

Free Write

A Platform to Free-Write Fantasies of Readers

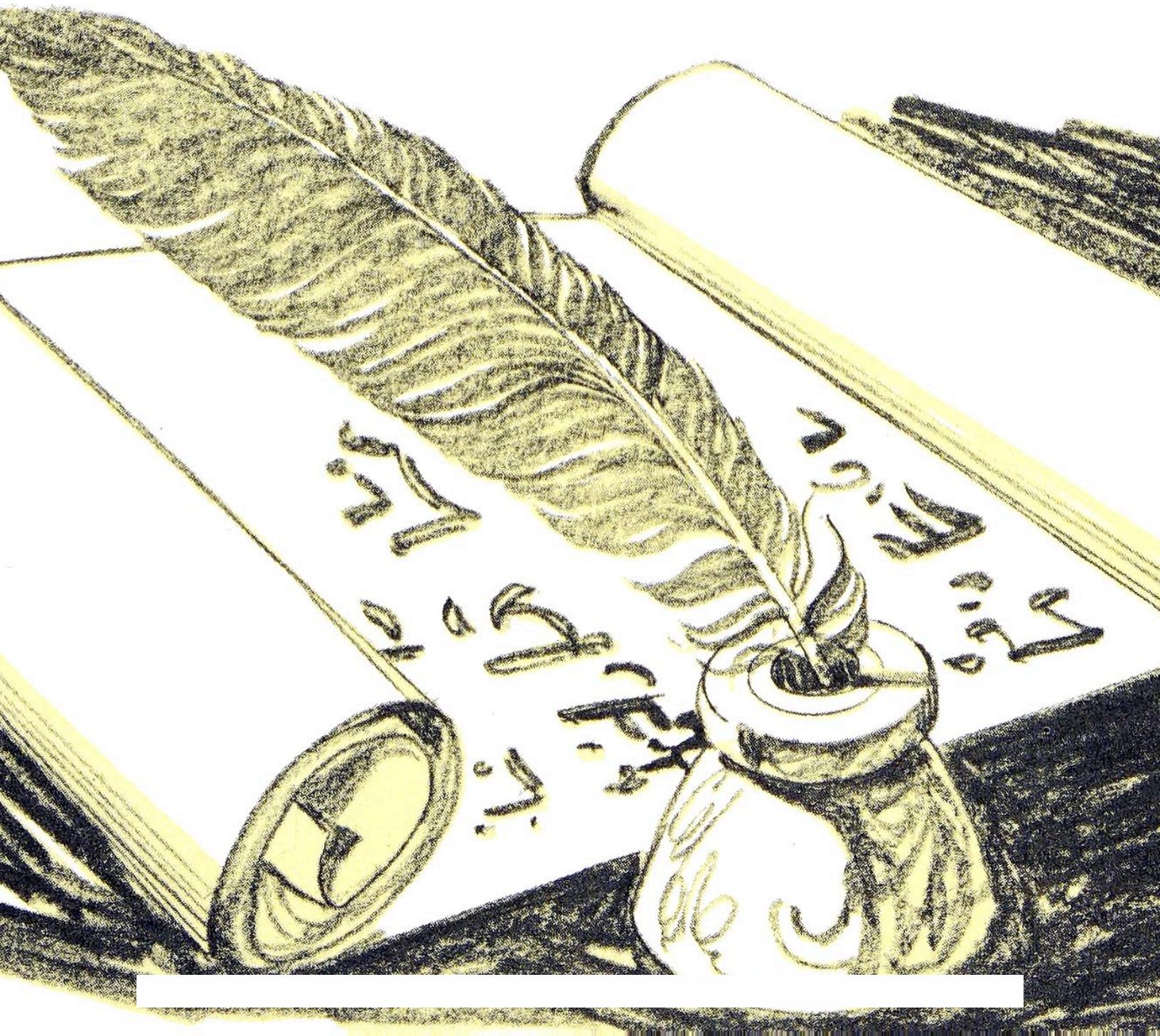


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Introduction

In today's era, the bond between authors and readers has significantly strengthened thanks to various platforms enabling direct communication. However, despite this closeness, readers still face challenges in contributing their versions of beloved books such as adding new chapters or exploring alternative character choices mainly due to issues like copyright restrictions, the integrity of the original work, and the complexity of authorial control. These factors make it difficult, impossible for readers to legally and meaningfully create and share their variations of existing narratives.

Problem Statement

First and foremost, writers often struggle to gain exposure to their work, especially new and undiscovered talents. With the vast array of content available online, it becomes increasingly challenging for writers to stand out and reach their target audience. This issue is compounded by the lack of access to trustworthy platforms that can effectively highlight the unique voices and narratives of these writers.

Furthermore, the protection of writers' content is a crucial concern in the digital realm. Many writers hesitate to share their work online due to fear of plagiarism and unauthorized use. As a result, they miss out on valuable opportunities to connect with their readers and receive feedback that could help them grow as artists.

