## **ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM**

#### A PROJECT REPORT

Submitted by

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in partial fulfillment for the award of the degree

of

## **BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY**

IN

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Under the guidance of

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## **CERTIFICATE**

It is certified that the work contained in the project report titled "Online Discussion Forum," by "M.Durga rao (B101013), N.Jagadeesh (B1010195), B.Naresh Kumar (B101253)," has been carried out under our supervision and that this work has not been submitted elsewhere for a degree.

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We declare that this written submission represents our ideas in our own words and where

others' ideas or words have been included, we have adequately cited and referenced the

original sources. We also declare that we have adhered to all principles of academic

honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated or falsified any

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## **Abstract**

In this present scenario nobody wants to take risk at any moment. For this reason there are so many new technical fields came into the picture in order to satisfy the requirements of the users which intensely lead to become one of the fast growing education community where students want to share and discuss information with others from all over the world and gain knowledge.

Like giving wings to thoughts here we provide information while discussing about the given topic by the user on the Internet. Any person can post his thoughts regarding any topic related to the technical issues, here we allow the people who are specialized in particular field and their ideas and views related to the topic that's to be discussed, we will develop it by using web technologies. We use Bootstrap. PHP and MySQL to build the required website such that it can run on different web browsers.

This forum is useful for the beginners to get information related to various topics. There is a centralized database in which all the information can be managed. This discussion forum utilizes various resources from the internet. This forum promote student collaboration and knowledge building, creates the positive learning environment, builds community and even develops the writing skills of the individuals.

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## Certificate

## **Declaration**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1 Introduction

In this present scenario people are searching for alternatives in order to not to waste the time. If they need any information about the topic, they will simply access the internet and retrieve the information. For those kind of people we are developing this site. In this forum we provide any information regarding any topic. We can even post the questions that are relevant to the trending issues in technology and discussions made to grab the correct information for the people and made it available.

#### 1.2 Motivation

The root cause that raises us to start this project is, our real time experience with the web sites that are encourages to start discussions about certain issues. While searching for the real times solutions that arises while using technical languages and devices. I made to expose to the disappointment and even had to wait for the days to know solution to my problem. So, we are motivated from this situations and had to start this project. This is useful for a small office, school or a department or for that matter any group who is interested to organize it effectively.

## 1.3 Functional components of the project

Following is a list of functionality of the system. More functionality that you find appropriate can be added to this list. And, in places where the description of functionality is not adequate, you can make appropriate assumptions and proceed.

## 1.3.1 Users of the system:

Following are the requirements, which can be used to derive functional components:

- Users need to register.
- Facility to post topics for the discussion.
- Facility to view the articles by topics

- User can view the previous discussion taken place on that day.
- Rate the articles.
- Administrator has privilege to edit user's profile

#### 1.4. Problem Statement

Online Discussion forum is a web site which acts as resource collector and made to provide us optimum solutions for our technical queries. This website is developed by using the Bootstrap, PHP and backend using MySQL. This website can run in any web browser irrespective to the operating system.

#### 1.4.1 Solutions

If we consider Online Discussion Forum as the solution. This could be a tool for building qualitative and effective collaboration among the individuals. Online Discussion Forum must be effective, easily usable, offer persistent storage for the information flows exchanged by the individuals to provide an environment that fosters regular, documented and fruitful communication.

## 1.4.2 Challenges

There are many Discussion Forums available in internet as part of e-learning but we haven't come across a situation where we would see all the different categories are available for discussion. It's very hard to find pure discussion forums on various topics.

#### 1.4.3 Contribution

This is a website which is merely concerned for technical discussion of various programming topics. This website is developed using bootstrap, php and MySQL. This can be operated in any platform which supports web browser.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

## 2.1 Bootstrap

Bootstrap is a free collection of tools for creating websites and web applications. It contains HTML and CSS-based design templates for typography, forms, buttons, navigation and other interface components, as well as optional JavaScript extensions.

#### Structure and function

The developer chooses on a form the desired components and adjusts, if necessary, the values of various options to their needs. The subsequently generated package already includes the pre-built CSS style sheet. Grid system and responsive design comes standard with a 1170 pixel wide, grid layout. Alternatively, the developer can use a variable -width layout. For both cases, the toolkit has four variations to make use of different resolutions and types of devices: mobile phones, portrait and landscape, tablets and PCs with low and high resolution. Each variation adjusts the width of the columns.

