Title:
Online News Forum

Summary:
Our team will design and implement an online forum aimed to provide a platform for users to make comments on the latest trending news and give polls. Users are welcomed to post any opinions towards any latest trending news, such as political news or sports news.

Description:
We look forward to creating an online forum. Different kinds of news such as social news and sports news which are controversial and cause big conflicts will be presented on the forum. Users can anonymously make comments on news and give polls. Most of the news websites such as Yahoo do not provide functionalities of anonymous commenting and forums like quora cannot create polls. So we focus on making a union of regular news websites and forums. Users can comment whatever ways they are willing to since anonymity and the trend of public opinions can be easily presented and analyzed by our website.

Usefulness:
The application we plan to design is useful because it provides people with a platform to speak out their opinions towards any trending topics. The process is simple: users can search any recent news from this application by typing in keywords in the search box, and can leave any comments they want, either anonymously or not, in the comment section under it. Indeed, there are existing websites having functions like this, such as reddit. However, there are differences between our application and these websites. First, our application collects existing news from outer news websites such as Yahoo, and all the comments are towards these existing news. Second, our application welcomes any comments towards any existing news, and users can feel free to post their comments because registration is not mandatory. Third, besides the commenting function, the application also has a "creating polls" function, which allows users to give their attitude in a more clear and simple way, because sometimes users do not want to spend time writing comments, so this will be more time consuming.

Realness:
The database generally stores information about social events happening in the recent one week which lead to hot discussion, but it will also keep news that cause significant social impact or reflection, like the murder of Geogre Floyde. The data is mainly from yahoo news. Specifically, we will write a python crawler or use tools like webz.io to extract news legally.

Functionality:

1) Data format: Currently we plan to store 3 relations, News, User, Comment. In detail, News has attributes like NewsID, Title, (post) Date, commentID, polls, etc. Users have UserID,

commentID, Username, etc. Comment has <u>commentID</u>, Content(text), (post) Date, UserID, Upvote, Downvote, etc. We'll give more specific ER/UML diagram later.

2) Basic functions:
   a. News presentation:
      News will be presented on our main page. Users can search for News as well. Most of the news will be presented in no more than 1 week.
   b. Login:
      Users are able to login to our website with Google, Facebook, Twitter.
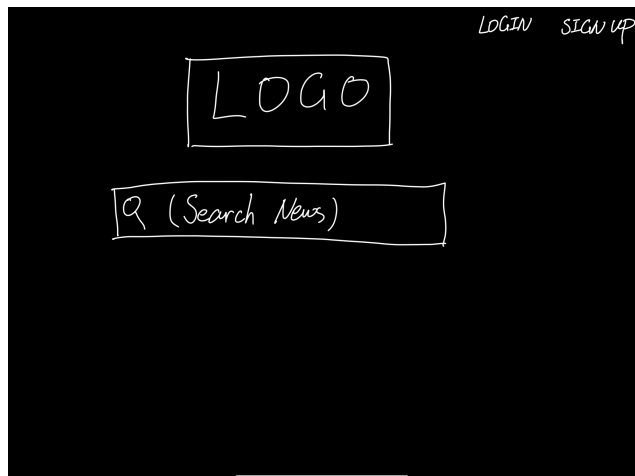   c. Comment:
      Users can comment on the news anonymously. A comment can be either liked or disliked.

3) Creative component:
      Poll:
      Users can make polls on news. The title and options of polling will be decided by the 1st 100 users.

UI:

All

Result 1 =>

Result 2 =>

Result 3 =>

⋮

Result n =>

Sorted by ↓

⊙ Recent

⊙ most comment

← Back

News Content

Comment here...

⊙ Anonymously

⊙ Poll

---

1 2 3 4 5

⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙

□ SUBMIT

⋮

Display Result

Date Manipulation:
We decide to use the api provided by New York Times to retrieve daily news. Specifically we can get the desired api through the link: https://developer.nytimes.com/apis. By using this api, we can get the most popular articles on NYTimes, which will serve as the source for the news on our application. In order to use this api, we can embed the following call in our code: https://api.nytimes.com/svc/mostpopular/v2/viewed/1.json?api-key=yourkey. Thereafter, we can use GET method to retrieve an array of the most viewed articles on NYTimes for specified period of time, which give us access to those news during programming.

CRUD:
Create: Users can create their accounts and can write new comments in the comment section of each news.
Read: Users can query and read about the latest news and relevant comments.
Update: Users can update his/her name and profile manually. News will be updated and statistics for each user will be generated daily.
Delete: Users can delete their account and any comment they post.

Work distribution:
Our team distributes the work of the project based on each member's preferences and technical experiences. We plan to meet weekly on zoom to maintain normal pace of project progress, including discussing the current task to do, handling any difficulties met by any team member, and determining what to do in the next stage. The detailed work distribution is elaborated as follow:

Minjun Gao: Designing the comment section, including the related frontend interface design

Suwen Wang: Implement the login functionality of the application, as well as some related frontend interface design

Enxu Han: Backend Implement poll features.

Chenxu Liu: Backend design for User relation, implement frontend interface.