Additionally, readers who wish to create spin-offs or alternative storylines inspired by their favourite books face legal and ethical ambiguities. The absence of a dedicated space for reader engagement can lead to the proliferation of unauthorized derivative works, potentially causing misunderstandings and conflicts between writers and readers.

Moreover, aspiring writers often encounter obstacles when searching for publishers and cover artists. The traditional process of securing publishing deals and collaborating with artists to design book covers can be daunting and discouraging, hindering talented writers from bringing their creations to a wider audience.

Conversely, publishers also encounter challenges in identifying and connecting with talented writers whose works align with their publishing goals. The absence of a centralized hub where publishers can discover potential authors leads to missed opportunities for both aspiring writers and publishing houses.

Lastly, the creative contributions of book cover artists often go unrecognized, making it difficult for them to generate a sustainable income from their art. As visual storytellers,

their work is essential in capturing the essence of a book and attracting readers, yet they often struggle to find consistent opportunities for recognition and financial reward.

In light of these challenges, there is a pressing need for a comprehensive platform that addresses these issues and provides a solution that empowers writers to gain exposure, protects their content, encourages and values reader spin-offs, facilitates connections between writers and publishers as well as book cover artists, and ensures that all contributors to the literary community have avenues to generate income from their creative endeavours. Such a platform would not only streamline the process for writers and readers but also foster a vibrant and inclusive community centred around storytelling and creativity.

These issues highlight a critical need for a more connected and supportive environment for all stakeholders in the storytelling landscape. A platform that addresses these challenges can unlock the full potential of creative expression, leading to a more vibrant and engaging literary experience for all.

Solution

The proposed platform, "Free Write," is a web-based application that addresses the multifaceted challenges faced by both writers and readers in the literary community. Free Write acts as a centralized space where writers can showcase their original content, solicit feedback and followers, and protect their work from unauthorized use. Simultaneously, it provides a creative outlet for readers to engage with their favourite stories through a structured spin-off system while ensuring the integrity of the original works.

Upon registration, writers are provided with a platform to publish their books and gain exposure among a community of avid readers. The platform offers robust protections to safeguard writers' content, including features that deter unauthorized use and distribute clear guidelines on permissible interactions with the original works, thus alleviating concerns about plagiarism and content misuse.

A key feature of Free Write is the integration of a branching system that allows readers to create spin-off stories based on the original narratives. This feature is designed to encourage reader engagement and creativity while strictly enforcing guidelines that prevent illegal derivative works. This ensures that readers' contributions are valued and respected while maintaining the distinction between original novels and fan fiction.

Furthermore, Free Write serves as a networking platform for writers, connecting them with publishers and cover artists. This facilitates a streamlined process for aspiring writers to showcase their work to potential publishers and collaborate with talented

artists to design captivating book covers. Additionally, publishers can efficiently discover and engage with writers whose works align with their publishing objectives, promoting mutually beneficial relationships within the literary community.

For book cover artists, Free Write offers opportunities to generate income by providing a dedicated space for showcasing their talent and connecting with writers seeking professional cover designs. The platform recognizes the importance of visual storytelling in attracting readers and ensures that book cover artists are valued contributors within the literary ecosystem.

//Mention publishers can add their items and users can buy them in the way they are meant to sell.

//Mention institutions can purchase a subscription billed annually to get access to the platform's archives.

In essence, Free Write is a comprehensive solution that not only addresses the challenges faced by writers and readers but also fosters a supportive and creative environment for all participants. It is designed to empower writers to gain exposure, protect their content, and interact with publishers and cover artists, while also providing readers with a structured and valued space to creatively engage with their favourite stories through spin-off contributions.

Uniqueness

Unlike other reader platforms that focus solely on consuming existing content, this project offers a unique interactive experience. While some platforms may allow for reader comments or reviews, this platform empowers readers to directly shape the narrative by requesting spinoffs that explore different story elements. This fosters a collaborative environment where readers become active participants, influencing the development of stories and creating a choose-your-own-adventure style experience unlike anything currently available.

Project Goals

This project aims to develop a web-based application/platform, a free-to-use reader-writer community, where readers can actively participate in shaping stories. The main goal is to create an interactive experience where readers can request "spin-offs" and influence the narrative direction. These spinoffs can explore different storylines, character choices, or world-building aspects, offering readers a deeper connection with the fictional universe. Through our platform, we provide the following:

- Allow writers to easily find and request publishers and vice-versa.
- Make a platform for authors writing free content to receive donations.
- Make content accessible free/paid.
- Allow writers/publishers to reach out to freelance designers.
- Provide readers with content they are interested in.
- Enhance the connection between the author and the readers
- Contribute to building up great creations, and arts, collaborating with various artists or non-artists and publishing them to be accessible to everyone

Project Objectives

- Design a user-friendly platform that facilitates reader requests for spinoffs based on specific story elements.
- Develop a system for writers to respond to reader requests and create new narratives based on existing stories.
- Allow readers to choose between the original story and various spinoffs, fostering a choose-your-own-adventure style reading experience.
- Build a community where readers can discuss stories, share their creative ideas, and provide feedback on spinoffs.
- Enhance reader engagement and provide a unique platform for writers to showcase their creativity and storytelling skills.
- Provide a dynamic report for authors and publishers to aid in decision-making.
- Improve team members' soft skills and project management skills.

