
Team 1

Aashish Raizada - 22044382

Adam Collins - 31560451

Megan Nguyen - 49162696

Nakheem Duhaney - 34541516

MyBlogPost Final Report User Guide and Implementation

20th April 2021

Summary

Our website, titled *MyBlogPost*, aims to create a platform where registered users can participate in online discussions using personalized blog posts. Our features include secure login, multiple user controls, and a selection of search functionalities. We also had included limited features for unregistered users, including viewing posts and comments. The goal is for the product to be in a familiar format, and to accomplish this, we used the bootstrap framework along with some amazing custom style sheets. With functionality including registration, posting, commenting, viewing blogs and liking posts. The site is well fleshed out and familiar in its form. Also, the site allows users to log in and stay logged in until they leave our site.

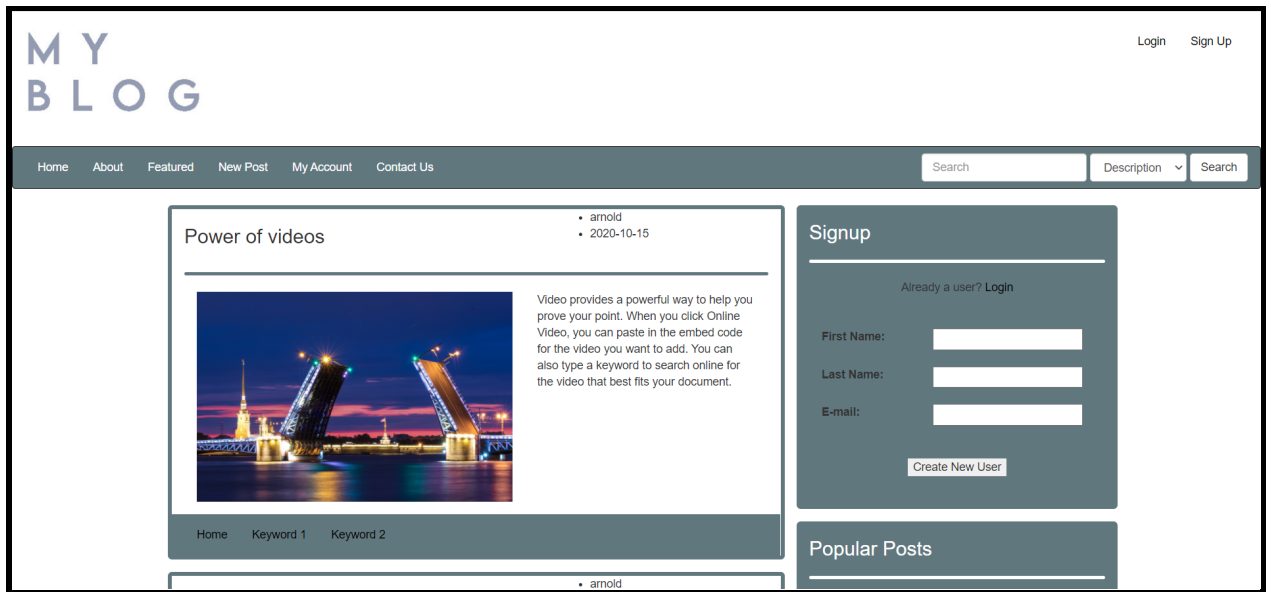
Sidenote

To interact with our sites to their fullest capacity, any administrator (or TA in this case) who wants complete control must provide a local IP address for us to allow permission to. If an administrator is not comfortable with this, an alternative approach is to load the database manually on the localhost. The SQL DDL file has been provided under the sql directory of the project. The content can be loaded by running the loadData.js file under the js directory, or the SQL statements in the provided DDL file can be used directly to create a new database for the website; however, in this case, the credentials to the database would have to be changed in some of the code files.

