first compared to general *users* posts.
- User information, including profile photos, preferences, and previous posts should be stored in a database, handled by MySQL.
- The data must be stored securely.
- The website should be able to perform error handling. For example if a user performs an invalid request, there should be an appropriate message.
- The administrator of the site should be able to successfully edit the visible posts on the site in case of inappropriate content.

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End Deliverables

- A user registration function that permits users to sign up for the site. The registration process asks and stores a name, email, username and password per user.
- A *Now Trending* Page that displays upon opening the site, accessible by both registered and unregistered users.
- A *Feed* Page that displays all blog posts that have been posted, with *friends* displayed at the top, followed by general blog posts. The *Feed* page will only be visible to registered users. Unregistered users will be prompted to create an account or log in upon clicking this page.
- A *Profile* Page that displays the users past blog posts, profile picture, bio and social media link.
- A functionality to allow users to follow other users, essentially adding them to their list of *friends*
- A *Settings* Page that allows users to personalize their profile by adding a profile picture, bio and link to their social media account. This page will also contain a help function and contact administration function.
- Administrative functionality that allows for the deletion of an inappropriate blog post and the ability to view user data.