**COSC 360 Project**

*Team members:*

-Barret Jackson 66122573

-Jake Egarhos 62584404

January 31, 2020

*Project Proposal*

For our project, we are proposing the creation of a discussion forum dedicated to the discussion of a variety of subjects. The website will be organized by “topics,” such as sports, music, etc., on which users can post “stories.” These stories can then be commented on and discussed by other users.

For all users, a navigation bar will be present at the top of the screen and will stay fixed regardless of where the user navigates on the page. The navbar will have links to the home page, to a list of topics, then context-dependent content depending on the type of user.

Visitors to the website will be greeted by a selection of topics to choose from. Upon selecting a topic, any visitor will be able to view all the stories on that topic as well as the comments. Unregistered visitors will not be able to comment on stories, make stories, or create topics. In addition to the standard navbar content, unregistered visitors will see links to login and to create a new account. All told, unregistered users will be able to:

* Visit topics
* View all stories and comments
* Create an account
* Log into an existing account

Upon creating an account, visitors will be asked to create a username and password. They will also be asked to select a personal question and enter the answer to that question as a form of password recovery in the case of a forgotten password. Once logged in, registered users will be able to create stories under a given topic and leave comments on their own stories or those of others. Users will also be able to propose new topics, which would have to be validated by an admin account before becoming usable (links to propose a new topic will be on the topics page as well as the user’s information page). The unique navbar content for logged in users will contain links to view/change the active user’s information and a link to log out of the site. All told, registered users will be able to:

* Visit topics
* View all stories and comments
* Create new stories and comments
* Propose new topics
* Log out of their accounts

In addition to regular registered accounts, there will also be admin accounts. Admin accounts will have special abilities not available to regular registered accounts. Admins will be able to delete any existing topics, stories, or comments. They will also have the ability to approve topic proposals from standard users by way of a proposal queue. Finally, admins will have the ability to turn standard accounts into admin accounts, to activate/deactivate users, or to ban users permanently. The navbar for admins will add links to their personal information, a user page which would allow an admin to search for specific users, and a logout link. All told, admin accounts will be able to:

* Visit topics
* View stories and comments
* Propose and approve new topics
* Delete topics, stories, or comments
* Make standard accounts into admin accounts
* Log out of their accounts

The goal of this project is to provide a simple, user-friendly interface for users to discuss a variety of topics, while allowing admins control over the content and active users.