Walkthrough

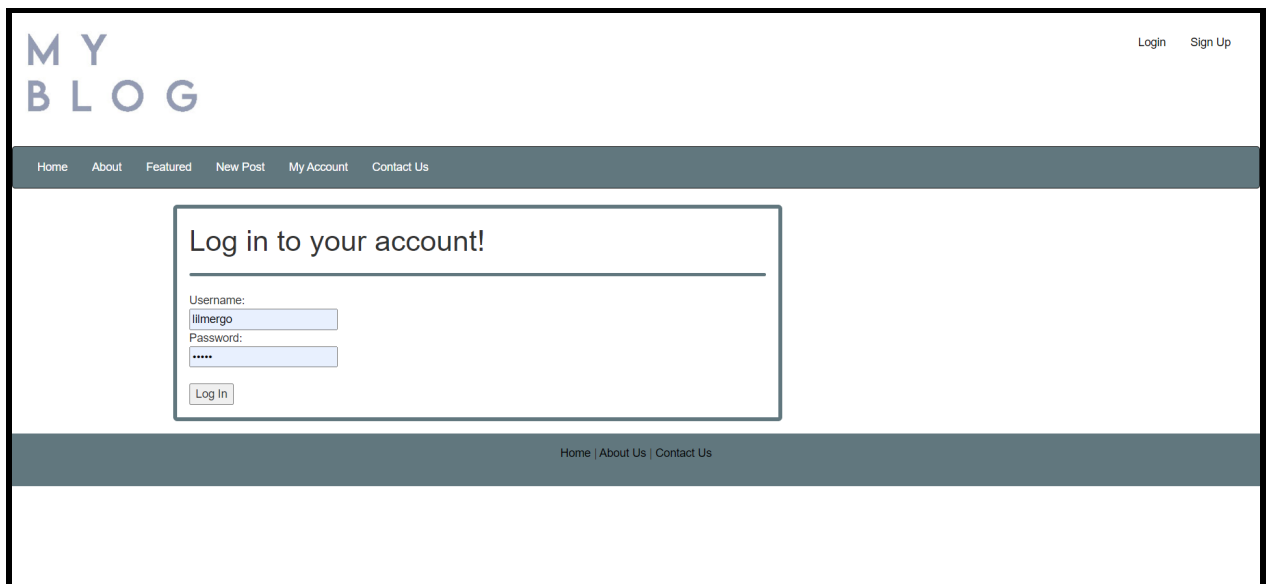
Registered User:

1. This is our homepage.



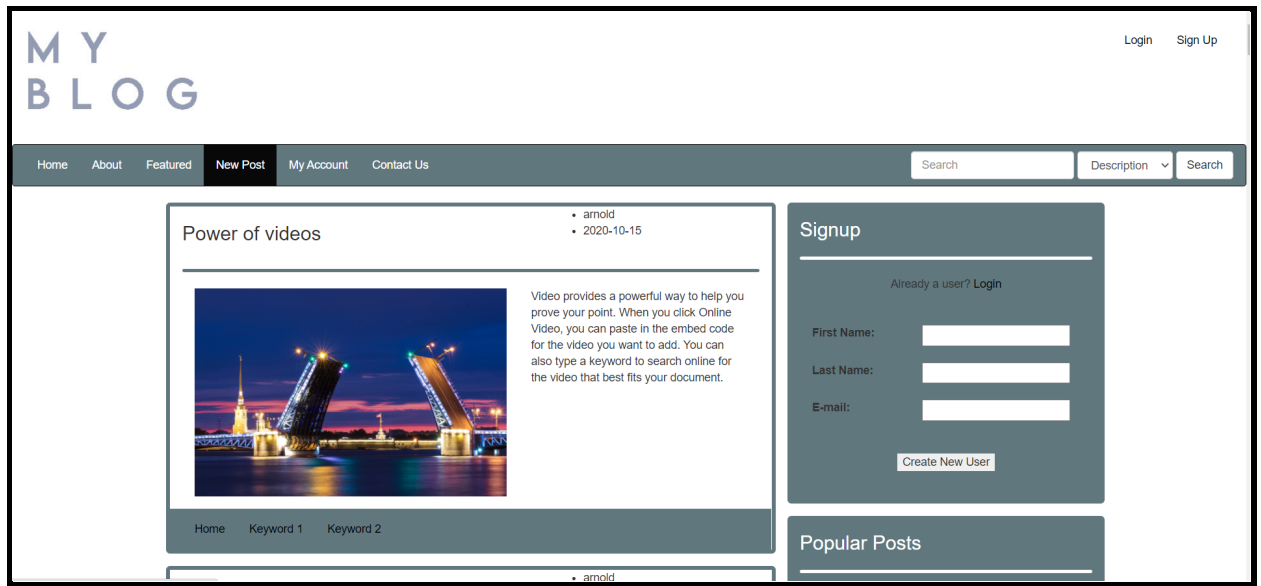
- As a registered user, you can use the log-in area found on the right. Just simply input your pre-existing username and password.

