

Comment Anything

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Introduction

Since the internet's inception to the wider populace in the early 90's the internet has always been about saying what you want and free expression of opinion. As of lately with more and more government interference and corporatocracy the internet has become less about what the people have to say. This project's goal is to provide the users of the internet with an in-browser extension that allows them to create and share messages on a websites url and see other's messages for websites that don't have a comment system or when the one that is normally in place is disabled.

Motivation

Internet denizens have long found ways to communicate ideas and have vibrant communications about a wide variety content. However, these discussions typically are not supported directly alongside the content. The usual avenues of discourse today are through Facebook, Reddit, bulletin board style forums, and other such mediums. Our goal is to introduce a way to bring this discussion directly to where the content is at: a web page. Being able to open a web page and immediately jump into a discussion through our extension will allow users to find and contribute relevant information quickly. The idea that information should be freely accessible runs deep within the ideology of the internet. Often, this leads into a rabbit-hole effect of finding more about the topic at hand. Comment Anywhere strives to bring the discussion directly to the content.

Objectives

1. Working across all major browsers

We want our product to be able to work across all browsers, unfortunately that cannot be fully accomplished there are too many smaller lesser known browsers to work for all of them, so instead we will try to get to as many major browsers as possible like google chrome, Firefox and Microsoft edge to name a few.

2. Comment system for all websites

Our product should be able to accommodate for every single website on the internet as the only thing you need to comment on is the website's url, which is something that every webpage has.

3. User moderation

As with any product that humans can make comments on there needs to be some level of moderation. Most company's go with a automated system that over moderates like YouTube and misses things that definitely should be automatically removed like all the self-promotion and scam bots. Other's go with a paid or controlled team of moderators that usually have a massive bias towards the company's agenda over what should be

removed with twitter or reddit. Our moderation system will be a 3-tiered system with 2 types of user moderation and 1 type of automated moderation. The first kind of moderation we will have is comment ratings similar to most other common platforms like upvotes and downvotes likes and dislikes ect. in order to rank them based on how popular or unpopular a comment is. These ratings will then be taken into consideration of which way the comments will be sorted when viewing them. The other type of user moderation that we will use is the unpaid volunteer model, this is essentially the unpaid team of volunteers from the open-source model where any user that has a good enough rating can be selected to be offered volunteer-ship. Anyone that is selected for the volunteer moderation will be able to report comments for various reasons such as being off topic violating the guidelines or calls to violence for manual review.

4. Automated moderation

While user moderation will catch most of the problems with the comments we will also employ automated moderation for specific task's. Automatic moderation can and will be applied to specific types of comments such as scam comments or bot comments in order to keep them from ever reaching the users in the first place. Another tactic we can employ to combat this is blacklisting links to specific websites and webpages that are known to be problems like phishing sites. Our automation in specifically will employ tactics such as speech sentiment specific words and machine learning to get the job done.

5. Backend

The project will also employ many backend services such as a comment database and API comment analysis and moderation, user information and moderation and administration services.

Implementation Techniques

1. Browser Extensions

Our Project essentially has to use JavaScript for the browser extension over other languages as it is what just about every other major extension uses due to the amount of tools and resources available for it.

2. Backend Languages

As of this proposal we have not selected a final backend language to use for our project but we do have a few that we intend to choose from. Here are the languages we have selected as candidates Golang, C#/ASP.NET, Java/Spring, Python/Flask and Javascript/Node.JS.

3. Homepage

Our project will also have a basic homepage with details about the project.

Potential Users

The user's of this product are virtually anyone that uses the internet really, there's an almost unlimited pool of users since almost everyone is on the internet.

Features/Deliverables

Our product aims to be a web browser extension that allows the user to comment on any url on the internet. We will also have the ability to see other comments in the order of popularity based on other user's reviews of their comment through a rating system. There will also be a voluntary moderation and automated moderation team that deals with reporting and comments. We also want the product to be used across virtually all popular internet browsers with a backend and homepage with further information.