Sober: Web-Application to Facilitate Constructive Discussions

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- Increasing world population, technological development
- ⇒ World is getting more complex

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Examples:
- Global: climate politics
- National: Gender-sensible language („Lehrer*innen")
- Local: Start time of C3D2 meeting

Worsening: Digital Bottleneck

Example: Start time of C3D2 meeting

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▼ [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		C3D2	5.3 KB	01.01.2018 21:17
Re: [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	7.9 KB	02.01.2018 12:59
Re: [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	6.3 KB	02.01.2018 20:50
Re: [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	9.8 KB	03.01.2018 10:54
Re: [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	5.8 KB	03.01.2018 21:17
Re: [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	5.3 KB	03.01.2018 23:54
Re: [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	4.6 KB	04.01.2018 01:05
Re: [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	4.8 KB	04.01.2018 01:40
Re: [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		Chaos Computer Cl…	8.6 KB	04.01.2018 10:16
Re: [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	14.3 KB	04.01.2018 11:23
[c3d2] Abstimmung Plenumszeit		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	6.4 KB	04.01.2018 22:44
Re: [c3d2] Abstimmung Plenu…		Chaos Computer Cl…	6.8 KB	10.01.2018 20:28
Re: [c3d2] Abstimmung Ple…		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	9.2 KB	10.01.2018 21:24
Re: [c3d2] Abstimmung …		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	7.9 KB	10.01.2018 21:29
Re: [c3d2] Abstimmu…		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	4.3 KB	11.01.2018 02:36
Re: [c3d2] Abstimmu…		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	7.9 KB	19.01.2018 21:29
Re: [c3d2] Abstimmung …		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	16.6 KB	11.01.2018 11:24
Re: [c3d2] Abstimmu…		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	8.9 KB	11.01.2018 12:18
Re: [c3d2] Plenum 2018-1		c3d2@lists.c3d2.de	7.9 KB	05.01.2018 12:16

A: „By the way the meeting takes place this thursday at 19:30.“

Worsening: Digital Bottleneck

Example: Start time of C3D2 meeting

A: „I dont understand this discussion. [...] I am really annoyed. Soon I'll quit. Then you all can organize it by yourself again."

Worsening: Digital Bottleneck

⇒ Even in small homogeneous groups: risk of escalation!

Solution Proposal: Better Tools!

stack**overflow**

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stack**overflow** → drastically improved communication
(programming questions)

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Key points:

- Ordered by chronology

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Similar features desired
for "normal" discussions

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Similar features desired for "normal" discussions

⊕ Contra- vs. Pro-arguments

⊕ Ratings

Existing solution:
brabbl.com

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Existing solution:
brabbl.com

$\ominus$ „Superficial" (no depth-dimension)

$\ominus$ Proprietary

DIY: `sober-arguments.net`

Features

- ⊕ Formalization: Thesis
  Pro/Contra-Arg., Question,
  Improvement-Suggestion

- ⊕ Depth-Dimension:
  Argument trees possible

- ⊕ Explicit field for *references*

- ⊕ GPLv3

- Python (django) + HTML + CSS

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● Python (django) + HTML + CSS

⊖ Status: early alpha

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What could that be useful for?

- Opinion-forming in groups about controversial topics

sober - worthwhile discussions
Home | Up | Account | About | debug page

Thesis#30
An application like `sober` is basically helpful for some use cases

E.g. for small or medium-sized groups where

1. there is a common will to reach mutual understanding and
2. formation of opinion on complex questions is intended.

Furthermore, `sober` can be used document important decisions. Thereby it is

Tags: sober

pro: 2 (0)　contra: 1 (0)　rest: 2 (0)　Agreement　...　　↑ 2018-12-27

Thesis#30 ↗1
Fast overview about controversial topics greatly facilitates ability to catch up

If one has not followed a discussion from the beginning (e.g. at a mailing list), often it is necessary to read a lot of (scattered) text to understand the state of the play. Many people do not have the resources for this and thus

References
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Tags: sober

Cogency　...　×　　↑ 2018-12-27

Thesis#30 ×1
Overestimated human rationality.

The benefit of such a platform is questionable because human interaction is mainly governed by emotions. They often have more effect on decisions than rational arguments.

References

Tags: sober

Cogency　...　×　　↑ 2018-12-27

Thesis#30 ×1 ×1
Emotions are not the only decesive aspects.

The original theses does not claim that emotions do not play any roll. But rational arguments also play a role. Especially for the mentioned target

References

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  („Which arguments where considered
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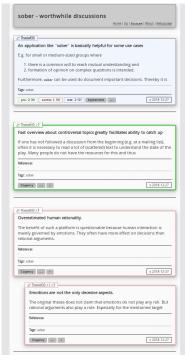
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- Individual analysis
  of (public) discourses

→ Self-empowerment
  for active participation

DIY: sober-arguments.net

Interested?

https://sober-arguments.net/contact

https://github.com/cknoll/django-sober