

Coursework Report

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1 Introduction

The aim of the assignment was to create a blog platform allowing at least one user to be able to perform CRUD operations which are Create, read, update, delete. I have implemented user login system allowing only users with admin privileges to add, remove or edit new posts to the website, I have also partly implemented the ability for regular users to add comments under the table, however due to time constraints I was unable to manage to display them under the articles, even though they are stored in the database. The website is consistent of the same layout throughout the webpage. The main research was on how to implement the Node.js server side and perform CRUD operations.[Beginning Node.js, Basarat Ali Syed]

2 Software design

For the layout I have decided to use top navigation allowing the users to login, register, logout and to add post(only if you have admin rights). The blog is fully responsive meaning that it can be viewed on multiple different devices and sizes without messing up with the layout. That was accomplished by using CSS. The contents of each page are displayed in a contained under the header of the page, as the header is the same for all of the pages using the node module 'handlebars'. For the authentication of the users I have used the module 'passport' which allows me to authenticate the users, for the password encryption - 'bcrypt', which hashes the password providing extra security for the users. And mongoDB database to store the user information, articles and comments.

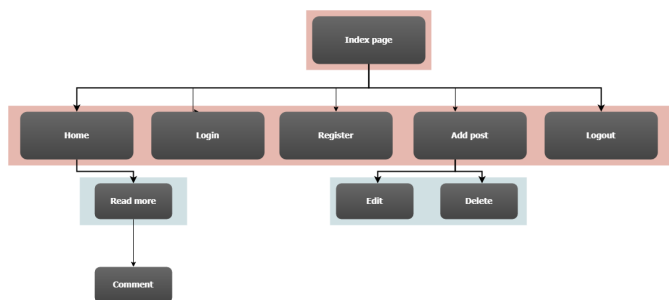


Figure 1: **Map** - Sketch of the map of the blog

3 Implementation

I have used top navigation as seen in the screenshots with the same header throughout the pages, just loading containers.

3.1 Layout

The main layout shows all current articles and you can open each article on new window and add comments.

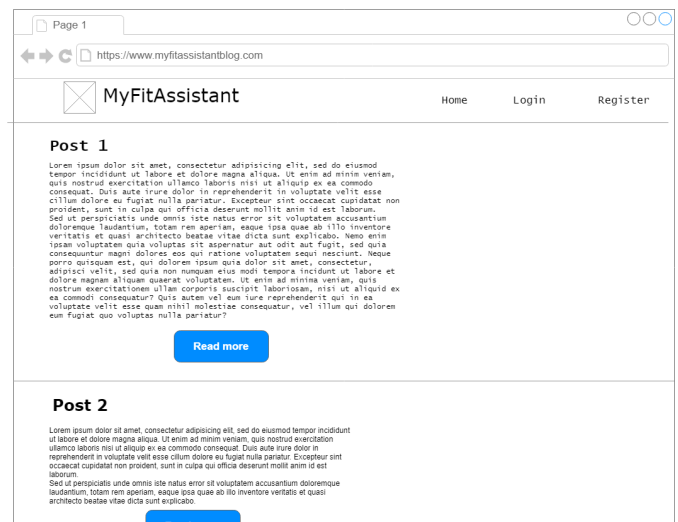


Figure 2: **Main layout** - Sketch of navigation of the blog

3.1.1 Admin layout

If logged in as admin you can add, edit, remove posts.

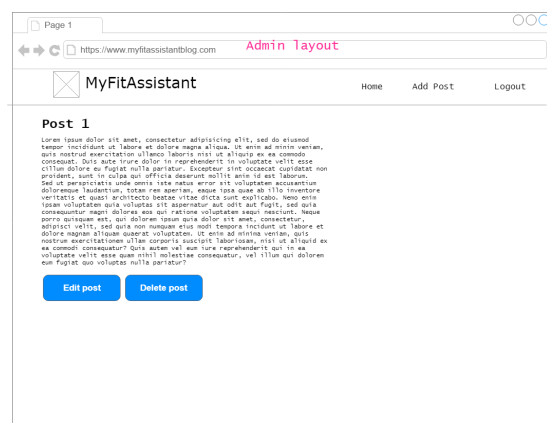


Figure 3: **Admin layout** - Sketch of navigation of the blog

3.1.2 User layout

If logged in as user, you can only read and comment under articles.

