

Paste Site

Introduction

I want to build a site where people can paste snippets of text into a text box. The users will then be given a convenient short link to share the text they just pasted.

It's very inconvenient to share a lot of text or code in messengers like Facebook Messenger, Whatsapp, Twitter, etc.

By providing a quick short, shareable link; it becomes convenient to do so.

Expected Features

1. The bare minimum is:

- 1.1 A text area to paste text into, and a submit button.
- 1.2 Being given a link to the paste upon hitting the submit button.
- 1.3 Being able to visit the link and be presented the pasted text.

2. I also want to provide an Expiration date for the paste.

The justification for this is that by generating a shortlink, we only have a limited number of characters, and thus limited pastes. By expiring pastes, we will be able to reuse shortlinks.

Future Features (Nice to have if we have enough time in the project)

- Push back expiration date by some time whenever a paste is accessed.

The justification for this is that popular pastes that people visit stays active as long as people are visiting them.

- Ability to encrypt & decrypt the text client-side with a key.

This way, the server never sees unencrypted text, guaranteeing the user's privacy. The server will also never know the key for decryption. (Possibly using AES)

- Burn after X reads.

The justification for this is to send a party some text and have that disappear for opsec.

Market Survey

1. Pastebin.com

- This is a fully featured paste site (the first).
- It has Syntax Highlighting, perpetual pastes, timed pastes, API, and more
- Does not do encryption.

2. Defuse.ca

- Barebones paste site with expiring pastes and encryption.
- Very basic UI.

3. Privatebin.info

- This is a fully featured, open source paste software written in bootstrap.
- This allows paste expiration.
- Has passwords and encryption.
- Has a "burn on read" feature.

4. Ubuntu pastebin

- Barebones page that produces a fairly long URL.
- Allows Paste expiration.

5. OBin

- Barebones page with paste expiration and automatic encryption and password.
- Uses browser localStorage to keep track of previous pastes.
- Has a "burn on read" feature.
- The URL it generates is fairly long.

Market Comparison

Most offerings on the market already have more features than I have planned for the project. Some offerings do not provide a shortlink. I want all my links to be short.

A future feature; *to push back expiration when a paste is accessed*; has not been implemented by anyone yet.

I chose a limited feature set because I'm not sure I can implement all features I want over the duration of this course.

References

1. <https://pastebin.com>
2. <https://defuse.ca/pastebin.htm>
3. <https://privatebin.net>
4. <https://paste.ubuntu.com>
5. <https://Obin.net>