JNAC

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**Web Application Concept/Purpose Documentation**

The purpose of this web application is to be a place where people can hold conversations in the form of posted messages. This is different from chat rooms since posts often contain more than one line of text and the user can change the style of the post with the option to bold or make certain text bigger and the posts are archived. Content in a forum is user-generated.

The message board has a hierarchical tree-like structure. At the top of the hierarchy are categories. Categories are distinct groups that will fall under certain subject matter. Each topic is associated with a category and will be related to its associated category in some way. At the bottom of the hierarchy are replies. Replies are attached to specific topics and are at the heart of the discussion forums. Replies are contained within it’s specific topic.

Categories will list topics in order of most recently posted. Each topic will display replies in chronological order. Topics that get posted in will get moved up to the top of the list of topics under each particular category.

Users are separated into several different groups. Anonymous users can only read the message board but cannot post anything. They can also read the frequently asked questions and contact us via the form. Regular users are users that have registered but do not have admin access. Regular users can make threads and post replies. Admins have access to delete replies, threads, categories or make new categories.

There is a page for frequently asked questions and a contact page if anyone wants to get in touch with the creators of the website.

**Web Application User Walk-Through Documentation**

An anonymous user can view content within the web application. To view discussions, click on any category. This will bring the user to a page where the user can pick from a list of threads. In the thread the user can then read the content. An anonymous user can also view the frequently asked questions page along with the contact page and send us messages via the contact form.

A user who wishes to register can click the register button on the navigation bar. This will take the user to the registration page. The user will then input the desired username, email and password. The web application will then check to see if valid input was supplied and allow the user to register if it is valid.

A user that is registered can sign in on the navigation bar. A user signing into the web application will remain on the same page and the navigation bar will take on a different look. Once a user is signed in, the user can sign out, view their profile page, or make changes to their profile. This information stays on the navigation bar and can be accessed at any time. Since the user is now registered the user can then make posts or create topics.

Administrators can do the same things that users can but also have access to an administrative page on the navigation bar. This administrative page displays categories and topics which an administrator can then delete. Administrators also have access to a delete button next to individual replies in the topics themselves, they do not appear in the administrative page like the categories and topics do. The reason for this implementation is because the administrative page would be too cluttered if it also showed all replies of the entire forum. The administrative page allows the administrators to also create new categories.

Any user has access to the search feature. The user can search for categories, topics, replies or all. The user can also specify an author to be searched for.

**Overview of Rubric Elements in our Project**

The FAQ page contains XML/XSL where the XSL does the formatting for the XML page.

Ajax is used in form validation. Registering an account, for example, will inform the user when the password is weak, good or strong along with checking if the username supplied is available or not.

Our JavaScript editor is used when a registered user or administrator attempts to make a post or topic. CSS is used on every page for formatting.

Private directory usage is used for connecting to and configuring the database. Public directory is used for everything else.

Database usage is used to keep track of user emails, usernames, passwords, and posts along with the hierarchy of categories, topics, and replies. Each category, topic and individual replies have their own ID and connect to each other in a hierarchal structure in the database.

Feedback is given to user depending on whether or not the user supplies correct information to the registration form. For example, if a user does not supply an email that conforms to the format of username@hostname.com, a box will show up as red and a message will appear on the right to notify the user that the email is not valid. This is also done with passwords (requires a minimum of 7 characters) and will report back the strength. The password check prefers special characters along with numbers. The username must have at least 3 characters to be valid. Also, when a user attempts to sign in with an incorrect username/password combination, it will inform the user the login information is incorrect.

*Form auto-repopulation occurs* when the user attempts to sign in but has entered their credentials in incorrectly. It will refill the information and inform the user that the login/password was wrong. If the user logs in correctly and clicks on “My Profile” on the menu bar it displays their email.

*Form validation* is used for both sign in and registration. Sign in information needs to be correct with the database information and registration needs to meet certain requirements in order to create an account.

*Unauthenticated application* usage is when anonymous users view the forum content. Unauthenticated users can view all the categories, topics, replies and can send emails to the JNAC forums’ owner via the contact form but cannot contribute to content on the forum.

*Authenticated normal user application usage* is when a normal registered user posts either topics or replies.

*Authenticated administrative user application usage* is when the administrator views a topics, they can delete individual replies. The administrator can also click on the administrative page and create categories, delete categories or delete topics.

*Persistence of user information state across login* is when a user logs into the web application. The user can then close the web application and go back into the web application and still be logged in.

*Create, modify, delete pages* is when a registered user wants to create a new topic or reply. An admin can modify pages by deleting topics or categories. If an admin deletes a topic, that particular category will be modified to look differently. If an admin deletes a category, the main page will be modified to look differently, similarly same thing with replies in topics.

The Contact Us page is located on the task bar. This page shows some information about the creators of the web application along with a contact form that anyone can use to send us emails.

Web functionality / Extras – our project includes dynamic page alterations in nature. There is also a search feature that anyone can use.

**Admin information**

The following account has admin privileges. For a regular account you can logout of the admin account and register as a new user in order to see what a normal user would see. Registration is done automatically and does not require an email verification.

Account information: **preney**

Password: **1234567**