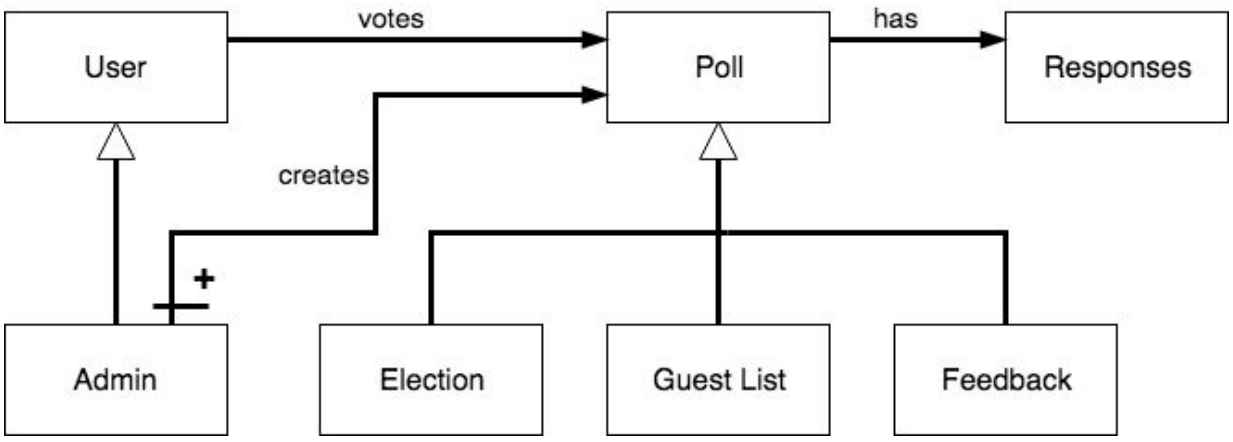
MIT Dorm Polling Website

The website serves to modernize MIT Dorm student government polling onto an easy-to-access and easy-to-use platform. Specifically, this would involve users logging in using MIT OpenID, having access to all current polls, and able to vote in each one. From an administrator point of view, the website must have a page to create a poll which will generate the poll webpages and correctly show specific polls to specific users based on what floor the live on the dorm. Since this website should be usable by any MIT Dorm, the goal is to create a website that is scalable, modular, and easy to maintain by multiple people.

Why this matters?

This project hopes to standardize polling across MIT Dorms and provide a polling platform to any dorm that does not already have it. Polling, in general, matters to dorms for multiple reasons. Dorm student exec is voted on by a dorms residents, Floor representatives are voted on by a floor's residents. Students can modify their guest lists through a voting poll. Dorm governments can also release feedback forms for students to fill out on this polling platform. The project will allow all of these functionalities on one website.

How will it work?



We will have users that are students that can log in with their kerberos / Open Id who can use the web interface to cast their votes. MIT Open ID will be able to handle unique log-ins for us.

We will have admins who are the people running the elections who can create polls and view the results of the polls. They are special users who have been given access to these functions.

We will have polls of various types: Election, Guest List, and Feedback. The polls will be created by admins using an on-website poll creation tool. Poll responses will be stored into an MIT MySQL database.

Why is this not trivial?

Any polling website is non-trivial due to the somewhat high requirement of security and fault tolerance. For any poll, there cannot be any election fraud, that is no one person can put in two votes. A user may be able to edit their vote, but that will be extra functionality later on.

Another interesting part of this project is how polls are currently self-generated from an input file. Any parsing transformation from one object to another is inherently a complicated action. Converting all this into a design that makes sense and still meets the basic functionalities from before will be an interesting task.

Finally, the website is intended to be able to be used by any MIT Dorm. This enables us to make some core assumptions (MIT MySQL and MIT OpenID), while needing to avoid pretty much any other assumption. We will need to gather feedback and requirements from various Dorm Governments to figure out what base functionalities are needed for the website.