2. This is our page once the login button at the top right is selected.

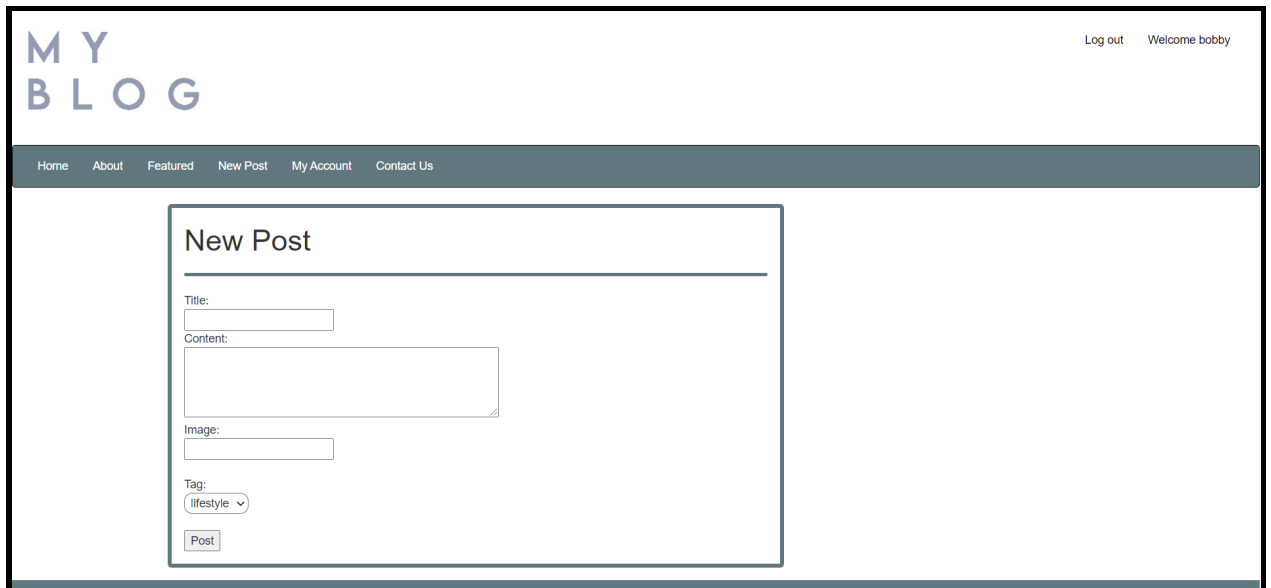


- A registered user can input their preexisting username and password if they do not want to use the previously mentioned log-in box.

