Panther Buddy
User Guide

Advanced Software Engineering (CEN 5011)

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1. Introduction

This user guide presents an in-depth description of the Panther Buddy application.

1.1. Purpose of the System

Panther Buddy is a web application through which users interested in Florida International University can get access to relevant information related to majors, housing, etc. On Panther Buddy, different types of information will largely be generated by users. Once a user is registered on Panther Buddy, he or she will be able to post questions and view profile of other users. As a result, other users will be benefited from this sort of interaction.

2. Hardware and Software Requirements

This section describes the hardware and software necessary to run the Panther Buddy application.

2.1. Hardware Requirements

The Panther Buddy Application should be able to run on any computing device that can support a modern browser.

2.2. Software Requirements

The front-end of Panther Buddy is written in the Bootstrap framework (Version 3). The Bootstrap framework supports the latest, stable releases of all the major browsers and platforms in Linux, Mac, and Windows. Bootstrap v3 supports internet explorer 8-11. If the user has doubt about a specific operating system, he/she can visit (http://v4-alpha.getbootstrap.com/getting-started/browsers-devices/) for more information about browsers and operating systems supportability.

3. How to Run the Application

This section presents and describes various stages and screens in using the Panther Buddy application.

3.1. The Panther Buddy's Graphical User Interface (GUI)

Panther Buddy has a simple graphical user interface. In the login screen (figure 1), there is a "Welcome to Panther Buddy" banner located at the top of the page. Below the banner, there is a box for user ID and another box for password. Below those two boxes, there is a login button on the left and a register button on the right. Below the login and register buttons, there is a "Recover Password" button.
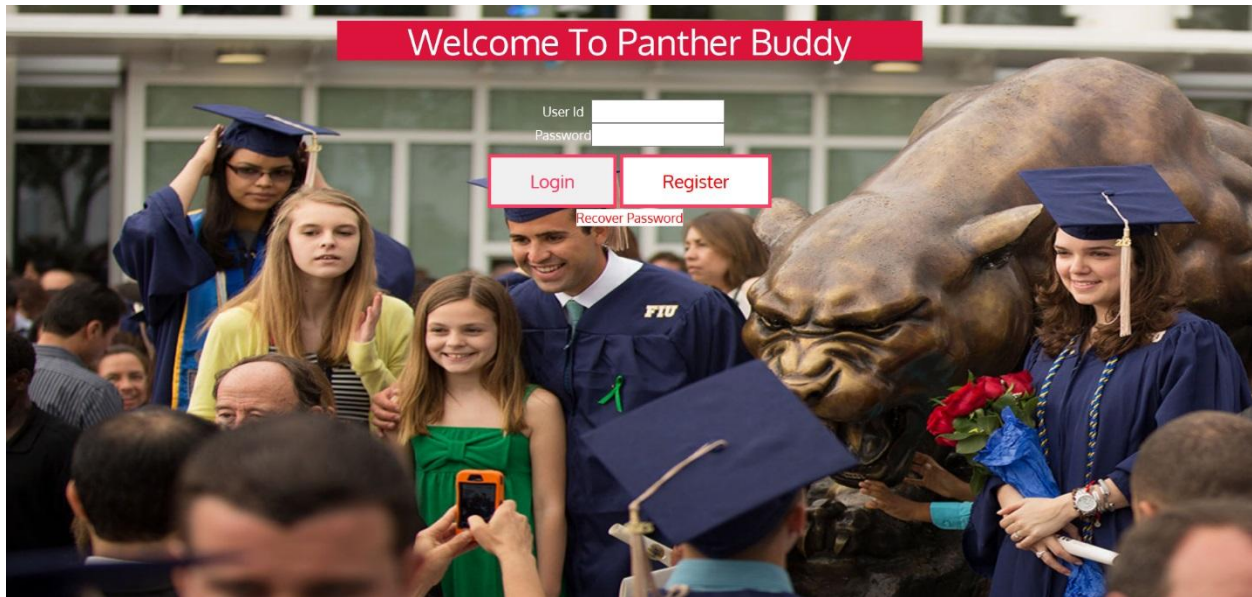

