

CS5774: User Interface Software

Project 3

Group:

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Part 1 – Summary

VT Knowledge

This is a web application targeted to grad students who will like to have answers to any type of question regarding University life from a reliable source. While it's aimed specifically to grad students, faculty and VT future and current students can also participate in the application providing and soliciting knowledge in any topics they may be experts.

It gives the opportunity for a user to have a direct channel to obtain answers to questions related to the VT campus, regarding topics such as classes, dining, VT traditions, housing and the possibilities are endless.

To participate in the application, a user needs to create an account with his VT email address. He is able to create topics he is interested in or he will like to know more about.

A user can ask as many questions they want, specifying the main topics the questions belong to. This gives us the opportunity to find/filter questions related to a particular topic. In the same way, suggest experts users that may have the answer to that particular questions and communicate to them the question so they can answer and provide knowledge.

Users can browse questions from any topic and upvote/downvote answers so the ones with a higher rate will appear at the top of the answers list.

Main Actions:

Sign in: Users have the opportunity to use their valid vt.edu email address to register and sign in.

Browse: Users of the webpage can browse through the questions/answer repository. It will be classified by date and in future versions of our application by topic and popularity.

Topics: Users can create, update and delete topics. For example, topics may include, classes, dining, VT traditions, housing, etc. Users will only be allowed to modify those topics that haven't been related to any specific user or question.

Note: The List, Add, Edit, Delete and Details view are implemented for the Topic item.

Question: Users will be able to ask a general question or ask a question to a specific user, without forgetting to specify the topic the question belongs to.

Answer: Users will be able to answer any question, but they have to keep in mind that it will be more valuable coming from a verified expert.

Future Implementations

Rate a question: Users can upvote/downvote a question, so the answers with a higher question will have a visibility priority.

Rate an answer: Users can upvote/downvote an answer, so the answers with a higher rate will have a visibility priority.

Search: Users can search questions by topic.

Profile: Users can update their profile with an image and introduce topics they may be experts on.

Part 2 - Instructions for setting up the software on a local machine

Step 1: Copy the VTKnowledge folder in the htdocs folder inside the XAMPP directory

Step 2: Run the mydb.sql script to have the application database 'mydb' available for use

Step 3: Open your web browser and type in: <http://localhost/VTKnowledge/>