#### **2.2 Html**

Hypertext Markup Language, the languages of the world wide web), allows users to produces web pages that included text, graphics and pointer to other web pages (Hyperlinks).HTML is not a programming language but it is an application of ISO Standard 8879, SGML(Standard Generalized Markup Language),but Specialized to hypertext and adapted to the Web. The idea behind Hypertext one point to another point. We can navigate through the information based on out interest and preference. A markup language is simply a series of items enclosed within the elements should be displayed. Hyperlinks are underlined or emphasized works that load to other documents or some portions of the same document.

Html can be used to display any type of document on the host computer, which can be geographically at a different location. It is a versatile language and can be used on any platform or desktop.HTML provides tags (special codes) to make the document look attractive.HTML provides are not case-sensitive. Using graphics, fonts, different sizes, color, etc. can enhance the presentation of the document. Anything that is not a tag is part of the document itself.

## The CSS style sheet:

Bootstrap provides a set of style sheets that provide basic style definitions for all key HTML components. These provide a uniform, modern appearance for formatting text, tables and form elements.

## **Re-usable components:**

In addition to the regular HTML elements, Bootstrap contains other commonly used interface elements. These include buttons with advanced features (e.g. grouping of buttons or buttons with drop-down option, make and navigation lists, horizontal and vertical tabs, navigation, breadcrumb navigation, pagination, etc.), labels, advanced typographic capabilities, thumbnails, warning messages and a progress bar.

## **JavaScript components**

Bootstrap comes with several JavaScript components in the form of jquery plugins. They provide additional user interface elements such as dialog boxes, tooltips, and carousels. They also extend the functionality of some existing interface elements, including for example an autocomplete function for input fields.

#### Use:

To use Bootstrap in an HTML page, the developer downloads the Bootstrap CSS style sheet and includes a link in the HTML file.(The developer can also compile the CSS file from the downloaded LESS or SASS style sheets, with a special compiler. If the developer wants to use the JavaScript components, they must be reference along with the jQuery library in the HTML document.

## 2.3 MySQL

In this project, MySQL is used as the backend database. MySQL is an open source database management system. The features of MySQL are given below:

MySQL is a relational database management system. A relational database stores information in different tables, rather than in one giant table. These tables can be referenced to each other, to access and maintain data easily. MySQL is open source database system. The database software can be used and modify by anyone according to their needs.

It is fast, reliable and easy to use. To improve the performance, MySQL is multithreaded database engine. A multithreaded application performs many tasks at the same time as if multiple instances

of that application were running simultaneously. MYSQL allows multiple clients to use the same database concurrently. As such, it needs to control concurrent access to shared data, to ensure data integrity— when multiple clients update the same data, or clients attempt to read data that is in the process of being changed by another client.

## 2.4 Existing System

In general people share their ideas, queries and answers from their colleagues or friends through the intercom or direct manner. They need to spend time for their work.

#### 2.4.1 Drawbacks

Some of the drawbacks are:

- 1. Details are enquired through phone.
- 2. It consumes more time
- 3. They don't get proper answers.

## 2.5 Proposed System

It is difficult to note down all the problems manually. Instead it is decided to develop an **online discussion forum** to ease the operation.

A system is required which is being capable of elimination all the problems and become useful to users and thus the new system is derived. Here we get a different view from different users.

#### 2.5.1 Benefits

- Interaction will be easier.
- Enable a user to view questions and their corresponding answers
- Users articles can be viewed by others
- Less time consuming.
- Enable logged in user to upvote or downvote answers.

## SYSTEM REQUIREMENT SPECIFICATION

This developed web application follows the steps of Software Development Life Cycle. Under which the SRS model was developed for the system is as listed below.

The SRS Model Contains

- Functional Requirements
- Non-Functional Requirements

## 3.1 Functional Requirements

The functional Requirements part discuss the functional behavior that should be processed by the system. Each requirements maps to a high level function that transforms the given set of input data into output data.