Fig. 1 Login page

3.2. Registering on Panther Buddy

To use Panther Buddy, a user has to be registered. If a user is not registered yet, he or she will have to start the Panther Buddy application by typing the appropriate URL. Once the application is opened, the user will click on the "Register" button. After clicking on the "Register" Button, the user will be directed to the registration page. Once the user is directed to the registration page, he or she will be able to enter the required credentials in order to get registered (see figure 2 below). After registering, the user will be able to view his own profile, view others' profiles, post and view messages, and delete his own messages.
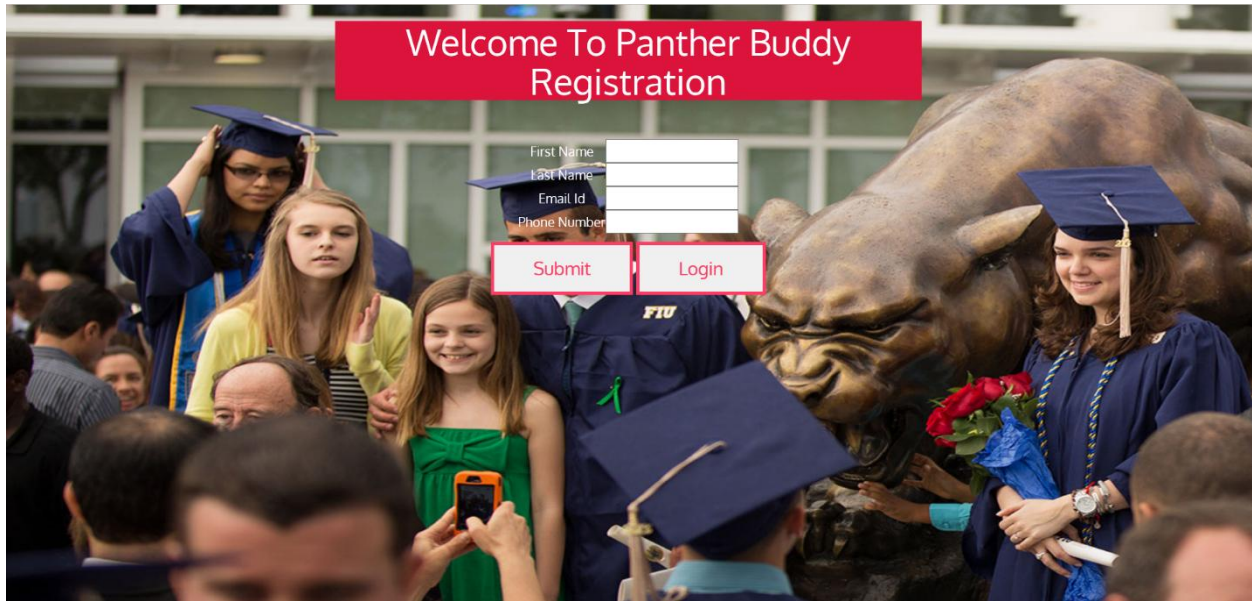
Fig. 2 Registration

3.3. Viewing One's Own Profile

Once a user is registered, he or she will have to change his/her password and complete the profile on the first login. After changing the password and completing the profile, the user will be able post messages, delete messages, view his or her own profile, and view others' profiles (see figure 3).
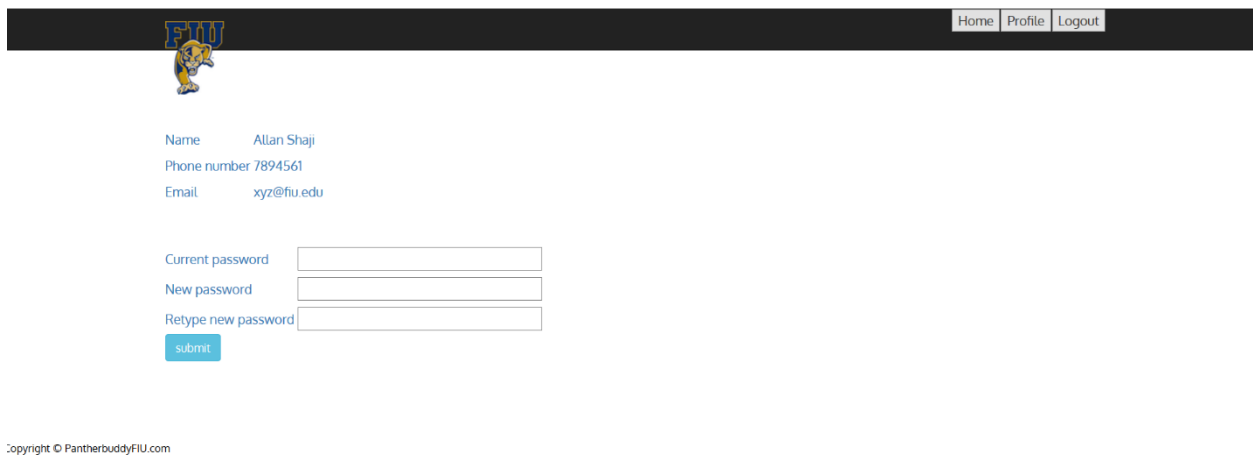

