Dokeos 1.8 Beta 3
Usability Evaluation:
Forums

Suggestions

27 February 2007

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Dokeos 1.8 Beta – Usability Evaluation

1 Priorities

For each identified problem, suggestions how to improve the usability are given. A priority estimate indicates the importance to address the given problem:

- Low: Low priority
- Medium: Medium priority
- High: High priority
- UIG (User Interface Guidelines):Should be implemented for a consistent use experience
- Wish: This suggestion is a wishlist item.

2 Results: Forums

2.1 Forums Start Page

- UIG: Provide an action box for the actions.
- Medium: Provide reusable names for the default forums and categories (e.g. "General" and "General discussions") so the teacher does not need to delete the example forum.
- UIG: Consider to make forum category and forum titles editable inline.
- High: Do not mark the category description bold.
- Add Forum:
  - o UIG: Use a separate form page for this function (do not show forum page below the form and display "Add Forum" in the breadcrumb).
  - o UIG: To still give an overview over existing contents, consider to add a non-interactive forum overview below the form.
  - o UIG: Provide more vertical space between the form options (see guidelines document for details).
  - o Medium: Use more similar wording style for the options:

    Create in category: [category selection]

Student Options

Student posts require approval: Yes / No

Students may edit own posts: Yes / No

Students may start new posts: Yes / No

Forum Options

Allow attachments: Yes / No

Default view type: Flat / Threaded / Nested

Group Settings

Forum belongs to group: [All groups + group selection]

Allow others to post in forum: [For all course members (public) / For group
members only (private)]

- Add Forum Category:
  - o UIG: Use a separate form page for this function (do not show forum page below the form and display "Add Forum Category" in the breadcrumb).
  - o UIG: To still give an overview over existing categories, consider to add a non-interactive forum overview below the form.

2.2 Forum Page

- UIG: Provide "New thread" in an action box.
- Medium: Instead of providing three table headers (category, forum, actual table header), provide category and forum name as heading, e.g.

Example Forum

Forum Description

in Example Category

- Low: Change sequence of columns: title, replies, views, author, last post, action.

2.3 Thread Page

- UIG: Provide "Reply to this thread" in an action box and use an icon.

- Medium: Additionally, provide an option to create a new thread.

- Medium: Consider to re-label threads to "topics". This is less technical.

- High: Move category, forum and thread title to a heading, e.g.

  ### Example Topic

  Topic Description

  in Example Category- Example Forum

- High: Add/edit/reply to message: After confirming the editor, forward to the messages overview and anchor the page to the new message so the user gets visual feedback that (and how) his message was added.

- Medium: Quote message: Quoting is a good feature, but it is not possible to add normal text between the paragraphs of the quoted message. Change the quote layout to use a separate box for each paragraph.

Quoting Dev Team Dokeos:

Example content

Let's add some more paragraphs here.

Let's add some more paragraphs here.
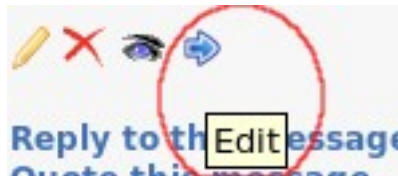
Quoting Dev Team Dokeos:

Example content

Let's add some more paragraphs here.

Let's add some more paragraphs here.

Usability Suggestions

- **UIG: High:** Editor: Provide a Cancel option here.
- **Low:** Editor: It's nice to have an overview of the thread branch below the editor. It is, however, difficult to read. Also use tables with the equal colour scheme as in the nested view here, and increase the height of the scroll panel box.
- Teacher actions:
  - **High:** There are two icons with the tooltip "Edit". Must be "Move message".

  - **Medium:** The function itself should be a radio option: "Create topic from message" (+ option to give it a new name) versus "Move to another thread" (+ drop-down to select thread). According to guidelines, this form should be displayed without the interactive thread page below.
  - **Wish:** Consider to add an option to move messages or threads to another forum category (for threads that were misplaced by users).
- Flat View:
  - OK.
- Threaded View:
  - **Low:** Consider to provide an option to go to previous/next message in thread.
- Nested View:
  - OK.