

Forum Web Application Features

The features described here are divided into three sections. First, features essential to the app's function are listed. Second, features that are not required for the site to work properly, but would be nice to have in a minimal viable product, are shown. Finally, possible extra features that I will implement as time allows are displayed.

I. Features essential to functionality (Estimated time: 2 weeks from Monday, Oct 4)

1. Design and create a database structure which will facilitate every foreseeable function to be programmed into this application.
2. Create a user interface and design the interface layout based on how I think it should look as well as advice I solicit from others.
3. Implement a user account system to encapsulate and secure user data.
4. Develop a forum thread system which allows users to create threads and posts that are associated with their accounts. Users will be able to reply to others' posts, and subsequent posts will be stored in chronological order within a thread. Each thread's posts will be displayed on its own page.
5. Implement a system which requires users to log in with an account in order to create threads/posts.
6. Design a webpage to house and display all forum threads.

II. Features desirable to MVP (Estimated time: 2 weeks from completion of section I)

1. Add a user role system, which includes User, Moderator, Administrator, and Owner roles. Each user role has different permissions and abilities within the application, and each role has the accumulated permissions of the role(s) below it.
2. Enable Administrator roles to promote/demote Moderators as well as ban Users from the application.
3. Enable Moderator roles to delete forum posts/threads.
4. Implement a reporting system which allows users to notify Moderators of content they deem inappropriate, including posts/threads as well as other users in their entirety.
5. Create a password recovery system that leverages user email addresses.
6. Develop a mechanism which requires users to verify their account via email in order to post.

III. Extra features (Implement during remainder of quarter)

1. Implement a system which divides forum threads into categories.
2. Add a system which allows users to block content from other users, rendering the blocked user's content invisible to the blocker.
3. Develop a system to display user profile pages, as well as a user search engine.
4. Design a system to associate avatars with users.
5. Add a way for users to maintain post signatures.

This application will be developed using the Ruby on Rails web development technology.