Project Scope

Users

- General Consumers/Content Sellers:
 - Visitor
 - Reader
 - Writer
 - Cover Designer
- Business/Company Related Users:
 - Publisher
 - Courier
 - Institution
- System Operators:
 - Moderator
 - Administrator

Each of the above users' interaction with the system and the method the system/platform interacts with is explained in the **Requirements** section.

In-Scope

- **Searching:**
 - Develop a system for users to find/filter up the stories/ user accounts they want to discover or view. (Stories can be filtered by the Author, Type, Genre, Duration or Size, Most Visited, liked, etc.)
- **Story Creation and Uploading:**
 - Develop a system for writers to upload/live-write original stories in various genres.
 - Enable writers to choose privacy settings for their stories (public, unlisted, or draft).
 - Writers may restrict access to minors.
 - Provide options for writers to add titles, descriptions, cover images, and genre tags to their stories.
- **Spin-off Creation:**
 - Implement a system for readers to write spinoffs from existing stories.
 - Allow readers to request the original writer to integrate the spin-off into the main branch.
 - Enable readers to choose privacy settings for their spin-offs (unlisted, Private).
 - Create a user-friendly interface for writers to respond to reader requests.
 - Offer tools for writers to build upon existing stories and create new narratives based on spinoff requests.
 - Allow writers to set limitations on the number of spinoffs they can accept for each story.
- **Story and Spinoff Management:**
 - Develop a system for organizing original stories and their associated spinoffs.
 - Present a clear hierarchy for readers to easily navigate between the original story and various spinoffs.
 - Enable readers to track their reading progress across different story branches.
- **Community Features:**
 - Integrate "PEER to PEER CHAT" for readers and writers to interact.
 - Facilitate feedback exchange on stories and spinoffs.
 - Implement features like rating systems or "upvotes" for reader engagement.
 - Allow readers to "subscribe" to favourite stories and receive notifications for new spinoffs.

- **Social Media Integrations:**
 - This includes functionalities like friend systems, private messaging, or social media
- **Monetization Options:**
 - These features like paid subscriptions, tipping systems, or in-app purchases.
 - Publishers have the option to sell their content including advertisements and the platform will demand a reasonable commission for using the features.
- **Product Purchasing Options:**
 - Allow readers to purchase soft or hard copies of the stories and download them or set up a courier service as they like.
 - Facilitate paying by the chapters instead of buying the whole book.
 - Simulate a virtual cart for buyers to easily purchase multiple items at once.
- **Marketing Strategies:**
 - Writers can add their stories to a 'Top Stories' list by paying an additional fee, which will showcase them on the homepage to gather more views.

Out-Scope

- **Direct Collaboration on Stories:**
 - This excludes features like real-time co-authoring or simultaneous editing of stories.
- **Social Media Integration:**
 - Social media sharing buttons.
 - Social media login.
- **Plagiarism Checkers**
 - The application does not include a performance-efficient plagiarism checker to stop spin-off writers from using the Original Author's content.
- **Purchase the author ownership:**
 - This doesn't include functionality to purchase the original content or the author ownership(buy copyrighted content) of the products.
- **An efficient algorithm to yield a better performance:**
 - Remove/censor content with NSFW, Hate-speech or similar content from irrelevant locations (i.e. comments, reviews, descriptions) within the platform
- **Advanced Publishing Tools:**
 - This doesn't include functionalities like ISBN generation or direct integration with publishing platforms.
 - Rich text and font formatting.

- Automatic text saving.
 - Downloading as a PDF.
- **Offline Functionality:**
 - Since this is a web application, there won't be any offline functionalities to include.
- **Login**
 - Phone number verification; part to which initiate a call or send a message to the device.

Project Feasibility

Social Feasibility

The proposed web-based reader-writer community platform holds strong social feasibility due to its potential to foster a vibrant and engaged community. The platform aims to create a unique space where readers can actively shape narratives by requesting spinoffs and influencing story directions. This interactive feature can significantly enhance reader engagement, providing a personalized reading experience that aligns with the growing trend of participatory media. By empowering readers to influence stories and directly interact with writers, the platform can cultivate a loyal and enthusiastic user base.

Furthermore, the platform's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility will play a crucial role in its social acceptance. By offering diverse content across various genres and styles, the platform can appeal to a broad audience. Accessibility features such as adjustable text sizes, screen reader compatibility, and language support will ensure that the platform is usable by individuals with different needs and backgrounds. This approach not only broadens the user base but also promotes a more inclusive community. The inclusion of forums and discussion areas for readers and writers to interact, share ideas, and provide feedback will further enhance the sense of community and collaboration, making the platform a dynamic and supportive environment for creative expression.