Different functional requirements processed by the system are

#### Home

It should show the homepage of the website whenever user access the website by using the website address. Through keeping the Home as active page when website has accessed.

#### Registration

It allows users to create account in the website by providing his personal details like full name, e-mail, password, country etc.

#### Login

In order to login into the website every user after registration, users should enter their credentials like e-mail and password. After successful login into the website users can start the discussions.

#### **Profile**

Profile page is able to make differentiation for users to identify his own profile by listing his own activities and details.

#### **Post Query**

Only registered users can post their questions and initiate the discussion. Users can answer the questions which will get the votes and feed from the users.

#### 3.1.1 Administrator

Administrator maintains the central database which possess the details like users personal information, registered ids, passwords. Administrator can view the answers submitted by the users and grant the permission to be displayed on screen. Administrator can provide the details if the registered user forgotten his user id and password. Administrator will display the most trending topics for the discussion. Administrator has the right to display the newsfeed, comments and voting for the discussion.

## 3.2 Non Functional Requirements

#### Performance

The system must be interactive and the delays involved must be less .So in every action-response of the system, there are no immediate delays. In case of opening windows forms, of popping error messages and saving the settings or sessions there is delay much below 2 seconds, In case of opening databases, sorting questions and evaluation there are no delays and the operation is performed in less than 2 seconds for opening ,sorting, computing, posting > 95% of the files. Also when connecting to the server the delay is based editing on the distance of the 2 systems and the configuration between them so there is high probability that there will be or not a successful connection in less than 20 seconds for sake of good communication.

#### **Safety**

Information transmission should be securely transmitted to server without any changes in information.

#### Reliability

As the system provide the right tools for discussion, problem solving it must be made sure that the system is reliable in its operations and for securing the sensitive details.

## 3.3 Software Quality Attributes

#### **Availability**

If the internet service gets disrupted while sending information to the server, the information can be send again for verification.

#### Reliable

Reliability is the strength of the website against vulnerabilities. This website should run without any out of buffer or overflow flaws.

#### **Security**

The main security concern is for users account hence proper login mechanism should be used to avoid hacking. The tablet id registration is way to spam check for increasing the security. Hence, security is provided from unwanted use of recognition software.

#### **Usability**

As the system is easy to handle and navigates in the most expected way with no delays. In that case the system program reacts accordingly and transverses quickly between its states.

# CHAPTER-4 SYSTEM DESIGN

## **System Design**

Systems design is the process or art of defining the architecture, components, modules, interfaces, and data for a system to satisfy specified requirements. One could see it as the application of systems theory to product development. There is some overlap and synergy with the disciplines of systems analysis, systems architecture and systems engineering.

## 4.1 Use case Diagrams

Use case Diagrams represent the functionality of the system from a user's point of view. Use cases are used during requirements elicitation and analysis to represent the functionality of the system. Use cases focus on the behavior of the system from external point of view. Actors are external entities that interact with the system. Examples of actors include users like administrator, bank customer ...etc., or another system like central database.

