CCAPDEV Term 3, AY 2022 – 2023 Machine Project – Phase 0

Project Proposal

PokéHub: A Discussion Platform for Pokémon Enthusiasts

Group #3

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**Introduction**

Forums often provide platforms for a group of people to interact, engage in discussions, share insights, and allow people to build a sense of community. Oftentimes, online communication and the building of communities to facilitate such can foster positive feedback that can strengthen the self-image of people who act prosocially within those communities; that is to say, people with higher engagements on those forums have reported a net increase in their positive emotions and moods, satisfying basic psychological needs (Stehr, 2023). Pokémon, first released on February 27th, 1996 in Japan (The Pokémon Company, n.d.), has since grown into an international franchise spanning multiple media formats and is now a household name. As such, our group believes that the creation of a forum for Pokémon enthusiasts to provide for these services could be beneficial to the community, helping to foster a sense of camaraderie among fans, especially helpful given its large and passionate fanbase. It would allow for these like-minded individuals to come together, discuss their favorite aspects of the franchise, and engage in friendly debates. Furthermore, it would aid in the complex aspects of the game, given that Pokémon has since then encompassed multiple generations with over a thousand different Pokémon which has increasingly diversified its strategic elements, and its mechanics. Thus, a forum such as the one we intend to create would thus aid new players in understanding and navigating the intricacies of the game and nurturing an environment where members can engage in discussion, debates, learning, and social interaction.

**Description of the Web Application**

To create a web application that promotes the interaction of Pokémon enthusiasts, the group would design the application as a forum. The application would require those interested in the topic matter to have an account, which would allow them to open new topics and post images, videos, or simple discussions. The posts would then have a rating system wherein upvotes, akin to reddit, determines the popularity of the post, in which users with a high number of upvotes attain more visibility as the algorithm deems it popular or important. The features to be implemented for the application are as follows:

● **General**

○ In general, the application will have a Pokémon-themed design, with a good UI and UX allowing for ease of navigability and access.

● **Register**

○ A user must register an account to post and interact with other members of the forum. This includes entering a username and password.

● **Login**

○ Once registered, users can log in to their account to interact with other posts or discussion. Users can opt to have the application “remember me” in order for them to not have to enter their credentials every time they log in

● **Logout**

○ The user also has the option to log out to clear any session-related data, bypassing the “remember me” feature if applied.

● **View Profile**

○ Users can also view their “Profile”, a page containing information about their username, profile picture, bio, and other personal information chosen to be made public. Visitors can also see previous posts and comments of the user.

**● Edit Profile**

○ Users can also edit their user profiles to change any information they left public for visitors.

● **View All Posts**

○ A feed containing all the posts of the user arranged by either the posting date or amount of upvotes. This can be sorted via the specification of a date range.

**● Post**

○ Registered users can post in a text, image, video, or file format. The post must have a title, with an optional description to serve as a caption for the post.

**● Search**

○ To find a post, users can use keywords to search said post. The results would then contain posts containing the keywords used in the title. (Person searched Pikachu, posts with the word “Pikachu” in the title would appear)

**● View a Post**

○ Any user can view posts on the web application through a link in either the user profile or by searching it in the application. The page would include the post, its rating, and its comments.

**● Comment**

○ Users will be able to comment on the posts made by fellow users. These comments can then be replied to forming a “chain”

**● Edit/Delete a Post**

○ The original posters can edit or delete their posts at any point, with an indication of whether they have been edited or deleted when visitors access the post.

**● Edit/ Delete a Comment**

○ Similarly, commenters can edit or delete their comments at any point, with an indication of whether they have been edited or deleted.

**● Upvote/Downvote**

○ Registered users can upvote or downvote posts, serving as a rating system on how “useful” the post was for users.

**References**

Stehr, P. (2023). The benefits of supporting others online – how online communication shapes the provision of support and its relationship with wellbeing. *Computers in Human Behavior*, *140*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2022.107568

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