

Inline Youtube annotations for Democratized Fact Checking

1. Project Context and Wireframes

This project's main use case is to implement an inline annotation system for Long From Youtube videos to help combat fake news and misinformation. The main goal is for users to be able to create and rate on annotations to democratize the information exchange on the Internet.

The prototype is based primarily on the wireframe proposed in Milestone 1, which include the following:

a. The “Your Annotations” Page

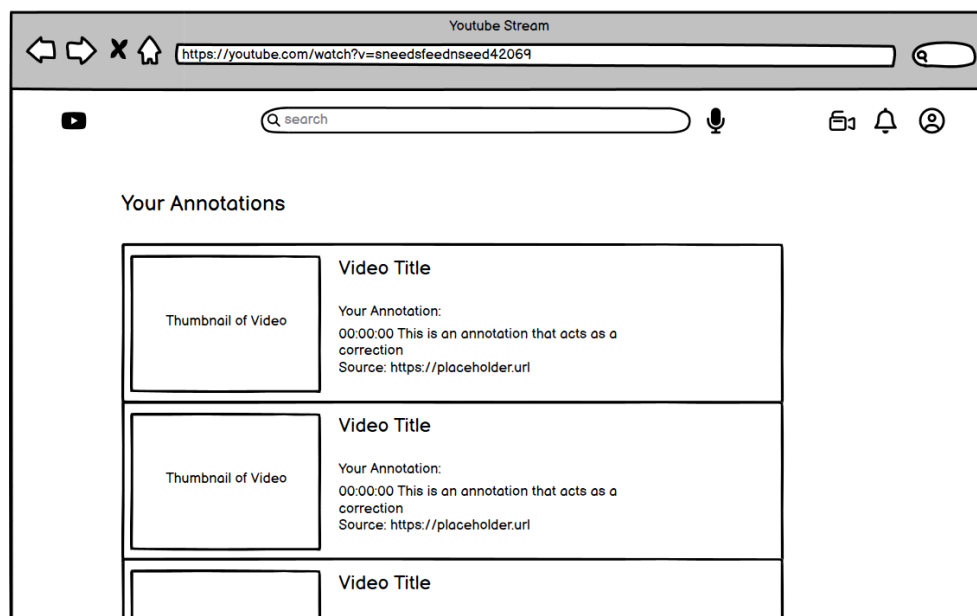


Figure 1: UI Mockup for showing all of a user's submitted annotations on multiple videos.

This Page acts as a dashboard that shows all the annotations a user has submitted across multiple videos

b. The “Video” Page

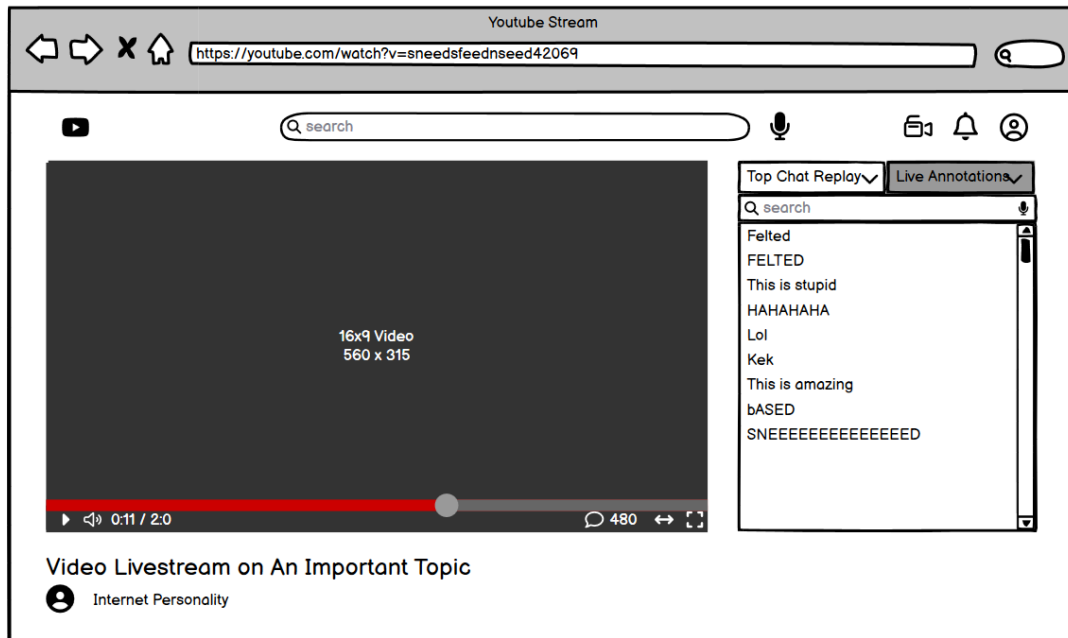


Figure 2: UI Mockup for showing chat replay on a video.