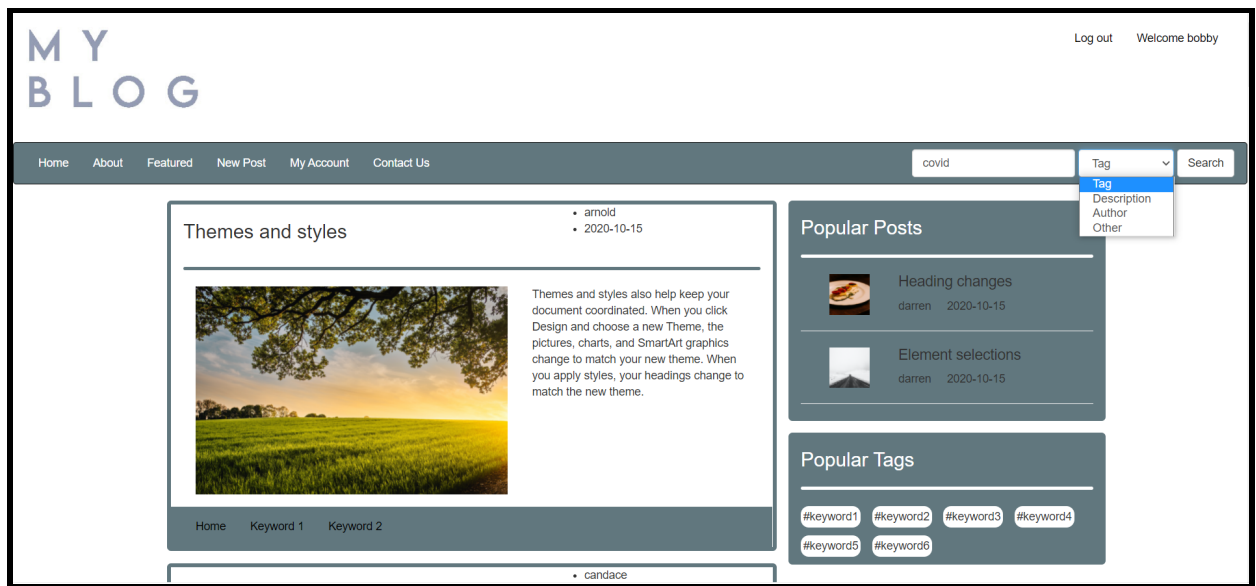
3. This image highlights where the Posts button can be found and explored. This is where registered users can go to make new custom blog posts.



4. Once selected, this is the page shown. On this page, a registered user can input everything necessary to a publicly available blog post.



- The values that need to be input include the user's display name, blog title/content and an image link for the blog.
- 5. This image highlights the search bar functionality found on the top right of the main screen.



- Here a user can input any word, and then they can open the drop-down menu and filter their searches. They can look for correlating keywords, users, etc.
 - AJAX is used here to get the search results back without having to refresh the page.
 - The PHP file search.php has the code to make all query requests to the database for different files.
 - Based on the selection of the user, i.e. the option selected from the drop-down list, which determines the factor the search would be based on, and the input string entered by the user into the search bar, the matching reports are displayed.
 - You can also see here that once a user is logged in, the login/Sign Up sidebar has been hidden.
6. This page shows off the signup page that can be opened by clicking the top right Sign Up button or selecting the signup link found on the top of the login box mentioned earlier.

The screenshot shows the 'MY BLOG' website header with 'MY BLOG' in large letters and 'Login Sign Up' in the top right. A navigation bar contains 'Home About Featured New Post My Account Contact Us'. The main content area features a 'Create an account!' form with the following fields: 'First Name:', 'Last Name:', 'Username:' (containing 'ilmergo'), 'email:', 'Password:' (with masked characters '*****'), and 'Re-enter Password:'. A 'Create New User' button is at the bottom of the form.

- Here a user can become registered if they haven't already. All that is needed to register is a first name, last name, username, email, and password.
- The username will be verified to check if the user is already existent, and the Re-enter Password input is to validate the user password.

