

CVWO Final Submission AY22/23 Write-up

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Link to deployed application: <https://blog-forum-app-cyqjoseph.netlify.app>

Introduction

Before this assignment, I had dabbled with some static websites built with React, so this project was a great way to ease myself into an introduction into full-stack web development whilst learning an entirely new framework with Rails. This project was built using React as the frontend, and Ruby on Rails as the backend with a postgresql database. This project reinforced to me the importance of code organization, and also introduced me to certain patterns such as the MVC design. Due to more commitments and the increased workload at the start of a new semester, the bulk of this project was completed mostly during the winter break.

Thoughts

When creating this web application, I decided to concentrate my focus on the backend portion, as it was an entirely new language and framework to learn for me. Needless to say, I am happy with the end product as I managed to get the basic CRUD functionality to work with the user, blogs and comment models, but importantly, to interact correctly with the frontend. This project made me appreciate the bridge between the frontend and the backend, as one cannot function fully without the other.

Shortcomings

One of my goals with regards to features for the project was to create a like/dislike functionality for blogs. However, due to my poor planning and design of my models at the initial stages when creating my schemas, I was faced with a dilemma of trying to link the user and the blog when trying to insert a like/dislike functionality. I tried to introduce a Rails gem to help implement this functionality, but it was insufficient in resolving my issue due to incompatibility with my models, so I decided to remove the functionality altogether.