This page mimics the typical layout one would see on a Youtube Livestream. Upon entering the page, the right panel is by default set to the “Chat Replay” tab. Users can then toggle across different pages using a drop down menu to show different annotations, including “Live Annotations”, “All Annotations”, and “Add Annotations”

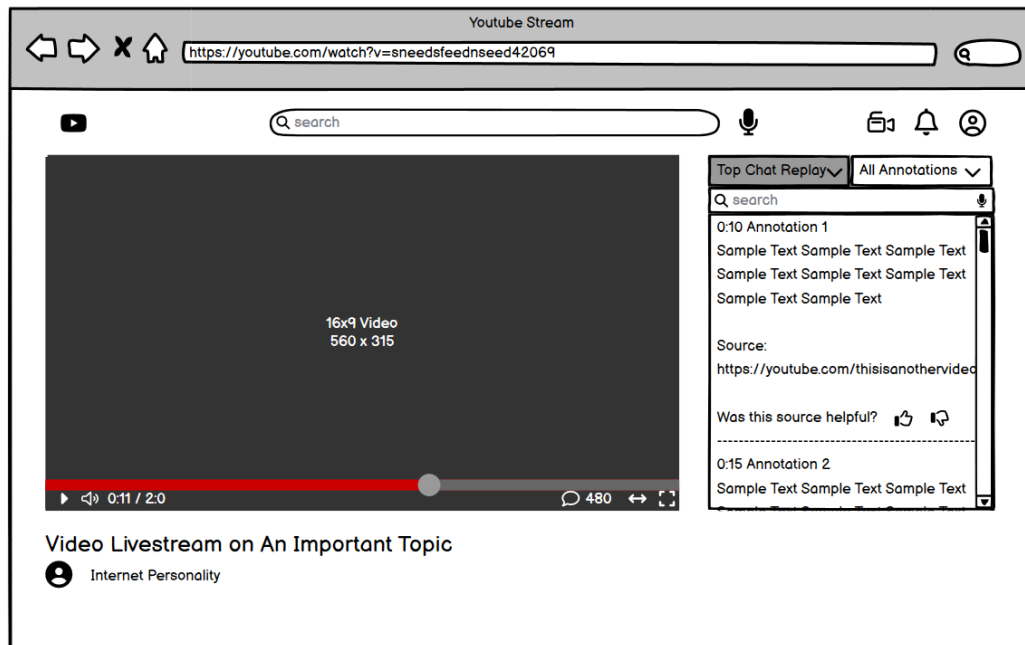


Figure 3: UI Mockup for showing all annotations on a video.

