
Red, White & Youth Alpha Memo

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Review of Goals

We are on track to finish the goals we set in the project proposal. We want to have a clean, forum driven website that allows users to discuss political issues and that is the path we are on. Some parts of the website have advanced more quickly than others but upon completion everything will have fallen into place.

New Issues

Since the project proposal we have had two new issues. The first is the allocation of work. Since the site is limited to six separate pages there is not a vast amount of space to do work in. On top of the limited pages the overlap in pages can make it easier for one person to take the lead on multiple pages. While another two people could work on the same page to accomplish its purpose it is faster for one person to deeply understand the code then to have two people trying to understand everything through the development phase.

The second issue is merging the work done to each page while multiple people are working on the site. We are sharing a GitHub repository but hosting the site from one members weblab account. At first this was very problematic because we were not using relative pathnames to navigate the site. This caused the site to be extremely hard to test while small changes were being made by each person. Changing the absolute pathnames to relative pathnames fixed the testing problems but we still need to make sure that we do not break existing commits before pushing each commit to GitHub.

Current Features

As of now, all pages are working towards their acceptability criteria. All of the pages exist but they currently have bugs within them that will not be acceptable upon completion of the project. The biggest bugs that currently need to be fixed are

- The login system is not fully functional
- Logout does not work at all
- The basic sorting of comments does not exist

Currently, any features that depends on user account information is hard-coded with working credentials so we can continue development of other features while simultaneously working on the login bugs.

Despite the bugs, we were able to finish a large amount of the “dynamically constructed” pages very quickly. Both the “Topics List” and “View Topic” pages were developed quickly using AngularJS and PHP. A few features, like “Add a Comment” on the “View Topic” page were so easily added with AngularJS that we are actually slightly ahead

of schedule on these pages. This will give us plenty of time to work on the aforementioned bugs. Red, White & Youth's current features are:

- Site navigation is complete
- All backend PHP scripts and MySQL queries are complete
- All user-created data systems (accounts, posts, and comments) are fully functional
 - With the exception of getting the account information to persist through page navigation, but it does get stored correctly in our database
- The "home page" allows users to select a topic by clicking on the topic and automatically navigating to that topic's "View Topic" page.

Feasibility Testing

We have made sure that all potential features we stated in our proposal are feasible. We each researched the features we proposed to the site to make sure that they were realistic ideas prior to adding them to our proposal. Most of these features have been added in some way already. The main features that do not currently exist are spell checking user posts and sorting topics based on various criteria.

Contingency Plans

We do not feel that any contingency plan will need to be activated. We are currently on schedule to finish all of the acceptability criteria and after adding the extra features will be a bonus.

Final Deliverable

Our final deliverable will definitely be ready by the originally scheduled deadline. We have all made great progress towards the goals we are working on and this will translate to a finished product.

Additional Resources

Our biggest resource issue is the CSS. We have made great strides in making the site functional but in this we have neglected to make the site very aesthetically appealing. The colors are very dull, the spacing is default, and there are almost no visuals. With the improvement of the CSS the site will become far more apparent to its purpose and much more user friendly.

What Needs to be Scrapped

Nothing from our original proposal needs to be scrapped. While the additional features may never come to fruition they are still a realistic possibility to be added to the site.

Final Look and Feel

The final look and feel of the site will be a simple, sleek user interface that allows for open discussion of political topics. It will feature user driven forums that allow for intellectual arguments to be made for opposing political views so both candidates and voters can see what issues are important and how people feel about them.

Current Standings

As of now, everything is going well. The functionality of the site is coming along smoothly and the remaining features seem well within our grasp.