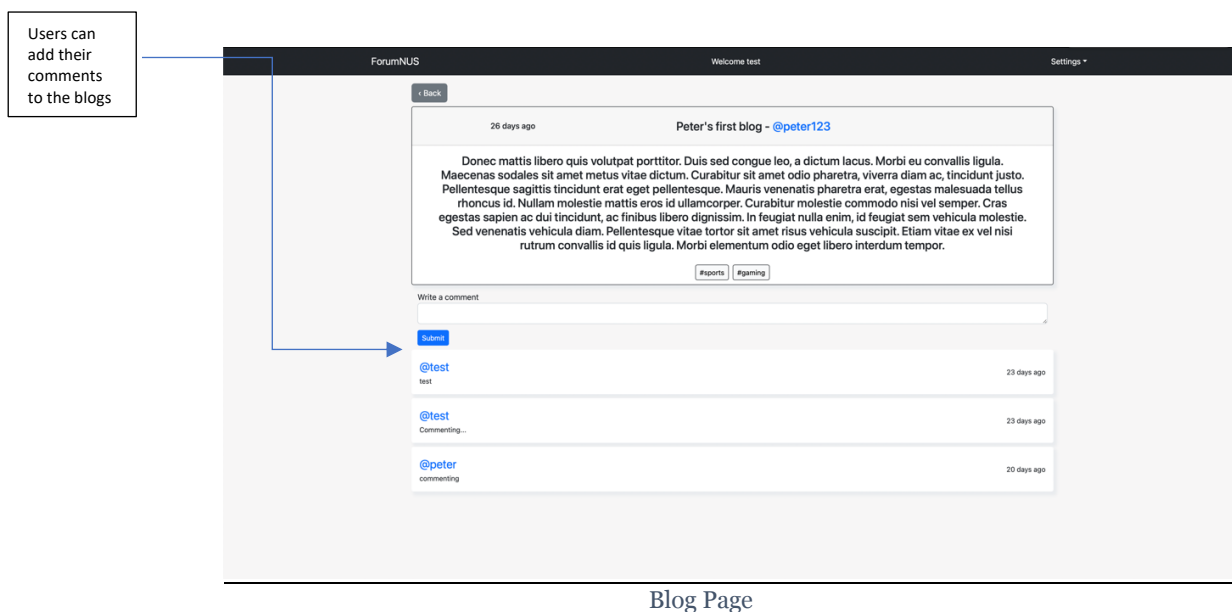
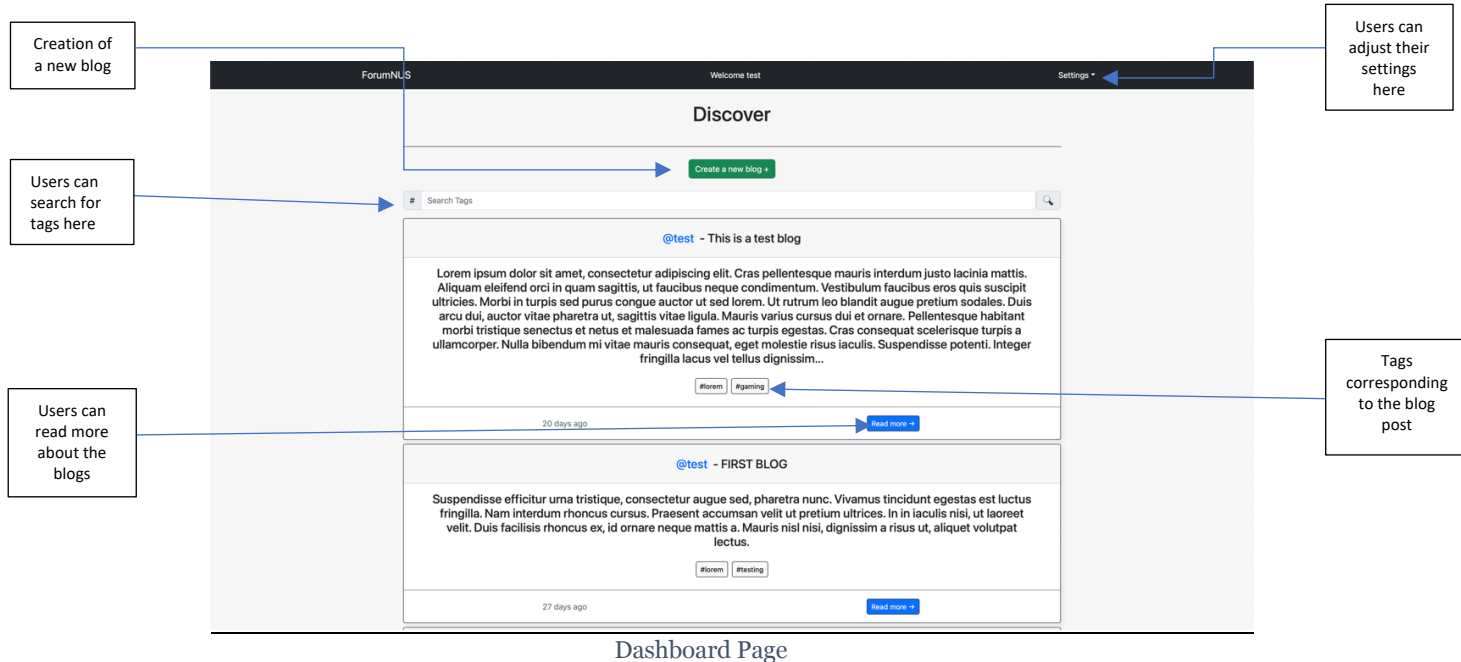
In addition, I concede the overall frontend design of the web application is lacking. While there are no glaring issues with the design, the overall layout and components could have been designed better, and also the web application is not mobile responsive.

In retrospect, I realize that many of my problems that arose when creating this project was due to a lack of proper planning when starting this project. I made the mistake of diving into the project and building components/learning about the framework as the project progressed without a proper blueprint at the start. If I had to name the single biggest takeaway from this project, it is to plan properly and

thoroughly about the design/functionality of a project before even writing a single line of code.

User Manual

Users are able to sign up and log in, as they are first re-directed to the application's login page. Upon logging in/signing up, they are redirected to the dashboard where they can view what other users have posted/create a new blog. Users are able to edit/delete their own blogs if they wish, but other users are unable to do so.



Users can add their tags to the new blogs during creation

Creation of a new blog

Users can enter their corresponding tags and filter for the tagged blogs

Only tagged posts matching will be displayed

Filtered blogs with "food" tag

Conclusion

Overall, this assignment was an enjoyable and great project to work on during the winter break, although some functionalities were not implemented and the design is imperfect, I am definitely proud of the finished product - a working full-stack CRUD app that has an additional tagging functionality. It has definitely renewed my interest in software development, and I also appreciated how concepts taught in certain modules during Semester 1 were also applicable to the development of this project.