Fig. 3 viewing one's own profile

3.4. Viewing Others' Profiles

To view another user's profile, a user can click on the user's name. Once the user clicks on another user's name, he or she will be directed to the user's profile. Another way of viewing a user's profile is to enter the name of the user in the search bar on the home page (see figure 4).
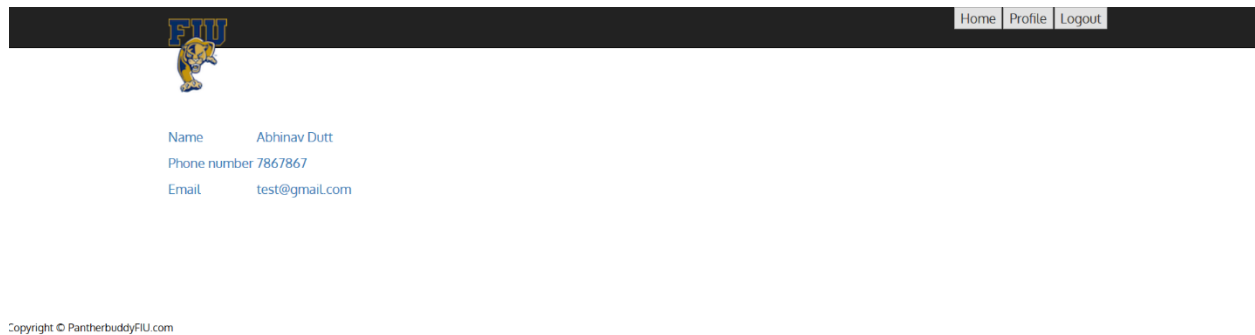

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Fig. 4 View other users' profiles

3.5. Recover Password

If a user enters his or her password multiple times or the user wants to recover a forgotten password, he or she will have to click on the "Recover" password button on the login page. Once the user clicks on the "Recover" Button, he or she will be directed to the "Password Recovery" page. From there, the user will be able to enter his or her email address in order to start the password recovery process (see figure 1 and 5).
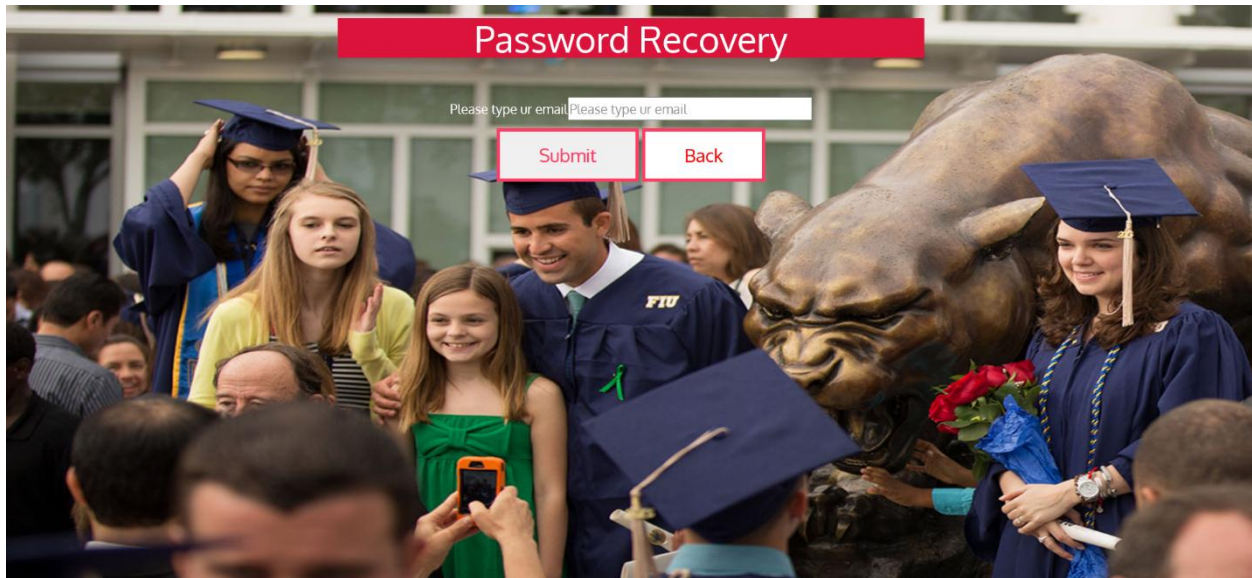
Fig. 5 Password recovery

