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Week 5 – Analytics

Senior Project

Data Analytics provide a way to take raw data and transform it so that it can be usable and provide insight. In our message board, we will attempt to implement post count and hypothetical user count. This can be useful for many reasons. It allows to Admins to see how active the users are in general and with further analysis, they can discover which topics create the most posts. For users, they are able to track how often they post as well. On many different active forums, posters can receive special permissions based on the amount of posts they have.

Some of the challenges we face is the delete function and how that will alter the post count. For instance in a real world setting, if an Admin deletes a thread for a non-user related reason, the posts could disappear and alter permissions. Although that would be a bit complicated to solve with this project, it is something to consider and try to address when coding as soon as possible.

There are other analytic options related to message boards that could be added, but with our use case, these features would not be useful. We do not request gender, date of birth, or much other identifiable information so we would not be able to extract birthdays or male/female users. Our options could include 'posts per day,' 'most posted in per hour,' and even the game's most often posted about. Once we are able to successfully implement our first two choices, we may consider adding additional analytics.