Technical Feasibility

For the user-facing side, we'll utilize HTML to build the core structure, CSS to bring it to life visually, and JavaScript to make it interactive. On the backend, PHP will handle server-side operations, working alongside the Apache HTTP server. Finally, MySQL will act as our data storage powerhouse.

We used GitHub as a code collaborative and version control tool.

The team had a basic knowledge of those technologies before and while developing the project.

Operational Feasibility

The operation feasibility of our platform depends on its ability to meet user requirements and be maintained effectively. Platform features should serve the reader and writer, providing a user-friendly interface for reading, writing, requesting and interacting with other users.

Maintaining the platform and server administration will require a skilled team. Also, building a strong user base will be critical. We have to attract readers and writers using well-defined marketing strategies. Additionally, we have to consider content management. As the platform grows, a plan for managing user-generated content, including copyright considerations and potential moderation needs, will be crucial.

Strategies for addressing these challenges will be further defined, as the project progresses.

Overall, the operational feasibility of the reader-writer platform is high. The platform is user-friendly in design and the chosen technology stack provides a solid foundation for a sustainable and successful project.

Economic Feasibility

The economic feasibility of the web-based reader-writer community platform is highly favourable, given the minimal costs involved. The only significant expense is the Rs (...) annual fee for a ".LK" domain name, which is easily manageable within a university setting. Development costs are negligible since the platform is being created by university undergraduates using open-source tools like Visual Studio Code, which do not require paid licenses. Utilizing these free resources and student labour means the project incurs virtually no additional expenses, making it economically viable and sustainable for a student-led initiative.

Legal And Ethical Feasibility

The platform must adhere to data protection regulations to safeguard user information. Implementing privacy policies, obtaining user consent for data collection, and ensuring

secure data storage are essential steps. Additionally, the platform should have clear terms of service outlining user responsibilities and platform usage, protecting both the users and the developers from potential legal issues.

Workload Distribution

1. Member 1
 - a.
2. Member 2
 - a.
3. Member 3
 - a.
4. Member 4
 - a.

Requirements

Functional Requirements

Visitors

1. Login / Register

Registration includes the visitor providing a username, email address and password. The system will encrypt the password using SHA256 before saving it in the database.

The user will also receive an email verification that has to be completed. The login also checks the encrypted password matches with the database value. In case a user forgets their password, they can select the “Forgot password” option and will receive an email link that is to verify authenticity. The code

2. Able to read a few sets of books and spin-offs

A publisher can set two types of public access: “public only for users” or “public for all”. The visitor can read books with the latter mentioned access type.

3. Able to browse the platform

Any guest user can use the platform to find books, authors, publishers and publisher's content through searching or ones being displayed on-screen. If

Visitors decide to read inaccessible books or initiate a purchase, a registered user account is required and will be redirected to the registration page.

The landing/browse page features trending books and authors. This requires dynamic content fetching from the database, showing popular items based on user engagement metrics such as views, likes, ratings, etc.

Black & White

24 16 15

Read +

Story of Friendship & Rivalry **All the pictures credits belongs to me and one of my best friends; Rasandun(IG: Rasandun Creative Graphics) ** Any sort of duplication of this story is strictly prohibited [More](#)

#46 in rides See all rankings

✓ COMPLETED

~Book Title and Synopsis when viewed by a user | Wattpad~

4. Able to see a default landing page

The default landing page will consist of trending authors and trending books. The trending list is maintained by books with the highest cumulative view count and rating. For authors, the top authors are featured based on follower count.

Readers

1. Able to execute 2, 3, and 4 of Visitors functions and will be personalized.

The default landing page will be personalized according to user-preferred genres and followed writers.

Ability to read any book except for the following conditions:

- The book or book chapters need to be purchased (If a payment is required user must pay to gain access)
- The book is set to private access (writer-only view)

2. Ability to write spin-offs

The reader's ability to write spin-offs is one of the key features of Free-Write. By default the spin-off created is set to unlisted: i.e. due to copyright considerations, the platform does not allow the reader to 'public' spin-offs. Readers can share the link to their spin-off with their networks outside of the platform.

To set the access level of a spin-off public, the reader (i.e. spin-off writer) is allowed to request the original author of the main story to accept the spin-off as a branch of the story. The writer is able to either accept or reject the offer. In both cases, the requested party will be notified via email. If the spin-off is accepted as a branch of the main story, the end of the chapter before the 'branching point' will display an option to either continue the main story or shift to an alternate storyline.

While writing a spin-off before exiting a platform, reader must click a save button or publish button to save their content within the site. Content that is not published will be considered as drafts (private access).

Spin-off writers will get a text area to add, and edit their chapter-wise content.