7. A message is displayed if the user already exists:

The screenshot shows the 'MY BLOG' website header with 'MY BLOG' in large letters and 'Login Sign Up' in the top right. A navigation bar contains 'Home About Featured New Post My Account Contact Us'. The main content area features a 'Log in to your account!' form. Above the form, a message states: 'An account for the user 'Megan' has been created. Sign in now!'. The form has 'Username:' (containing 'ilmergo') and 'Password:' (with masked characters '*****'). A 'Log In' button is at the bottom of the form. A footer bar contains 'Home | About Us | Contact Us'.

- The page redirects to the login page once an account is created, prompting the user to log in to their newly created account.

8. Users can view and update their profile information by navigating to My Account. User must also confirm their password to make these changes.

BLOG

Home About Featured New Post My Account Contact Us

User profile

User Name:
bobby

First Name:
Bobby

Last Name:
Brown

Email:
bobby.brown@hotmail.ca

Enter and confirm password to make changes to your account:

Password:
[]

Confirm Password
[]

Make changes

Home | About Us | Contact Us

A message is displayed if the user successfully made changes. These changes are updated on the server database and are reflected on the User profile.

User profile

Your account has been updated

User Name:
ilmergo

First Name:
NameChangeJohn

Last Name:
Nguyen

Image:
happy

Email:
megan.nguyenn261@gmail.

Enter and confirm password to make changes to your account:

Password:
[]

Confirm Password
[]

Make changes

If the username or password is not correct, a message is displayed.

User profile

User name or password incorrect

User Name:
ilimergo

First Name:
NameChangeJohn

Last Name:
Nguyen

Image:
happy

Email:
megan.nguyenn261@gmail.

Enter and confirm password to make changes to your account:

Password:

Confirm Password

Make changes

- When a user is logged in, the login button becomes the log-out button, and the signup button displays their username. When a user isn't logged in, it shows a login button.

The image displays two wireframe screenshots of a web application interface, likely for a forum or social media platform, showing the state for an unregistered user.

Top Screenshot:

- Header area: Contains "Login" and "Sign Up" buttons. The "Sign Up" button is highlighted with a light gray background.
- Search bar: A dark gray bar containing a text input field with the placeholder "Search", a dropdown menu labeled "Description" with a downward arrow, and a "Search" button.

Bottom Screenshot:

- Header area: Contains "Log out" and "Welcome bobby" text.
- Search bar: A dark gray bar containing a text input field (partially visible with the letter "o"), a dropdown menu labeled "Description" with a downward arrow, and a "Search" button.

Unregistered User:

1. This is the page displayed to an unregistered user when no posts have been made.



- Here any unregistered user can scroll through posts. They can see whichever posts were made. However, they cannot make their own or comment.
2. Unregistered users can also search using the same functionality as a registered user. They also have access to create an account if they so choose.



Implementation

Registered User Features:

- Users can become registered by inputting first name, last name, username, email and a password.

- Usernames will be checked for conflicts with pre-existing usernames.
 - Passwords are checked to make sure both inputs are correct.
 - Passwords are encrypted.
 - Users can sign up with the button in the top right or select the link found in the log-in box.
- Registered users can log in using their personalized usernames and passwords.
 - A user can do this by clicking the button on the top left or using the log-in box.
- Users can edit their profiles while logged in if they choose. This means all personal information originally input can be modified.
- Registered users can filter posts using the search bar and dropdown menu on the top right of the page.
 - Users can use tags, etc., to filter their searches.

Unregistered User Features:

- These users are limited to just viewing posts and comments.
- They can also perform searches the same as registered users.
- Whenever they attempt to use a feature intended for a registered user, they are prompted to log into an account.

Other Features:

- Currently, premade posts have tags assigned to them, there is a Tags database linked to our Post database, and users can search for posts based on tags. Users can assign tags to posts on the New Post page, and the most popular used tags are also displayed on the Popular Tags sidebar.

Popular Tags

#lifestyle #news #food

-
- Our popular posts sidebar dynamically updates based on the number of likes to only show the 2 posts with the most likes by querying the database (popular posts are updated asynchronously every 1 second through javascript). Although the number of likes is pre-set in the database, we plan on implementing the like feature with future updates.