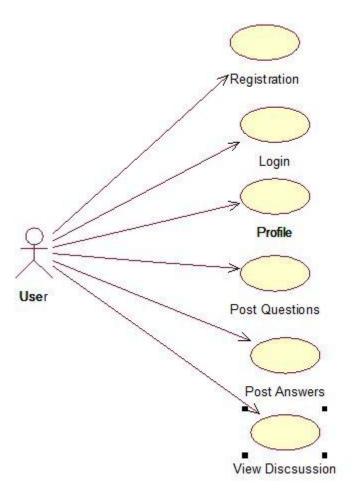


Fig.1 User use case diagram

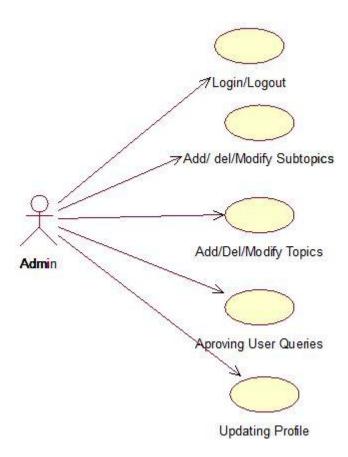


Fig.2 Administrator use case diagram

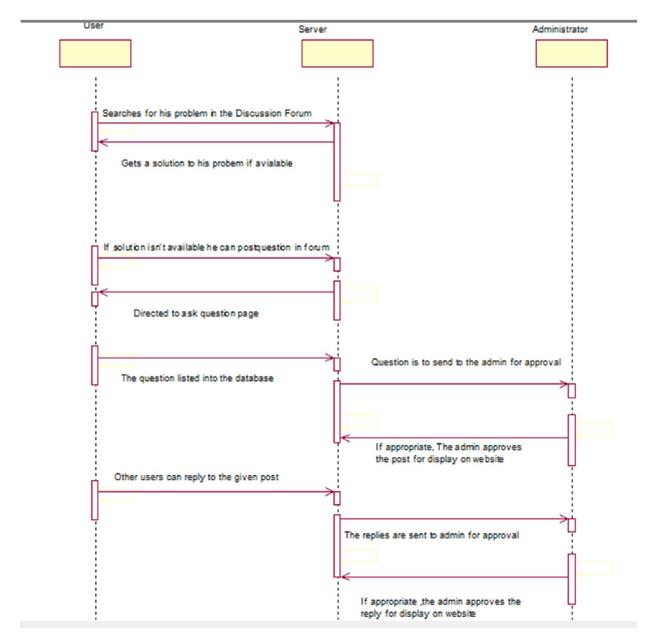


Fig.3 Sequence diagram for discussion forum

## **4.2 Sequence Diagrams**

A sequence diagram is an interaction diagram. From the name it is clear that the diagram deals with some sequences, which are the sequence of messages flowing from one object to another. Interaction among the components of a system is very important from implementation and execution perspective. So Sequence diagram is used to visualize the sequence of calls in a system to perform a specific functionality.

## **Class Diagram**

The class diagram is divided into four parts.

- The top section is used to name the class.
- The second one is used to show the attributes of the class.
- The third section is used to describe the operations performed by the class
- The fourth section is optional to show any additional components.

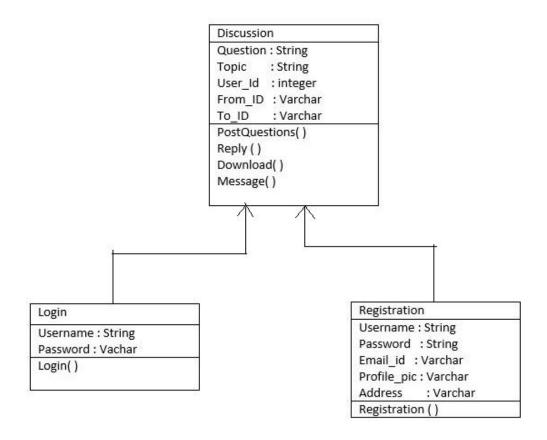


Fig.4 Class Diagram for Discussion

## **CODING AND RESULTS**

## 5.1 Database Design:

A Database is a collection of interrelated data stored with a minimum of redundancy to serve many applications. The database design is used to group data into a number of tables and minimizes the artificiality embedded in using separate files. The tables are organized to:

Reduced duplication of data.

- Simplify functions like adding, deleting, modifying data etc..,
- Retrieving data
- Clarity and ease of use
- More information at low cost

## **5.2 Database Structure:**

User	
User ID	integer(11)PRIMARY KEY
Country	varchar(50)
State	varchar(50)
Address	varchar(500)
UserType	varchar(50)
USername	varchar(50)
fullname	varchar(50)
password	varchar(50)
user_acc_active	tinyint(1)
email	varchar(100)
gender	varchar(20)
uimg	varchar(255)
isuser	tinyint(1)

**User Registration Table** 

Question	
Question ID	integer(11)PRIMARY KEY
heading	varchar(50)
Question_Detail	varchar(2000)
DateTime	timestamp
UserID	integer(11)
Subtopic_ID	integer(11)
Views	integer(11)

## **User Questions Table**

Answer	
Answer ID	integer(11)PRIMARY KEY
Replied	integer(11)
Question ID	varchar(50)
Answer Detail	varchar(2000)
DateTime	timestamp
UserID	integer(11)
Like	integer(20)
	- , ,

