**OSS Project**

**Expertiza: Enhancements to Suggest and Improve**

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**When notifications/emails are sent?**

1. When a suggestion is made anonymously, no notification and comments will be sent to the suggestor through email.
2. When an anonymous suggestion is made, an instructor can comment, approve, reject, defer and edit the suggestion but cannot send it back to the suggestor for review.
3. When the suggestion is not anonymous, an instructor can comment, approve, reject, defer and edit, and send it back to the student for review. All these events have notification through email to the student. An email is also generated and sent to the instructor when the student edits and sends back the suggestion to the instructor for further action.

**Sorting while viewing suggestions for instructor:**

1. An instructor can sort the all suggestions listed by status, suggestor or date updated(in both ascending or descending order).
2. He can also view suggestions only by a particular suggestor(unityID), or suggestions only in a particular status(Initiated, deferred, approved or rejected).
3. He can also see all suggestions by a particular suggestor which is in a particular status.

**Actions:**

1. **View:** In the view page, an instructor can edit the suggestion, approve, reject or defer the suggestion. When the suggestion is deferred, he can approve or reject only after he initiates the suggestion again.

When an instructor clicks the edit suggestion button, he can make changes to the suggestion. If he wants this edited suggestion to be sent back to the student for further review, he has to click on “send back to student” button. The same button is available to the student as well. Using this button, any edited suggestion can be sent back and forth between student and instructor. This works only for non-anonymous suggestions.

If the suggestion is an anonymous suggestion, the instructor can just comment, approve, reject or defer or edit the suggestion but cannot send back to the student for review.

1. **Activity Log:** This log gives a list of all activity taking place on a given suggestion. When the suggestion is approved, rejected, deferred or initiated an entry can be seen in this log. An entry is also seen when a comment is made by the instructor.

Every time the suggestion is sent back and forth by the student or instructor, an entry is seen in this log. This log gives the history of all activity taking place on a suggestion. It keeps track of all the changes made to the description and title when the above events occur.

**New status for suggestions: Deferred**

Currently the instructor can only approve or reject a suggestion made by a student. A new status called deferred has been added for a suggestion. When the instructor would like to keep the topic for future approval, he can click on the deferred button to defer the approval or rejection. The suggestion goes into a deferred state and the student or instructor will not be able to edit the suggestion or send it back and forth. If an instructor decides to initiate the suggestion again, he can click on the initiate suggestion button after which all actions such as approve, reject, comment and send back for review are available.

**Signup Sheet Description:**

The description for a topic created by an instructor or an approved suggestion by a student is viewable from the signup sheet; one should click on a link for each topic to show the description, in the same way that one can currently click on a rubric question to show advice.  All topics on the signup sheet, not just student-initiated topics, have a description.

**Deadline to switch topics:**

When an instructor creates a new assignment, he can and has to give a deadline to switch topics. The rules to switch topics are as follows:

1. If the deadline to switch topics has not passed, a student can freely switch topics or drop topics as many times as they want.
2. If the deadline to switch topics has passed, a student who can drop the topic. If he wants to sign up for a topic again, he can only sign up for the topic he/she dropped after the switch deadline provided slots are still available. This is to accommodate the scenario where the student has an option of taking part in multiple assignments but is not required to take part in all assignments.
3. If a student tries to drop a topic after the switch deadline and tries to sign up for another topic, the student will not be allowed to do so.
4. If a student has never signed up, he can still sign up for any topic provided slots are available.

**Database Changes:**

1. Added new methods written in controllers to the permission “public pages –view”. This allows students to access the new features.
2. Created new table **audit\_trails** that stores the history of all activity of suggestions.
3. Added description column in the existing table **sign\_up\_topics**. This allows instructor to add description when he creates a new signup topic.
4. Created a new table **switch\_topics** that stores information about what topics were dropped by whom after the switch topic deadline.
5. Added column control into **suggestion** table. If control is 1, instructor has permission to edit suggestion and send back to student. If it is 0, the student has control.