3. Ability to merge all chapters and download the spin-off as a PDF

The system facilitates the spin-off writer to download or copy-paste their content anytime without the previous chapters owned by the original author

4. Submit report/feedback

In case of plagiarism, hate speech or finding inappropriate content on the platform user can report to moderators via a report button. Content includes all user-generated content and moderators will be notified when a certain content reaches a certain number of reports. Users can select the report button followed by selecting type of the report to submit.

If a user wishes the platform to have a certain enhancement in features, they can submit a feedback form as well. The feedback form will collect the user's email address, username, feedback subject, and feedback description.

5. Maintain profile & ability to personalize preferences.

After registering with the platform, the user will be able to customize their profile.

The profile will publicly display the username, profile picture, cover image, social media links, bio, collections, lists, follower count, and following count, as well as the top 3 interested genres. Users can add or change their profile picture, cover image, username, and bio using the "Edit Profile" option. They can further modify the username (with availability checks for chosen names), collections, lists, social media links, and top 3 interested genres through this function.

There is a dedicated "Settings" section within the user profile that provides comprehensive control over account information and security. Users can access this section through the clearly labelled "Settings" option.

Under the **settings** option

- Account information

It shows the username, phone(optional), Email, and Country details. Users can update the changes in the above section also. The users should pass a verification if they are going to change their phone and email.

- Change Password

The "Change Password" option within Settings allows you to update your login credentials. To ensure security, you'll need to:

1. Verify your current password.
2. Create a new password that meets our security standards.
3. Only Confirm your new password for accuracy.

The system grades the password as, weak, fair, or strong depending on considering length and different types of characters used, and displays it to the user.

- Deactivate/Delete account

Before deactivating an account, the system will provide a clear explanation of the consequences. This may include losing access to personalized recommendations, reading lists, collections, notifications, and other platform features that the user may have built up.

You'll have the option to choose between:

1. Temporary Deactivation: This allows you to take a break from the platform for a set period. Your account and data will be retained,

and you can easily reactivate it later. The reactivation process will be handled by the system when the user decides to re-login and the account status has been set as Deactivated.

2. Permanent Deactivation (DELETE): This will permanently remove the user account and associated data. The next time the user attempts to log in, the system will not find a related record and rather than saying the account is not found, the system will lead the user to the sign-up page.

To help the improvement of the platform, the system asks the user to provide a reason for their decision before finalizing the process. Finally, password confirmation will always be required to avoid accidental deactivation.

- Log Out
- Option for changing font style, font size
- Button for turning on “Night mode”

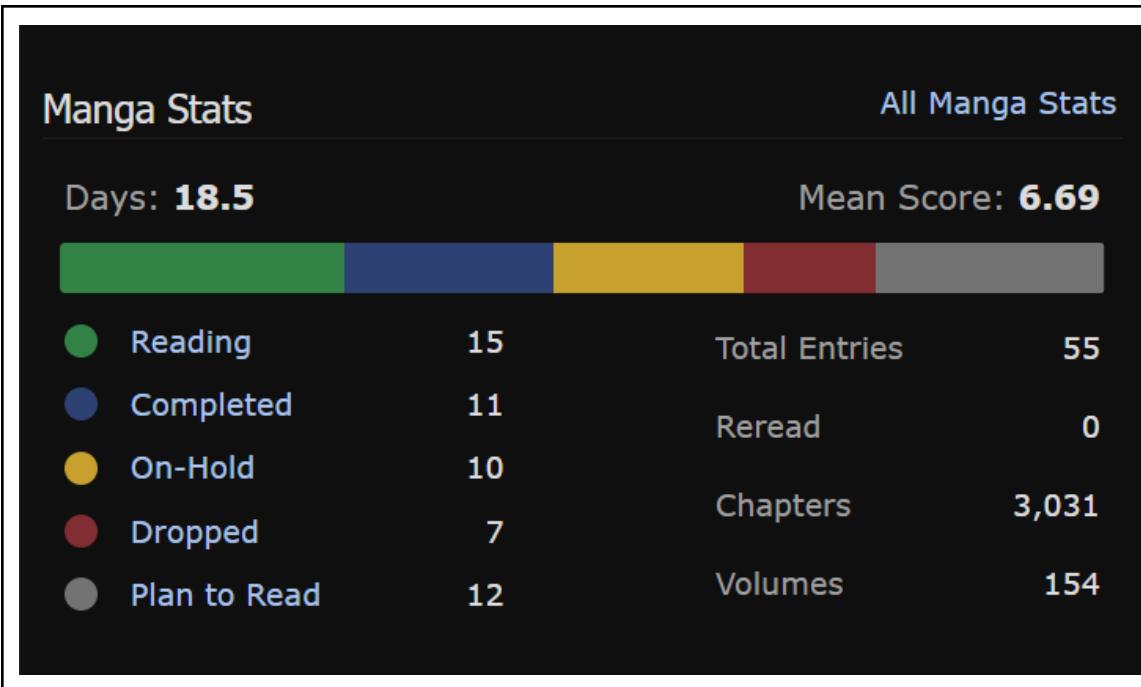
6. Display a personal list and social links.