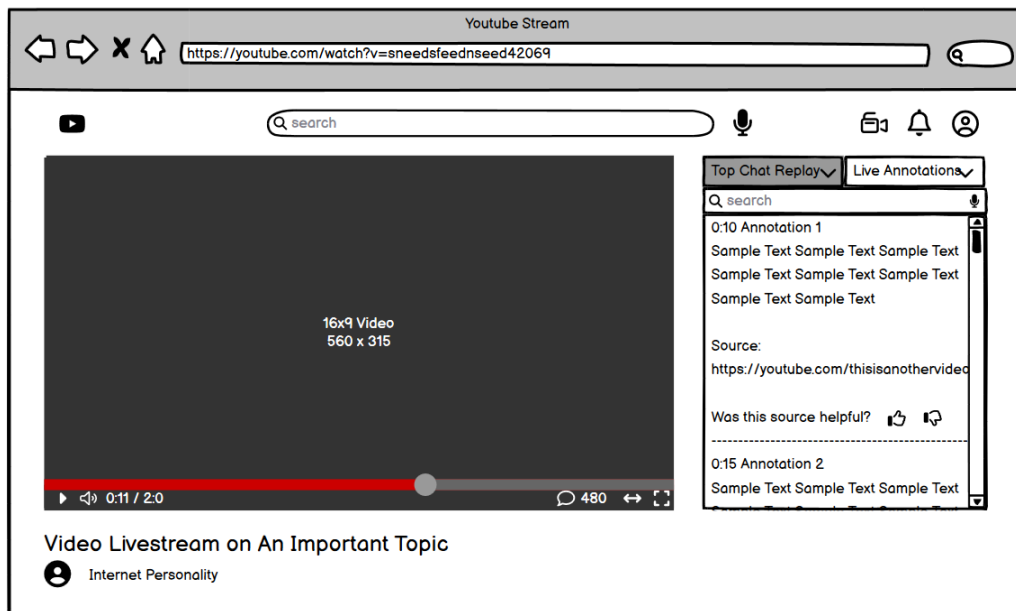


Figure 4: UI Mockup for showing live annotations on a video.

c. The “Add Annotations” Page

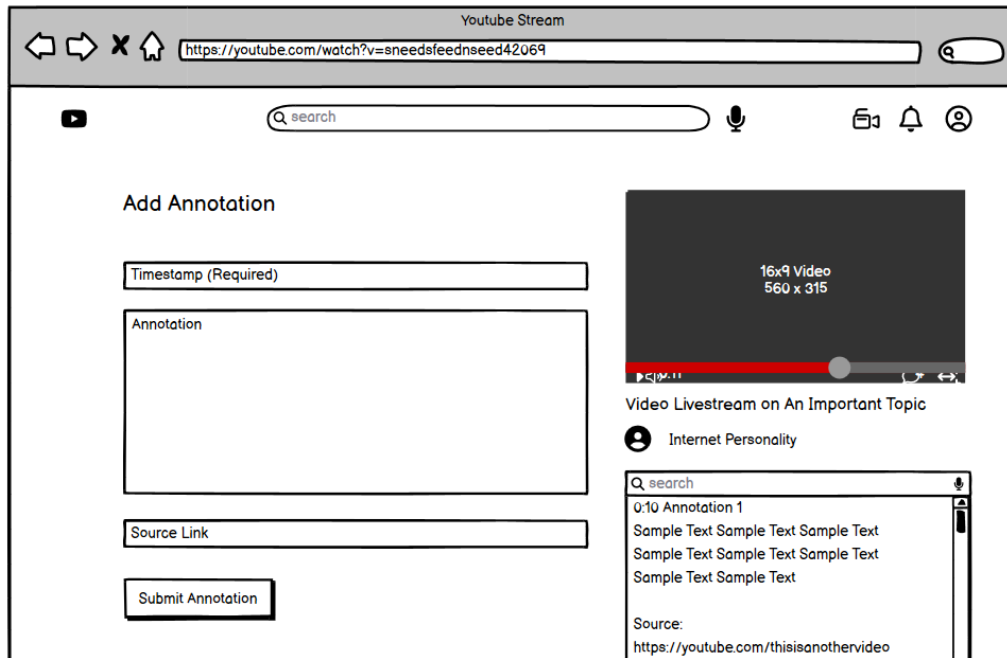


Figure 5: UI Mockup for adding annotations on a video.

The “Add Annotations” Page can be accessed via the drop down menu on the “Video” Page under “Annotations” > “Add Annotations”. This page is a form that allows users to submit their own annotations on a specific point in the video with the appropriate time stamp, annotation text, and the resources that support the annotation. The video that will be annotated along with a list of existing annotations is available on the right of the page for reference when writing annotations.

2. Changes that were made in the prototype.

For the time being a lot of the backend functionality is missing because it requires the use of a SQL database and RESTful APIs (primarily GET and POST) to dynamically store and retrieve annotations of a specific video. With the current tools that are present, such functionality cannot be properly implemented, and as such, the contents of these aspects have been programmed statically as a result of the lack of a proper backend.

In terms of the UI, an expandable/collapsible side navigation bar has been added to the prototype. This is meant to mirror the actual Youtube side navigation bar in terms of the UI. At

the moment all other items do not link to other pages other than “Annotations”, which links to the “Your Annotations” Page.

On the “Video” page, the search bar has not been implemented in the prototype since the lack of a backend would make it non functional. The menu has also been changed to a vertical one since it looked more cohesive with the added sidebar. The contents of the annotations have been severely streamlined due for the same reason, as it is missing a few buttons that were present in the wire frames which have to be statically written without a proper backend / templating.