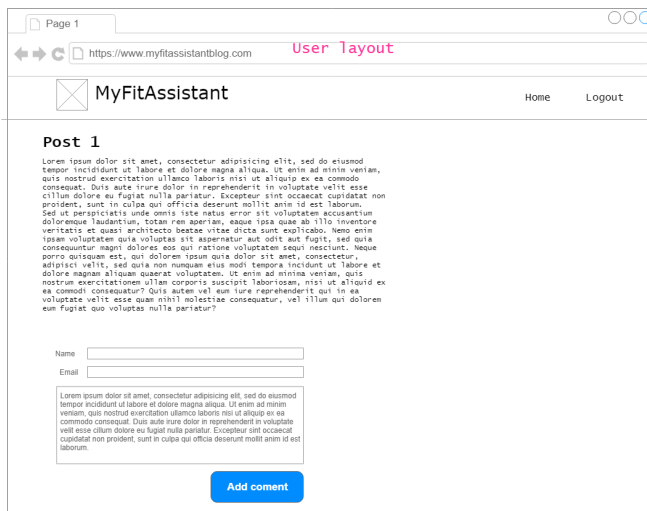


Figure 4: User layout - Sketch of navigation of the blog

3.1.3 Login layout

Simple login and registration pages.

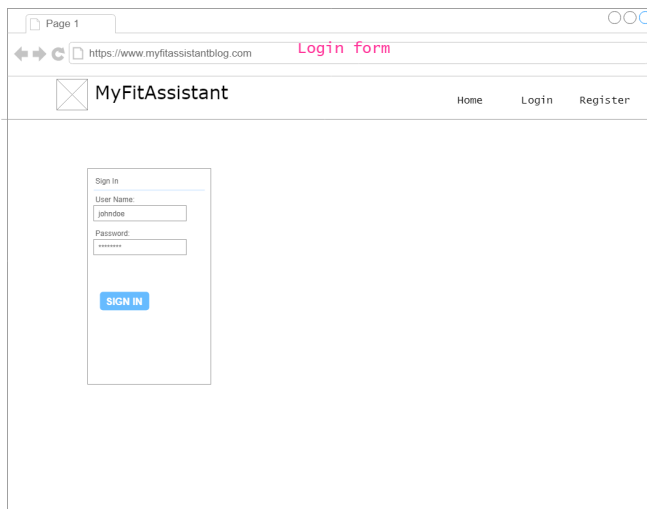


Figure 5: Login form - Sketch of navigation of the blog

4 Critical evaluation

As per specification the main function of the blog is that at least one user can Create, Read, Update, Delete information from the database in the form of articles. This was accomplished even more there is the function of registering multiple users in the database and giving different permissions to each of them. For example you can have more than one account that can add, update or delete articles. The regular user can only view and post comments under the article. However, due to time constraint I was unable to fully implement the commenting function, and comments are only stored to the database, without being able to actually visualise them under the articles. Compared to popular blogs it has the main core functions of a blog, however it fails to provide additional commenting functionality. One way to fix that is implementing an integrated comment system using Facebook or any other social media profile for displaying the name and the comment. Additionally there could be implemented an admin panel from which an admin of the blog can give or remove rights of the users.

5 Personal evaluation

I have learned a lot about the web development process from back-end to front-end development. Furthermore this project helped me realise that web-development is what I want to pursue in future as far as career development is concerned. I was introduced to new technologies and IDEs. After a lot of research of web technologies I learned a lot about them and what can be used in order to create blog application or any web application. The biggest challenge was interacting with the database, and correctly displaying the information on the screen. To overcome that challenge I have spent a lot of time researching database usage and page formatting for web. I feel I have performed well, providing that I have included the main function of the blog. However there is always room for improvement and given more time I am sure I would have been able to fully implement a modern blog platform.