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Title:

Open Research Review Platform

Problem and the Domain:

Our project is in the domain of academic research and peer review. Traditional peer-review workflows are often closed and tied to a specific conference system, so only a small group of reviewers see feedback and it's hard for other researchers or students to browse papers, see reviews, or have open discussions. There's also no simple way for users to explore authors across multiple papers in one place or discover work based on who wrote it.

Solution:

We are building a web-based Open Review Platform where users can upload research papers, read them, review them with structured criteria, and participate in discussions.

User Interfaces:

1. Authentication & Profiles
   - Login / Registration pages for users to create accounts and sign in.
   - A Profile page that shows basic user info plus the user's uploaded papers and written reviews.
2. Paper Browsing & Management
   - A Home page that lists papers of followed researchers.
   - If the user is a researcher, the home page includes an option to upload a new paper.
   - If the user is a reviewer, the upload option is hidden, and the focus is on papers to review.
   - An Upload Paper page where authors can submit a paper with title, abstract, authors, and PDF.
   - An All Papers page that lists every paper in the system
   - A Paper details page that shows metadata, a link to download the paper, overall scores, individual reviews, and the discussion thread.
3. Review Interface
   - A Write Review page/form for reviewers that includes:
     - i. Overall score and decision/verdict.

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        ii.   Text feedback.

        iii.   Per-criterion scores

4. Discussion Interface
   - A Discussion section on each Paper Details page where logged-in users can post comments and read existing discussion to support open dialogue about the paper.

5. All Authors page
   - An All Authors page that lists all researchers (authors) who have papers on the platform.
   - Each author name links to their profile page, where users can see all papers associated with that author.

Technologies in use:

- Backend
  - Java with Spring MVC for controllers and request handling.
  - Service classes (e.g., UserService, PaperService, ReviewService, CriterionService) for application logic.
  - Session-based authentication for login and role-specific behavior (e.g., researcher vs reviewer).
- Frontend
  - Mustache templates (.mustache files) for server-side rendering of HTML views.
  - CSS for styling and layout of all pages.
- Database
  - MySQL as the relational database.
  - Tables for users, papers, reviews, review criteria, review-criterion scores, comments, and author–paper relationships.
  - A JDBC-based data access layer (or Spring's data access support) to query and update the database.