6.170 Project 3: Crowd-approved Comments
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nQoot: http://nqoot.francis.ph

Design Analysis

Key design challenges

- One of the first design challenges for this project is to define what a crowd-approved comment system is. There are a lot of variety in existence right now. Many of them vary by features or provide entirely different systems. For example, Quora's approach is different than that of reddit although the idea of crowd-approved comment system is similar. In this project, the challenge is which approach to take or whether to implement and entirely new one.
- Another design issue that comes up is the security, i.e. how do we ensure the integrity of the users that use the system? That is, if unverified users start saturating the system, it defeats the purpose of a knowledge based platform as this system requires the integrity of all questions and answers (or posts and comments). To identify how to verify the credibility of the users is another design challenge.
- To get more specific to the features, another design challenge is the answering and voting features. We need to answer the questions, should the users be able to answer their own questions? Should they be able to vote their own answers? How many times should they be able to vote on a specific answer?

Key design decisions

- This system implements a Quora-like knowledge based platform where users add questions and answer existing ones. Users can vote on existing answers to questions. The primary motivation of this approach is to have a simple knowledge base system where all posts are classified as questions and comments as answers to these questions. This makes it easy and simple to classify things both in the backend as well as in the user interface.
- When it comes to security and ensuring the credibility of all registered users, it is hard to find a single foolproof verification method. Many different systems implement different approaches. One simple way that this system decided to

take is to use Facebook accounts to login. While using Facebook accounts does not totally ensure the credibility of the logging user, it at least increases our confidence that the user is who they say they are given current Facebook's approach of ensuring the integrity of their registered users.

- The system will allow users to answer their own questions. While they might not be specific answers to their questions, it can be follow up comments to existing answers. However, users may not vote for their own answers.