

A Q&A platform for questions arised from technical documents

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1 Problem

One problem with current online Q&A platforms is that they are inconvenient for questions arised from some technical documents(e.g. research paper). For example, a researcher has a question about a particular point in a research paper, or a college student has trouble understanding a formula in a textbook.

When a such a question arises, in order to use existing online Q&A platforms the user needs to bring the question out of the context in which it is arised and reformulate it. During this process, the question becomes less precise, and its relation to the rest of the document is lost.

2 Solution

For professional researchers, we propose a platform to faciliate technical discussion based on the content of some published paper. The user will need to own a legal copy of the paper first, and upload it to our platform. Then, the user can then access to the paper, make highlight of the difficult point, and post question related to the highlighted area right next to the paper. The other users owing the same document will be able to see and respond to the posts.

3 Commercial Value and Business Models

1. Our platform for professional researchers could at the same time be a smart document manager and a search engine for highly specialized content. We can let the users use the basic features for free and pay for more advanced features

2. We can also pivot our platform to one that is more suitable for students who want to ask questions arised from their textbooks. In order to use our platform, a student needs to purchase e-textbooks directly from our portal. Then, we can charge textbook publishers per book purchased through our platform.