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Requirement Gathering for Online Subject Discussion Forum



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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Objective

In recent time online discussion forum is more popular for technical and non-technical purposes for asking any query or to impart your knowledge globally. Online discussion forums as an important opportunity for knowledge exchange as well as a teaching method to provide learners with learning opportunities that do not necessarily have temporal and geographic barriers. Now-a-days people are discussing their opinions publicly and can discuss from anyone around the world. Each and every person can participate in it. Therefore, it is a great value for us to develop an online discussion forum system where people can ask/discuss about their opinions. This project also discusses how online discussion forums might be used effectively in our college despite of existing social, educational, political barriers and other existing similar platforms.

1.2 Introduction

This Project is presented in two parts. The first part includes a review of the literature and presents meta-study of recent publications on the effectiveness of online discussion forums used in post-secondary education worldwide. This study then informs the second part of this Project, which presents recommendations and analyses related to adopting and using online discussion forums for our college.

1.2.1 Background

Although there are several similar platforms are existing today but they have some drawbacks even. Platforms like Github, Stack Overflow, etc. are more popular but ease of use is not as easy. Learners have ask their query in specific format, so for new user it is quite annoying. Sometimes fellow member intentionally down vote the learner question, and that particular learner is blocked form asking any further question. It results in loss of faith for forum. It may cost to loose learner and the quality of the forum also decreases.

1.2.2 Problem Description

To develop a system where learner has opportunity for knowledge exchange as well as a teaching method to provide learners with learning opportunities that do not necessarily have temporal and geographic barriers.

1.3 Intended Audience and Reading Suggestions

Currently, we are limiting our project area to our college. Hence, our targeted audience currently is our college students (both CSE and ECE), teachers and staff. Learners are suggested to read user documentation and guidelines/ terms and conditions prior to joining the discussion forum.

1.4 Project Scope

Our discussion forum focuses discussion related to study. Our purpose to develop this software so that learner get a good platform where they can get a quick and efficient response from fellow learners.

1.5 References

There are following references of this proposed project.

1. R. S Pressman, Software Engineering: A Practioner's Approach, 5th Ed, McGraw-Hill, 2001
2. www.processimpact.com/process_assets/srs_template.doc

Chapter 2

Overall Description

2.1 Product Perspective

In this discussion forum our aim is to provide a good platform for learners where they can exchange their knowledge. They don't have to face the problem which they are facing on existing similar system such as false down voting, hard rule of asking questions, terminating from asking any further questions, etc. They will get well qualified results for their query from teachers, fellow learners, technical as well non-technical people. We will provide easy user interface so that user can use this forum as much as possible for their work. Their feedback will matter most for us to improve the forum.

2.2 Product Features

The features of this discussion forum are as follows:

1. There will be an index page where there will be signIn and singnUp option for learners (Students, Teachers, Staff).
2. We will ask some information regarding the learners to show appropriate to the learner interface.
3. User can ask question, reply answer, mark up vote and down vote, mark important questions and their discussions and can also share the question to another platform.
4. Question and answer can be done in any format such as audio, video, images and text.
5. User can give their feedback to improve our discussion forum such as add any other functionality or features.

Learners will get highly equipped functionality and features where they can easily navigate through out the discussion forum. We can also consider upon the user suggestion regarding functionality and usage of discussion forum. High end functionalities like chat peer-to-peer options will be there with the consent of fellow learner. However this functionality is limited. We will also release the guidelines for our discussion forum.

2.3 User Classes and Characteristics

Refer the figure no 2.1 and 2.2 for use cases diagram and UML(Unified Modeling Language) diagram respectively.

2.3.1 Use Cases Diagram

2.3.2 UML(Unified Modeling Language) Diagram

2.4 Operating Environment

There is no such requirements to use the discussion forum. However learners have to follow the guidelines issued for using the discussion forum. If any user fails to follow then strict action will be taken against his/her. Learner can find guidelines of using discussion forum.

2.5 Design and Implementation Constraints

We will provide Design and Implementation Constraints later in details. Although there are some areas where we are lacking such as asking question in form of audio, video and replying answers in form of audio, video and converting one audio language to another language. Some of the features will be released in the next update.

2.6 User Documentation

We will provide user documentation later.

2.7 Assumptions and Dependencies

There is no such assumptions or dependencies are required for this project. Only thing is that you laptop/ mobile/ tablet/ desktop, etc. should be connected with proper internet to browse our website.