Popular Posts



Read more about CSS styling for Heading changes!

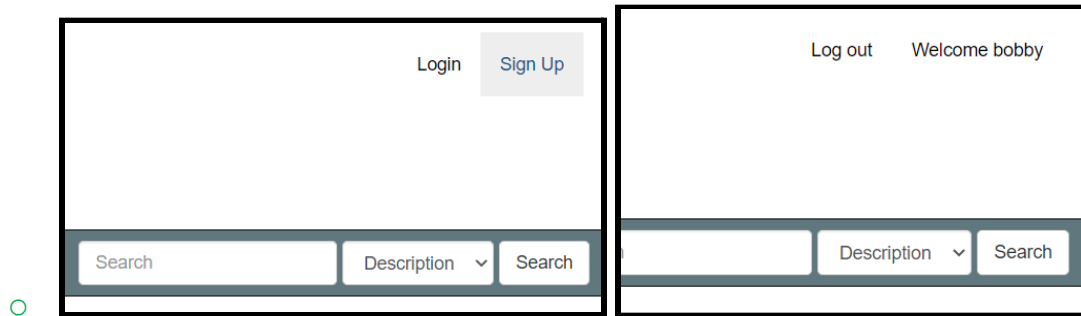
darren 2020-10-15



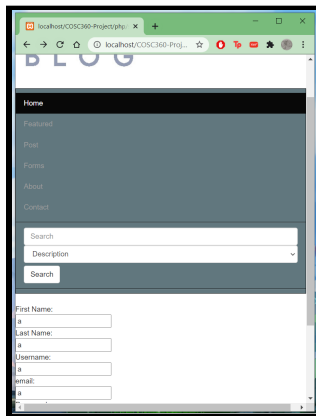
Read More about Element selections

darren 2020-10-15

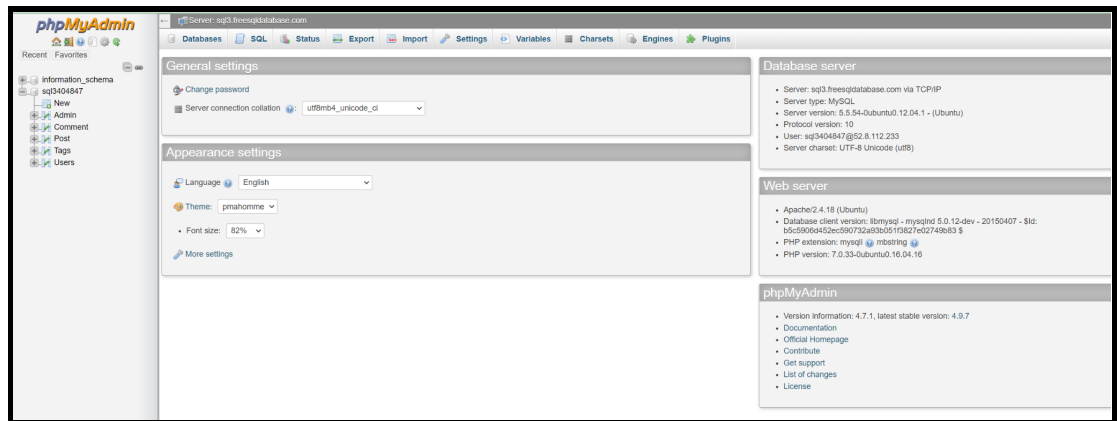
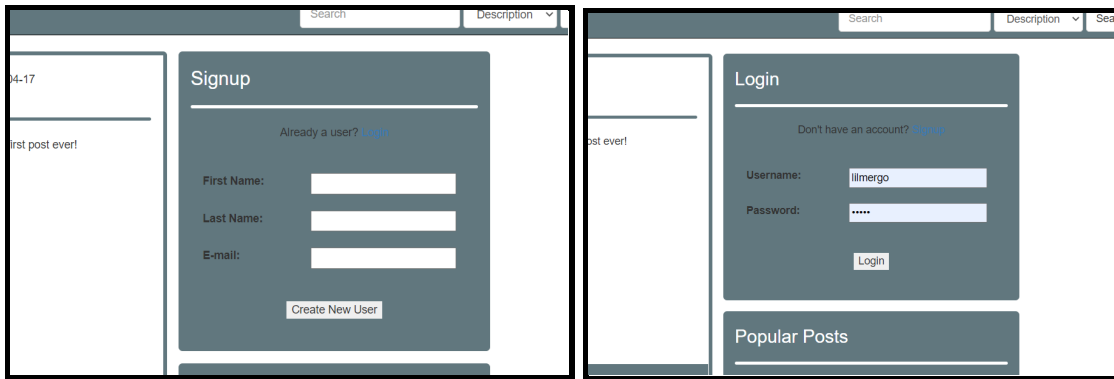
-
- Our site uses a custom layout with contextual menus that change depending on status.
 - When a user is logged in, the login button is set to Log Out, and when they are yet to sign up or log in, it prompts them to Log in.