4. Use Cases

This section describes five important use cases in Panther Buddy. Figure 6 contains four of the described use cases in this section.

4.1. Login

To log in, a registered user will start the Panther Buddy application by typing the appropriate URL. Once the Panther Buddy Application is opened, the registered user will have to enter his user ID and password in the user ID and password boxes. If either credential is wrong or both are wrong, the registered user will have to enter the correct credentials in order to log in (See figure 1).

4.2. Post Messages

Once logged in, a registered user will be able to post messages. To post messages, the user will place the cursor in the post message box and click in the box. The user will then be able to type the message. Once the user is done typing the message, he or she will click on the "Post" button located under the post message box (see figure 3).
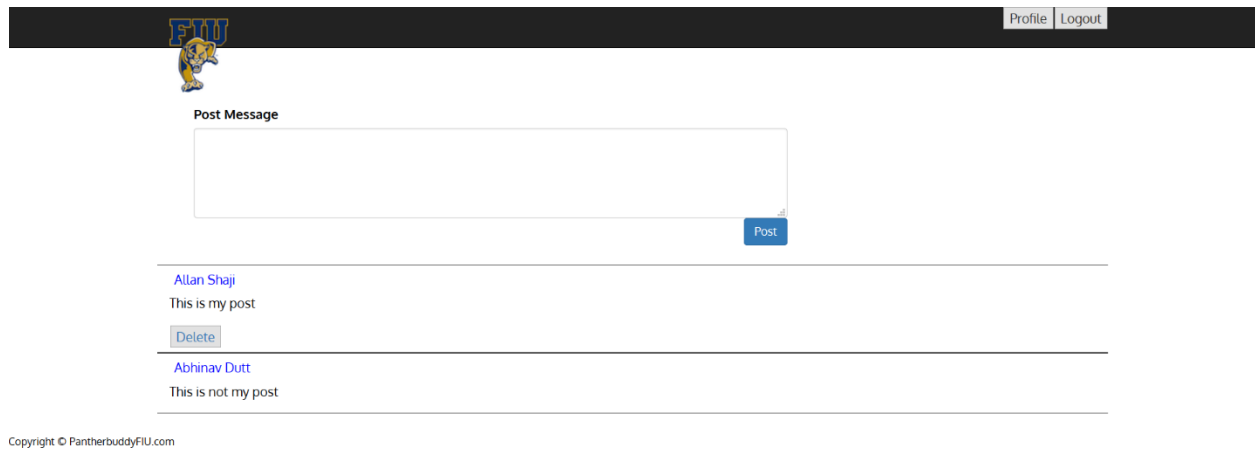
Fig. 6 Post messages, delete messages, and view post

4.3. View Post

To view a post, a user will have to locate the specific post in the main page of the Panther Buddy application. The user can scroll up or down the page to read other posts that might of interest to him or her (See figure 6).

4.4. Delete Post

If a user posted a post that he or she wishes to delete, the user will have to locate the post. Under the post, there will be a "delete button". The user will have to click on the "delete" button to delete or erase the post (See figure 6).

4.5. Logout

If a user wants to log out, he or she will have to locate the "logout" button located at the top of the page on the right. Once the user locates the "logout" button, he or she can click on the button to log out (see figure 6).