

Final Project Proposal: “Brush Me Up”

Overview

“Brush Me Up” will use spaced repetition (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spaced_repetition) to help users remember things they've learned. A user can enter a memo (short-ish blurb of something they want to remember), and the application will remind the user at increasingly spaced intervals. When a users sees one of their memos, they can select either “Dang, I keep forgetting” or “I'm gettin' it” to influence the spacing before the next time this memo is shown.

Technologies

- Ruby on Rails web development framework
- PostgreSQL (kinda irrelevant as it's hidden behind the ORM)
- HTML + CSS for UI
- RSpec for unit tests
- Cucumber + webrat for integration tests
- Selenium for system tests

Motivation

I forget stuff.

Intended Users

Anyone who forgets stuff.

Features

- Show memos at intervals based on spaced repetition
- Users can provide feedback to emphasize or play down certain memos
- Counter to tell users how many memos to view before they're caught up
- Email reminders if users forget to brush up
- All functionality available before choosing a username and password: by default, users will use a created username-less account with an access token stored in their cookies. When “signing up”, we'll just assign a username and password to the account and delete the cookie.

Testing

To test this application, I will use a mixture of unit, integration, and system tests. When writing a new feature, I'll start by writing user stories explaining the functionality and different behaviors the user can expect to see based on their actions. Only user-noticeable changes will be included here. These stories can then be executed by Cucumber. In executing a story, webrat will simulate a browser requesting a page, filling out form elements, clicking buttons, etc., and check that the desired effect is achieved.