Each user can add up to 3 social links to display on their profile to redirect viewers. (for example, the user's Wattpad, Dreame, and Honeyfeed accounts)

A personal list is a tracker for the user to see which books they are reading. The list is separated into 4 sections as follows:

- Plan to read: books that are not currently reading and act as a wishlist
- Reading: books that are currently being read by the user
- Paused: Books that are put ‘on hold’ by the user
- Shelfed: Books that are read to some extent by the user and decided it is not worth reading further.

The above list system is inspired by one of the famous list platforms: MyAnimeList.



A book is counted as read/completed by verifying all the chapters of the book have been completed. Each chapter is marked as completed if the user checks under the following conditions:

- Stays longer than **a specified period** (in minutes) on the chapter page.
- Scroll to the bottom of the page.

The specific period is calculated as below:

Assuming the average reading time of a user is **at most 250 WPM** (Words Per Minute)

Converting 250 WPM to CPM (Characters Per Minute) generally takes 5 characters per word including white spaces and punctuation,
1250 CPM

$$\text{Period} = \text{Number of characters in the chapter} / 1250 \text{ CPM}$$

7. Ability to follow other people

Similar to other social media platforms, users can follow other users (i.e. Author/Cover Designer/Publisher accounts) to stay up to date with their content. Followers will be notified when the respective account makes any of the following changes:

- Published a chapter (only for chapter-wise publishing books)

- Published a book
 - A new contest created by the publisher
 - New design by cover designer
 - Publisher features a book
8. Ability to connect with people and chat.

Creating a connection between any account is possible with the Free-Write platform. The connected accounts are allowed access to a personal chat window (eg: Facebook, Messenger).

Chat notifications are not posted via email. Instead, they will stay dormant in the chat window.

9. Ability to create collections.

A collection is similar to a YouTube Playlist but with books. A user can create a collection of books. Under the ‘overview’ section of the books, there will be a button to add a book to a personal collection. User can:

- Add **published/publishing** books/spin-offs
- Remove items from the collection
- Edit name and description of the collection

10. Ability to write **comments** for chapters.

Users can comment on a book/spin-off chapter. A comment is considered a way to get the user’s idea on a specific chapter.

11. Ability to **rate** and write **reviews** for books/Spin-offs.

Users can review a book/spin-off alongside giving a rating(i.e. 5-star rating system).

A review is considered a way to get an idea of the overall book; potentially answering the questions such as storyline, plot, character descriptions, etc. The rating is calculated in a simple way such as:

$$\text{Book Rating} = \frac{\text{Cumulative value of ratings}}{\text{Number of users rated}}$$

Cumulative value of rating: <1-5> stars = <1-5> points. The resulting book rating will be displayed, rounded off to the nearest two decimal places.

If a book received:

$5 * 5 \text{ stars} = 25 \text{ pts}$ $4 * 4 \text{ stars} = 16 \text{ pts}$ $2 * 3 \text{ stars} = 06 \text{ pts}$ $1 * 2 \text{ stars} = 02 \text{ pts}$ $1 * 1 \text{ stars} = 01 \text{ pts}$	Cumulative star pts = 50 pts Number of people rated: 13 $50 / 30 = 3.8461538\dots$ Displayed: 3.85
--	--

12. Ability to save Quotes.

A **Quote** is a saying that a user feels a bond with.

For example:

Those who do not understand true pain can never understand true peace
~ “Pain” from Naruto

If such a saying was noted by the writer, then the user can save it and display the quote in their profile in a “Favourite quotes” section.

13. Donate to authors.

Some authors will allow readers to purchase the book for free. Such books will have a “Provide a donation” button so that readers can donate to the author.

14. Ability to purchase books/chapters as virtual/physical.

Virtual means, books that should be purchased to read within the platform.
Physical means, when a user buys a physical copy of the book.

15. Maintain a cart to purchase books.

Able to add publisher content to the cart, remove items, edit quantities in the cart and be able to purchase at a later date or immediately.

16. Request spin-off acknowledgement.

To make a spin-off publicly visible and be mentioned under the chapter before the branching point, the spin-off writer must request acknowledgement from the original author.

17. Notification log.

Each user will have a silent notification log similar to other social media platforms (like Instagram). Not all notifications will be sent via email.

18. Premium user account has no Ads.

As a revenue stream for the platform, a primary method is to use publisher advertisements and writer promotions. Publishers or Authors can submit a request form for an advertisement promotion or sponsor within the platform. The platform will not hinder the users' readability.

Premium account holders will not see such advertisements or promotions and be able to read a selected single chapter of a book (that is behind a paywall) for free as well.

Writers

A writer is also a reader with an additional profile.

