

**COSC 360**  
***Web Programming***  
2022/2023 Winter Term 2

**Project Topic Number: 2**

**Title of project: My Discussion Forum Website**

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## **Project Description:**

The MyDiscussionForum website is designed to provide an online platform for users to engage in discussions and exchange information and ideas. Our website aims to mimic the functionality of online forums such as Reddit and Hacker News.

Users who wish to participate will be required to register for an account. Once registered, they will be able to post stories and make comments on items that have been posted by other users. They will have the ability to engage in discussions with other registered members.

Our website will also be accessible to unregistered users. These users will have the ability to view the content that has been posted by registered users, including stories and comments. However, they will not have the ability to edit or make comments on posts.

Our website aims to bring together individuals who share a common interest in discussion and information exchange, creating a dynamic and engaging online platform.

## **Requirements list:**

- User interactions on the site including reading/writing posts and creating new sub-sections - for new topics
- User accounts that allow access to writing/editing posts and commenting
- Unregistered “guest” users will only be able to read/view posts and navigate sub-sections, but will not be able to interact with posts
- User vs Admin level accounts with varying roles and access
- Admin level will be able to view history, manage/delete sub-sections, manually delete or hide user posts and ban any unwanted or unsavory users.
- Hand-styled layout with contextual menus - when a user has logged on to site, menus reflect change
- 2 or 3 column layout using appropriate design principles which highlight nav links when hovered over, responsive design
- Form validation with JavaScript
- Server-side scripting with PHP
- Data storage in MySQL
- Appropriate security for data
- Site must maintain state
- Responsive design philosophy - minimum requirements for different non-mobile display sizes

- AJAX/ similar utilization for asynchronous updates - if a discussion thread is updated, another user who is viewing the same thread will not have to refresh the page to see the update
- User images and profile stored in database
- Simple discussion grouping and display
- User can determine where they are in threads - Navigation breadcrumb strategy
- Error handling