On the “Add Annotation” Page, the “Submit Annotation” button is supposed to take the input of the corresponding form into a Post request and redirect the user back to the Video Page. This is non functional as POST requests are not available in frontend Javascript.

3. Rundown of the Prototype

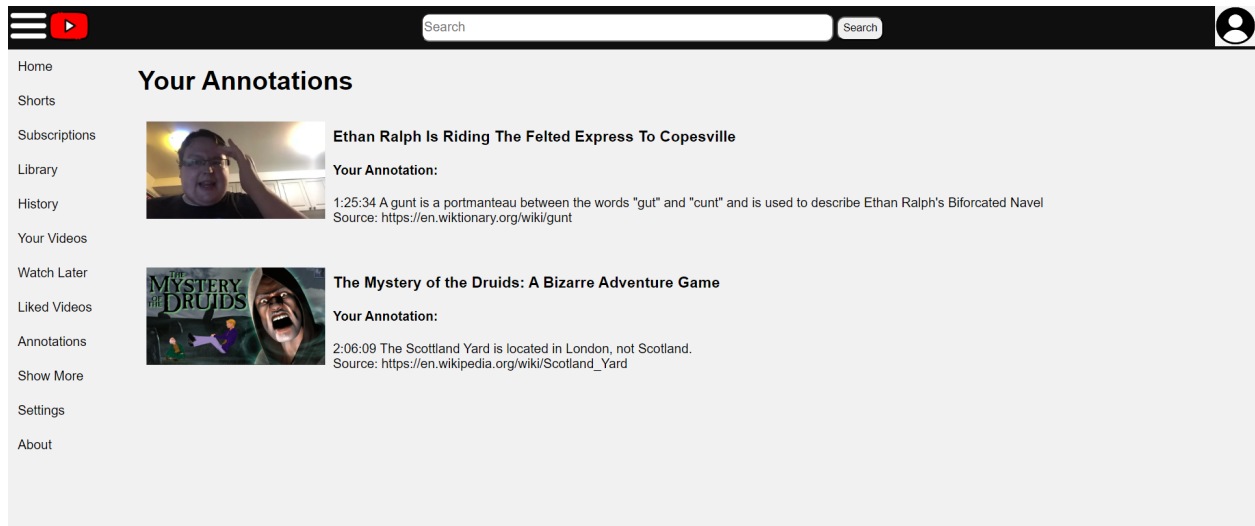


Figure 6: Prototype for the “Your Annotations” Page.

The above screenshot shows the “Your Annotations” Page, which is in the file “index.html”. This page is supposed to show all of the user’s annotations across multiple videos.

Clicking on “Ethan Ralph is Riding the Felted Express to Copesville” will redirect you to “video.html”. The second video does not link to a different page and only exists to show what the item list would look like with multiple annotations.