## **User Answers Table**

Topic	
Topic ID	integer(11)PRIMARY KEY
Topic Name	varchar(50)
Topic Type	varchar(50)

## **Topic Table**

Sub Topic	
SubTopic ID	integer(11)PRIMARY KEY
SubTopic Name	varchar(50)
SubTopic_Description	varchar(500)
S_Status	varchar(20)
Topic_ID	integer(11)

## **SubTopic Table**

ChatMaster	
ChatID	integer(11)PRIMARY KEY
User_ID_from	integer(11)
User_ID_to	integer(11)

#### **Chatmaster Table**

## **Coding:**

```
For Updating User Details:
```

```
<?php session start();</pre>
              require("header.php");
              require("checkUser.php");
?>
<?php
$ima = $ FILES['ima']['name'];
$imup=$ FILES['ima']['tmp name'];
$path="ups/$ima";
move uploaded file($imup, $path);
       if ($ima == "")
       {
              $sql = "UPDATE user SET username = "".$_POST['un']."", fullname =
".$ POST['fn'].",password=".$ POST['pwd']."',e mail=".$ POST['e mail']."',gender=
"".$_POST['gender']."", dob = "".$_POST['dob']."",address = "".$_POST['add']."",state =
".\$_POST['sta']."",country = "".\$_POST['cou']."" WHERE user_id =\$_SESSION[uid]";
       }
       else
       {
              $sql = "UPDATE user SET username = "".$_POST['un']."", fullname =
"...$ POST['fn']."',password=""..$ POST['pwd']."',e mail=""..$ POST['e mail']."',gender=
"".$ POST['gender']."", dob = "".$_POST['dob']."",uimg = "".$path."',address =
```

```
"".$_POST['add']."",state = "".$_POST['sta']."",country = "".$_POST['cou']."" WHERE user_id
=$ SESSION[uid]";
       }
$result=ExecuteNonQuery($sql);
if(\$result == 1)
{
       header("location:upupdate.php");
       }
       else
      header("location:uedit.php");
       }
?>
<?php require("footer.php")?>
For User Home Page:
       <h4><a href="que.php">Questions</a> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;
<a href="ans.php">My Answers </a></h4>
<?php
       $sql="select * from question,user where question.user id=user.user id ORDER BY
datetime desc limit 0,5";
       $result=ExecuteQuery($sql);
       while($row = mysql fetch array($result))
       {
                    echo "<div class='panel panel-default'>";
                    echo "<div class='panel body'> ";
                             "<div
                                      class='well
                                                    well-sm'><span
                                                                       class='head'><b><a
                    echo
href='questionview.php?qid=$row[question id]' >$row[heading] </b></a></span></div>";
                    echo "";
```

```
echo "<img src='$row[uimg]' alt="
class='uimg' height='100' width='100'/><br/>
                 $row[fullname]
                 $row[question detail]<br/><br/>
$row[datetime] < br/> < br/>  ";
                 echo "</span><div class='h10'></div>";
                 echo "</div>";
                 echo "</div>";
           }
?>
Searching For User:
<?php
if (isset($ POST['utos']))
{
$uto=$ POST['utos'];
$sql="SELECT * FROM user WHERE fullname LIKE '$uto%'";
$rows=ExecuteQuery($sql);
if (mysql num rows(srows) > 0)
{
     echo "";
     while ($row = mysql fetch array($rows))
      {
           echo "";
           echo "<img src='$row[uimg]' alt=" style='height:100px;
width:100px;'/>";
           echo "<a href=message.php?id=$row[user id] style='font-
weight:bold;'>$row[fullname]</a> <br/>'';
           echo ($row['gender'] == 1 ? "Male" : "Female")."<br/>";
           echo $row['country'];
```

```
echo "<a href=message.php?id=$row[user id] style='font-weight:bold;'><input
type='btn btn-primary' value='Send Message'></a>";
            echo "";
      }
      echo "";
}
}
?>
For Reading Chat Feed between Users
      <?php
      $rows = ExecuteQuery ("SELECT user id from, (select fullname from user where
user id=user id from) as fromname,
                                      user id to, (select fullname from user where
user id=user id to) as toname FROM chatmaster where chat id=$ GET[id]");
      $row = mysql fetch array ($rows);
      $fromid = $row["user id from"];
      $toid = $row["user id to"];
      $from = $row["fromname"];
      to = \text{worman};
      $sql = "SELECT * FROM chat WHERE chat id=$ GET[id] ORDER BY cdatetime
ASC":
      $rows = ExecuteQuery ($sql);
      while ($row = mysql fetch array($rows))
      {
            if ($row["user id"] == $fromid)
                   echo "<strong>$from</strong><br/>";
            else
                   echo "<strong>$to</strong><br/>";
```

