**OSS Project**

**Expertiza: Enhancements to Suggest and Improve**

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**What we have done as part of this project**

1. After an instructor comments on a topic suggestion made by a student, an email is generated and sent to the informing that the instructor has commented on the student’s suggestion. This is true for a non- anonymous suggestion
2. A student and/or instructor can edit the suggestion made by the student. If it’s a anonymous suggestion only a instructor/TA can edit it but obviously cannot send back to the suggestor.
3. These things can be passed back and forth and notifications are sent accordingly, ie when a suggestion is sent/updated by a student, an instructor gets a notification and when an instructor edits and sends back the suggestion to student, notification is sent to student. . This is true for a non- anonymous suggestion.
4. Audit trail is created in the form of audit log, recording when(time) and what changes(changes to text-like description and title) were made to the suggestion’s by either a student or an instructor/TA.
5. Instructor can mark the suggestion as deferred, i.e it is not going to be approved now, but might be approved at a later stage in the course. True for non- anonymous and anonymous suggestion
6. Sort the suggestion list based on the **suggestor**, **status**( Approved, Defered, Initiated or Rejected) and **updated date.**
7. Whenever a topic suggestion made by the student is approved, the description for that topic appears in the signup sheet. Also, when an instructor creates a new topic for an assignment, he can add the description to it and it shows up in the sign-up sheet page for the students.
8. When an instructor creates a new assignment, he has to specify the deadline to switch topic. If this deadline date has passed, then a student will not be able to switch topics.

**How to see the features you have added**

**To see the above points implemented, follow the below steps accordingly**

1. Log in as an instructor, select manage- assignment, click on view suggestions. Select a particular suggestion to be viewed by clicking on **View link**. Now in the comments text area, add some comments and click on submit vote. This will automatically send an email to the suggestor student, saying a comment has been made.
2. In the same page, there is an **edit suggestion** button, using which an instructor can edit the suggestion and save it. The same operation can be performed by a student when he clicks on “**view my suggestion**” link in the assignment tab of student page( Log in as student for this)
3. When an instructor clicks on “**send back to student**” button that is present next to edit button, then automatically an email will be sent to the student after which he can log into Expertiza, click on view my suggestions and he will be able to see the edited suggestion. He can then click on edit suggestion button, to further edit it. After this if he clicks on “**send back to instructor**” button, the edited suggestion goes back again to the instruction for further action. This sending back and forth action can take place multiple times. Now if the instructor clicks on “Approved” button, the suggestion gets approved and shows up for all students in the sign-up topics list. If he clicks on “rejected”, the suggestion just gets rejected.
4. If the instructor wants to view the activity log- A report for a particular suggestion with detail information about all the edits made to a suggestion by student and instructor, comments made along with date, status and Unity Id for all these suggestions. This can be viewed by first, selecting - manage- assignment, click on view suggestions. Select a particular suggestion to be viewed by clicking on **Activity log**  button next to each topic inside an assignment.
5. The instructor can also mark the suggestion deferred by pressing the deferred button next to reject button. First go to manage assignments, select an assignment, select a topic then you will see deferred button.
6. The instructor can sort the suggestions based on status, suggestor or date, by selecting from the drop down list. First go to manage assignments, select an assignment and then view suggestions and then the sort drop down shows up.
7. To see the description for an approved topic, any student can log into Expertiza, click on assignments tob, select a assignment and then click on sign up topics. This wil show up a list of topic names for that assignment. Click on the topic name to see the description for that topic
8. To create an assignment, log in as admin/ instructor click on create public assignment. While filling up this sheet for creating a new assignment, give a switch topic deadline. When the student opens his sign up topic sheet, if he tries to switch topics after the switch topic deadline mentioned by the instructor then he will not be allowed to do so

***Detail explanation of the project***

**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.