P1.2 Design Reflection

Carolyn Zhang (carolynz)

Summary Assessment from User Perspective

Overall, I think the usability and interface of my website is fine. I like my Javascript-free solution to viewing page and site stats all on one page, with minimal confusion. (I had been considering doing collapsible table rows, but the issue of columns headers for the subtable, etc. had gotten a bit convoluted.)

In hindsight, I should have let the site ID be automatically generated (instead of being user-set) as a way to avoid the default unhelpful error messages.

Summary Assessment from Developer Perspective

Since I'm new to Ruby on Rails, much of my code was very sloppy and non-standard for this assignment. Many of my errors were already covered in Prof. Jackson's evaluation of project code during lecture, namely:

- 1. Controller methods are directly modifying object attributes, and should be made into method calls to model methods instead.
- 2. I need to use find_or_create_by_attributeX instead of using two or more commands to achieve the same result.
- 3. I should have used POST instead of GET requests to register a visit, because these requests are ultimately modifying information for the model.
- 4. Unused scaffolding commands (such as delete site) should be removed from the code to prevent malicious use.

Most Successful Decisions

- 1. Grouping the pages together on the interface so that it is clear which pages are associated with which sites
- 2. Actively trying to make the website easy for graders and users to understand

Least Successful Decisions

- 1. Not putting more of the controller code into individual methods
- 2. Not cleaning up unused bits of code

Priorities for Improvement

1. Learn idiomatic and clean ways of writing RoR code (perhaps by browsing through popular projects on Github)