- Our site automatically updates its formatting depending on screen size by using Bootstrap.



- This is the site format when changed from fullscreen to the half screen.
- The site utilizes a 2 column layout with standard design principles.
 - Our buttons change colour when hovered over.
- Our MySQL database is stored on an online MySQL server to allow for easier development.
- The login/sign up sidebar on our home page switches without having to refresh the page



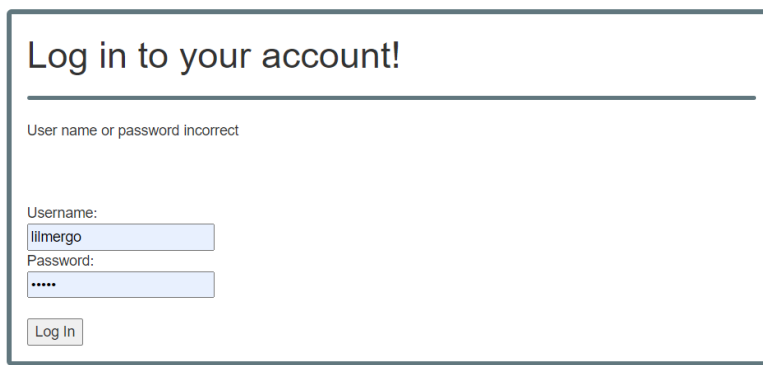
- Our site implements form validation using JavaScript.
- Our site utilizes server-side scripting using PHP.
- Our site uses MD5 for password data security.
- Our site utilizes consistent site states to decide if a user has remained logged in or not.
- Our site has a responsive design using Bootstrap.
- Our site ensures asynchronous updating using AJAX.)
 - All searches based on tags, names, descriptions, etc., use AJAX, so users do not need to refresh their pages excessively.
- Our site uses Database3 to store profile information.
- Error handling for user account inputs is dealt with through defensive programming.

Known Limitations

Some of our functionalities are browser dependent (including some CSS styling features and javascript code). Most of these work on IE8 and above. For instance, our validation javascript and or styling might break for some due to compatibility issues.

Deployment

Client-side and Server-side Testing:



Log in to your account!

User name or password incorrect

Username:
lilmergo

Password:
.....

Log In

-
- We used manual testing to manage correct login information.
- We also used manual testing to monitor the validation of form data before submission.
- For forms requiring password confirmation, the user is not allowed to proceed if mismatching passwords are entered; we consistently ran this test as we reworked user info functionality.
- Similar checks for other forms were done with javascript validation. The javascript does not allow submission without the required fields being filled in.
- Both the profile page and account page include server-side testing to make sure the user is logged in. This way, it is ensured they are able to access certain pages. If the user is not logged in, then they are returned to the index page.