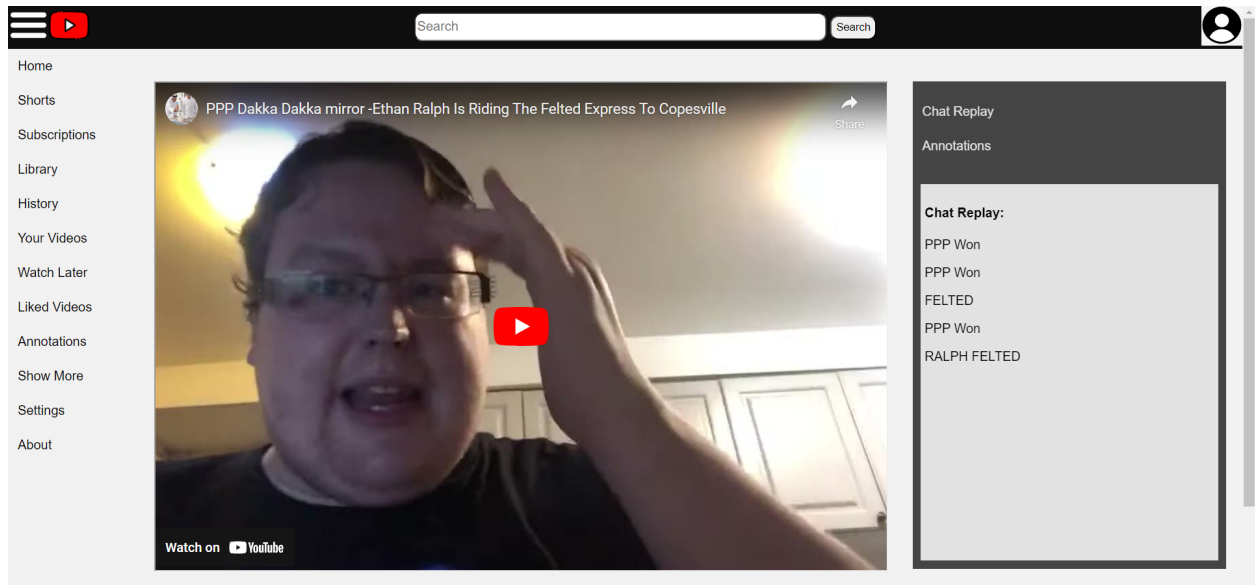


Figure 7: Prototype for the “Video” Page.

The above screenshot shows the “Video” Page, which is in the file “index.html”. This page is where users can see the video in question and the associated annotations with the video. On the right hand side of the video is a drop down menu that will change the contents of what is being shown in the panel.

Clicking on “Annotations” on the left side bar will redirect you to “index.html”. Clicking on “Annotations > Add Annotations” will redirect you to “addAnnotation.html”.

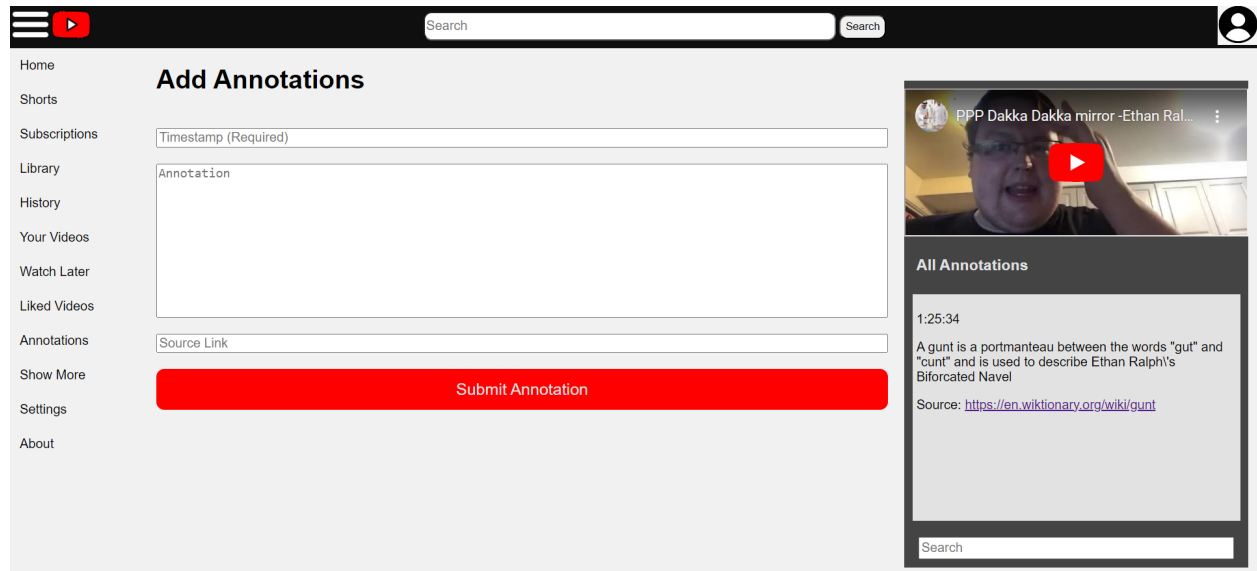


Figure 7: Prototype for the “Add Annotation” Page.

The above screenshot shows the “Add Annotation” Page, which is in the file “addAnnotation.html”. This page is where users can write and submit their own annotations on a specific video. The page includes a form (This does not work due to the lack of a proper backend in this milestone) and on the right is the video along with all the annotations associated with the video for reference when writing the annotation.

Clicking on “Annotations” on the left side bar will redirect you to “index.html”.

4. References

All of the code is written from Scratch by Oscar Wong for CNIT 581 Web Dev in the Fall 2023 Semester. A complete list of all the image’s sources used in the website can be found in the text file named “citations.txt” inside the image folder.