Gada website project - List of questions

Colour code:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Definite yes |
|  | Yes but not a priority |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree / further discussion needed |
|  | Disagree with suggestion /clarification |
|  | Clarification |
| A | Further action required |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | | | | | | **Answer** |
| **Registration** | | | | | | |
| **A** | | | | | What are the list of interests and skills? | List to be provided by Mattia |
|  | | | | | **Top section** | |
|  | | | | | Why would a template need to be downloaded to submit an idea? Can it not just been filled in online with a template that is automatically saved when changes are made (until submitted)? | Possibly yes, this is a good idea. If it doesn’t require a lot of extra development work I am happy to take this suggestion. However, it may be good for proponents to save a copy of their idea in their own computer. |
|  | | | | | What does the top section look like for non-logged in users? Should this say “Welcome guest” or “Welcome friend” and have the login/register button/box? | Absolutely: “Welcome friend” and login/register button. |
|  | | | | | Can guests not see the discussions? This might make them sign up | This is good suggestion. Perhaps they can only see the list of discussions but when they try to enter one they are asked to register/login. |
|  | | | | | Instead of “Join a project” I would recommend just saying “Projects” | Agreed |
| **Middle section** | | | | | | |
|  | | | | How will the content for this be determined? Will it always be the latest one or will it be random? | | Can this be chosen by the staff? We’d like to handpick the stories that deserve more visibility (e.g. because they have achieved something or because they need more support) |
|  | | | | Where are the images coming from? | | Either the Gada staff or the project team will select the image, only the Gada staff can upload them |
| **Bottom section** | | | | | | |
| For the left hand side: | | | | | |  |
|  | | What’s Rubic (where the news is pulled from)? | | | | See below re Rubic. For the news, I would like to have instead a simple RSS feed with links to other webpages (e.g. the BBC one) |
|  | | What is the analysis part? | | | | [www.rubic.it](http://www.rubic.it) is managed by a friend of mine and he will make an English version of this and will focus on op-ed and analysis: we are discussing about a collaboration whereby he shares the right to three op-eds/analyses and I send readers to his website |
|  | | How many of these items will be shown? | | | | Left column: News feed (4-5 news); Publications (1-3) |
| For the central part: | | | | | |  |
|  | How many of these items will be displayed? Will this just be an endless  as the user scrolls down the page? | | | | | I would say 20 items displayed. Any new item pushes the last in the list out |
|  | How important are the questions, surveys and polls? | | | | | In the MVP I want to use the polls (no surveys, sorry!) to ask feedback on Gada to the early users. It is a direct way of gathering information to inform the development of the final product. [In the final product, polls will focus on public policy issues.]  Questions are the starting point of discussions: users can ask ‘How to’ questions in the forum section of the debate and invite other users to join the debate. |
|  | * + Who has the ability to create these? | | | | | Only Gada staff can create polls whereas questions that start debates can be asked by users as well |
|  | * + Can users suggest them? | | | | | It would be good for users to have a free section in which they provide comments on Gada, but this could well be a forum thread titled “How can we improve Gada?” |
|  | * + Are these just for the related topics or can everyone get involved? | | | | | Anyone can join any discussion, though once a user has expressed their preferences they will be exposed to discussions in their area (thought the main feed) |
| For the right hand side: | | | | | |  |
|  | Is the weekly survey just a link or the actual content? | | | | | Sorry this should be a poll not a survey, and it will normally take the form of a multiple choice question (typically 2, 3 or 5 choices) |
|  | Who decides the weekly survey? | | | | | There is no survey, but the weekly poll is prepared by the Gada staff. Polls will likely stay online for longer at first since we will only have a limited user base |
|  | Can people see previous surveys should they want to complete them? This could show a change in opinions over time. | | | | | No |
|  | The same with polls, can people vote on old polls and change their minds? | | | | | It would be good but not essential at this stage if it requires a lot of work; it would be good for us to have a way of record/save previous polls though so as to gather all the evidence that we need to build the final product |
|  | Are the polls topic specific? | | | | | Yes indeed, we will ask specific questions on some aspects of the service |
|  | Do guests see all the content and users see the content for their selected interests/skills? | | | | | Precisely. However, a logged in will have the stories relevant to his/her interest at the top but if these are not enough to cover the 20 slots of the central column stories from other issues will figure at the bottom. Essentially the position of a story will depend on the number of #interests tagged (keywords attached to the story that match the keywords chosen in the user profile) and on its date of publication. So a story with three matched #interests will be higher up than story with two matched #interests tagged, and two stories with same number of matched #interests will be displayed in reverse chronological order (most recent first) |
| **Discussions** | | | | | | |
| A | | | What are the sub-topics? | | | An initial list will be provided by Mattia. It is likely that the list will be progressively expanded and/or modified |
|  | | | What if a particular subject spans multiple topics and sub-topics? Would tagging be a suitable alternative? | | | Yes indeed! I envisioned the whole issue of tagging only to match stories with user interests, whereas I picked categories as a simpler way to display information for guests and users that are just interested in browsing information by topic. But if you think that there is a way of displaying active projects and discussions using tags instead then I am certainly listening ☺ |
|  | | | Who approves the discussion groups? | | | Gada staff at first, we will think about community moderation at a later stage |
|  | | * + What about different time zones? | | | | Again, this is not a worry at the moment since I will be focusing my efforts in the UK for the testing phase |
|  | | * + If the turnaround is more than a few hours this might put people off | | | | I can see that, this is a good point. Is 24 hours acceptable (if users are properly informed about it?). I can see this being a problem on weekends though. I just don’t want people to post offensive questions or start absurd debates, and I feel that if we don’t keep control over what discussions are started on the site we may just lose control. Perhaps we write a code of conduct/guidelines and let the community police this? |
|  | | * + Do you need to be able to bulk approve/reject? | | | | In principle this would be good, though I would have to understand how it works in practice. |
|  | | What if you have hundreds of requests as a disaster happens? E.g. earthquake or volcano. Do you have time to read them all and choose best one then point all other submissions to that one? | | | | Another good point. We probably won’t. On the one hand we want people to discuss about issues whenever they have time and feel the urge to do so (e.g. as an emotional response to an emerging problem), on the other hand we want to keep some control over the number of discussions that are started in order to minimise duplication of discussion threads (imagine 10 people asking the same question but in a slightly different way…). How can we do this? |
|  | | Are users able to join a discussion group and not post anything? If not history of discussion groups posted in might be better | | | | Yes they certainly are, they can just read to form an opinion and contribute if and when they feel they can do so. The last thing we want is people who in order to join have to sprout some nonsense out of their keyboard! :-P |