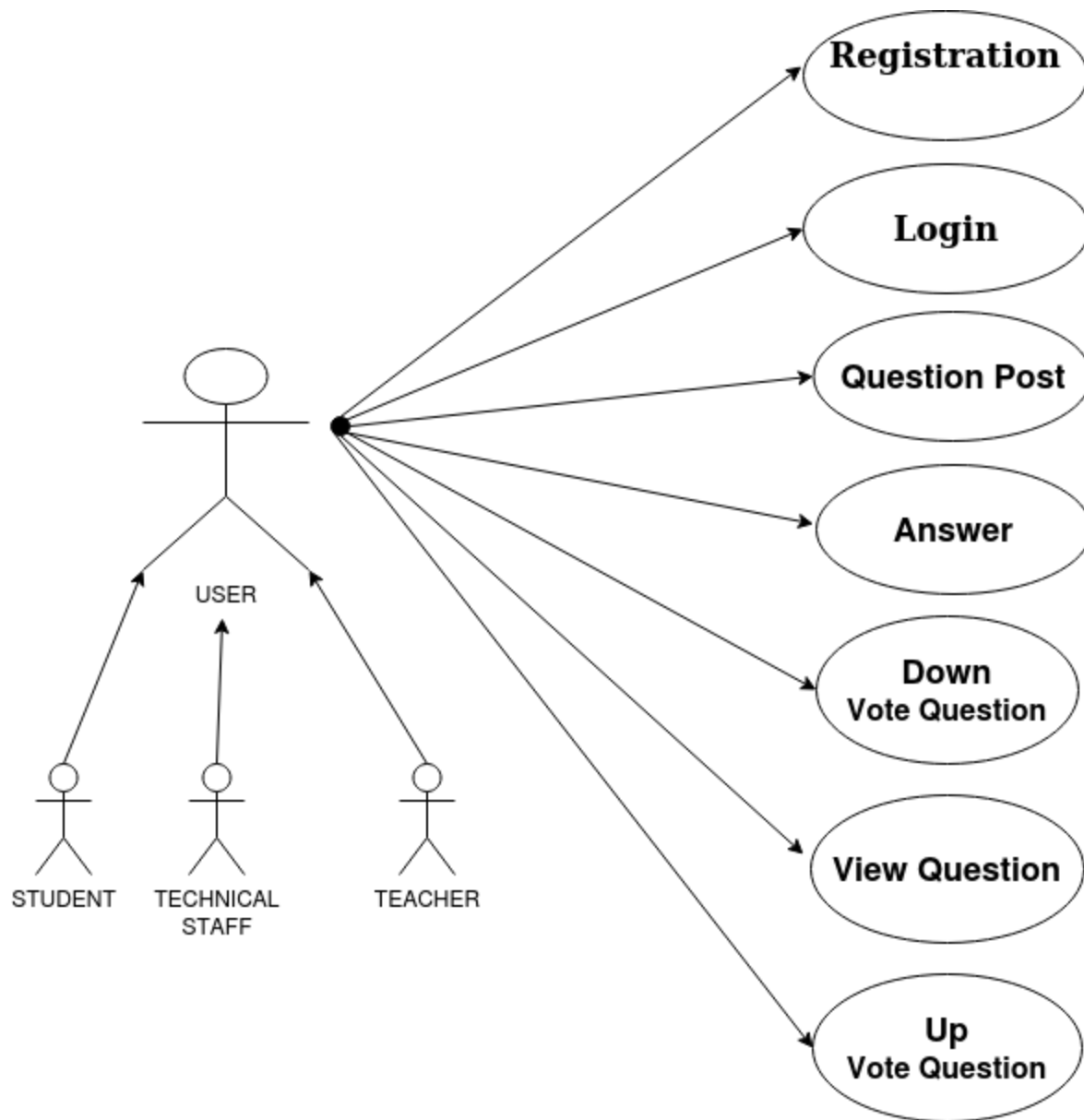
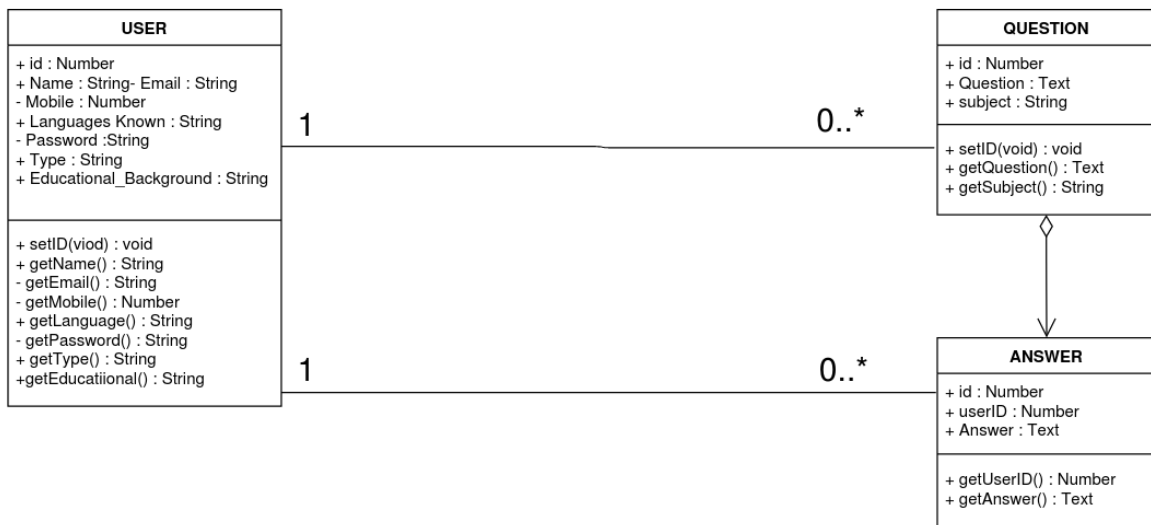