1. Ability to write books.

Writers can create a book by initially describing the following information: (can be later edited)

- Title
- Synopsis
- Access settings
- Genres

wattpad  Browse ▾ Community ▾ Search Write ▾ Try Premium 

STRIKERS | Defenders of Mythesia Ar...

M.M.T.Deeppaloka Munasinghe

Reads 29 | Votes 32 | Parts 17 | Time 3h 32m

Start reading +

~Title and a few information~

View as reader

Share

Story Details New

- Title** STRIKERS | Defenders of Mythesia Archipelago
- Description**

Nine mighty warriors alongside with a destined heir
A deviously planned war to break the centuries of peace
And a time the myths were real

These fighters shall end this peril before mankind tremble and fall on their own.

**Majority of the pictures credits belong to Me, my sister and one of my best friends: Pasandun |IG: Pasandun Creative
- Main Characters**
 - Knightin Gale -
 - Strike K. Ace -
 - Name +
- Category** Adventure
- Tags**
 - action X
 - adventure X
 - anime X
 - beasts X
 - chimera X
 - dragons X
 - fantasy X
 - friends X
 - king X
 - kingdom X
 - mythical X
 - phoenix X
 - prince X
 - strike X
 - superpowers X
 - swords X
 - team X
 - warriors X
 - weapons X

Add a tag +
- Target Audience** New Adult (18-25 years of age)
- Language** English
- Copyright** All Rights Reserved
- Rating** Mature OFF

Your story is appropriate for all audiences. The Wattpad community has the ability to rate your story Mature. For more info, please read Wattpad's Content Guidelines:
<https://www.wattpad.com/guidelines>
- Story Status** Complete? OFF

~Book Settings~

If a writer were to edit something that they already published publicly, the content would be marked as “Edited on <date-time>”.

Writers will get a text area to add, and edit their chapter-wise content. Save/publish must be done before exiting the platform.

2. Adjust book access settings.

When publishing a book, the writer can select the access settings for users. There are 4 options as follows:

- Public Access - platform-wide visible to any user.
- Public User Access - platform-wide visible to any **registered** user.
- Unlisted - Visible only through the book's URL
- Private - Visible only to the writer.

3. Adjust book publishing settings.

Writers can publish books in 2 ways:

- Book publishing - The book will be publicly accessible once it is ‘marked as completed’ by the writer. Notifications will be sent to followers as ‘new book release’.
- Chapter-Wise publishing - Each chapter that is marked as completed will be published. Writers are not allowed to publish multiple chapters in a single instance. Notifications will be sent to followers and current readers as ‘new chapter release’.

Once a chapter is published, readers will not be allowed to select and copy content.

(Error level: as Windows power tools like software are available and the text extraction option is “Win+Shift+T” other screenshotting methods and image-to-text extraction tools can be used to copy the content.)

4. Ability to merge all chapters and download the books as PDF

The system facilitates the spin-off writer to download or copy-paste their content anytime without the previous chapters owned by the original author

5. Ability to view the analytics of the book performances.

Writers can see the statistics of their books by visiting the statistics page and filtering the statistics based on books.

This option is available only to **Premium Writers**.

6. Adjust book pricing options.

Writers can sell the books virtually and physically. The price tag is decided by the writer and writers will see the commission fee charged by the platform for physical book orders. No commission is charged for free books.

- Virtual options
 - Chapter-wise

For long-running or chapter-wise publishing books, this option describes that the user only needs to purchase the chapters they wish to read.

- Books-wise

As the name suggests, an entire book must be purchased to read the content.

- Physical option

This price will be shown to the buyer as well. The platform assumes that writers do not have their physical copies of the book and thus a physical book can only be obtained if the book was published by a publisher within the platform.

7. Ability to request 5 selected publishers per instance for quotations.

One of the hard things writers wish to obtain is a solid publisher. Getting their first book published by a renowned publisher is their dream. Therefore, to provide accessibility while keeping spam at bay, we allow writers to contact 5 publisher accounts at a time.

This special contact method allows the publisher to send quotations by using a provided form template.

Publishers

1. Ability to display their library.

Publisher account represents an entire publication company (eg: Sarasavi, JAYA, Sooriya, etc.) Publishers have their collection of copyrighted content. They can utilize the platform to display and sell such content.

2. Ability to sell books.

The platform will charge a **4%** fee for each sold item.

3. Ability to request advertisements to be displayed on the platform.

Publishers can request to post their advertisement by sending a request to moderators including a description and an image. The moderators will send a quotation to the publisher, after discussing how the ad will be displayed on the platform.

4. Hire/Track couriers.

Couriers can be added (through request) or hired to fulfill certain orders from customers.

5. Chat with authors.

Sometimes newly built publishing companies face challenges in finding authors. Providing a method to recruit authors through a chat interface will help both parties.