echo "\$row[message]";

```
echo "<hr style='border-top:1px solid #c3c3c3; border-bottom:1px solid white'/>";
       }
?>
Display of Question:
       <?php
$sql="SELECT * from question where user id=$ SESSION[uid]";
$result=ExecuteQuery($sql);
              while($row = mysql fetch array($result))
              echo "<div class='panel panel-default'>";
              echo "<div class='panel body'>";
              echo "<span class='box2'>";
              echo "<div class='well well-sm'><span class='head'><a
href='questionview.php?qid=$row[question id]'><h4>$row[heading]</h4></a></span>";
              echo "</span></div></div>";
              echo "<br/>";
              echo $row['question detail'];
              echo $row['datetime'];
              echo "<div class='line'></div>";
              }
?>
To Choose Topic
<?php
       $topic = ExecuteQuery ("SELECT * FROM topic");
       while ($r1 = mysql fetch array($topic))
       {
                     echo "<div class='table'>";
                     echo "<div class='well well-sm' style='background-color:lightblack'>";
                     echo "<div class='heading'>$r1[topic name]</div></div>";
```

```
$stopic = ExecuteQuery ("SELECT * FROM subtopic WHERE
topic id=$r1[topic id]");
                    while ($r2 = mysql fetch array ($stopic))
                           echo "<div class='box'>";
                           echo "<div class='sub-heading'>
        <ahref='questions.php?id=$r2[subtopic id]'><b> $r2[subtopic name]</b></a></div>";
                           echo "$r2[subtopic description]";
                           echo "</div>";
                    }
      }
?>
For Replying to the Question
  <?php
$sql="SELECT * from
                           answer,question where answer.user id=$ SESSION[uid] and
answer.question id=question.question id";
$result=ExecuteQuery($sql);
             while($row = mysql fetch array($result))
             echo "<div class='panel panel-default'>";
             echo "<div class='panel body'>";
echo "<div class='well well-sm'><a
href='questionview.php?qid=$row[question id]'><b><h5>$row[heading]</b></h5></a></div>"
             echo "</span>";
             echo "<br/>";
             echo $row['answer detail'];
             echo "<br/>";
             echo $row['datetime'];
```

## **TESTING AND RESULTS**

## **Testing**

The main purpose of the test plan for the Online Discussion Forum is to discuss the testing details of the use cases of the Online Discussion Forum. The software project test plan also describes the objective, scope and approach of the software testing effort for the Online Discussion Forum project. The test plan for the Online Discussion Forum also indicates the personnel responsible for each task and also specifies the risks associated with the test plan.

## **6.1 Objectives**

The main objectives of the test plan for the Online Discussion Forum are as follows:

- To identify the features of the system that will be tested.
- To identify and define all the activities necessary to prepare for and conduct the testing process on the Online Discussion Forum.
- To define the pass/fail criteria for each item that will be tested
- To identify the deliverables of the testing phase.
- To define any suspension criteria and resumption techniques
- To discuss the testing techniques being used to test the Online Discussion Forum.

## **Definitions**

The following are some of the terms and definitions that are related to the test plan of the Online Discussion Forum:

- Pass/Fail criteria: Decision rules that are used to determine whether a software item passes or fails a test.
- **Test**: A collection of one or more test cases
- **Test Item**: A software item that is an objective of testing.

- **Test Plan**: A document describing the scope, approach, resources and schedule of the intended testing activities.
- Test Summary Report: A document summarizing the testing activities and results.
- **Testing**: The process of analyzing a software item to detect the differences between the existing and required conditions.