Figure 2.1: *USE Cases Diagram*

**Figure 2.2:** *UML Diagram*

Chapter 3

System Features

Although discussing about system features, it might be possible that user know about some features already but we will go through out scratch. System features are following:

1. SignUp/ SignIn
2. Question Post
3. Answer Post
4. Up Vote
5. Down Vote
6. Profile Update
7. Question Review
8. Forget Password

3.1 SignUp/ SignIn

This is first step towards this software. However, SignUp is not mandatory for browsing purpose but to post anything SignUp is mandatory. It is useful to fill out the correct information because atleast we will show you personalization based upon your choice. However you can update your choice as per your requirements

3.2 Question Post

This module is mainly for the registered users. As the Administrator has to know who has posted the questions the user is registered here. These registered users alone can post their question in detailed manner.

3.3 Answer Post

Each and every posted question will get the exact answer from the Discussion Forum team and also they can get a lot of answers from the different user.

3.4 Profile Update

Now Learner can personalize your account by adding a profile picture. Learner can also write up a summary about themselves.

3.5 Forget Password

In case of forgetting password, still learner can use our discussion forum with the same account. Simply click on forgot password and we will send you a link to update your password on your e-mail and you have to follow the procedure to reset your password.

Chapter 4

External Interface Requirements

4.1 User Interfaces

The GUI features of this proposed project is following

4.1.1 Sign Up User Interface

4.1.2 Login User Interface

4.1.3 Question Post User Interface

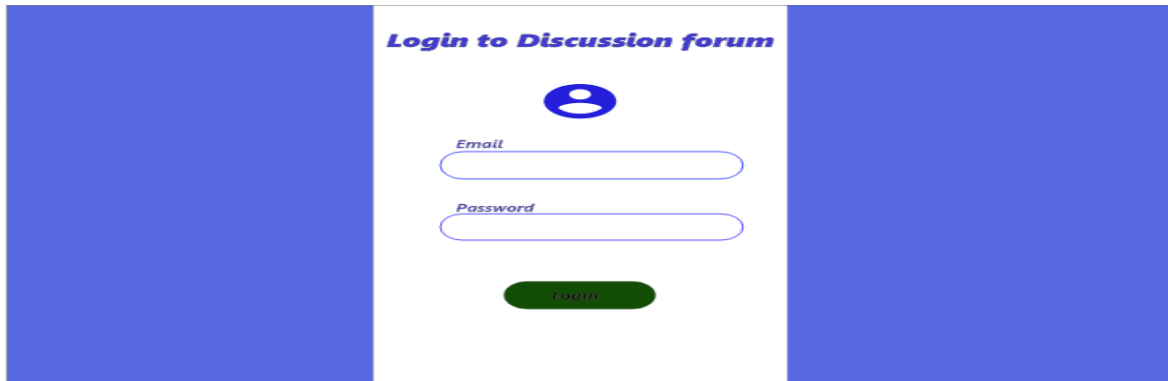
4.2 Hardware Interface

The stranded input device like keyboard and mouse are to get input. The output will be generated and display in the monitor. The reports can also be exported to a SQL-server document are text file. The stranded printer in used to take outputs.


4.3 Software Interface

The design part and interface id done the front end HTML, Javascript, etc. and PHP, SQL server as a backend of the project.



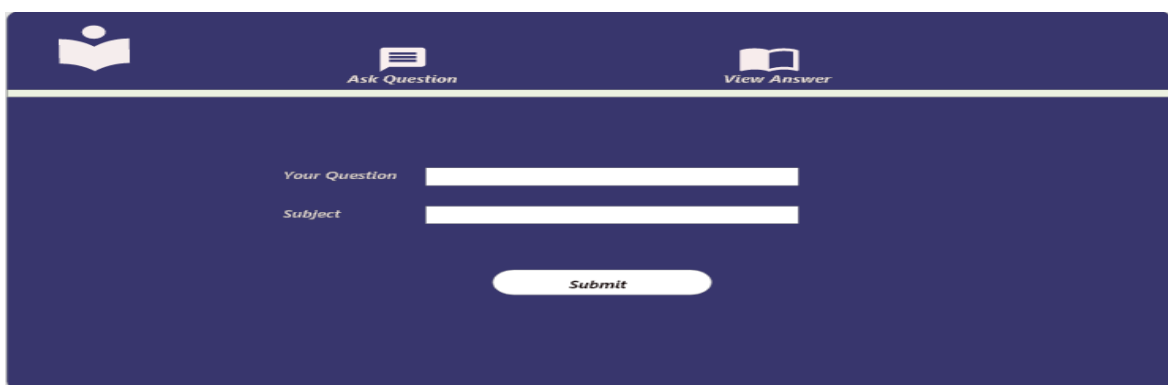





Login to Discussion forum



Email

Password



Ask Question **View Answer**

Your Question

Subject