6. See sales statistics and download reports.

Sales statistics for publishers will be shown as how many orders have been made, during a certain period, best-selling content, expenses for orders, total profit earned and more. These statistical reports can be downloaded.

Cover Designers

A cover designer is also a reader with an additional profile.

1. Contains a portfolio

Cover designer work so far and skills can be showcased in their portfolio.

2. Chat window

Couriers

The free-write platform as a company provides courier services for publishers. If the publishing company does not have courier services to deliver purchased books, they can hire platform-provided couriers at a calculated price. (this will be considered when a large order from a single publisher is found.

In case a user buys from multiple publishers the user will be charged for the courier fees.

1. Ability to see income statistics

Each platform-based or publisher-based courier can create an account on the same page as the platform on-board publishers.

2. Chat with publishers

Couriers under a certain publisher can chat with the company via the platform.

Institutions

1. Ability to purchase a usage package plan to access the book archives.

If an institution wishes to access the platform in a way that is to be used as a virtual library, it can purchase a special enterprise subscription to view any publicly available books.

Moderators

1. Report/feedback window

The report window shows all the unattended reports and reports currently being handled by the user and the previously handled reports.

Feedback windows showcase user feedback towards the platform and moderators can download these reports.

2. Database window

The database window allows the user to access the raw database (selected set of tables) and manipulate it.

3. Site Logs window

The site logs window contains everything that occurred on the site, such as:

- Who logged in, and when?
- What comments/reviews were written?
- What reports/feedback made
- etc.

Administrators

1. Able to execute all functions of a moderator
2. Accessing moderator logs

These logs contain all actions a moderator made after login and before logout.

3. Add/remove mods

The administrator has full control over the entire system including the database.

Non-Functional Requirements

Performance

- Response times : it should be met even during peak usage periods (evenings,weekends).the platform should achieve the target response times of page load times and search results returned . (page load times under 2 seconds and search results returned within 1 second)
- Monitoring and optimization : we will monitor the platform performance using user monitoring tools . based on the data , we will implement strategies for optimization, such as caching mechanisms and code optimizations .

Security

- User authentication : secure user authentication will be implemented
- Data encryption: sensitive user data ,including passwords will be encrypted at rest using
- Authorization: user roles (author,reader,admin,mods,visitors) wil be defined , and proper authorization mechanisms will control access to functionalities (eg: visitor cant write spinoffs)
- Session management :outline how we will manage user sessions(eg:session timeout after inactivity) to enhance security
- Input validation :user input will be validated to prevent malicious attacks (eg:SQL injection) and ensure data integrity.
- Secure communication between users (cover designers,authours , readers,publishers)
- Secure payments (donations) and transfers

Usability

<should talk about payments, pricing, content, ownerships>

- Intuitive interface: The platform will have an intuitive and user-friendly interface for both readers and writers, allowing them to easily navigate, search for stories, and perform actions.
- Ownership : Clearly display the ownership of each story, crediting the author and specifying any copyright restrictions.

Outline user agreements that define user rights and responsibilities regarding content ownership and usage. This could include limitations on copying or distributing user-generated content

- Content

For search and discovery ,Implement a robust search function that allows users to easily find stories based on keywords, genres, authors, or other relevant criteria.

Content filtering based on the personal lists and favourite genres

Reporting system for users to report inappropriate content , ensuring a safe and positive user experience

- Payments and pricing
- Responsive designs :we have to make a responsive design that adapts to different devices (mobiles ,tablets, laps)
- Accessibility: The platform will be accessible to users with disabilities, following WCAG guidelines.
- Help and Documentation: Clear and concise help documentation or tutorials will be provided to explain how to use different functionalities.
- Content Moderation: A content moderation system will be implemented to ensure a safe and appropriate user experience. This includes reviewing user-generated content for potential copyright infringement.

Scalability

The platform should be able to handle a growing user base and increasing data volume.

- Caching strategies :storing frequently accessed data (static content and search results) in a temporary location closer to users . through this we can significantly reduce response times and improve overall experiences by retrieving data from cache instead from the main memory .
- Database Choice: We will choose a database technology that can scale horizontally (adding more servers) to handle increasing data volumes, such as [database technology, e.g., a relational database with sharding]

- Future Expansion: The platform will be designed to allow future expansion of features (e.g., commenting, community forums) without major code rewrites.

Availability

The platform should be available to users 24/7 with minimal downtime for maintenance.

- Uptime: The platform will strive for an uptime of 99.5%.
- Planned Downtime: Weekly maintenance windows will be scheduled during low-usage periods to minimize impact on users.
- Disaster Recovery Plan: A disaster recovery plan will be implemented, including data backups and procedures to restore the platform quickly in case of unforeseen events.

Technologies To Be Used

Client-Side	HTML, CSS, JavaScript	Web Server	Apache
Server-Side	PHP	Version Control System	Github
Database	MySQL	Documentation Maintaining	Google Drive
		Designing Tools	Draw.io, Figma
		Editors	Visual Studio Code