

COSC 360 Proposal

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Project Introduction

Our Team has agreed on building the MyDiscussionForum website as our semester project. We feel that the requirements of this project fall best within our current level of expertise collectively, while at the same time challenging us and pushing us deeper in our learning journey. Time permitting our group would also like to work on a few stretch goals that would further push the learning objectives of this particular course. As this project is a discussion forum, many of the features will mimic popular discussion forums such as Reddit or Hacker News. We plan on splitting up the user profiles into three main categories; the administrator, registered users, and unregistered users. Each user will have a corresponding feature set (outlined below) that coincide with established norms. While many web forums have similar structures, our team will focus on the quality of both our front and back end development as the keystone of our project. HTML and CSS will be used for the front end according to project specifications to create a clean and user friendly experience. Again following project specifications our team will use a variety of different technologies including PHP and MYSQL to implement a robust back end. While the focus of this course is Web Development, jointly our team would like to grow in our collaboration skills through good communication. Through our use of Git, we will learn and use an industry standard for version control which will train us in the collaboration skills required for future workplace competency. Together we look forward to taking on the challenges and reaping the rewards that creating a MyDiscussionForum website will bring.

Project Features

General post features

- Title
- Content
- Date
- Comments
 - Tiered comments (commenting on comments)
- Post linked with user
- Post Karma (ratio of upvote to downvote)
- Report button
- Stretch goal (share with other registered user)
 - Tags to categorize further

Admin User

- Special admin account security
- Manage user account
- See statistics regarding posts
 - Post Volume
 - Post dates (graphs)
 - Other
 - Number of reported post
- Modify account password (based on user request)
- Restrict/block account access
- Monitor reported content and take corrective measures
- Search users by:
 - Name
 - Email
 - Post
- Additionally Admin's will have all the same abilities that registered user's have

User (Registered)

- Create account using name, email and an image (is required to be a registered user)
- Modify account settings and information
- User can see their most upvoted post along with their user rating
- User can see all of the posts that they themselves have posted

- Create post on the website
- View all posts on website
- Comment on posts
 - Comment on other comments (tiered comment system)
- Report post
- Report user
- Rate posts
- User rating based on upvote system (user should be able to monitor their rating number)
- Search posts by content / tag
- Sort posts by a variety of criteria
- Stretch goal (new password (forgotten) through email link)
- Stretch goal (direct messaging between registered users)
 - inbox for direct messaging
 - Create and subscribe to subcategories

User(Unregistered)

- Create account using name, email and an image
- View all posts on website
- Search posts and categorize the view

Current Project Requirements

- Backend must be written in PHP
- Must use GIT for version control
- Prototyping using Figma for visual style and views based off of user or admin accounts
- Data storage in MySQL
- Protection against SQL injection attack through JavaScript
- Collapsible threads
- A responsive, comprehensive and understandable user interface