## **6.2 Test Cases**

The following are the test cases for the Online Discussion Forum:

#### **Test Case 1 – User Login**

- **Incorrect Input**: Incorrect username, which is the username and password in the case of the Online Discussion Forum.
- **Pass Criteria**: An appropriate message should be generated to indicate that an invalid username has been typed.
- **Correct Input**: The correct input would be a valid username of the user and a correct password associated with the username which he uses to log in.
- Pass Criteria: The user should be directed to the webpage that the customer is intended to go to after he logs into the system.
- **Result:** Login into the web page.

#### **Test Case 2 – User Registration**

- **Incorrect Input**: Wrong format entered in the input fields for the registration page.
- Pass Criteria: An appropriate message should be generated to the user saying that he has entered the wrong format in the specific input field.
- Correct Input: The correct input would a correct format entered by the customer into the input fields of the registration page.

- Pass Criteria: The pass criteria for this test case would be a successful registration of the customer into the Online Discussion Forum website. The system would log the user into the system after this.
- Actual Result: Successful registration of user.

#### Test Case 3 – User Registration

- **Incorrect Input**: The data fields left out empty in the registration page.
- Pass Criteria: An error message should be generated to the user saying that he has to fill out those fields in order to be registered into the system.
- Correct Input: The correct input in this case, would be that the customer would enter the data in all the fields in the registration form.
- Pass Criteria: The pass criteria for the system would be that it accepts all the customer details and then registers the customer and helps him log into the system.
- Actual Result: Successful Display of message that you should fill all the necessary fields.

## **CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE**

#### Conclusion

With the continued evolution in technology, forum is becoming more and more essential now-a-days, where user can freely express their thoughts, ideas and discuss their issues that they are currently facing with the technology, this is where discussion forum come in picture ,which provided a platform for technical users to discuss their issues that they are facing with the current technologies, as well as this forum create an online platform which brings developers together and facilitates programming development and improvement. This forum is also solves the Problem very precisely and dedicatedly for each and every user .The design of this forum is very simple and user-friendly too, which make it more efficiently. Thus we can say that this online discussion forum has a great scope in future for the programmers and Developers too. As the saying goes "Nobody knows everything, but everybody knows something", a discussion between like-minded and among our peers will result in new inventions, hence catering to our sole motto knowledge at its best.

We had designed this platform for Prospective users who can utilize more internet services. In this plat form user can post his question and wait for reply from the other users. If any other user answers his question user can follow the answer and even download that as portable document format. If that answer is not, user can even write to the administrator. Administrator makes right choice whether to keep that answer or not.

## **Future Scope**

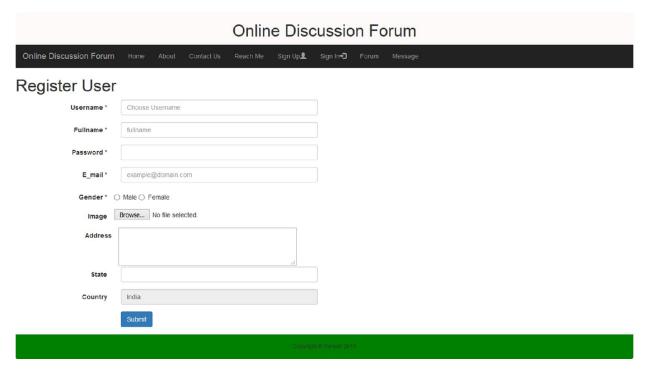
Considering fact that Online Discussion Forum can only have the answers from registered users, we further extend our idea by hiring experts for various fields, notifying the user when got the user for his question and even want to provide the most trending news in social media and newspapers.

## **REFERENCES**

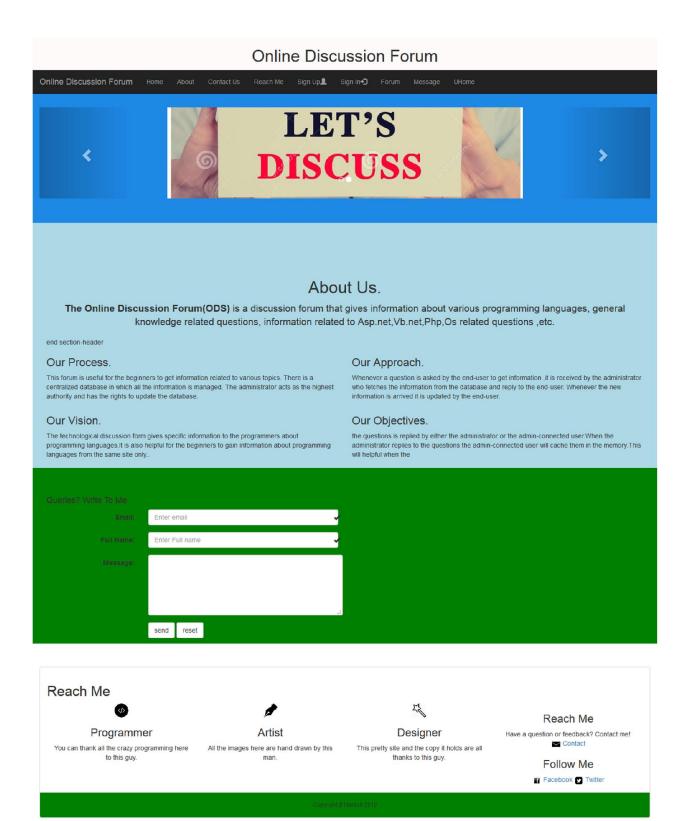
The following references used by me, during all the phases of Online Discussion Forum project:

- 1. Software Engineering A practitioner's Approach Seventh Edition by Roger S. Pressman, Ph.D.
- 2. Software Engineering, Seventh edition by Ian Sommerville 2004.
- 3. <a href="http://www.w3schools.com">http://www.w3schools.com</a>
- 4. <a href="http://www.getbootstrap.com">http://www.getbootstrap.com</a>
- 5. http://www.stackoverflow.com

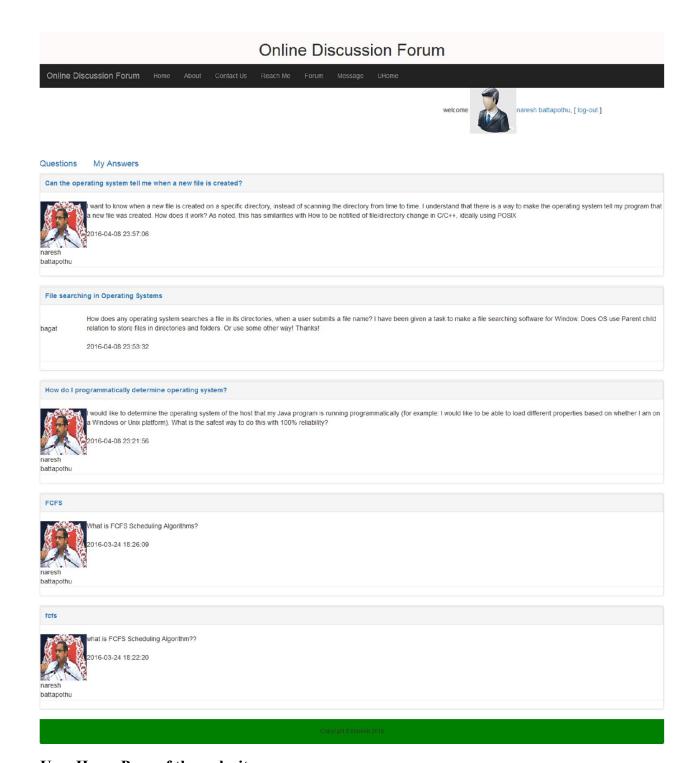
## **SCREENSHOTS**



**Registration of User** 



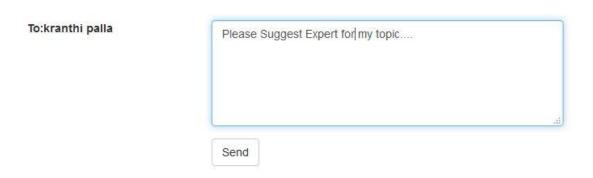
#### Home page of web site



## User Home Page of the web site



## **Login Credentials**



## Message view



**Update Profile**